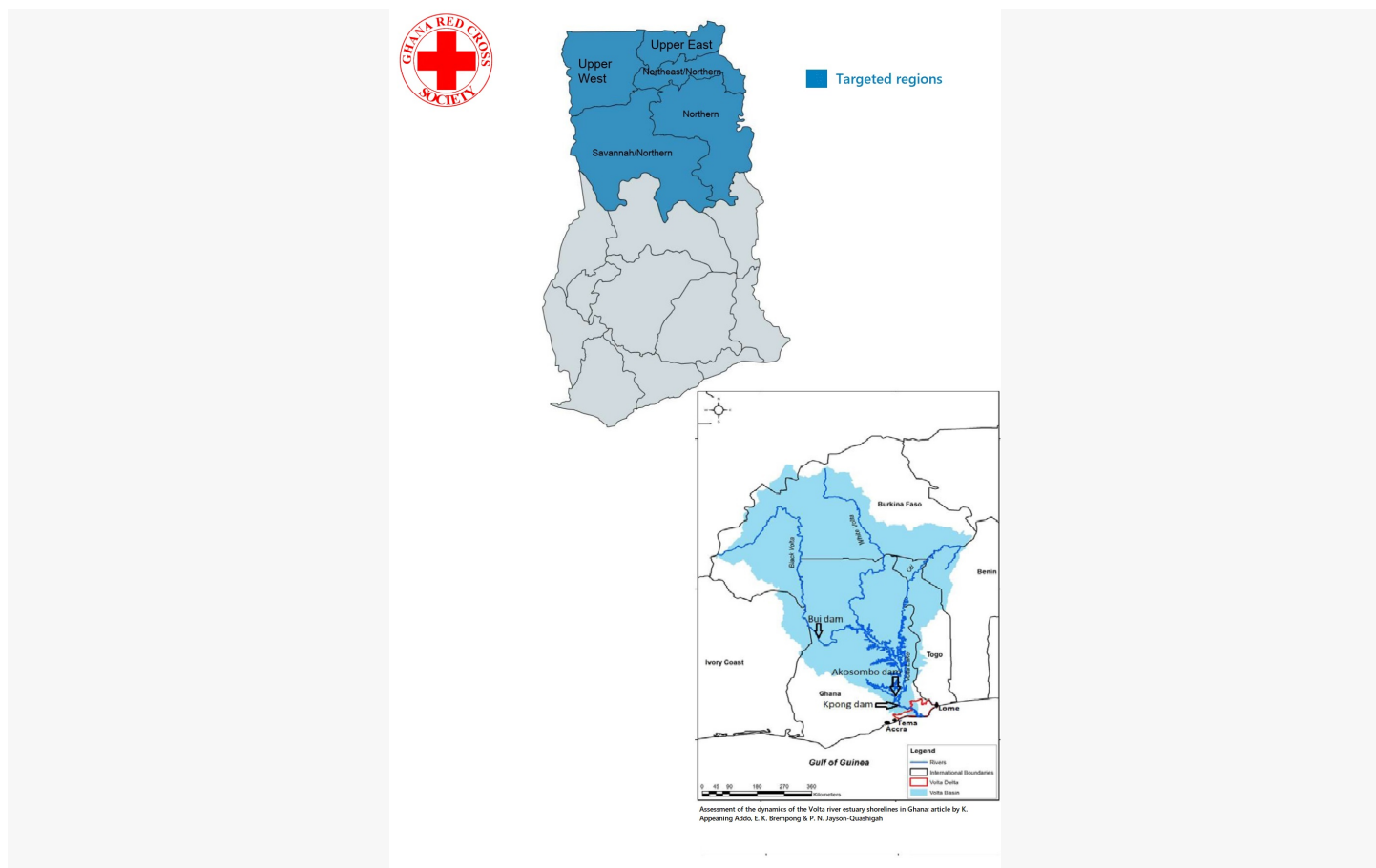




Distribution of NFIs in the Buipe Savannah Region/Ghana Red Cross Society photo

Appeal: MDRGH018	Total DREF Allocation: -	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 26,000 people	People Targeted: 12,000 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 05-08-2023	New Operational End Date: 30-04-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 8 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 04-11-2023		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 21-02-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: -		Targeted Areas: Northern, Volta	

Description of the Event



Ghana Red Cross Society Map with assessment of Volta River and Burkina Dam in Reversing flooding.

Date when the trigger was met

2023-10-14

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 Society (GRCS) 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, and 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 18 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 26 October, 35,857 people were affected cumulatively in the Volta area. Highest impact was reported with floods on 14 October 2023 in Volta region when the Akosombo dam experienced 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 23 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 farmlands 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 are still putting the North in additional risk of flooding.



Community members sign for NFIs received in Buipe /GRCS
Photo



CEA desk receiving feedback and complaints in savannah region/GRCS Photo

Scope and Scale

Over 26,000 people have been affected in Savannah on 23 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 did not 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 Osuduko, 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). They 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 continues.

- 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 people 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 (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 living in the flooded locations; 45,326 hectares of flooded cropland areas. People Likely to be affected as the ones 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	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

The response to the flooding event started in early November 2023 following the changes from an Imminent DREF to a response. Most planned activities have been carried out:

- Distribution of Aquatabs and jerrycans for water purification to 2000 HH
- Distribution of Long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets to 2000 HH
- Distribution of blankets to 2000 HH
- Distribution of dignity kits to 1050 women of childbearing age
- Distribution of tents and tarpaulins to 66 families
- Hygiene promotion and health awareness reaching 122,000 people so far
- Training of 80 volunteers and 30 Staff both from Regional Branches and Headquarters in the areas of CVA (Multipurpose cash transfer), Health, EPIC, WASH, PSS, PGI and RFL.

However, a no-cost extension is required to accomplish outstanding activities below:

- Distribution of cash to 2000 identified HHs: The distribution will be done on fourth week of February 2024. This activity was delayed because there was no contract with Financial Service Provider (FSP). The discussions took a long time and the signing of MoU and transfer of Funds to the FSP is still being finalized. To avoid the same situation to happen again, a much longer-term MoU for CVA will be signed.
- Replenishment of NS stock with 50 family tents and 100 tarpaulins. An exceptional approval was granted by Geneva Logistics to



procure these items from WFP on 26 January 2024 at the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) WFP stocks. Duty exemption is currently under process through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ghana Revenue Authority. This was the first time Ghana IFRC office was procuring from the UNHRD in Accra, and therefore no delays are expected in the future since this connection has been established.

- Post distribution Monitoring: it will take place 2 to 3 weeks after cash distribution and will include collecting feedback for both NFIs and CVA distribution.

- Lesson Learned Workshop: this will be the last activity to be undertaken after the PDM. It will bring together stakeholders, partners, and sampled community members to provide their inputs into the performance of the operation.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

2023-08-05



Communities signing off for NFIs received in Buipe community/GRCS photo



Feedback Desk in Buipe community/GRCS photo



NFI ready for distribution in Buipe/GRCS photo

Shelter, Housing And Settlements

Upon receiving the information on the flooding situation in Savannah 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.

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.

Health

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.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The NS procured 70,020 Aquatabs as part of the early actions, the Aquatabs will now be distributed to the people affected by the flooding in Buipe and Volta. Already 10,000



	Aqutabs have been dispatched to Volta region for distribution.
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - Branches kept monitoring the community alert system in place in coordination with the community disaster reduction committee. - Monitoring of the weather and forecast is done with the NADMO (National Disaster Management Organization). - Volunteers was also mobilized to monitor the hazard materialization in parallel to the weather bulletin and NADMO alert system across the regions.
Coordination	<p>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>
National Society Readiness	<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 in 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>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC country and cluster have been following the rainfall and flooding situation in Ghana and the Cluster's countries during this flooding season. In August, the IFRC approved an Imminent DREF application for GRCS. The Authorities in Burkina Faso initiated a precautionary process of opening the flood gate of the Bagre dam earlier to ease the likelihood 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>
Participating National Societies	None



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

None

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<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">- Government (1): NADMO- UN (8) – WFP, IOM, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDSS, WHO, UNIDO- INGO (2) – CRS, WVI- Others (2) – CONIWAS, Basic Needs-Ghana
UN or other actors	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 NS through the Regional Manager is 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 meetings and will contribute to a coordinated response and harmonization of IDP list as per the assessment recommendations.

During the response phase of the operations, representatives of NADMO, the local leadership participated and supported the planning of the distribution activities. Health Authorities accompanied the NS' teams in field visits to assess the health situation, they also briefed the NS assessment teams on the prevalence of diseases and the changing disease patterns as a result of the flooding and damage to some of the health facilities in the area.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



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 2000 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 1200 families in evacuation centres will receive GHS 1200 support while 800 families living outside the evacuation centres will receive GHS 600 CVA support.



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.



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 diseases. 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.





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 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.



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.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of this operation is to provide emergency assistance to at least 12,000 directly affected persons (2000 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 Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) 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 5000 people. This EPoA 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.

An in-depth assessment will be conducted to complement the initial information shared, for more localized quantitative and qualitative information at district level. The identification of beneficiaries will be completed in parallel. The multi-sectoral assessment will also provide a more detailed situational analysis as the flooding incidence continues 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 have had on the livelihood status at community level in the districts targeted, on 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 requires to start the response covering the current dire needs that were identified through the government assessment. Intervention is in the following sectors:



1. Livelihoods and Basic needs (Target: 12,000 people or 2000 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.

The intervention will hence provide a multipurpose unconditional cash grant to 2000 households to support their livelihoods and cover for medical expenses and other needs according to their peculiarities.

Towards CVA support, 1200 GHS will be disbursed to 1200 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, two weeks after the distribution. Overall, volunteers will work for a total of seven days in this sector, supporting targeting as well.

2. Health (12,000 people or 2000 HH)

First aid and Psychological first aid (PFA) will be provided to families affected by the disaster and 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. Hence the need for provision of mosquito nets to reduce risk of malaria. 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 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 (12,000 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 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. Two pieces of 20L jerry cans will be distributed to 200HHs and Aqua tabs will be also distributed for water purification and safe storage for 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.

4. Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Women and children are more vulnerable especially owing to the fact of their homeless condition within 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 NS 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 and 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.

5. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

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, Northeast, 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 NS 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 of 70,020 Aqua tabs. However, there was no negative impact on the people downstream due to early opening and also the lack of heavy rains in Burkina Faso. NADMO advised that it was highly unlikely that a flooding event happens 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 2000 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
Giving the assistance to people not affected by the flooding.	Local administration structures and social services continuously consulted during beneficiary identification and registration.
Limited access to affected populations.	Prepositioning of stocks in nearest point of operation.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Risk:

No major security risk is 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 of 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 be deployed 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



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	110
% of families that confirmed the blankets distributed were useful.	100	-

Progress Towards Outcome

The NS Operational Team updated the evacuation plan in coordination with community leaders, NADMO and local authorities at Savannah and Volta regions. At the onset of the flooding event the NS responded with 66 emergency family tents and shelters mounted at evacuation centres to house 396 families at 4 evacuation centres at Savannah and Volta regions. These activities were undertaken by a section of the trained volunteers.

Further the impact of loss of was ameliorated by the provision 4,000 blankets to the beneficiaries. The teams in the field have continued to review the effectiveness of the shelter support which the NS provided. The family tents have been credited to be an appropriate response tool as it enables the family unit to remain intact as opposed to living in common areas.

The Procurement of 50 Family Tents and 100 Tarpaulins to replenish NS stock under this operation is under process.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 164,829

Targeted Persons: 12,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households reached with cash	2,000	-
# of post distribution monitoring	1	-

Progress Towards Outcome

- A total of 80 volunteers have been trained in CVA data collection at both Savannah and Volta region.
- The data of identified, selected, and registered beneficiaries for multipurpose cash transfer have been processed for 1200 Households at safe havens and 800 households outside safe havens.
- Signing of MoU and transfer of funds to the FSP are being finalized and cash distribution is still to be done.



Health

Budget: CHF 32,216

Targeted Persons: 26,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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#of people reached with health services and awareness messages	26,000	122,000
#of volunteers mobilized and trained.	80	80
%of households that confirmed using the mosquito nets distributed.	100	100

Progress Towards Outcome

- 80 volunteers were trained to EPIC and health promotion as planned.
- Upon consultations with the health authorities, the trained volunteers carried out awareness and sensitization messages to risks such as malaria, diarrhea, bilharzia, dissemination of key messages on health prevention against water-borne related diseases, risks and injuries in flooding situations, positive health seeking behaviours, immunization of children under 5 years. These messages were delivered by volunteers through house-to-house, public gathering such as markets, churches, mosques and use of community information centres (CiCs) and reached 122,000 people so far. The health education is going on.
- To support communities with prevention measures, 4000 long-lasting insecticide mosquito nets distributed to 2000 households at both Savannah and Volta regions.
- 20 volunteers were identified and trained in psychosocial support in livelihoods, region, which had the highest level of impact. The volunteers assisted communities impacted by the flooding who had lost livelihoods, basic shelter and some had injuries during the flooding events. The training focused on building the capacity of volunteers to identify communities who were most vulnerable and struggling to cope with the losses and trauma and referring them to the available health facilities and professionals for support. The volunteers also assured the affected communities that the Ghana Red Cross and other partners in the field were at hand to provide both material and financial support to those most in need.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 101,340

Targeted Persons: 26,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#of HHs reached with jerrycans and Aquatabs.	2,000	2,000
#of volunteers train.	80	80
#of women of childbearing age reached with dignity kits.	1,050	1,050
%of families confirming their hygiene practice and access to safe water improved.	70	-

Progress Towards Outcome

- The WASH interventions provided much needed services such as improving knowledge to risks associated with WASH services to the affected population.
- 1050 girls and women of childbearing age received dignity kits.
- 2000 households received jerrycans and Aqua tabs and were trained to the use of it for potabilization and safe storage of water.
- A total of 50 handwashing station have been setup at the safe havens at Mepe, Buipe and some selected in the affected communities at Volta and Savannah regions respectively.
- 80 trained volunteers were able to support the achievements of the activities such as engagement of affected communities on clean up campaigns, environmental hygiene, follow-up visits at household level to ensure that awareness knowledge was being put into practice. The WASH messages were delivered at the same time with the Health Promotion ones, especially during community gathering and also through radio and the use of Community Information Centres.





Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 7,699

Targeted Persons: 12,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# people reached	12,000	12,000
#sessions carried out on PGI	6	15
# volunteers sensitized	20	80

Progress Towards Outcome

The needs of vulnerable communities were addressed by actively seeking people with special needs who had been affected by the flooding in both regions. Before deployment, in all 15 distribution centres the volunteers signed a Code of Conduct and specific attention on issues of PGI were emphasized as part of the induction prior to the deployment. There were no cases of missing or separated family members. Therefore, the RFL component was not delivered to the volunteers. Sensitized volunteers worked with local leadership. During the distribution of NFIs, registered women, elderly and those with children to ensure they received first priority.



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	30
# of radio engaged	2	1
% of sampled population.	20	-
# of people engaged in focus group and discussions.	1,000	-

Progress Towards Outcome

- 20 volunteers were trained on CEA in Volta region while 10 were orientated in CEA in Savannah to ensure they can clearly convey to communities the objectives of the operation, ensure a good flow of information and clear roles and responsibilities between representatives, community leaders and committees.
- CEA focal points were identified in the communities to collect complaint and feedback while reporting to the HQ throughout the project timeframe.
- Feedback systems were set-up at the distribution centres, and in the communities and ensure to process the complaints received. Feedback were also be provided to the community to ensure they were aware their feedback had been considered. The feedback and complaints desk received 200 communities' members complaints.
- 85% of the complaints were resolved and were mainly on verification of mobile numbers used for the NFI and CVA, request for new registration, change of mobile money numbers.



- Less than 1% who were male beneficiaries also complained that they had young wives but had not received the dignity kits. It was explained to them that the dignity kits targeted women and adolescent girls who had been identified at the time of registration.
- 15% were on issues which could not be resolved, and this was mainly on community members who presented tokens and their identification cards which were not in the records of the Ghana Red Cross data base. They still wanted to be served and were advised that all the information needed to match, their token, identification cards, and picture needed to match those in the database.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 24,620

Targeted Persons: 132

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#of monitoring reports	2	6

Progress Towards Outcome

The Secretariat provided oversight support in the execution of the operation. It coordinated the availability of financial resources to the NS and supported the National Society to engage with national level actors such as NADMO. The Secretariat also ensured compliance to procurements and financial procedures during the procurement and reporting on the field level activities. It also coordinated with the United National Humanitarian Response Department (UNHRD) for procurement of family tents and Tarpaulins, also is providing ongoing support to custom duty exemptions as provided in the Status agreement between the IFRC and Government of Ghana.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 57,133

Targeted Persons: 132

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Coordination meeting conducted externally.	4	2
Coordination meeting conducted by RC/RC.	8	2

Progress Towards Outcome

A total of 80 volunteers underwent a training in data collection using Kobo Collect. Forty (40) mobile tablets were distributed among volunteers in both the Savannah and Volta regions. These tablets served to identify, select, and register beneficiaries for various response initiatives. This technological integration not only expedited the information gathering process but also enhanced the accuracy and accessibility of data for a more precise and tailored humanitarian response.

There was Internal coordination weekly meetings involving various technical departments such as Disaster Management, Health, Logistics, Finance and Administration to review the operational requirements and defined roles for each department in fulfilling the objectives of the response. Such meeting was chaired by the Secretary General.



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. Forty (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.

The Surge was deployed for a period of 2 months. The Surge supported the national society in the planning and field execution of the operation. He extensively travelled to the Field in Buipe, South and North Tongu districts. He was involved in the actual distribution of the NFIs in the affected communities, reaching the planned 2000 households.

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

The NS undertook the procurement of all NFIS such as the handwashing facilities, 4000 jerricans, 4000 blankets, 4000 mosquito nets, 180,000 aqua tabs, 1050 dignity kits and 1050 hygiene kits. The NS was supported by the IFRC logistics from the Cluster during a three-week mission. The IFRC logistics ensured that there was compliance to the procurement procedures. A committee of contracts with representation from DM, Logistics, Finance, Internal Audit unit and Health participated in the bid, opening, analysis and recommendations on the most competitive suppliers.

Logistics

After the exceptional approval to engage the current FSP for the CVA component, the Ghana Red Cross Society is in the process of finalizing the MoU signing and embarks on transfers to the 2000 targeted households.

Finance and Administration

- A dedicated Finance Officer has been assigned the role of supporting the operation, the key functions are to ensure that there are timely cash flow requests, expenditure and reporting to the IFRC. The officer also ensures the expenditures are properly justified.

The IFRC has taken charge of the procurement of tents and tarpaulins as these require duty exemption from the United National Humanitarian Response Depot. The IFRC due to its legal status in Ghana has this facility upon recommendation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) unit of GRCS has been at the forefront within the team assembled to plan, execute and report on the operation. The Implementation of the operation has also been tracked through regular information sharing and carrying out joint planning between the IFRC and Ghana Red Cross. Joint field monitoring visits have also been carried out guided by a performance-based management system. The PMER unit with the assistance of the sector leads has been able to develop the following tools:

- a. A monitoring schedule and appropriate tools to collect data.
- b. monitoring framework 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.
- c. 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.

The cluster has also been briefed on a weekly basis by the IFRC office in Ghana, highlighting key achievements and challenges. The



Operations Coordinator at the Cluster in Abuja has been in regular contact with the IFRC office to provide support and guidance when needed.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Communication department of the NS has been actively engaged in the operation. It has maintained contact with key media houses - electronic and print media. These media houses have covered the events during the launch of the DREF operations, and during distribution activities. The field team has also been able to share action pictures in the field which have been posted on the National Society Social media accounts such as Facebook.

The IFRC has shared action pictures and video which have been posted in twitter accounts for both field individuals and also the Africa region twitter account.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRGH018 - Ghana Red Cross Ghana Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	380,946
Shelter and Basic Household Items	66,651
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	164,829
Health	32,216
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	101,340
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	7,699
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	8,211
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	81,752
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	24,620
National Society Strengthening	57,133
TOTAL BUDGET	462,699

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

