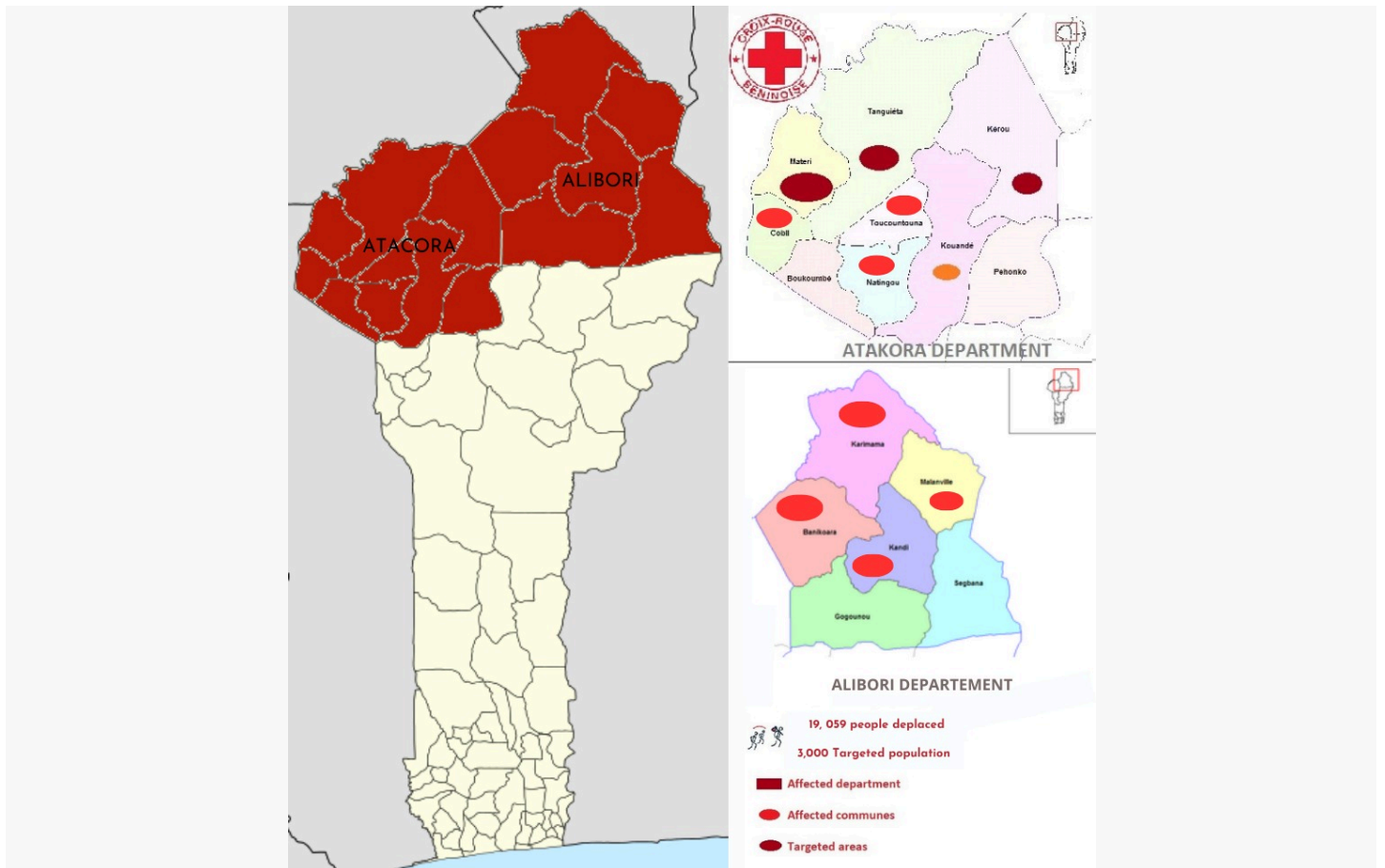




A beneficiary with her kits

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Appeal:<br><b>MDRBJ018</b>                           | Total DREF Allocation:<br><b>CHF 259,928</b> | Crisis Category:<br><b>Yellow</b>                  | Hazard:<br><b>Population Movement</b>         |
| Glide Number:<br>-                                   | People Affected:<br><b>1,156,988 people</b>  | People Targeted:<br><b>6,000 people</b>            |   |
| Event Onset:<br><b>Slow</b>                          | Operation Start Date:<br><b>24-05-2023</b>   | New Operational End Date:<br><b>30-11-2023</b>     | Total Operating Timeframe:<br><b>6 months</b> |
| Reporting Timeframe Start Date:<br><b>24-05-2023</b> |  | Reporting Timeframe End Date:<br><b>06-10-2023</b> |   |
| Additional Allocation Requested:<br>-                |  | Targeted Regions:<br><b>Atakira</b>                |   |

# Description of the Event



map of affected localities BRCS

## Date when the trigger was met

10-05-2023

## What happened, where and when?

The past three years have seen an increase in the threat from non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in the Sahel region, particularly in the border area between Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo. From December 2021 to September 2022, there were 43 attacks in Benin linked to non-state armed groups. The attacks were initially confined to the border between eastern Burkina Faso and Benin, in the W and Pendjari national parks, in the Alibori and Atacora regions, with small numbers of people entering the country since the beginning of the violence. In total, in almost two years, these attacks have led to 2,284 displaced persons taking refuge in the Atacora prefecture.

As of January 2023, raids of armed groups had spread to communes bordering the Pendjari and the W parks, notably in Matéri, Coby, Tanguiéta, Banikoara, Malanville, Karimama and Kerou causing forced displacement of populations in several localities bordering this region. Assessments conducted by local authorities showed that from 3 April to 13 May 2023, approximately 28 people had been killed in the communes of Matéri, Tanguiéta and Kérou and 6,852 people were displaced and refugees. Faced with this situation, an emergency meeting was organized by the local authorities of Atacora with the partners on 5 May. The authorities requested the assistance of the Red Cross of Benin on 10 May 2023 to provide assistance vulnerable people affected by this situation.

According to information gathered on 25 October 2023 from social promotion center managers and disaster risk reduction focal points, there are some 13,222 displaced persons in the Atacora department and 5,837 displaced persons in the Alibori department, that is 19,059 people. In the Atacora department, the municipalities affected are Coby, Kérou, Tanguiéta, Matéri, Natitingou and Toucoumboua. Those in Alibori are Banikoara, Karimaman and Malanville. From May to date, the figures have doubled due to the continued arrival of internally displaced people and exile seekers. During the implementation of the various distribution campaigns, we have contacted that the number of people in need is higher than planned. As the needs assessment report stipulates, food kits and cash remain their priority, and our action has fulfilled part of their expectations through the food kits distributed. So far, the aid provided has not been sufficient to meet the needs of the displaced people.



volunteers exchange with IDPs



volunteers exchange with IDPs

## Scope and Scale

The situation in the northwest of Benin is very worrying and shows the serious consequences of attacks by non-state armed groups in the region. Here are some key points relating to the impact of this situation:

1. Injuries and loss of lives: The most significant attacks took place in the department of Atacora, with violent incidents in January, February, March and in May and September 2023 resulting in injuries, kidnappings and even deaths, with 43 civilians et 25 militaries killed.
2. Increased number of refugees and IDPs: Since the start of these attacks in northern Benin, northern Togo and Burkina border, many populations were forced to flee their homes due to killings and threats from armed groups. The number of displaced people is constantly increasing, from 6,852 in May 2023 to 19,059 in October 2023. Displaced populations live with host families in the Atacora department, (particularly in the communes of Coby, Kérou, Tanguiéta, Matéri, Natitingou, Toucoutouna), and in the Alibori department (are Banikoara, Karimaman and Malanville).
3. Humanitarian needs: Local authorities have identified urgent needs, including food, shelter, health care for children and pregnant women, combating monetary and non-monetary poverty, and needs in water, hygiene and sanitation. For now, Red Cross assistance accounts for 3.78% of the overall people in need.

The situation seriously affects the income of host communities who take care of the displaced, exposing host families to the risk of impoverishment.

The situation is aggravated by the porosity of borders, which facilitates the movement of the population, but also of armed groups. New threats continue to be recorded, increasing the risk of further displacement.

This situation requires a coordinated and sustained humanitarian response to meet the needs of displaced people, refugees and host communities. The international community and humanitarian organizations should provide support to alleviate the suffering of these populations affected by armed conflicts.

## Summary of Changes

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Are you changing the timeframe of the operation         | Yes |
| Are you changing the operational strategy               | No  |
| Are you changing the target population of the operation | No  |
| Are you changing the geographical location              | No  |
| Are you making changes to the budget                    | No  |
| Are you requesting an additional allocation?            | No  |

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

To ensure completeness in the implementation of this operation, the NS is requesting an extension of the operation for one (01) month. Discussions with the prefectural authorities of the Atacora Department (covering the localities where the DREF is being implemented) on the modalities of shelter construction activities have taken quite some time., hence the need to request for this extension to 30 November, to allow sufficient time for the implementation of the final activities, notably shelter construction. Discussions focused on identifying the areas where the shelter would be constructed. Several actors were involved in the process, including mayors and local elected representatives. At the end, a number of estates were identified.

The main activities yet to be finalized are:

- CEA post-distribution feedback activities
- Post-distribution monitoring
- Construction of shelters and latrines
- Remaining awareness-raising sessions.
- Lessons learned workshop

## Current National Society Actions



Focus group discussions with IDPs



Awareness-raising of IDPs by Benin RC volunteers

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Health</b></p>                        | <p>A total of 12 volunteers from the 3 local committees involved are providing psychological services and have visited displaced populations to assess the extent of needs.<br/>Sixty (60) volunteers were also mobilized for community health awareness-raising activities among households.</p> |
| <p><b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b></p> | <p>A total of 60 volunteers, including 20 from each local committee concerned, were mobilized and organized to carry out home visits to raise awareness of hygiene and sanitation promotion in the home.<br/>Latrines are yet to be constructed now that the site have been identified.</p>       |
| <p><b>Coordination</b></p>                  | <p>Community meetings are organized at the various territorial levels, where the NS is actively represented and provides technical and operational input for data collection</p>  |



|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | <p>and proposed interventions. The participation of the RCB in the coordination session with development partners working in the Atacora region, organized by the prefecture on 15 September 2023, brought together all stakeholders (UNFPA, UNICEF, Plan International Benin, IHSA/USAID, BRC, MSF, GIZ, WFP, ANPC, etc.) and created a framework for exchange to improve interventions in favor of displaced persons. During the session, the prefecture gave an update on the situation and recalled the humanitarian needs of the population. The RCB also took part in the workshop to draw up Benin's multi-hazard contingency plan.</p> <p>The NS is in permanent contact with all the actors on the field.</p>  |
| <b>Assessment</b> | <p>The RCB quickly positioned itself alongside the departmental and local authorities, while regularly monitoring the situation and updating data following the various events in May 2023.</p> <p>RCB supported assessments in coordination with prefectural authorities to obtain the data used in this plan. The assessment conducted on 10 May 2023 identified 4,267 displaced people and 2,585 refugees. Hundred (100) percent of these people are living with host families.</p> <p>From the needs assessment carried out by RCB from 23 June 2023 to 1st July 2023 in the three communes, and from the analysis of the data collected, we can see that 56% of the population displaced by attacks by unidentified armed groups are asking for food, 21% are asking for clothing, 10% are asking for accommodation, 4% for hygiene kits, 7% financial aid and 2% support in their children's education.</p> |

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Secretariat</b>                      | <p>The IFRC, through the Abuja cluster, has an office based in Benin. The NS receives technical and financial support from the Benin office. During the operation, the IFRC provides technical and financial support (operations, finance, etc.) in the development and implementation of activities. As part of this DREF, it supports the NS in its implementation.</p> |
| <b>Participating National Societies</b> | <p>The Flanders Red Cross supports the RCB as a Partner National Society but is not involved in this operation.</p>   |

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC does not have an office in Benin, which is covered by the Lomé Mission, under the supervision of the Abidjan Regional Delegation. In order to improve understanding of the humanitarian situation and further develop its interaction with the CRB, the ICRC management (Head of Delegation and Head of Lomé Mission) 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 evolution of the context and the Movement's response. Two conference calls were held in connection with the preparation of this FRDR.

Because of its non-permanent presence in Benin, the ICRC cannot assume responsibilities related to the security of the operations of the components of the Movement. However, it has already pledged to continue its planned activities this year in the country, as well as adapt them to recent developments:

- (i) Strengthening the NS's capacities in terms of emergency response (Safer Access, Operational Communication, etc.)
- (ii) The promotion of humanitarian law and principles (and thus also issues of access and respect for humanitarian action) among the country's armed and security forces.

At the same time, the ICRC will remain available for support and the transfer of experience in the field of security management and respect for the principles of the Movement, similar to the steps taken in other countries in the region (Togo, Côte d'Ivoire). The upcoming arrival of a field coordinator for Togo and Benin will facilitate this process.

- Security monitoring and management will be also done with advise from ICRC and IFRC as frequent communications to be kept.



# Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Government has requested international assistance | Yes  |
| National authorities                              | <p>The Prefecture of the Department of Atacora organized a coordination meeting to discuss on the updated situation, needs of people displaced and possible support and actions with partners working in the Atacora. The meeting called together UNFPA, UNICEF, Plan International Benin, IHSA/USAID, CRB, MSF, GIZ, WFP, ANPC, etc.</p> <p>The meeting also provided a framework for exchanges to improve interventions for displaced people.</p>  |
| UN or other actors                                | <p>We can mention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- UNPFA for the organisation of basic health care,</li><li>- UNICEF supporting children in classrooms, and</li><li>- HRC's support to asylum seekers.</li></ul> <p>- Unicef through the NGO Educo which provided hygiene, cooking and education kits to about 200 households on 22 January 2023.</p> <p>- UNFPA provided 309 dignity kits plus to displaced people and delivery kits on 13 April 2023.</p> <p>The department of Atacora has a platform of several international organisations including UN agencies, national organisations and other organized associations (UNFPA, UNICEF, CRB, Plan International Benin, Educo, GIZ, WFP, IHSA/USAID, Handicap International, etc.). The Red Cross of Benin is an active member of this platform, lead by the Prefect of the Atacora Department. Unicef through the NGO Educo provided hygiene, cooking and education kits to about 200 households on 22 January 2023. UNFPA provided 309 dignity kits plus to the displaced and delivery kits on 13 April 2023. Distribution of UNFPA kits is done by the Red Cross of Benin as an implementing partner. A synergy of action is organized to avoid duplication of distributions. Recent actions include distribution of EHI to 9,000 people, as well as dignity kits, school kits medicine to Social protection centers to continue basic essential health services.</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 takes an active part in various planning and follow-up meetings at national and departmental level. It has a team based at the North antenna, which will be the operations team for the implementation of the project, with support from the headquarters team.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

Displaced populations are in urgent need of reception sites for temporary accommodation for these people and contribute to community balance. At present, displaced populations have found refuge with host families in the villages, but this has created precarious living conditions due to overcrowding. This highlights the need for appropriate temporary housing.

These displaced people are not planning to return to their homes due to the traumas they suffered during their displacement and the situation which remains insecure in their hometown. This calls for reflection on sustainable solutions for their housing and integration into host communities.



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

It is undeniable that the displaced populations are living in extremely difficult conditions, having been forced to leave their homes due to repression by non-state armed groups. The fact that host populations and households have shared their food with displaced families is a commendable gesture of humanity and solidarity.



However, it is worrying to note that the 500 Red Cross food kits distributed were not enough for the vulnerable people. Many displaced people continue to contact RC local committees to explain that their food reserves are running out, leaving these families in a situation of increased vulnerability. The ration of our operation is 3.78%, which means that there is a need to provide further support.



## Health

The health needs of displaced people vary according to their situation, their place of displacement and the underlying factors. The general health needs of displaced people are

Access to basic health care: Displaced people need access to basic health care, including medical services, medicines and routine care.

Mental health care: Mental health is often neglected, but essential. Displaced people are traumatized by the loss of their homes, violence or other traumatic experiences. They need access to mental health services to cope with these challenges.

Our needs include vaccination, hygiene, access to clean water and sanitation.

Pregnant women and infants require special health care, including prenatal monitoring, safe deliveries and newborn care.

Displaced people need access to essential medicines to manage chronic illnesses, such as diabetes or hypertension, as well as to treat common infections.

Some displaced people need long-term medical follow-up, for example for chronic illnesses. Ensuring continuity of care is essential.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) needs of displaced people are crucial to their well-being and health. Access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities and proper hygiene practices becomes all the more important to prevent the spread of disease and guarantee human dignity. key WASH needs for displaced people :

- clean, safe water supplies for drinking, cooking, washing and personal hygiene.
- Establishment of drinking water points and water distribution systems.
- Provision of appropriate and safe toilets to prevent water contamination and the spread of disease.
- Educating displaced people about essential hygiene practices, such as hand-washing.
- Provision of soap, sanitary towels and other hygiene items.
- setting up a mechanism to respond rapidly to epidemics by providing medical care and reinforcing preventive measures.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The diversity of the groups hosted in the villages in the south of the Atakora communes presents a risk of integration and acceptance specific to all displacement crises. Taking into account these different variables in the communication channels with the communities is also crucial to an intervention in this context.

As the initial waves were minor, the impact on protection and inclusion issues was not as significant, but since the displacement of the Mi, there is a need to re-evaluate protection risk but also to ensure that the messages of Protection, Gender and Inclusion, Protection from Violence and Abuse, Acceptance and Inclusion and Peacebuilding are promoted.

Registered women have lost their children or husbands in the course of these abuses and a significant number of women heads of households and children are among the displaced groups. The joint assessments revealed that the registered populations are predominantly composed of children.

The unstable situation of the population in the department, with the movement of refugees, requires particular attention in terms of protection, respect for the female gender and the involvement of all actors in the communities. Priority will be given to children, while pregnant women, the elderly and people with reduced mobility must be supported both for their protection and for their social care.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

Feedback will need to be collected regularly to inform the needs of the affected population and how to involve communities and receive feedback.

For each activity or operation, a feedback system needs to be set up with suggestion boxes, a complaint number and a community satisfaction survey. With these tools, (non-sensitive) feedback can be processed and documented.



# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

This operation aims to assist at least 6,000 among the most vulnerable displaced populations and host communities affected by the displacements in the communes of Matéri, Tanguiéta and Kérou by providing them immediate food and non-food items, as well as access to drinking water and basic health assistance. Some 3,000 of them will benefit from humanitarian aid to cover the needs of their households and assistance in relocating and accessing more dignified shelters.

## Operation strategy rationale

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

To inform planning, detailed needs assessments have been carried out and the NS ensures regular updating of data. Detailed assessment and programming by stakeholders in the municipalities were associated with the identification of beneficiaries.

For the assistance offered, the Benin Red Cross has already:

- Provided immediate food aid consisting of a kit intended to meet basic needs for four (4) months, as well as a hygiene kit;
- Provided a water treatment and sanitation kit for household use;
- Provided psychosocial support through these listening centers and visits to host families;
- Carried out awareness-raising activities by volunteers for a lasting change in practices in order to prevent the risk of disease and report cases detected during the period. Volunteers were retrained to implement these activities. They were trained in rescue techniques, shelter, hygiene-based prevention, AEC and protection to support the smooth and effective implementation of activities.

Following the operation, the main activities remaining to be finalized by the NS are:

- Post-distribution feedback activities of the CEA: this activity is already currently being undertaken in the communities through the activities of the focal points and volunteers.
- Post-distribution monitoring will be carried out by the PMERs and the tools for this activity are already validated by the Secretary General.
- Provide shelter to the most vulnerable households by taking advantage of relocation sites identified by local authorities. In this support, local authorities, community leaders and households will be involved to ensure the definition of a transition plan in the management of these sites after the implementation of this DREF operation. Sites identified by local authorities, although only land, remain within a normal distance from host communities. These households continue to benefit from the surrounding facilities. Eighteen (18) emergency latrines will be built to complement these provisions. Taking into account protection standards, distances from latrines must be reduced. this activity is already underway.
- Awareness sessions still need to be conducted.
- Lessons learned workshop This activity will involve all stakeholders in the operation.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

This intervention primarily targets at least 6,000 people of the most vulnerable households among refugees, IDPs and host families through the different interventions, among which some 3,000 with material assistance (500 households made up of 200 IDP households, 100 refugee households and 200 host families).

The indirect target is 15,000 people representing the displaced population of these three communes, namely 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.

Support for host families whose capacities are greatly reduced by the high number of displaced people hosted will also be taken into account in the targeting.

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

- Household size of 6 with priority given to the largest households,
- Number of children aged 0-5 years,
- Presence of pregnant and/or lactating women and the number of pregnant and lactating women per household,
- Elderly people and people with reduced mobility to assess the number of people physically able to do agro-pastoral work in the region,
- Female heads of household,



- Households headed by widows and widowers without support,
- Unaccompanied children

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 hosted per household.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The targeting takes into account the ratio between the different groups of affected people, including mainly IDPs and host households, and then refugees. The proportion of host households varies according to the number of IDPs, making the second proportion in the targeting.

For the selection of households to be assisted, an understanding of the composition of a household in the area is essential, with context-specific vulnerability analysis parameters incorporated into the target definition, such as :

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

The characteristics of each target group has been taken into account and done through three separate lists for which the above criteria have been applied.

Many of the host households that hosted the IDPs are now in the same precarious conditions as their hosts. Basic food and non-food needs remain high for both 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 (including "management")

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

| Risk   | Mitigation action  |
|--|--|
| The proliferation of diseases with epidemic potential.   | The Red Cross of Benin has invested heavily in health promotion and disease prevention.  |
| Inaccessibility of intervention areas due to threats.  | The Red Cross of Benin is constantly gathering security information for the protection of 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 constantly informs its teams about security information and applicable regulations. Most volunteers in these areas are trained in safer access, security and safety. The RCB has a good relationship with the security agents and during implementation volunteers are retrained as required. |

### Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

All three targeted communes border Burkina Faso, the Pendjari Park and Togo. The unstable security situation in eastern Burkina Faso has fueled a threat from non-state armed groups and kidnapping in the northern areas of Benin bordering Burkina Faso and Niger. The porous border with Burkina Faso and Togo, where the W forests and Pendjari national parks are located, is vulnerable to incursions by non-state armed groups operating in the Sahel and exploiting this favourable terrain. Attacks have been documented:

- In January 2023, the residents of the Oti River in the commune of Materi, arrondissement of Dassari in Gnehoun-Laloga were pressured by unidentified individuals to leave the village within 5 days, thus creating a general psychosis among the population. This situation led to a movement of the population from this locality to the interior of the country, more precisely to Nambouli in the Tantega district in the commune of Matériel.
- On the nights of 09 and 10 February 2023, the Beninese population of Niehoun-Laloga in the commune of Matéri in the arrondissement of Dassari where the non-state armed men had asked to leave the premises, it was observed that some left and others decided to stay but unfortunately a significant number were slaughtered. A significant number of people had their throats slit, about ten (10), which led to a new displacement of the said arrondissement towards the arrondissement of Gouandé. Recent attacks in the Savanes region of Togo have caused forced displacement of populations in several localities bordering this region.
- Since the beginning of May, several people have had their throats slit by GANE on the night of Monday 1 to Tuesday 2 May 2023 in Kérou, a commune in northern Benin, with at least seven people injured. GANE also abducted people, but the exact number of people abducted in Kaobagou" is not yet known.
- On the morning of Wednesday 10 May 2023, three young people died in an explosion of an artisanal mine in Koabagou, Kérou commune.

Non-state armed groups in Tampassika in the district of Tantega slit the throats of two people during the night of 12 to 13 May 2023.

The risk of abduction is highest when travelling by road in the remote areas of the national parks along the border. Staff are also at increased risk of attacks and banditry along the country's long and porous eastern border with Nigeria, due to the presence of armed criminal groups. Petty and violent crime is a risk for staff. Roads outside Cotonou are poorly lit in places and night travel on these roads is not recommended.

Security management is based on the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and under the lead of the ICRC before implementing operations' activities. Regular security update is provided, and information are disseminated with real-time monitoring of activities on the ground using the RCB's information management system. An area-specific security risk assessment has been carried out and risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented as required. All IFRC members, and RC/RC staff and volunteers monitor the IFRC Stay Safe online courses. All staff and volunteers have completed the safety course and comply with the Code of Conduct. All staff, and in particular volunteers, are insured against RCRC risks through the IFRC.

## Planned Intervention



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 47,844

**Targeted Persons:** 1,500

### Indicators

| Title   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # sites with shelters for households  | 3      | 3      |
| # of volunteers and carpenters involved in the construction of the shelters | 40     | 0      |
| # of households reached with shelter construction                           | 300    | 0      |



## Progress Towards Outcome

A task force comprising the Executive Secretary (ES) of the Atacora-Donga region, the Atacora departmental president, the regional coordinator and the vice-president of the Red Cross recently met in the communes of Tanguiéta, Matéri and Kérou to discuss and exchange views with local authorities on the implementation of this operation. The main aim of the meeting was to highlight the challenges encountered in launching the construction of rehousing sites. One of the key stages in the development of the rehousing sites was the preparatory work involved in clearing, weeding and cleaning the land in the three communes concerned. This meticulous preparation of the sites was aimed at ensuring that the ground was totally clean and ready to accommodate future construction. To carry out this preparation work, six volunteers were mobilized for each site, working over a period of four consecutive days.

The material needed to build the shelters have been ordered and the suppliers of the shelter materials are currently transporting the said materials to the construction sites.

To set up the shelters, 40 volunteers will be deployed for 10 days.

The main challenge here was lengthy discussions with the prefectural authorities of the Atacora department to identify the areas where the shelter would be built. This contributed to delaying the operation and other activities like the construction of latrines.

One of the lessons learned in the implementation of this operation is the importance of coordinating with other partners to avoid duplication, and with authorities to prevent delays.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 86,007

**Targeted 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 4 months | 90     | -      |

## Progress Towards Outcome

Firstly, volunteers from the Beninese Red Cross (BRC) were trained to assess the needs of the displaced and identify beneficiaries. Then, in order to have a consensus list of beneficiaries with the agreement of the various communities, the CRB volunteers went out into the field to identify potential beneficiaries. A working session was organized with the local committee, the CPS, the Risk and Disaster Reduction Focal Point of the mayor's office and humanitarian organizations to select the most vulnerable beneficiaries who had not received support from other partners. Red Cross teams, with the support of community leaders, also classified the displaced, taking into account those most at risk, based on vulnerability analysis. Beneficiaries of livelihoods and basic needs were identified in the 3 communes according to well-defined criteria.

A total of 500 identified households received food kits (1 x 25 kg bag of rice, 1 x 30 kg bag of maize, 1 x 15 kg bag of beans, 1 x 15 kg bag of gari, 1 x 10 l can of oil), and 400 identified households received non-food kits (1 bucket, 2 mats, 1 blanket) and kitchen kits (1 cooking pot, 1 saucepan, 12 plastic dishes, 1 ladle, 1 wooden pallet, 6 spoons, 6 forks).

At this stage, all the kits have been distributed, only remaining activity is the post-distribution monitoring.

**Challenge:** Transporting food kits has proved difficult. The rains have caused flooding, landslides and deterioration of road infrastructure, making transport more complicated and risky.

**Lesson learned:** It is essential to take seasonal weather conditions into account when planning relief and humanitarian aid operations.



**Budget:** CHF 23,803

**Targeted Persons:** 6,000

## Indicators

| Title   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # of volunteers trained in community health and lifesaving techniques<br>The number of volunteers deployed for awareness-raising activities | 60     | 60     |
| # of people who received psychological support  | 3,000  | 1,698  |
| % of targeted households reached with awareness raising to the risks of disease   | 100    | 100    |
| # of households confirming that they benefited from distributions of mosquito nets  | 500    | 500    |
| # of households confirming that they have benefited from the hygiene and dignity kit distribution programme                                 | 500    | 500    |

## Progress Towards Outcome

To achieve the set objectives, a four-stage process was followed:

**Drafting of training manuals:** This stage involved ten members from the CRB general secretariat. It took place over a three-day period in Bohicon. The team drew on a literature review to create two draft training manuals, the trainer's manual and the learner's manual, covering community health topics.

**Validation of training manuals:** This phase brought together the team who had developed the drafts and the relevant authorities. It took place over two days in Cotonou and was attended by around fifteen participants. The aim was to ensure the quality and relevance of the training manuals.

**Training for focal points and executive secretaries:** This one-day training targeted focal points and executive secretaries. Following the training, 60 volunteers were trained in the three communes of Matéri, Kérou and Tanguiéta.

**Training of volunteers:** 60 volunteers from the three communities were trained by the focal points and executive secretaries trained in Natitingou.

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 the diseases potentially transmitted by these harmful insects. This initiative aims to improve the health and well-being of these families by reducing exposure to mosquitoes, particularly during periods when vector-borne diseases like malaria are more prevalent.

Sixty (60) volunteers were deployed to carry out awareness-raising activities with both displaced persons and host families. Volunteers used educational communication tools (such as IEC materials) to achieve these objectives. Although all these awareness-raising activities have been successfully completed, it now remains to gather comprehensive data on achievements using the Kobo data collection system. The aim is to produce a comprehensive and effective report on the impact of these initiatives.

Volunteers have identified malnourished children during awareness-raising sessions. The advanced strategies will confirm this. It is at this stage that malnutrition items will be made available to communities.

The headquarters of the local committees are used as a listening centre for the displaced, and referrals are made to state-run facilities like health centres, social promotion centres or NGOs capable of meeting the needs.

The first two stages of the activity to offer psychological support to populations affected by the security threat, namely the preparatory session and the training of volunteers, went well. They enabled those involved in the implementation to be well equipped for a successful intervention phase in the field. A total of 1,698 people has been reached with this activity so far.

The final phase will be a follow-up of the interventions currently being carried out by the 12 volunteers. We need to put in place advanced strategies to help displaced people gain access to basic health services.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 23,581

**Targeted Persons:** 6,000

### Indicators

| Title  | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # of households having benefited from Aquatabs and hygiene kits                              | 500    | 500    |
| #emergency latrines built  | 15     | 0      |
| #of community committees taking responsibility for WASH activities                           | 6      | 0      |
| # of sanitation kits made available to communities via selected leaders or committees set up | 9      | 9      |

### Progress Towards Outcome

In order to guarantee access to clean water for the affected population, the NS distributed 500 boxes of Aquatabs to 500 households. In addition, these households also benefited from hygiene kits comprising various essential items such as a plastic bowl, four 180 g powder detergents, ten bars of soap, a four-meter loincloth, two cotton T-shirts and two pairs of underwear.

To raise community awareness of sanitation practices and environmental preservation, awareness-raising initiatives were actively carried out, involving both displaced people and host families. This approach mobilized the commitment of 60 volunteers, who used educational communication tools (IEC materials) to achieve these objectives.

All these awareness-raising activities have been successfully completed, and what remains is the collection and compilation of comprehensive data on achievements using the Kobo data collection system. The aim is to produce a comprehensive and effective report on the impact of these initiatives.

As concerns the latrines, they will be installed at the relocation sites. All the material needed to build them is already in the communes. Based on an analysis of the feedback received during the operation, the communities are requesting hygiene-related measures, in particular latrines and hygiene equipment.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 4,761

**Targeted Persons:** 3,000

### 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    | 100    |



## Progress Towards Outcome

To achieve these results, four steps were followed: drafting training manuals, validating training manuals, training focal points and SEs, and training volunteers.

The drafting of the training manuals was carried out by a small team of around ten people, exclusively members of the RCB general secretariat, over three days in Bohicon. Based on the literature review, the team came up with drafts of two training manuals: a trainer's manual and a learner's manual on ERP topics. Validation of the training manuals took place between the team that had drawn up the drafts and the relevant authorities. It brought together some 15 people over two days in Cotonou.

The training was aimed at volunteers from the three communes (Matéri, Kérou and Tanguiéta), with 20 volunteers per commune. To facilitate learning, the training was cascaded. Focal points and executive secretaries were trained in one day in Natitingou. They in turn trained the 60 volunteers for all three communes.

A total of 267 feedbacks were collected during this period, with 151 women (56.55%) against 116 men (43.44%). Age ranges varied from 15 to over 50. The breakdown is as follows: adults (25-50) i.e., 60.67%; Young people (20-24) i.e., 22.09%; Young people (15-19) i.e., 6.74%; and Adults over 50 i.e., 10.48%.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 936

**Targeted Persons:** 6,000

### Indicators

| Title  | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| % of feedback collected and processed through the mechanism put in place | 100    | 267    |
| # of workshops of lessons learned  | 1      | 0      |

## Progress Towards Outcome

The participation of the 500 households in the community is ensured in the 3 communes through regular community meetings, the organization of discussion groups with women, young people, etc. in response activities and feedback is collected regularly and implemented. For each activity or operation, a feedback system is set up by the CEA and PMER teams, with suggestion boxes, a complaint number and a Community satisfaction survey.

Thanks to these tools, reactions (non-sensitive or sensitive) are processed and documented in real time during Red Cross volunteers' engagements in the community, using the link designed for this purpose.

During this period, a significant total of 267 feedbacks were collected, demonstrating the engagement and active participation of community members. These returns were diverse in terms of gender, with 151 women, thus representing a majority of 56.55%, while 116 men also 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) made up the majority of participants, an impressive 60.67%. This category demonstrates the commitment of community members to this process, as it encompasses a substantial portion of the active population.

Young adults (aged 20-24) also actively participated, accounting for 22.09% of feedback. Their involvement reflects the interest of 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 50 made up a respected part of the contributors, with a proportion of 10.48%. This diversity in age reflects the importance of bringing together diverse perspectives and experiences to get a complete picture of community feedback.

Taken together, this data demonstrates the effectiveness of the feedback collection initiative, which successfully engaged a wide range of community members, representing different age groups and genders, to gain an overview comprehensive and inclusive collection of community feedback and opinions.

All awareness activities have been completed and feedback after distribution is underway. What remains is the compilation of rumors in



Kobo Collet system designed for the production of a global report.

This report presents the feedback gathered to date throughout the intervention from July to September 2023.

#### Encouragement

Part of the feedback consisted of words of encouragement recognizing the work of the Red Cross and congratulating the volunteers and staff.

We encourage you in your humanitarian work - Male Adults (25-50)

We are grateful for the support - Female Adults (25-50)

We are pleased with the Red Cross - Male Adults (25-50)

Thank you to the CRB for thinking of us - Female Adults over 50

#### Suggestions

A number of suggestions were also made by the communities, notably for the construction of shelters for the displaced, support for children's schooling, diversification of support and more prompt assistance.

Support for the schooling of our children - Women, Adults over 50

Have rapid assistance measures - Men Adults (25-50)

I suggest that the Red Cross come to the support of the victims of the transmissible diseases - Male, Adult (25-50)

Installation of dustbins, and toilets Female - Adult (25-50)

Please help us with sanitation - Male Adult (25-50)

The Red Cross should create health centers - Women, Adults (25-50)

Promote materials for certain professional activities such as sewing, hairdressing - Women Adults (25-50)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING FEEDBACK ANALYSIS

Mobilize resources from partners to support schooling for displaced children

Mobilize resources for livelihood support and income-generating activities

Accompany communities in health support, in particular the implementation of advanced strategies and support for hygiene infrastructures.

Improve community feedback channels to ensure maximum feedback.

Continue to communicate on CRB's activities, with reminders of its mission and fundamental principles.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 32,365

**Targeted Persons:** 70

### Indicators

| Title   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # of IFRC monitoring mission                    | 4      | 1      |
| #Coordination and monitoring meetings organised | 10     | 8      |

### Progress Towards Outcome

To ensure effective implementation of operations preparation and planning meetings, an organized and collaborative approach was adopted involving the various managers concerned. Each of these meetings was prepared in advance, with a pre-established agenda that included the following items:

- Report on the current situation of displaced people with an in-depth review of the situation of displaced people. This included demographic data, statistics on humanitarian needs, and an assessment of the security situation. This first step allowed the NS to have a good understanding of the reality on the ground.
- Presentation of priority needs: Another key point on the agenda was the presentation of the displaced people's priority needs. Information gathered during previous assessments and feedback from local committees was shared in detail. This helped the NS to prioritize its interventions according to the most pressing needs.
- Update on ongoing activities: It was essential to maintain transparent communication on ongoing activities. The RCB's thematic coordinators and local committee chairmen reported on progress in implementing projects and programs. This enabled us to measure



the effectiveness of NS actions and make adjustments where necessary.

- Identifying problems and obstacles: NS paid particular attention to identifying problems and obstacles encountered in carrying out the operations. Focal points and sometimes representatives of displaced communities shared their concerns and suggestions for resolving these challenges.

- Planning future actions: Finally, every meeting was an opportunity to plan future actions. Based on the information gathered, the priority needs identified, and the obstacles raised, NS drew up clear strategies and action plans. This included defining specific objectives, allocating responsibilities and setting deadlines.

These meetings were designed to be inclusive, bringing together RCB thematic coordinators, local committee chairmen, focal points and sometimes representatives of displaced communities. To facilitate participation, seven meetings were organized online, while one onsite meeting also took place to strengthen links between stakeholders and encourage more direct communication where possible.

This structured, collaborative approach 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 has scheduled these activities for the third week of October 2023.

The Senior Disaster & Climate Change Management Officer from the IFRC's Benin Office carried out a mission to monitor and supervise implementation activities in the communes covered by the DREF.

These activities helped define the roles and responsibilities of every stakeholder in the implementation of the operation.



**Budget:** CHF 40,631

**Targeted Persons:** 70

## Indicators

| Title  | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # of meetings  | 4      | 3      |
| # of volunteers deployed   | 60     | 60     |
| # of supervisory missions  | 4      | 3      |
| % of volunteers oriented and confirming that they have integrated the concepts and skills on CEA, PGI and PEAS | 100    | 100    |

## Progress Towards Outcome

A set of key activities has been planned to enhance the skills and preparedness of the 60 volunteers involved in the areas of PGI (Protection Management) and PEAS. The main aim of these activities is to ensure that volunteers fully understand the fundamental principles and rules, and the emergency response framework, while being able to effectively apply the emergency appeal and fundraising procedures through the DREF.

The training of technical staff is a crucial stage in this preparation to enhance the skills and knowledge of technical managers, so that they can effectively supervise and support volunteers in the field.

Preparatory and operations planning meetings have been organized in collaboration with local branch managers and the organization's national staff. These meetings help coordinate efforts and ensure that all stakeholders are aligned with operational objectives and procedures.

Another important aspect of preparation also involves establishing close links with the government and other key stakeholders. With this in mind, three coordination meetings have been held with the government and other players involved in preparedness activities, with a particular focus on awareness-raising. The aim of these meetings is to share critical information, discuss necessary awareness-raising activities and facilitate coordination at national level and between different states or regions.

Overall, the operation is proceeding according to the pre-established action plan, demonstrating solid project management and



meticulous preparation for possible emergency situations. Coordination between the various players and volunteer preparation are essential to ensure an effective response in case of need.

## About Support Services

### How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

This operation mobilises the following human resources:

1) At local committee level:

- 60 volunteers for community mobilization
- 3 focal points for data compilation and synthesis

At branch level:

- Head of the antenna for the coordination of activities at the level of the three communes
- Volunteer for the implementation of psychological support activities and the CEA

2) At national level:

- Relief and Disaster Coordinator for monitoring the operation
- Health Coordinator for the implementation of health actions
- AEC and ERP communication officer for monitoring and integrating gender and AEC and protection aspects
- Logistician for the organization of purchases
- Accountant for financial reporting

The National Directorate of Relief and Disaster Management will coordinate the operation with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) staff on site.

### If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

To carry out the activities in the field, the logistics department, in collaboration with the operations coordinator, is in charge the purchase and supply of items and tools needed for the training sessions and workshops. They were responsible for issuing invitations to tender for the purchase of equipment for the operation, and purchases were made in collaboration with the IFRC's Cluster Office to comply with the DREF's rules and guidelines. Careful use and ownership of procedural logistics tools must precede any procurement. Management of the transport chain enables vehicles to be hired to support supervision missions in the field, with efficient fuel management using tools such as the vehicle log sheet, transport request, mission order, vehicle log sheet, driver log sheet, etc. The same applies to the purchase of foodstuffs.

Similarly, food and non-food items have been purchased on the Natitingou Commune market, in accordance with IFRC purchasing procedures. The kits were assembled locally to minimize transport costs and avoid delays in the distribution plan. The current budget takes into account market prices, and in the event of any substantial variation, the NS will update the budget to explore the possibility of compensating with other lines or a second allocation.

### How will this operation be monitored?

The Disaster Relief Department, the RCB monitors all operational aspects, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the operation in the communes. The RCB branches are responsible for the close monitoring of the operation, but supervision is provided by the headquarters to ensure accountability, transparency and financial management of the operation. The RCB PMER team has developed a monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure regular and timely monitoring of all activities of the operation. An Indicator Tracking Table (ITT) and an Activity Tracking Table (ATT) has been set up for close monitoring.

A reporting template has been shared to report on the defined indicators at all reporting levels, with a reporting field clearly reserved for effective monitoring of the operation's activities. As distributions take place, post-distribution monitoring (PDM) will be carried out to collect and analyse information to verify the effectiveness of the approaches, to obtain feedback from the community for future implementation and to collect and document success stories.

A DREF lessons learned workshop involving the different stakeholders in the implementation will be organized towards the end of the operation to ensure that feedback is received from the community.

The strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of the operation are identified to better plan and inform future responses. A report will be prepared on this workshop and shared with relevant stakeholders.



## **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation**

The RCB's communication strategy is based on its volunteers. A communication line has been set up and allows information to be shared within the network of volunteers throughout the country. Digital technology is an integral part of the RCB's communication tools and considerably improves the visibility of the institution's actions.



# Budget Overview

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



# Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

