

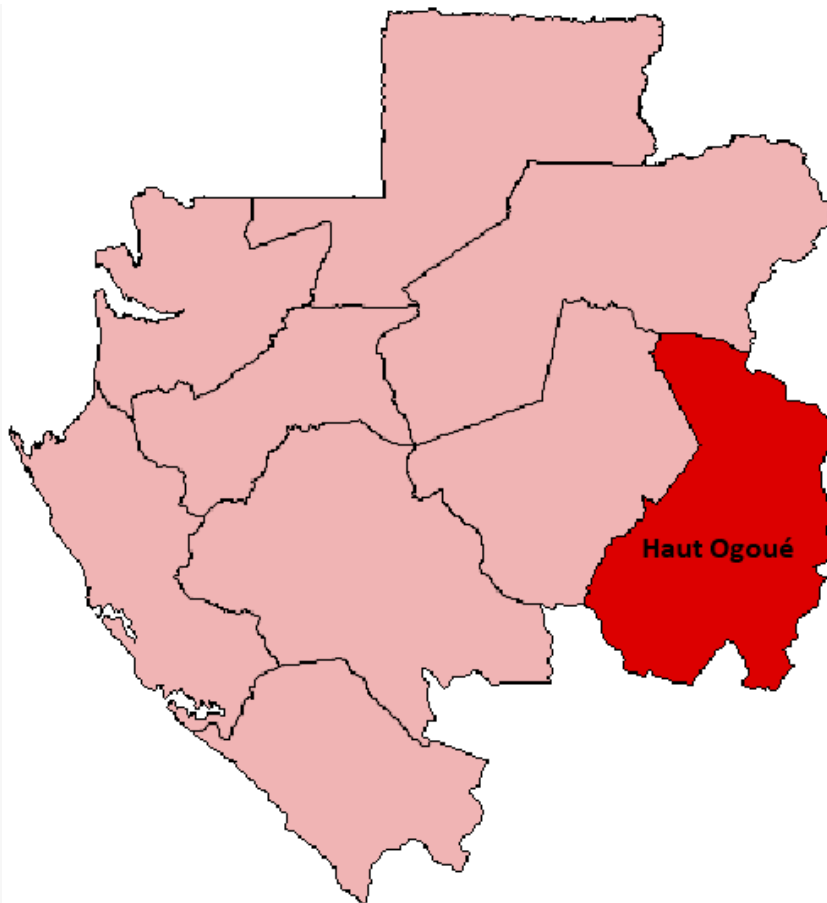


Lessons Learned Workshop - Source : Gabon RC

Appeal: <b>MDRGA010</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 181,545</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Storm Surge</b>
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>3,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>1,818 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>25-05-2023</b>	Operational End Date: <b>30-11-2023</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Haut-Ogooue</b>			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

# Description of the Event



Map of affected province. Source: Gabon RC

## Date of event

15-05-2023

## What happened, where and when?

On Monday 15 May 2023, torrential rain accompanied by violent winds hit Franceville, the chief town of the Haut Ogooué Province in Gabon, causing extensive damage. The damage affected a large number of families, as well as public and private infrastructures, destroying schools, shops and electricity poles.

Nearly 3,000 people, or 500 households were affected, with almost 200 homes destroyed or swept away by the violent winds that accompanied the rains. Several businesses were also affected, as well as schools and administrative buildings.

Some of the victims found refuge with relatives, friends and acquaintances. The public authorities also visited the disaster sites. The city's 1st and 3rd districts were the worst hit, and rain keeps falling in Franceville.



Magoungou district. Sheet metal of a house completely destroyed and blown away at the Eugène Marcel Amogho crossroads.



Quartier St Hilaire. Roof of the Lycée Monseigneur Jeean Jérôme Adam, completely destroyed

## Scope and Scale

According to information received from the Haut Ogooué provincial Red Cross committee, torrential rains accompanied by violent winds hit the town of Franceville on Monday 15 May 2023, causing significant damage. The damage affected around 500 households, as well as infrastructure such as schools, shops and electricity poles littering the roads, with major safety risks for the population. The provincial RC Committee assessed the situation with volunteers, and from every indication, 303 households, or 1,818 people, were the most vulnerable of all those affected.

Since the beginning of the rainy season, torrential rains damaged several public infrastructures in Franceville and other localities of the Mpassa Division. Buildings and houses were also affected, as well as access to road networks, particularly, the railway linking Libreville to Mpassa, and the road linking these areas to the capital. The government needed to work hard to restore highway roads as accessing them was a major challenge, if not, it would have been virtually impossible during the rainfalls. The most common means of access was by air.

More than 200 houses were affected. Most of the needs resulted from losses caused by high winds and collapsing roofs or buildings. The trees in the vicinity also contributed to the deterioration of public and private property.

Torrential rains in Gabon are slanting and heavy, generally accompanied by landslides and/or violent winds throughout the rainy season. The rainy season generally lasts October until end May, early June, depending on climatic variations. In general, an average monthly rainfall of 200 to 250 mm is expected. The Haut Ogooué is the wettest province.

## National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?

No



Please provide a brief description of those additional activities

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## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) based in Yaoundé held a meeting with the NS to get more information on the situation in the affected region. Support was given to post an alert on the GO Platform and a CCD team was activated to assist the NS in developing a response plan.</p> <p>The IFRC CCD also carried out several support missions at the Gabonese RC including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Deployment of surge.</li><li>- The mission of the finance manager and cash manager.</li><li>- The Program missions.</li></ul> <p>These various missions provided support for volunteer training, multi-sector needs assessments, market analysis and technical support for finance and the program.</p> <p>In addition to these missions, weekly online monitoring meetings are held with the cluster and NS team, followed by daily meetings for close monitoring.</p>
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	No PNS is present in Gabon

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

There is no ICRC action that has been received so far.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>Officials from the Haut Ogooué Governor's office visited the area to assess the situation. According to a press release signed by the Prime Minister on 15th May 2023, the President of the Republic had instructed the Government to visit Franceville from 17th to 18th May 2023 to provide aid and assistance to the victims, as well as assess the extent of the damage and explore ways and means to remedy them. No detail information has been given on the nature of the assistance to be provided and the number of people who will be assisted by the authorities.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	No action has been taken by the United Nations system or other actors concerning this disaster.

### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

No coordination mechanism has been put in place so far. However, the Gabonese RC operations coordinator in Haut Ogooué met with the Governor to talk about the situation.

The National President of the Gabonese RC also led a supervision mission to the field and strengthened coordination between the NS and the authorities. It is in this context that communications were passed to the authorities to inform them of the activities of the Red Cross (Governor, Senior Divisional Officer, Mayor).



# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

According to data collected by the NS branches up to the 18th May, 200 houses were damaged by the winds in Franceville and its vicinity. These homes were either inhabitable or too risky for families to move into. The debris also damaged household equipment. With no other options, many households keep living in their homes or in neighboring host households.



## Health

At community level, this situation created mosquito niches and factors conducive to diarrheic diseases and other diseases related to dirty water. The risk of disease/epidemic to occur was prevented. The sensitization of communities was an immediate priority. The destruction of infrastructure and the management of debris exposed communities to the risk of injury.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The rains were violent and rapid, washing away roads, garbage and community structures. According to information received from the provincial Red Cross committee, several drainage channels were destroyed, creating a high-risk environment for households, especially children and vulnerable groups. In addition, the reservoirs of rainwater naturally created by the absence of run-offs due to the transported debris limited environmental hygiene conditions and fostered vector niches.

A number of households that had found refuge with host families were also in need of ongoing household hygiene support, helping to prevent water-borne diseases and poor hygiene.

Immediate access to drinking water is also necessary for these households, for whom some of the water supply routes normally used have been cut off or damaged by the winds, or whose wells and boreholes have simply become cloudy during the rainy season or have received significant debris, and require measures to clean up and stabilize the quality of the water.

As the government was committed in restoring the infrastructure, the GRC first ensured immediate access to drinking water by supplying water treatment equipment.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of this operation was to provide direct assistance to 303 households (1,818 people) affected by the windstorms in Franceville, with support in shelter and household items, basic needs, hygiene promotion and health, and multipurpose cash. Initially planned for four months, the operation was subsequently extended to 6 months and allowed to reach the 303 households direct target as planned, but also 2550 people with awareness-raising activities.

## Operation strategy rationale

To reach its objective of providing immediate assistance to 303 households GRC planned to carry out actions in the following sectors :

- 1- Shelter and household items through Multi-purpose Cash (Target: 200 households or 1,200 people):
  - The National Society intends to provide shelter support to 200 households whose homes were partially or totally destroyed. The support will be given in cash so that households can easily focus on the most pressing need for each family. This method of support will also enable households to maintain their dignity by leaving them the choice of how to use the cash provided. Having signed an agreement with Airtel (a local mobile phone company), the NS will consider the possibility of using this contract to provide cash support, either through mobile money transfers or other methods. As there are no further details on the market analysis, this operation will first make available XAF 100,000, or CHF 148 per household. The calculation of this sum is an estimate, as the average rent in Gabon for a modern room is XAF 50,000, so this amount will be used for two months' rent. In addition, a lump sum of XAF 30,000 (CHF 44) will also be given to the targeted households to enable them to buy the minimum household items they will need, such as kitchen equipment,



blankets and mattresses, depending on their needs. A total of XAF 130,000 will be distributed to 200 households, and a further XAF 5,000 will be added as withdrawal fee. The fees of the Financial Service Provider (FSP) have also been budgeted at 2% of the total amount to be transferred to the beneficiaries, which is 26,000,000 CFAF, i.e., 5,200,000 CFAF for the FSP fees. All this will be confirmed during the assessment by analyzing the contract that the Gabonese Red Cross signed with Airtel.

- A market assessment will be carried out at the start of implementation to confirm the strategy mentioned above. The cash strategy may be revised/adapted to better meet the needs, where relevant.
- The Cash Manager from the IFRC Delegation in Yaoundé will provide technical support to the NS for the market assessment and will carry out a field mission to validate the amounts

#### 2- WASH (Target 303 households or 1,818 people):

- In order to guarantee access to drinking water for the most vulnerable households, the Gabonese Red Cross intends to purchase and distribute Aqua tabs tablets for water purification in sufficient quantities for 30 days. According to Sphere standards, each person should have access to 5 litres of water a day. So, for a full month, each household will need 15L X 6 people x 30 days, or 2700 litres of water per month. Each Aqua tabs tablet is supposed to purify 20 litres of pure water and is not suitable for cloudy water. Each household will therefore need 135 Aqua tabs tablets for a total of 40,905 Aqua tabs tablets to be distributed to 303 households for a period of one month. Some 100 additional tablets will also be purchased for use during the demonstrations.
- To help store water, jerry cans or buckets with covers will be purchased and distributed to the 303 households that will also receive Aqua tabs.
- In order to limit the health risks associated with exposure to bad weather, to hygiene and sanitation conditions having deteriorated seriously, especially for households that have lost their roofs, sanitation materials will be distributed to the 303 most affected households, i.e., soap and bleach. Demonstrations on the use of the WASH materials will take place before their distributions to enable an efficient practical application.
- Hygiene promotion through sanitation campaigns will also take place 3 days a month for 3 months, i.e., 3 campaigns. During these sessions, the management of usual water committees will also be promoted to contribute to environmental hygiene. Supported by community water drainage and cleaning work.
- In order to limit the waiting time for people in need, an assessment of the markets in Franceville will be carried out, which will make it possible to define a distribution channel that takes into account the current logistical challenges and the need for rapid action. The current options are to supply by land via Cameroon or on the spot in Franceville, depending on the results of the assessment. This is being supported by the IFRC delegation in Yaoundé, which is currently carrying out an analysis of the logistical, supply and shipping system for WASH items and shelters (if Cash proves impossible) as part of a material distribution approach.

#### 3- Health (Target 303 households or 1,818 people):

- GRC will ensure that first aid and psychological first aid is provided to the affected people as required. This will be done for 14 days from the start of implementation.
- The NS will seize the opportunity of sanitation campaigns to also pass on messages about health, and how to prevent water-borne diseases and/or those linked to a dirty environment. Budgeting will therefore be done under WASH.
- To prevent malaria, insecticide-treated mosquito nets will be distributed to 303 households.

4- Needs assessment: A total of 25 volunteers and 8 staff members including 4 from headquarters and 4 committee focal points will be deployed to support these assessments. Roles and responsibilities will be defined according to the NS standard disaster management procedures. The assessments will spread over 07 days and an update of the operation will be made if necessary.

The intervention was to be coordinated with officials from the Haut Ogooué Governor's office to ensure synergy of actions. The findings of these assessments will be analyzed, and the NS will be able to decide on the actions to be taken according to its mandate and also the people targeted for assistance

## Targeting Strategy

### Who was targeted by this operation?

All the 303 households identified as being the most vulnerable are targeted by this operation to receive WASH and health support. All the 200 households who lost their homes will be supported with cash support to cover their needs in terms of shelter and household items. The assessments focused on the general situation in Franceville and its vicinity, but more specifically on the most affected populations in the 1st and 3rd districts, which sustained the heaviest damage, and will be used to update the response strategy for this operation if necessary.



## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The local administrative authorities supported by the NS local disaster response team visited the affected areas and pre-estimated the number of people in need at 1,818 disaster victims. These were selected based on the fact that they had completely lost their houses to the disaster.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	360	Rural	70%
Girls (under 18)	756	Urban	30%
Men	240	People with disabilities (estimated)	20%
Boys (under 18)	462		
Total targeted population	1,818		

## Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
The problem of access in the affected areas, with the destruction of infrastructure (buildings, electricity poles) and damaged roads.	Equip volunteers and assessment team with protective equipment and discuss with the authorities about the measures to be taken to clear access routes as quickly as possible.  The use of alternative means of communication and transport than road and rail, including an international supply system.
The continuity of violent winds and rain with the possibility of landslides and flooding in the area where Red Cross teams are deployed is a real risk.	Map out a safety zone during deployment and equip volunteers with protective equipment (PPE). Make sure that teams are informed of the weather situation.
Occurrence of water-borne and parasitic diseases.	Health prevention measures were included in the operation, by supplying teams with drinking water and sanitation kits.
Electoral deadlines affecting the security of activity implementation	Increased awareness of the Red Cross mandate and its fundamental principles. Suspension of activities postponed until after the deadline and planning for a request to extend the planned timeframe.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

All staff were equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE). Teams made sure they didn't go beyond the security perimeter. A rescue team was deployed and daily briefings and debriefings were conducted. Given that Franceville is 700 km from Libreville, the main accessible means was by railroad. However, this route was closed for passenger transportation for over a month following a landslide on one section. As the road network is not developed, the only means accessible to Franceville was by air, which was very expensive.

To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime, violence or road hazards active risk mitigation measures were adopted. Security orientation and briefing for all teams prior to deployment was also undertaken to help ensure the safety and security of response teams. Standard security protocols about general norms, cultural sensitivity and an overall code of conduct was put in place. Minimum-security requirements was strictly maintained. All National Society and IFRC personnel actively involved in the operations successfully completed prior to deployment the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e., Level 1 Fundamentals, Level 2 Personal and Volunteer Security and Level 3 Security for Managers). IFRC security plans applied to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. Area specific Security Risk Assessment was conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel be deployed there; risk mitigation measures were identified and implemented.



Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

# Implementation



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 2,955

**Targeted Persons:** 1,200

**Assisted Persons:** 2,550

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with awareness-raising on disaster risk management	1,200	2,550

### Narrative description of achievements

The shelter activities were supervised by an officer from the Disaster Risk Management Department at national headquarters.

- To begin with, twenty-five (25) volunteers and four (04) supervisors from the Provincial Committee received training in disaster risk management (safe construction, evacuation, role in the event of a disaster, etc.) as a prelude to raising awareness and collecting data for the detailed assessment.
  - The volunteers and their supervisors then went out into the field to assess the disaster and the action taken by the population one month after the event. The assessment identified 34 families who had sought refuge with neighbours and 23 with family members, 240 families who had nowhere to go remained in their damaged homes, and 5 families rented elsewhere. The remainder had received help from donations from the government and some private individuals. The assessment revealed that one of the main needs of the population was to have building materials to restore their homes.
  - The volunteers and their supervisors then went out into the field to assess the disaster and the action taken by the population one month after the event. The assessment identified 34 families who had sought refuge with neighbours and 23 with family members, 240 families who had nowhere to go remained in their damaged homes, and 5 families rented elsewhere. The remainder had received help from donations from the government and some private individuals. The assessment revealed that one of the main needs of the population was to have building materials to restore their homes.
  - The market study focused mainly on foodstuffs and not on the price of building materials.
  - The volunteers then raised awareness among the local population, whether or not they had been affected by the disaster, of the risks involved in building and how to help them evacuate their homes. Leaflets were handed out and posters put up in public places to educate people about their role before, during and after the disaster. A total of 2,550 people were reached by this activity. During the PDM, 68% of those who received the awareness messages said they found them very interesting and useful for their household, while 32% found them not very interesting.

### Lessons Learnt

- It is important for the NS to act immediately after a disaster occurs and as fast as possible, in order to provide quality assistance, for example by putting the ToRs directly into the validation circuit as soon as they have been drafted, setting up Emergency operating procedures.
- Strengthen the SN's capacity to manage disaster risks before they occur.
- Train the SN to identify in advance the areas at risk, the most favourable periods and the actors who can intervene in the crisis management chain.
- Training volunteers and supervisors on how important it is to be present and on time during the implementation of each activity to avoid delaying the operation as a whole.



## Challenges

- Activities started very late with the arrival of the surge, because the SN did not understand how things were supposed to work, as they were not used to this type of operation. After a long period of waiting, people had to rebuild their homes. Only the poorest households were living in the same conditions imposed by the disaster. Some of those affected had left the disaster zone by the time assistance arrived. We had to work with community leaders to gain access to these people.
- Poor communication and lack of coordination between SN staff at head office and between head office and the field.
- Volunteers and staff were unaware that an emergency operation does not have weekends or public holidays, and the peak implementation period was a festive period in the country with several holidays, this impacted negatively their presence on the field.
- Lengthy procedure for drafting and validating the terms of reference, but also for implementing the activities once the ToR had been validated.



## Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 52,359

**Targeted Persons:** 1,200

**Assisted Persons:** 1,200

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households reached with cash for shelter and household items	200	200
% satisfied with the amount they received	80	60

## Narrative description of achievements

- The first activity was training for SN CRG staff, followed by cascade training for volunteers and field supervisors on Cash Transfer.
- A market assessment was carried out at the start of implementation confirming the cash strategy was adapted to better meet the needs with accessibility of products in the market and capacity of absorption of the cash flow due to the reduced number of beneficiaries. The cash manager from the IFRC delegation in Yaoundé provided technical support to the NS for the market assessment and carried out a field mission to validate the amounts.
- The highlight was the distribution of cash to the 200 targeted families. Initially, only beneficiaries with an Airtel Money number received cash via their SIM card, i.e. a total of 147 households. The remaining 53 households received cash in envelopes. The support of the cluster and the region has been invaluable in reviewing the contract between the Financial Service Provider and the National Company. This support will continue in order to improve this contract and the conditions of collaboration and work with the current Financial Service Provider and the development of agreements with other providers.
- During the PDM, respondents were asked whether they were satisfied with the amount they received and 40% answered No. The main reason for their dissatisfaction was that the amount was insufficient to cover household needs. As for how they spent the money they received, 23% of households said they spent the money on food, 17% on children's education, 11% on health, 12% on home repairs, 11% on savings, 14% on EHIs, 9% on NFIs and 3% on debt repayment. Lastly, 12% of respondents said that the fact that they were receiving cash had caused some tension within the community, as some of them felt that not enough households were receiving cash assistance. Others felt that more vulnerable households deserved the assistance.

## Lessons Learnt

- Make arrangements in advance to rapidly distribute cash to the victims of the disaster (for example reviewing the terms of the contract with the financial service provider) before they disperse or find other coping mechanisms.
- Involve neighbourhood and village chiefs throughout the operation, this was useful to reach the beneficiaries that had moved..
- Inform beneficiaries with a message after each transfer.
- Strengthen the SN's operational cash capacity by identifying a dedicated cash focal point.

## Challenges

- The terms of the contract between the financial service provider and the NS needed to be revised, which took some time and led to delays.



- Lack of coordination with the financial service provider in the capital, Libreville, and in Franceville, where the operation was implemented.
- Weak capacity of the National Cash Transfer focal point, which was also responsible for several other sectoral activities.
- Lack of knowledge about cash transfer among provincial focal point volunteers.
- No telephone dedicated solely to the use of the operation's chips.
- Insufficient collaboration between SN CRG and the financial service provider.
- Difficulties encountered in transferring funds to the PSF from the regional office, which also caused a delay in the start-up of cash activities.
- A week's closure of Airtel branches due to public holidays and Independence Day.
- The simultaneous management of two DREF operations in the same period overloaded the teams and had an impact on deadlines and performance.
- The coincidence with the launch of the electoral process, which obliged the operation team to postpone the start of fund transfers to beneficiaries in order to avoid any confusion with the elections.
- Internet networks was suspended at times during the election period, delaying financial transactions
- Some beneficiaries had moved elsewhere by the time of the distribution.



**Budget:** CHF 14,017

**Targeted Persons:** 1,818

**Assisted Persons:** 2,550

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with awareness-raising on health	1,818	2,550
Number of households reached with Mosquito nets.	303	303

## Narrative description of achievements

- One of the health activities was the multi-sectoral evaluation of the operation as a whole. With the majority of the affected population living in urban areas (93%) and in good sanitary conditions, the only need identified was for impregnated mosquito nets to prevent malaria.
- Volunteers were briefed on awareness-raising techniques and key messages for the prevention of water-borne diseases, before going out into the field to implement them.
- 02 psychologists were mobilised and visited the provincial headquarters several times in order to launch the "psychological support for disaster victims at a distance or for an appointment at home (at the beneficiary's home). But the funds for the activity were passed on when the psychologists were no longer available. As a result, this activity could not be carried out.
- Mosquito nets (909) were purchased with the support of the IFRC logistics unit, transported to the field and distributed to 303 selected households at a rate of 3 nets per household.

## Lessons Learnt

- It is always important to involve all departments in the implementation of the operation in order to ensure better internal coordination.
- The SN should designate health focal points instead of department heads.
- It is important to have sectoral focal points who can improve collaboration with the health authorities in the field.
- Arrangements must be made within the National Health Service to respond as soon as a disaster occurs.
- While drafting the plan of action, the NS society should make sure to think about the risk regarding logistics that could delay the operation and take the into account.

## Challenges

- Activities started very late with the arrival of the surge, because the SN did not understand how things were supposed to work, as they were not used to this type of operation.
- Poor collaboration between the NS and health authorities in the affected area.



- There was no health department at the SN, so there was no health manager at the SN to supervise this part of the operation. This gap was filled by the WASH manager. It was at the end of this operation that the SN appointed a Health Manager.
- Due to the impassability of the roads during the rainy season and the closure of the railway line following a derailment, the mosquito nets, among other items had to be flown to the field in small parcels over several journeys. This added to the delay in the operation, as it was necessary to wait for all the items to arrive before proceeding with distribution.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 16,263

**Targeted Persons:** 1,818

**Assisted Persons:** 2,550

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of households reached with WASH distribution	303	303
Number of people reached with awareness-raising on hygiene promotion	1,818	2,250

### Narrative description of achievements

WASH activities were implemented by volunteers and supervisors from the Haut Ogooué Provincial Committee under the supervision of the National WASH Focal Point.

- These activities involved a briefing for volunteers and supervisors on WASH and awareness-raising techniques using the door-to-door approach and mass awareness-raising.
- Volunteers and supervisors then went out into the field to raise awareness about sanitation and the prevention of water-borne diseases. The volunteers visited households and markets. Leaflets were handed out and posters put up in various parts of the town and villages. 2,550 people were reached by this activity.
- During the assessment, access to water was not identified as an issue, all the disaster victims had access to drinking water, so this activity was cancelled. Only buckets, brooms and mats were distributed to the 303 beneficiary families to help them clean up their environment.

### Lessons Learnt

- The actions to be carried out as part of WASH activities must always be implemented quickly, within a very short timeframe, to ensure that the assistance is of high quality.
- The ToRs must go directly into the validation circuit as soon as they have been drafted.
- Emergency operating procedures must be put in place to avoid delays.
- All staff involved in implementing the DREF must have a few hours of debriefing each day and must draw up a weekly narrative and financial report to improve monitoring
- There must be excellent communication between the technical managers (Logistics, Finance, Programme, etc.) of the SN and the Branches for optimum implementation, with the support of the IFRC.
- There must be excellent communication between the technical managers (Logistics, Finance, Programme, etc.) of the SN and the Branches for optimum implementation, with the support of the IFRC.
- The focal points appointed by the SN need to be trained.

### Challenges

- Activities started very late with the arrival of the surge, because the SN did not understand how things were supposed to work, as they were not used to this type of operation.
- Due to the impassability of the roads during the rainy season and the closure of the railway line following a derailment, the items had to be flown to the field in small parcels over several journeys. This added to the delay in the operation, as it was necessary to wait for all the items to arrive before proceeding with distribution.
- Insufficient operational capacity of the National WASH Focal Point.
- Lack of peer to peer collaboration between the SN and managers of state and private technical services.





## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 2,670

**Targeted Persons:** 1,818

**Assisted Persons:** 2,550

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of the team involved in the intervention having been briefed on PGI and PSEA	100	100

### Narrative description of achievements

- The primary activity of the PGI and PEAHS (Prevention of Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment) was to train volunteers and their supervisors in order to guarantee the dignity, access, participation and safety of communities.
- This activity, which is transversal to the other activities of the operation, enabled the volunteers to work with the local population while respecting the dignity of the victims and guaranteeing their safety, access and participation.

### Lessons Learnt

- PGI activities must necessarily involve local authorities (neighbourhood chiefs, village chiefs, etc.).

### Challenges

- Lack of collaboration between the SN and social assistance services.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 1,356

**Targeted Persons:** 1,818

**Assisted Persons:** 2,550

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on the evaluation method	25	29
% of feedback collected that are treated	100	49
# of FGD conducted	12	4
# of community meetings	12	3

### Narrative description of achievements

- Due to the limited budget, the volunteer briefing was held remotely and the various tools were shared with the volunteers.
- After the briefing, which was carried out in parallel with the integration of CEA issues into the multi-sectoral assessment, the volunteers shared information with the community in order to set up the beneficiary selection process and focus groups. Community discussion



groups were then set up, as well as community meetings. Volunteers led these groups under the supervision of SN managers. In addition, a feedback management system was set up.

## Lessons Learnt

- Provide the Haut-Ogooué Provincial Committee with computer equipment (computer and printer, etc.).
- Train CEA focal points in each Provincial Committee. Volunteers should be regularly reminded of CEA procedures and techniques in order to reinforce their knowledge and ensure that they master the field.
- Strengthen the number and quality of the CEA team at National HQ.

## Challenges

- Remote CEA briefing due to low budget.
- The Haut-Ogooué Provincial Committee had no IT equipment (computer and printer, etc.), which had a negative impact on feedback management.
- Lack of training for CEA focal points in each Provincial Committee.
- The CEA team at National Headquarters is small and has limited capacity.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 65,185

**Targeted Persons:** 60

**Assisted Persons:** 60

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people deployed from the delegation	3	5
Number of monitoring visits	2	3

## Narrative description of achievements

- As soon as the disaster was declared by the SN, the IFRC set up a system to support the CRG and monitor day-to-day activities. The Yaoundé Delegation, which covers Gabon, gave its support to put an alert on the GO Platform and a team from the Cluster was activated to help the SN draw up a response plan. Once the response plan had been approved, a surge team was deployed and missions by the Delegation's Finance and Cash Transfer managers and Programme managers followed.
- It should be noted that the Head of Delegation, the Head of Communications and the Head of Resource Mobilisation, undertook a mission to Libreville in the early months of the operation. During this mission, which consisted of supporting the development of the SN and strengthening coordination between the SN and other partners, they also helped to provide support to the staff at national headquarters in their respective areas of expertise.
- In addition to the deployment of cluster staff to the Société Nationale, the Delegation set up a plan for monitoring the operation through daily meetings with the operation team in the field and the support services.
- Coordination continued until the end of the operation, with the joint organisation of a workshop on lessons learned with the SN, for which staff from the Yaoundé Delegation visited the field.

## Lessons Learnt

- It is important for the Delegation to provide support to the SN according to its capacities. The Delegation increased the number of meetings and missions of programme staff and support services to ensure the smooth running of the operation. The practical participation of all those involved in the operation (programmes and support services) enabled everyone to interact at the same time and have the same level of information in real time, both at the IFRC, the SN's national headquarters and the Franceville departmental branch.
- Monitoring and capacity-building missions and mechanisms must be adapted to the SN's capacities. In this case, more missions than planned were necessary because the SN was not familiar with this type of operation and lacked preparation.



- The NS should work on improving internal coordination between departments, and between headquarters and the branches during operations.

## Challenges

- The main challenge of this operation as part of the Secretariat's support was to bring together the entire SN team to improve internal coordination.
- With two operations taking place at almost the same time, the SN was overwhelmed, hence the need to reinforce the support of the Delegation's staff. To better assist the SN, the IFRC delegation had to make more missions and field visits than initially planned.
- Coordination was difficult between the team at the SN's national headquarters and that at the Franceville branch.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 26,740

**Targeted Persons:** 29

**Assisted Persons:** 33

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of volunteers insured	100	100
Number of staff mobilized and deployed in branches for monitoring	4	7

## Narrative description of achievements

- All the volunteers involved in the operation have been provided with insurance
- All the volunteers involved in the response were trained in the themes of the operation
- The cluster's PMER provided support for monitoring the implementation of activities through the monitoring tool developed with the SN, with the contribution of CEA colleagues, who also provided guidance on how to receive feedback.
- As part of this operation, several missions took place to support the training of volunteers in various technical areas. Multisectoral evaluation, market analysis and technical support from the cluster's Finance and Programmes Departments also provided an opportunity for the SN team to learn by doing. In addition, the presence of the Cluster Leader in Libreville during this operation provided the SN management with a number of strategic capacity-building guidelines. In addition to these missions, weekly online meetings were held between the cluster and the SN in order to provide support through close monitoring

## Lessons Learnt

- The missions of the various IFRC managers, or simply their involvement in this operation from near and far, have enhanced the quality of the activities and actions of the SN's staff and volunteers.
- The CRG needs local support in several areas of its activities.
- Need for capacity building for branch volunteers.

## Challenges

- Lack of operational capacity of staff throughout the NS
- Low operational capacity of volunteers
- The implementation of two emergency operations at the same time, with the same SN staff with limited operational capacity working on both.



# Financial Report

## DREF Operation

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

#### MDRGA010 - Gabon - Windstorm

Operating Timeframe: 25 May 2023 to 30 Nov 2023

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/5-2024/3	Operation	MDRGA010
Budget Timeframe	2023/5-2023/11	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 22/Apr/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>181,545</b>
DREF Response Pillar	181,545
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-164,936</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>16,609</b>

### II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction		619	-619
AOF2 - Shelter	2,955	3,518	-563
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	52,359	61,804	-9,445
AOF4 - Health	14,017	10,444	3,573
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	16,263	15,240	1,023
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	2,670	2,924	-254
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>88,264</b>	<b>94,548</b>	<b>-6,284</b>
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	28,096	26,877	1,219
SF12 - Effective international disaster management			0
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC	65,185	43,511	21,674
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>	<b>93,281</b>	<b>70,388</b>	<b>22,893</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>181,545</b>	<b>164,936</b>	<b>16,609</b>

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

## Please explain variances (if any)

The budget of this operation was 181,545 CHF of which 164,936 was spent. The balance of 16,609 will be returned to the DREF pot. Below is the explanation of variances per budget groups:

- Relief items, Construction, Supplies (86%)

The multi-sector assessment showed that some items initially budgeted for were not deemed necessary by beneficiaries and were therefore not purchased.

- Logistics, Transport and Storage (146%)

Transport constraints were particularly severe. Roads and railways were inaccessible, so the items to be distributed had to be flown in several times, as the route is covered by small planes and the items purchased were in large quantities.

- Personnel (56%)

Many planned and budgeted missions were not carried out, either by in-country staff or even by the Yaoundé team. In addition, the fact that there were two DREFs at the same time meant that some missions were budgeted for the other DREFs, as the teams from Yaoundé took advantage of the same trip to monitor the various operations in progress.

- Consultants and professional fees (0%)

Translation costs were not necessary, as the team was able to translate the documents internally.

- General expenditures (169%)

With the country in the middle of an election campaign, the numerous trips made by the authorities led to a significant increase in the price of plane tickets during the operation's period.



# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/5-2024/3	Operation	MDRGA010
Budget Timeframe	2023/5-2023/11	Budget	APPROVED

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 22/Apr/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRGA010 - Gabon - Windstorm

Operating Timeframe: 25 May 2023 to 30 Nov 2023

## I. Summary

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AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	2,670	2,924	-254
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>88,264</b>	<b>94,548</b>	<b>-6,284</b>
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	28,096	26,877	1,219
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management			0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	65,185	43,511	21,674
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>	<b>93,281</b>	<b>70,388</b>	<b>22,893</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>181,545</b>	<b>164,936</b>	<b>16,609</b>

# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/5-2024/3	Operation	MDRGA010
Budget Timeframe	2023/5-2023/11	Budget	APPROVED

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 22/Apr/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRGA010 - Gabon - Windstorm

Operating Timeframe: 25 May 2023 to 30 Nov 2023

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>62,820</b>	<b>54,195</b>	<b>8,625</b>
Clothing & Textiles	9,417	5,074	4,343
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	10,275	7,365	2,910
Teaching Materials	2,398	1,086	1,311
Cash Disbursement	40,730	40,669	61
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>6,815</b>	<b>9,657</b>	<b>-2,842</b>
Storage		15	-15
Distribution & Monitoring	3,330	3,924	-594
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,485	5,187	-1,702
Logistics Services		531	-531
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>53,850</b>	<b>30,160</b>	<b>23,690</b>
International Staff	31,968	22,623	9,345
National Staff	0		0
National Society Staff	12,602		12,602
Volunteers	9,280	7,537	1,743
<b>Consultants &amp; Professional Fees</b>	<b>2,960</b>		<b>2,960</b>
Professional Fees	2,960		2,960
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>20,369</b>	<b>20,788</b>	<b>-419</b>
Workshops & Training	20,369	20,788	-419
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>23,651</b>	<b>40,070</b>	<b>-16,419</b>
Travel	18,101	34,042	-15,940
Information & Public Relations		164	-164
Office Costs		2,484	-2,484
Communications	2,590	2,508	82
Financial Charges	2,960	872	2,088
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>11,080</b>	<b>10,067</b>	<b>1,014</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	11,080	10,067	1,014
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>181,545</b>	<b>164,936</b>	<b>16,609</b>

# Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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