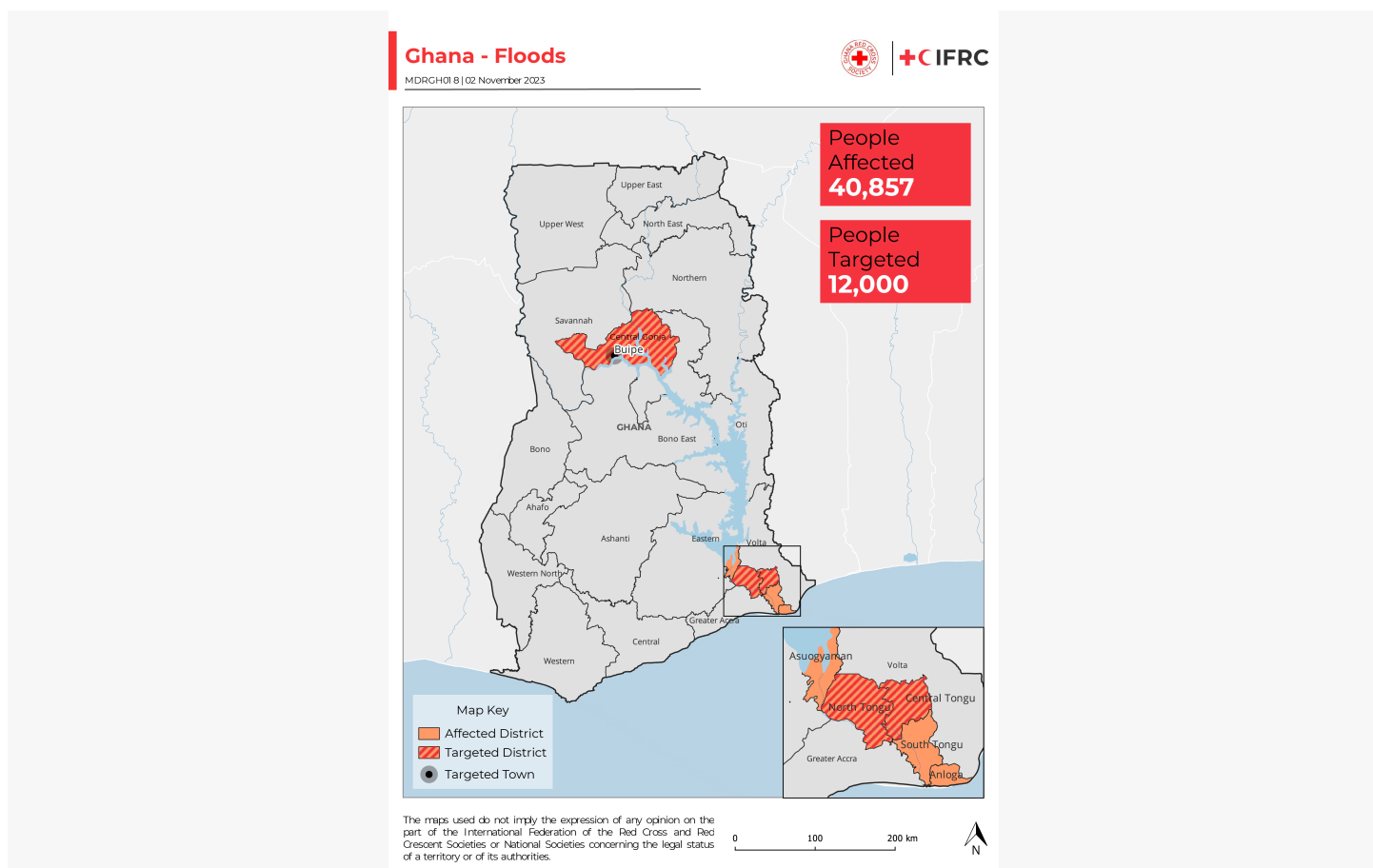




Floods September 2023, Buiepe Town in Savannah region (Ghana)- by Ghana Red Cross Picture

Appeal: <b>MDRGH018</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 462,699</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Flood</b>
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>26,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>12,000 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>2023-08-05</b>	New Operational End Date: <b>2024-02-29</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>
Additional Allocation Requested: <b>313,113</b>		Targeted Areas: <b>Northern, Volta</b>	

# Description of the Event



Ghana RC Map showing Savannah and Volta Regions affected by Floods

## What happened, where and when?

Flooding was forecasted by NADMO with an incidence across the North of Ghana, affecting 70,000 with the water flow after the opening of the Bagre Dam as usually recorded in the past years. On that risk analysis, Ghana Red Cross launched a DREF to anticipate on the event and limit the vulnerability of the most exposed villages around the Volta rivers and its tributaries in Upper West, Upper East, Northern/Northern, Savannah/Northern, Northeast.

On 07 and 08 September, the SONABEL (the power utility of Burkina Faso) announced that the thresholds of the Bagre Dam reservoir reached the highest level, requiring the spillage of water from the dam. Through the coordination platform in place, information was shared that water was released only partially and not the full opening anticipated with 235-255mm of water as released in the past; reducing the alert level and risk across the communities.

The floods experienced by then remained very localized in the North and flooding only expand with the torrential rains started in late September and that continue until 18th October. Accumulation of torrential rains resulted on protracted and back to back floods events in that period in Savannah and Volta regions linked to the overflow of Bui black Volta (Savannah region) and spillage/overland from Akosombo Dam (Volta region).

From NADMO joint assessment of 26th October, 35,857 people were affected cumulatively in the Volta area. Highest impact were reported with floods on 14.10.2023 in Volta region when the Akosombo dam experienced an increased water flows which forced the authorities to open the flood gates. This led to the flooding of communities in Central, North and South of Tongu districts, It is reported that over 21,000 people alone have been affected by the floods, at least seven people injured. The displaced people have been moved to higher grounds. Dozens of people have been isolated as the floods have affected the road network. One hospital had to be evacuated due to high water levels. The situation is set to worsen as the Ghana Met has forecasted increased rainfall in the areas.

On 23rd September 2023, the Bui dam has also experienced similar overflow of water, subsequently resulting in the black volta

bursting its banks and flooding affecting about 5,000 people in seven communities in Buipe town , central Gonja district , leading to the destruction of houses , public infrastructure such as schools, and also the flooding of farm lands where a significant amount of crops were lost. The flooding which has been gradually increasing in intensity due to the heavy rainfall have caused displacement of 540 families to evacuation centers in higher grounds. Other displaced families were hosted by families who live in high grounds.

In both regions , the displaced populations of 26,000 people have lost their properties , farm products and means of livelihoods. Successive impacts and continuation of rains is still putting the North in additional risk of flooding.



Ghana Red level flooding in Savannah (part of former Northern Region)/Ghana Red Cross Picture



Flooding in Volta region/Ghana Red Cross Picture

## Scope and Scale

Over 26,000 people have been affected in Savannah on 23rd September and Volta area (in the Eastern region) by the floods experienced following the cumulative torrential rainfall. The course of the overflow of water and successive spillage of the dam brought a gradual humanitarian impact across different districts in the regions, especially Volta region where floods were successively reported on 14 and 18 October with multiple humanitarian needs and a continuous rainy situation that would likely increase the current figures.

Torrential rains since late September contributed to the high rise in the waters of Bui black Volta at Buipe in the Savannah region and the Akosombo dam spillage in the eastern region leading to the floods in the North and Central Tongu of Volta region. The successive water released for the Bagre Dam didn't trigger that level of flooding but the intensity of rains during and after that period of dam opening led to an overflowing of the Volta River as forecasted in August and as warned by NADMO but also to the spillage of Ghanaian dam called Bui Dam.

For now, the scale of the disaster is as follow as per rapid data from GRCS:

- An estimated 21,000 people are affected in Volta region. Flooding in Volta region affecting around 9 districts (North Tongu, Central Tongu, South Tongu, Shai Osudoku, Asuogyaman and Anlo).
- 5,000 people affected in Savannah region.
- According to NADMO, population displaced in Savannah a week after the incident was 3149 people (571 men, 603 women, 950 male children and 1025 female children) were registered in the evacuation centers, however the number of people continue to increase in both Savannah and Volta and a detailed assessment and coordination with NADMO will confirm the current figures as the operation continue.
- The flooding in both regions has led to the displacement of thousands of people. Houses have been damaged by the flood waters, public institutions like schools, health facilities have also been affected. The local road network has also been cut off due to floods, there are reported cases of electricity power fluctuations in the area.
- A total of 12,000 are estimated to be in Evacuation centers while an estimated 14,000 people have been accommodated by relatives not affected by the flood waters.
- Most farmers in the flood area have also lost a significant amount of their crops which were due for harvesting.

Significant consequences on agriculture and community economical resilience of riverbank communities, the spillage from the Akosombo Dam is the major external factor which contributed to the flooding in the communities in the Volta region. The spillage usually affects farmers who cultivate close to the Volta Lake in the Mepe, Akuse, Anloga, Tongu submerging their farms and other communities in Savannah Region affected by Black volta are Buipe, Damango, Bazua, Atub, Binaba, amongst others.

Since September, rains continue and the scale of the floods across the regions and beyond is likely to increase. For instance, initial inter-agency assessment led by NADMO on the consecutive floods in Volta region revealed on 26 October 35,857 people in total are already affected in the region. Following the situation, the local authorities requested the assistance of Red Cross on 30 October.

The WFP observatory latest report of 24 October 2023 had estimated that 465,180 people are leaving in the flooded locations 45,326 hectares of flooded cropland areas. People Likely to be affected as the one currently affected include those living along the Volta rivers and tributaries; those living in low lying areas, people with poorly constructed houses. Women, Children and the elderly less likely to cope in situation of stress due to displacements and living in crowded areas in the evacuation centers are the most vulnerable. The flooding also causes a safety risk to this population groups and risks of drowning is particularly high especially when they venture out and are forced to cross fast moving flood waters.

Patients in health facilities have also been affected and forced to locate to other facilities, thereby increasing the stress on existing facilities.

## Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	Yes
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	Yes
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

### Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

The notice for opening of the Bagre Dam gates did not carry the usual alarm associated with the previous flooding seasons. Indeed that process did not lead to any significant flooding this year, and thus the NS did not go into full activation of the early actions during the lead time. Some preparedness activities such as training on EPiC , Evacuation simulation and identification of vendors for the provision of house repair materials were done. This benefit the NS for the later impact of floods resulting from cumulative torrential rains that increased the further the water level on Northern rivers observed after the Bagre Dam opening. Overall 26,000 People affected following the overflow of water of Bui black Volta at Buipe in the Savannah region and the Akosombo dam spillage in the eastern region leading to the floods in the North and Central Tongu of Volta region.

Hence, this document update the GRCS and DREF stakeholders on the situation changes and adjustments required to address the humanitarian needs following the floods impacts:

1. The operation strategy is being changed from anticipatory Actions to response actions, to target people who have now been impacted by the floods. Surveillance and early warning still maintained in the riverine areas.
2. The new target population of the operation is 2000 households (12,000) people who have been displaced as a result of flooding occurring in two Region out of the initial planned 5 regions.
3. The geographical location is now targeting only two regions; called Volta and Savannah as opposed to the initial operation which included Savannah and targeted 5 regions. Savannah region has been affected by flooding from torrential rains resulting the overflows of black Volta (affecting Savannah region) and spilling of excess water from Akosombo Dam by the Volta River Authority affecting Volta Region.
4. Timeframe Change: The Operation is now extended to 6 months, ending 29 February 2024.
5. The budget has been revised to CHF 462,699 and a new allocation is needed to cover the needs identified among the affected population. New allocation of CHF 313,113.

# Current National Society Actions



families assigned to the displaced families at the evacuation centre



Volunteer assisting the affected families to salvage their belongs during the floods at Buipe

<p><b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b></p>	<p>The National Society procured 70,020 Aquatabs as part of the early actions, the Aqatabs will now be distributed to the people affected by the flooding in Buipe and Volta. Already 10,000 Aqatabs have been dispatched to Volta region for distribution.</p>
<p><b>Coordination</b></p>	<p>The Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) has established a coordination with the National Disaster Management Organization which is mandated by the government to Manage and coordinate disaster response activities in Ghana. The GRCS was able to coordinate its emergency response activities with the National Disaster Management Authorities, which was collecting information on flood affected communities and disseminating it to the agencies responsible for disaster response in Ghana.</p> <p>The GRCS kept the IFRC office in Ghana and the Cluster Operation Coordinator well informed of the readiness activities in the Imminent DREF operation and also the current National Society response to the flooding in Savannah and Volta regions.</p>
<p><b>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</b></p>	<p>Upon receiving the information on the flooding situation in Savanah and Volta regions, the NS mobilized its volunteers and pitched 16 tents to provide shelter for 96 people at the jointly established evacuation centre in the affected communities from its stocks. The shelter support was provided to affected communities in the September flooding in Buipe; Savannah region.</p> <p>During the Early actions in September, 200 volunteers were trained in the awareness raising of anticipated floods from Bagre dam, these volunteers went round during September after receiving alert on the potential opening of the dam. The dissemination messages were on areas of potential floods, and also the safer zones to which people could evacuate to. The number of people reached is still being collated by the regions.</p>
<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p>As part of the anticipatory actions, dedicated team of 40 trained volunteers in EPIc has been deployed to disseminate critical health messages related to waterborne diseases, ensuring a focus on public health and safety at the evacuation centers and the host communities. They reached over 3,000 people who were already in reception centres in Savannah floods.</p>

<p><b>National Society Readiness</b></p>	<p>Through the DREF allocation, NS was able to anticipate on the floods that could be triggered by the opening of the Bagre Dam by the SOPATEL authorities. NS ensured the readiness of the branches to intervene during the month of August through the health trainings to the team, mobilization and information sharing system, simulation for evacuation system in place and coordination to manage the alerts and activate the early actions.</p> <p>When the NADMO issued the information of the Dam opening on 07 September 2023, the NS deployed volunteers for early warning and ready to complete the early actions. With the communication from NADMO and local authorities that SOPATEL is proceeding with partial water release, NS has to stop the activation of early actions linked to the shelter but continue the monitoring, coordination, early warning for floods as Government alerts was maintained from 07 September 2023 and considering the weather information received.</p> <p>Volunteers supported the identification of evacuation centers where communities are currently hosted.</p>
<p><b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NS has a multi-hazard preparedness plan which guided the analysis of branches capacity and existing mechanism for anticipation and emergency response for floods hazards.</li> <li>- Branches kept monitoring the community alert system in place in coordination with the community disaster reduction committee</li> <li>- Monitoring of the weather and forecast is done with the NADMO (National Disaster Management Organization).</li> <li>- Volunteers was also mobilized to monitor the hazard materialization in parallel to the weather bulletin and NADMO alert system across the regions.</li> </ul>

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<p><b>Secretariat</b></p>	<p>The IFRC country and cluster have been following the rainfall and flooding situation in Ghana and the Cluster countries during this flooding season. In August the IFRC approved an Imminent DREF application for Ghana Red Cross. The Authorities in Burkina Faso initiated a precautionary process of opening the flood gate of the Bagre dam earlier to ease the likely hood of major floods. This information was communicated to the IFRC through the GRCS. There were therefore no flooding cases as a result of the Bagre dam. However, the NS had already started the early action activities such as identification and training of volunteers to be involved in the Anticipatory Actions. Upon the approval of the Imminent DREF, the IFRC also carried out a risk analysis of the GRCS and the Operating context and following this analysis, the IFRC deployed a Senior logistics and procurement officer from the cluster to assist GRCS with procurement activities for the early actions.</p> <p>Following the reports of flooding from the NS in Savannah region as a result of rains and flood water from another dam in Ghana called Bui dam, the IFRC advised the NS to revise the Imminent DREF into a response DREF to respond to the relief needs of affected population.</p>
<p><b>Participating National Societies</b></p>	<p>None</p>

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>None</p>
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# Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>National authorities have so far acted in the relocation of people affected by the flooding to high grounds, they have provided temporary shelter, food and non-food items. Government agencies are also in coordination with GRCS warnings to those in flood prone areas to relocate to high grounds. The Agencies have also sent a plea to the agencies in Ghana to support and provide relief assistance to people affected.</p> <p>An inter-agency assessment was conducted from 19 – 22 October 2023 in 3 affected districts of the Eastern region (North Tongu, Central Tongu and South Tongu). Some 13 agencies took part of that assessment (20 Individual members):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government (1): NADMO</li> <li>- UN (8) – WFP, IOM, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDSS, WHO, UNIDO</li> <li>- INGO (2) – CRS, WWI</li> <li>- Others (2) – CONIWAS, Basic Needs-Ghana</li> </ul>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	WFP, IOM, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDSS, WHO, UNIDO took part to the joint assessment on the floods across the Volta area.

## Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The coordination mechanisms are at regional level and are led by NADMO. The National Society through the Regional Manager are part of the mechanism and volunteers have been involved in the assessment and activation of Community Disaster Response teams where they have been formed and established in collaboration with local NADMO offices. A national level coordination mechanism has been established where NADMO briefs humanitarian organization on the current gaps to be addressed.

The most recent meeting on 18 October informed actors to focus on the gaps in Savannah and Volta regions where the impact of the flooding has affected most people, and the situation is expected to deteriorate further due to more expected rainfall in the areas.

NADMO main local coordination are through relief committee that are set at the district level to receive and track delivers, compile data and ensure equitable distribution of relief items and accountability. All the GRCS intervention will be shared and harmonized through that platform. This will also avoid any duplication among the partners as many for now are not yet covering the needs and gaps identified by the assessment in the affected districts, especially where GRCS is planning to respond.

All partners, including GRCS, participate to the coordination meeting and will contribute to a coordinated response and harmonization of IDP list as per the assessment recommendations.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The vulnerability of women, children and minors and people with special need increased in the context of humanitarian crisis. The need for an inclusive, dignified and gender balanced assistance is key to mitigate the risk of any protection and safety concerns. In the total population affected, the majority of identified people affected are women. There are an estimated 1,025 girls and 950 boys in Savannah alone out of 3,419 people in evacuation centres while in Volta 8,271 boys and 8,909 girls are form part of affected population of 35,857. This figure shows a significant number of vulnerable groups on the total population displaced who also might require protection services to be provided and an inclusive and protection standard to be applied to mitigate any possible fear or reluctance for any of these groups.

The GRCS will work with relevant authorities to ensure the safety of all gender groups and also to deliver humanitarian support which takes into consideration different needs of gender groups.



## Health

Floodwaters are contaminated with various pollutants, including sewage, chemicals, debris which poses significant health risks to those in affected regions. The impact of flood waters has been observed on household and public latrines. Damage to facilities such as latrines poses serious public health concern and has a high tendency to lead to increased cases of water borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, dengue fever and the upsurge of malaria due to increased breeding grounds.

Before the flooding event, the affected population were already exposed to risks in water borne diseases because the areas lacked access to adequate safe drinking water and with a low sanitation coverage. After the flooding event, there is a need to enhance the awareness sessions for water-related diseases and vector borne diseases which are likely to escalate during the floods. The various flash floods event forecasted and the period of overflowing of waters in the communities usually leave several stagnant water, ground of breeding of mosquito, and snails.

The stress and trauma associated with losing one's home and belongings can have a profound psychological and social impact on individuals and communities, which necessitates the need for psychosocial support. Poor hygiene and health conditions have increased the need for immediate relief materials and support for basic needs like food, water, clothing, etc.



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

The flood has posed a significant threat to communities, with devastating consequences for homes, infrastructure, and most importantly, human lives. A majority of the houses in the affected areas are constructed from bricks and mortar, others from mud and thatched with either tin roofs or grass. The structures could not resist the flood waters as in some places the flood waters were as high as roof level.

One glaring gap in this disaster is the insufficient provision of emergency shelters at the evacuation centres. This shortfall exacerbates the vulnerability of affected populations and hampers the effectiveness of relief efforts. All communities' facilities like school, religious buildings, local authority's buildings, etc. have been used as temporary shelter solutions for the homeless but lack basics facilities for dignity, health and protections for the families. Main needs being the latrines that are usually overwhelmed by the increasing number of affected people at the evacuation centres. The gaps identified will be addressed through the provision of additional 50 family tents and shelter kits. Volunteers will also be trained to support the affected population in mounting of tents and repairing their houses using the shelter kits. The Kits will be procured from Dubai with the support of the Regional Logistics.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The situation in the flood-affected area has led to significant devastation for both homes and businesses. Families residing in these regions have suffered substantial losses, ranging from partial to total destruction of their dwellings and livelihoods such as businesses and investments. Consequently, there is a critical need to extend assistance to these affected households.

To address this need, our intervention proposes to allocate a multipurpose unconditional cash grant to 2,000 households. This support is intended to help them not only in rebuilding their livelihoods but also to cover essential expenses like medical bills and other specific needs unique to each household's circumstances. A total of 1,200 families in evacuation centres will receive GHS 1,200 support while 800 families living outside the evacuation centres will receive GHS 600 CVA support.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Access to safe drinking water, sanitation and good hygiene practices were reasonably low in the affected population before the disaster. In the ongoing floods, the water supply points have been disrupted, (flooded and not accessible) and also the threat of poor water quality due to the spill out of latrines within the areas.

Both household and public latrines have been destroyed as a result of the flooding, the waste in the latrines has been dispersed into the general environment by the flood waters, posing a great health risk. Hygiene and access to hygiene services have also

been disrupted due to the flooding and its aftermath. Clean up campaigns will therefore be organized, and hygiene and promotion messages passed to the affected population to mitigate and prevent the outbreak of disease. The NS will advocate for the increase in number of latrines and bath shelters for the affected population through engagements with other humanitarian organizations active in the two regions.

Hygiene messages will target all the affected population of 26,000 since the threat to water borne and water related diseases is likely to affect all those exposed to unsanitary conditions. However, intensive and well-coordinated hygiene promotion messages will focus on those at the evacuation centers, where the likelihood for outbreak of water borne diseases is even higher due to the high concentration of people in one area.

The knowledge and awareness to use water treatment chemicals has also been identified and this will be addressed through training of people prior to the distribution of the products and also carrying out post distribution support and monitoring to ensure safe use.

A total of 12,000 people will be targeted with intervention to improve access to safe drinking water through the training and distribution of water treatment chemicals to secure safe drinking water for three months.



## **Community Engagement And Accountability**

In responding to the current floods affecting 26,000 people, clear and timely communication to affected populations about the ongoing response efforts, available services, and safety measures is crucial for informed decision-making.

The effective delivery of response relies a lot on understanding, engagement, acceptance and participation of communities. As such, several actions to mitigate the risk of floods consist of communicating with existing representative group which need to be clearly identified. The suitable communication channel identified from previous operations was house-to-house engagement, and the CIC (community information center) where all important messages are broadcast within a specific community.

CEA needs to be embedded in through the intervention enabling the GRCS to deliver support which meets the needs of the people. Affected populations can also provide feedback on the quality and timeliness of the response.

### **Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment**

Rains have been protracted and the flooding a slow and repetitive onset leading to progressive impact in the communities and very volatile final information on people affected. Especially in Volta region. Detailed assessment is yet to be completed but preliminary data from NS has already identified in Volta region 35,857 people affected across 184 communities, out of which 8,843 people in 27 save havens in North Tongu, Central Tongu, Shai Osudoko, Asuogyaman, Ada East, and Anlonga districts. The highest impact was reported following floods of 14 October for which 21,000 people were reported affected following the overflow of Akosombo dam. Incidence being worst following in the above 9 districts where 21,000 people are in need.

Following the assessment completed on 26 October, partners part of that assessment were called to follow the priorities actions defined in that document. Same for all the partners that were called to provide support.

## **Operational Strategy**

### **Overall objective of the operation**

The overall objective of this operation is to provide emergency assistance to at least 12000 directly affected persons (2,000 households) by the floods in Buipe Community, Central Gonja district in the Savannah Region and Central and North Tongu in the Volta Region by the end of the operation.

This will be done by immediate provision of first aid services, enhanced hygiene and health conditions by the promotion and provision of essential items, cover immediate basic needs ensured by supplying affected families with a one-off multipurpose cash disbursement; supporting restoration of family links and psychosocial first aid to both the affected and volunteers. The detailed assessment planned will confirm the priorities.

The gaps to be addressed will be in the sectors of Health, WASH, livelihoods through CVA, shelter, PGI and CEA.

### **Operation strategy rationale**

Considering the floods impact reported, the NS is planning to revise the plan to focus on the response to the priorities' needs identified by the joint assessment of 26 October, but also the needs identified in Savannah region after floods displaced 5,000

people. This plan contributes to the request for support made by the local authorities (NADMO) of 30 October to cover those needs in Volta region GRCS will ensure collective response to the most urgent needs of the flood affected population in coordination with partners.

As such, an in-depth assessment will be conducted to complement the initial information shared, for more localized quantitative and qualitative informations at district level. The identification of beneficiaries will be completed in parallel. The multi-sectoral assessment to provide also a more detailed situational analysis as the flooding incidence continue to unfold. The areas of focus guided already by initial data: WASH, Health, Shelter and Livelihood will be given more attention as they are already identified from preliminary information to be the most demanding. This assessment will also help to understand the impact that the floods has had on the livelihood status of the community level in the districts targeted, water distribution system of the area, on the sewage and whether water sources may have been contaminated by the mix of debris from the floods. The representation of all groups in that assessment will play a role in getting inclusive community feedback for the operation and also create mechanisms for complaints at any phase of the project. The assessment will guide on any need to extend or adjust the below plan but the emergency situation require to start the response covering the current dire needs and identified through the government assessment. Intervention is in the following sectors:

#### 1. Livelihoods and Basic needs (Target: 12,000 people or 2,000 HH)

Homes and businesses in the area surrounding the floods have been destroyed and affected families are amongst those that have lost (partially or totally) their dwellings and livelihoods and their source of income. As such, the intervention will provide a multipurpose unconditional cash grant to 2000 households to support their livelihoods and cover for medical expenses as well as other needs according to their peculiarities.

Towards CVA support, 1,200 GHS will be disbursed to 1,200 families who are located in the evacuation centers while 600 GHS will be given to 800 families who are living with family members outside the evacuation centers. The CVA will go towards assisted the households with their basic needs.

About 80 volunteers will be oriented/trained on Cash and Voucher Assistance and deployed to support cash activities. They will sensitize targeted families on the use of the cash following IFRC guidelines for basic needs, support them in accessing their cash grants as they are stationed at the Financial Service Provider (FSP) cashing points. Volunteers will also conduct post distribution monitoring for two days, 2 weeks after the distribution. Overall, volunteers will work for a total of seven days in this sector, supporting targeting as well.

#### 2. Health (12000 people or 2000 HH)

First Aid and Psychological first aid (PFA) will be provided to families affected by the disaster as well as the volunteers. This is with the aim to ease stress experienced from the floods. These volunteers will be holding Psychosocial Support (PSS) sessions in affected communities and conducting health talks on key health messages relating to flood waterborne disease awareness.

The ongoing flood increases risks associated to public health diseases including cholera and other diarrheal diseases. The Savannah Region is prone to malaria incidences. In this regard, there is need for provision of mosquito nets to reduce risk of malaria. In addition, there is need to increase community-based health and first aid capacity by setting up community based Oral Rehydration Management posts and establishing a community-based disease surveillance network in all target communities.

NS will distribute mosquito nets to 2000 households whose houses are destroyed focusing on most vulnerable households with lactating and pregnant women, the elderly, female headed households, and children under 6 years.

The operation will procure ORS and set up oral rehydration points located at strategic areas for easy access in the event of cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cholera. The DREF will use already existing volunteer reporting systems recently put in place in the affected communities who have recently been in social mobilization for polio immunization social activities funded by UNICEF and government. Volunteers will use specific reporting formats using mobile phones on MAGPI platform on all social mobilization activities.

#### 3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene – WASH (12000 people or 2000 HH)

Following the floods, the entire affected area is currently filled with flood waters. There is need to support sanitation of this area. GRCS will conduct below activities while assessments are completed, to determine needs specific WASH needs created by the floods.

- Procurement and distribution of hygiene kits for 2000 families. These kits shall contain bathing soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc for household personal hygiene.
- Provision of dignity kits to 350 of the targeted females (women and girls of childbearing age) to serve for 3 months. Each kit shall contain sanitary pads, panties and bathing soap for women and girls.

- Procurement and distribution of Jerry Cans to the affected families to enable them store clean water for cooking and drinking. 2 pieces of 20Litre Jerry cans will be distributed to 200HHs and Aquatabs will be also distributed for water purification and safe storage over a period of 90 days. A total of 2000 Jerry cans and 180,000 tablets of Aqua tabs will be procured and distributed.
- Installation of 50 handwashing facilities at the evacuation centers.
- Conduct hygiene and sanitation campaigns twice a month for 3 months, to clear the debris and remove all signs of the traumatic event. This activity will be coupled with health promotion, with emphasis on awareness against diarrheic diseases including cholera and malaria. A total of 20 volunteers will be deployed and support communities carryout clean up campaigns . The aim is to clear the debris in areas where the flood water will be subsiding.
- Continued assessments and monitoring are also integrated in the operation to ensure that the operation is in line with the evolving situation on the ground.

### 3. Family members tracing and Reunification

GRCS will be providing and supporting authorities with family tracing and reunification. This will go on for next 2 weeks, to ensure no one is left behind. Volunteers will be trained on Restoring Family Links and will be supported technically from the Headquarters to provide guidance as needed.

Volunteers will be involved in tracing community members that must have fled and in some cases could not find their way back to family or relatives. They will engage with the Department of Social Welfare and the security operatives to enhance coordination and support in covering related gaps.

#### Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI):

Women and children are more vulnerable especially owing to the fact of their homeless condition with the affected community. As such, PGI will be streamlined throughout the intervention, ensuring that volunteers receive adequate briefing during the various refreshers. GRCS will ensure that protection issues are taken into account and that everyone feels protected despite age, gender and disability status. The National Society will conduct awareness-raising and orientation session on protection.

For inclusion of everyone, engagement with people in the centres will be done to ensure that all the assistance is distributed equitably and impartially. Gender roles will be considered when setting up distribution time and dates as well as in hygiene promotion activities. As part of the needs assessment and analysis, a gender and diversity analysis will be included in all sector responses including Shelter, Livelihoods, Health and WASH, to understand how different groups have been affected, which will inform any revision of the operational strategy. All sectors will seek to meet the IFRC minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies.

#### Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) will be mainstreamed throughout the intervention to guarantee meaningful participation of the affected communities. An effective complaints and feedback mechanism will be set up to ensure community feedback is taken into account in the implementation of this EPoA. This will also help in the event the situation changes, to ensure that the community is listened to with regards to any change of strategy. Hygiene and health promotion sessions will also be instrumental in collecting feedback and respond to community concerns.

The different response sectors will incorporate the main practical tools of the CEA in Emergencies Toolkit, in particular to ensure that assessments are well integrated and capture key community demands as well as the most appropriate communication channels to be established with affected communities.

The intervention approved in August was to enable early actions in five regions namely ; Upper West, Upper East , North East, Savannah and Northern regions. The trigger for the early actions was the opening of the dam at level 235 Meters by the Burkina Faso Authorities SONABEL. Despite notifying on the opening of the Dam, the Authorities started a slow gate opening process in September and this averted the flooding which is annually associated with the Dam spillage.

From the anticipatory action plan approved, the National Society undertook some actions such as training of Volunteers in evacuation, Epidemic Control in Emergencies training for 40 volunteers in Savannah region, identification of vendors to supply building material and procurement 70,020 aquatabs. However, there was no negative impact on the people downstream due to early opening and also the lack if heavy rains in Burkina Faso. NADMO advised that it was highly unlikely that a flooding event will happen from the opening of the gates in Bagre dam. With that information and in coordination with authorities, NS stopped the activation to the above and only maintained the early warning messages. The later effect of torrential rainfalls leading into overflowing of dams located in Ghana and its impact in the Savannah and volta regions justified the above current strategy while any other anticipatory actions are being stopped except the early warning in the remaining at-risk areas (given the continuity of rains).

# Targeting Strategy

## Who will be targeted through this operation?

Across the flood affected communities, 12,000 people will be targeted with interventions with various forms of interventions based on their level of vulnerability. This is the direct target of the intervention, while NS will aim to reach at least 26,000 people with preventive messages coupled with further early warning as the rains continue.

The 2,000 HH (12,000 people) to receive the relief support will be selected following the below criteria:

- Households in evacuation centers
- Households who lost their homes - destroyed by floods
- Families with additional losses as businesses, crops, especially for those for which this was the unique income source.
- Houses with vulnerable groups, include: Women in lactation, houses with children below 5 years old; the elderly and people with disabilities that will have challenges to do long distance for water in case of nearest water system affected.

These criteria will be harmonized with the communities for inclusion and acceptance.

For the specific Livelihood and Basic Needs targeting, recognizing the economic strain experienced by affected households, NS proposes a two-pronged approach.

- Firstly, 1200 households situated in evacuation center will receive multipurpose unconditional cash transfers totaling GHC 1200. This will empower them to procure essential items for their families.
- Additionally, 800 households who have been displaced but are not at the evacuation center will receive GHC 600, complementing their efforts to meet basic needs during this challenging time.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Lack of coping mechanism, and high levels of vulnerability- women, children and elderly:

General population in flood affected areas: These people will be targeted with Health and hygiene messages, to prevent outbreak of diseases including measures they need to take to stay safe physical harm related to flooding risks.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	3,816	Rural	42%
Girls (under 18)	3,050	Urban	58%
Men	2,250	People with disabilities (estimated)	8%
Boys (under 18)	2,884		
Total targeted population	12,000		

## Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Limited access to affected populations.	Prepositioning of stocks in nearest point of operation.
Targeting people not affected by the flooding.	Local administration structures and social services continuously consulted during beneficiary identification and registration.

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

### Risk:

No major security risk are assessed for now, the main consideration are preventive measures following the minimum security guidelines. This will also prevent for any harm, injuries and drowning of staff and volunteers of the Red Cross

### Mitigation:

To reduce the risk of Red Cross Red Crescent personnel falling victim to crime or violence, active risk mitigation measures have been communicated with staff and volunteers through induction or briefing exercise. The briefing exercise including putting out some potential security issues and how they can mitigate, report or manage some those issues. Relating to safer access concern, one of the main benefits of the GRCS is the nationwide recognition of the National Society. This has rendered ease and facilitation with affected community head and most importantly the community people themselves. The GRCS is well accepted and trusted by the community. GRCS is presently reviewing the existing risk matrix to inform all staff and volunteers about some of the risks and how this could be handled or mitigated. The GRCS has been also advised to either recruit or appoint a skilled security focal point to raise the standards and extend professional security support to Volunteers operating under insecure, remote and high-risk operating environments.

IFRC Cluster Security has been extending direct support to the GRCS. The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout. Area specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. Minimum Security Requirements (MSR) is in place for Ghana.

## Planned Intervention



### Multi-purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 164,829

**Targeted Persons:** 12,000

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households	2,000	-
Volunteers trained	110	-
# of post distribution monitoring	1	-

### Progress Towards Outcome

Initial actions included

Planned actions that will be conducted in the coming months include:



### Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 7,699

**Targeted Persons:** 12,000

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# people reached	12,000	-
#sessions carried out on PGI	6	-
# volunteers trained	20	-



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 8,211

**Targeted Persons:** 12,000

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers briefed on CEA and community feedback mechanisms	50	-
#of radio engaged	2	-
% of sampled population	20	-
# of people engaged in focus group and discussions	1,000	-

## Progress Towards Outcome

Planned actions that will be conducted in the coming months include:

- Volunteers briefing on CEA. Orientation of 20 volunteers in CEA to ensure they can clearly convey to communities the objectives of the operation, ensure a good flow of information as well as clear roles and responsibilities between representatives, community leaders and committees.
- Identify and orient a CEA focal point in the community to collect complaint and feedback while reporting to the HQ throughout the project timeframe.
- Collection of community feedback on readiness activities.
- Radio jingles broadcasting on key awareness messages.
- Hold meetings with affected communities.
- Set up feedback system and ensure to process the complaints received. Feedback will also be provided to the community to ensure they are aware their feedback had been considered.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 24,620

**Targeted Persons:** 132

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#of monitoring reports	2	-

## Progress Towards Outcome

Planned actions that will be conducted in the coming months include the continuity of the monitoring and technical support in the planned intervention. This covers:

- Field monitoring of the operation and technical support.
- Support report delivery.
- Support coordination and stakeholder mapping and engagement through the IFRC operation staff in country.
- Delegation oversight on PMER requirements.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 57,133

**Targeted Persons:** 132

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Coordination meeting conducted externally.	4	2
Coordination meeting conducted RCRC	8	2

## Progress Towards Outcome

Initial actions included:

- Coordination with partners in the regions and National level
- Readiness and mobilization of the team in the branches in the two regions

During the flood assessment in the Savannah region, the National Society (NS) conducted a rapid evaluation utilizing a dedicated team of 40 volunteers. These volunteers were equipped with 700 data collection sheets to gather crucial information about the affected population. However, the data analysis process faced a significant bottleneck due to the absence of technological aids. The intervention would have benefited from real-time data analysis capabilities through tools like Kobo Collect, as the assessment and subsequent analysis would have been considerably expedited. This technological advancement would have enabled the volunteers to input, process, and analyze data on-site, streamlining the assessment process and providing timely insights for targeted relief efforts.

Planned actions that will be conducted in the coming months include the NS general support to the operation:

- National Society volunteers' mobilization and branches personnel.
- Ensure compliance and reporting on delivery of this operation.
- Ensure coordination with partners and NDAMO, GMeT and media. Coordination to be at district, regional and National level ensuring information flow, two-way communication and regular updates on forecasts and activities.
- Strengthen the flood readiness system in a long way relationship.
- Delegation oversight on PMER requirements.
- Monitoring at field and from HQ level. daily for field team and monthly from HQ. Remote support also provided.
- Additional cars are needed to rent in the Branches for easy mobility.
- Radio and mass media for awareness and early warning following the weather bulletin.

**Budget:** CHF 32,216  
**Targeted Persons:** 26,000

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#of people reached with health services and awareness messages	26,000	3,000
# of volunteers mobilized and formed	110	-
# of households that confirmed using the mosquito nets distributed	2,000	500

### Progress Towards Outcome

Initial actions included:

- Training of 40 volunteers on EPiC for competencies on health risks associated in Savannah region.
- Dissemination of early warning messages on health - prevention against water related diseases.
- Awareness messages on flooding were disseminated in Savannah region after the Bagre dam opening was announced. Number of people reached being consolidated.
- After the flooding in September in Buipe Community affecting 5,000 people, volunteers trained in EpiC in Savannah region were involved in passing health messages around 3,000 people who had been registered in the evacuation centers as of 25 October 2023.

Planned actions that will be conducted in the coming months include:

- Training of additional 60 volunteers and 20 staff/NDRT branches on EPiC for competencies on health risks associated with floods and diseases related incidences such as malaria, and diarrheic diseases, with focus on the two targeted regions.
- Distribution of long-lasting insecticide mosquito nets
- Sensitization of 2 affected regions for 2 months.
- Identification of and training for 20 volunteers in psychosocial support

**Budget:** CHF 101,340  
**Targeted Persons:** 26,000

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families receiving water treatment and have been accessing potable water for at least 2 months	2,000	-
# of Volunteers train	80	-
# of dignity kit that were distributed and used by families	1,050	-
%of families confirming their hygiene practice and access to safe water improved	70	-

## Progress Towards Outcome

Initial actions included some readiness and early actions to ensure communities can prevent the risk of acute water borne diseases through access of safe water treatment, awareness and good practices. NS

Planned actions that will be conducted in the coming months include the continuity or scale-up of the below actions already started:

- Training of households on safe use of water treatment chemicals.
- Engage communities on environmental hygiene.
- Sensitization on the hygiene and sanitation, prevention and good practices

Revised intervention will also cover additional actions as follow:

- Conduct initial assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities.
- Distribute 1,050 dignity kits for 603 women and girls
- Distribute 1050 hygiene kits, sufficient for 1 month.
- Pre-positioning of 50 handwashing kits at the evacuation centers and in the affected communities' public areas in priorities
- Develop a hygiene communication plan. Train volunteers to implement activities from communication plan.
- Train population of targeted communities (on safe water storage and safe use of water treatment products).
- Scale-up the provision of water treatments and complement with others actions to address existing needs for 2000HH. Procure and distribute 180,000 Aquatabs and 4000 Jerrycans to 2000 HHs for 90 days.

The initial stocks planned for early actions is already purchased (70,020 aqua tabs /water treatment chemicals) and will be add-up for response.

- Conduct training for 80 RC volunteers on carrying out water, sanitation and hygiene assessments.



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 66,651

**Targeted Persons:** 12,000

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#people assisted with evacuation	12,000	3,000
# of volunteers trained on beneficiary registration and safe construction	110	-
# of HHs reached with houses repairs	1,000	-
# of families that confirmed the blankets distributed were useful	2,000	-

## Progress Towards Outcome

- Orientation of 80 Volunteers on early warning and evacuation
- Updating the evacuation plan and simulation exercises in coordination with community leaders, NADMO and local authorities.
- Volunteers identified among the supported communities.

Planned actions that will be conducted in the coming months include:

- Orientation of 110 Volunteers for safe mounting of tents, evacuation, beneficiary identification, registration and distribution.
- Procurement and Distribution of 4,000 blankets to the beneficiaries.
- Setting-up or updating the evacuation plan in coordination with community leaders, NADMO and local authorities. volunteers identified among the supported communities.
- Monitoring of effectiveness and relevance of shelter assistance

# About Support Services

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

- 10 Staff will be deployed: These will be 1 regional manager, the Head of DM, Emergency Health and CEA/PMER. They will provide the necessary technical support such as rapid assessment, coordination with other institutions and government/NADMO.
- Deploy 12 NDRTs as part of 110 volunteers (regional and HQ) to support in the management of the operation.
- 110 Volunteers (who will be based daily in the district):
- 50 will cover the identification of target households and distribution of supplies such as water treatment chemicals. They will also carry out field level monitoring of interventions and reporting through the district officers to the region.
- These volunteers will be complemented by 100 community volunteers selected from beneficiary communities to support the house repairs during the 3 days lead time.

During the preparedness, NS trained and mobilized 200 volunteers across the 5 regions. 40 mobilized in the Savannah will be maintained 10 added to cover the response phases while 50 more to be added to cover Volta region.

## Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

A surge is required for 3 months and must have previous experience in managing operations in flood response or similar disaster profile.

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

National Society will undertake all the procurement of locally available items which constitutes a majority in this DREF. IFRC will undertake international procurement for family tents and shelter kits.

Logistics:

All procurement relating to this operation will follow the regulations of the Ghana Government as well as the IFRC standard procurement systems and procedures to ensure transparency and accountability. Quality inspection will be undertaken at the end of all procurement process before items are accepted and goods received notes signed.

GRCS has identified cash disbursement as the preferred response mechanism under this sector because it currently has an existing agreement with a financial service provider (FSPs) (Fidelity Bank). Recently, with the Appiati Explosion Response, GRCS used agreement with Fidelity to provide multipurpose unconditional cash transfer to target beneficiaries. However, with few challenges reporting during the process of cash-out, GRCS will use agreement with the FSP to provide the unconditional cash to the 1,000 households.

Finance and Administration

- A Finance Officer of the NS will be responsible and assigned to the DREF who will strictly adhere to the budget lines spent, procedures and compliance.

- Through its Finance Department, the IFRC will provide necessary support to the operation to review and validate budgets, bank transfers, technical assistance to the National Society regarding expense justification procedures and the review and validation of operational invoices. All transfers should be done at least 5 days before the scheduled activity days to enable the Branches request.

## How will this operation be monitored?

Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the DREF implementation. The Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) unit of GRCS will work closely with IFRC Country Cluster Delegation and will be responsible for performance-based management systems and the overall quality and effectiveness of the operation. The performance of the operation will be monitored through a robust system of accountability and reporting, with emphasis placed on tracking the progress of outputs to inform operational planning and decision making. The PMER unit will develop:

- A monitoring schedule and appropriate tools to collect data.

- A monitoring framework will be established to track key performance indicators which will be assigned to different levels of staff and volunteers. These include activities such as field level data collection, frequency of data collection, reporting lines from the operation area to the region to Headquarters and finally to IFRC and NADMO headquarters.

GRCS staff in the Operations, Disaster Management, Health, and CEA units will conduct monitoring and supervision through:

- Regular visits - at least a monthly basis to the regional branch and affected community to provide technical support and ensure that activities are implemented according to agreed standards.
- For quality assurance, regular monitoring of the planned activities will be carried out by the DREF implementation team, while scheduled monitoring visits will be made jointly by the GRCS team and IFRC. Findings from these monitoring visits will be analyzed for reporting and decision-making purposes.
- The day-to-day monitoring on the progress of the operation will be the responsibility of the PMER unit and the coordinating team based on the DREF plan of action and outputs indicators. They will advise on any delay or difficulties faced during implementation so that appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and appropriate manner.

Reporting on the DREF will be done per the IFRC minimum reporting standards, there will be series of reports to monitor performance including activity reports, monitoring reports, internal tracking tool to compare the approved plan of action with actual performance and identify constraints and recommended remedial actions as required. A day lesson learned workshop will be conducted at the end of the operation, and final narrative report will be produced a month after the DREF, that will outline key achievements, best practices, challenges, and lessons learned that will be referenced when responding to future fire disaster of such nature.

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

The National Society has a communication department which will work closely with the field teams to capture significant information and publish in print, electronic, social media in online platforms. National society has an active Facebook and twitter pages.

A communication platform established by the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) will be the main root for partner communication. Red Cross is part of that platform. GRCS will document its response actions and their impact in a documentary which will be funded through this operation.

# Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)