



Gabú Central Market Fire incident, Guinea-Bissau

Appeal: MDRGW005	Country: Guinea-Bissau	Hazard: Fire	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 113,239	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 4,300 people	People Targeted: 966 people	
Operation Start Date: 06-02-2025	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 30-06-2025	DREF Published: 11-02-2025
Targeted Areas: Cacheu, Gabu			

Description of the Event

Date of event

23-01-2025

What happened, where and when?

Between 19 to 23 January, two major fires hit the villages of Gabu and Djofunco in Guinea-Bissau.

On 19 January 2025, a short circuit triggered a fire in Gabú Central Market, a key economic center in Gabú region, eastern Guinea-Bissau. The blaze destroyed 11 warehouses and damaged 29 cabinets, including 8 that were completely burned. The disaster directly affected 90 traders and 585 dependents, while more than 3,500 people who rely on the market's services are now facing economic challenges. The market's loss has further destabilized a region already struggling with limited livelihood options.

On 23 January, another fire swept through Djofunco Village in Cacheu Region, destroying 31 homes (12 completely and 19 partially). The fire directly impacted 224 people and indirectly affected the entire village of 800. Families lost homes, food supplies, and farming tools, increasing their economic vulnerability and worsening food insecurity. The village's remote location and difficult terrain make delivering humanitarian aid even more challenging.





Scope and Scale

The fire incident impacted 138 households across two communities. Impact is as follows for the two incidents:

- In Gabú, the fire took place in the Gabú central market and spread to the communities. Some 90 households were affected, including 29 shop owners. In less than a day, the fire, caused by a short circuit, rapidly spread through the market, consuming a significant portion of the infrastructure and devastating the livelihoods of many traders and their dependents. The fire completely destroyed 11 warehouses, while 29 cabinets sustained damages, 8 of which were entirely burned down.
- In Djofunco, 48 households were affected, comprising 31 directly impacted families and 17 host families. This fire, of unknown origin, destroyed 31 houses (12 completely burnt and 19 partially destroyed) and directly affected 224 individuals, who lost their homes, food reserves, personal belongings, and farming tools. Indirectly, the entire village population of 800, dependent on agriculture, is facing heightened economic and social vulnerability. Survivors are displaced, with some sleeping in burned houses and others relying on neighboring villages for shelter. Food insecurity is a critical concern as essential reserves were destroyed. The village's remote location and sandy terrain pose logistical challenges for delivering humanitarian aid, exacerbating the crisis.

The fire has led to the loss of essential household items, with a huge need on restoring shelter, dignity, and economic stability for these families. There have also severe losses to 121 families among the 138. These are families that have lost their belongings, and shelter. In Djofunco, affected families were forced to displacement and have found refuge in host families. A total of 17 families are now hosting and supporting affected families, tapping into their own resources. The situation is threatening the safeguarding of health, dignity and capacity of the 138 affected families.

The fire's impact is compounded by existing vulnerabilities in the Gabú Region. Many households already face economic challenges, and the destruction of the market has further reduced their coping capacities. Moreover, the lack of robust fire prevention measures and response mechanisms highlights systemic gaps that should be addressed to strengthen community resilience.

The Gabú Central Market where fire occurred on 19 January is a critical economic hub in the region, serving not only traders but also the surrounding communities. According to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau, around 90 traders were directly affected by the disaster, representing approximately 585 dependents. More than 3,500 individuals who rely on the market's daily services have been indirectly impacted. The destruction of warehouses and cabinets has severely disrupted economic activities in the area, leaving many families without a stable income. Many traders lost all their goods and resources, while others are facing the challenge of rebuilding their businesses from scratch. This disaster is expected to exacerbate the economic vulnerability of the region, where many families already face limited livelihood opportunities.

Both the Gabú Central Market fire and the Djofunco Village fire represent significant challenges for the directly affected population and for the medium-term impact it will have in the dynamic and economic stability for urban and rural communities. They serve as a central hub for both urban and rural populations, making it a vital source of food, goods, and services for the region. The destruction of this market, therefore, has widespread implications for food security, economic stability, and social well-being for the families affected but also across the villages and surroundings.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-



Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:

Key Learnings from the 2023 Menegue Fire Incident that will be considered for current Operation:

- Regular market assessments and the flexibility to adjust interventions based on market dynamics ensured that cash assistance remained relevant, timely, and effective in meeting beneficiary needs.
- Providing accessible and clear information
- Ensured transparency, minimized misunderstandings, and fostered collaboration with stakeholders.
- Enhanced community engagement, strengthened relationships, built trust, and ensured that interventions were responsive to specific needs.
- Clear and consistent communication of Red Cross roles, responsibilities, and support mechanisms significantly reduced confusion and ensured community understanding and cooperation.
- Implementing digital registration and verification systems streamlined processes, reduced errors, and expedited beneficiary validation.
- Engaging community committees in these processes further improved accuracy and fostered greater acceptance within the community.
- Transparent communication regarding aid distribution processes, eligibility criteria, and selection procedures helped mitigate misunderstandings and built trust. This approach cultivated community ownership and reinforced accountability.
- Supporting and empowering local committees
- Enhanced ownership and accountability, contributing to long-term sustainability.
- Capacity building of community-led structures fostered better governance, inclusive decision-making, and strengthened resilience.
- Providing cash support for purchasing items and rebuilding homes were more dignified and empowering for beneficiaries compared to distributing procured items. The flexibility and autonomy offered by cash assistance were highly valued.
- Leveraging community committees for outreach ensured the use of local knowledge and networks, significantly enhancing engagement, raising awareness, and increasing participation in the response efforts.
- Robust feedback systems and diverse communication channels ensured that the operation was responsive to community needs. They also enhanced accountability and empowered the community to actively shape the response.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation: Ongoing monitoring and evaluation processes helped identify successes, challenges, and areas for improvement, enabling data-driven decisions and continuous refinement of the response strategy. With limited capacity and technical roles at branch level, the NS will organize monitoring and technical support to the operation essentially through HQ. The operation also needs to serve as a leverage for capacity building of these staff at branch level, ensuring decentralization with time.
- Frequent IFRC delegation visits and continuous updates: Regular visits and continuous meetings with the IFRC Delegation played a crucial role in aligning the response with the operational strategy. These visits ensured that adjustments were made in a timely manner to address evolving challenges

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

24-01-2025

Coordination	<p>The RCGB is actively coordinating with local authorities and stakeholders to mobilize resources for immediate assistance. Priority areas include emergency shelter, food distribution, and livelihood support for affected families. To strengthen the response, RCGB is also preparing to scale up operations by deploying additional volunteers and materials as resources allow.</p> <p>In the longer term, recovery efforts will focus on enhancing market infrastructure</p>
---------------------	--



	<p>resilience and community preparedness. Planned measures include electrical safety improvements and disaster preparedness training for market users, traders, and local authorities to mitigate future risks.</p> <p>These coordination efforts have been essential in shaping this response plan, ensuring immediate relief while laying the foundation for long-term resilience in affected communities.</p>
Assessment	<p>Following the fires at Gabú Central Market on 19 January 2025, and Djofunco Village on 23 January 2025, the Red Cross of Guinea-Bissau (RCGB) swiftly mobilized resources to assess the damage and coordinate relief efforts.</p> <p>Immediately after the Gabú market fire, RCGB's regional team deployed five trained volunteers to conduct a rapid needs assessment, documenting the extent of losses and engaging with affected traders and community members. To strengthen the response, an additional 20 volunteers were later dispatched to assess both disaster sites. These assessments highlighted the urgent need for humanitarian support and have been instrumental in shaping this response plan to effectively address the socio-economic impact on affected households.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>As part of its ongoing support, the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation, based in Freetown, has been offering technical expertise to the RCGB to enhance its capacity in providing humanitarian assistance, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. This has included coordinating support from IFRC membership and assisting with organizational development, as well as representing the RCGB in international forums to secure additional resources. The IFRC has been providing consistent guidance to the GBRC in identifying key areas for intervention, ensuring that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined for an efficient response.</p> <p>The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has been actively supporting the RCGB in its response to the recent fire incidents in Gabú Central Market and Djofunco Village. Since the onset of the disasters, the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation has been in close communication with the RCGB, providing technical assistance and ensuring effective coordination of the response efforts.</p> <p>The IFRC has been closely monitoring the situation through frequent meetings with the GBRC to stay updated on their response activities. The IFRC is actively supporting the National Society (NS) with the update of the GO-Platform, ensuring accurate information and data for effective coordination. In addition, the IFRC has been facilitating the development of a DREF (Disaster Relief Emergency Fund) application, aimed at enabling the GBRC to provide critical humanitarian assistance to the affected populations. The IFRC is also working to mobilize resources for the response, including engaging partners such as Qatar Red Crescent to support the efforts.</p> <p>While a situation report has already been shared, there have been no formal funding commitments yet. However, the IFRC continues to facilitate communication between the RCGB and potential partners, advocating for further support. The IFRC Country Office in Freetown will continue to provide dedicated assistance throughout the implementation of the DREF activities and remain engaged in supporting the RCGB to address immediate humanitarian needs while focusing on longer-term recovery and resilience-building efforts.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>There is currently no Partner National Society present in Guinea-Bissau. However, the Qatar Red Crescent has expressed interest in the recent fire incidents. The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation has shared a situation report with their team and is actively coordinating with them. While discussions are ongoing, no funding commitments have been made at this time.</p>



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

There is no ICRC presence in Guinea Bissau

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	Government authorities arrived promptly at the scene to assess the situation and ensure public safety following the fire. However, no concrete support has been provided to the affected individuals or communities. As a result, families and traders are heavily reliant on the Red Cross of Guinea-Bissau and other humanitarian actors for assistance but for now, no other assistance is reported. This gap in government support underscores the urgent need to strengthen disaster response mechanisms and social support systems to improve the effectiveness of emergency interventions in the future. Coordination among partners and ongoing efforts for resource mobilization are critical to addressing immediate needs and supporting long-term recovery.
UN or other actors	Following the fire incidents, a high-level visit was made to the scene by various organizations and international partners to assess the situation and express their concerns. While these visits have demonstrated solidarity, no tangible support has been provided to address the immediate needs of the affected population. The NS continues to advocate for coordinated efforts among these partners, urging for a comprehensive and timely response to effectively address the crisis and provide relief to those impacted.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The recent fires in Djofunco Village and Gabú have displaced many families and traders, severely hindering their recovery. In Djofunco Village, 31 homes were destroyed, leaving families homeless. Seventeen of these families are staying with hosts in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, urgently needing assistance to rebuild their homes and access basic necessities such as mattresses, cooking utensils, and clothing. Providing temporary shelters is critical to reduce health risks and alleviate pressure on host families.

In Gabú, the fires destroyed 11 warehouses and damaged 29 stores, with 8 completely burned, affecting 90 traders. Among them, 29 traders need immediate help to rebuild their stalls and restore their livelihoods. In total, 60 families (31 from Djofunco and 29 whose stores were destroyed) are facing urgent shelter needs. The fires have also impacted the broader community, as the Gabú Central Market, a key economic hub, remains closed. Reconstructing the market is crucial for restoring access to goods and economic stability in the region.

Immediate action is needed to provide temporary shelter, essential household items, and support for rebuilding homes and market infrastructure. Coordinated efforts will help affected communities recover and regain stability.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The recent fires at Gabú Central Market and Djofunco Village have caused major disruptions to livelihoods, leaving traders, farmers, and households in urgent need of assistance to restore their economic activities. The following livelihood needs have been identified as critical for the recovery of affected individuals and communities:

- **Livelihood Restoration.** The fire at Gabú Central Market has directly impacted 90 traders and their families, as well as the broader community that relies on the market for daily sustenance. Immediate support is needed to help traders restore their businesses, including financial resources, restocking goods, and offering business support to help them resume their economic activities. Some



traders, who have lost not only their goods but also infrastructure such as storage and stalls, require assistance to rebuild their businesses.

In Djofunco Village, many households depend on agriculture and petty trading as their primary livelihoods. The fire destroyed 31 homes, leaving many individuals, including women-headed households, without their means of income. These already vulnerable households are facing an added crisis as their ability to generate income has been severely impacted. Farmers, in particular, have lost essential assets like seeds, crops, and farming tools, further hindering their ability to rebuild their livelihoods.

- **Food Assistance.** The disaster has also left many households with limited access to food. Host families, who are providing temporary shelter to displaced individuals, are struggling to support them due to their own limited food reserves. Emergency food aid is urgently needed to assist affected households during the recovery period, as many have lost their income and cannot afford to purchase food.

- **Support for Host Families.** The displacement of affected households has placed significant pressure on host families, who are already living in poor conditions with limited resources. These host families are providing food, shelter, and basic necessities to displaced individuals, but they are struggling to meet these needs. With an average size of 5 to 7 members, these households are finding it difficult to accommodate additional individuals. Furthermore, many host families rely on agriculture and small businesses, both of which have been impacted by the fire. As a result, host families are indirectly affected by the crisis and require support to avoid further strain on their already fragile livelihoods.

Without intervention, both directly affected households and host families will face increased food insecurity and financial hardship. Cash assistance is urgently needed to support the livelihoods of affected households and their hosts, ensuring that both groups can meet their basic needs and begin to rebuild their lives.

The fires have left many families and traders without the means to support themselves, with many also facing additional hardships due to the loss of basic necessities. Immediate cash assistance and livelihood support are essential to restoring economic activities, preventing food insecurity, and enabling affected communities to rebuild.



Health

In the wake of the disaster, many families and traders have been displaced, with some seeking shelter in neighboring homes or temporary accommodations. The destruction of homes and businesses has significantly increased vulnerabilities, particularly in terms of health and sanitation. Without adequate shelter and resources, affected communities face a higher risk of health issues. The lack of proper sanitation facilities exacerbates the risk of water- and vector-borne diseases, including malaria and acute watery diarrhea. There is also an urgent need to prevent the spread of cholera, which could further worsen the situation.

The NS has been on the ground, deploying 20 volunteers to provide initial rescue, first aid, and psychosocial support. However, ongoing efforts are required to address the broader health concerns. The NS remains committed to promoting good health and hygiene practices and is focused on improving sanitation in the affected areas.

In addition to the physical health risks, many traders and their dependents are experiencing significant emotional and psychological trauma due to the loss of livelihoods, homes, and personal belongings. The emotional toll of the disaster has led to widespread stress, anxiety, and grief. Psychosocial support is urgently needed to help individuals cope with these emotional challenges. While the NS has already initiated mental health support, continued interventions are necessary to address the long-term psychological needs of the affected communities.

Given the vulnerabilities resulting from the disaster, there is an immediate need for both health and psychosocial support to safeguard the well-being of the affected population. Coordinated efforts are needed to address both physical and mental health needs to prevent further complications and provide comprehensive care. The support of humanitarian partners is essential to meet these needs and support the recovery of the affected communities.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The fire incidents frequency and the continuous risk for the markets and households also require urgent action. These incidents underscore the need for comprehensive disaster preparedness and response mechanisms to reduce vulnerability and improve resilience across Guinea-Bissau. Therefore, long-term recovery strategies should focus on disaster risk reduction to safeguard communities against future emergencies. In another hand, some actions in the long term require institutional engagement and planning beyond just the RCGB. These fires also underscore the urgent need to address gaps in fire prevention, disaster preparedness, and emergency response. Immediate humanitarian intervention is essential to support affected families, restore livelihoods, and enhance resilience to future



disasters. Even though this might not be addressed under the scope of this DREF, there is the need for safe reconstruction of critical markets infrastructure; fire prevention in various most at-risk contexts that have been learnt from past incidents.



Community Engagement And Accountability

There is a critical need for Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in the response to the fire incidents in Gabú and Djofunco. Active participation of the affected communities is essential for both the immediate response and long-term recovery. The lack of community involvement can undermine the effectiveness and sustainability of recovery efforts, highlighting the need for a structured approach to build trust, promote community-led decision-making, and empower individuals to take ownership of the recovery process.

Given the reliance on solar panels and batteries for electricity in both locations, there is an urgent need for fire prevention education and safe electrical practices. The fire incidents underscore the importance of raising awareness around the proper handling and maintenance of batteries and solar systems. Community members, particularly those responsible for solar systems, must be equipped with the knowledge to reduce the risk of future fires.

Additionally, there is a need for participatory planning to develop community-driven strategies for disaster risk reduction. This includes the need to establish evacuation routes, identify fire-prone areas, and promote fire safety measures. Community members must be engaged in the planning of these actions to ensure they reflect the realities and concerns of those directly affected by the fires.

Moreover, a robust complaints and feedback mechanism is urgently needed. Community members should have a platform to voice their concerns and provide input throughout the response and recovery phases. Without such a mechanism, there is a risk that the response may fail to adapt to the evolving needs of the community, potentially delaying necessary adjustments to the strategy. This feedback loop is crucial to ensuring that the recovery efforts are responsive, effective, and accountable to the affected population.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

- Inadequate data on vulnerable groups. While the assessment identified the direct impact on households and traders, more detailed information on vulnerable subgroups like elderly, people with disabilities, women-headed households, and children was limited. Their specific needs, such as specialized medical care or child protection services, have not been fully captured in the initial assessment.
- Insufficient livelihoods impact analysis. Although the destruction of businesses and homes was acknowledged, a deeper analysis into the long-term impact on livelihoods, including the wider economic repercussions for the region and the exact number of people who rely on the affected market for their survival, is lacking. This includes understanding the broader ripple effects on other sectors like agriculture and small-scale trade, which may be indirectly impacted.
- Lack of detailed infrastructure assessment. While the destruction of market infrastructure in Gabú was noted, the specifics of what is required for rebuilding, such as the scale of repairs or new construction materials needed, have not been done. Similarly, the exact needs of farmers and traders whose equipment and resources were lost in the fire need a more detailed evaluation.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall goal of this operation is to deliver immediate assistance to the 966 individuals (approximately 138 households) affected by the fire incidents in Gabú Central Market and Djofunco Village. The operation will prioritize addressing the critical needs through cash, allowing flexibility to access basic needs and essential services covering shelter, livelihoods, health, and WASH needs in the next weeks while they are restoring their living conditions.

Operation strategy rationale

The operation will last for 04 months and will be essentially focusing on cash assistance and immediate services and prevention messages for the affected families. The intervention strategy is summarized below:

1. Shelter Target: People 420 (60 Households)
The shelter intervention will provide conditional cash to 60 households whose houses and shops were destroyed. This will be the prerequisite to this assistance and the beneficiaries have already been identified. It includes 31 houses in Djofunco village that were identified during the assessment, and 29 traders whose shops / cabinets were destroyed in Gabú Mark Center. The support for reconstruction



amounting to XOF 215,000 (CHF312) per HH. This installment will help these families in the construction and purchase of rebuilding material for either their businesses or their houses fully destroyed by fire.

2. Multipurpose Cash Transfers (MPCT)- Target: 966 people (138 households)

Cash assistance of XOF 154,000 to all the 138 families affected, covering their basic needs and food access while they are recovering from the fire impact to their life. The cash value provided is expected as a one-off and done through the active Financial Service Provider (FSP). It intends to support their wellbeing with dignity and flexibility, helping them to avoid negative coping mechanisms while trying to recover from the huge losses in the already challenging context. The value provided is composed of:

- XOF 120,000 (175 CHF) recommended value from WFP and partners for one month food needs and non-food items for a family of 7 persons. This value covers the basic needs identified for access to essential households' materials or services and food needs.
- XOF 34,000 (CHF 48) to cover only for food needs on month #2. This supplement is necessary to meet nutritional needs for these families for the second month. This value is based on the NS's direct market price observations for a food basket portion for a household of seven in Guinea-Bissau, which includes rice, 1kg of dry beans, 1kg of cooking oil, 1kg of fine salt, 1kg of sugar, and 1kg of onions. This extra support aims to support families' nutritional well-being considering the important disruption of the livelihood for these families. Two-month food support being a minimum for humanitarian support.

The cash intervention will be handled with technical support from IFRC as part of the learnings, NS will ensure monitoring of market to follow-up on current and estimated prices in local market. To achieve the desired outcomes, a two-day training session will be organized for NS cash focal point of branches, Disaster Management focal point, and other key staff involved in the DREF operation. This training will focus on foundational knowledge in Cash and Voucher Assistance to enhance their proficiency in cash transfer mechanisms within emergency contexts.

A market assessment will be conducted before cash distribution to ensure feasibility, while post-distribution monitoring will evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention and guide any necessary adjustments. The NS will ensure awareness is done on the use of cash for the targeted families before the disbursement and after. Monitoring on the use of cash will also be done. Market monitoring will be conducted before and after cash disbursement to check on price and evaluate the trend and impact to the access of material and services by the beneficiaries.

3) Awareness Messages on fire prevention. Hygiene and health risk prevention

volunteers and the branch NDRT members will conduct awareness campaigns, targeting the affected locations, markets and beneficiary families. These efforts will target 966 people across 138 affected households and the surrounding villages. The messages will be focusing on:

- Health and hygiene prevention
- Risk and prevention associated with fire incidents.

Health-related messages are critical in the aftermath of such disasters, where health risks are heightened. Sensitization efforts will emphasize fire prevention, management, and associated health risks, coordinated with civil protection.

4) Engaging the community and ensuring inclusion and protection

An important use of Community engagement will be necessary to meet the above output. NS plans encompass the inclusion of community-led processes, and rigorous monitoring. Using the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach, these efforts aim to increase the acceptance and ownership of the messages by local representatives, village authorities, and the affected communities. This approach aligns with best practices in humanitarian response and enhances the credibility and accountability of the operation. Among the main actions, NS will ensure that:

- A robust community feedback mechanism will be established to further enhance accountability and responsiveness. The mechanism will employ two primary communication channels: first, by setting up community-based committees that monitor the progress of activities and manage grievance and second, by mobilizing a team of trained volunteers for direct complaint management through visits and focus groups. The visits and meetings with groups with the facilitation of the community committees was learnt to facilitate the collection and resolution of complaints and claims from beneficiaries.
- The messages are tailored to the local audience and delivered in the required languages.
- Local representatives' inclusion to the planning and decision making. As they were engaged during assessment, the local committees continue to oversee the beneficiary selection and fund utilization processes, ensuring transparency and community ownership.
- Integrating community feedback and actively involving stakeholders

A comprehensive gender and diversity analysis will be conducted across all sectors, including WASH and shelter, to understand the impact on various groups and to tailor the response accordingly. All sectors will adhere to the IFRC's minimum standards for protection, gender, and inclusion in emergencies.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation will provide support to 138 families, include 121 families that have suffered losses with the fire incident and 17 host families in the affected areas of Gabú and Djofunco Village.

Beneficiary selection and verification is focused on households impacted by the fire incidents. NS is prioritizing both those who have lost their homes and livelihoods due to the fire incidents and vulnerable host families that have shared significant resources with fire affected families.

The RCGB will engage the affected communities through meetings with key stakeholders to explain the selection process, discuss response options, and ensure that community members have the opportunity to share their views. This will also allow the Red Cross to gather important feedback on the operational strategy and adapt the response as new needs arise. Local authorities will be informed, and actions will be coordinated with them.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The 121 households directly hit by the fire incident and targeted here have been identified during the assessment as homeless, in need of shelter and livelihood assistance, or experiencing increased pressure on food and relief capacity. The beneficiaries are identified based on the assessment.

The 18 Host families supported here with MPC and awareness is based on NS assessment and learnings from previous operations. The extension of the multi-usage cash to these families rely on the observation that these families are providing to the displaced individuals with a safe, stable, and dignified temporary living space, allowing them to recover from crisis, and access essential needs while seeking more permanent solutions. Furthermore, that approach is ultimately contributing to a more holistic humanitarian aid; helps reduce any disruption to the social cohesion or create any constraint to the directly affected families that may ends-up sharing more than what they already received, ending more vulnerable.

Total Targeted Population

Women	483	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	483	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	966		

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.	To address inflation risk, regular market monitoring will be conducted by branches. This will allow real-time updates to keep assistance adequate and know if further engagement are needed with traders, and market stakeholders. If inflation is detected through market analysis, the NS will promptly communicate with IFRC for potential budget adjustments to align cash transfers with economic changes. Collaboration with local authorities and financial institutions ensures timely tracking of economic trends for necessary adjustments.



Inadequate communication with the target population. Not communicating beneficiary selection criteria and the date of transfer to beneficiaries can lead to high levels of community frustration and undermine the operations.

To mitigate the risk of inadequate communication, ensure clear and timely dissemination of beneficiary selection criteria and transfer dates to the target population. Regular updates through various channels will reduce confusion and frustration. Engaging with community leaders and local stakeholders will also help in spreading key information effectively and ensure the community remains informed throughout the process.

The limited capacity of NS to implement DREF may affect effective implementation and possible integrity issues

To mitigate the risk of limited NS capacity, it will be useful to provide targeted training and support to enhance operational capabilities for DREF implementation. Regular monitoring and technical assistance will ensure smooth execution and address integrity concerns. Frequent visits and technical support from the IFRC Delegation will further strengthen capacity and ensure compliance with best practices.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The affected community members could be exposed to some security risk as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), looting, theft of assets, and armed robbery, among other criminal activities, which could affect this operation in several ways. Likewise, Red Cross teams are equally exposed to these crimes, in addition to potentially having the affected community attack them if they deem the support provided is not sufficient.

To mitigate such incidents during the operation, all security measures of both the Movement and the Government will be strictly adhered to by all volunteers and staff involved in the operation to reduce risks. The security management as part of this operation will be based on the RCRC's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values. The following actions related to security will be implemented:

- These measures include the respect of visibility through the wearing of jackets and regular communication on all movements.
- Ensure community engagement to provide clear explanations of the role of the Red Cross, the support being provided and beneficiary selection criteria to be clearly communicated. This also follow the learnings from previous operations.
- Regular briefings will be organized to remind volunteers on personal security and safety. All concerned staff and the 20 volunteers will be engaged on the response to complete the Stay Safe 2.0 Global Edition-level 2, so they are briefed on the framework of safer access.
- Security assessment and monitoring of security risk will be ensured by operation coordinator with the support of IFRC.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 22,112

Targeted Persons: 420

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of households (HHs) confirm receiving the cash for construction	60
Percentage of HHs reported having used the cash for reconstruction of their home	90
Number of Community committee meetings held to discuss and support shelter construction	4
Number of PDM conducted	1



Priority Actions

- Carry out an assessment and monitoring of market and prices
- Registration and verification of beneficiaries
- Market analysis and monitoring of construction material prices
- Training of volunteers in cash to support community engagement
- Cash transfer to 60 (31 HHHs in Djofunco and 29 HHHs in Gabú) to allow households to procure necessary building materials. Proceed to "One-off transfer"
- Monitoring by volunteers in the communities to follow-up on the use of the cash by beneficiaries
- Discussions and active sensitization on the assistance through community group discussions, meeting with community stakeholders
- Post distribution monitoring (PDM)
- Technical support will be needed from IFRC to support the NS during the shelter and cash component implementation- from training sessions to PDM.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 39,632

Targeted Persons: 855

Indicators

Title	Target
# of assessment conducted	1
# of staff and volunteers trained in cash voucher assistance	34
# of household receiving unconditional cash assistance	138
# of PDM conducted	1

Priority Actions

- Registration and verification of beneficiaries
- Conduct Information session for 20 volunteers to be engaged in cash distribution
- Deployment of 20 volunteers to sensitize targeted families on the details of Mobile money transactions
- Unconditional cash transfer of funds to 138 households
- Conduct two-day training sessions on CVA Foundational for NS staff and volunteers
- Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) for 1 day after cash disbursement



Health

Budget: CHF 8,334

Targeted Persons: 847

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers trained in first aid, PSS, CEA and safeguarding	20
# of PSS sessions conducted	8

# of affected HHs provided with PSS	121
# of people in affected community reached through health promotion	847

Priority Actions

- Training of 20 volunteers in PSS, first aid, CEA, and safeguarding
- Provide psychosocial support to affected families. Some 20 volunteers will provide PSS support to affected persons for the first month of the operation
- A one-day training will be organized for volunteers involved in this activity
- Conduct hygiene and sanitation campaigns twice a month for 3 months (6 campaigns) to ensure communities, including their water sources are cleaned up from the debris resulting from the fire. This activity will be implemented by 20 volunteers
- 20 volunteers to conduct health prevention awareness with a message on the prevention of water-borne diseases and malaria.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 2,925

Targeted Persons: 854

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of feedback mechanism set-up in affected communities	1
Percentage of households sensitized on fire prevention practice	70
Number of volunteers trained on CEA-RCCE 2	20

Priority Actions

- Train volunteers in RCCE messaging on fire prevention, and health risk
- Hold meetings with affected community stakeholders and target population to engage them on health prevention against waterborne disease risk, and good practice
- Community conversations to agree on the importance of fire education will play a key role to avoid similar situations in the future. The discussion will brought subject on prevention of fire incident and how to react to fire incident in the communities
- Ensure a minimum fire prevention awareness is conducted by volunteers through door-to-door visits in the affected community to build same understanding of risk factors of fire incidents in their community and way to prevent them
- An effective complaints and feedback mechanism will be set up to ensure community feedback is considered in the implementation of this intervention
- Community preferences on the feedback system to be established will be collected during the initial meetings with community leaders and affected households to understand the best communication channel and preferences on feedback and complaint mechanism. Based on the outcomes from these discussions, a feedback mechanism will be chosen accordingly after communities' preferences and agreement.
- Volunteers to engage community and households' heads during meetings especially to provide clear explanations of the role of the Red Cross, the support being provided and beneficiary selection criteria. Clear communication channel and information on NS intervention will be clearly communicated
- For the moment, considering the communities are mainly reachable through face to face, most of the exchanges and communication will be done through volunteers and initial feedback will be collected by volunteers who will ensure information and complaint are fed back and dealt with by the operation's focal point and team members
- The feedback collected will also include feedback from PDM survey. All collected feedback will be analyzed pro-actively to inform actions and operational adjustments.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 20,341

Targeted Persons: 3

Indicators

Title	Target
# of lesson learnt supported	1
# of IFRC support mission conducted	3

Priority Actions

- IFRC Cluster staff deployed for four weeks to support the initial phase of response and coordination with government and partners
- Carryout IFRC Monitoring visits to provide technical support to the NS
- PMER, Ops and Finance monitoring and support for reporting
- The IFRC support will also cover operation kick-off that was learnt to really improve the quality of the operation. A cash focal point of the delegation will also take part of this, ensuring branches are well equipped and briefed on the cash intervention and adequate reporting
- Ensure regular security briefing for IFRC staff
- Ensure methods are put in place to engage the communities during this response from targeting to the response
- Community feedback systems (including rumour and/or perception tracking) are established, and feedback acted upon and used to improve the operation
- DREF lessons learned workshop.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 19,895

Targeted Persons: 1

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers provided with briefing	20
Number of volunteers deployed	20
Number of volunteers insured	20
Number of computers procured	2
Number of staff provided with salary support	5

Priority Actions

- Provide complete briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face with regular security briefings and update through phones and physical meetings
- Ensure volunteers involved in the operation are insured
- Ensure volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities
- Ensure volunteers' safety and wellbeing
- Ensure volunteers are properly trained
- Provide personal protective equipment and visibility for volunteers and staff



- Procure 2 computers for branch managers for data management and reporting
- Provide salary support for 5 staff members (2 branches and 3 HQ)

About Support Services

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

The NS will deploy twenty (20) volunteers who will be insured through this operation to support community engagement, distribution of cash, PSS, and hygiene promotion. The NS DM focal point and staff at both HQ and branch levels will equally be supporting the NS' response while IFRC Country office operations, PMER, logistics, and finance units will provide support to ensure smooth implementation of activities.

To ensure effective support, 20 volunteers will be trained in psychosocial support (PSS), community engagement and accountability (CEA), first aid, and health promotion. These trained volunteers will provide first aid and psychosocial support to affected families as needed.

The Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) focal point will ensure that all volunteers complete a brief online introduction on sexual and gender-based violence case disclosure and referral via PSEA videos, with compliance reported in the operation's activity report.

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

The operation will utilize cash transfer as a modality with no major procurement.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Operations team and leadership of GBRC will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the DREF implementation. The Operations team will also work closely with IFRC Country Cluster Delegation and will be responsible for performance-based management systems and the overall quality and effectiveness of the operation. The performance of the operation will be monitored through a robust system of accountability and reporting, with emphasis placed on tracking the progress of outputs to inform operational planning and decision-making. The PMER unit of the cluster will develop a monitoring schedule and appropriate tools to collect data on key performance indicators to ensure accountability, transparency, and financial management of the operation.

At the end of the operation, a lesson-learned workshop will be organized by RCGB with IFRC and other stakeholders of this operation to reflect on implementation. This workshop will allow for informed planning in future operations planned and implemented by the NS, but it will also allow the NS to reflect on its disaster readiness status.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

RCGB main communication channel will be direct communication to partners on the actions to be engaged. Also, frequent social media publications will be ensured. Aside from the National Civil Protection Service and the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, and Social Cohesion, GBRC will promote the DREF response by participating in key partner meetings to provide updates and align response with the government and other partners.



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Francisco Jose Mendes, Secretary General, franciscojosemendes@ymail.com

IFRC Appeal Manager: Ghulam Muhammad AWAN, Head of Delegation, ghulam.awan@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: John K Gbao, Senior Operations Officer, john.gbo@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: John K Gbao, Senior Operations Officer, john.gbo@ifrc.org

Media Contact: Alhaji Bockarie Abu, Senior PMER Officer, alhaji.abu@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

