



Volunteers from the Gabonese Red Cross observe the crowd at the swearing-in ceremony of the transitional president in Libreville, September 2023. This activity is part of the preparations for the DREF elections in Gabon.

Appeal: MDRGA014	Country: Gabon	Hazard: Other	Type of DREF: Imminent
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 153,432	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 1,625,645 people	People Targeted: 10,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 20-03-2025	Operation Timeframe: 3 months	Operation End Date: 30-06-2025	DREF Published: 26-03-2025
Targeted Areas: Estuaire, Haut-Ogooue, Ogooue-Ivindo, Ogooue-lolo, Ogooue-Maritime, Woleu-Ntem			

Description of the Event

Approximate date of impact

The electoral calendar for 2025 is as follows:

- March 8: deadline for submission of candidacy declarations
- March 29 - April 11: electoral campaign
- April 12: Convocation of the Electoral College
- Based on past election experiences, the results could be made public two weeks after the vote.

The period with the highest risk occurs at the time of the announcement of results, but it is essential for the National Society to prepare in advance.

Provide any updates in the situation since the field report and explain what is expected to happen.

The presidential election of 2025 is part of a political and military transition process that began in 2023, following the ousting of the president declared elected in the previous 2023 elections. The succession of events related to these elections and the recent evolution of the political and social context indicate a significant risk for the upcoming elections. The summary of key facts regarding the evolution of the electoral plan must take cover the period from 2023 to the present day. The summary of events to date is as follows:

- August 26, 2023: The last democratic presidential elections took place in Gabon.
- August 30, 2023: The Gabonese Elections Center (CGE) announced the victory of the outgoing president with 64.27% of the votes.
- On the night of August 30, 2023: A group of military personnel, led by the head of the Republican Guard, announced their intention to "end the regime" of Ali Bongo Ondimba, who had been in power since 2009, just minutes after the above results were proclaimed. The Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions (CTRI) annulled the general elections of August 26, denouncing the results as "manipulated." It dissolved all the Republic's institutions. Brice Oligui Nguema led the coup.
- September 04, 2023: Brice Oligui Nguema became the transitional president. The transition charter, under which he was sworn in, aims to rebuild the rule of law and strengthen the institutional framework. In addition to the transitional president, four bodies were established to implement reforms in all areas: a National Transitional Council, tasked with assisting the president in defining his policies; a transitional government; a transitional parliament; and a transitional constitutional court. Following this, a civilian Prime Minister from the opposition, Raymond Ndong Sima, was appointed on September 7 and published the list of 26 members of his government, which later expanded to 35 members.
- November 13, 2023: The Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions (CTRI) unveiled the indicative timeline for the political transition, lasting two years, which should conclude with the organization of elections in August 2025. The main steps include a call for national contributions (until November 30, 2023), leading to the presentation of a report in February 2024, which provides a diagnosis of the country's state and proposes reforms.
- April 2024: Based on the above plan, a major national debate, called the "Inclusive National Dialogue," is organized. A multiparty committee is convened to draft a new Constitution, relying on the recommendations of the Inclusive National Dialogue. The Parliament, transformed into a Constituent Assembly, presented its reasoned recommendations for the new Constitution in October 2024.
- November 2024: A referendum on the new Constitution took place, leading to its adoption.
- January 2025: The government announces the revision of the electoral law, setting a new date of April 12, 2025, instead of August 2025. A three-month period is allocated for the various electoral stages.
- A few days before the start of the submission of candidacies, 10 candidates have already announced their candidacies, including the transitional president and 9 other candidates, some of whom are from the opposition.

The January change marks the beginning of new denunciations by the opposition. Key figures from the former deposed regime are, in some cases, the main actors of the opposition, strongly condemning the poor handling of the transition and the hasty decision to organize elections, even though the initial transition timeline had scheduled them for August 2025.

In recent weeks, videos and audio recordings have circulated on social media, in which populations from several localities in the country have issued threats against a political leader and his convoy, attempting to prevent him from holding public meetings in certain areas. This situation highlights a rise in ethnic tensions, which tend to overshadow political debate—a concerning trend observed in other countries with potentially severe consequences.

Some prominent figures from the former deposed regime are now leading opposition actors, vehemently criticizing the poor management of the transition and the premature announcement of the elections, which, according to the transition timeline, were supposed to take place in August 2025. A few days before the start of the submission of candidacies, 10 candidates have already announced their candidacies, including the transitional president and 9 other candidates, some of whom are from the opposition.



Drawing from its past experience, the Gabonese Red Cross plans to mobilize a team of 200 volunteers across the entire national territory, in addition to its staff. This team will supplement the limited human resources available during the 2023 operation, ensuring its role as an auxiliary to public authorities before, during, and after the elections.

Why your National Society is acting now and what criteria is used to launch this operation.

The political situation remains tense between the government and the opposition, raising fears of potential violence during the upcoming elections, with possible protests against the results. Although clear signs of pre- or post- electoral violence are not yet visible, it is still relevant to note that the risk of unrest remains significant. Several factors lead to this conclusion:

- The sudden change in the electoral calendar in January, scheduling elections for April 12, 2025, was strongly criticized.
- Tensions are rising as the deadline approaches. Verbal escalation is increasing in political debates, alongside discussions about the economic conditions of the population (high cost of living, water and electricity supply issues). Political clashes are further deteriorating the social climate.
- Following the political coup on August 30, 2023, which brought the current transitional president to power in Gabon, a transitional state was declared for two years, ending in August 2025 with the organization of presidential elections. This sensitive legacy adds to the historical incidents during previous election result announcements in Gabon. Indeed, even beyond 2023, the proclamation of each presidential election has always been followed by post- electoral unrest, resulting in the destruction of public and private buildings, injuries, deaths, and psychological trauma for those affected, leaving many families and the nation in mourning.
- Past interventions by the National Society (SN) have demonstrated the importance of its role during the electoral period. In 2023, despite mixed indicators before the elections, the results period and unforeseen events required assistance for at least 100 people, according to the Gabonese Red Cross (CRG) report.
- Socio-economic challenges have highlighted the need for preparation, including health responses, community engagement, and security measures to protect vulnerable populations.
- Additionally, the strong focus of heated debates on ethnicity raises concerns about escalating tensions at the community level.

Given these experiences and their impact on communities, the support of the Gabonese Red Cross is crucial in promoting a message of social cohesion and assisting communities that may be physically, materially, and psychologically affected. Consequently, aligned with its contingency plan, the National Society considers it wise to prepare for a potential post-electoral crisis.

Drawing inspiration from its contingency plan and based on the electoral calendar, it will focus its actions on the following key periods:

1. The start of the campaign period: The defined scenarios consider that the occurrence of altercations during political gatherings is an indicator to trigger early actions if there are clear signs that at least 100 people are exposed to a risk of violence. This applies from the start of the campaign to the closing date of the campaign (01 day before the vote). These elements have already been observed through media reports and accounts on various social networks. Historically, previous electoral campaigns have recorded disturbances during the meetings of certain candidates. These incidents are often orchestrated by local authorities and opposition members.

Beyond enabling intervention for any pre-election incident in case of calendar fluctuations or deterioration of the political and social context, this DREF must cover the campaign phase as it remains the only period allowing the National Society to mobilize effectively and ensure its presence and acceptance before the elections and any major unrest.

2. Election Day is also a key date, primarily for monitoring and supporting communities at polling stations. Although disturbances are generally observed after the proclamation of results and during political gatherings of ruling and main opposition parties, Election Day remains sensitive for the 2025 agenda. This is due to the stakes resulting from the political transition. With the change in the electoral calendar, attention on the voting day and the entire electoral calendar remains sensitive and a potential trigger for a negative development of the situation.

3. The date of result proclamation: From the date of proclamation until one week after, rescue teams are necessary. The verbal escalation among different parties has already been observed, and the stakes of the proclamation and the post-proclamation days represent a higher-risk period. This is due to the events of the 2023 elections and the historical record of disputes and protests during older elections.

Scope and Scale

Electoral processes can pose a threat during pre- and post-electoral periods. During this electoral period, Gabon is also facing numerous socio-economic challenges, including the high cost of living and difficulties for households in accessing water and electricity. Conflicts related to the elections could exacerbate the vulnerability of people already in need. With Gabon being 87% urbanized, populations heavily rely on markets and supermarkets, which could remain closed during times of crisis, creating food security concerns.



Potential conflicts could also significantly reduce access to healthcare. Approximately 2,600,000 people living in the country's 9 provinces could find themselves in precarious situations, particularly economically disadvantaged individuals, children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and the elderly. The highest risk is in areas with the largest urban centers, provincial capitals, and locations known for significant gatherings and socio-political movements. Based on this, and considering past election-related movements, at least 6 out of the 9 provinces are considered priorities.

The cities with the highest risk are: Grand Libreville (Estuaire), Franceville (Haut-Ogooué), Koulamoutou (Ogooué- Lolo), Port-Gentil (Ogooué-Maritime), Makokou (Ogooué-Ivindo), and Oyem (Woleu-Ntem). The total population of these areas is estimated at 1,625,645.

Key scenarios based on the National Society's contingency plan include the following potential developments:

1. Start of the campaign period: During previous electoral campaigns, disturbances were recorded at the meetings of certain candidates. These incidents are often orchestrated by local authorities and opposition members. Heated debates and incitements through social networks and various information sources already raise concerns about a deterioration of the situation as the electoral calendar progresses. These qualitative indications are taken into account to justify this request and to ensure the National Society's preparation and actions aimed at limiting escalations of violence at the community level.

2. Election Day: Although in previous elections disturbances began after the proclamation of results, Election Day remains sensitive due to the heightened stakes caused by the unprecedented situation in the country. Trigger threshold: Scuffles or conflicts in and around polling stations. The National Society will initiate early actions if there are clear indications that at least 100 people are exposed to a risk of violence, from Election Day to the date of result proclamation, which should occur no later than one week after the elections.

Indicators: Number of injured individuals.

Means of verification for indicators: Direct observation and reports of incidents in the media.

3. The date of result proclamation: From the date of proclamation until one week after, rescue teams will be deployed. Trigger threshold: The National Society will initiate early actions if there are clear indications that at least 100 people are exposed to a risk of violence during this period. This includes verbal escalation among different parties in the media, incitement to revolt, or clashes between groups affiliated with political parties or between groups of youth and law enforcement.

Indicators: Number of injured individuals.

Preparatory actions will begin as soon as the operation is approved and will conclude three days before the presidential election date, April 12, 2025.

The deployment of rescue teams and monitoring of the electoral process will be the main actions carried out from the eve of the elections until one week after the proclamation of the results and the inauguration of the declared elected candidate.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	Yes
If yes, please specify which operation	MDRGA011, 2023

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:

Given the national context in Gabon, measures must consistently be taken to prepare for the Presidential elections. It should also be noted that the National Society has expressed the need for support to address this event, particularly to better strengthen the departmental committees, especially those at high risk of socio-political unrest.

Lessons learned:

Based on the lessons learned workshop from the 2023 DREF Election Preparedness operation, the following key points were highlighted:

- Involving departmental committees at all stages of the operation.
- Finalizing the revision of the contingency plan for elections within a reasonable timeframe and holding a meeting with



stakeholders to disseminate this plan.

- Taking timely measures to ensure sufficient time for implementing preparation activities both in the capital and in the departments.
- Strengthening communication with stakeholders and the community, emphasizing the mandate of the Red Cross and the fundamental principles of the Movement, particularly Neutrality and Impartiality.
- To avoid delays in starting activities due to the late signing of the Project Funding Agreement and fund transfers, the Cluster and the National Society (NS) should agree on a pre-financing system as soon as the DREF is approved, allowing the NS to begin activities immediately.

Furthermore, the investment from the 2023 DREF MDRGA011 significantly enhanced the preparedness of the Gabonese Red Cross (CRG), benefiting the NS's readiness for the current elections. Integrating the 2023 DREF investments into this new operation allows for cost reduction, increased efficiency, and experienced personnel. These achievements include Retention of some trained personnel. Use of equipment and installations acquired through this DREF (satellite phones, rescue equipment, solar panels).

Current National Society Actions

Coordination	<p>The National Society is an active member of the national risk reduction platform and plans to hold a workshop with relevant stakeholders and other field actors ahead of the upcoming elections. The objective is to present the contingency plan specifically developed for this electoral situation. This workshop provides an opportunity to unveil the mechanisms of the plan, the measures taken by the National Society, and to obtain their approval and validation.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the President of the National Society contacted the Ministry of the Interior as well as the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction regarding a potential contingency plan from their side, but it appears that nothing has been planned. The Gabonese Red Cross is the only institution that has committed to developing this plan and will coordinate with other actors to ensure its dissemination and collective contribution.</p>
Activation Of Contingency Plans	<p>The contingency plan has been revised based on the 2023 plan with the support of the cluster and the ICRC delegation. The National Society is engaging with various stakeholders regarding the mechanism to be implemented, seeking their approval and validation. The National Society has scheduled a workshop to validate this plan with other partners and intervention actors by the end of February 2025. The Terms of Reference have been shared with the ICRC and IFRC for their input.</p>
National Society EOC	<p>Building on its past experience and with the support of the IFRC through the DREF, the Gabonese Red Cross has updated its list of volunteers in various areas and its personnel roster, conducting an assessment of available capacities that can be mobilized and rapidly deployed. A review was carried out across all its committees, revealing operational and material gaps that need to be addressed in the planning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Several volunteers trained in 2023, particularly in provincial areas, are no longer reachable. Of the 200 volunteers identified and available for this intervention, 70 require refresher training, while 130 new volunteers, mainly in provincial areas, need to be trained. This initiative aims to ensure a secure and organized conduct of the 2025 presidential elections, despite the tensions and uncertainties surrounding the ongoing electoral process.- A significant portion of the equipment acquired during this period is defective and requires replacement or maintenance, particularly the vehicle fleet, which will be essential for all activities. <p>However, certain investments made in 2023 through DREF funding have been leveraged to enhance the efficiency of the National Society's intervention teams and their experience in managing similar situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Retention of personnel trained in 2023: Although 70% of the volunteers trained during the previous elections are no longer active, the majority of employees trained under the 2023 DREF remain in their positions. Their expertise is being utilized to coordinate and supervise current activities. For the initially trained volunteers who are



still active, they have been identified, and their experience allows for deployment with quick briefings.

- First aid equipment: Items such as stretchers, defibrillators, and oxygen bottles acquired in 2023 are still functional and will be utilized.
- The two satellite phones acquired in 2023 ensure communication can be maintained in the event of internet or mobile network outages, supporting security and safety mitigation measures.
- Thanks to the installation of solar energy systems and power banks at the headquarters in 2023, the National Society can ensure uninterrupted operation of its communication and IT equipment, eliminating the need for new investments in this area.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has an office in Yaoundé, Cameroon, which oversees all National Societies, including the Gabonese Red Cross (CRG), in various National Society development programs as well as programs related to preparedness and response to both health and natural disasters. In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Gabonese Red Cross in its response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2023, the IFRC provided DREF funding to the CRG for preparedness against the Marburg Virus Disease in the Woleu-Ntem Province. Additionally, DREF funds were allocated to assist victims of violent winds in the Haut Ogooué region, specifically in Franceville. Similarly, the DREF supported the preparation for the presidential elections in August 2023. More recently, the IFRC backed the CRG through the DREF/Emergency Appeal for Mpox, which enabled awareness campaigns about the disease using multiple communication channels, as well as the response to the 2024 floods (in Libreville and Mouila), which continues until May 2024. For these three operations, the IFRC provides technical and operational coordination through resource personnel (Surge, PMER, Finance, Logistics, and thematic leads for CEA, PGI, and CVA) deployed to the CRG, which ensures implementation. As an auxiliary to public authorities and a national partner for disaster response, the CRG also facilitates disaster preparedness activities within the country.

The IFRC has organized exchange sessions with the Gabonese Red Cross (CRG) for regular monitoring of the situation. In addition, the IFRC ensures coordination with the ICRC to provide joint and coordinated support to the National Society. Coordination meetings have been established for this purpose to monitor the National Society's activities and to develop the required documents, such as the revision of the national contingency plan for the elections.

Participating National Societies

No PNS are present in Gabon, and the Gabonese Red Cross does not receive specific support from any PNS.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has an office in Yaoundé, Cameroon, which also oversees the Gabonese Red Cross (CRG). Coordination meetings with the CRG are held within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the two partners. The ICRC assists the CRG in strengthening its emergency response capacities.

During the Movement coordination meeting, it was noted that the ICRC has planned actions to support the CRG in preparation for the 2025 presidential elections. These include support for health coverage during the electoral period (first aid materials worth 1,122,000 FCFA), the production of visibility materials (2,000,000 FCFA), support for electoral monitoring through the deployment of volunteers before, during, and after the elections in three provinces (3,450,000 FCFA), and internet support for the national headquarters (1,000,000 FCFA).



Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The actions undertaken by national authorities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- National Dialogue- Referendum- Revision of the Electoral Roll- Political consultation between the presidential majority and the opposition- Revision of the electoral code in the National Assembly and promulgation of the new electoral code- The National Commission for the Organization and Coordination of Elections and Referendum (CNO CER)- Revision of the electoral list- Publication of the electoral calendar
UN or other actors	No actions have yet been undertaken by UN actors or other stakeholders. However, regional structures/institutions such as ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States), through its Central Africa Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC) platform, are monitoring the situation in ECCAS member countries, including the situation in Gabon.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



In the event of conflict, it is essential to mitigate the effects of potential acts of violence to prevent avoidable deaths. Furthermore, as injuries are not only physical, psychological support will be necessary. To this end, Red Cross volunteers will require training in basic first aid and psychological first aid.

It is important to enhance coordination with external partners/actors to ensure smooth communication and a safer transfer of information in case of a crisis. This critical activity will be necessary during the pre-electoral phase to establish a clear communication chain and standard operating procedures suited to various scenarios. Such coordination will contribute to the success of the operation.

Additionally, it will be important to extend this coordination from the national headquarters to the targeted branches, ensuring adequate communication means (telephone and internet). Equipment will be required for this purpose.

Another key point is the intervention capacity of the National Society, which must be strengthened with equipment such as first aid kits, maintenance and fuel supply for ambulances, and vehicles necessary not only for transporting volunteers but also for supporting the operation as a whole.

Prepositioning activities for the aforementioned items must be carried out before the elections to anticipate potential movement restrictions in case of a crisis.

In addition, arrangements must be made at the headquarters and in the relevant committees to provide a gathering and rest area for National Society personnel and volunteers in case they are unable to return to their homes during operations. Emergency operations centers must be established in the headquarters and committees of the 6 high-risk localities targeted (Libreville, Koulamoutou, Franceville, Port-Gentil, Mouila, and Oyem).

An assessment was conducted across all committees, revealing operational and material gaps in the branches that need to be addressed in the planning process.

- Several volunteers trained in 2023 through DREF resources, particularly in provincial areas, are no longer reachable or active.
- A significant portion of the equipment acquired during that period is defective.
- Of the 200 volunteers identified and available for this intervention, 70 require refresher training, while 130 new volunteers, mainly in provincial areas, need to be trained.
- This initiative aims to ensure a secure and organized conduct of the 2025 presidential elections, despite the tensions and uncertainties surrounding the ongoing electoral process.





Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In the event of conflict, individuals already in vulnerable situations could find themselves in worse conditions, with their rights violated. People with specific needs (pregnant and breastfeeding women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and minority groups such as foreigners, migrants, or refugees) are particularly at risk. Volunteers will need to be trained in the Code of Conduct and PGI themes, including the prevention of gender-based violence, to protect themselves and better assist the most vulnerable.



Community Engagement And Accountability

At all times, but especially during electoral periods, it is crucial to raise awareness among communities and all political forces about the mandate of the Red Cross, as well as the mechanisms put in place, while emphasizing the principles of neutrality and impartiality. This will ensure volunteers' access to the field and prevent any confusion with other intervention actors or reputational risks for the National Society. To this end, volunteers will need training on CEA principles to better engage with communities and facilitate information feedback.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this operation, the Gabonese Red Cross aims to undertake preparatory actions to be ready to respond to the humanitarian needs of populations in the event of pre- and/or post-electoral violence. This will be achieved through support in the health/first aid sector and disaster risk reduction, targeting the capitals of six high-risk provinces in the country, namely Grand Libreville, Franceville, Koulamoutou, Port-Gentil, Makokou, and Oyem, in coordination with other actors and partners in the country over a period of three months.

Operation strategy rationale

The proposed operational strategy, in line with the Gabonese Red Cross's election contingency plan, encompasses the three phases of the electoral period (pre-electoral period, Election Day, and post-electoral period) and is structured as follows:

- 1) Pre-Electoral Period: Preparation Activities (from the approval of the DREF until April 12, 2025):
 - Refresher training for 70 volunteers (50 in Grand Libreville, 10 in Koulamoutou, and 10 in Franceville) over 1 day.
 - A training for 130 new volunteers (50 in Grand Libreville, 10 in Koulamoutou, 10 in Franceville, 20 in Makokou, 20 in Port-Gentil, and 20 in Oyem) over 4 days on the following topics: emergency first aid, psychological first aid, code of conduct, community engagement and accountability, and gender protection and inclusion. It is worth noting that the ICRC plans to conduct additional training on safer access, the use of the emblem, and the application of fundamental principles, given the deteriorating social climate as the election date approaches.

At the conclusion of these training sessions, visibility and first aid materials will be provided to the volunteers. It is essential to highlight that these volunteers must be ready to act immediately following their refresher or initial training. Their role will include providing first aid to anyone injured or in distress and directing severely injured individuals to healthcare centers.

- Acquisition of first aid equipment.
 - Acquisition of visibility materials.
 - Coordination meetings within the National Society, with Movement partners, and other intervention actors.
 - Briefings for volunteers and staff on the operational mechanism established in the field, maintaining communication chains, and protocols.
 - Simulation exercises within the Red Cross in targeted localities.
- 2) Two Days Before the Election (April 10-11):
 - Activation of teams for electoral monitoring.
 - Establishment of emergency operational command posts at the headquarters and in committees located in the highest-risk areas.
 - 3) Election Day:
 - Deployment of volunteers around key polling stations in high-risk localities/municipalities
 - 4) Post-Election Period (After the Elections until the Day of Proclamation), Estimated at Two Weeks.



- Formation of a monitoring team for better observation of on-the-ground situations/events.
- Monitoring the evolution of the situation through coordination meetings.
- An end-of-period workshop on lessons learned will be organized to highlight successful actions, areas for improvement, and recommendations for better capitalization and enhancement of future operations.

The National Society will ensure the dissemination of awareness messages to reduce the risk of escalating social tensions or safety risks for responders. These messages will cover the entire pre-electoral period and the time before the results. Messages promoting social cohesion, the mandate of the National Society, and the principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will initially be broadcast via radio and will begin as soon as possible to reach a wide audience in the 6 provinces. These awareness campaigns will utilize mass communication channels, mobile cinemas, community group engagement, and institutional involvement. The messages will be prioritized during the period before the vote and a few days before the results.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

In the framework of this operation, the Gabonese Red Cross is preparing to assist 10,000 people in the highest-risk areas, namely Libreville, Makokou, Koulamoutou, Franceville, Port-Gentil, and Oyem.

The 10,000 target individuals are those who could benefit directly from the humanitarian services planned in this operation, including relief actions, psychological support (PSS), mobile cinema initiatives, and engagement with local community leaders and representatives of civil and military institutions. Monitoring, relief management, and direct awareness campaigns through volunteers will specifically target large gatherings typically observed during the electoral calendar. The targeting priorities based on the calendar are determined by potential exposure analyzed from past observations. The priority groups are as follows:

- Before the vote: Communities attending political meetings; community gatherings; associations—particularly youth groups; community leaders (religious, traditional, and governmental).
- During the vote: Focus will be on high-traffic polling stations and gatherings in their immediate vicinity. Within these gatherings, priority will be given to pregnant and breastfeeding women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, children, and foreigners (migrants). They will be targeted with messages at polling station entrances and provided support in case of escalation.
- During the results: Focus will be on any gatherings for which the Gabonese Red Cross receives an alert. Priority will be given to individuals with specific needs.

Awareness activities, however, will be conducted on a larger scale due to the use of varied channels such as radio, messages at political and social gatherings, etc.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Based on the latest general population census in Gabon, used as a reference in the contingency plan, the total population of high-risk localities (Libreville, Makokou, Koulamoutou, Franceville, Port-Gentil, and Oyem) is estimated at 1,625,645 people.

The National Society (NS) considers the most at-risk individuals to be those attending political meetings and those visiting polling stations, including voters and all other stakeholders involved in the voting process. After the proclamation of results, violence could potentially affect an even larger number of people, including not only dissatisfied protesters but also individuals going about their daily activities, such as merchants and residents in their homes in the event of looting. This situation would further endanger the most vulnerable groups, namely pregnant or breastfeeding women, young children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and minority groups.

Total Targeted Population

Women	3,140	Rural	12%
Girls (under 18)	1,690	Urban	87%
Men	3,360	People with disabilities (estimated)	2%
Boys (under 18)	1,810		
Total targeted population	10,000		



Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Difficulty accessing the targeted population due to the presence of protest movements.	A training session on Safer Access will be provided to volunteers with the support of the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). This will equip volunteers with the tools needed to facilitate access and ensure acceptance by the community.
Risk of delays in launching DREF activities due to administrative complexities/slow processes and delays in resource allocation from the cluster to the NS (headquarters) and from the headquarters to the departmental committees (field level).	<p>The NS will initiate mobilization activities that do not require funding.</p> <p>The NS will also commit to pre-financing the launch of activities immediately upon DREF approval while administrative challenges are being resolved.</p>
Risk to the reputation of the National Society (NS) due to the population's lack of awareness of its mandate, missions, and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing and raising awareness among the population. - Training volunteers and staff on the code of conduct, as well as on combating fraud and corruption
Unavailability of NS personnel and volunteers due to the management of multiple ongoing operations, leading to an increased workload for CRG staff and volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deployment of a surge staff member - Regular support from cluster office staff - Strengthening organizational work capacities within the NS (planning and prioritization of activities) - Prioritization of actions - Accelerating the implementation of DREF 2024 Flood activities to finalize key tasks (training and distribution) before the start of the electoral campaign. - Dividing NS teams to finalize DREF 2024 Flood activities, while another team focuses on preparing for DREF election activities

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

In most urban areas, particularly the capital Libreville, the most significant security risks stem from situations of violence. During political events such as elections, the likelihood of disturbances tends to increase. Security threats may include protests, spontaneous or organized riots, followed by severe repression, self-defence roadblocks, and a potential rise in occasional criminal activity.

All mobilized volunteers and staff will receive training on safer access, with the support of the ICRC. Monitoring of the security context will be supported by the IFRC and ICRC. The National Society (NS) has identified a national security officer who will liaise with the security officer of the IFRC cluster and the ICRC delegation to exchange security-related information. The NS security officer will also communicate with branches in targeted high-risk localities, collaborating with community authorities, and will provide regular updates on the situation. Reports from monitoring teams and information collected by various teams will be filtered by the security focal point and shared with the headquarters based on relevance. Security updates will be conducted in both directions—from branches to headquarters and vice versa—either weekly or daily, depending on the evolution of the context.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No



Planned Intervention



Budget: CHF 36,705

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers trained in Psychological First Aid	20
Number of volunteers trained and refreshed in emergency first aid	215
Number of deployed volunteers	215
Number of first aid kits	20
Percentage of individuals assisted through emergency first aid	75

Priority Actions

For health-related activities, 215 volunteers will be deployed for training and refresher courses across various modules.

- Training of 20 volunteers in psychological first aid, with 10 in Libreville and 2 in each of the other targeted zones.
- Refresher training for 70 volunteers in emergency first aid, including 50 in Estuaire, 10 in Haut-Ogooué, and 10 in Ogooué-Lolo.
- Training of 130 volunteers in emergency first aid, distributed as follows:
 - 50 volunteers in Estuaire.
 - 10 volunteers in Haut-Ogooué.
 - 20 volunteers in Ogooué-Ivindo.
 - 10 volunteers in Ogooué-Lolo.
 - 20 volunteers in Ogooué-Maritime.
 - 20 volunteers in Woleu-Ntem;
- Volunteers will be mobilized from five days before the elections until two days after the proclamation of results. In case of escalating violence, this period may be extended.
- Support stands will be set up in high-risk areas to assist individuals in need of aid.

First Aid Materials

- Purchase of 10 stretchers for the provinces (2 per province).
- Purchase of 50 survival blankets (25 for Libreville and 5 per province).
- Purchase of 20 first-aid kits with some medical supplies, distributed as follows: 10 for Estuaire and 2 per province.
- Acquisition of 500 scarves/triangles (250 for Libreville and 50 per province).
- Per Diem for 8 psychologists to provide psychological support for 30 days (3 in Libreville and 1 per province).
- Establishment of command posts or emergency operations centers in the 9 targeted localities.
- Briefing on psychological first aid (PSP) for 20 volunteers.
- Purchase of 3 oxygen kits for ambulances.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 2,132

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
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Number of volunteers trained in PGI:	215
Number of volunteers and staff trained in the Code of Conduct	215
Number of image boxes produced	50
Number of PGI awareness campaigns conducted	12

Priority Actions

- Briefing of 215 volunteers on PGI themes.
- Number of volunteers and staff trained in the Code of Conduct.
- Production of 50 image boxes on PGI as part of election preparedness.
- Analysis of child protection risks in this operation will be included in the risk analysis, and risk monitoring will be conducted. PGI training for branches and staff will be conducted with the application of PGI minimum standards and gender-based violence guidelines from the IFRC.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 40,983

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of community feedbacks per day	900
Number of volunteers trained / refreshed on CEA	200
Number of monitoring activities conducted	30

Priority Actions

For the CEA, 200 volunteers will be deployed for activities, namely:

- Training of 200 volunteers on the CEA and its principles
- Collection of information (community feedback) over 3 months
- Electoral monitoring (per diem: rescuers (80/day), supervisors (10/day), and the feedback management team (15/day)) for 30 days



Coordination And Partnerships

Budget: CHF 1,523

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of meetings with national partners	1
Coordination at the branch level	6

Priority Actions

• Meeting with partners (advocacy with government, religious, and community authorities) to raise awareness on the mandate of the Red Cross and the 7 Fundamental Principles, emphasizing impartiality and neutrality. This meeting will take place exclusively in Libreville. Ideally, a meeting should also be held in the provinces, but the information from Libreville will be shared in other provinces, and local presidents will reinforce the message during awareness campaigns.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 41,380

Targeted Persons: 6

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of Surge staff members deployed	1
Number of people deployed from the cluster for support missions	4
Number of lessons learned workshops:	1
Number of insured volunteers	215

Priority Actions

- Support and monitoring missions to the National Society (program, com needs, these missions will be either joint or separate.
- Deployment of a Surge team to coordinate preparedness activities.
- Support for volunteer insurance.
- Support for organizing the lessons learned workshop.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 30,709

Targeted Persons: 215

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers equipped with visibility material	215
Number of Red Cross flags produced	10
Number of coordination meetings with other actors/interveners	4
Number of briefing sessions with volunteers in the 9 provinces of Gabon	6
Number of meetings with Movement partners	4
Number of visibility material items (caps, vests, and jackets)	215
Number of vehicles repaired:	3
Number of launch workshops:	1



Priority Actions

- Launch workshop of the DREF at the National Society headquarters with staff involved in implementation and stakeholders concerned with the contingency.
- Deployment of 215 volunteers distributed as follows: 115 in Libreville, 20 in Franceville, 20 in Port-Gentil, 20 in Oyem, 20 in Makokou, and 20 in Koulamoutou. These volunteers will be under the supervision of 15 personnel from the National Society.
- Production and distribution of visibility and protection materials (215 caps, 215 vests).
- Branding of 8 vehicles involved in the operation.
- Purchase of 10 flags for visibility.
- Inspection and maintenance of 8 vehicles during the operation.
- Coordination meetings with other stakeholders at the national level.
- Weekly meetings with Movement partners.
- Production of weekly or daily situation bulletins (Sitrep) as required.
- Briefing of volunteers, staff, and partners on the system in place, the communication chain, and situation monitoring.
- Support for the provision of vehicles and ambulances with fuel for operations (3 vehicles in Libreville and 1 per province).
- 6 hibernation kits containing food supplies (canned goods, bread, pasta, etc.), one kit per province (Estuaire/Libreville, Woleu Ntem/Oyem, Ogooué Ivindo/Makokou, Haut-Ogooué/Franceville, Ogooué Maritime/Port Gentil, Ogooué Lolo/Koulamoutou). Funds will be transferred to each province for local purchases and kit preparation.
 - Office supplies for 6 branches for 3 months.
 - Financial costs for the Gabonese Red Cross for 3 months.
 - Communication credit for the headquarters and branches for 3 months.
 - Support for the repair of 3 vehicles (Makokou, Franceville, and Libreville for the headquarters).

About Support Services

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

In preparation for the 2025 presidential elections, the National Society plans to deploy 215 volunteers, including supervisors. These volunteers will be distributed across high-risk areas as follows:

- Libreville: 115
- Port-Gentil: 20
- Franceville: 20
- Oyem: 20
- Koulamoutou: 20
- Makokou: 20

These trained volunteers will be mobilized for electoral monitoring, starting 5 days before the election and continuing until 2 days after the announcement of results. They will provide emergency first aid and psychosocial support (PSS) while monitoring the situation within the community.

At the national headquarters, 15 staff members will be deployed. They will coordinate volunteer teams in the field and manage emergency operation centers. They will also ensure monitoring alongside partners and other stakeholders.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

Given the ongoing operations and the limited experience of a significant part of the current team, the National Society has a genuine need for support. A surge staff member with an operations management profile will be deployed to support the National Society. He will assist the National Society in training and mobilizing volunteers, organizing teams, as well as providing support for monitoring and reporting.

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

The National Society will handle procurement procedures with the support of the IFRC. Purchases will be made in Libreville and distributed to localities as the situation evolves. For items unavailable in Libreville, the IFRC may provide support for procurement through its supply chain system.



How will this operation be monitored?

The deployment of the surge staff member responsible for operations will support the monitoring of the operation in the branches and ensure ongoing assistance for reporting challenges in light of the various ongoing operations. This will be complemented by short missions from the technical units of the delegation, including finance, PMER, and the operations lead. Each of these missions will contribute to proper operational and financial monitoring as well as the preparation of reports. Additionally, weekly virtual meetings are held to monitor the situation with the National Society. At the end of the operation, the cluster will conduct a mission to Libreville to participate in the lessons-learned workshop for this operation.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Communication is one of the key components of this operation. The IFRC cluster will provide technical support to the National Society in this area through guidelines on communication in emergency situations, the development of sitreps, and the creation of other communication tools. A communication mission will take place at headquarters to support the communication officer of the National Society and further strengthen their capacities.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRGA014 - Gabon Red Cross Society Election Readiness

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	79 820
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	36 705
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2 132
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	40 983
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	73 612
Coordination and Partnerships	1 523
Secretariat Services	41 380
National Society Strengthening	30 709
TOTAL BUDGET	153 432

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



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