

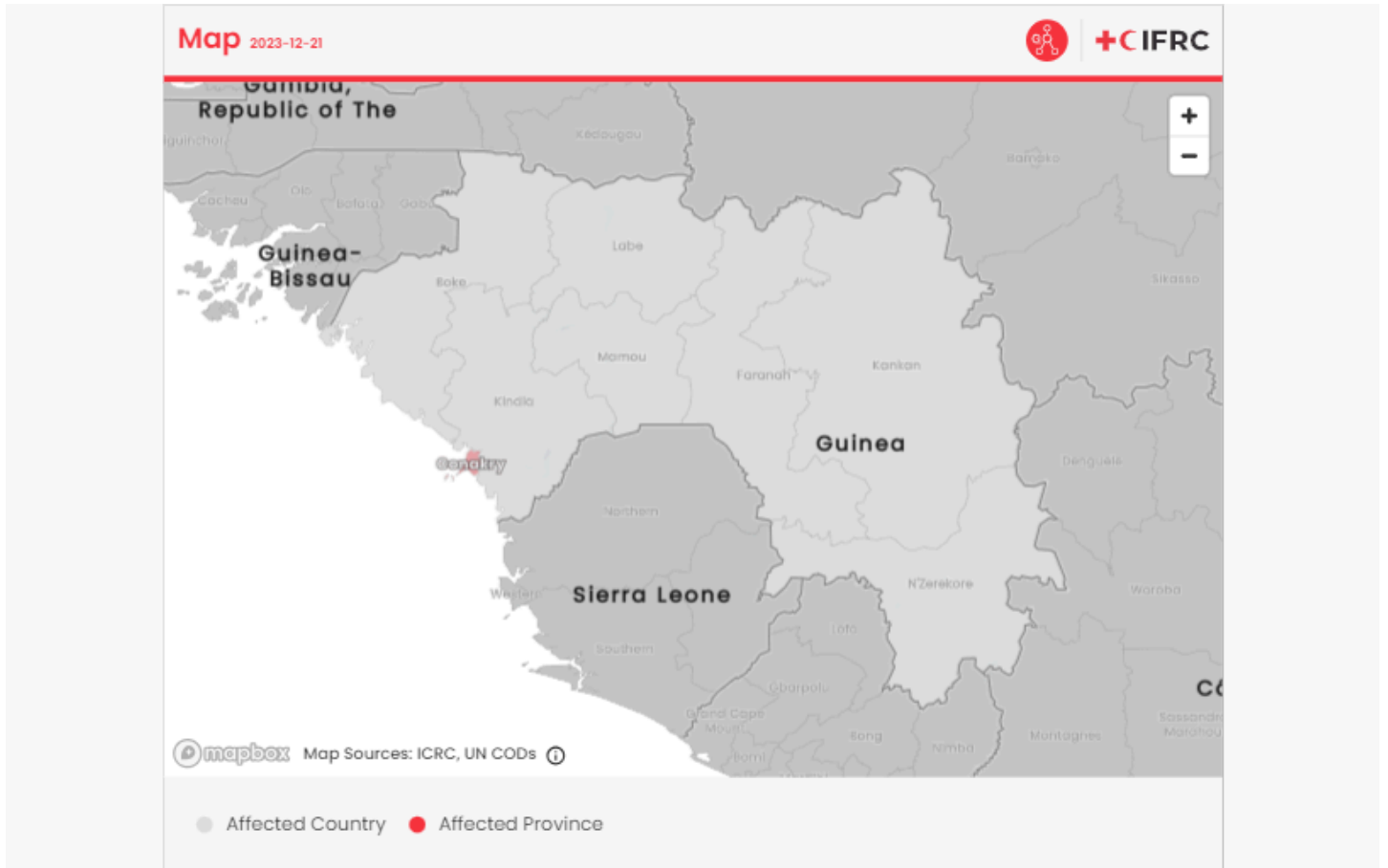


Guinea Kaloum Fire

Appeal: MDRGN016	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 484,636	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Fire
Glide Number: FR-2023-000253-GIN	People Affected: 19,369 people	People Targeted: 8,036 people	People Assisted: 8,036 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 25-12-2023	Operational End Date: 30-04-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 4 months

Targeted Areas: **Conakry**

Description of the Event



Date of event

18-12-2023

What happened, where and when?

On the morning of Monday, 18 December 2023, a massive explosion occurred at Guinea's main oil terminal in the Kaloum administrative district of Conakry. The government issued a statement later that day, attributing the explosion to an unknown cause. The blast triggered a large fire and thick black smoke, destroying or severely damaging nearly 989 homes and critical infrastructure, including community centers, water networks, schools, and health facilities.

Although firefighters managed to contain the fire later in the day, heavy smoke and sporadic flames remained visible. Rapid assessments by volunteers reported 18 fatalities and 190 injuries. The disaster directly affected approximately 2,767 families (19,369 people), severely disrupting livelihoods, socio-economic activities, and essential health and WASH services. Beyond those hospitalized for severe injuries, many others suffered varying degrees of burns and smoke-related ailments, creating an urgent need for medical assistance. The scale of the disaster called for immediate response efforts to address the pressing needs of the affected population.



Houses destroyed by the fire



Red Cross support registration and assessment



Volunteers engaged in Health awareness raising



Mosquito net distribution campaign in Coronthie 1, Kaloum commune



Water points set up in communities and managed by volunteers in Kaloum



GRC Volunteers providing first aid to fire victims

Scope and Scale

The fire incident in Kaloum caused unprecedented devastation, plunging the affected community into a severe humanitarian crisis. Many families lost their homes, belongings, and sources of livelihood. Immediate needs included Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, clothing, food, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services to help address the trauma caused by the disaster.

Key Impact Highlights

Casualties

- Initial rapid assessments reported over 18 fatalities and 190 injuries.
- Injured individuals were evacuated to Donka and Ignace Deen hospitals, while the deceased were transported to morgues.

Affected Population

A total of 2,767 families (19,369 individuals) were impacted. Among them, 1,148 households (8,036 individuals) were identified as the most affected, including:

- 3,857 men and 4,179 women
- 2,009 children (ages 0–5 years)
- 627 pregnant women and 836 lactating women
- 131 individuals with disabilities and 428 older adults
- 1,486 children and 222 pregnant women sleeping under mosquito nets

Missing Persons

- 75 individuals were reported missing.
- This included 5 children (ages 3–10 years) and 22 children separated from their families.

Shelter



- The fire destroyed 989 houses
- While some families sought refuge with relatives, 427 individuals (including 225 women, 27 of whom were pregnant) were accommodated at the People's Palace evacuation center.

Sanitation Infrastructure

- The destruction of 1,003 latrines severely impacted hygiene and sanitation, creating urgent needs for WASH interventions.

Livelihood and Food Security

- Widespread loss of livelihoods due to the destruction of food stocks, vehicles, and household items, leaving families in urgent need of assistance.

Impact on Education

- Children's education was severely disrupted due to damaged schools and the loss of essential supplies such as uniforms and learning materials.

Public Life & Services

- Workers in public and private sectors (excluding defense, security forces, and medical professionals) were asked to stay home
- Public and private schools were closed
- Gas stations were restricted to emergency services only.

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provided comprehensive support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea (RCSG) in responding to the devastating fire incident in Kaloum. This assistance encompassed financial, technical, and operational support to address immediate needs and strengthen the overall response. The Freetown Cluster Delegation played a key role in offering technical guidance, including reviewing the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) application and providing strategic support for planning the subsequent phases of the operation to meet emerging needs and recovery priorities.</p> <p>Through the DREF, the IFRC provided financial assistance to ensure a timely and effective response in alignment with RCSG's mandate. Additionally, the IFRC Operations team conducted an initial orientation mission to assess the operational strategy and provide guidance on planning and implementation. To enhance efficiency and accuracy in monitoring, reporting, and decision-making, the IFRC PMER team introduced specialized tools and a data management system. During the cash transfer process, the IFRC provided technical guidance to ensure the timely and effective delivery of assistance to affected households, followed by post-distribution monitoring to assess the impact of the intervention and gather insights for future responses.</p> <p>In an effort to strengthen learning and preparedness, the IFRC supported RCSG in organizing a lessons-learned workshop to evaluate the operation, identify successes and challenges, and highlight areas for improvement. Throughout the response, the IFRC Country Delegation in Sierra Leone worked closely with RCSG leadership to support coordination with key stakeholders, including UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and other donors. This collaboration enabled RCSG to position itself as a key actor in the humanitarian response, fostering partnerships and ensuring alignment with broader relief efforts. The IFRC's extensive support was instrumental in helping RCSG</p>
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	address the needs of affected communities, build resilience, and enhance its capacity to manage future emergencies effectively.
Participating National Societies	The French Red Cross was present in the country but did not participate in the operation. However, information regarding the response was shared through the Movement's coordination platform to ensure transparency and alignment among partners.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

There is no presence of the ICRC in the country.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	<p>National authorities played a central role in the immediate response to the fire incident, providing swift and coordinated efforts to manage the crisis. From the onset, local authorities and government agencies were present on the ground, with firefighters quickly arriving at the scene. Several tanker trucks were dispatched from the depot, escorted by soldiers and police for protection, ensuring the timely and safe delivery of resources.</p> <p>The government took proactive steps to communicate with the public, issuing a communiqué on 18 December that acknowledged the fire and its unknown cause, while expressing deep concern for the significant impact on the population. The Command Post, located at the Ministry of Defense, became the central coordination hub for the Minister of Security, who oversaw the state's response efforts. The Minister assured the public that the fire was being brought under control and that efforts to extinguish it were ongoing. In response to the evolving situation, the government advised citizens to stay at home for safety.</p> <p>In addition to providing immediate emergency response, the government ensured that affected individuals had access to temporary shelters, food, water, and medical treatment. Crisis committees were set up across various sectors to manage and lead the response, organizing relief efforts and resources.</p> <p>The government, through the National Agency for Civil Protection (ANGUCH), continued to assess the situation and played an active role in mobilizing resources to provide essential humanitarian assistance to those affected. While detailed assessments were being conducted, the government emphasized the urgent need for multiple actors, including humanitarian organizations and partners, to contribute toward providing comprehensive support for the affected population. This collaborative effort helped ensure an organized and effective response to the crisis.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>Various UN and humanitarian organizations, alongside other actors, played a crucial role in supporting the government-led response to the fire incident. These actors, including UNICEF, WHO, MSF, IOM, and Lions Club, were actively involved in assessing the impact of the disaster and providing initial response actions. They were represented in the National Response Coordination platform, ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to addressing the immediate needs of the affected population. Each of these organizations either directly supported the affected individuals or committed to providing assistance through collaboration with the Government of Guinea and the National Agency for Civil Protection (ANGUCH).</p> <p>USAID expressed its interest in supporting the response efforts and allocated USD</p>



100,000 to enhance the ongoing relief activities. These funds were specifically directed to complement the existing DREF intervention, enabling the Red Cross Society of Guinea (RCSG) to extend its support to the most affected populations. The allocated funds provided immediate assistance to 574 families out of the 1,148 most affected households, addressing their WASH and health priorities. Additionally, 150 households among the 989 who lost their homes received cash assistance to help cover their shelter needs. This generous contribution from USAID played a vital role in strengthening the response, ensuring that the most vulnerable communities received the necessary support during the recovery phase.

USAID also expressed its interest in supporting the response efforts and committed USD 100,000 to enhance the response activities. If allocated, these funds would complement the existing DREF intervention, enabling the Red Cross Society of Guinea (RCSG) to extend its support to those most in need. The funds are intended to assist 574 families out of the 1,148 most affected households with immediate WASH and health priorities. Additionally, 150 households among the 989 whose homes were destroyed will receive cash assistance to cover their shelter needs. This collaboration between various humanitarian actors and agencies significantly strengthened the response and contributed to the timely delivery of essential support to the affected communities.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

Following the fire incident, a crisis meeting was convened at the People's Palace, bringing together key stakeholders, including the Minister of Security and Civil Protection, the Minister of Technical Education and Employment Promotion, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Decentralization and Territorial Administration, the Governor of Conakry, the mayors of Kaloum and Matam, the Director General of ANGUICH and his team, and the Red Cross coordination team. This meeting resulted in the establishment of an emergency first-aid station at the Palais, with a layout designed to accommodate approximately 2,000 individuals.

To ensure a comprehensive response, several commissions were formed to address various aspects of the crisis, including health, shelter and WASH, food assistance, needs assessment, logistics, and security. The Red Cross took the lead in the shelter and WASH commission, while UNICEF was tasked with assessing the needs for emergency shelter sites. The Red Cross Society of Guinea (RCSG) played an active role in the Needs Assessment Commission and participated in the Health and Logistics Commissions. The RCSG East Office was also called upon to assist in distributing food to the affected population. In response to immediate food needs, the government allocated five trucks loaded with food.

The Government, through ANGUICH, continued to assess the situation and mobilize resources for the ongoing humanitarian efforts. The meeting emphasized the urgency of cooperation among various actors to contribute to the provision of humanitarian assistance, ensuring a coordinated and effective response to the fire's devastating impact.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Most of the affected population lived in slums and rudimentary housing made from materials like banco, which contributed to the rapid spread of the fire and the widespread destruction of homes. As a result, shelter support became an urgent priority, with many families losing everything, including their homes, household items, and essential belongings, leaving them with nothing to salvage.

A total of 989 families were displaced due to the fire, quickly overwhelming temporary shelter options. While the People's Palace was designated as an emergency shelter, it rapidly reached capacity. At the time of the response, 450 individuals were accommodated in temporary shelters provided by national authorities, while others sought refuge with relatives. Damage assessments confirmed that 989 homes were destroyed, along with household belongings such as blankets, sleeping mats, clothing, cooking materials, mosquito nets, and hygiene supplies. Displaced families faced significant challenges in securing safe shelter, requiring immediate assistance in the form of rental allowances, household supplies, and shelter reconstruction.

The living conditions of displaced individuals, whether in temporary shelters or with host families, posed serious health and well-being risks. Overcrowding and inadequate shelter increased their vulnerability to disease and further hardship. Without urgent interventions, affected families faced prolonged displacement, exacerbating their already precarious situation.





Livelihoods And Basic Needs

In addition to the destruction of homes and personal belongings, the directly affected population experienced severe losses in their assets and livelihoods. Assessments confirmed that 1,148 families lost their houses, materials, equipment, and food reserves, while others suffered extensive damage to their essential resources. Many families who relied on small businesses around the terminal as their primary source of income reported that their businesses were either completely burned or destroyed in the fire, leaving them without a means of livelihood. The economic impact of the disaster was profound, with the destruction of businesses, market infrastructure, and household income sources severely limiting affected families' ability to recover independently.

The disaster also had a significant impact on children's education, as many lost their school materials and were unable to continue their studies. Vulnerable individuals, including those under medical care, faced difficulties in continuing treatment due to the loss of essential resources. The ability of affected families to meet their basic needs was significantly compromised, particularly for those who were displaced. With their sources of income destroyed and no immediate alternatives, many families struggled to secure food and other necessities.

For the displaced population, addressing short-term emergency needs was critical. Many families residing in evacuation centers or with host families had suffered devastating losses and required immediate support in the form of food and non-food items. Humanitarian assistance was essential to ensure they could meet their basic needs during this critical phase. However, as evacuation centers are not designed for prolonged stays, displaced families urgently needed alternative solutions for shelter and income restoration.

The loss of livelihoods required targeted recovery interventions to support affected households in rebuilding their income sources. Given the extent of economic disruption, immediate priorities included providing cash assistance, supporting the reestablishment of small businesses, and facilitating access to vocational training and employment opportunities. Without these interventions, affected families would face prolonged economic hardship, further deepening their vulnerability. The destruction of food reserves, businesses, and employment opportunities underscored the need for both immediate relief and structured long-term recovery programs to help families regain economic stability and self-sufficiency.



Health

The fires resulted in severe health challenges, including injuries, respiratory issues, and increased vulnerability to infectious diseases. Many injured individuals faced difficulties accessing healthcare facilities, while others suffered from prolonged coughing and respiratory distress due to smoke inhalation. The rapid needs assessment highlighted the urgent requirement for essential health and hygiene items such as bibs, long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), soap, and chlorine to improve sanitation and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. With many families forced to sleep outdoors, young children under five faced a heightened risk of mosquito-borne illnesses, particularly malaria.

Beyond physical health concerns, the psychological impact of the disaster was profound. The destruction of homes and livelihoods, coupled with displacement and uncertainty, left many individuals struggling with emotional distress. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services became a priority to help affected individuals cope with trauma, rebuild resilience, and start the healing process.

Overcrowding in temporary shelters and evacuation centers further worsened health risks, increasing the likelihood of disease transmission. Immediate action was needed to prevent opportunistic illnesses and mitigate the risk of outbreaks.

To safeguard public health, the NS prioritized promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices, essential for preventing the spread of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and waterborne illnesses like acute watery diarrhea and cholera. The lack of safe water, inadequate sanitation, and overcrowded living conditions created a high-risk environment for epidemics, as many people resorted to unsafe water sources for drinking. Addressing these concerns required urgent interventions, including improving household water storage and scaling up health and hygiene promotion activities to prevent further health crises.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The fire and blast resulted in substantial waste, debris, and smoke, creating significant environmental health risks that were visible from a considerable distance. The affected area, including the nearby camps, required immediate sanitation actions to ensure the health and safety of displaced populations. One of the most pressing challenges was ensuring access to personal hygiene and maintaining environmental hygiene, particularly within the overcrowded shelters. Many displaced families lacked essential materials to maintain



hygiene and safety, such as proper waste collection and storage containers, exacerbating the risk of contamination and disease spread.

The disruption of water sources also posed a major challenge, with access to clean water severely impacted. To address this, efforts were made to restore tap water sources and, where necessary, provide water directly to the affected communities. Preventing disease outbreaks in these exposed communities became a priority, requiring a comprehensive WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) response. This involved not only providing safe water and sanitation facilities but also ensuring hygiene promotion, protection services, specific health interventions, and targeted support for families to mitigate health risks.

The hygiene and sanitation conditions in the shelters were a significant concern for the well-being and dignity of displaced families. Many families lost access to essential hygiene supplies and lacked the means to maintain personal cleanliness and environmental hygiene. Immediate intervention was necessary to promote hygiene both within the shelters and the broader community to prevent disease outbreaks. Regular cleaning activities were essential to limit health risks and improve living conditions.

Initial assessments revealed that the extent of damage to sewage systems would only be fully understood after weeks of monitoring. As a result, continuous assessment and follow-up were needed to determine the full scope of the damage and to ensure effective repairs. National agencies also called for ongoing waste triage and disposal in the affected districts to prevent exposure to hazardous waste and mitigate associated health risks. This multi-faceted approach to WASH was critical to safeguard the health of affected communities, particularly in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Raising community awareness about the risks of fires and the appropriate actions to take, as well as implementing mitigation measures, became a priority in the aftermath of the fire incident. Efforts to disseminate public awareness and key messages about fire prevention and safety needed to be reinforced. Fire risk prevention strategies required active engagement from relevant institutions and the government to ensure that the messages were consistent with the broader directions of local authorities.

Even though the firefighters were able to bring the fire under control later in the day, the aftermath still posed risks, with a thick column of smoke and some lingering flames visible. Additionally, the incident highlighted the vulnerabilities tied to the Kaloum terminal, as Guinea does not produce oil and relies heavily on importing refined products, which are stored at the terminal and distributed throughout the country via trucks. This not only posed a risk to jobs linked to the terminal but also raised concerns about the ongoing potential for similar incidents, given the unexplained nature of the event that caused the fire.

In terms of recovery and resilience, addressing these risks and fostering climate adaptation were seen as essential for ensuring the long-term safety and stability of the affected communities. There was a recognized need for continued efforts to educate the public about fire prevention, and to collaborate with relevant institutions to put in place stronger preventive measures moving forward.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the operation was to provide emergency assistance to at least 8,036 individuals (1,148 households) who were rendered homeless and vulnerable following the blast and fire from the Kaloum terminal explosion. Immediate assistance was provided through a range of services, including first aid, supporting the restoration of family links, and offering psychological first aid to both the affected populations and volunteers. Additionally, efforts focused on addressing livelihoods and basic needs, including multi-purpose cash transfers, water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and National Society (NS) strengthening, all within a four-month implementation period.

Operation strategy rationale

This DREF operation addressed the uncovered priorities identified by the NS during the preliminary assessment, complementing food distribution efforts provided by the Government and additional support requested from USAID. The operation supported 1,148 of the most vulnerable households, as identified during the rapid assessment, which were rendered homeless and facing significant pressures on their daily food, relief, and livelihood capacities. The intervention was based on damage and needs assessments, as well as impact data from government authorities, ensuring that the response aligned with the official reports and the actual needs of the affected population.

The NS implemented a multipurpose cash transfer program to help individuals without formal income access basic lost elements and contribute to resilience-building through awareness and fire risk mitigation strategies. Specific vulnerable groups were supported with



cash assistance to cover their basic needs and immediate priorities, while ensuring that urgent WASH and health risks were mitigated through relevant services.

The plan was coordinated with USAID's support to RCSG and the response actions established by the Government's response cells. The NS adjusted its target and priorities based on gaps not covered by existing efforts on the ground. For instance, while USAID supported 150 households out of the 989 homeless, the shelter and WASH interventions focused on complementing these efforts. The livelihood assistance did not include direct food distribution, as this was covered by the Government, but rather a cash approach was introduced to address uncovered needs in livelihood, WASH, and health sectors, while allowing flexibility to support food needs.

The proposed intervention focused on:

- Shelter assistance through conditional cash transfers for shelter reconstruction or rent following a market assessment.
- Ongoing first aid and ambulance services.
- Ongoing psychosocial support to distressed families.
- Livelihood support through cash assistance.
- Emergency WASH support.
- Environmental safety and health risk prevention through risk communication and community engagement, focusing on hygiene promotion and fire prevention.
- Raising community awareness of fire risks and appropriate actions via public awareness and education on disaster risk reduction (DRR) key messages.

For shelter assistance, cash grants were provided to help 650 households rebuild their homes (since USAID covered 150 households). Cash support was offered to ensure that displaced families had immediate access to food and other basic needs, such as school materials, WASH items, and medical aid. A multipurpose cash amount of GNF 350,000 per household was provided, based on local prices for food baskets and materials.

In light of lessons learned from past conditional cash shelter programs, the NS adopted an approach that provided cash assistance for either building materials or rental housing, ensuring flexibility based on beneficiaries' needs. The 650 households received an installment of GNF 4,280,000 (CHF428), covering shelter reconstruction or rental assistance for approximately two months. Further consultations with ANGUCH and community committees were planned to clarify the most appropriate housing solutions for beneficiaries, considering whether they were tenants or landlords.

Cash interventions were considered the best approach, while emphasizing prioritization of emergency needs. The NS engaged communities to ensure they understood the intervention, using mobile money through a financial service provider to process cash allowances. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was carried out, with two PDM surveys and continuous monitoring on the use of cash assistance with the support of community committees, volunteers, and NS staff.

The strategy also included fire risk management and environmental health, aiming to equip communities with knowledge on mitigating domestic fires. Prevention messages and interactive discussions on hygiene and fire risks were incorporated into community engagement to prevent major risks.

The operation used a participatory approach through Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), ensuring involvement of community structures, administrative authorities, and stakeholders such as community leaders. Special attention was given to individuals with specific needs. The response also integrated Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) considerations, with committees formed to oversee activities, address complaints, and ensure accountability. Volunteers trained in CEA and complaint management received feedback through toll-free numbers, ensuring the operation was responsive to community.

The operation prioritized community engagement, accountability, and flexibility in addressing urgent needs while empowering affected communities through knowledge and cash assistance, aiming for a sustainable and impactful recovery.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The activities proposed in this DREF operation were designed to address the needs of 8,036 individuals affected by the fire incident in Kaloum.

For shelter assistance, the NS focused on providing support to 650 households (HH) out of the 989 families whose homes were destroyed. These families were either staying in temporary shelters provided by authorities or in tents offered by the NS. The goal was to support these families with shelter assistance until they could be relocated to permanent housing solutions.



The operation prioritized vulnerable populations, particularly those without immediate access to housing or resources, ensuring they received the necessary support to meet their shelter needs. This included addressing their urgent requirements for basic household items and materials essential for shelter reconstruction or relocation.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The operation targeted all individuals affected by the fires, with a particular emphasis on those most in need, including:

- Families whose homes were completely or partially damaged by the fires.
- Families who lost their livelihoods and urgently required food and water support.
- Female-headed households.
- Families with individuals with disabilities, elderly people, or those who sustained injuries from the fire.

The selection process for direct assistance was communicated to the community through meetings with key stakeholders, where the Red Cross presented the available response options. These meetings also provided an opportunity for community members to express their views, confirm the operational strategy, and share updated information on evolving needs.

Target selection for relief assistance was based on the severity of the impact on each family, as well as the socio-economic vulnerabilities that existed prior to the incident. This approach ensured that the most vulnerable populations received timely support, reflecting both the extent of the disaster's effects and the pre-existing conditions of the affected families.

Total Targeted Population

Women	4,179	Rural	10%
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	90%
Men	3,857	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	8,036		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
The unstable nature of the economy of the country has the potential to cause inflation and frequent changes in prices that would affect planned activities.	The RCSG and IFRC cluster teams facilitated all processes and ensured that the approval of the Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA) was issued by 24 December 2023. This was achieved through coordinated efforts and timely actions, which included the necessary consultations, assessments, and final approval from relevant stakeholders.
Prices hikes, inflation and currency re-evaluation in markets	Budget limitations were applied during the planning process, and adjustments to the cash distribution were made to account for inflation and price hikes. The NS monitored the market throughout the operation and made necessary adjustments to the planning as required.
Recycle of people pretending to be affected	The verification and validation of the list of affected persons to be supported was conducted in collaboration with community leaders and chiefs of the affected locations. They played a key role in ensuring that the list was accurate and reflected the true needs of the community. This process involved regular consultations with local leaders to confirm the identities and circumstances of

those most affected, ensuring a transparent and inclusive approach.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The main safety and security risk was linked to the quality of access and the security of the areas around the explosion site.

The general risk was associated with the displacement of communities and the settlement of camps. Affected community members were exposed to security risks such as looting, theft of assets, and armed robbery, especially when assistance, either in cash or items, was being delivered. Red Cross teams were equally exposed to these risks.

To mitigate such incidents during the operation, all security measures from both the Movement and the Government were strictly adhered to by all volunteers and staff involved in the operation. Security management was based on the RCRC's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values. The following actions were implemented regarding security:

- Visibility and protection for all staff members and volunteers. These measures included the wearing of jackets for visibility and regular communication regarding all movements.
- Community engagement was prioritized to provide clear explanations of the role of the Red Cross, the support being provided, and the beneficiary selection criteria, ensuring transparency and building trust. This followed the learnings from previous operations.
- Briefings were organized to remind volunteers of personal security and safety. - All engaged staff and volunteers were required to complete the Stay Safe 2.0 Global Edition-level 2 training, ensuring they were briefed on the framework for safer access.
- For IFRC staff supporting the operation, security orientation and briefings were conducted before the mission to ensure the safety and security of response teams. Standard security protocols, including general norms, cultural sensitivity, and an overall Code of Conduct, were put in place.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 302,281

Targeted Persons: 4,550

Assisted Persons: 4,550

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of households whose homes are destroyed who receive cash shelter support	65	83
# of families who received shelter assistance in terms of cash	650	650
# of volunteers trained and engaged in cash activities	30	30

Narrative description of achievements

• Train 30 volunteers on cash transfer and household registration through Kobo Collect platform: A total of 30 volunteers were trained on the cash transfer process and household registration using the Kobo Collect platform. This training was essential to ensure that volunteers could effectively assist in the registration and verification of beneficiary households, and in the disbursement of cash transfers for shelter support. The use of Kobo Collect streamlined data collection and ensured that beneficiary information was accurately captured and processed in real-time, allowing for efficient management of the shelter assistance program.

- Registration and verification of 800 beneficiary households: The registration and verification of 800 beneficiary households were successfully completed, including 650 households under the DREF and 150 households under the USAID grant. Volunteers conducted household surveys, collecting detailed information to ensure that the most vulnerable families, whose homes were destroyed in the fire, received the necessary support. This step was crucial to ensuring that assistance was targeted to those in greatest need and in alignment with the criteria established for the intervention.

- Conduct local market analysis to identify availability/access to shelter and household items: A local market analysis was conducted to assess the availability and accessibility of essential shelter and household items in the affected area. The analysis aimed to identify local suppliers who could provide the necessary materials for the rehabilitation of homes and to determine the feasibility of sourcing these items within the local market. The findings of the analysis informed the planning of cash transfers, ensuring that funds could be allocated effectively to allow beneficiaries to purchase the necessary items for rebuilding their homes.

- Establish target committees and briefing of beneficiary households:

Target committees were established to oversee the distribution of shelter assistance and to ensure community engagement throughout the process. These committees were composed of local leaders and community representatives who helped facilitate communication with beneficiaries. Additionally, briefings were held for the beneficiary households to explain the assistance process, the cash transfer mechanism, and the steps for rebuilding their homes. This helped ensure that all families were well-informed and that the process was transparent and inclusive.

- Transfer Funds to 989 households to support the rehabilitation of destroyed homes: Funds were successfully transferred to 989 households to support the rehabilitation of destroyed homes. The cash transfers were intended to enable families to rebuild their houses, which had been completely destroyed by the fire. The cash assistance aimed to cover the costs of shelter reconstruction materials and essential household items, such as mattresses, blankets, and cooking utensils, as well as any immediate shelter needs.

- Deploy 30 volunteers to monitor cash transfer activities for three days: A team of 30 volunteers was deployed to monitor cash transfer activities for 3 days. These volunteers ensured that the cash transfer process was carried out smoothly, verified the receipt of funds by the correct beneficiaries, and provided assistance with any issues that arose during the distribution. Their presence helped maintain accountability and transparency, ensuring that the funds were used appropriately for shelter rehabilitation.

- Conduct post-distribution follow-up (PDM) for three days: A PDM was conducted over three days to assess the effectiveness of the cash transfer and determine whether beneficiaries were able to use the funds to meet their shelter needs. The follow-up process involved visiting the beneficiaries to gather feedback on the use of the funds, identify any challenges faced during the reconstruction process, and ensure that the assistance provided had a tangible impact on their ability to rebuild their homes. This helped to ensure that the intervention was meeting its objectives and allowed for any adjustments to be made as needed.

Lessons Learnt

- Adopting digital tools and community involvement in the registration process proved effective in ensuring transparency and accuracy. However, providing extra time for verification, especially in urban areas with displaced populations, is critical to avoid delays.

- Conducting early market assessments and engaging with suppliers during the planning phase can mitigate challenges related to price volatility and limited supply. Establishing agreements with local vendors can also ensure consistent availability of materials at fair prices.

- Early and transparent communication with affected communities about the scope and limitations of assistance is vital to managing expectations. Involving community committees in decision-making and providing regular updates can reduce complaints and foster trust.

- Deploying mobile monitoring tools and leveraging technology can enhance real-time tracking of cash transfers and monitoring activities, even in remote areas. Investing in transportation and communication resources for field teams is equally important.

- Incorporating more detailed post-distribution monitoring into the planning process, including resources for longer follow-up periods, can provide deeper insights into the effectiveness of the intervention. Gathering community feedback early helps in identifying areas for improvement in future programs.

- While cash assistance empowered beneficiaries, the amount provided did not fully meet the extensive reconstruction needs of some families. Future interventions could consider a tiered cash support system based on the extent of damage to households.

Challenges

- While training 30 volunteers was achieved, the short timeframe for training and the technical nature of using the Kobo Collect platform posed challenges. Some volunteers required additional follow-up support to fully grasp the registration and cash transfer process, which delayed initial activities.

- The verification of 800 households required significant coordination, as some families lacked documentation or were displaced to different locations. This made it difficult to cross-verify information, leading to occasional delays in finalizing the beneficiary list.

- The local market analysis revealed fluctuations in prices for shelter materials due to increased demand following the disaster. In some cases, the supply of essential items such as construction materials and household goods were limited, creating challenges for beneficiaries to access materials within their budget.

- Managing the expectations of the community was a significant challenge. While 989 households received assistance, many others affected by the disaster were not covered, leading to dissatisfaction and complaints from non-beneficiaries.

- The PDM process required more resources and time than anticipated. Some beneficiaries expressed concerns about insufficient funds to cover all their shelter needs, highlighting gaps in the cash support provided.





Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 44,657

Targeted Persons: 8,036

Assisted Persons: 8,036

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families supported with MPC	1,148	1,148
% of families supported with MPC that confirmed it supported their basic needs	70	86

Narrative description of achievements

- **Market assessment and price Monitoring:** A comprehensive market assessment and price monitoring were conducted to ensure that local markets had sufficient capacity to absorb the cash injection and provide the goods and services required by beneficiaries. This activity helped identify price trends for essential items such as food, hygiene products, and school materials, ensuring that the planned cash transfer would be effective in meeting the needs of affected households. Findings from the assessment informed the value of the cash transfer and provided valuable insights into market stability.
- **Multi-purpose cash installment to complement government assistance:** Multi-purpose cash assistance was provided to 1,148 households to complement the government's response efforts. The cash transfers supported families in addressing their immediate needs, such as purchasing food, hygiene supplies, and school materials, while also helping them recover from financial losses caused by the disaster. This flexible form of assistance allowed households to prioritize their expenditures based on individual needs, promoting dignity and choice in their recovery process.
- **Financial service provider activation:** A financial service provider was activated to facilitate the timely and secure transfer of cash to beneficiaries. This ensured that the funds reached the target households efficiently while minimizing risks. Coordination with the financial service provider included setting up beneficiary accounts, verifying identities, and ensuring transparency throughout the disbursement process.
- **Monitoring of cash transfer process by 30 volunteers for three days:** A team of 30 volunteers was mobilized to monitor the cash transfer process over a three-day period. Their role consisted of overseeing the distribution, address any issues beneficiaries encountered while accessing funds, and ensure adherence to established protocols. This close monitoring provided real-time feedback on the process and ensured the funds were utilized appropriately by beneficiaries.
- **Post distribution monitoring:** A Post-Distribution Monitoring PDM exercise was conducted to assess the impact of the multi-purpose cash assistance. The PDM revealed that 86% of the supported households confirmed the cash helped meet their basic needs, such as food, water, hygiene supplies, and school-related expenses. The exercise also provided an opportunity to collect feedback from beneficiaries, ensuring continuous improvement in cash-based interventions and identifying areas for refinement in future programs.

Lessons Learnt

- Regular market assessments and price monitoring during the implementation phase are crucial to account for price volatility and ensure cash transfer values align with beneficiaries' purchasing power.
- Engaging the financial service provider early and conducting simulation exercises can address technical issues and minimize delays during the disbursement phase. Simplifying the registration and account setup process for beneficiaries is also critical.
- Transparent communication about the selection criteria, scope of assistance, and limitations of the project is essential to manage community expectations. Establishing robust community feedback mechanisms can help address complaints and maintain trust.
- Allocating more time for PDM would allow for a deeper understanding of how cash transfers are being utilized and their long-term impact. Equipping volunteers with prior training in cash monitoring is also essential to improve the quality of feedback collected.
- Multi-purpose cash assistance demonstrated its flexibility and scalability as a response tool, empowering households to prioritize their own needs. Future operations could expand the use of cash assistance, incorporating tiered support based on household vulnerabilities.

Challenges

- Despite the initial market assessment, fluctuations in prices for essential items occurred due to increased demand following the disaster. This limited some beneficiaries' purchasing power, reducing the overall effectiveness of the cash transfers.



- Verifying the identities of 1,148 households, particularly displaced families without formal identification, proved time-consuming and resource intensive. Some beneficiaries were not easily reachable due to relocation, which led to logistical complications.
- There was a high demand for cash assistance from non-beneficiary households. Managing expectations and addressing complaints from those not included in the intervention created significant pressure on the project team.



Budget: CHF 42,621

Targeted Persons: 8,036

Assisted Persons: 8,036

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households provided with mosquito nets	1,148	1,148
# of volunteers trained on PSS, first aid, health promotion	180	180
# of volunteers deployed for search and rescue	75	75
# of people reached with immediate health support	8,036	8,036
# of awareness sessions	48	48

Narrative description of achievements

- **Training of volunteers on Psychosocial Support (PSS), First Aid, Epidemic Control for Volunteers (EPIC), and Health Promotion:** A total of 180 volunteers were trained over three days in PSS, First Aid, EPIC, and Health Promotion to equip them with the skills necessary for emergency health interventions. The training enhanced their ability to provide immediate assistance to affected communities, manage injuries, offer emotional support, and raise awareness about disease prevention. Additionally, 75 volunteers were deployed for search and rescue activities, providing critical support in the immediate aftermath of the fire incident.
- **Provision of first aid to injured:** Injured population received first aid support, addressing issues such as burns, cuts, and respiratory complications caused by smoke inhalation. This intervention ensured timely care for those unable to access health facilities, mitigating the risk of complications from untreated injuries. The initiative reached a total of 8,036 individuals, highlighting the significant impact of first aid services in the affected communities.
- **Provision of Psychosocial Support:** PSS services were provided to affected individuals and families for two months, addressing the emotional and psychological trauma caused by the disaster. PSS sessions focused on helping families cope with displacement, loss, and uncertainty, with specific attention given to children and vulnerable groups. These services were vital in promoting community resilience and mental well-being during the recovery process.
- **Distribution of mosquito nets to affected households:** A total of 1,148 households received long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLINs) to reduce the risk of malaria and other vector-borne diseases, especially for families forced to sleep outdoors. Alongside the distribution, beneficiaries were educated on the correct use and installation of the nets, ensuring maximum effectiveness in preventing mosquito bites.
- **Hygiene and sanitation campaigns:** Two hygiene and sanitation campaigns were conducted over the course of one month, focusing on cleaning water sources, latrines, and community spaces to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases. These campaigns mobilized volunteers and community members to promote cleanliness and prevent contamination in overcrowded living conditions, where the risk of disease transmission was particularly high.
- **Awareness-raising on disease prevention and use of Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs):** A total of 48 awareness sessions were conducted to educate the community on disease prevention practices, proper hygiene, and the use of ITNs. Demonstrations on ITN installation were carried out to ensure beneficiaries could use them effectively. These efforts were crucial in preventing malaria, acute watery diarrhea, and other health issues in the aftermath of the fire incident.



Lessons Learnt

- Timely training and deployment of volunteers: The rapid training and deployment of volunteers in PSS, first aid, and health promotion were critical in addressing immediate health needs. Future operations can benefit from pre-trained volunteers to reduce delays in emergency response.
- Community participation enhances effectiveness: Engaging community members in hygiene and sanitation campaigns and awareness-raising activities increased participation and ownership, resulting in more sustainable outcomes.
- Integrated health and psychosocial support approach: Combining physical health interventions with PSS was highly effective in addressing the holistic needs of affected individuals. This integrated approach should be replicated in similar emergencies.
- Clear communication on ITN Use: Providing demonstrations alongside ITN distribution ensured correct and consistent use, highlighting the importance of linking distribution with education.
- Partnerships strengthen interventions: Collaboration with local health authorities and community leaders facilitated better access to affected populations and improved the effectiveness of interventions.

Challenges

- The high demand for PSS services, especially among children and vulnerable groups, exceeded the capacity of the available trained volunteers, necessitating additional resources.
- Delays in the delivery of mosquito nets and other supplies affected the timely distribution to households, highlighting the need for streamlined logistics.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 33,894

Targeted Persons: 8,036

Assisted Persons: 8,036

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#of people reached with wash activities	8,036	8,036
# of families that benefit from latrines rehabilitated	500	500
# of households supported to construct latrines through cash-for-work approach	100	100

Narrative description of achievements

- Training of volunteers on WASH promotion and Disease Prevention: A total of 180 volunteers were trained on water, hygiene, and sanitation promotion activities, including waterborne disease prevention, menstrual hygiene, and the use of mosquito nets. The training also covered Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV), equipping them with the skills to conduct effective hygiene promotion and disease prevention activities in their communities. This comprehensive training enhanced the capacity of volunteers to respond to immediate and long-term WASH needs in affected areas.
- Assessment and monitoring of WASH Conditions: An initial assessment of the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions was conducted in the target communities to identify key gaps and needs. Continuous monitoring of the WASH situation followed, enabling timely identification of emerging challenges and the adjustment of interventions to ensure relevance and effectiveness. This process ensured that WASH activities were informed by real-time data and community needs.
- Coordination with other WASH actors: The operation coordinated closely with other WASH actors to align efforts and avoid duplication of services. This collaboration ensured that the target group received appropriate and comprehensive WASH support, including water treatment, sanitation, and hygiene interventions tailored to their specific needs.
- Community training on hygiene and water storage: Training sessions were conducted for target community members on proper drinking water storage, hygiene practices, and environmental cleaning. These sessions included demonstrations on effective cleaning techniques and disposal of waste, which contributed to improving household and community-level hygiene standards.
- Cash-for-Work for latrine rehabilitation: A cash-for-work approach was implemented to rehabilitate 100 destroyed latrines, representing 10% of the identified damaged latrines. Local committees were established to oversee and support this activity, ensuring its



sustainability. The initiative provided both sanitation improvements and financial support for affected households, directly benefiting 500 families.

- Monitoring and post-distribution follow-up: Thirty volunteers were deployed to monitor cash transfer activities for three days, ensuring accountability and compliance. A PDM exercise was also conducted over three days to evaluate the impact and satisfaction of beneficiaries with the cash-for-work activities. The monitoring efforts ensured transparency and informed adjustments for ongoing interventions.
- Hygiene promotion campaigns and cleaning activities: Hygiene promotion activities reached 8,036 individuals through the broadcasting of 220 hygiene promotion spots and community campaigns. Sixty cleaning kits were procured and distributed for debris and environmental cleaning, with committees taking over the activity to ensure continuity beyond the first two months. These efforts contributed to reducing health risks in the affected areas and maintaining clean and safe environments for displaced families.
- Debris and waste management: Sanitation actions, including waste triage and cleaning of affected areas, were undertaken to address the aftermath of the fire and explosion. These activities were critical in mitigating potential hazards and reducing the risk of disease outbreaks caused by debris and hazardous waste.

Lessons Learnt

- The engagement of community committees in monitoring and supporting WASH activities, such as latrine rehabilitation and hygiene promotion, proved essential for ensuring ownership and sustainability. Their involvement also enhanced the alignment of interventions with community needs.
- Coordination with other WASH actors allowed for resource optimization, avoided duplication, and ensured comprehensive support for the affected population. This highlighted the value of collaborative planning and response mechanisms in emergency situations.
- The cash-for-work strategy not only improved sanitation infrastructure but also provided immediate financial support to affected families, demonstrating its effectiveness in addressing both livelihood and WASH needs simultaneously.
- Tailored messaging and demonstrations, especially on the use and storage of drinking water and mosquito nets, increased the impact of hygiene promotion activities. This reinforced the need for culturally sensitive and practical approaches in future operations.
- Initial and continuous assessments were critical in identifying emerging needs and adapting interventions. This highlighted the necessity of robust assessment mechanisms during emergency responses.

Challenges

- Hazardous waste and delayed debris removal posed significant health risks to the community, requiring additional resources and coordinated efforts to address them comprehensively.
- Ensuring compliance with cash-for-work activities and monitoring latrine rehabilitation required additional effort due to the large number of beneficiaries and limited personnel to oversee activities.
- The multifaceted nature of the disaster created competing priorities, such as addressing urgent sanitation needs while simultaneously managing health risks and providing shelter support, stretching the capacity of the response teams.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 8,036

Assisted Persons: 8,036

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people trained and mobilized for PGI promotion	180	180

Narrative description of achievements

- PGI briefing sessions for volunteers and staff: A series of PGI briefings were conducted for 180 volunteers and staff involved in the fire response. The training focused on ensuring that participants understood the principles of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and could apply these in their work. Key topics included identifying vulnerable groups, addressing their specific needs, and integrating PGI considerations into all aspects of the shelter and response operations. This initiative significantly enhanced the capacity of volunteers and staff to provide inclusive and sensitive support to affected individuals.
- PGI sensitization session for other actors working in the shelter activities: A sensitization session was held for 10 partner organizations



and other stakeholders managing the shelters. The session emphasized the importance of integrating PGI into shelter operations to ensure that interventions were sensitive to the diverse needs of affected populations. Participants were encouraged to consider the cultural, gender, and social dynamics within the shelter settings, fostering a collaborative approach to delivering services in an inclusive and respectful manner. This led to stronger coordination and more aligned, sensitive interventions across actors.

- Establishing a feedback mechanism: To promote accountability, a feedback mechanism was implemented in the shelter component, allowing residents to voice their concerns, complaints, and suggestions. This included feedback boxes at key locations, a hotline for direct communication, and awareness sessions to educate shelter residents on how to utilize these channels. The mechanism provided an accessible and inclusive platform for individuals, particularly those with literacy challenges or disabilities, to engage with responders. Over 75 feedback cases were collected, contributing to improvements in services and enhancing trust between the responders and the affected community.

Lessons Learnt

- Early incorporation of PGI principles into training and sensitization sessions ensured that all actors understood the relevance of inclusivity and protection, leading to more responsive and equitable interventions.
- Sensitizing a wide range of stakeholders, including local organizations and shelter staff, fostered stronger coordination and a unified approach to addressing the diverse needs of affected populations.
- Ensuring multiple accessible channels for feedback (e.g., hotline, feedback boxes, and awareness sessions) enhanced community participation and accountability, allowing responders to better address concerns and improve services.

Challenges

- Ensuring the response was sensitive to the varied needs of different groups (e.g., people with disabilities, women, and children) was complex and required continuous adaptation of services and messaging.
- While many were receptive, some partners and staff had limited prior knowledge of PGI principles, which slowed the integration process and required additional follow-up training.
- Despite efforts to make feedback channels accessible, some shelter residents were hesitant to use the feedback mechanism, likely due to a lack of trust or fear of retaliation. More engagement and awareness-building are needed to overcome this barrier.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 24,282

Targeted Persons: 8,036

Assisted Persons: 8,036

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of feedback received and responded to	70	100
# of people reached through dissemination of information and key messages	8,036	8,036
# of consultations with communities for list finalization	3	3
# of community groups and representatives consulted on response plans	8	8
# of staff and volunteers oriented and mobilized in CEA sensitization and minimum standards	220	220

Narrative description of achievements

- Training of volunteers on CEA to support operations: A training program was conducted for 220 staff and volunteers, equipping them with the necessary skills to implement the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach during the fire response.



Volunteers were trained on communication strategies, community participation, and complaint management to ensure transparency and accountability throughout the operation. This training enabled volunteers to effectively engage with affected communities, ensuring their needs and concerns were addressed in a responsive and inclusive manner.

Indicator achieved: 100% of staff and volunteers oriented and mobilized in CEA sensitization and minimum standards.

- Set Up the CEA feedback mechanism: A feedback mechanism, including a toll-free helpline and feedback boxes, was established to allow affected community members to voice their concerns, complaints, and suggestions. A team of trained volunteers managed the system, using Excel spreadsheets to track complaints and ensuring timely responses. The mechanism fostered trust and accountability, enabling the response team to address community concerns and improve service delivery based on feedback.

Indicator achieved: 70% of feedback received was responded to in a timely manner.

- Communication works to ensure media coverage of volunteers' activities: To increase visibility and promote transparency, a communication strategy was implemented to highlight the volunteer activities and their role in the CEA approach. Media outreach, including local news and social media coverage, showcased volunteer efforts and their engagement with the community. This helped raise awareness, built trust in the response, and encouraged greater community participation in the feedback process.

Indicator achieved: 8,036 people were reached through the dissemination of information and key messages.

- Community meeting to validate criteria and lists of beneficiaries: A community meeting was organized with community leaders, local authorities, and affected individuals to validate the criteria for selecting beneficiaries and review the distribution lists. This participatory approach ensured that the most vulnerable individuals were prioritized for assistance and that the process remained transparent and fair. Feedback from the community helped adjust the lists, further enhancing accountability in the selection process.

Indicator achieved: 3 consultations with communities for finalizing the beneficiary list were conducted, and 8 community groups and representatives were consulted on response plans.

Lessons Learnt

- The feedback mechanism proved vital for maintaining community trust. Ensuring that feedback channels were easily accessible and widely promoted helped increase community participation and contributed to more effective and responsive services. The toll-free helpline and feedback boxes were key in building accountability.
- Training volunteers on CEA principles not only increased their effectiveness but also helped integrate community involvement into the response. Volunteers played a critical role in both managing feedback and disseminating information, highlighting the value of investing in their preparation early on.
- Involving communities in validating the criteria and beneficiary lists led to more equitable and transparent selection processes. Regular consultations ensured that the most vulnerable individuals were prioritized, reinforcing the importance of participatory decision-making.
- Leveraging media and social media for outreach created wider awareness of the CEA approach and the role of volunteers, helping to foster greater community trust and participation. This approach demonstrated the power of communication in strengthening community engagement.

Challenges

- No challenges were reported.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 27,635

Targeted Persons: 3

Assisted Persons: 3

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of monitoring missions undertaken by the IFRC Cluster Delegation	3	3

Narrative description of achievements

- IFRC monitoring and technical support missions and support the monitoring of planned activities: A series of three IFRC monitoring missions were conducted to provide ongoing technical support and ensure compliance with operational standards. The first mission focused on supporting the committee in verifying beneficiary selection criteria, conducting training sessions, and overseeing cash and non-food item (NFI) distributions. The second mission, led by the PMER team, was dedicated to post-distribution monitoring and



evaluating the effectiveness of the ongoing activities. The third mission provided final supervision of the activities, including a lessons learned workshop. Alongside these missions, regular monitoring of planned activities was conducted to track progress, ensure objectives were met, and identify any bottlenecks. The monitoring team collaborated closely with field staff to ensure activities were on track and adjusted timelines or activities as needed. This continuous monitoring allowed for the identification of gaps and areas where additional support was required, helping to maximize resource efficiency and improve the overall response. These combined efforts ensured that the operation met high-quality standards and delivered effective outcomes for the affected communities.

- **Provide technical support and guidance:** Technical support and guidance were provided throughout the operation to ensure that all activities were carried out according to best practices and international standards. The support team worked closely with operational staff to troubleshoot any technical issues and offer solutions to challenges faced on the ground. This included guidance on the implementation of the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach, and providing input on beneficiary selection processes and distribution mechanisms. Technical assistance was also extended to improve the coordination of activities between volunteers, community stakeholders, and local authorities, ensuring that the response was aligned with the overall strategic goals.
- **Ensure compliance to reporting and support the process:** To ensure accountability and transparency, efforts were made to ensure strict compliance with reporting requirements throughout the operation. This included supporting staff and volunteers in adhering to reporting standards and timelines. Regular checks were conducted to ensure that reports were being submitted on time, accurately reflecting the progress of activities and the impact of interventions. The process was also supported by providing guidance and training on how to compile comprehensive and precise reports, ensuring that all data collected during the response was correctly documented and ready for review by senior management and stakeholders.
- **Conduct financial monitoring:** Financial monitoring was carried out to ensure that the allocated funds were used appropriately and efficiently. The finance team conducted regular checks on expenditure, ensuring that it aligned with the approved budget and adhered to financial management guidelines. Any discrepancies or potential over-expenditures were flagged for immediate attention and corrective action. Additionally, financial reports were reviewed to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of funds, ensuring that resources were being directed effectively to meet the operational needs. This monitoring ensured financial integrity and contributed to the overall success of the response operation.

Lessons Learnt

- It came out that establishing clear monitoring and reporting frameworks at the onset of the operation helps to ensure smoother and more efficient data collection and reporting. Early integration of reporting templates, set timelines, and regular check-ins with field teams can mitigate delays and ensure that monitoring remains consistent, even during peak operational periods.
- Continuous technical support should be embedded in the planning process from the beginning. Assigning dedicated technical advisors for specific areas of the operation and establishing clear communication channels can help resolve issues faster and ensure that guidance is provided where it is most needed. Virtual support tools and regular updates can also ensure technical assistance is provided in real time, even in remote areas.
- To ensure reporting compliance, it is important to conduct training sessions at the start of the operation, emphasizing the importance of accurate and timely reporting. Establishing clear expectations for what is required in each report and assigning dedicated staff to review reports before submission ensures that no crucial information is overlooked under time constraints.
- Financial monitoring can be significantly improved by establishing pre-approved budgets and flexible financial tracking tools that allow for real-time tracking and immediate corrections. Streamlining the financial approval process and improving communication with finance teams can ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and minimize the risk of overspending or resource mismanagement.
- Digital tools and mobile platforms can greatly enhance the efficiency of monitoring activities and support processes. Utilizing online platforms for real-time financial tracking, reporting, and communication can reduce delays, improve accuracy, and ensure that support is consistently available across all operational levels.

Challenges

- N/A



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 9,266

Targeted Persons: 220

Assisted Persons: 220

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of staff and volunteers trained	220	220
# of lessons learned workshop	1	1
# of documentaries produced	1	1
# of volunteers and staff provided with PPE	220	220

Narrative description of achievements

- Ensure all staff and volunteers are briefed and sign the Code of Conduct: All 220 staff and volunteers involved in the fire response were briefed on the organization's Code of Conduct, which emphasized ethical behavior, professionalism, and respectful interaction with the affected communities. Following the briefing, each individual signed the Code of Conduct, formalizing their commitment to uphold the standards expected during the response. This helped ensure that all personnel maintained high levels of accountability and ethical integrity throughout the operation.
- Equip volunteers and staff with visibility items (t-shirts, caps, etc.): To improve safety and visibility during the fire response, 220 volunteers and staff were provided with t-shirts, caps, and other visibility items. These items helped responders stand out in the community, making it easier for them to be identified by both affected individuals and local authorities. This initiative also boosted team morale, promoting a sense of unity among volunteers and staff while they carried out their duties in a coordinated and professional manner.
- Documentary production on Guinea Kaloum fire response activities: A documentary was produced to capture the full scope of the Guinea Kaloum fire response. The film documented the challenges, successes, and efforts of the volunteers and staff, and showcased how the community engaged in the response. It also highlighted key lessons learned and provided a platform for sharing the outcomes of the intervention with stakeholders. The documentary will serve as a resource for future disaster response operations and for raising awareness of the organization's work in crisis situations.
- Organize lessons learned workshop: At the conclusion of the operation, a lessons learned workshop was organized by RCSG in collaboration with IFRC and other key stakeholders. The workshop reflected on the entire implementation process, identifying strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement. This workshop served as a critical platform for informed planning in future operations, allowing the National Society (NS) to assess its disaster response capabilities. Additionally, it provided valuable insights into the NS's disaster readiness status, enabling them to refine their strategies for more effective future interventions.

Lessons Learnt

- The lessons learned workshop demonstrated the importance of capturing and sharing insights from each operation. Engaging all stakeholders in a reflective process ensures that valuable lessons are not lost and can be applied to future response strategies. This practice strengthens disaster readiness and enhances overall preparedness for subsequent operations.
- Proactive media engagement and the use of community feedback loops to disseminate key messages proved essential for building trust with affected communities. Investing time in communicating effectively and consistently with both local media and the community will help mitigate misinformation and increase community buy-in for future operations.
- Engaging communities early and frequently in the process of beneficiary selection and program implementation enhances transparency and trust. Having structured consultation processes integrated into the response plan from the beginning ensures that the operation is inclusive, and the selection criteria are well understood by all stakeholders.
- The effectiveness of monitoring missions depends on seamless coordination among all involved stakeholders. Establishing clear communication channels and setting up pre-mission briefings can help align all actors on expectations, timelines, and goals. This will streamline the monitoring process and minimize delays.

Challenges

- While the distribution of PPE (personal protective equipment) and visibility items (T-shirts, caps) was essential for staff and volunteer safety and visibility, logistical challenges, such as timely procurement and distribution, sometimes delayed the process. Coordinating the supply chain in the midst of an emergency response proved to be difficult, especially in ensuring that all staff and volunteers were adequately equipped at the start of the operation.



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DREF Operation

Reporting Timeframe	2023/12-2024/10	Operation MDRGN016
Budget Timeframe	2023/12-2024/04	Budget APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 11/Dec/2024
All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGN016 - Guinea - Kaloum Explosion
Operating Timeframe: 25 Dec 2023 to 30 Apr 2024

I. Summary	
Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	484,636
DREF Response Pillar	484,636
Expenditure	-471,689
Closing Balance	12,947

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation			
Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	-	0	274,790.13
AOF2 - Shelter	294,461.92	19,672	- 307,939.68
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	43,293.54	351,233	- 26,711.81
AOF4 - Health	41,319.65	68,031	- 9,613.05
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	32,827.54	23,214	-
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	-	0	-
AOF7 - Migration	-	0	- 50,248.31
Area of focus Total	411,902.65	462,151	- 100,496.62
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	32,374.32	9,538	- 22,836.15
SF12 - Effective international disaster management	-	0	-
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	-	0	-
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC	40,359.03	0	-
Strategy for implementation Total	72,733.35	9538.16	-
Grand Total	484,636.00	471,689	

III. Expenditure by budget category & group			
Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	365,196	338,187	27,009
Construction - Housing	8,617	0	8,617
Clothing & Textiles	8,603	0	8,603
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	5,995	0	5,995
Teaching Materials	3,300	8,390	- 5,090
Cash Disbursement	338,681	329,796	8,884
Logistics, Transport & Storage	3,656	858	2,798
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,656	858	2,798
Personnel	30,774	18,208	12,566
National Staff	-	41	- 41
National Society Staff	1,800	185	1,615
Volunteers	28,974	17,982	10,992
Workshops & Training	23,650	3,321	20,329
Workshops & Training	23,650	3,321	20,329
General Expenditure	31,781	7,105	24,676
Travel	13,505	3,610	9,895
Information & Public Relations	13,100	0	13,100
Office Costs	-	137	- 137
Communications	300	516	- 216
Financial Charges	4,876	2,842	2,034
Contributions & Transfers		75,221	-75,221
National Society Expenses	-	75,221	-75,221.42
Indirect Costs	29,579	28,789	790.21
Programme & Services Support Recover	29,579	28,789	790.21
Grand Total	484,636	471,689	12,947