



Providing assistance to vulnerable populations

Appeal: MDRBJ020	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 50,000	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Population Movement
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 39,433 people	People Targeted: 13,453 people	People Assisted: 39,313 people
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 04-02-2025	Operational End Date: 31-05-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 3 months
Targeted Regions: Alibori, Atakira, Donga			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Map of the target area of assessment

Date when the trigger was met

21-01-2025

What happened, where and when?

The rise in acts related to the security crisis in the Sahel has gradually spread to border countries, particularly Benin. The Northern departments of the country, particularly Alibori and Atakora, have been the scene of multiple attacks that have displaced thousands of people. The situation is marked by alternating attacks in different localities and periods of calm, which continuously generates population movements between the affected regions and between the border localities of neighbouring countries and Benin.

Despite the lack of media coverage of this crisis and difficulties in accessing information following the attacks due to the security context, the analysis of several sources, including those of the Red Cross branches, highlights a clear deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the northern regions of the country over the past three years. The Benin Red Cross and the authorities are facing a growing crisis, the prolongation of which combined with access and response constraints, is causing serious concern for displaced populations, as well as host communities.

Between December 2021 and September 2022, about 43 attacks were recorded in Benin and attributed to non-state armed groups, according to researcher Kars de Bruijne quoted by the newspaper Le Monde [source 1]. During this period, the Beninese Red Cross monitored the situation in collaboration with the authorities. The attacks, initially limited to the W and Pendjari parks, caused the displacement of 2,284 people to Atakora in two years [source 2].

In 2023, armed incursions have spread to the communes surrounding the Pendjari and W parks, particularly affecting internally displaced people as well as Togolese and Burkinabe refugees. Between 3 April and 13 May, 28 people were killed, kidnappings were reported, and several injuries were recorded. These attacks were concentrated in the communes of Matéri, Tanguiéta, Kérou and Tampassika (Atakora department), causing the displacement of 6,852 people (including 4,267 internally displaced persons and 2,585 refugees) to villages further south in the same communes [source 2].

As of 25 October 2023, Benin Red Cross data showed 13,222 displaced people in Atacora and 5,837 in Alibori, bringing the total number of displaced persons to 19,059. The municipalities affected in Atacora are: Cobly, Kérou, Tanguiéta, Matéri, Natitingou and Toucoutouna. Those concerned in Alibori are: Banikoara, Karimama and Malanville [source 3 – national report MDRB]018fr].

Between January and September 2024, 111 violent incidents and 58 social unrests were recorded. These incidents included attacks, abductions, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions.

In the last quarter of 2024, several attacks were reported. A mapping exercise conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) identified 12,501 internally displaced people, 37 per cent of whom are minors. This is in addition to several thousand asylum-seekers and internally displaced people who have not yet been registered following recent attacks.

On 8 January 2025, a large-scale attack targeted a military position located in the strategic area of "Point Triple", on the border between Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso, precisely in the commune of Banikoara (699.4 km from Cotonou). According to the chief of staff of the National Guard, the group responsible for this attack is one of the best structured and equipped in the region. The incident resulted in the death of about 30 members of the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) and caused significant population movements. A census is underway to assess the extent of displacement and its impact at the community level. Faced with this dramatic situation, several calls for national solidarity have been launched.

Fear and threats from armed groups have led to a population movement that has turned into a growing humanitarian crisis. The evolution of data over the last three years shows an increase in the number of displaced people, from 2,284 in 2021 to nearly 13,000 in 2024, not including those displaced as a result of recent attacks or those living in areas that are still difficult to access. The toll of human and material losses in several localities is pushing hundreds of households to flee their areas of origin, which also impacts local production and the economy of the host communities.

Faced with this deterioration, the local authorities requested humanitarian support from the Benin Red Cross at different times during the crisis, particularly after the events of 2025.

The Movement's partners (ICRC, IFRC, Swiss, Luxembourg and Flemish National Societies), who have been working alongside the Beninese Red Cross for several years in the relevant departments note that the new waves of displacement recorded between the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 required an in-depth assessment of the situation as well as a reinforcement of humanitarian support.

On 21 January 2025, the Benin Red Cross convened a meeting of the Movement's partners to discuss the common approach to the situation and the development of the humanitarian response. However, the census operations are still ongoing. The lack of data on the situation and the limitations of current humanitarian action hamper planning capacity. There was unanimous agreement that there is an urgent need for information collection and analysis to enable more holistic planning.

This DREF allocation was requested to support multisectoral data collection efforts, with the aim of clarifying the situation, prioritizing areas and sectors of intervention, and subsequently a decision was made to develop a comprehensive humanitarian preparedness and response plan to scale-up NS intervention on this protracted crisis. This was well coordinated with partners, ensuring informed evidence-based planning from the assessment for adequate scale-up of the actions. It is to note that a scale up to a DREF for Response was not done as the assessment took more time than anticipated and the DREF could not be further extended or transition to a response DREF, hence, it was then agreed with the NS and Ops team to close the DREF and instead, direct resources to finalize the overall preparedness and response plan. This Assessment operation was completed on 31 May 2025, after three (3) months of implementation.





Enquête ménages



Focus groups avec les femmes à Malanville

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Source 3	https://reliefweb.int/report/benin/benin-floods-dref-operation-n%C2%B0-mdrbj008-final-report
2. Source 1	https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2023/01/27/au-benin-la-lutte-antidjihadiste-fait-craindre-une-stigmatisation-accrue-des-peuls_6159588_3212.html
3. Source 2	https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=682808

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
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IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	During the operation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provided technical and financial support for the development and implementation of the DREF. This technical support has mainly taken the form of regular monitoring of activities by the IFRC's Senior Disaster Management Officer based in Benin, as well as the deployment of Surge staff mobilized by the Abuja Cluster to support the needs assessment and the development of the multi-partner coordinated humanitarian response plan.
Participating National Societies	The Red Cross of Benin welcomed the Partner National Societies (PNSs), which are the Flemish, Luxembourg and Swiss Red Cross. The Flemish Red Cross is mainly involved in the areas of first aid, blood donation and disaster preparedness, while the Luxembourg Red Cross provides support in the shelter, health and water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) sectors. All PNSs provided technical support to the needs assessment process as well as to the planning of the response. In addition, the Luxembourg Red Cross also financed the needs assessment.



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC was already present in Benin through its mission based in Lomé. Since 20 December 2024, it now has a national representation with a dedicated mission in the country to strengthen its support for actions in favor of vulnerable populations. The ICRC and the Beninese Red Cross (CRB) are jointly implementing humanitarian programmes in the areas of health, economic security, water and sanitation, and restoring family links in the departments of Alibori and Atacora. These interventions are complemented by a capacity-building programme for the regional and local committees of the CRB, focusing on safer access and operational security management. The ICRC's technical expertise was used to carry out this operation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	<p>The two prefectures of the departments of Atacora and Alibori have coordination mechanisms in place, based on the organization of regular meetings with all partners, including the National Society (CRB). The aim of these coordination meetings is to take stock of the security situation, identify the needs of displaced people and discuss possible support and actions with partners operating in the Atacora. These meetings bring together several humanitarian and institutional actors, including UNFPA, UNICEF, Plan International Benin, HHISA/USAID, CRB, MSF, GIZ, WFP, ANPC, among others. They provide a framework for exchange to improve interventions in favour of displaced persons.</p> <p>National and local authorities are closely monitoring the situation and its impact on communities. The recent events have triggered widespread fear in the departments already affected by the attacks, pushing the authorities to react publicly. The Government, through the Beninese Civil Protection Agency (ABPC), conducted a general census of the affected communities in the three departments concerned. However, the final report has not yet been released. The ABPC and the Ministry of Social Affairs are actively involved in the evaluation process as well as in the planning of the humanitarian response.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>The department of Atacora has a platform bringing together several international organizations, including United Nations agencies, national organizations and various structured associations (UNFPA, UNICEF, Red Cross of Benin, Plan International Benin, Educo, GIZ, WFP, IHSA/USAID, Handicap International, etc.). The Red Cross of Benin is an active member of this platform under the coordination of the Prefect of the Atacora Department.</p> <p>UN agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP) are supporting affected communities, particularly in the Atacora department, through interventions in the areas of water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH), gender-based violence (GBV) and livelihood support through cash transfers.</p> <p>For their part, EDUCO, Handicap International and Care Benin-Togo support the education and livelihood sectors (through cash transfers for food and/or education). However, the needs remain significant, as evidenced by the key findings of the needs assessment, especially as all funding from USAID is currently suspended, in line with new U.S. government guidelines.</p>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

As an auxiliary of the public authorities in the humanitarian field and an active member of several platforms (national, departmental and local) dedicated to disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, the Benin Red Cross actively participates in planning and monitoring meetings organized at the national and departmental levels. The National Society has a team based in the northern departments, which will ensure the operational implementation of the project with the support of the headquarters team. Sessions are organized with the IFRC to take stock of the evolution of activities in the field in connection with the operational coordination of the NS.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The operation aimed to carry out an in-depth assessment of the needs of internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers and host communities, with a view to better guiding the interventions of the Benin Red Cross (CRB). This evaluation took place in the 19 communes spread over the three departments of northern Benin: Alibori, Atacora and Donga for 3 months.

Operation strategy rationale

The objective of this operation was to carry out a multisectoral assessment of the humanitarian needs generated by the security situation in northern Benin, as well as the specific gaps in humanitarian response affecting the different groups of displaced populations. The assessment particularly targeted internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, asylum seekers and host communities in the departments of Alibori, Atacora and Donga, which are heavily impacted by the ongoing security crisis, including the recent events of January 2025.

A well-structured evaluation framework had been developed. Primary data were collected using a mixed approach combining qualitative techniques (direct observations, focus groups with host and refugee communities) and quantitative techniques (household surveys, key informant questionnaires and individual interviews).

Meetings with key informants (village chiefs, district chiefs, refugee committee leaders, community leaders, representatives of civil society and development associations) were held to gather information based on an interview guide prepared by the evaluation team. Surveys and individual interviews on the themes of ISE/shelter, WASH, health, nutrition, protection were carried out with refugee and displaced households in the areas concerned. Mission reports and secondary data have been used and are still being used.

Particular attention was paid to protection, vulnerability analysis, the level of humanitarian access, as well as the dynamics and factors of social cohesion between the groups concerned. As much as possible, women and men were separated during the Focus Group Discussions (FGD), and specific groups were formed for young people and people living with disabilities, to ensure inclusion and protection issues.

The aim was to ensure that subsequent humanitarian interventions were evidence-based, relevant, and effective in the medium and long term.

Direct observations were conducted using an evaluation grid completed by members of the rapid assessment teams. A total of 193 Focus Groups Discussions were held with different categories of people in the targeted localities. These discussions provided an opportunity to analyze issues and needs at the community level and complement direct observations and Key Informant Interviews. They also fostered interaction with host populations and provided a better understanding of the challenges they face.

The evaluation was carried out in a coordinated manner with the participation of all the actors of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, particularly the IFRC, the ICRC and the Partner National Societies (Luxembourg, Belgian and Swiss Red Cross). This collaboration was part of an inclusive and harmonized approach aimed at strengthening the coordination of partnerships and security arrangements, with the support of the ICRC and the IFRC.

The Secretariat had ensured that the IFRC's approach to migration and displacement was integrated into the objectives, methodology, multisectoral data collection and assessment tools. The evaluation teams included people trained and briefed on the concepts of migration, displacement, protection and community engagement. The Red Cross of Benin (CRB) ensured that a comprehensive assessment of the needs of displaced persons was carried out, respecting their rights, dignity and social cohesion.

The CRB also ensured that humanitarian access and coordination were assessed and strengthened during this phase. Exchange sessions were conducted with the humanitarian organizations present in the departments concerned as well as with the technical services of the State. These exchanges made it possible to strengthen coordination, to better integrate available data and to consolidate actions on the ground. The Beninese Civil Protection Agency actively participated in the process, making its expertise available and helping to ensure the transparency of the actions undertaken. This collaboration was intended to promote an inclusive approach and strengthen the credibility of interventions.

As a result of this evaluation, a Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian response plan was developed based on the results and recommendations of the evaluation. The support of the Movement's partners to the humanitarian situation will be coordinated around this humanitarian response plan.



Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The assessment was carried out in the 19 municipalities of the departments of Alibori, Atacora and Donga, as follows:

- Department of Alibori: Banikoara, Gogounou, Kandi, Karimama, Malanville and Ségbana
- Department of Atacora: Boukoumbé, Cobly, Kérou, Kouandé, Matéri, Natitingou, Péhunco, Tanguiéta and Toucouthoua
- Donga Department: Bassila, Copargo, Djougou and Ouaké.

The latter department was included in the evaluation with the agreement of the Luxembourg Red Cross, which covered all the costs related to the collection of data in this area.

The operation mainly targeted internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers and host communities. It also involved humanitarian actors and local authorities, with the aim of strengthening coordination and ensuring an effective humanitarian response at both community and institutional level.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Targeting considered those affected by the security situation, based on a vulnerability analysis. Particular attention was paid to people with special needs, including the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, the sick, as well as widows and widowers, and those whose health had deteriorated due to the crisis.

A mechanism for the active participation of communities was fully integrated throughout the assessment process. To ensure that needs were equitably addressed, Focus Group Discussions were held involving community members through their representatives, as well as community, religious and state leaders.

Based on demographic data from the general population census, the sample size of the survey was calculated statistically, including 30% refugees, 30% people from host communities, 30% Internally Displaced Persons and 10% asylum seekers. However, the results of the assessment revealed an effective distribution of 29% refugees, 26% Internally Displaced Persons, 30% members of host communities and 15 per cent asylum-seekers.

The qualitative data collection targeted community leaders and stakeholders who were best informed about the situation, such as the leaders of the affected communities, the local authorities (administrative and those of the National Society), and humanitarian actors present in the area.

Total Assisted Population

Rural	-	Urban	-
People with disabilities (estimated)	-		
Total Assisted Population	39,313		
Total Targeted Population	13,453		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes



Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	No
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Inaccessibility of response areas due to threats	The Red Cross of Benin had collected all relevant security information before and during all field missions. Staff and volunteers involved in the process had been briefed beforehand on the Code of Conduct and access rules
The security situation in the border areas of Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo may have a bearing on national security and the overall development of the operation	The Red Cross of Benin had constantly informed its teams of the safety instructions and applicable regulations. The majority of volunteers in these areas had been trained in safe access, security and safety. The CRB maintained good relations with the security forces. During the implementation of the DREF, the National Society had provided refresher sessions for its volunteers
The proliferation of diseases with epidemic potential	During the training sessions, the volunteers received messages on epidemic prevention, particularly on the steps to follow for effective handwashing.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The three departments concerned, which share borders with Burkina Faso, Niger, Pendjari Park and Togo, faced an unstable security situation. This instability, fueled by violence, had led to a growing threat of non-state armed groups and kidnappings in areas of northern Benin, along the borders with Burkina Faso and Niger.

The porous borders with these countries, particularly in the regions where the W forests and the Pendjari national parks are located, made this area vulnerable to incursions by armed groups operating in the Sahel which exploited this favourable terrain.

As the area was still under attack or threatened by these armed groups, the teams had been informed and made aware of the Code of Conduct and the rules for secure access, before and during the operation. The National Society's Security Focal Point had been working with other actors to ensure safe travel and fieldwork, to avoid any potential risks. The team had evolved within the framework of the security policy in force. The volunteer interviewers were instructed on how to behave when collecting the data, to ensure acceptability in the area and among the affected communities.

Outside Cotonou, roads were poorly lit, and night-time travel was discouraged in these areas. As a result, all teams travelled exclusively during the day. Security management was guided by the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Regular updates on the security situation had been organized and disseminated, accompanied by real-time monitoring of activities on the ground via the Benin Red Cross information management system.

An assessment of the security risks specific to each area had been carried out, with the identification and implementation of risk mitigation measures. All members of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as well as staff and volunteers of the National Society, had been required to complete the IFRC's "Stay Safe" online training. During the training sessions, volunteers were also asked to sign the Code of Conduct.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	Yes
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Implementation



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 18,625

Targeted Persons: 13,452

Assisted Persons: 39,313

Targeted Male: 4,166

Targeted Female: 1,244

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of municipalities assessed	10	19
# of general response plan elaborated	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

In the three targeted departments, all 19 municipalities had been covered by the needs assessment. 5,410 consenting households were surveyed with 5401 respondents. The 5,410 households had an average of 39,313 people with an average size of 7 people per household. Of the 5,410 respondents, some 4,166 were males and 1,244 were females. This made it possible to prioritize interventions for the development of the humanitarian response plan, based on the main results of this evaluation. Thanks to the allocation from the DREF, the National Society (NS) had been able to cover the departments of Alibori and Atacora, while funding from the Luxembourg Red Cross had made it possible to cover the costs relating to the department of Donga.

The overall humanitarian response plan was developed as soon as the evaluation report was published. However, the preliminary analysis of the data collected had already made it possible to identify the most vulnerable areas. A validation of these priority areas was expected following discussions with the actors involved and the analysis of secondary data, particularly that of the National Agency for Civil Protection, which had conducted a census of the affected communities in February. However, the final report of this census was not yet available at this stage. In addition, a mapping of humanitarian actors had made it possible to better target interventions within the framework of the overall plan.

Based on the trends observed during the evaluation, the National Society had developed a comprehensive humanitarian response plan. This work took place from 17 to 19 April 2025, with the participation of two partners: the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Luxembourg Red Cross.

This document was then presented to the Movement's stakeholders, including the ICRC and Partner National Societies, including the Luxembourg Red Cross, at a meeting held on 22 and 23 April 2025 to gather their opinions and comments. On Monday, 30 May 2025, two restitution workshops were organized in Natitingou (Atacora/Donga) and Kandi (Alibori) to present the results of the needs assessment as well as the humanitarian response plan. These meetings were held in the presence of the National President of the Beninese Red Cross, the presidents of the local and departmental committees, coordinators, project managers and volunteers from the three departments.

After the welcoming remarks, the workshop officially began with the presentation of the results of the multisectoral assessment, which highlighted the priority needs of the populations affected by the security crisis, as well as the strategic axes of an inclusive response adapted to the most affected areas. The participants had followed the presentation closely, made comments and suggestions, and shared the difficulties encountered in the field. This workshop made it possible to confirm the needs in the three targeted departments and to validate the humanitarian response plan. The session concluded in a climate of general satisfaction among the participants.

Lessons Learnt

- A comprehensive multi-sectoral assessment and the involvement of local stakeholders made it possible to identify the priority needs precisely.
- The effective coordination between the National Society, the IFRC, the Luxembourg Red Cross and partners have strengthened the quality and quality of the validation of the response plan.



Challenges

- The delay in the availability of official data limited a comprehensive analysis.
- Difficult access due to insecurity and rapid population displacement complicated the collection of information and the implementation of actions.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 2,980

Targeted Persons: 13,452

Assisted Persons: 1,067

Targeted Male: 587

Targeted Female: 482

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of focus group participants	280	1,069
# of focus group discussions conducted	72	87

Narrative description of achievements

Within the 19 municipalities targeted by the evaluation, a total of 87 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were organized, bringing together a total of 1,069 participants (587 males, 482 females). These groups made it possible to collect detailed qualitative data on the situation of the affected populations. To complement this information, three additional focus groups were conducted: two in Malanville (one composed of 23 women and another of 14 men), one in Natitingou, and one in Djougou bringing together two representatives of asylum seekers and two local community leaders.

The analysis of qualitative data from these FGDs, complemented by Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), revealed that the department of Alibori was particularly impacted by the crisis. In particular, the commune of Banikoara was distinguished by a high concentration of Internally Displaced Persons or asylum seekers, with nearly 50% of households (5 out of 10) hosting these vulnerable populations. In addition, the municipality of Malanville also presented a worrying situation, where about 10% of households were hosting internally displaced persons and/or asylum seekers.

However, qualitative data also highlighted a significant impact in the Atacora department. These findings were confirmed during the various exchange workshops with humanitarian actors.

Lessons Learnt

- Participatory and diverse data collection has led to a better understanding of local needs.
- Exchanges with humanitarian actors have strengthened data validation and coordination of interventions.

Challenges

- Insecurity has limited access to and mobilization of populations for the collection of information.
- Managing and integrating multiple data requires rigorous analysis to ensure consistency.



Coordination And Partnerships

Budget: CHF 13,261

Targeted Persons: 13,452

Assisted Persons: 13,452

Targeted Male: -



Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Movement coordination meetings conducted	1	1
# of roundtables on the RCB humanitarian response with humanitarian actors in country	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

Two workshops were held in April 2025 to develop and validate the Beninese Red Cross' humanitarian response plan. The first, which was held from 17 to 18 April in Abomey, made it possible to design the plan with the support of the Beninese Civil Protection Agency and the GUPS. The second, from 22 to 23 April in Ouidah, was devoted to the presentation of this plan to the actors of the International Red Cross Movement. The two-day sessions brought together key partners – including the IFRC, the ICRC, sister National Societies such as AICRL and Croix-Rouge de Belgique – as well as the CRB team. Through presentations, group work and constructive exchanges, the participants shared current data, their experiences, and reviewed the actions to be taken as well as the resources needed. At the end of these exchanges, the response plan was finalized, with total transparency on the data, enhanced coordination between the actors, and clarification of roles in order to avoid redundancies. This plan has been enriched by feedback and good practices, while resource mobilization mechanisms have been identified to ensure effective implementation. All the workshops took place in a constructive atmosphere, under the moderation of the Relief and Disaster Coordinator, with the supervision of the Director of Programmes and the representative of the Secretary-General. The final document will be presented to the authorities and partners.

On 23 May 2025, a workshop to present the results of the needs assessment and the BRC's humanitarian response plan was held at the Hôtel des Princes in Bohicon, bringing together some thirty stakeholders, including humanitarian actors, partners of the Movement (IFRC, ICRC) and representatives of state structures. The opening was ensured by the national president of the CRB, accompanied by the Secretary General and the Director of Disaster Risk Management representing the Beninese Civil Protection Agency (ABPC). Three presentations were made: an introduction to the Red Cross Movement and the BRC, a restitution of the results of the assessment and the evaluation in the departments of Alibori, Atacora and Donga, and a detailed presentation of the humanitarian response plan with its objectives, strategic axes and budget. At the end of each presentation, the discussions raised several concerns, including the dissemination of results, the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation, the support of people who have lost their identity papers, the management of reception centers, and the involvement of actors such as ANIP and ABGF in the identification of displaced people. Participants also stressed the need for effective coordination to avoid duplication, as well as specific needs in health, education and follow-up. In response, the Red Cross has committed to integrating these concerns into an adapted methodology, to working closely with the municipalities, to improving the action plan, and to strengthening the mechanisms, particularly for the search for missing persons and the adjustment of health responses, while ensuring better coordination and inclusion in the interventions.

Lessons Learnt

- The participatory approach promotes better ownership of the response plan by all actors and strengthens inter-institutional coordination.
- Transparent data sharing helps align priorities and effectively guide humanitarian actions.

Challenges

- Involve all state and humanitarian actors, especially those who are physically absent, in the monitoring and implementation of the plan.
- Mobilize the necessary resources (financial, human, material) in a context of growing needs and limited means.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 6,556

Targeted Persons: 1

Assisted Persons: 1

Targeted Male: 1

Targeted Female: 0



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of surge personnel deployed	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

Surge personnel were deployed for a two-month mission, from 24 March to 23 May 2025. Its mission was to coordinate the needs assessment from its launch to the dissemination of the report, as well as to support the development of the humanitarian response based on the results of this assessment.

During the first week of his mission, Surge worked with the local team composed of the Beninese Red Cross (CRB) and the Luxembourg Red Cross (CRLux), which had coordinated and participated in the data collection before his arrival. Surge conducted a preliminary analysis of the data already available, which revealed gaps requiring further collection, thus justifying a field mission.

This field mission was carried out during the second week, from 8 to 12 April 2025, by the CRB team and the needs assessment coordinator Surge, in the departments of Alibori (commune of Malanville), Atacora (commune of Natitingou) and Donga (commune of Djougou). They conducted Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) with asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced people and host communities. Observations were made in the communes of Malanville (Alibori) and Natitingou (Atacora). In addition, the National Society conducted interviews with key informants, including department heads and local officials of the Red Cross of Benin, to identify needs and priorities. However, due to the significant distance to be covered in just four days, the team was unable to meet with partners in the area to discuss their ongoing actions in support of the affected communities. The next step was to organize exchanges with stakeholders such as the Beninese Civil Protection Agency, the ICRC, United Nations agencies (UNICEF, WFP) and EDUCO, in order to harmonize priorities and carry out a mapping of partners. This made it possible to finalize the needs assessment report with a clear and comprehensive response scenario.

Lessons Learnt

- Surge staff coordinated the needs assessment and development of the humanitarian response over a two-month period.
- A field mission was conducted in three departments, with focus groups and key interviews to identify priority needs.

Challenges

- Limited time and long distances prevented meeting with all partners on the ground
- The need to coordinate several actors for a coherent response remains a major challenge



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 12,074

Targeted Persons: 4

Assisted Persons: 4

Targeted Male: 4

Targeted Female: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of staff members deployed	4	4
# of supervision missions conducted	1	2



Narrative description of achievements

A team of four staff members were deployed for this operation, consisting of the Security Officer, the DM Coordinator, an Accountant and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Officer (PMER).

During the collection of the primary data, a supervision mission was carried out by headquarters staff who visited the three departments of the North. A second mission was carried out by the team of the Needs Assessment Coordinator (Surge) accompanied by two staff members from the Beninese Red Cross headquarters. The objective of this second field mission was to collect complementary qualitative data through Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KII) as well as observation.

NS had also collected through the operation the various learnings and challenges and conducted a round table to present the final results and recommendations to the various stakeholders including movement and non-movement partners as an alternative to a formal Lessons Learnt Workshop. This meeting was also attended by the National agency of civil protection of Benin.

Lessons Learnt

- Joint supervision between headquarters and the field enhances the quality and consistency of data collection

Challenges

- Logistical and security constraints sometimes limit the coverage and quality of the data collected



Financial Report

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2025/02-2025/10	Operation	MDRBJ020
Budget Timeframe	2025/02-2025/05	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 28/Nov/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRBJ020 - Benin - Population Movement

Operating Timeframe: 04 Feb 2025 to 31 May 2025

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	50,000
DREF Response Pillar	50,000
Expenditure	-49,993
Closing Balance	7

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	50,000	49,993	7
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	50,000	49,993	7
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies			0
SF12 - Effective international disaster management			0
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total			0
Grand Total	50,000	49,993	7



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