

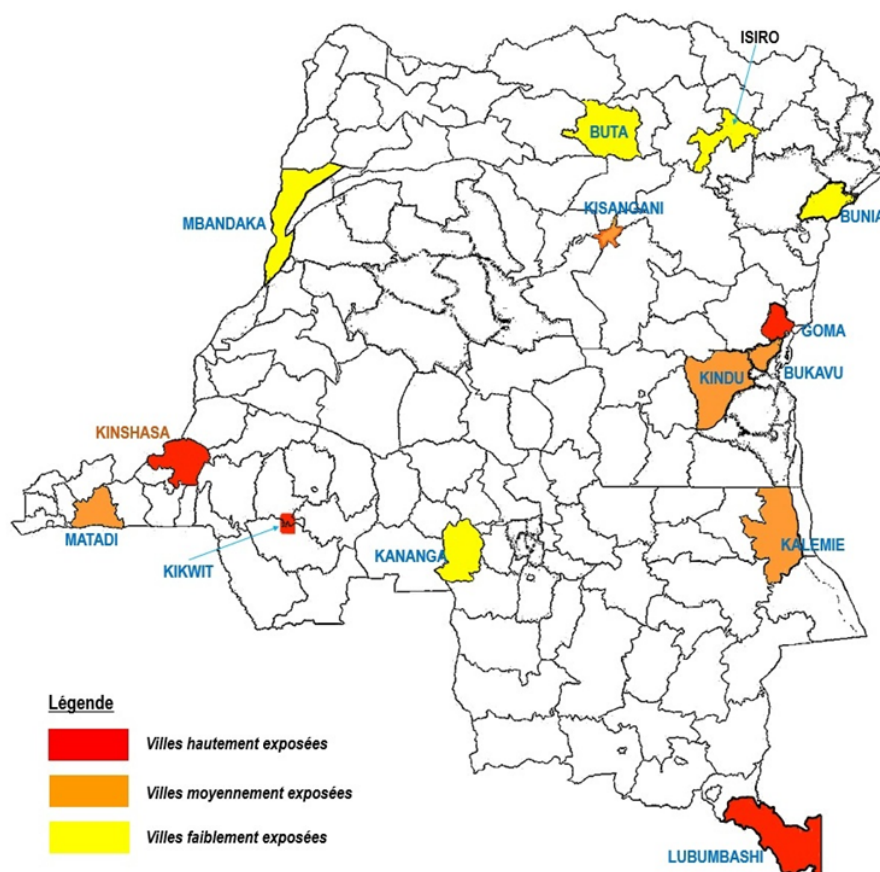


Diffusion on Red Cross and awareness of humanitarian values before the election

Appeal: MDRCD041	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 149,210	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Other
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 90,000 people	People Targeted: 15,000 people	People Assisted: 52,966 people
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 04-12-2023	Operational End Date: 31-03-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 3 months
Targeted Regions: Haut-Katanga, Kongo Central, Kwilu, Maniema			

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

Description of the Event



Map of at risk areas _ DRCRC and ICRC @2022

Approximate date of impact

The key dates in the electoral process were as follows:

- December 31, 2023, publication of the provisional results by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI)
- January 9, 2024, proclamation of the final results of the presidential election by the Constitutional Court.

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

The Democratic Republic of Congo prepared for its fourth post-transition electoral cycle amid heightened tensions. The unresolved crisis following the 2018 presidential elections had fueled ongoing instability, including ethnic violence, armed conflict, and population displacement—particularly in the eastern regions. These challenges were compounded by widespread political distrust and concerns over the transparency and impartiality of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). Insecurity prevented over a million citizens from registering to vote. When CENI later reported registration figures that significantly exceeded expectations, opposition parties raised serious allegations of electoral fraud. Social unrest deepened further with the reported deaths of several CENI staff members. In November 2023, just one month before the elections, intercommunal violence broke out in Malemba Nkulu after the killing of a local motorcycle taxi driver. The incident, attributed to individuals reportedly from the Kasai region, triggered reprisals against the Kasai community. This unrest underscored the simmering tensions between the Katanga and Kasai communities—homelands of a leading opposition candidate and the incumbent president, respectively.

In response to these risks, the Red Cross of the DRC launched an election readiness operation to strengthen its preparedness and capacity to respond to any potential fallout from the evolving situation.

The electoral campaign, which ran from November 19 to December 18, unfolded initially in a relatively calm atmosphere, though few tensions rose in the final days. On December 20, 2023, the Democratic Republic of Congo held its general elections, encompassing the election of the President of the Republic, members of the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies, and Communal Councils. According

to most observers, the elections were conducted in a generally peaceful environment, despite encountering some logistical challenges. These issues prompted the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) to extend the voting period to December 21, 2023.

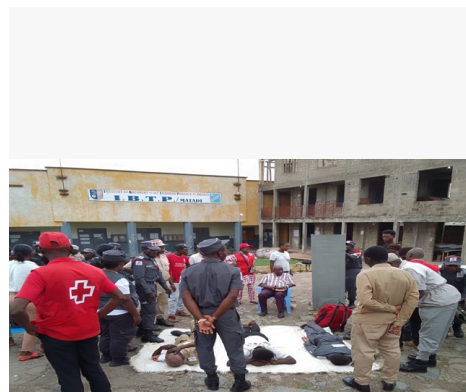
On December 31, CENI declared President Félix Tshisekedi as the winner, a result that was officially confirmed by the Constitutional Court on January 9, 2024. While the opposition raised concerns over alleged irregularities in the electoral process, the absence of widespread unrest or serious public disorder following the announcement of results indicated a broad level of public acceptance.



IT and telecommunications training on VHF radio configurations in Goma



TV/Election report: Red Cross launches the exhibition broadcast in Kinshasa



First aid simulation session

Scope and Scale

As the election approached amidst prolonged violence, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its member organizations expressed deep concern over the violations of fundamental rights and freedoms leading up to the election. Organizing the election posed a significant logistical challenge for the DRC, a country over two million square kilometers in size but with limited financial resources. Additionally, ongoing armed conflicts in the North and South Kivu provinces raised fears about the election's legitimacy, as voters in areas controlled by armed groups might be unable to participate. Just weeks before the December 20, 2023, presidential election, the DRC continued to face violence from armed groups, inter-community tensions, and threats to the rule of law. Given this context, the following election-related risks were anticipated, notably clashes between political party supporters or intercommunal violence, expansion of armed conflicts to new areas, public celebrations or unrest following the announcement of results, leading to population movements and deterioration social conditions (e.g., limited access to health centers, markets, and disruptions to water, electricity, and internet services), etc.

On December 31, 2023, CENI announced provisional results based on 85% of polling stations, showing the incumbent president with 76% of the vote and a turnout of 43%. These results, consistent with earlier counts, led CENI to provisionally declare the incumbent as re-elected, pending final results from the Constitutional Council, which were released on January 9, 2024.

While the overall electoral process remained relatively peaceful, isolated incidents of unrest were reported in several provinces:

- In Kinshasa, a peaceful opposition demonstration on December 27, 2023, turned violent following clashes between demonstrators and security forces.
- In North Kivu, tensions flared in the Manguredjipa region on December 21 after the failure to deploy electoral materials, fueling disputes between the Bapere and Nande communities. Goma, however, experienced only minor disturbances during this period.
- In Maniema province, security incidents related to the presidential election were recorded between December 20 and 23, particularly in the Salamabila region.
- In Katanga, violence associated with the electoral process was concentrated in Lubumbashi and the Kasenga territory, although Lubumbashi itself remained largely calm.
- Haut-Lomami province saw rising tensions between the Baluba and Kasai communities, as well as between Katangese and Kasaians—similar dynamics were observed in Likasi, approximately 120 km west of Lubumbashi in Haut-Katanga province.

Despite these localized incidents, national and community leaders issued calls for calm, emphasizing the need to preserve peace as a foundation for the country's continued development.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Crisis Group	https://www.crisisgroup.org/fr/africa/great-lakes/democratic-republic-congo/312-elections-en-rd-congo-limiter-les-risques-deviolence
2. BBC	https://www.bbc.com/afrique/articles/cqyplq05jy5o

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	The DRC Red Cross was able to carry out the following additional activities: - Mapping of at-risk areas in the provinces of Tshopo, Kongo Central, Kwilu and Maniema. - Regular organization of refresher courses for volunteers on the following topics: First Aid (1er Secours), Protection of Family Links (PLF), Psychosocial Support (PSS), Gender Protection and Inclusion (PGI) and Code of Conduct, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Safer Access (APS). - Advocacy with military authorities to protect volunteers mobilized to carry out activities.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC has an office in Kinshasa and representation in Goma and Kalemie. IFRC staff (Program, IM, Communication, PMER, Finance, IT, Fleet, Security, Logistics, Administration, etc.) have provided regular technical assistance to DRC RC staff for this operation and for other projects and programs in the country (in Kinshasa, Equateur, Central Kongo, North Kivu, Tanganyika, etc.). In addition, at national level, the IFRC took part in meetings of the country's humanitarian team, as well as sectoral cluster meetings. It should also be noted that the IFRC, as part of its mandate to develop National Societies, has helped the DRC Red Cross to carry out a capacity gap analysis and to work with its partners to ensure that adequate capacity is in place to implement the response. The IFRC ensures compliance with the Seville 2.0 agreement and the Guidelines for Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC).
Participating National Societies	The Belgian, Spanish, Swedish and French Red Cross are also present. The coordination of Red Cross movement members in the country is underway in accordance with the Movement's Cooperation Agreement, which outlines the functional coordination mechanisms in the country, with regular meetings at operations management levels. The Movement's functional coordination mechanisms and their practical application as part of the process of strengthening coordination and cooperation in the DRC continue to reinforce a coordinated and complementary response from the Movement. These various partners, who work in collaboration with the National Society in the DRC, have supported the latter in capacity-building activities for managers and volunteers in the implementation of activities. With the support of participating National Societies, the Red Cross of the DRC is implementing several programs in different geographical areas targeted by the DREF Election on thematic areas clearly identified in its strategic plan and which contain elements of capacity building for National Societies. As part of the implementation of its contingency plan in priority areas not covered by

the ICRC, the DRC RC benefited from the following support to which its partners have committed themselves:

- The French Red Cross provided the DRC RC with vehicles in South Kivu / Bukavu.
- The Swedish Red Cross supported the town of Kalemie in Tanganyika province by providing contingency stocks.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has offices in the DRC in Kinshasa and in the country's eastern provinces, notably Ituri, Sud-Kivu and Tanganyika, where it supported the DRC RC in implementing the contingency plan for the elections by providing first aid and communication equipment, means of evacuating the wounded and injured, bonuses for volunteers and protection, as well as training programs in first aid and security.

Coordination meetings were set up to bring all partners together to discuss their actions and avoid duplication. The ICRC's actions focused on the most at-risk towns in the provinces of Kinshasa, North Kivu, Haut-Katanga, Tanganyika, Ituri and South Kivu.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Home Affairs, all candidates have signed the code of good conduct for peaceful elections, and an emergency plan has been put in place.
UN or other actors	Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) set up an emergency plan and worked closely with the DRC Red Cross in the city of Kinshasa. This involved supplying hospitals with products and treating the wounded during the election period. Four hospitals were selected (Centre Hospitalier Roi Bauduin, HGR de Kinshasa, Hôpital Saint Joseph and Kinkenda). In addition, there were several election observer organizations in the country. Several meetings were held with various United Nations partners (FAO, WFP, UNICEF), GAVI, USAID, CDC, ECHO, WHO, MSF, etc. working in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The purpose of these meetings was also to set up multi-sectoral response teams to ensure the effectiveness of the actions to be carried out.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The DRC Red Cross worked closely with line ministries, national stakeholders and other agencies to align and reinforce each other's efforts and maximize effectiveness and efficiency. The National Society continued to collaborate and coordinate with other humanitarian partners by participating in national and provincial coordination meetings. National Red Cross authorities and those of the country's state entities took part in crisis meetings, where the main guidelines were set.

The contingency plan was activated in close collaboration with the various ministries of the Republic (Ministry of Social Affairs, Home Affairs and Decentralization, etc.). There were also ;

- Coordination meetings of the humanitarian country team.
- Coordination meetings of the Red Cross movement.
- DRC Red Cross - CICR -MSF technical meetings.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



After analyzing the situation and the pre-election context, there was a need to prepare Red Cross teams to intervene and help victims during the incidents. Psychological support would also be needed. There was a need to train volunteers in first aid and psychosocial support. This should be done in the pre-election period to ensure a good response throughout the election period.

Coordination between the national headquarters and the provinces was also necessary to ensure the coherence of health interventions and the proper use of communication resources between the two entities. In the same vein, coordination with municipal and national



health services is also necessary.

To this end, a number of equipment requirements have been identified, not only in terms of materials and working equipment such as first-aid kits, maintenance and refuelling of ambulances and vehicles needed by the volunteers, but also to support the entire operation. As part of the analysis, first-aid posts should be set up at headquarters (Kinshasa) and in the various provinces at risk. These stations should work in collaboration with dispensaries, ambulance services and fire-fighting services.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The analysis of conflict situations showed that people who were already in a vulnerable situation could see their situation worsen and their rights not respected. People with specific needs included pregnant and nursing women, children, people with reduced mobility, the elderly and minority groups (foreigners, migrants or refugees).

There was therefore a need for Red Cross volunteers to be informed about the code of conduct and issues relating to PSEA (Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) in order to provide assistance without causing further harm and exposing themselves to inappropriate acts or behavior.



Community Engagement And Accountability

During the election period, there was a need for volunteers to be trained and deployed in the field to promote humanitarian values, raise the profile of Red Cross actions and improve communication between the Red Cross and communities to increase their participation.

In addition, it was also necessary to engage with the communities concerned to design an emergency plan or implement an emergency plan during the elections. The involvement of communities in the development of plans was essential to their success.

This ensured that volunteers had access to the field and avoid confusion with other reputational risks for the Red Cross.

It should be emphasized that during the awareness-raising campaigns aimed at all social strata, particular emphasis was placed on social cohesion and risk-free elections (respect for the opinions of others).

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This operation aimed to prepare the DRC Red Cross to help cover the humanitarian needs of 15,000 people during the electoral process in the provinces of Kwilu, Maniema, Kongo Central and Tshopo over a 3-month period.

This intervention is the result of a coordinated approach with Red Cross movement partners (ICRC, IFRC and PNS) for priority emergency preparedness and relief actions defined by the DRC Red Cross contingency plan validated with local institutions and key humanitarian partners. First aid and awareness-raising activities have reached at least 52,966 people.

Operation strategy rationale

This DREF Allocation ensured coverage of DRC Red Cross actions during the most important phases of the electoral calendar and in the most at-risk areas identified but not covered by the ICRC, notably Kwilu (Kikwit); Maniema (Kindu), Kongo central (Matadi), and Tshopo (Kisangani).

The operational strategy proposed by the DRC Red Cross was based on three key phases (pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral).

1. Pre-electoral phase :

During this phase, the main activities consisted of:

- preparation of Red Cross headquarters and branches
- updating the list of first-aiders (personal addresses, telephone contacts). Identification of 300 key volunteers with knowledge of first aid, movement and local knowledge.
- Training/refresher courses for volunteers: Organization of a refresher course simulation exercise in the 4 target provinces. Training of 300 volunteers (100 per province and 5 supervisors per province) in emergency first aid, psychological first aid, code of conduct, community involvement and responsibility, protection, gender and inclusion over 6 days. Volunteers will also be trained in secure access, correct use of the emblem and respect for fundamental principles.

Community level:

- Intensive promotion of acceptance and safe access messages at community and institutional level.
- Identification of sites for first aid posts and evacuation sites.
- Production of an up-to-date map/sketch of the entire territory and areas at risk, used by agencies and headquarters to guide teams and monitor safety and operations.



- Coordination with local government to obtain up-to-date maps of towns and information on traffic restrictions to improve traffic flow and access for Red Cross staff.
- Replenishment of first aid supplies and communications equipment (VHF radio).
- Coordination meetings within SNs, with movement partners and other stakeholders.
- Coordination with the government: Meeting with the Ministry of Home Affairs and army staff to re-explain the mandate and mission of the DRC Red Cross as an auxiliary to the public authorities, but independent, impartial and neutral in the implementation of its humanitarian actions; presentation of Red Cross bibs to be used by staff and volunteers for the presidential elections.
- Coordination meetings with the movement's partners.
- National Society supply and operating costs. The following items were purchased prior to election day to ensure National Society visibility during operations:
 - Bibs: 300 bibs purchased for volunteers in the 4 provinces, as well as 20 vests for supervisors.
 - A total of 100 first-aid kits: Equipped first-aid kits purchased and transferred to each of the priority regions.

2. Election phase

On election day, volunteers were scheduled to be deployed to carry out the following tasks:

- Covering the aid station: Providing care for all victims of presidential election-related events, quickly, efficiently and effectively.
- Monitoring: Carried out by the DRC Red Cross team, DM.
- Provide primary and psychosocial care to people in distress due to the events (including safe referrals for identified serious cases).
- Evacuation of victims
- Accompany threatened populations to safer areas
- Search for unaccompanied children and missing persons
- Coordination with municipal authorities, security forces and emergency response organizations.

3. post-election phase

After the elections, the following activities were planned and carried out:

- Aid station coverage: deployment of volunteers to monitor the situation for a further 10 days.
- Monitoring: Setting up a monitoring team to better observe the situation on the ground, through coordination meetings. The following actions were also envisaged and covered by the Red Cross as the situation evolved:
 - Search for unaccompanied children and missing persons.
 - Family reunification.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) activities were integrated into the overall election preparation and response to ensure maximum and meaningful participation of affected communities. The DRC RC ensured that, through active communication with the government and communities, it had access to hot spots before, during and after the elections.

Messages were adapted and translated with community members and local institutional or community leaders, in particular with respected influencers. These included all the messages on peace and neutrality, but also on protection and risk, and so on.

Considering the electoral numbers established by CENI, the voters represent several million people, including several groups more likely to be involved in potential demonstrations following a historical and geographical analysis.

All these numerous communities were involved in spreading the message of peace. For relevant impact, significant community engagement efforts were also made at the institutional level, drawing on key representative groups including community leaders, youth groups, women's networks, labor groups and unions, spiritual leaders and potentially other NGOs to ensure that the most vulnerable and exposed people were informed and sensitized.

The Movement's principles were integrated and promoted in all communications to ensure acceptance.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

As part of this operation, the DRC Red Cross aimed to provide assistance to 15,000 disaster victims in the risk zones identified in the emergency plan, namely Kwilu (Kikwit), Maniema (Kindu), Kongo Central (Matadi) and Tshopo (Kisangani).

The targeting of towns was based on the classification of high-risk and medium-risk (orange) areas, on the basis of assessments and in consultation with partners at the most recent electoral emergency coordination meetings.

The people most at risk were targeted in this intervention.

These were people who participated directly in political rallies and those who went to polling stations, i.e. those involved in the voting process.

The people at risk were those who could be affected by violence likely to pit the forces of law and order against mass leaders. Consequently, DRC Red Cross targeted representative groups of voters, labor groups, representative leaders, key institutional representatives as well as minority and most vulnerable groups to ensure that messages had a relevant impact.

For awareness-raising messages, ongoing monitoring (during and after the elections) and Family Reunification RFL, the focus was on the following groups: migrants and refugees, pregnant and nursing women, children, people with reduced mobility, etc., and the elderly.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The target population was selected based on :

- the analysis carried out by the Red Cross on the level of risk following assessments carried out in the country's 26 provinces, and the contingency plan validated with institutions and partners.
- Historical data confirming the risk in eastern provinces such as Kwilu and Maniema, but also in provinces such as Tshopo and central Kongo, where incidents were reported during past elections and have already begun, albeit with very low coverage.
- The need to fill gaps in monitoring and relief bodies in hotspots not covered by current partner-supported DRC Red Cross resources, while avoiding duplication of effort. Actions must therefore be coordinated with existing ICRC support in certain high-risk areas.
- This targeting has also taken into account the socio-political dynamics of recent years and past elections, during which these provinces have experienced civil unrest that has affected communities.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	20,452	Rural	40%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	8,655	Urban	60%
Assisted Men	17,128	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	6,731		
Total Assisted Population	52,966		
Total Targeted Population	15,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	No
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Difficult access to victims of violence due to police presence	In the run-up to the elections, the Red Cross organized awareness-raising sessions for law enforcement agencies on the mission of the Red Cross of the DRC and the seven fundamental principles to facilitate access and acceptance of volunteers by law enforcement agencies and the community...
Political tensions between political parties and their supporters, leading to violence among the population	Training modules on safe access were given to volunteers. Strict compliance with existing safety protocols and coordination with the relevant authorities regarding the safety environment.



Risk of disruption to access, information and business continuity

A business continuity plan has been drawn up for the IFRC delegation for the period from December to January, to ensure the operation's follow-up.

- The DRC Red Cross has also set up a business continuity structure for the same period, and the contingency plan defines clear roles and coordination systems.

- Contingency measures have been put in place in the event of interruption to the internet, radio and communications services in general. These mainly involve the implementation of MSR protocols protocols and the use of VHF; the activation of alternative energy sources has been planned and budgeted for as part of this intervention.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The eastern provinces of the DRC are at risk of insecurity due to the presence of various armed groups and militias.

Clashes between them, and between these groups and government forces, are recurrent and constitute the main cause of population movements.

As part of this operation, DRC teams, with the support of the ICRC and IFRC, have held regular security briefings for staff and volunteers.

DRC, IFRC and ICRC security officers worked together to help monitor the health and safety situation.

Appropriate personal protective equipment was made available to the teams, as well as visibility equipment.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Implementation



Budget: CHF 65,572

Targeted Persons: 15,000

Assisted Persons: 373

Targeted Male: 170

Targeted Female: 203

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in first aid	300	300
# of people receiving first aid treatment	15,000	373
# of first aid kits purchased	100	100
Set up an internal crisis management unit	4	4
# of first-aid posts installed	25	29

Narrative description of achievements

A total of 300 volunteers were trained in first aid. To meet operational needs, the DRC Red Cross mobilized 305 first-aid volunteers (216 male, 89 female), including 66 in Maniema/Kindu, 89 in Tshopo, 88 in Kongo Central, and 62 in Kwilu. These volunteers were supported by



20 supervisors and team leaders. Four internal crisis management units were established, one in each target province (Maniema, Tshopo, Kongo Central, and Kwilu).

The volunteers were equipped with personal protective gear and 100 first-aid kits, which enabled them to provide care to 373 injured individuals (170 male, 203 female): 49 in Maniema/Kindu, 116 in Tshopo/Kisangani, 103 in Kwilu, and 105 in Kongo Central/Matadi. In addition to physical care, these individuals, many of whom were affected by election-related demonstrations, received psychosocial support. While the intervention targeted 15,000 people for first aid, this number was not reached as the worst-case scenario was avoided.

The intervention focused on those most at risk, including participants in political rallies, voters at polling stations, and those involved in the voting process. The category of at-risk individuals also included those affected by clashes between security forces and mass leaders.

The Red Cross made efforts to target representative groups of voters, labor organizations, key institutional leaders, minority groups, and the most vulnerable populations to ensure the messages had a meaningful impact.

Following the publication of election results, violence affected an even broader range of individuals, not just demonstrators but also people going about their daily lives, including shopkeepers. The Red Cross operated from 29 first-aid posts established on the eve of the elections and maintained these posts for seven days after the presidential election results were announced. These included 5 posts in Maniema/Kindu, 8 in Tshopo/Kisangani, 8 in Kwilu, and 8 in Kongo Central/Matadi. Volunteers also assisted in temporarily caring for 44 children (22 boys, 22 girls) who were separated from their families and helped to reunite them.

Lessons Learnt

A key strength during the rescue operations in the DRC elections was the thorough preparation of volunteers through various training programs in emergency first aid and psychological first aid. This proved to be a critical success factor, and it is recommended for all similar future operations.

The coordination of Family Links Protection (PLF) activities, supported by the ICRC, significantly contributed to the success of the operation. This coordination allowed volunteers to carry out their tasks in a well-organized and proactive manner.

Challenges

There were no major challenges recorded during implementation.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 6,025
Targeted Persons: 15,000
Assisted Persons: 16,876
Targeted Male: 7,602
Targeted Female: 9,274

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in PGI	305	305
# of people who received awareness-raising messages on PGI, peace and tolerance	15,000	16,876

Narrative description of achievements

As part of this operation, the Red Cross was able to train/retrain 305 volunteers in Protection, Gender Inclusion (PGI) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). This helped volunteers to carry out inclusive, protective and gender-sensitive activities to ensure more equitable and safer assistance and benefits to all groups represented in the targeted communities. This helped to reduce the risk of discrimination and violence and promote the meaningful participation of all people in activities, regardless of gender, age, disability or background.



In terms of awareness-raising messages, ongoing monitoring (during and after the elections) and Family Reunification RFL, the focus was on the following groups: migrants and refugees, pregnant and nursing women, children, people with reduced mobility and the elderly. Thus 16,876 people (7,602 men, 9,274 women) received awareness-raising messages on PGI, peace and tolerance and Volunteers were also able to help and guide a total of 68 separated children back to their families.

Lessons Learnt

- Engaging motivated volunteers from within their own communities and involving them in the joint planning of field activities are key factors that enhance emergency response efforts with community leaders. This approach also encourages the active participation of various community members, including pressure groups, civil society, APAs, indigenous people, and individuals with disabilities, in promoting peace and social cohesion.
- Continuation of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) activities by volunteers in at-risk areas beyond the end of DREF funding is essential for strengthening community resilience. This practice has proven effective, as awareness-raising on PGI and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) played a significant role in reducing the risk of violence.

Challenges

There were no major challenges reported during implementation.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 4,256

Targeted Persons: 15,000

Assisted Persons: 52,966

Targeted Male: 23,859

Targeted Female: 29,107

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers briefed	305	305
# of people reached	15,000	52,966
# of feedback systems put in place	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

While implementing these activities, 305 volunteers were trained in CEA (Community Engagement and Accountability) themes. After that training, they were able to encourage their communities, their leaders and community organizations to play a role in improving equity and in humanitarian initiatives. Messages of peace were delivered in the target communities with the help of Red Cross volunteers. Overall, some 52,966 people, including 17,128 men, 20,452 women, 6,731 boys and 8,655 girls, were reached by their awareness-raising messages on social cohesion, peace, humanitarian principles and values, etc.

In addition, a mechanism was set up to collect community feedback during awareness-raising campaigns. This made it possible to adjust the volunteers' awareness-raising messages according to rumors or other perceptions of the situation during the elections.

Community feedback was received and recorded during pre-election activities and collected by volunteers using data collection sheets. The volunteers collected the community's concerns, in particular:

- The fact that the electoral commission is reportedly considering a 2-week internet blackout across the republic.
- The refoulement of people belonging to certain tribes and ethnic groups from the capital. Based on the government's announcement that these rumors were "fake news", Red Cross volunteers had to adapt their awareness-raising campaigns, while popularizing the government's announcement and promoting messages of peace.

Wherever possible, initial responses were provided to individuals or groups who provided feedback. All feedback data collection activities were supervised.

Lessons Learnt

Continuing Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) activities led by volunteers in at-risk areas beyond the conclusion of DREF funding is essential for building community resilience. Discussions revealed that awareness-raising efforts on social cohesion and the dissemination of information about the Red Cross and humanitarian values have significantly contributed to reducing the risk of violence.

Challenges

There were no major challenges reported during the implementation of this operation.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 30,414

Targeted Persons: 305

Assisted Persons: 305

Targeted Male: 216

Targeted Female: 89

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of surge deployed	1	1
# of monitoring missions carried out by IFRC staff	3	3

Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC Delegation in Kinshasa provided ongoing support to Red Cross teams as part of this operation. Three security assessment/monitoring missions and IT support to the Red Cross were carried out in the provinces of Kongo Central, North Kivu and Kinshasa by IFRC staff (Security officer, IT, IM, Fleet, etc.). The IFRC also provided logistical support to the Red Cross, in terms of a vehicle (1) and the purchase of a safety case for 20 staff.

The IFRC deployed a Surge to support the DRC Red Cross in carrying out DREF elections activities. This Surge with an IT/Telecommunication profile was deployed on the operation for a period of one month. During his mission, he supported the installation of VHF radio in the province of North Kivu.

The IFRC's IT Surge and IT officer worked closely with their Red Cross counterparts to meet operational needs in terms of information technology and telecommunications, and then shared their experience.

The following achievements were made in Kongo Centrale/Matadi:

- HF and VHF operational frequencies were downloaded from the Matadi branch as planned.
- An assessment was carried out on the HF and VHF hardware infrastructure at the Matadi branch to identify areas for improvement.
- An assessment was also carried out on the virtual infrastructure configuration, including software configurations and all virtual configurations.
- Partial restoration of the HF network was successfully completed at the Matadi branch, and communication tests were successfully carried out with mobile HFs.

In North Kivu/Goma Province, the following achievements were made:

- Establishment and successful commissioning of the VHF radio repeater at the Goma branch,
- Assured operation of all VHF mobile radios and handheld computers in the Goma branch.
- Goma HF network restored and tested. Set up back-up frequencies on all the branch's VHF radios, including the field frequency.
- Upgraded the branch's VHF radios and repeater from analog to digital.
- Successful organization of Branch trainee training sessions.

Lessons Learnt

The delayed deployment of Surge adversely affected the achievement of the operation's goals, particularly the effective installation of VHF in the provinces. As a result, South Kivu did not benefit from this activity. This experience underscores the need to implement a dedicated Red Cross IT capacity-building project to address such challenges in the future.



Challenges

On the IT front, the NS faced the following challenges:

- Late deployment of the surge due to the unavailability of staff with the required profile.
- Lack of documentation on repeater installation sites: the absence of complete documentation from the previous installer left many repeater installation sites in the dark.
- Urgent need to replace batteries and power supplies: Batteries and some power supplies installed in 2019 at repeater sites and base stations in Matadi and Goma require immediate replacement.
- Limited installation equipment: teams are currently operating without appropriate installation equipment, relying on improvised solutions. There is an urgent need for reinforcement at this level to facilitate effective radio deployment.
- Unrealistic completion dates: IT teams have found it difficult to meet the planned completion dates for all installations due to the volume of work in the various provinces. Additional funding is therefore required to complete the radio installations.
- Lack of power source at Matadi repeater: The Matadi repeater has no existing power source. It is therefore necessary to deploy new power supply systems and replace batteries in Matadi and Goma to ensure uninterrupted operations. It is also necessary to supply the electrical cables and accessories needed to re-establish the repeater in Matadi, currently deprived of power sources.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 42,943

Targeted Persons: 320

Assisted Persons: 305

Targeted Male: 216

Targeted Female: 89

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of insured volunteers	305	305
# of lessons learned workshops organized	1	1
# of multi-sector evaluations carried out	1	1
# of missions carried out by the DRC Red Cross Staffs	2	2

Narrative description of achievements

In preparation for the elections, a communication working group for members of the Red Cross Movement in the country, including the DRC Red Cross, ICRC, and IFRC, was activated and coordinated by the DRC Red Cross. Regular meetings were held among Red Cross Movement members throughout the period to ensure the smooth execution of activities.

The National Red Cross team conducted two follow-up missions to the target provinces to support the effective implementation of planned activities. The Red Cross continued to monitor the situation in high-risk areas and respond to alerts, with an electoral watch established at both the headquarters and provincial branches. This was done in close coordination with municipal authorities, security forces, and emergency response organizations.

From December 21 to 22, the Red Cross (Tshopo) conducted a needs assessment following the incursion of a group of suspected unruly individuals into the locality of Losili Bachamende, Commune Lubunga, the day after the December 20, 2023, elections. As a result, electoral materials were sabotaged, six people were killed, and five others were injured.

After assessing the situation, Red Cross teams assisted in evacuating three bodies to the morgue at Makiso-Kisangani General Referral Hospital, burying three bodies, and transporting a 9-year-old girl with amputated upper limbs to Makiso-Kisangani HGR for appropriate treatment.

Losili Bachamende, located 7 km downstream from the Lubunga commune's chief town in Kisangani, was home to approximately 325 Kumu households, who ultimately sought refuge at the IDP site of Saint Gabriel Catholic Parish on the right bank of the Congo River. Notably, for decades, this locality has been home to many residents from the Segama and Aspiro districts, who have farmed there.



The assessment indicated that since the second half of 2023, Tshopo province has been on the same humanitarian scale as Ituri, North Kivu, and Tanganyika, due to insecurity stemming from the inter-community conflict between the Mbole and Lengola peoples, as well as recurrent flooding since 2022.

At the end of the operation, a lessons-learned workshop was convened in Kinshasa, bringing together all stakeholders, including Red Cross branches and volunteers. Representatives from all four provinces participated in the workshop, where the strengths and challenges outlined in this report were thoroughly examined.

Lessons Learnt

- Capacity-building for Red Cross volunteers and skill transfer are crucial for enhancing accountability. The existing capacity from previous operations played a significant role in the success of this response and helped build trust within the communities.
- Regular coordination meetings were instrumental in ensuring that activities were executed in line with the contingency plan. The success of the operations can be attributed to the consistent work of this coordination, which functioned as a decision-making hub and provided guidance for field interventions.

Challenges

- There was a delay in transferring funds from Red Cross headquarters to the provincial branches. This led to a delay in the implementation of certain activities within the planned timeframe. It is therefore important to make a flexibility fund available to pre-finance the various emergency activities.



Financial Report

bo.ifrc.org > Public Folders > Finance > Donor Reports > Appeals and Projects > DREF Operation - Standard Report

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DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRCD041 - DR Congo - Election Readiness

Operating Timeframe: 04 Dec 2023 to 31 Mar 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/12-2025/7	Operation	MDRCD041
Budget Timeframe	2023/12-2024/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 04/Sep/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	149,210
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	149,210
Expenditure	-144,255
Closing Balance	4,955

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health	65,572	56,389	9,183
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	6,025	7,116	-1,091
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	71,597	63,505	8,092
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	47,200	-54,843	102,042
SF12 - Effective international disaster management		137	-137
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC	30,414	135,456	-105,042
Strategy for implementation Total	77,614	80,750	-3,137
Grand Total	149,211	144,255	4,956

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

Please explain variances (if any)

- At the end of the operation, an unspent balance of CHF 4,956 will be returned to the DREF fund.
- Most activities were carried out in accordance with the plan and budget, with most expenditures currently recorded under "National Society expenditures." The under-spending in the categories (Relief items, Construction, Supplies, Personnel) is explained by the fact that during the implementation of the project, security and mitigation measures were put in place to reduce the number of active staff and also reduce office presence. This comfortably reduced the office's general expenses and the purchase of some items in the safety cases, as there was no need to purchase them for staff on leave. A few exceptions to the budget overrun, such as the one in the General expenditure (travel cost) section, are due to the fact that the Security Officer's presence had to be extended and, for his own safety, the



office had to extend the rental contracts for certain official apartments and house him in them. This overrun made it possible to reduce the final variance.

- In addition, transport and vehicle costs were covered by other existing logistics capabilities at the IFRC SN through other available funding, hence the sub- consumption of the leasing line.

- The under-consumption of the translation line is due to the fact that the document in the DREF was translated at a very low cost by a consultant.

- There was also an under-consumption of general expenses because there was a drop in activities during the period of implementation of the operation following the contingency plan.



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Moise Kabongo, Disaster Manager, moise.kabongo@yahoo.fr, +243852387181

IFRC Appeal Manager: Mercy Laker, Head of Delegation, Kinshasa Office, mercy.laker@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Mumonayi Djamba IRENE, Senior Roving Officer, Disaster Management., mumonayi.irene@ifrc.org, 0819838346

IFRC focal point for the emergency:

Mumonayi Djamba IRENE, Senior Roving Officer, Disaster Management., mumonayi.irene@ifrc.org, 0819838346

Media Contact: Susan Nzisa Mbalu, Communications Manager, susan.mbalu@ifrc.org, +254733827654

National Societies' Integrity Focal Point: Gloria LOMBO K. POLO, Secretary General, sgcrdc@croixrouge-rdc.org

National Society Hotline: 472222

[Click here for reference](#)



DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/12-2025/7	Operation	MDRCD041
Budget Timeframe	2023/12-2024/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 04/Sep/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRCD041 - DR Congo - Election Readiness

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AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health	65,572	56,389	9,183
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	6,025	7,116	-1,091
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	71,597	63,505	8,092
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	47,200	-54,843	102,042
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management		137	-137
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	30,414	135,456	-105,042
Strategy for implementation Total	77,614	80,750	-3,137
Grand Total	149,211	144,255	4,956

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/12-2025/7	Operation	MDRCD041
Budget Timeframe	2023/12-2024/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 04/Sep/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRCD041 - DR Congo - Election Readiness

Operating Timeframe: 04 Dec 2023 to 31 Mar 2024

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	13,785	5,103	8,681
Food	10,776	5,103	5,673
Teaching Materials	3,008		3,008
Logistics, Transport & Storage	27,705	9	27,696
Transport & Vehicles Costs	27,705	9	27,696
Personnel	31,279	7,908	23,370
International Staff		1,630	-1,630
National Staff		6,279	-6,279
National Society Staff	3,520		3,520
Volunteers	27,758		27,758
Consultants & Professional Fees	1,347	185	1,162
Professional Fees	1,347	185	1,162
Workshops & Training	44,363		44,363
Workshops & Training	44,363		44,363
General Expenditure	21,626	3,664	17,961
Travel	4,490	3,469	1,022
Office Costs	2,874		2,874
Communications	2,694		2,694
Financial Charges	4,760	196	4,564
Other General Expenses	6,808		6,808
Contributions & Transfers		118,581	-118,581
Covid-19 Working Advances to Nat.Soc		0	0
National Society Expenses		118,581	-118,581
Indirect Costs	9,107	8,804	302
Programme & Services Support Recover	9,107	8,804	302
Grand Total	149,211	144,255	4,956