

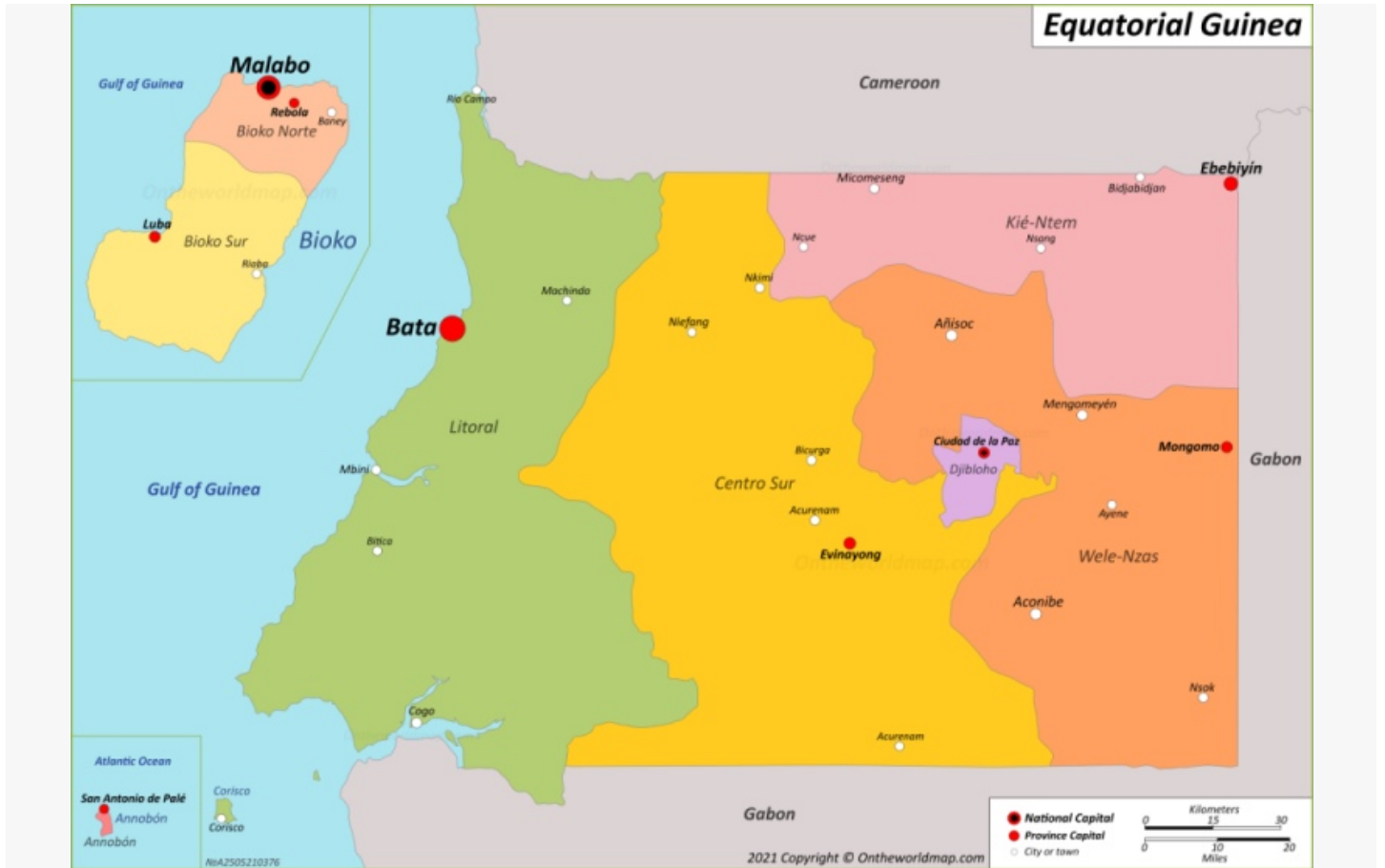


A rescued passenger who pregnant during rescue operations and delivered her baby safely thanks to Equatorial Guinea RC volunteers

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Appeal: MDRGQ004 | Total DREF Allocation: CHF 24,962 | Crisis Category: Yellow | Hazard: Other |
| Glide Number: - | People Affected: 90 people | People Targeted: 89 people | People Assisted: 89 people |
| Event Onset: Sudden | Operation Start Date: 30-07-2024 | Operational End Date: 31-10-2024 | Total Operating Timeframe: 3 months |
| Targeted Areas: Litoral | | | |

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 Equatorial Guinea

Date of event

20-07-2024

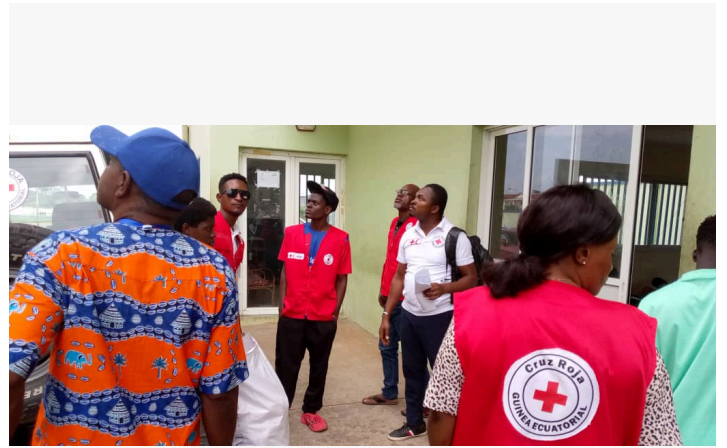
What happened, where and when?

On 20 July 2024, the National President of Equatorial Guinea Red Cross was alerted by government authorities from Bata when a shipwreck occurred on 20 July 2024, before dawn. The shipwreck is said to have occurred at the Rio Campo Cribi sea border between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon. Initially, the rescued passengers had indicated that they had been travelling since 1st July 2024, trying to reach Gabon where they had been promised jobs. However, it was confirmed during the lessons learned workshop that the boat had been stationed in the international waters between Gabon and Equatorial Guinea for almost 19 days, the captain having abandoned it with the passengers for fear of being arrested by the Equatorial Guinea authorities who could be seen from distance, thus abandoning the passengers to their fate. The lessons learned workshop also confirmed that the boat had not been involved in an accident. Though the NS was made to believe that it was a shipwreck from the beginning of the operation. The assisted people injuries resulted from exposure to bad weather for more than two weeks, without any assistance at sea, as they were rescued after spending around 19 days in the boat without being able to move. One of the rescued passengers reported to the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea during the lessons learned workshop that the waters were shifting them slowly and it is when they eventually entered into the Equatorial Guinea territory that they were rescued by the National Gendarmerie of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

The only occasion the NS had to discuss for about an hour with one of the people affected was during the lessons learned workshop. That was how the NS discovered that there was never such thing as a shipwreck.



Provision of first aid services to shipwreck affected people in Bata, Equatorial Guinea



Distribution of hot meals to affected people in Bata

Scope and Scale

The boat was carrying 90 people, including 47 women from different nationalities (30 from Benin and 17 from Togo), as well as 43 men also from different nationalities (10 from Togo, 16 from Benin, 8 Burkina Faso nationals, 2 Niger nationals, and 6 Nigerians). One of the men died, but the 89 others were rescued. Among these, some were wounded, from superficial bruises to fractures. The host National Society provided first aid services to the wounded as soon as they were alerted by government authorities (the Gendarmerie Nacional).

A rapid assessment conducted by the Equatorial Guinea Red Cross (EGRC) indicated that the 89 rescued passengers were in a small room at the Gendarmerie in Bata, initially made to accommodate 4 people. They were not allowed to move out of the gendarmerie as none of them had the Equatorial Guinea visa. They arrived with no personal effects. They urgently needed water, food, clothes, sleeping and hygiene material, mosquito nets, buckets, jerrycans and cups for drinking water.

On 26th July, authorities indicated that the affected people would be moved to a COVID management structure, where they would have more space and intimacy. However, two months after the accident, they were still in the gendarmerie, though in a bigger room. Men and women shared the same space and created a separation themselves. They received non-food items and hot meals from consulates and local NGOs during the first month. But from September to October, only Red Cross continued providing assistance to them, assistance which stopped at the end of this operation in October 2024. Their fate is not clear, as repatriation has been discussed for a certain time with no clear outcome. As they are not allowed to leave the gendarmerie to work and have no family, they rely only on external assistance for their basic needs.

During the lessons learned workshop, the Red Cross discussed with a representative of the Consulate of Benin in Bata, one of the countries of origin of the people affected, and they said most of the affected people, at least the Beninese that they could confirm, would be repatriated to Benin before the end of October 2024. They also added that the embassies of the countries concerned had been reached and told to organize the repatriation of their nationals.

Source Information

| Source Name | Source Link |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea | https://prddsgofilestorage.blob.core.windows.net/api/dref/images/CRUZ%20ROJA_yes.docx |

National Society Actions

| | |
|---|-----|
| Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation? | Yes |
|---|-----|

Please provide a brief description of those additional activities

As this operation was happening at a time when fears of an outbreak of Mpox were on, the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea also conducted small-scale sensitization on Mpox and prevention of other epidemics, reaching the 89 people targeted by this operation and many other indirect beneficiaries in in the city of Bata.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Secretariat | <p>Equatorial Guinea is covered by the Yaoundé Country Cluster Delegation (Yaoundé CCD). The Cluster's program coordinator was deployed to Equatorial Guinea to support the national society. He assisted the NS with the posting of the alert on Go Platform and also helped NS staff prepare the DREF request to respond to the situation.</p> <p>The President of the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea requested IFRC support to respond to this situation, as when the incident occurred, the government requested the NS to provide humanitarian support.</p> <p>The Yaoundé-based Program Coordinator also acted as a surge staff deployed to Equatorial Guinea to support the NS with the implementation of this DREF operation.</p> |
| Participating National Societies | There are no PNS in Equatorial Guinea. |

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC covers Equatorial Guinea from its delegation based in Yaoundé. They provided food assistance to the 89 people rescued from the shipwreck during part of the first and second month of the disaster.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

| | |
|---|--|
| Government has requested international assistance | No |
| National authorities | <p>Following the Shipwreck, people were rescued by the local authorities and brought to security in the Gendarmerie premises. 26th July, the authorities informed the NS of the possibility to move the affected people to another structure. A bigger existing structure from Government that have already been used to host and take care of people. But this was not done.</p> <p>The Government has not declared the emergency, but a representative called NS President to ask the NS for humanitarian assistance delivery following the accident. Following that, Local authorities granted access to the NS to visit and assist the affected people in the gendarmerie.</p> |
| UN or other actors | <p>IFRC informed the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Malabo and while they indicated that they do not have a humanitarian component in their activities for Equatorial Guinea, they said they would be looking for possible support for this operation, probably through the various embassies involved.</p> <p>Some consulates of the nationalities involved provided water for bathing, and an association of Beninese doctors started administering first aid services to their fellow citizens.</p> <p>Two local NGOs have distributed some clothes to the affected people.</p> |

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?



The embassies and consulates of the people affected met with EG government authorities and ECCAS representatives to discuss the immediate future of the affected people. Plans to repatriate those to their respective countries were being considered by the end of this operation's timeframe, but no date was anticipated about when this will happen. However, the Beninese consulate was talking of repatriating their nationals before the end of October 2024.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The assessment indicated that the affected people urgently needed non-food items for day to day use, sleeping materials, protection material. The people arrived in the ship have nothing for themselves to use to protect themselves against weather, mosquitoes or other threats. They loss the few items and assets they had in the ship accident and now needed all possible support to protect themselves.

Being hosted currently in the Gendarmerie premises and potentially moved to another Government structure for the rest of their stay, they will still need the minimum assets to live with dignity and be able to protect themselves at least during the night.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Being in a foreign country with no one to take care of them, the people rescued from the shipwreck had no means to afford or even access food or household essentials like sleeping material or kitchen utensil. As they were hosted in a public space, they were not able to have cooking material, so they needed cooked food and cutleries. Concerning their basic comfort, they were in need of sleeping mats and bed sheets.



Health

The first assessment of the situation carried out on the shipwreck rescue day revealed that most of the people received were injured. The need of first aid was urgent. Regular visits were necessary as well as kits to carry on with that assistance.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The NS plans to distribute items that will likely contribute to generate waste. The premise of the Gendarmerie has garbage and waste management for regular days but during the time of the stay of the affected people, it was foreseen that NS assistance would generate a significant amount of waste. The management of the intervention required to integrating the collection and smart management of waste such as empty bottles and sachets, and also sensitizing the populations on the need to keep the environment clean. Without proper management of the environmental hygiene in their room in, and knowing they were not allowed to leave that limited, it was expected that the situation would affect hygiene condition, leading to further health threat. Cleaning and sensitization activities were required to mitigate that risk.

Furthermore, the Women and girls in reproductive age would need support for menstrual hygiene management while all the individual needed support for their personal hygiene. There was no considerations or assistance in that regard since their arrival. The risk for the hygiene condition to deteriorate was high and needed to be avoided in such situation.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Among the people affected people there are 47 female, including 5 minors. People group range from 17 to 44 years old. The context of such displacements always require a constant safeguarding to be integrated in the approach, especially as the affected people all live in a common room. It was also important for the assistance provided to be sensitive to the group represented and ensure they can maintain their dignity and safety. Continuous discussion and engagement were also needed to remain relevant.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This operation was initially intended to provide 2 months' emergency assistance to the 89 survivors of a shipwreck in Bata on 20 July 2024. This included food, essential items, first aid and protection against immediate risk associated to hygiene and safeguarding criteria for the people to be assisted. However, upon seeing that the affected people would stay beyond the initial end of the operation timeframe (September 2024), the NS requested a one-month no cost extension, which was granted in Operations update No 1, making the operation duration to be 3 months, from August to October 2024.

Operation strategy rationale

Considering the high probability that their stay would exceed 6 weeks and the NS resources deployed since the 20th, which had already been exhausted, this DREF helped cover the emergency needs encountered during the initial weeks. The allocation and design of the intervention took into account the additional support from ICRC to complement the food assistance for a month, as well as the monitoring of the context, with the expectation of receiving clarity from the Government regarding the status and protocols they would apply. At the time, the lack of clarity regarding the decisions the Government might make for the affected people made it difficult to develop further actions. Therefore, the strategy was based on requests from authorities to act and cover urgent humanitarian needs, with continued support from partners as time passed.

To address the uncovered humanitarian needs, this DREF aimed to purchase and distribute non-food items, which were critical, as the people had lost everything in the shipwreck. The items provided included single mattresses, mosquito nets, bedsheets, buckets, cups, pillows, large pots, ladles, plates, spoons, plastic garbage rolls, and kitchen knives. Some items were also provided to improve individual hygiene, such as toilet paper in the hygiene kits. Additionally, menstrual hygiene kits were distributed to 47 identified women and girls of reproductive age, alongside general hygiene items focused on waste management, such as garbage bags.

Food had been a high priority since July 20th, and NS began distributing food to the affected people. With continued needs, NS carried on with the provision of ready-to-eat rations. The most relevant intervention for the affected people was to ensure the cooking and distribution of ready-to-eat meals. For this, NS purchased food items such as liters of olive oil, boxes of condensed milk, sacks of large rice, boxes of canned tomatoes, strips of water, small boxes of turkey wings, boxes of mackerel, medium-sized bowls, packages of broth, and bags of salt. NS used these supplies to continue cooking on their premises, then distributed the meals at the gendarmerie, where the people had been hosted. Full access to distribute the assistance was granted, and NS began implementing this activity given the urgent needs. If the people were relocated and there was more flexibility for cooking in the new location (as per Government projections), NS would reassess with the Government whether it would be appropriate to transfer the cooking responsibility to them. In that case, fire safety messages would also be delivered to prevent further incidents, and regular visits would continue. NS had already started distributing food through existing resources, and this intervention would allow for reimbursement and continued assistance for at least a month, with ICRC support potentially extending the intervention.

NS ensured the prevention of key health threats related to hygiene conditions, given the people were staying on the premises and waste management risks. First aid and PFA continued for the following weeks based on the needs of each individual. Volunteer visits were utilized to deliver both.

Regular visits also served to provide integrated multi-sector awareness. Volunteers' visits included protection messages, WASH hygiene promotion, guidance on kit use, and prevention of key health threats. Hygiene promotion and environmental hygiene were particularly emphasized to encourage cleaning, waste management, and transport out of the premises and common spaces. This DREF prioritized sensitizing the affected people on the need to keep the environment clean, preventing any risks associated with negligence of basic hygiene. It also served to deliver protection messages to those affected by the accident in Bata, as well as personnel responsible for their safety. This was carried out by the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea staff and volunteers, as they had access to the affected population.

Remote support was organized, complemented by a monitoring visit from the IFRC delegation to ensure proper closure and quality reporting of the intervention, particularly since NS had not received any DREF training since 2012.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

All 89 people rescued after the accident were targeted.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

This operation targeted the 89 people who were rescued after the shipwreck in Bata. They are all targeted as they are not from Equatorial Guinea, and they need everything having lost their belongings during the accident.

Total Targeted Population

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|------|
| Women | 47 | Rural | - |
| Girls (under 18) | - | Urban | 100% |
| Men | 42 | People with disabilities (estimated) | - |
| Boys (under 18) | - | | |
| Total targeted population | 89 | | |

Risk and Security Considerations

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

| Risk | Mitigation action |
|--|--|
| During recent operations in Equatorial Guinea, procurement took a lot of time because they were done out of the country. This could lead to extended operation, and the procurement could be completed when the beneficiaries have already left the country. | All procurement planned will be done in Bata. The items planned are available there, and IFRC will help the NS with the procurement procedure to speed it up. |
| The status of the affected persons in Equatorial Guinea is not yet clarified, and they might be asked to leave the country any moment, thereby stopping the operation. | Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea is monitoring the situation closely. The non-food items planned to be distributed are essentials such as sleeping materials. The cooking kits planned are for Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea who will be doing the cooking for the affected people. Activities are planned for 2 months, but food items will be purchased on a weekly basis and stop immediately when the people leave the country. |

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

There is no threat to the life of the affected people. However, their accommodation is not ideal as they are not arranged in a gender-friendly manner. However, with Government plans to relocate them to a COVID 19 site, Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea will suggest that men be separated from women.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 6,091

Targeted Persons: 89

Assisted Persons: 89

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| Number of people reached with non-food items | 89 | 89 |

Narrative description of achievements

• Emergency household items such as single mattresses, mosquito nets, bedsheets, buckets, cups, pillows, plates, spoons were purchased and distributed to affected people. The NS also purchased pots, knives and other cooking kits to help prepare hot meals for the affected people.

Lessons Learnt

• Contingency kits should be prepositioned or purchases should be done early to respond to the needs of the vulnerable population in the shortest possible time.

Challenges

• Procurement procedures takes time, as such, delaying response



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 4,191

Targeted Persons: 89

Assisted Persons: 89

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Number of people receiving hot meals | 89 | 89 |

Narrative description of achievements

• At the start of the operation, the NS cooked hot meals, but this activity quickly proved to be difficult. As a result, the NS opted for hiring a restaurant to do the cooking.

• Red Cross volunteers distributed food on a daily basis from the beginning of the operation, with financial support from ICRC as the NS was yet to receive DREF funds. During that period, other stakeholders such as some consulates of the people affected provided food once in a while. With the DREF funds, the NS continued to deliver daily food meals to the beneficiaries, alternating with other stakeholders. During the lessons learned workshop, we interviewed one of the beneficiaries who highly appreciated the food assistance provided by the Red Cross, indicating that during the days that the Red Cross did not show up, it was so hard for them. Nevertheless, the NS could provide hot meals until October, using the money saved from other budget lines to add to the food needs.

Lessons Learnt

• The NS should consider hiring Service Providers for certain supplies that cannot be financially justified by the NS

Challenges

• Difficult to justify small purchases such as small quantities of salt and spices for cooking.



Budget: CHF 2,356
Targeted Persons: 89
Assisted Persons: 89

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| Number of people reached with first aid services | 89 | 89 |
| Number of first aid kits purchased | 10 | 10 |

Narrative description of achievements

- The planned first aid kits were purchased to assist affected people and replenish the stock used by the NS in the course of this operation.
- NS volunteers administered first aid assistance to all the affected people who were showing wounds when they were rescued.
- Red Cross volunteers also provided psychological support to the affected people.

Lessons Learnt

- Procurement process should be speedy so that assistance can reach vulnerable people on time.
- Staffs capacities should be enhanced in psychosocial response.

Challenges

- Uncertainty of the timespan of the affected people to stay in Equatorial Guinea hence making it challenging to have a definite time frame on activities. This also brings doubts in terms of sustainability of assistance when this intervention runs to an end.
- Psychosocial support to victims was carried out by the NS volunteers due to the absence of a psychosocial expert.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 3,597
Targeted Persons: 89
Assisted Persons: 89

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # people reached with wash activities | 89 | 89 |
| # cleaning visits | 24 | 15 |
| #Wash kits distributed to affected people for 2 months | 89 | 89 |

Narrative description of achievements

- The NS hired 8 volunteers who assisted the affected people, helping with keeping the environment clean and promoting hygiene. The NS also procured and distributed MH kits to the 47 women targeted by the operation.

- Moreover, the NS assisted one of the female targeted people who was pregnant and delivered a baby girl during the operation.
- Throughout the operation, Government did not want to communicate on the situation. They limited access to the people affected, only authorizing visits to provide hot meals. This is why some of the cleaning visits were cancelled.

Lessons Learnt

- Set up a good needs assessment system at NS level for response.

Challenges

- During the response period a pregnant woman who was already due for childbirth was identified as one of the victims



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 1,650

Targeted Persons: 89

Assisted Persons: 89

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| % personnel and volunteers deployed that have been initially briefed on safeguarding | 100 | 100 |
| #people reached with PSEA and safeguarding awareness messages | 89 | 89 |

Narrative description of achievements

- An operational briefing was organized at the beginning of the operation during which the volunteers and staff involved were briefed on safeguarding minimum standards, and on the code of conduct.
- Menstrual hygiene kits were purchased and distributed to the 47 women planned for the operation.
- The volunteers involved were briefed on PSEA and PGI.

Lessons Learnt

- Take into account the cultural context of beneficiaries before responding to their needs
- Set up a good needs assessment system for response.

Challenges

- Among the MH Kits distributed, the toilet paper rolls were not used by the beneficiaries, even if they took them, they didn't really appreciate them because of their culture, as they are originally from West Africa.
- At the time of purchasing the items, the Red Cross was yet to have full understanding of the origins of the people affected as access to them was limited by Government authorities. As a result, the NS could only realize after distribution that the people did not like some of the items distributed.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 3,032

Targeted Persons: 16

Assisted Persons: 8



Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| Number of lessons learned workshop organized | 1 | 1 |
| Monitoring and supporting mission | 1 | 1 |

Narrative description of achievements

- IFRC's Yaoundé based Program Coordinator was deployed to Equatorial Guinea and acted as a surge staff supporting the NS with the implementation of this and other operations. He facilitated coordination between the NS and the UN, IOM, and the various embassies involved in the operation.
- A lesson learned was organized in October 2024.

Lessons Learnt

- To maximize stakeholder participation in the lessons learned activity, information should reach them way ahead of time.
- Frequent power outages and unstable internet connections were serious hindrances to timely remote monitoring and information dissemination.

Challenges

- None



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 4,044

Targeted Persons: 16

Assisted Persons: 8

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| Volunteers and staff mobilised, briefed on safeguarding and deployed | 16 | 8 |

Narrative description of achievements

- The NS purchased visibility materials in the form of polo shirts, vests and caps. A lessons learned workshop was organized in Bata and facilitated the collection of valuable information for this and future operations.
- The NS mobilized 8 volunteers for the operation, including 4 men and 4 women.

Lessons Learnt

- Preposition response materials at local committee level for initial and rapid response

Challenges

- None



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRGQ004 - Equatorial Guinea - Shipwreck

Operating Timeframe: 30 Jul 2024 to 31 Oct 2024

| Selected Parameters | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2024/07-2025/01 | Operation | MDRGQ004 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2024/07-2024/10 | Budget | APPROVED |

Prepared on 18/Feb/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Opening Balance | 0 |
| Funds & Other Income | 24,962 |
| DREF Response Pillar | 24,962 |
| Expenditure | -23,225 |
| Closing Balance | 1,737 |

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

| Description | Budget | Expenditure | Variance |
|---|--------|---------------|----------------|
| AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction | | 622 | -622 |
| AOF2 - Shelter | | 21,652 | -21,652 |
| 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 | | 22,273 | -22,273 |
| SF11 - Strengthen National Societies | | 10 | -10 |
| SF12 - Effective international disaster management | | | 0 |
| SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners | | | 0 |
| SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC | | 942 | -942 |
| Strategy for implementation Total | | 952 | -952 |
| Grand Total | | 23,225 | -23,225 |

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

The operation was initially planned for 2 months. Given the uncertainty about when the people affected were going to return to their respective countries, and the fact that there were fewer and fewer agencies assisting them, the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea requested and was granted a one-month no-cost extension of the operation during which they continued to provide hot meals to affected people. As a result of this change, the NS used all the unspent money in various lines to complement the budget for hot meals. Moreover, the integrated approach used by the NS to implement planned activities caused some budget lines to be underspent, and others to be overspent.

Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)

