



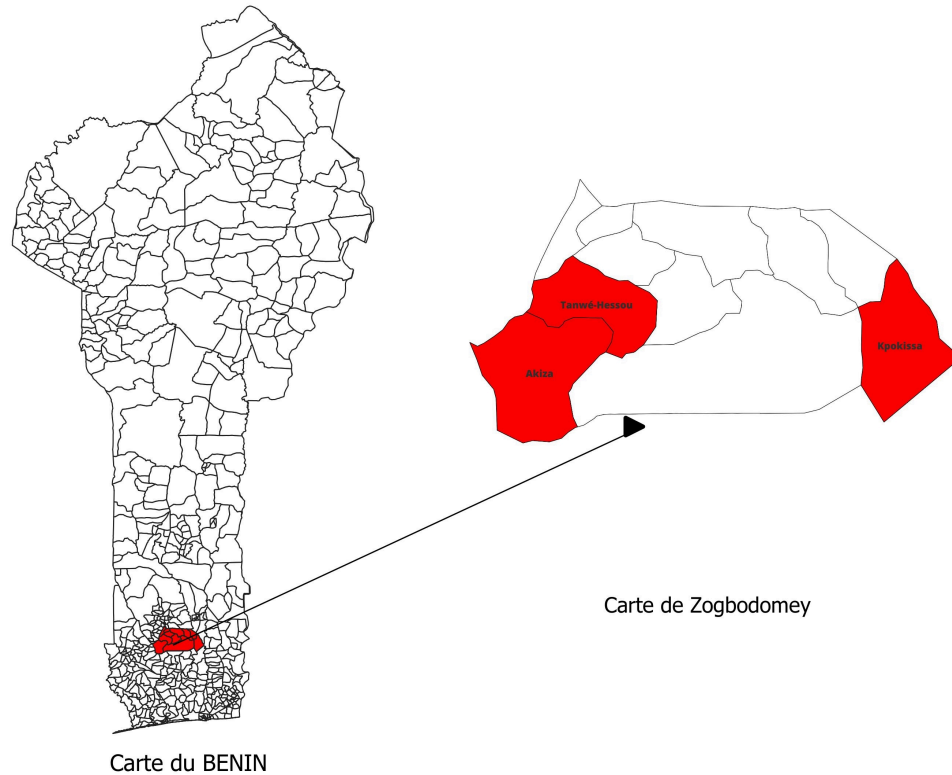
Volunteers assessing the extent of the damage

Appeal: MDRBJ021	Country: Benin	Hazard: Other	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 37,052	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 1,368 people	People Targeted: 1,266 people	
Operation Start Date: 24-03-2025	Operation Timeframe: 3 months	Operation End Date: 30-06-2025	DREF Published: 28-03-2025
Targeted Areas: Zou			

Description of the Event

Date of event

13-03-2025



Map of the affected area

What happened, where and when?

On the night of Monday, 10 March to Tuesday 11 March 2025, a violent thunderstorm accompanied by strong gusts of wind and precipitation hit the commune of Zogbodomey, causing significant material damage and affecting many families.

The strong winds caused the collapse or partial destruction of several houses in the districts of Akiza, Kpokissa and Tanwe - Hessou with a population of 5,589. This situation has affected more than 1,368 people, about 228 households from all professional strata, including pregnant women, people with disabilities, children, as well as infants under five years old, thus increasing the vulnerability of the affected populations.

In addition to private homes, significant damage was also caused to public infrastructure. The police station of the district of Kpokissa, the Kpokissa Public Primary School and the Kpokissa Market saw their roofs torn off by the force of the wind, compromising the proper functioning of the security services in the area.

Faced with this situation, on Tuesday 11 March, the volunteers of the Local Committee of the Red Cross mobilized on the ground to thoroughly assess the extent of the damage. Households that have lost their shelters have forced them to stay with other members of the community.

It is in this context that the mayor of the municipality of Zogbodomey has appealed to all humanitarian organizations to contribute to the planned response. A letter dated 13 March 2025, was sent to the Secretary General of the Red Cross of Benin (RCB) to request support from the NS to address the situation.



DESTROYED HOUSES



Field visit of volunteers



DESTROYED HOUSES

Scope and Scale

According to the report of the joint assessment carried out on 13 March 2025 by the RCB and the Municipality of Zogbodomey, a total of 211 homes were seriously damaged following the strong wind and rain that occurred in the night of 10 to 11 March. These destructions were recorded in three districts, namely Akiza, Tanwe-Hessou and Kpokissa. In the three affected districts, 11 villages (Akiza, Dénou, Djihizidê, Guémè, Ahounandjitomè, Dehounta, Dogo, Kpokissa, Agadjaligbo, Tanwe, Zinga) were affected by this disaster. There are 161 people in Akissa, 22 in Kpokissa and 28 in Tanwé-Hessou. A total of 131 homes were partially damaged, 80 completely destroyed and 25 had collapsed walls.

The impact of this natural disaster has profoundly affected community life, with major repercussions on the economic, social, health and food sectors. The affected populations now find themselves in a situation of great vulnerability, requiring short- and medium-term humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. Specifically, these populations are characterized by the following profiles:

- The majority of the inhabitants of the three districts is composed of agriculturalists. They are dependent on the agricultural seasons and with very limited income.
- The poverty rate is high with reduced access to basic infrastructure (health, roads, and education).
- Few households have the capacity and financial resources to rebuild their shelters without financial assistance, in addition to the vulnerability of at-risk groups.
- Children and the elderly are particularly exposed to degraded living conditions.
- Women, who are often responsible for agricultural and domestic activities and family management, see their workload increased.
- People with disabilities or chronic illnesses are more fragile and affected by the situation.
- Scarcity of resources for community members.
- Lack of insurance or compensation mechanism increased the difficulty of recovery.
- Geographical isolation makes it difficult to access construction materials. Among the 1,368 people affected by this disaster there are 8 people with disabilities; 37 pregnant women; and 129 children under the age of five.

The most affected groups are those who have lost their homes and are left homeless, increasing their urgent needs for shelter, food and health care.

Faced with this critical situation, a rapid and coordinated mobilization of humanitarian actors and local authorities is essential to provide an adequate response and relieve the distress of the affected populations.

The needs expressed during the evaluation mainly relate to the provision of materials for the reconstruction of shelters.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

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

-

Lessons learned:

Key lessons learned from past DREF operations in response to the floods in Benin have been integrated and guided into the strategic planning of this DREF request. They focus mainly on strengthening the planning method and on the system for monitoring and sharing information, both internally and externally. These lessons will provide project teams with the necessary steps to implement to make the current response more effective and efficient, from planning to reporting. The objectives of this response include, but are not limited to the following:

- Define internal management and oversight mechanisms in advance in collaboration with community leaders through planning meetings, to clearly articulate the priorities of the plan, budgetary relevance, roles and responsibilities within the framework of the operation, as well as mechanisms for sharing information with the various parties involved.
- Identify beneficiaries in collaboration with the community, not just National Society (NS) staff and volunteers, for communities to actively participate in the selection of beneficiaries.
- Clarify the process for validating and verifying beneficiary lists from the outset.
- Strengthen the provision of continuous updates on project activities to local officials, including for distribution activities, to avoid discrepancies.
- Ensure proper entry into the community through appropriate Community Communication (Community Engagement and accountability - CEA) and the creation or strengthening of community feedback mechanisms.
- Compose gender- and diversity- sensitive blended response teams to ensure successful assistance.
- Ensure collaboration and regular updates with other actors to ensure that planning strategies complement each other and that all stakeholders ensure implementation.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

11-03-2025

Community Engagement And Accountability	A feedback and complaint management system has been set up and disseminated to ensure the active participation of the 211 affected households in the districts. Through community meetings, focus groups on wind-resilient shelter construction and satisfaction surveys, non-sensitive reactions are handled in real time, while sensitive complaints are handled confidentially. The data collected is analyzed to improve interventions. A training on CEA, including the Code of Conduct and communication skills, will be organized for volunteers to ensure a participatory and inclusive approach.
Assessment	Since 12 March 2025, the RCB through its local committee of Zogbodomey has worked closely with the local authorities to support the assessments and general coordination, thus generating the data used for this operation's planning. Community meetings are held at different levels of the commune, where the NS is actively represented and contributes technically and operationally to data collection and the development of responses. About thirty volunteers were mobilized to assess the situation.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	Through its Abuja cluster, the IFRC has an office in Benin to support the National Society. It receives technical and financial support. During the operation, the IFRC provides technical and financial support (operations, funds, etc.) for development and implementation.
Participating National Societies	The RCB hosts the National Red Cross Societies of Belgium, Flanders, Luxembourg and Switzerland as partners. They are involved in first aid, blood donation, disaster



preparedness, shelter, health, and water, sanitation and hygiene. The DREF will also be shared with Partner National Societies (PNS). Exchanges with these partners have taken place in parallel, but the affected area does not correspond to their current area of intervention. However, the Luxembourg Red Cross, have given their agreement in principle to support the present operation from a technical point of view.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Since 20 December 2024, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has established a dedicated mission to Benin. In collaboration with RCB, the ICRC implements interventions in several key areas, including health, economic security, water and sanitation, and restoring family links. These actions are concentrated in the departments of Alibori and Atacora, where humanitarian needs are particularly high.

At the same time, a capacity-building programme for the departmental and local branches of the BRC has been set up, focusing on securing access to the population and managing operational security. The ICRC's technical expertise and humanitarian approach will also make it possible to carry out a more in-depth assessment of the situation on the ground in the context of the current operation, to adjust and improve the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	As things stand, officials from the town hall and civil protection have launched pleas for the mobilization of resources to deal with this exceptional situation in the municipality. The Head of the Single Window for Social Protection (formerly CPS) was also mobilized and provided psychosocial support to the affected populations. For now, the government is actively working on resource mobilization.
UN or other actors	No partner has yet provided assistance to these communities following the request of the town hall.
Are there major coordination mechanism in place? -	

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

In the three most affected districts identified in the letter from the town hall, 211 households have lost their houses. The majority of the houses in these affected areas were built of clay and tree branches, which led to their total or partial destruction, forcing the affected populations to displace. In the district of Akiza, 161 households are affected, including 110 partially destroyed houses, 51 totally and 12 completely with collapsed walls in 04 villages. In the district of Kpokissa, 22 households are affected, with 06 houses partially destroyed, 16 totally and 7 completely with collapsed walls in 04 villages. In the district of Tanwè-Hessou, 28 households are affected, including 15 partially destroyed, 13 totally and 06 completely destroyed, with collapsed walls in 03 villages.

To note that this municipality had never experienced violent winds of this nature and of such magnitude before. The RCB will engage with the communities with the support of all actors to rebuild the shelters and put in place measures to protect these homes, to prevent future destruction due to the strong winds.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The RCB may face gaps in the implementation of the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) policy, including a lack of disaggregated data, insufficient consideration of the needs of women, girls, persons with disabilities and minorities, and the lack of participation of women, girls and persons with disabilities in the implementation of the PGI policy decision. To address these gaps, there is a need to collect



disaggregated data, involve women and girls in decision-making, update or put in place mechanisms to protect against gender-based violence, take into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities and minorities, and train staff and volunteers on PGI and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) issues.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Only data as of 13 March 2025 are available following the joint rapid needs assessment carried out by the Zogbodomey municipality and the RCB. A detailed and thorough needs assessment is necessary to clarify gaps and update data from the different sources collected. This assessment will be carried out with the participation of the affected population and the local authorities. Surveys and group discussions with different groups of people, including women, girls, men, boys and people with disabilities, will be conducted to verify the information already available and provide up-to-date information on the actions of other stakeholders. It will also consider the risks that may hinder the operation and the capacities of the target populations, while taking into account the specific needs and risks of people of different ages, gender and disabilities. A total of 30 volunteers will be trained to carry out rapid surveys using mobile tablets.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The 3-month operation aims to assist 1,266 people, or 211 households affected by strong winds in the commune of Zogbodomey, by providing construction materials for the rehabilitation or reconstruction of their shelters.

Operation strategy rationale

To achieve the objective of this operation, the RCB will distribute shelter kits and provide technical support for their construction. A total of 211 shelter kits will be mobilized, at a rate of one kit per household. These kits will be taken from the stock of 374 remaining kits from the previous operation, (DREF floods in Lalo). Each kit includes sheet metal, tips of different sizes (15, 12, 10 and 8), and wire. Since these kits no longer contain wood, it will be provided as part of this operation, especially to households whose houses have been completely destroyed. A logistical system will be set up to ensure the transport of the kits as well as additional equipment to 11 villages spread over 3 districts of the commune.

Assistance will take into account the level of destruction of shelters. Thus, households with partially destroyed shelters, i.e., those whose superstructure has not suffered any damage, but the sheet metal has been blown away by the wind, will receive assistance in sheet metal and spikes only. Households whose shelters have been totally destroyed, i.e. collapsed walls and/or roofs and sheets of metal washed away, will receive full assistance with wood, sheet metal, wires and spikes.

The intervention will take place in two distinct phases:

- Preparation and training: An initial briefing will be held to present the construction model to be adopted and the essential rules to ensure quality construction. Detailed planning of the activities will be carried out over two days.
- Field deployment: A team of volunteers and carpenters will be deployed and will work with the technical support program of the shelter RDRT member of the NS. This approach ensures a structured and effective intervention, while strengthening the technical skills of volunteers and local artisans.

Community engagement will play a critical role in the success of this operation, through the involvement of affected communities from the beginning. This will not only promote better ownership of the solutions put in place, but also a strengthening of local capacities. This involvement of the inhabitants will not be limited to the material aspect; it will also create a dynamic of solidarity and strengthen community resilience in in case of future disasters. By mobilizing volunteers and local craftsmen, this initiative ensures the transmission of know-how and increased autonomy of the populations, thus guaranteeing sustainable solutions adapted to the realities on the ground.

This will ensure that no one is left behind and that interventions take into account the specific needs of each group, especially vulnerable populations. With this in mind, several actions will be put in place to strengthen the integration of the principles of PGI and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) at all levels of the intervention. Training will be provided to the staff involved in the response, and to the volunteers, so that they master these principles and can apply them effectively in the field. At the same time, awareness-raising will be carried out among affected populations to prevent sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) and promote good practices in terms of protection and inclusion. A key aspect of this approach is the collection of disaggregated data, allowing interventions to be tailored to the specific realities and needs of different categories of beneficiaries. To ensure wide and accessible dissemination of key messages, awareness materials, such as brochures and picture boxes on the ERP and PSEA, will be produced. These tools will help to inform, prevent and encourage the active participation of all components of the community, thus strengthening an inclusive approach that respects the rights of all.



Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation directly targets 1,266 people, representing 211 of the most affected households. A total of 228 households were affected by the disaster, but of these, only 211 were considered economically vulnerable and unable to recover quickly and with dignity. The 17 households not receiving assistance are those that have sufficient resources deemed by the community itself. These include big farmers in the area.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The populations of the three districts concerned are mainly made up of subsistence farmers, whose incomes are very limited and highly dependent on the agricultural seasons. Overall, the community has few resources, and the lack of insurance or compensation mechanisms exacerbates the difficulties of recovery.

The selection criteria took into account the households that are most at risk, based on a vulnerability analysis, giving priority to those that are financially vulnerable or those with special needs, namely the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, the sick, widows and widowers. The mechanism for the active participation of communities in the process is fully taken into account.

Total Targeted Population

Women	648	Rural	44.6%
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	55.6%
Men	618	People with disabilities (estimated)	0.9%
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	1,266		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Inaccessibility of some areas of intervention due to the impassability of access roads.	This would require appropriate means of transport. The mobilization of volunteers at community level in each locality. These volunteers will have their capacities strengthened in all the themes in which they will be involved

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Security management will be based on the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The following security measures will be implemented:

1. Regular security updates will be held, and relevant information will be shared.
2. Field activities will be monitored in real time through the RCB information management system.
3. Other information and communication technologies (ICTs) will be used for communication during monitoring missions.
4. A security risk assessment specific to each operational zone will be conducted; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.
5. All Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers will be encouraged to take the IFRC's Stay Safe online courses, which include courses on personal safety, security management and volunteer safety.
6. All staff and volunteers will be required to complete the safety course and comply with the Code of Conduct.
7. All staff members, especially volunteers, will be covered by IFRC insurance.

These measures are intended to ensure the safety and protection of all those involved in the rescue operations



Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 62,149

Targeted Persons: 1,266

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of households receiving shelter items	211
Number of households assisted for construction	211
Number of volunteers and craftsmen trained	30
Percentage of shelters built	80
Number of supervised constructions	2
Number of households receiving wood for shelter	105

Priority Actions

- Purchase of wood for the construction of shelters
- Training of local volunteers and craftsmen
- Donation of shelter items for 211 households
- Supervision of the construction of resettlement shelters
- Support for households to rebuild their homes.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 3,015

Targeted Persons: 1,266

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of staff trained on ERP and PSEA	10
Number of volunteers trained on ERP and PSEA	30
Number of awareness-raising campaigns conducted on SGBV and PSEA	2

Priority Actions

- Train the staff involved in the ERP and PSEA response
- Train volunteers on ERP and PSEA

- Raise awareness on SGBV and PSEA among affected populations
- Collect disaggregated data for all activities
- Produce awareness materials such as brochures and image boxes, ERP and PSEA



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 3,364

Targeted Persons: 1,266

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers trained	30
Number of community Meetings	11
Number of Community feedback systems	1
Number of communication tools on the feedback collection system	1
Number of workshops to capitalize on what has been learned, and sharing of experience	1

Priority Actions

- Training for 30 Volunteers on CEA
- Community meetings for collecting feedback
- Support to the community feedback system (including follow-up of rumours and/or perceptions)
- Creation of communication tools on the feedback collection system
- Workshops to capitalize on what has been learned, and sharing experience



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 10,900

Targeted Persons: 40

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of preparation and planning meetings for the operation with officials and national staff.	2
Number of coordination meetings with stakeholders on activities	2
Number of staff deployed	7
Number of supervision missions	2

Priority Actions

- Organize a preparation and planning meeting for the operation with the officials and national staff.
- Organize two coordination meetings with stakeholders on activities
- Making t-shirts, vests for volunteers



- Deployment of an NDRT volunteer to support field activities with volunteers
- Acquisition of protective equipment for volunteers
- Mission of the headquarters staff to monitor activities
- Governance oversight
- Car Rental
- Part-time deployment (Motivation) Disaster Relief and Relief Coordinator
- Part-time deployment (Motivation) Accountant
- Part-time deployment (Motivation) logistics
- Part-time deployment (Motivation) recovery manager
- Part-time deployment (Motivation) CEA
- Bank fees
- RCB Administrative Fee (6.5%)

About Support Services

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

This operation mobilizes the following human resources:

- At local committees' level: 30 volunteers and 01 focal point for the implementation of activities in the field.
- Shelter specialist: A volunteer who specializes in managing shelter-related activities.
- At branch level: 1 executive secretary for the coordination and close monitoring of activities in the municipality.
- At national level: A Relief and Disaster Coordinator, an accountant, a planning officer, and a response officer.

The Red Cross of Benin, through its Relief and Disaster Department, will oversee all operational aspects, including the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the operation in the municipalities affected by the floods, thanks to its national network of branches and volunteers. Responsibility for the close monitoring of the operation will rest with the RC branches, but will be overseen by the headquarters to ensure accountability, transparency and financial management of the operation.

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

To carry out the activities in the field, the logistics department, in collaboration with the operations' Coordinator, will plan the purchase and supply of the items and tools necessary for the trainings and workshops. He will be responsible for launching the tenders for the acquisition of equipment. The acquisitions will be made in collaboration with the IFRC Cluster Office to comply with the rules and guidelines of the DREF. Careful use and appropriation of logistical procedural tools such as requisitions, CBAs, POs, BLs, contracts, receipt slips, supplier registration, supplier and consultant evaluation form, etc. must precede any purchase. Transport chain management allows for the rental of vehicles to support supervision missions in the field with efficient fuel management using tools such as vehicle on-board sheet, transport request, mission order, vehicle record, driver record, etc.

How will this operation be monitored?

Through its Relief and Disaster Department, the BRC will oversee all operational aspects, including the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of operations in flood-affected municipalities, through its national network of branches and volunteers. The implementing actors will be responsible for the close monitoring of the operation, while supervision will be provided by headquarters to ensure accountability, transparency and financial management of the operation.

The PMER team dedicated to the operation will develop a monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure regular and timely monitoring of all operational activities. An Indicator Tracking Table (ITT) and an Activity Tracking Table (ATT) will be set up for close monitoring. A reporting template will be updated to reflect the indicators defined at all reporting levels, with a section specifically dedicated to the effective monitoring activities' implementation.

As distributions will take place, post-distribution monitoring (PDM) will be conducted to collect and analyze information to verify the effectiveness of the approaches, obtain community feedback for future implementation, and document success stories. A MIP report will be prepared at the end of the monitoring mission.

Through the PMER Officer, the IFRC Benin office will provide technical support to the PDM to ensure that the operational objectives measures achieved, and reports are done.

The IFRC CEA delegate will also provide support to ensure that complaint mechanisms are created so that feedback from the community is received and considered to inform the operation.

During the implementation of this DREF, two monitoring visits will be organized under the supervision of the Head of Cluster. A lesson learned workshop involving the different implementing actors will be organized towards the end of the operation to ensure that



feedback from volunteers and target communities is taken into account, and to identify strengths and weaknesses in the implementation of the operation to better plan and inform future responses. A report will be prepared on this workshop and shared with relevant stakeholders.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The RCB communication strategy is essentially based on its volunteers. A communication channel has been set up, allowing information to be shared within the network of volunteers across the country. In the digital age, digital tools are essential and an integral part of the RCB means of communication. This improves the visibility of the institution's actions with local and international partners.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRBJ021 - Benin Red Cross Strong Winds

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	22 422
Shelter and Basic Household Items	16 043
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	3 015
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	3 364
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	14 630
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	3 730
National Society Strengthening	10 900
TOTAL BUDGET	37 052

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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