



Une formatrice CRB forme les communautés sur les premiers secours

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| Appeal: MDRBJ023 | Hazard: Other | Country: Benin | Type of DREF: Response |
| Crisis Category: Yellow | Event Onset: Slow | DREF Allocation: CHF 74,964 | |
| Glide Number: - | People Affected: 8,000,000 people | People Targeted: 160,000 people | |
| Operation Start Date: 16-03-2026 | Operation Timeframe: 2 months | Operation End Date: 31-05-2026 | DREF Published: 19-06-2026 |

Targeted Regions: **Alibori, Atakira, Atlantique, Borgou, Collines, Couffo, Donga, Littoral, Mono, Ouémé, Plateau, Zou**

Description of the Event

Date when the trigger was met

12-04-2026

What happened, where and when?

The presidential elections scheduled for 12 April 2026 in Benin will appoint the next Head of State for a five-year term. The current president, Patrice Talon, whose second term expires in May 2026 in accordance with constitutional provisions, cannot stand for re-election to stem a new term. This election thus paves the way for a new change of power at the head of state, in a context marked by major political, security and socio-economic issues.

President Patrice Talon has reaffirmed his intention not to run for a new term in 2025. Political parties supporting the government's action, including the Progressive Union for Renewal (UPR), the Republican Bloc (BR) and Moele-Benin, have nominated the current Minister of Finance, Romuald Wadagni, as their candidate for the presidential election. This appointment comes in a political context described as a turning point for the country. In December 2025, an attempted military coup rocked Benin when, on 7 December, a group of soldiers led by Lt. Col. Pascal Tigri attacked strategic points in Cotonou, including the residence of President Patrice Talon, and briefly took over national television to announce the dissolution of the government and the suspension of the constitution. The operation, claimed by a "Military Committee for Refoundation", failed a few hours later thanks to the rapid reaction of forces loyal to the government, supported by foreign interventions, including the Nigerian air force and French logistical support, to restore constitutional order.

Several mutineers have been arrested and tried, while others are being actively sought by the Beninese authorities, who are still continuing to investigate this failed coup. This crisis has been strongly condemned by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union and other international actors, who have reaffirmed their support for Benin's democracy.

To date, the phases of filing candidacies and publishing the final list of candidates have been completed, marking an important milestone in the advancement of the electoral process. Only two presidential tickets have been validated by the Constitutional Court. The first duo is composed of Romuald Wadagni, current Minister of Economy and Finance and heir apparent to President Talon, accompanied by Vice-President Mariam Chabi Talata. The second is that of Paul Hounkpè and Judicaël Hounwanou, of the Forces party Cowrie shells for an Emerging Benin (FCBE), considered as a moderate opposition.

The ousting of the Democrats party is one of the highlights of this electoral cycle. Disqualified for insufficient validated sponsorships, the main opposition party finds itself in an unprecedented situation: absent from both the National Assembly resulting from the legislative elections of January 11, 2026, and the presidential race. The party had submitted a request for appeal following its disqualification from registration for the presidential elections, which was also rejected by the Constitutional Court for lack of foundations. Former president Thomas Boni Yayi resigned on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, from the presidency of the Democrats party, before announcing his total departure from the political party.

The exclusion of the Democrats from the National Assembly also comes following the revision of Benin's Constitution in November 2025, which had generated many reactions. The legislative elections of January 11, 2026, resulted in a National Assembly entirely won over to the presidential camp. Only the Progressive Union of Renewal (UP-R) and the Republican Bloc (BR), both from the coalition supporting Patrice Talon, managed to cross the electoral threshold required to obtain seats. The legislative power is thus entirely in the hands of the presidential sphere a few weeks before the election.

In this context, the election is marked by a dominant presidential party and a weakened opposition, suggesting few surprises in the electoral results. This climate is weighed down by what observers describe as a witch hunt targeting many personalities with declared electoral ambitions (Source 2).

After a decade marked by important institutional and economic reforms, sometimes controversial, but also by signs of a de-escalation of the political climate, these elections are a decisive step in the democratic consolidation and recompositing of the national political landscape.

The electoral calendar, published by the Autonomous National Electoral Commission (CENA), is based on the following main stages:

- Electoral campaign (1st round): from 27 March to 10 April 2026
- Presidential election (1st round): 12 April 2026
- Final results of the first round: April 21, 2026
- Electoral campaign (2nd round, if necessary): from 24 April to 8 May 2026



- Presidential election (2nd round): 10 May 2026
- Final results of the second round: 20 May 2026
- Inauguration of the new President: May 2026

Although the political climate remains generally under control, certain signals, in particular the debates relating to the conditions of electoral competition, political representativeness and security dynamics in certain areas, call for increased vigilance in order to prevent any risk of pre-electoral or post-electoral tensions.

Scope and Scale

Since 2016, Benin has gone through a series of elections marked by institutional reforms, political tensions, and some significant advances in the democratic process. The 2016 presidential election opened this cycle in a peaceful climate, with the respect of term limits, and the arrival of Patrice Talon in power. Reforms of the party system in 2018 reduced political fragmentation but excluded many opposition parties, influencing subsequent elections, including the 2019 legislative elections and the 2020 municipal elections. The 2021 presidential election took place in a tense context, marked by exclusions of candidates and localized violence, while the legislative and communal elections of January 11, 2026 consolidated the dominance of the pro-government parties the Progressive Union of Renewal (UP R) and the Republican Bloc (BR) which won all the parliamentary seats and a majority of local councillors leaving the opposition without formal representation. At the same time, institutional developments, including the reform of the five- to seven-year term of office and the creation of a Senate, are preparing for the 2026 general elections. With outgoing President Patrice Talon not standing for re-election, the ruling parties nominated Finance Minister Romuald Wadagni as their candidate, placing the country at a pivotal moment for democratic consolidation and the recomposing of the political landscape. High-risk areas, where the likelihood of electoral violence is high, include several communes in the departments of Alibori, Atacora, Atlantic, Borgou, Collines, Couffo, Donga, Littoral, Mono, Ouémé, Plateau and Zou, while medium-risk areas require increased vigilance and prevention mechanisms. and non-at-risk areas can follow the electoral process with standard tracking.

Three contingency scenarios are envisaged: a better scenario where the process goes well overall with minor protests, a likely scenario marked by localized protests and violence leading to displacement and humanitarian incidents, and a catastrophic scenario with a deadlock in the process, massive mobilization of the opposition, clashes and significant humanitarian needs:

- In the best scenario, the electoral process is generally taking place in good conditions. The elections were held with some minor challenges, but these did not lead to significant humanitarian consequences. At the end of the election, a political party is recognized as the winner and activities continue normally in the country. The results proclaimed by the CENA are largely consensual and do not give rise to any major disputes. The various candidates formally commit to respecting a code of good conduct throughout the electoral process, while the campaign is taking place in a generally peaceful climate, without major incidents. In addition, the decisions of the Constitutional Court are accepted by political actors, which helps to strengthen the credibility of the electoral process as well as citizens' trust in the institutions.

- The most likely scenario envisages an electoral process strongly contested by the opposition, which denounces a partisan rejection of certain candidacies by the CENA. Despite these tensions and public protests, the electoral calendar would be maintained, with a campaign marked by several acts of violence between supporters of different camps. The conduct of the election could be disrupted in some polling stations, leading to unrest, ransacking of electoral materials and isolated incidents. The proclamation of the victory of the ruling party's candidate would be immediately rejected by the opposition, generating calls for protest demonstrations and a significant increase in the security risk. These tensions could lead to population movements in several localities, with, in one week, about 1,000 internally displaced people, 50 injured, a dozen deaths, 100 cases of family separation and several cases of gender-based violence (GBV) reported. Early warning indicators include the public contestation of the results proclaimed by the CENA, the questioning of the reliability of the electoral register by several political actors, the organization of protest marches and increased mobilization of the opposition, the massive and unusual deployment of security forces around sensitive places, as well as the preventive displacement of populations fearing possible clashes.

- In the event of a worst-case scenario, the electoral process could be stalled or incomplete, leading to a widespread loss of confidence in the institutions and the electoral system. A massive and coordinated mobilization of opposition actors could lead to large-scale protests, leading to rising tensions and a high risk of clashes between protesters and security forces. In this context, the possible intervention of the army to restore order could aggravate the situation and provoke an escalation. This situation could quickly evolve into a major socio-political crisis, with a significant increase in humanitarian needs. This could lead to mass displacement, injuries, family separations and gender-based violence. Protection, health and crisis management services would be under great pressure to meet these needs. Among the signals that can alert on this situation are the mass arrests of political leaders and demonstrators, the organization of marches or major mobilizations by the opposition, the reinforced and massive deployment of the police in sensitive areas, as well as the significant preventive displacement of populations residing in these areas at risk. Serious threats to the lives of political leaders, such as targeted killings, are also critical early warning indicators. An update of the operation will be made for a larger and holistic response.

The most sensitive stages are the electoral campaign, voting day, counting, the proclamation of results and investiture, particularly in fragile areas. The establishment of monitoring and rescue teams, deployed from the eve of the elections until one week after the inauguration, is essential to ensure a rapid and appropriate response to any incident and to guarantee the safety of the population, election staff and observers.



| Source Name | Source Link |
|-------------|---|
| 1. Source 1 | https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique/b%C3%A9nin-seules-deux-candidatures-retenu%C3%A9s-d%C3%A9finitivement-pour-la-pr%C3%A9sidentielle-d-avril-2026/3743968 |
| 2. Source 2 | https://www.iris-france.org/en/benin-what-does-the-7-december-coup-attempt-reveal/ |

Previous Operations

| | |
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| 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:

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Lessons learned:

Building on the operations previously carried out, the National Society (SN) has been able to draw valuable lessons and identify good practices that have significantly reduced the main constraints and challenges encountered during its interventions. These achievements cover several essential aspects of operational management, such as rigorous planning, effective mobilization of human and material resources, supervision of activities in the field and communication with stakeholders. In this new intervention, some of these proven practices will be systematically implemented to improve the effectiveness and impact of actions. This will include ensuring that resource mobilization is done in a timely manner, initiating procurement after formal validation of needs, and maintaining continuous and transparent communication with stakeholders, to ensure their information and engagement throughout the process. The integration of these approaches will not only strengthen the quality of the intervention but also ensure better coordination between all the actors involved, while minimizing the risks related to operational execution.

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| Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level? | No |
|--|----|

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

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| Secretariat | Through its Abuja cluster, the IFRC has an office in Benin to support the Beninese Red Cross. During the operation, the IFRC provides technical and financial support |
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| | (operations, funds, etc.) for the development and implementation of the response. |
| Participating National Societies | <p>The Beninese Red Cross (BRC) benefits from the support of several National Partner Societies (NPS): the Belgian Red Cross Flanders, the Belgian Red Cross and the Belgian Red Cross.</p> <p>the Swiss Red Cross and the French Red Cross. These partners actively support the BRC in the implementation of its humanitarian interventions, organizational development and institutional capacity building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Belgian Red Cross Flanders is mainly involved in the areas of first aid, blood donation and disaster preparedness. - The Luxembourg Red Cross, for its part, is focusing its support on the shelter, health, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors. It also contributes to the capacity building of BRC staff on issues related to emergency shelter and facilitates the provision of emergency kits, including shelter materials and non-food items (NFIs), to respond quickly to the needs of affected populations. - The French Red Cross mainly supports organizational development, first aid, income-generating activities and disaster preparedness. <p>In addition, all SNPs will provide technical support for the implementation of the contingency plan. The Belgian Red Cross – Flanders will provide health coverage and training for ten additional districts.</p> |

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has historically been present in Benin through its regional mission based in Lomé, has strengthened its commitment by opening a dedicated mission in the country since 20 December 2024. This increased presence aims to intensify support for humanitarian actions in favor of vulnerable populations, particularly in the departments of Atacora and Alibori, affected by the security crisis.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was actively involved in the process of developing the contingency plan. In partnership with the Beninese Red Cross (CRB), it implements programmes in the areas of health, physical rehabilitation, economic security, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), housing, communication, as well as restoring family links (RFL), in the departments of Alibori and Atacora.

These interventions are complemented by a capacity-building programme for the local committees of the CRB, focusing on safer access, risk management and operational security. The ICRC's expertise will be used to broaden the scope of activities in the context of the implementation of the contingency plan, while supporting the BRC in humanitarian coordination, in order to promote collective, coherent and effective action with all partners.

As part of this operation, the Beninese Red Cross, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross, trained volunteers from all departments in January 2026 on the management of Restoring Family Links (RFL) cases in emergency situations, as well as in December 2025 on the management of mortal remains. Five districts in the northern zones will be covered by funding from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

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| Government has requested international assistance | No |
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Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

As an auxiliary of the public authorities in the humanitarian field and a member of the various platforms (national, departmental and local) for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, the Beninese Red Cross (BRC) actively participates in planning and monitoring meetings at the national and departmental levels.

It has operational teams in the twelve departments of the country, which will constitute the implementation mechanism of the operation, with the technical and strategic support of the headquarters team.

The BRC holds regular coordination meetings with its local committees, including in disaster situations or as part of preparedness activities. Rapid assessments are conducted in the field by the BDRT teams, in order to guarantee a rapid, effective humanitarian response adapted to the needs of the affected populations.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

In the context of the elections in Benin, particularly during campaigns, rallies, polling days and periods of proclamation of results, localized tensions could arise in some departments such as Borgou, Collines, Atacora and Alibori.

These situations could lead to injuries, family separations and significant psychosocial impacts. In order to prevent preventable deaths and limit complications related to injuries, the Beninese Red Cross (CRB) will strengthen health preparedness through integrated training of trainers (ToT) and then that of volunteers in First Aid (BSC), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI/GBV) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) and simulation. Close coordination will be established with public health structures, local authorities and Movement partners to ensure medical evacuations, referral of serious cases to health centres and a clear, secure and scenario-appropriate communication chain, from national headquarters to departmental and local committees.

In addition, the CRB's intervention capacity will be consolidated by an anticipatory logistical system including the prepositioning of first aid kits and protective and visibility equipment (gowns/vests, masks, etc.) in areas identified as at risk, before the elections are held, in order to compensate for any restrictions on movement. The supply of fuel and the availability of vehicles for the transport of volunteers will be ensured to effectively support the operation. Reliable means of communication (telephone and internet) as well as visibility and protection equipment (vests, badges, gowns, stickers and flags) will be made available to the local committees in order to guarantee the safety of the teams, strengthen their acceptance and ensure a rapid, coordinated and secure intervention.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

During the election period, in the event of tension or violence, people already in vulnerable situations risk seeing their living conditions further deteriorated and their rights compromised. These include pregnant and breastfeeding women, people living with disabilities, the elderly, as well as migrants, refugees and other minority groups, particularly present in some border areas. These groups are at increased risk of discrimination, exclusion and violence, including gender-based violence (GBV) and risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

In order to mitigate these risks, the Beninese Red Cross will ensure that its volunteers are trained in the Code of Conduct, the principles of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), as well as the prevention of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. This preparation will strengthen the protection of the volunteers themselves and ensure dignified, gender-sensitive and inclusive assistance. The operation will also aim to reduce risk factors related to the increase in GBV, identify cases of GBV and PSEA, and refer people to the relevant specialist services available at local level.



Community Engagement And Accountability

During election periods, preserving humanitarian acceptance and access is a major issue. It is essential to raise awareness among communities, local leaders and all political actors of the Movement's mandate, role and fundamental principles, with a particular



emphasis on neutrality, impartiality and independence. This approach aims to prevent confusion with other actors, to limit reputational risks and to guarantee safe and unhindered access to teams in the field. The BRC will also ensure that harmonised key messages, including through its communication channels, are disseminated as a reminder that it provides assistance, including first aid, to anyone in need regardless of political affiliation. To strengthen this momentum, regular briefings will be held for volunteers and staff to strengthen their understanding of the Movement's mandate, core principles and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) mechanisms. The objective is to improve the quality of interactions with communities, to facilitate the collection and feedback of reliable information by tablets to the departmental and national levels, and to ensure communication adapted to the Beninese context. The communication team will support this process through the development of appropriate tools (communication charter, key messages, status reports), while capacity building of local and departmental officials will help increase the credibility, visibility and acceptance of the BRC.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF operation aims to strengthen the capacity of the Beninese Red Cross (CRB) and communities to respond effectively to humanitarian needs that may arise from possible pre- or post-election violence, with a focus on health and first aid, protection, gender inclusion, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) as well as the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in the targeted cities. Planned for a period of two months, it aims to reach about 160,000 people in the country's 77 communes through coverage of 79 of Benin's 454 districts and to strengthen the capacities of volunteers to intervene in a safe, neutral and effective manner, while ensuring close coordination with the authorities and other humanitarian actors present in Benin.

Operation strategy rationale

In line with the Beninese Red Cross Electoral Contingency Plan, the strategy is structured around three key phases: pre-election, during the election, and post-election, each of which brings together specific preparedness, response, and follow-up actions to ensure an effective, neutral, and coordinated humanitarian response.

Before the election period: The BRC sets up a command and coordination structure to ensure an organized and effective response. It strengthens consultation with other humanitarian actors and health facilities and clarifies its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, while preserving its neutrality and independence. Awareness-raising activities are carried out with the authorities, partners, communities, media and volunteers to promote the values of peace and the fundamental principles of the Movement. As part of the DREF, a launch workshop is being organised, followed by the acquisition of the necessary equipment: gowns, stretchers, first aid kits and satellite phones, as well as the delivery of first aid kits. At the same time, integrated training is organised: a training session for trainers (ToT) in First Aid (BSP), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI/GBV) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) in 3 days with simulations, then the training of volunteers on the same themes in 2 days. The volunteers are then deployed in operational teams (5 volunteers per team), motivated and equipped with the required equipment. A reporting, monitoring and monitoring system is activated to monitor the evolution of the electoral context, and internal coordination meetings (national, departmental, communal) are planned. The development and dissemination of key messages on the neutral and impartial role of the BRC contributes to strengthening the understanding of the humanitarian mission among all actors.

During elections: During the election period, as soon as an incident or population movement is reported, volunteers, departmental coordinators and members of local committees go to the rallying point to receive the latest operational instructions. Each member must have their official identification document and their Red Cross vest or bib. The directory of volunteers is updated and transmitted to the national level via the branches. The teams carry out a rapid assessment of the situation (number and condition of casualties, potential risks) and inform the BRC's Emergency Operations Centre to trigger the response. After validation, the teams are deployed to the areas concerned, with the support of the 13 national disaster response teams (NDRT) volunteers and the supervision teams for the operations. The volunteers maintain continuous communication with the coordination, evacuate victims to health centres and strictly respect their humanitarian role in the event of arrest by the security forces. Key messages on the neutrality and impartiality of the BRC are regularly disseminated, and an integrated communication and incident reporting system, including Internet access for tablets, is activated. At the end of each day, a debriefing is held to evaluate the activities and plan the next day's actions.

After the elections: If the situation has stabilized, the BRC continues to provide relief and assistance to the affected populations. A comprehensive response evaluation is conducted to measure the quality, effectiveness and impact of interventions, identify areas for improvement and strengthen institutional capacity for future operations. Volunteers are kept deployed if necessary, including for the investiture. Early recovery and psychosocial support actions are implemented to provide sustainable support to communities. Finally, a lessons learned workshop is organized, accompanied by publications and visibility articles, to capitalize on the experience and strengthen preparedness for future interventions.



Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The actions proposed in this operation will be primarily oriented towards the country's 77 municipalities through coverage of 79 of Benin's 454 districts, with particular attention to the following capitals: the department of Alibori includes the municipalities of Banikoara, Gogounou, Kandi (capital), Karimama, Malanville and Ségbana; Atacora includes Boukoubé, Coby, Kérou, Kouandé, Matéri, Natitingou (capital), Péhunco, Tanguiéta and Toucountouna; the Atlantic includes Abomey-Calavi, Allada (capital), Kpomassè, Ouidah, Sô-Ava, Toffo, Tori-Bossito and Zè; the Borgou includes Bembéréké, Kalalé, N'Dali, Nikki, Parakou (capital), Pèrèrè, Sinendé and Tchaourou; the department of Collines includes Bantè, Dassa-Zoumè (capital), Glazoué, Ouèssè, Savalou and Savè; the Couffo includes Aplahoué (capital), Djakotomey, Dogbo, Klouékanmè, Lalo and Toviklin; the Donga includes Bassila, Copargo, Djougou (capital) and Ouaké; the Littoral is limited to Cotonou (capital); the Mono includes Athiémé, Bopa, Comè, Grand-Popo, Houéyogbé and Lokossa (capital); the Ouémé includes Adjarra, Adjohoun, Aguégoués, Akpro-Missérété, Avrankou, Bonou, Dangbo, Porto-Novo (capital) and Sèmè-Kpodji; the Plateau includes Adja-Ouèrè, Ifangni, Kétou, Pobè (capital) and Sakété; finally, the Zou includes Abomey (capital), Agbangnizoun, Bohicon, Covè, Djidja, Ouinhi, Za-Kpota, Zagnanado and Zogbodomey.

The target population will include people from the most sensitive areas of each municipality, identified for their potential for violence before, during and after the elections. Of the estimated 8 million voters expected, the individuals considered "at risk" are mainly those participating in the demonstrations or actively involved in the activities of their political party. These groups represent about 2% of voters, or nearly 160,000 people in the worst-case scenario. This operational plan will focus on this at-risk population, identified as the most likely to be affected. However, if humanitarian needs exceed this estimate, the operation may be adjusted to respond to a larger response.

The 77 municipalities were identified because of the existence of potential challenges and risks of tension related to the electoral context. This national coverage will ensure more complete and representative feedback of the situation on the ground, thus facilitating better analysis and appropriate decision-making. The capitals of each municipality are high-risk areas, as they host all the teams in charge of elections throughout the municipality and serve as places of synthesis for the processing and centralization of electoral information.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The main target population of this operation, estimated at 160,000 people, includes those who can directly benefit from planned humanitarian services, such as first aid, psychosocial support (PSS) and communication and community engagement. This will be ensured by raising awareness and mobilizing local leaders and representatives of communities and civil institutions. First aid and awareness-raising activities will be particularly focused on large gatherings observed during the election campaign period, with a focus on participants in political rallies, community meetings and crowded polling stations. Specific attention will be paid to the most vulnerable populations, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, the elderly, people with disabilities, children, minorities and expatriate populations (refugees and migrants). Orientation messages will inform voters of available first aid stations, and support will be provided in the event of an incident to enhance their protection. The prevention of gender-based violence and child protection will be the subject of particular vigilance, with coordinated support between the Benin Red Cross and specialized structures to ensure appropriate care.

Total Targeted Population

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Women | 38,535 | Rural | 50.7% |
| Girls (under 18) | 43,385 | Urban | 49.3% |
| Men | 36,729 | People with disabilities (estimated) | 7% |
| Boys (under 18) | 41,351 | | |
| Total targeted population | 160,000 | | |



Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

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

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

| Risk | Mitigation action |
|--|--|
| Risk to the reputation of the NS due to the population's lack of knowledge of its mandate, its missions and the fundamental principles of the RC. | Risk to the reputation of the NS due to the population's lack of knowledge of its mandate, its missions and the fundamental principles of the RC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information and awareness of the population - Training of volunteers and staff on the Conduct and the fight against fraud and corruption. |
| Increased demand for intervention in the affected. | The situation will be closely monitored at the national level. The National Society will review the Action Plan and train and equip more volunteers as the newly affected areas evolve. |
| Sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children. | Organizing the activities of all parties involved and training volunteers. |
| Inaccessibility of response areas due to threats. | The Benin Red Cross has collected all relevant security information before and during all field missions. Staff and volunteers involved in the process have been informed of the code of conduct and secure access. |
| The security situation in the border areas of Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo may have an impact on national security and the overall development of the operation. | The Benin Red Cross constantly informed its teams of safety information and applicable regulations. Most volunteers in these areas are trained in safer access, security, and safety. The CRB maintains good relations with the security guards. During the implementation of the DREF, the SN has ensured that its volunteers are brought up to speed according to needs. |



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

In ordinary times, Benin is recognized as a relatively stable country. However, during election periods or periods of socio-political tension, the security context can become more sensitive, especially in large urban centres and in certain areas at risk. Potential threats may include demonstrations, spontaneous or organized gatherings, public disorder, barricades, clashes between opposing groups, and restrictions on movement imposed by security forces.

Increased vigilance will be paid to the departments of Alibori and Atacora, exposed to security incidents linked to cross-border dynamics and the presence of non-state armed groups. In these areas, security operations, mobility limitations, and the risk of targeted attacks can impede humanitarian access and increase the exposure of teams and communities.

Faced with these risks, the Beninese Red Cross will implement a reinforced approach to security analysis and management. The situation will be monitored regularly, in coordination with the administrative authorities, community leaders and partners of the Movement. Operational decisions, including itineraries and modalities of intervention, will be adapted according to the evolution of the context.

Before any deployment, systematic security briefings will be organised to remind people of the instructions relating to risk analysis, appropriate behaviour in sensitive contexts and safer access procedures. Community acceptance will be strengthened through the involvement of local volunteers and the dissemination of clear messages on the neutrality, impartiality and independence of humanitarian action.

Standard safety protocols will be strictly enforced, including compliance with the Movement's Code of Conduct and Fundamental Principles. Minimum security requirements will be maintained throughout the operation. In the event of a deterioration in the context, some activities may be readjusted, postponed or adapted to ensure the protection of staff, volunteers and beneficiaries.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Planned Intervention



Budget: -

Targeted Persons: 160,000

Indicators

| Title | Target |
|--|--------|
| Number of stretchers | 70 |
| Number of First Aid Kits | 70 |
| Number of integrated training of trainers (ToT) in First Aid (BSB), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (ERP/GBV) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) and simulation | 1 |
| Number of integrated volunteer training sessions in First Aid (BSB), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI/GBV) and Psychosocial Support (PSS). | 11 |
| Number of trainers trained in First Aid (BSB), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (ERP/GBV) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) and simulation | 36 |



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|---|-----|
| Number of volunteers trained in Basic First Aid (BST), IGP/GBV and Psychosocial Support (PSS) | 395 |
|---|-----|

Priority Actions

Acquisition of 70 of the Stretchers Acquisition of 70 First Aid Kits.

Organization of an integrated training of 36 trainers (ToT) in First Aid (BSB), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (ERP/GBV) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) and simulation

Organization of an integrated training of 396 volunteers in First Aid (BSB), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI/GBV) and Psychosocial Support (PSS).



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: -

Targeted Persons: 160,000

Indicators

| Title | Target |
|--|--------|
| Number of workshops to develop key messages on the neutral and impartial role of RC | 1 |
| Number of key messages disseminated on the neutral and impartial role of RC | 1 |
| Number of integrated communication and escalation devices | 1 |
| Number of internal coordination meetings CRB (national joint department) before, during and after each election. | 1 |
| Number of volunteers and staff benefiting from communication costs | 430 |
| Number of Visibility Articles | 1 |
| Number of lessons learned workshops | 1 |

Priority Actions

Development of key messages on the neutral and impartial role of RC.

Dissemination of key messages on the neutral and impartial role of RC.

Implementation of an integrated communication and incident reporting system.

Organization of internal coordination meetings CRB (national joint department) before, during and after each election. Communication of volunteers and teams.

Visibility Articles.

Lessons Learned Workshop.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: -

Targeted Persons: 160,000



Indicators

| Title | Target |
|--|--------|
| Number of Satellite Phones | 1 |
| Number of volunteers for the election period | 395 |
| Number of volunteers NDRT | 13 |
| Number of supervisory teams for operations | 1 |
| Number of months of internet for tablets | 1 |
| Number of human resources deployed to implement activities | 6 |

Priority Actions

Acquisition of 395 gowns,
Acquisition of a Satellite Phones
Conveying first aid kits
Deployment of 395 volunteers for the pre-election, electoral and post-election period
Deployment of the 13 NDRT volunteers
Deploy supervision teams for operations
Internet for tablets
Contribution to the salary Director of Disaster Relief
Contribution to the salary of the Security Focal Point
Contribution to Accountant Salary
Contribution to logistics salary
Contribution to the salary of the Disaster Management Manager Contribution to the salary of the PMER

About Support Services

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

As part of the management of the electoral operation, the Beninese Red Cross will mobilise a structured and progressive operational system. A total of 395 volunteers will be deployed during the pre-election, electoral and post-election phases to ensure community presence, monitoring of the situation and implementation of planned activities. Thirteen National Disaster Volunteers Response Teams (NDRT) will also be deployed to support technical coordination and rapid response in the event of an incident. The system will be supported by supervision teams responsible for monitoring the field, compliance with procedures and the quality of interventions. On the functional level, overall coordination will be ensured by the Director of Relief and Disasters, supported by a Disaster Management Manager. A Security Focal Point will ensure the continuous analysis of risks and the application of security measures. A Communication and Community Engagement and Accountability Manager (Comm/CEA) will also be integrated into the system to ensure the dissemination of key messages, the management of community feedback, the prevention of rumours and the strengthening of the acceptance of the teams in the field. Internet connectivity for tablets will be provided to allow real-time feedback of information and efficient monitoring of activities. Support functions will include an Accountant for financial management, a logistics manager for procurement and equipment management, as well as a PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting) manager responsible for monitoring indicators, data collection and reporting. Internet connectivity for tablets will be provided to facilitate real-time feedback of information and operational monitoring.

This integrated mechanism will ensure effective coordination, close supervision and a response adapted to the changing context throughout the electoral process.



Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

Overall, the Beninese Red Cross relies on a volunteer base that reflects the diversity of the communities served, with volunteers recruited directly from the areas of intervention. This representativeness takes into account cultural and gender dimensions.

For each operation, the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) department sets up a specific mechanism to ensure that these aspects are systematically integrated, through the training of volunteers, the use of appropriate awareness-raising tools and the implementation of feedback systems. The selection of volunteers also ensures that different ethnic groups and both genders are inclusive, which builds community acceptance and facilitates communication with beneficiaries.

Finally, the mobilization of volunteers in all areas of intervention consolidates our presence in communities and ensures a relevant humanitarian response adapted to local needs.

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 delivery of the items and tools needed for training courses and workshops. It will be responsible for issuing tenders to acquire the necessary equipment for the operation and the acquisitions will be carried out in collaboration with the IFRC cluster in order to comply with the rules and guidelines of the DREF. The meticulous use and appropriation of logistics procedure tools such as purchase requisitions, CBAs, POs, BLs, contracts, receipt slips, supplier registration, supplier and consultant evaluation forms, must precede any purchase. Transport chain management enables vehicle tracking to support supervision missions in the field with efficient fuel management using tools such as vehicle log, transport request, mission order, vehicle map, driver data sheet, etc

How will this operation be monitored?

The Benin Red Cross will oversee the entire operation, relying on its network of local committees and volunteers to ensure the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities. The local committees will provide day-to-day monitoring, while the national headquarters will ensure accountability, transparency and financial rigour. Monitoring and evaluation tools will be used, including tables of indicators and activities, as well as a standardized reporting template to ensure regular feedback. In addition, joint monitoring missions with partners and local authorities will be organised depending on the context, and weekly online meetings will assess the progress of the operation and coordinate the necessary adjustments. An operational centre will be set up to support the coordination and monitoring of activities, and a capitalisation workshop will be organised at the end of the operation to draw lessons from the intervention, identify good practices and strengthen planning for future humanitarian responses.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Communication is an essential link in this operation. The Beninese Red Cross' communication strategy, supported by its partners, will be based on awareness-raising campaigns via television, radio and digital media, as well as outreach actions carried out by volunteers trained in risk communication and community engagement, in order to limit the risks to the organization's reputation.

An appropriate communication strategy will be implemented before the launch of the operation, with the main objectives of:

- To build trust in the Beninese Red Cross to facilitate its interventions and the care of victims.
- To increase the visibility of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement by presenting its actions, mandate and initiatives.
- Directing communication to communities to build local awareness.
- Ensure effective and regular transmission of information between Beninese Red Cross actors and its humanitarian partners.

Conduct awareness campaigns on social networks to remind people of the role of the Red Cross in respecting the principles of neutrality and impartiality.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

Code - BENIN RED CROSS
Elections Readiness and Response 2026

Operating Budget

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Planned Operations | 50 151 |
| Shelter and Basic Household Items | 0 |
| Livelihoods | 0 |
| Multi-purpose Cash | 0 |
| Health | 37 008 |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 0 |
| Protection, Gender and Inclusion | 0 |
| Education | 0 |
| Migration | 0 |
| Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery | 0 |
| Community Engagement and Accountability | 13 143 |
| Environmental Sustainability | 0 |
| Enabling Approaches | 24 813 |
| Coordination and Partnerships | 761 |
| Secretariat Services | 0 |
| National Society Strengthening | 24 051 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 74 964 |

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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[Click here for the reference](#)

