

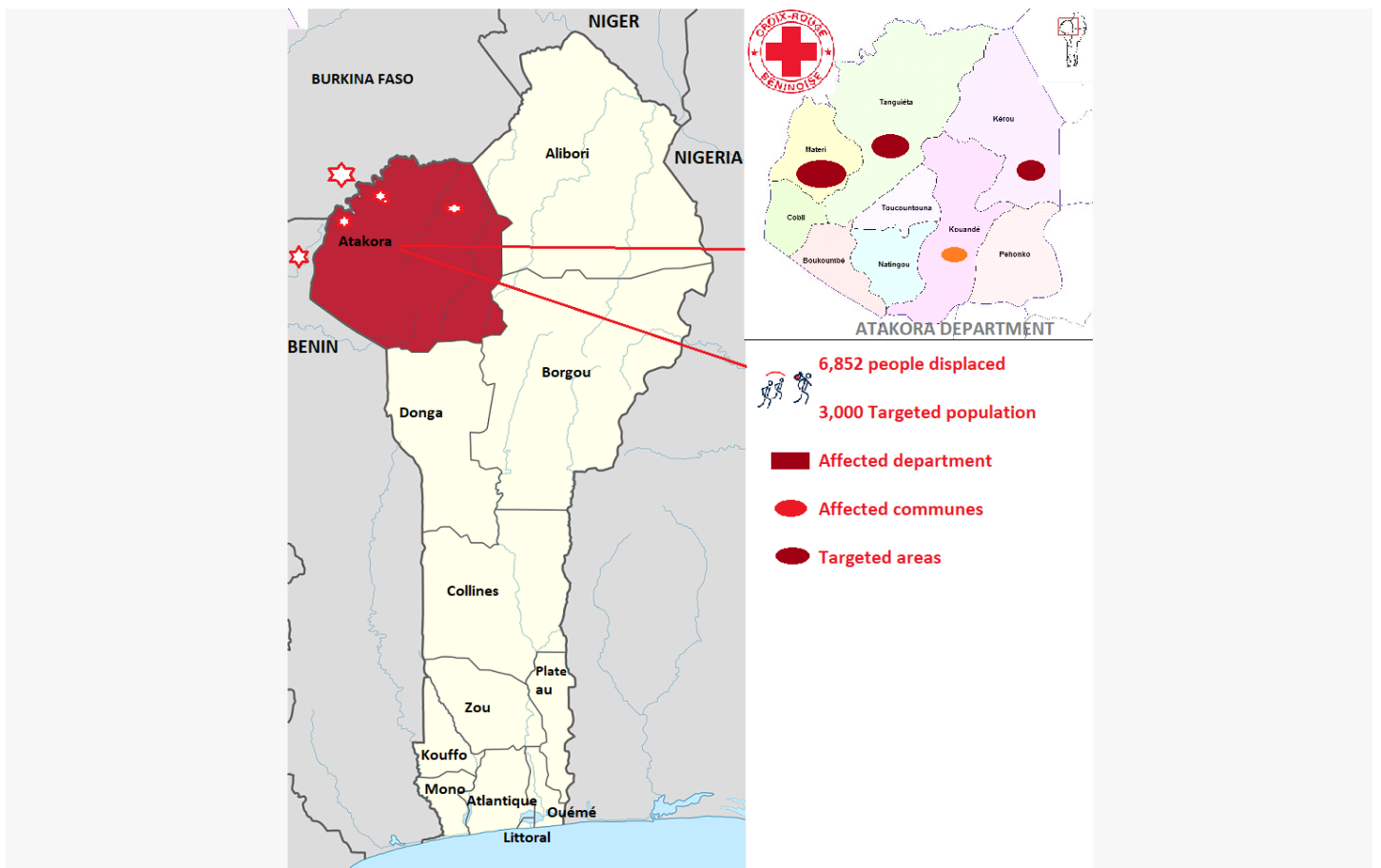


Community health services provided by Red Cross of Benin (RCB)

Appeal: <b>MDRBJ018</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 259,928</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Population Movement</b>
Glide Number: <b>-</b>	People Affected: <b>38,327 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>6,000 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>24-05-2023</b>	Operational End Date: <b>30-11-2023</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Atakira</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 localities (Red Cross of Benin-CRB)

## Date when the trigger was met

10-05-2023

## What happened, where and when?

In recent years, the threat posed by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) has intensified in the Sahel region, particularly along the border between Burkina Faso, Benin, and Togo. Initially concentrated in the eastern border of Burkina Faso and Benin, particularly in W and Pendjari National Parks, as well as in the Alibori and Atacora regions, these attacks have led to the displacement of populations.

In January 2023, the actions of armed groups spread to the communes surrounding Pendjari and W parks, affecting localities such as Matéri, Coblé, Tanguiéta, Banikoara, Malanville, Karimama and Kérou. These attacks have resulted in the forced displacement of populations in these areas, with assessments indicating that, between 3 April and 10 May 2023, approximately 28 people lost their lives and 6,852 people were displaced in the communes of Matéri, Tanguiéta and Kérou. In response, local authorities in Atacora organized an emergency meeting with partners on 5 May, requesting assistance from the Red Cross of Benin (RCB) on 10 May 2023 to support the affected people.

According to data collected on 25 October 2023, approximately 13,222 people have been displaced in Atacora Prefecture and 5,837 in Alibori Prefecture, totaling 19,059 displaced persons. The affected municipalities in the department of Atacora include Coblé, Kérou, Tanguiéta, Matéri, Natingou and Toucoukoutouna, while in the department of Alibori these are Banikoara, Karimama and Malanville. Since May, the numbers have doubled due to the continued influx of internally displaced people and asylum-seekers. Distribution campaigns have revealed that the needs of displaced people are exceeding expectations, particularly with regard to food kits and cash assistance. The assistance provided were not sufficient to fully meet these needs.



Kit distribution in Materi



Exchange session with women on feedback on the operation

## Scope and Scale

The situation in northern Benin highlights the consequences of attacks by non-state armed groups, affecting civilians, resulting in displacement, loss of life and putting additional pressure on host communities. The attacks resulted in a number of casualties, including civilians and soldiers. The loss of life and injuries are evidence of the situation of conflict. The violence has forced large numbers of people to flee their homes, leading to an increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The conflict is not limited to Benin alone but has spread to the neighbouring regions of northern Togo and the border between Burkina Faso and Niger. This cross-border impact complicates the situation and requires a regional response. Needs identified by local authorities included food, shelter, health care, poverty alleviation, and water, hygiene and sanitation. The assistance provided by the Red Cross currently accounts for only a relatively small percentage of overall needs. The crisis is not only affecting the displaced population but is also putting a strain on host communities. The risk of impoverishment of host families is a major concern, highlighting the need for comprehensive support to displaced and host communities. The porosity of the borders exacerbates the situation, facilitating the movement of both the population and armed groups. This poses ongoing security challenges and increases the risk of further displacement and violence.

Based on the synthesis of the data made by NS based on information collected by volunteers through Kobo, the people affected were as follows: 38,327 people affected, including 23,285 children and adolescents in the communes of Matéri, Tanguiéta and Kérou.

The situation in northern Benin is a complex humanitarian crisis that requires a multifaceted and collaborative response. The international community, as well as relevant organizations, should work together to alleviate the suffering of people affected by armed conflict, respond to urgent needs and promote stability in the region.

According to the Multi-Hazard Monitoring Tool for Coastal West African Countries as of 30 November 2023, Benin continues to record the highest number of incidents, with a predominance of attacks against civilians and clashes between a non-state armed group and law enforcement forces. The clashes between non-state armed groups and security forces persist with a higher frequency than in Togo. The population at risk is estimated at 1.9 million in the Alibori and Atacora regions.

According to the IOM's Displacement and Mobility Index in July 2023, the number of internally displaced persons was 10,034, including 3,331 men; 3,432 women; and 3,271 children under 18.

## 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	-

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	Through the Abuja Cluster, the IFRC has an office in Benin that supports both technical and operational interventions in Benin and Togo.
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	During the operation, the IFRC provided technical and financial support (DREF allocation, monitoring and supervision of field operations, support for technical documents and reports, etc.) for development and implementation.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	The needs assessment reports have been shared with the Belgian Flanders Red Cross, which is currently working to mobilize further resources to strengthen humanitarian assistance on the ground in northern Benin.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC covers Benin through the Lomé mission, under the supervision of the regional delegation in Abidjan. To improve understanding of the humanitarian situation and develop its interaction with the RCB, ICRC's management (head of delegation and head of mission in Lomé) carried out a mission to Cotonou in December 2022. Following the meetings held on this occasion, the Movement's partners remained in contact to discuss the evolving context and the Movement's response. Two conference calls were held as part of the implementation.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	Yes
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>The Prefecture of the Department of Atacora is organizing coordination meetings to discuss the current situation, the needs of displaced people and possible support and actions with partners working in Atacora. The meeting brings together UNFPA, UNICEF, Plan International Benin, IHSA/USAID, CRB, MSF, GIZ, WFP, ANPC, among others.</p> <p>The meeting also served as a forum for discussion to improve interventions for displaced persons. Synergy of action is organized to avoid duplication of distributions, emphasizing the importance of concerted planning and efficient use of resources.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	<p>Several international organizations and UN agencies are engaged in humanitarian actions to respond to the crisis in northern Benin, and are responding as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNPFA (United Nations Population Fund): Organization of basic health care structure, stressing the importance of ensuring access to basic medical services for those affected.</li> <li>- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund): Supporting children in classrooms, highlighting the effort to maintain access to education despite the crisis.</li> <li>- HRC (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees): Support to asylum seekers, highlighting concern for those forced to flee due to violence and attacks.</li> </ul> <p>The Benin Red Cross plays an active role as a member of the platform and is involved in the distribution of UNFPA kits as an implementing partner. This underscores the importance of collaboration between local and international actors to ensure an effective response.</p> <p>These actions highlight the synergy of actions of different organizations to respond to urgent humanitarian needs in the region affected by attacks by non-state armed groups. Coordination continues these efforts to ensure a holistic and effective response to the crisis.</p>

### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

As an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field and a member of various platforms (national, departmental and local) for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, the Red Cross of Benin has actively participated in the various planning and monitoring meetings at national and departmental levels. The team, based in the North Antenna, was the operational team for the implementation of the operation, with the technical and operational support of the headquarters team.



# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

Displaced populations are in urgent need of reception sites to provide temporary shelter, helping to restore balance within communities. These people have found refuge with host families in the villages, but this situation has led to overcrowding, leading to precarious living conditions. It was imperative to establish appropriate temporary housing to meet this pressing demand.

Many displaced people did not consider returning to their hometowns, due to the trauma they suffered during their displacement and the precarious situation that persists in their place of origin. It is crucial to seek sustainable solutions for their housing and integration into host communities. In support of this initiative, the RCB has set up emergency shelters in different sites, capable of accommodating displaced people in case of emergency in the different communes.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

From the analysis of data collected by the CRB, it can be concluded that 56% of the population displaced by attacks by unidentified armed groups asked for food, 21% expressed the need for clothing, 10% of people requested accommodation, 4% of people requested hygiene kits, 7% needed financial assistance and 2% requested assistance for the education of their children. Food requirements included food commodities such as rice, maize, pasta, peanut oil and beans. Kitchen utensils were also requested.

The situation of displaced populations, forced to leave their homes as a result of repression by non-State armed groups, is undeniably worrying. Living in extremely difficult conditions, these people have found support from the host populations and households who have shared their meagre food resources with them. This is a commendable gesture of humanity and solidarity that deserves to be commended.

However, despite these remarkable efforts, the 500 food kits distributed by the RCB were sufficient to meet the needs of vulnerable people. Many displaced families have raised concerns with local Red Cross committees, saying their food supplies are rapidly depleting, leaving them in a situation of increased vulnerability. The need for food thus constituted the strong demand that were constantly evolving.



## Health

For community surveillance, 60 volunteers were trained on life-saving gestures and the fundamentals of community health. These volunteers have been ambassadors for safety and well-being in the communities. This training session is delivered by experienced medical professionals and aimed at equipping volunteers with the skills needed to effectively respond to medical emergencies. The modules have also addressed key aspects of community health, fostering an in-depth understanding of local issues. An awareness campaign implemented by volunteers on psychosocial support services and advanced strategies reached approximately 32,765 members on common diseases, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and malnutrition. To mitigate the risks associated with the outbreak of malaria in the affected population, the 500 most exposed households received 1,000 mosquito nets.

Twelve (12) volunteers provided psychosocial support to the population affected by the security threat and have achieved satisfactory results.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Priority water, sanitation and hygiene needs included access to safe drinking water, changing behaviour in the face of poor household and societal practices, access to basic hygiene requirements, much-needed support for environmental sanitation resources, water treatment and risk reduction in the use and treatment of water sources. In response to these concerns, 500 households benefited from 500 boxes of Aquatabs for water purification and 500 hygiene and dignity kits (1 plastic bowl, 4 powdered detergents, 10 bars of soap, 1 loincloth of 4m, 2 cotton T-shirts and 2 under wears). These initiatives are crucial to ensure the health and well-being of displaced persons while preserving their dignity.





## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The diversity of displaced groups in the Atacora communes created potential challenges in terms of integration and acceptance. The unstable situation of the population in the department, coupled with the movements of refugees, required special attention in terms of protection, respect for the female gender and the involvement of all community actors. Priority was given to children, while pregnant women, the elderly and people with reduced mobility were supported, both for their protection and for their social well-being.

As part of the implementation of the activities, it was crucial to take into account these variables of communication language with communities to ensure a tailored intervention, the promotion of key messages related to protection, gender, inclusion, anti-violence and abuse, acceptance, and inclusion were disseminated during the implementation of planned activities.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

Feedback mechanisms have been set up to understand the needs of the affected population and ensure active participation of communities. At every stage the National society had implemented a feedback system through suggestion boxes, a dedicated complaint number, and community satisfaction surveys. This allowed for the systematic collection of comments, concerns and suggestions from affected individuals, reinforcing the RCB commitment to transparency, accountability and adaptability in its humanitarian response.

A total of 340 feedback records were collected. Requests were generally related to the schooling of displaced children, additional food support and support for the management of detected cases of diseases.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The objective of this operation was to assist at least 6,000 of the most vulnerable displaced populations and host communities affected by displacement in the communes of Matéri, Tanguiéta and Kérou by providing them with immediate food and non-food items, as well as access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation assistance. Around 3,000 of them are expected to receive humanitarian assistance to cover their household needs and assistance with relocation and access to more dignified shelter.

## Operation strategy rationale

The operation met the basic needs of 500 priority households and prevented disease risks in affected communities, targeting at least 6,000 people at risk of disease due to their precarious living conditions.

As part of the planning, detailed needs assessments have been conducted, and the NS ensures that the data is regularly updated. A detailed evaluation and programming by the actors of the municipalities were associated with the identification of the beneficiaries.

For the assistance offered, the RCB has:

- Provided immediate food assistance consisting of basic needs kits for four (4) months, and a hygiene kit;
- Distributed water treatment and sanitation kit for domestic use;
- Provided psychosocial support through the listening centres and visits to host families;
- Carried out awareness-raising activities by volunteers for a lasting change in practices to prevent the risk of disease and report cases detected during the period. Volunteers have been retrained to implement these activities. They have been trained in rescue, sheltering, hygiene-based prevention, AEC and protection techniques to support the smooth and effective implementation of activities.
- Conducted CEA post-distribution feedback activities;
- Set up shelter sites to acquire displaced people;
- Post-distribution follow-up will be provided by PMER;
- Awareness sessions still need to be conducted;
- Organized lessons learned workshop.

# Targeting Strategy

## Who was targeted by this operation?

This intervention had prioritize supporting at least 6,000 people of the most vulnerable households among refugees, internally displaced persons and host families through the various interventions. A total of 3,000 people benefited from non-food assistance (500 households composed of 200 displaced households, 100 refugee households and 200 host families).



The indirect target was 15,000 people representing the displaced population of the communes of Matéri, Tanguiéta and Kérou, and host households.

The RCB will focus its intervention on the communes of Tanguiéta, Matéri and Kérou hosting the largest number of displaced persons and refugees. The National society also aimed to reach host families whose capacities were severely reduced by the high number of displaced persons accommodated was also taken into account in the targeting.

The targeting of households took into account socio-economic criteria and household structure. The following criteria, after validation with the communities during the focus groups discussions, were applied:

- Household size of 6 people with priority given to larger households;
- Number of children aged 0 to 5 years;
- Presence of pregnant and/or lactating women and number of pregnant and lactating women per household;
- The elderly and people with reduced mobility to assess the number of people physically able to carry out agro-pastoral work in the region;
- Women heads of households;
- Households headed by widows and widowers without support;
- Unaccompanied minors.

In addition to these criteria, in the case of host households, the RCB cross-referenced the following criteria:

- The existence of a source of income;
- The number of displaced persons accommodated per household.

A working session was organized with the local committee, the Head of the Social Promotion Center (CPS) and the Focal Point for Risk and Disaster Reduction of the town halls and humanitarian organizations on the choice of the most vulnerable beneficiaries who did not benefit from support from other partners. The Red Cross teams had classified the displaced with the support of community leaders, taking into account the people most at risk, based on the vulnerability analysis, giving priority to people with specific needs described in the above criteria.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Targeting takes into account the relationship between the different groups of people affected, mainly displaced persons and host households, followed by refugees. The proportion of host households varies according to the number of displaced persons, which is the second proportion in the targeting.

To select households to be assisted, it is essential to understand the composition of a household in the region, incorporating context-specific vulnerability analysis parameters into the target definition, such as:

- The normal average household size in villages in northern Togo and Benin, which can vary around 6+ members.
- Understanding the main sources of income and the average level of household income is also taken into account for the analysis of the economic vulnerability of host households which is reduced in rural areas such as those targeted.
- The period of arrival of these populations between recent waves of displacement that did not receive assistance and waves dating back to 2022.

The characteristics of each target group were taken into account and carried out through three separate lists for which the above criteria were applied.

Many of the host households that hosted the displaced are now in the same precarious conditions as their guests. Basic food and non-food needs remain high for host and displaced populations.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	2,008	Rural	55.6%
Girls (under 18)	1,062	Urban	44.6%
Men	1,913	People with disabilities (estimated)	0.9%
Boys (under 18)	1,012		
Total targeted population	6,000		



# Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
The proliferation of diseases with epidemic potential.	The RCB is heavily involved in health promotion and disease prevention, and no cases of cholera have been detected.
Inaccessibility of intervention areas due to threats.	The Red Cross of Benin has continuously collected information on safety, which it has shared with volunteers and staff.
The security situation in the border areas of Burkina Faso and Togo may affect national security and the overall development of the operation.	The Red Cross of Benin has provided teams with constant updates on security and applicable regulations. Most volunteers in these areas are trained in safer access, security and safety. However, community self-monitoring mechanisms in disaster-affected areas have been updated to ensure the safety of volunteers. The RCB has retained good relations with security agents and, during implementation.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The border area of the Atacora communes, bordering Burkina Faso, the Pendjari National Park and Togo, faces security instability linked to the threat of non-state armed groups. The border with Burkina Faso and Togo, where the W forests and the Pendjari national parks are located, is vulnerable to incursions by these groups. Attacks have led to the forced displacement of populations. Security management, based on humanitarian principles, was regularly updated with a risk assessment and mitigation measures. Night-time travel to remote areas was discouraged due to the risks. All staff had completed security courses and adhered to the Code of Conduct, benefiting from local insurance against RC/RC-related risks through IFRC.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

## Implementation



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 47,844

**Targeted Persons:** 1,500

**Assisted Persons:** 1,500

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of sites with shelters for households	3	3
# of volunteers and carpenters involved in the construction of the shelters	40	40
# of households reached with shelter construction	300	250



## Narrative description of achievements

A working team composed of the Executive Secretary (SE) of the Atacora-Donga region, the departmental president of Atacora, the regional coordinator, and the vice-president of the National society recently visited the communes of Tanguiéta, Matéri, and Kérou to engage with local authorities on the implementation of the DREF Population Movement operation. The primary aim of this meeting was to address the challenges encountered in initiating the construction of relocation sites.

One of the key steps in developing the relocation sites was completing the preparatory work, which involved land clearing and site preparation in the three concerned municipalities. This meticulous preparation ensured the ground was thoroughly cleared and ready for construction. To accomplish this, six volunteers were mobilized at each site, working for four consecutive days. Their commitment demonstrated the team's dedication to advancing the project.

Additionally, the materials required for shelter construction were ordered and delivered to the selected relocation sites. Each municipal team was deployed to its designated area of intervention. A group of 20 volunteers and carpenters was identified for shelter construction. Under the leadership of focal points, the volunteers collaborated with the carpenters to build the shelters. The focal points provided regular updates on the progress of activities to the department head, in consultation with the team on the ground, to ensure the smooth continuation of the project.

In Tanguiéta, a large shelter with interior partitions was constructed to house displaced people, and three large shelters were built. These shelters were well-received by the local communities, who pledged to maintain them. These achievements were carried out on Red Cross committee sites.

Currently, the shelters remain unoccupied, as all displaced persons have been reintegrated into host families. To enable the utilization of the relocation sites, a memorandum of understanding is being negotiated with local authorities to clarify responsibilities regarding the property of displaced persons who will eventually settle in these areas.

The Tanguiéta site is already operational and located in the city center, where the local Red Cross committee is conducting activities. However, further steps are needed for the Matéri site, including the installation of basic infrastructure such as water supply and enhanced security measures due to its remote location from the city center.

The Tanguiéta site previously received households referred by the town hall, but they were later reintegrated into host families. This experience underscores the importance of close coordination with local authorities and establishing clear protocols to ensure a smooth transition for displaced people into the planned shelters, while safeguarding their security and well-being.

## Lessons Learnt

There is a need to maintain a major dialogue with the authorities on the issue of shelter and is even developing a shelter strategy for the Red Cross of Benin.

## Challenges

The major challenge during this activity was the unavailability and inaccessibility of the originally planned sites.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 86,007

**Targeted Persons:** 3,000

**Assisted Persons:** 3,000

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households reached with food kits	500	500
# of households reached with non-food kits	400	400
% of people confirming that the assistance received covered their food needs over 04 months	90	90

## Narrative description of achievements

As a first step, volunteers were trained to assess the needs of displaced people and identify beneficiaries. Then, to have a consensual list of beneficiaries with the agreement of the different communities, the RCB volunteers went to the field to identify potential beneficiaries. Communities were engaged and consulted in the selection criteria and targeting process. They were also involved in the distribution planning. The livelihood reach was as follows:

- 500 identified households received the food kits, i.e. 1 bag of rice of 25 kg, 1 bag of maize of 30 kg, 1 bag of beans of 15 kg, 1 bag of gari of 15 kg, and 1 can of oil of 10 l.
- 400 identified households received the non-food kits (1 bucket - as planned under WASH, 2 mats, and 1 blanket) and Kitchen Kits (1 pot, 1 saucepan, 12 plastic dishes, 1 ladle, 1 wooden pallet, 6 spoons, and 6 forks).

The monitoring and evaluation mission was a success. The distribution of the various kits to displaced persons is effective. In general, the kits were of good quality. The beneficiaries are very happy with this but are asking for an assessment of the additional needs for kits since there are new displaced people.

## Lessons Learnt

For rapid implementation, the establishment of framework contracts with major suppliers of goods, food, and financial services for cash assistance is essential. This will avoid delays related to lengthy procurement processes, facilitating timely assistance to vulnerable people. The use of a cash transfer mechanism would have sped up the response time.

## Challenges

Impassable roads in some of the beneficiary areas have made it difficult to transport the kits to the communities.



**Budget:** CHF 23,803

**Targeted Persons:** 6,000

**Assisted Persons:** 6,000

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in community health and lifesaving techniques	60	60
# of people who received psychological support	3,000	2,392
% of targeted households reached with awareness raising to the risks of disease	100	100
# of households confirming that they benefited from distribution of mosquito nets	500	500
# of households confirming that they have benefited from the hygiene and dignity kits distribution programme	500	500

## Narrative description of achievements

To achieve set health goals, a four-step process were followed:

- Development of the training manuals: This step involved a small team of about ten members, all from the RCB Secretariat General. The team worked for three days in Bohicon. Based on a literature review, the team created two training manuals, the Trainer's Manual and the Learner's Manual, on topics related to community health.

Validation of training manuals: This phase brought together the team that developed the draft and the relevant authorities for two days in Cotonou and brought together about fifteen participants. The aim was to ensure that the training manuals were of high quality and

relevant.

Training of focal points and executive secretaries: This training targets focal points and executive secretaries and will take place in a single day in Natitingou. These participants will play a critical role in disseminating learning. After their training, they will in turn be responsible for training the 60 volunteers in the communes of Matéri, Kérou and Tanguiéta.

Volunteer training: This stage of training strengthened the capacities of 60 volunteers from the three municipalities through a cascade approach.

A total of 1,000 mosquito nets were allocated and distributed to 500 households. This means that each household received two mosquito nets to help protect their members from mosquito bites and diseases potentially transmitted by these pests. This initiative aims to improve the health and well-being of these families by reducing exposure to mosquitoes, especially during periods when vector-borne diseases such as malaria are more prevalent.

These volunteers were deployed to raise awareness among both displaced people and host families. This initiative mobilized 60 committed volunteers who used educational communication tools (such as IEC materials) to achieve these goals. While all of outreach activities have been successfully completed,

sensitization campaigns were conducted for 11 days. The 60 volunteers therefore carried out awareness-raising activities in the districts and neighbourhoods under the supervision of the President of the CL and the Focal Point in charge of coordinating the intervention and collecting data as they went along. Topics included Cholera, Nutrition, HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Immunization, WASH and Malaria. A total of 38,327 people were affected, including 23,285 children and adolescents.

The provision of psychosocial support services to the population provided by 12 volunteers affected by the security threat has achieved satisfactory results. These interventions made it possible to reach 2,392 people, including 1,187 women from the communities, to increase their resilience, by being equipped to better manage feelings of stress, loss, grief and distress, and to be more focused on their recovery. There is also satisfaction among the communities through their appreciation of this support, in particular, and of all the interventions of the National society, in general.

Twelve (12) volunteers mobilized communities to provide consultation and screening services for various diseases: High Blood Pressure, Malnutrition, Malaria, Diabetes, etc. This service offers sessions reaching 1,262 people, including several women and children.

Six volunteers, two from each municipality, coordinated the synthesis of data collected by volunteers on community awareness campaigns covering various health topics over four months of implementation.

During this activity, three hundred (300) children with moderate to severe acute malnutrition were treated by a health team composed of volunteers and local health workers. The treatment kit included one box of Albendazole tablets, one sachet of Moringa flour, Néré flour, two types of fortified cereal flours, and one blister pack of 10 Aquatabs tablets.

## Lessons Learnt

- The involvement of health workers in the implementation of health activities is a key strategy. This ensures that the work is carried out in accordance with professional standards, builds the skills of volunteers, and establishes strong links between volunteers and health system, creating a seamless collaboration in the service of community health.

## Challenges

No major challenges were reported.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 23,581

**Targeted Persons:** 6,000

**Assisted Persons:** 6,000

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households having benefited from Aquatabs and hygiene kits	500	500
# of emergency latrines built	15	15
# of community committees taking responsibility for WASH activities	6	6



# of sanitation kits made available to communities via selected leaders or committees set up	9	9
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## Narrative description of achievements

To ensure access to clean water for the affected population, the National society has distributed 500 boxes of Aquatabs to 500 households.

These households also benefited from hygiene kits including various essential items such as a plastic bowl, four 180g powdered detergents, ten bars of soap, a four-metre loincloth, two cotton T-shirts and two under wears.

In addition, the community was sensitized on sanitation practices and environmental preservation. This awareness-raising initiative on the use of aquatabs and on good practices in sanitation hygiene management was actively carried out involving both displaced people and host families. This activity mobilized the commitment of 60 volunteers, who used educational communication tools (IEC materials) to achieve these objectives.

- It is in response to these concerns that the 500 households benefited from 500 hygiene and dignity kits (1 plastic bowl, 4 powder detergents, 10 bars of soap, 1 4 m loincloth, 2 cotton T-shirts and 2 underwear). These initiatives are crucial to ensure the health and well-being of displaced persons while preserving their fundamental dignity.

Regarding the activities related to the construction of latrines, they were not carried out because the constructions were made on the sites of the Beninese Red Cross in the municipalities already had latrines which are under the management of the local branches. The following sanitation kits 18 Broom (Twig), 9 Broom (standing), 9 Hoe, 18 Rake; 9 trash cans and 9 hand and soap washing devices were made available to local committees. As part of the funding granted by the Emergency Response Mechanism (DREF), 15 emergency latrines (Matéri 8, Tanguieta 5, Kerou 2) have been built to meet the sanitary needs of displaced populations in the three beneficiary communes. This action is an integral part of the Beninese Red Cross's overall commitment to the Emergency Response and Enhanced Preparedness project, implemented in 10 communes of the Atacora and Alibori departments, in collaboration with UNICEF. This project, which aims to improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations, is entirely piloted and executed by the Beninese Red Cross, guaranteeing a rapid response tailored to the needs of the affected communities.

## Lessons Learnt

- It is crucial to adopt integrated planning that focuses on the specific needs and realities of communities, taking into account the particularities of the region. This involves adjusting the content of hygiene kits according to the specific requirements of each community and modulating the quantity of priority items appropriately. A flexible approach based on an in-depth understanding of local needs ensures that kits are distributed in a way that is adapted, relevant and respectful of local specificities.

## Challenges

No major difficulties were reported, with the exception of difficult access to roads in some localities.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 4,761

**Targeted Persons:** 3,000

**Assisted Persons:** 6,000

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers referred who confirm that they have integrated ERP concepts and skills	60	60
# of ERP mapping service reports	3	2
% of sensitive feedback on the PEHS collected and processed	100	340

## Narrative description of achievements

To achieve the results, four steps were followed:

- The development of the drafts of the training manuals, the validation of the training manuals, the training of focal points and executive secretary (ES) and the training of volunteers.
- The preparation of the drafts of the training manuals was carried out with a small team of about ten people, exclusively members of the general secretariat of the RCB for three days in Bohicon. Based on the literature review, the team proposed drafts of two training manuals: the trainer's manual and the learner's manual on ERP topics. The validation of the training manuals was done between the team that developed the drafts and the competent authorities. It brought together about fifteen people for two days in Cotonou. Focal points and executive secretaries were trained in one day on the theme in Natitingou. -
- Training. To facilitate learning, the training of volunteers from the three communes (Matéri, Kérou and Tanguiéta) at a rate of 20 volunteers per commune took place in a cascade.

During this period, a significant total of 340 feedback messages were collected, which is a testimony of the commitment and active participation of community members. These returns were diverse in terms of gender, with 198 women, representing a majority of 56.55%, while 142 men contributed, constituting 43.44% of the responses collected. Analysis of demographic data also revealed a varied age distribution among participants. The age groups were stratified as follows: adults (aged 25 to 50 years) accounted for the majority of participants, a whopping 60.67%. This category demonstrated the commitment of community members to this approach, as it encompassed a substantial portion of the labour force. Young adults (aged 20-24) also actively participated, accounting for 22.09% of feedback. Their involvement reflected the interest of the younger generations in the issues addressed and their desire to contribute to meaningful initiatives. Young adolescents (aged 15-19) also took part in the process, although to a lesser extent, with a representation of 6.74%. This participation of young people in this age group shows the inclusiveness of the feedback collection process and gives voice to the rising generations.

Finally, adults over the age of 50 made up a respected part of the contributors, with a proportion of 10.48%. This diversity in terms of ages reflects the importance of bringing together varied perspectives and experiences to get a complete picture of community feedback.

## Lessons Learnt

When organizing women's hygiene demonstration sessions, it is essential to meticulously plan spaces to ensure a comfortable and respectful experience for all participants. This foresight is crucial in creating an environment conducive to learning and raising awareness about feminine hygiene.

## Challenges

Inclusion is of paramount importance, especially following the feedback received on the choice of beneficiaries during demonstrations of hygiene items for women. To ensure a truly inclusive approach, several aspects need to be taken into account. The diversity of the choice of beneficiaries in the target community, the communication around the event must also be inclusive. When planning demonstrations, ensure that the content is suitable for a diverse audience. When it comes to spaces, make sure they are accessible to all participants. For feedback, set up a continuous evaluation mechanism to constantly adjust and improve the inclusiveness of the operation.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 936

**Targeted Persons:** 6,000

**Assisted Persons:** 6,000

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of feedback collected and processed through the mechanism put in place	100	340
# of lessons learned workshops organized	1	1

## Narrative description of achievements

The active participation of the 500 households of the community in the 03 communes was ensured through regular meetings and focus groups. Feedback was collected on a regular basis through tools such as suggestion boxes, a complaint number and community satisfaction surveys. The CEA and PMER teams set up a feedback system to process and document feedback in real time, contributing to a better understanding of the needs of the affected population and the continuous improvement of operations.

Of the 340 feedback mechanisms collected, 197 were requests for assistance in the schooling of the children of the displaced, additional food support and support for the management of detected disease cases; 88 were words of encouragement to the Red Cross for the specificity of these actions; 25 complaints had been received by them, including the consideration of all beneficiaries, especially since no organization had donated food kits. There were 15 general questions about the operation, including the possibility of continuing to assist others, the end of the operation and the activities of the Red Cross. The 15 suggestions concern the inclusion of other displaced persons who have not received food kits and the addition of other border localities that are also experiencing the situation.

During the lessons learned workshop, participants made the following recommendations:

- Take into account the size of households in the distribution of the different kits
- Pre-position non-perishable emergency kits close to communities
- Organize a mini workshop for internal stakeholders before the lessons learned workshop
- Develop framework agreements for emergency procurement
- This cannot be achieved by accepting local languages in the debates

The various actors are satisfied with the intervention.

## Lessons Learnt

It would be crucial to increase the sources and channels for collecting feedback.

## Challenges

It would be recommended that a sustainable mechanism for dealing with rumours be established and disseminated more widely.



**Secretariat Services**

**Budget:** CHF 32,365

**Targeted Persons:** 70

**Assisted Persons:** 70

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of IFRC monitoring mission conducted	4	4
# of coordination and monitoring meetings organised	10	10

## Narrative description of achievements

To ensure effective implementation of the operational preparedness and planning meetings, an organized and collaborative approach was adopted, involving the relevant managers. Each meeting was thoroughly prepared with an agenda that included an analysis of the situation of internally displaced persons, the presentation of priority needs, an update on ongoing activities, the identification of problems and obstacles, and finally, the planning of future actions. This methodology allowed us to understand the reality on the ground, prioritize interventions based on urgent needs, maintain transparent communication on progress, identify challenges, and plan strategic actions accordingly.

These meetings were designed to be inclusive, bringing together RCB thematic coordinators, local committee chairs, focal points and sometimes representatives of displaced communities. To facilitate participation, ten meetings were held online, and one face-to-face meeting to strengthen links between stakeholders and foster more direct communication where possible.

This structured and collaborative approach has contributed to better coordination of humanitarian operations, more informed decision-making and a more effective response to the needs of displaced people.

The quality control mission made it essential to ensure the implementation of activities and the effective coordination of actions with all



the stakeholders involved. This has helped to ensure compliance with established standards, assess the effectiveness of business processes, and strengthen smooth collaboration among all stakeholders. Thanks to this mission, in-depth checks were carried out to ensure the quality of the interventions and the consistency with the defined objectives, thus contributing to the optimization of results and the satisfaction of the stakeholders involved in the operation.

## Lessons Learnt

Regular meetings should be held with all parties involved in an operation to facilitate the implementation of operational activities.

## Challenges

It would be good to maintain exchanges with the different actors to monitor the situation in the area through quarterly meetings.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 40,631

**Targeted Persons:** 70

**Assisted Persons:** 70

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of meetings organized	4	4
# of volunteers deployed	60	60
# of supervisory missions conducted	4	4
% of volunteers oriented and confirming that they have integrated the concepts and skills on CEA, PGI and PEAS	100	100

## Narrative description of achievements

A set of crucial activities had been developed to strengthen the skills and preparedness of the 60 volunteers in the areas of Protection (PGI) and PEAS. These activities enabled the volunteers to fully understand the fundamental principles and rules, as well as the emergency response framework, while being able to effectively apply the emergency appeal and fundraising procedures through the DREF.

The training of technical managers is a crucial step in this preparation. These sessions helped build the skills of technical managers so that they could effectively supervise and support volunteers in the field.

Preparatory and operational planning meetings were also held in collaboration with the heads of field offices and the national staff of the organization. These meetings helped coordinate efforts and ensure that all stakeholders agreed on operational objectives and procedures.

Establishing close links with the government and other key stakeholders has been a crucial aspect in responding to this situation. Four coordination meetings were held, with a particular focus on the implementation of activities. The purpose of these meetings is to share crucial information, discuss activities and facilitate coordination at the national level and between different entities.

- Visibility items, including t-shirts, have been produced for a better visibility of the operation in the areas of intervention.

Overall, the operation went smoothly according to the pre-established action plan, demonstrating strong project management and careful preparation to deal with possible emergency situations.

## Lessons Learnt

The National society will need to work more on setting up an emergency fund for first response activities while waiting for appeals for funds.



## Challenges

The transfer of implementation documents between the decentralized structures and headquarters, although they have improved, still needs to be perfected.



# Financial Report

## DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/5-2024/5	Operation	MDRBJ018
Budget Timeframe	2023-2024	Budget	APPROVED

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 10/Jul/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRBJ018 - Benin - Population Movement

Operating Timeframe: 24 May 2023 to 30 Nov 2023

#### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>259,928</b>
DREF Response Pillar	259,928
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-257,474</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>2,454</b>

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

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction		15,524	-15,524
AOF2 - Shelter	47,844	7,462	40,382
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	86,007	27,125	58,883
AOF4 - Health	23,803	26,108	-2,306
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	23,581	4,150	19,431
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	4,761	5,129	-369
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>185,995</b>	<b>85,498</b>	<b>100,497</b>
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	41,568	152,185	-110,618
SF12 - Effective international disaster management			0
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners		5,276	-5,276
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC	32,365	14,515	17,850
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>	<b>73,933</b>	<b>171,977</b>	<b>-98,044</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>259,928</b>	<b>257,474</b>	<b>2,454</b>

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

## Please explain variances (if any)

Relief 86%

The multi-sector assessment showed that some items were not needed

Logistics 146%

Transport constraints during the electoral campaign, price increase, inaccessible railway line. Items were arriving in batches by air, causing delays.

Staff 56%

Some missions were not carried out. The Yaoundé team also did not go as planned.

Consultant 0%

No payment for the translation

General expenditure 169%

Same as for logistics

Balance of CHF 2,453 to be returned to DREF



# Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)

