

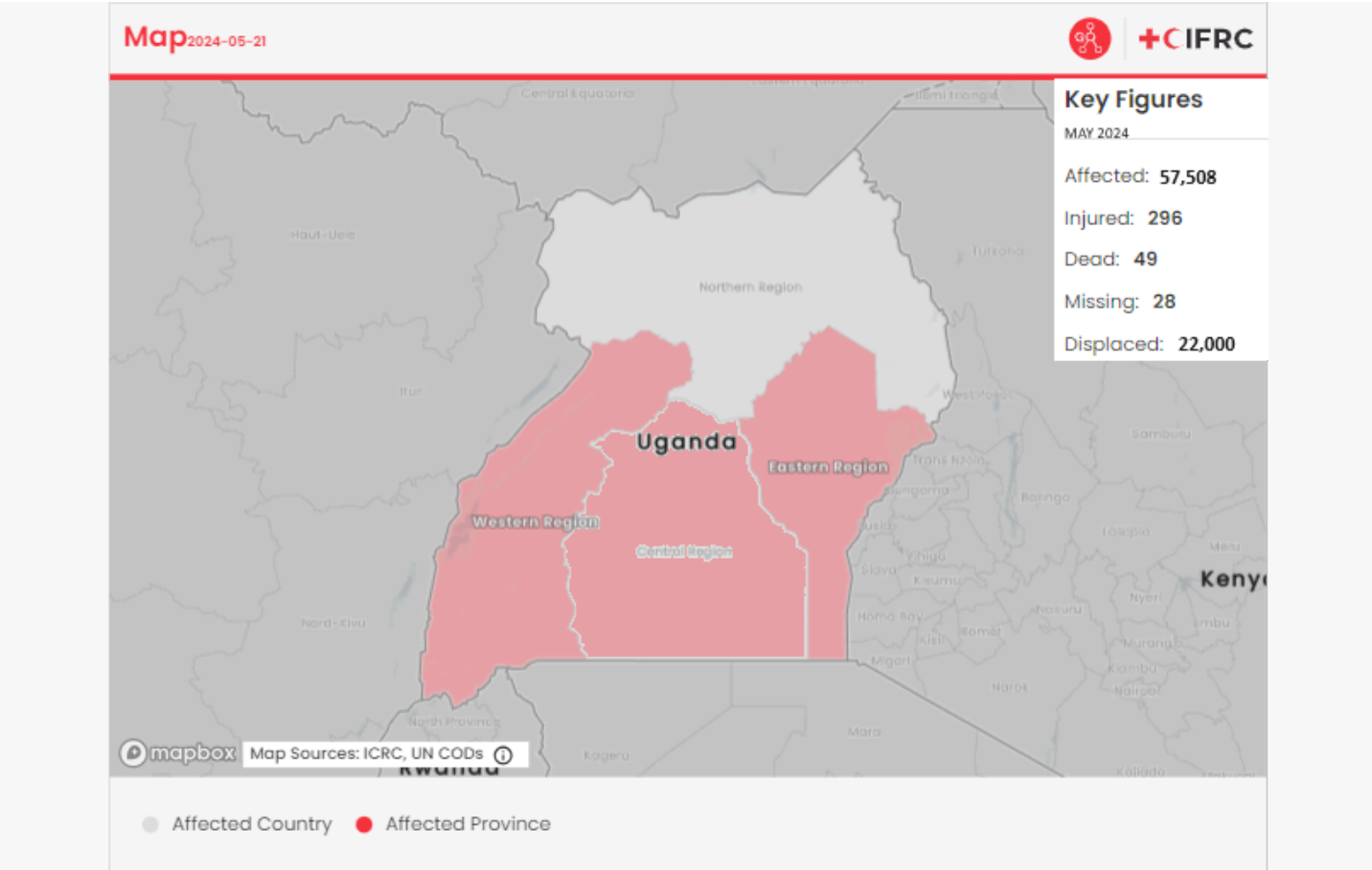


Beneficiary sensitization in Budaka held ahead of NFI distribution in Katakwi

Appeal: MDRUG050	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 479,715	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 69,283 people	People Targeted: 19,098 people	People Assisted: 19,098 people
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 22-05-2024	Operational End Date: -	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Targeted Regions: Central Region, Eastern Region, Western Region			

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

Description of the Event



Map of Uganda showing flood affected districts

Date when the trigger was met

21-08-2024

What happened, where and when?

UGANDA-ELGON REGION (APRIL - AUGUST 2024)

Throughout April 2024, the Eastern Uganda-Elgon and South Western region experienced prolonged heavy rainfall, as forecasted by the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA). This resulted in significant humanitarian and infrastructural impacts, including episodic floods, hailstorms, and landslides across multiple districts, that is, Mbale, Kapchorwa, Bulambuli, Bukedea, Butaleja, Sironko, Bududa, and Namisindwa. The extreme weather conditions led to extensive displacement, destruction of homes, loss of livelihoods, and severe damage to infrastructure.

Impact Overview

In April 2024, a total of 18,323 people were affected, with thousands of families displaced. A total of 1,129 houses were completely destroyed, and vast crop fields and essential infrastructure were severely impacted. Intensified rainfall in the first half of May led to the overflow of major rivers, including Manafwa, Lwakhakha, Sironko, Mpologoma, Awoja, Nbuyonga, and Namatala, exacerbating flood conditions. By mid-May, 39,185 additional people were affected, compounding an already dire humanitarian situation. Since April, the total number of affected individuals reached 57,508, with 4,463 families displaced across the region.

Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) Response

Assessments conducted on May 17, 2024, highlighted the extensive humanitarian needs, the displacement of thousands, and the inadequacy of existing resources. URCS convened a meeting with in-country partners to review district-level assessments and determine the required scale-up of intervention. Based on the assessment outcomes, URCS requested additional funding from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to address the growing humanitarian crisis.

URCS' initial response included deployment of all available resources, including prepositioned stocks and support from ECHO PPP and HIP. However, these supplies were depleted due to the continuous rains and the magnitude of the disaster.





NFI distribution to the most vulnerable affected persons in in Kayunga District



CBHFA training for Volunteers in Elgon region

Scope and Scale

April 2024 Impact

18,323 people were affected in Butaleja, Sironko, Mbale and Bulambuli Districts among others), 1,383 families displaced due to severe flooding and 1,129 houses destroyed by floods, hailstorms, and landslides.

May 2024 Impact

39,185 additional people were affected, with significant flooding reported between May 7th to 11th 2024, 3,080 families were displaced due to rising water levels and riverine floods across 14 districts that included, Sironko, Butaleja, Bulambuli, Ntoroko, Mbale, Bukedea, Kasese, Kanungu, Katakwi, Kumi, Dokolo, Kayunga, Budaka and Kamuli. 31% of the displaced individuals were children, while 18% were elderly, further emphasizing the vulnerability of the affected communities.

Major Disaster Events and Their Impact

Sironko District - April 23, 2024

Hailstorm impacted 1,810 people, leaving 905 displaced, 6 water facilities, one school, and extensive crop fields and infrastructure were destroyed.

Landslide in Nobongo Sub-County affected 2,045 people, displacing 190 and damaging 399 houses.

Bulambuli District - April 3, 2024

In Bunambutye Sub-County, floods affected 1,630 people, resulting in six hospitalizations and 170 evacuations, 172 houses completely destroyed, with 154 partially damaged.

Namisindwa District - April 2, 2024

In Bumwoni Sub-County, a hailstorm affected 825 people, injuring 3 people and destroying 150 houses.

Flooding also resulted in severe damage to schools, crops, and infrastructure, worsening community resilience.

Butaleja District - April 3, 2024

In Bukedi Sub-County, flooding affected 8,055 people, causing complete and partial destruction of 150 and 108 houses respectively, 166 injuries and six missing persons. Significant impact on healthcare, water sources, and sanitation facilities was also reported.

Bududa District - Landslide in Buwali Sub-County

106 people were affected by the landslide, with 24 houses completely destroyed and Major loss of crops and livelihoods.

Mbale District - Hailstorm in Bukasakya and Bungokho

2,439 people were affected by a hailstorm in Bukasaya and Bungokho subcounties, with nine injuries and 133 houses damaged. Sanitation facilities were as well destroyed, worsening hygiene conditions.

Sironko District - Flooding in Bookies Sub-County (April 16, 2024)

2,385 people were affected, five injured, and 1,530 displaced, 206 houses were completely destroyed and 171 partially damaged. Major destruction of water facilities, crops, and roads was as well reported.

Escalation of Flooding in May 2024

Between May 7th and 11th 2024, severe rainfall intensified flooding across the aforementioned 14 districts, affecting an additional 39,185 people (8,011 households). 3,080 families displaced due to the complete and partial destruction of their houses. Humanitarian needs significantly surpassed the National Society's resources, necessitating assistance from the DREF.

Ntoroko District (August 7, 2024)

On the 7th of August 2024, over 90% of Ntoroko District flooded due to a rise in water levels in Lake Albert and River Simuliki. 3,183 households (19,098 people) were affected, including 7,981 males, 11,117 females, and 2,725 children, 2,172 people displaced with widespread destruction across multiple sub-counties. 714 households affected, 327 displaced in Bweramule, 578 households affected in Butungama, 250 displaced, 148 households affected 106 displaced in Rwebisengo, Kanara Sub-County was the most severely affected, with 1,618 households impacted and 1,423 houses completely destroyed, Kanara Town Council: 125 households affected, 66 displaced. A total of 1,705 houses were fully destroyed, 1,498 partially damaged, 1,865 latrines and 71 water sources washed away, posing urgent WASH

concerns.

The continuous and intensifying rainfall underscored the urgent need for a coordinated, well-resourced response to safeguard vulnerable populations and enhance resilience in flood-prone areas.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	URCS works closely with the IFRC Juba cluster delegation which covers, Uganda, South Sudan, and Tanzania. The cluster supported URCS in the development of the flood response plan. The team was supported by the DM coordinator, Finance Delegate, and PMER officer who offered technical support throughout the intervention.
Participating National Societies	Partner National Societies (PNS) present in the country include the Netherlands Red Cross, Belgium Red Cross-Flanders, Austrian Red Cross, and the German Red Cross who are directly providing technical and financial assistance to URCS' humanitarian and development projects targeting beneficiaries in the various parts of the country. The ECHO-PPP Project Consortium supported limited response in the affected districts in Eastern and Western Uganda.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is physically present in the country working with the URCS to facilitate effective Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR) services, Safer Access Frameworks (SAF), providing Restoration of Family Links (RFL) needs of the refugee population settled in Uganda as well as promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Communications as well as direct delivery of detention visits for Political detainees through its Kampala and sub-delegations. For this DREF operation, ICRC provided 10 reflector jackets as visibility materials to support the field Teams in Dokolo district under Lira URCS Branch.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	The Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Relief within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) spearheaded the coordination of all actors involved in the response to the flooding in the affected districts. This includes representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Uganda Police Force (UPF), the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs), and development partners such as the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS). On August 12, 2024, OPM allocated and distributed relief items to the most affected sub-counties. The relief package included 21,000 kilograms of maize, 10,450 kilograms of beans, and 500 buckets, with distribution carried out by the DDMC to address the immediate needs of the affected communities.
UN or other actors	Throughout the intervention, World Health Organization has been seen attending disaster management committee meetings. Medical Teams International (MTI) distributed mosquito nets and supported with Surveillance.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Uganda Red Cross Society was actively involved in both internal and external coordination efforts. On a national level, the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), activated the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC). The Uganda Red Cross Society participated in DRR monthly and weekly operational coordination meetings, where forecasts, previous response actions, and updates from the field were received, and coordinated response actions planned.

Uganda Red Cross Society has an Emergency Task Force (ETF), headed by the Secretary-General, with Senior Management Team Members and a multi-skilled operational team at both regional and field operational levels.

URCS's regional operational base is managed from local Branch Offices, which maintain close connections with the Regional DECOC. Branch Managers covering Budaka, Bukedea, Bulambuli, Butaleja, Dokolo, Kamuli, Kanungu, Kasese, Katakwi, Kayunga, Kumi, Mbale,



Ntoroko and Sironko actively participate in their respective District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) meetings, held in the affected districts.

URCS maintained strong coordination with the active partners that have been supporting the NS from the onset of this flooding period. Meetings were held within the movement and the URCS partners through active projects to align on the priorities for the flood response in Uganda. On 11th May 2024 URCS organized for in country partners meeting reflecting on the increased needs and continued flooding. From this meeting, it was agreed to seek for any additional support, include international support through the DREF to cover the increasing gaps.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The floods displaced 2,172 people and caused widespread destruction across multiple sub-counties. In Bweramule Sub-County, 714 households were affected, with 327 people displaced and significant damage to 679 households. Butungama Sub-County saw 578 households affected, with 250 people displaced and 450 households partially destroyed. Rwebisengo Sub-County experienced damage to 148 households, displacing 106 people, while Kanara Sub-County was the most severely impacted, with 1,618 households affected and 1,423 fully destroyed. Kanara Town Council also faced significant damage, with 125 households affected and 66 people displaced. Overall, 1,705 households were fully destroyed, 1,498 were partially destroyed, and 1,865 latrines and 71 water sources were destroyed, highlighting the urgent need for more humanitarian assistance in the district. Some of the affected persons were seeking shelter with relatives or friends, while others were staying in makeshift internally displaced camps (IDPs) in school buildings and tents provided by URCS. So, Shelter and shelter kits were identified as a gap to protect the displaced population from respiratory infections and vector-borne diseases like malaria.



Multi purpose cash grants

The recent flooding in Ntoroko District severely impacted the local community, which relies heavily on cattle rearing and fishing for its livelihood. The flooding created significant gaps that necessitated urgent Multipurpose Cash Support. Many residents were unwilling to evacuate due to the inability to leave their livestock behind, and the floods damaged livestock shelters, requiring financial assistance for repair and replacement. Additionally, the fishing community suffered income loss due to damaged equipment and disrupted fishing activities, highlighting the need for support to repair or replace fishing gear. The disruption of local markets made it difficult for affected households to access essential goods. Multipurpose Cash Support was therefore identified as a means to address these critical gaps by providing affected households with the flexibility to manage their specific needs, support livestock and fishing recovery, and navigate the increased cost of living.



Health

The needs assessment findings revealed critical health needs among the flood-affected populations in Ntoroko District. Provision of safe and affordable water was identified as a gap, inadequate sanitation facilities due to submerged latrines and risk of disease outbreak due to contamination of open water sources, psychological support to manage stress and mental health issues, and restoring health facilities and services were among the gaps identified.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The severe flooding led to significant damage to water facilities and critically impacted water sources, leaving the displaced population highly vulnerable to waterborne diseases. Rapid assessments revealed that 1865 latrines and 71 water sources had been submerged across the affected districts.





Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The Floods caused significant loss of property, severely disrupting communication networks and water supplies. Road networks were destroyed, and essential services such as access to schools, health facilities, and markets were interrupted. This dire situation led to widespread desperation, helplessness, and uncertainty among the affected population. PGI activities were identified to fill this gap.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Dissemination of information through Radios, CEA kiosks and Feedback Mechanism to ensure concerns are promptly handled.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The primary aim of this operation was to deliver immediate relief and facilitate recovery to enhance the living conditions of 800 households displaced to camps, totaling 4,800 people impacted by the floods with shelter, essential household items and basic needs, and raising awareness on health, water and sanitation to 19,098 people (33% of the affected population) across 14 districts: Budaka, Bukedea, Bulambuli, Butaleja, Dokolo, Kamuli, Kanungu, Kasese, Katakwi, Kayunga, Kumi, Mbale, Ntoroko and Sironko.

Operation strategy rationale

Refer to EPOA for this section.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

This response targeted a total of 19,098 people (3,183 households) representing approximately 33% of the affected population and who were among the hardest hit by the floods and landslides, residing in flood-prone areas across Budaka, Bukedea, Bulambuli, Butaleja, Dokolo, Kamuli, Kanungu, Kasese, Katakwi, Kayunga, Kumi, Mbale, Ntoroko and Sironko districts. These communities suffered extensive losses, including homes, crops, and personal belongings, resulting in the complete disruption of their livelihoods. The remaining 67% of the affected population was covered with prepositioned ECHO PPP and HIP stocks as well as those covered by other responding partners.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) is dedicated to prioritizing assistance for the most vulnerable individuals, including the elderly, women-led households, households headed by children, persons with disabilities, individuals living with chronic illnesses, and single-parent households. Collaborating with volunteers and local authorities, the URCS undertook a comprehensive process to identify and profile these vulnerable households for targeted support. These special groups are more vulnerable as their ability to bounce back quickly is limited.



Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	-	Rural	-
Assisted Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	40%
Assisted Men	-	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	-		
Total Assisted Population	19,098		
Total Targeted Population	19,098		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Risk of intensification of the crisis, extension of flooded areas: As the rainy season persists, there is a likelihood of further increases in water levels and the expansion of flooding to additional areas. With rivers remaining uncleared, the risk of flooding spreading to all vulnerable sub-counties in the targeted districts is high. The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) has issued early warning advisories for April based on seasonal weather forecasts indicating heightened rainfall in Northern and Eastern Uganda, as well as parts of Western Uganda, from April to May. This forecast predicts potential impacts, including flooding in low-lying areas and regions near major water bodies.	Continuous assessment was done periodically to monitor the situation.
Risk of increased SGBV Cases due to the shelter situations within the communities	URCS in this response collaborated with other partners in addressing shelter needs while offering adequate referrals.
Possible outbreak of water-borne diseases, including Cholera, Typhoid fever as well as upsurge of malaria cases due to increased vector. Given the context, there is a very high risk of the spread of water-borne diseases consisting of faecal-oral diseases, water-related diseases and aquatic diseases. Destroyed or flooded water points and latrines increase the lack of access to drinking water in the targeted departments. This exposes the affected population to epidemics and oral-faecal diseases, including cholera.	URCS distributed water treatment tablets as well as conducted hygiene and health promotion sessions. URCS reviewed the operational strategy based on epidemiological monitoring in coordination with the authorities.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

There was no significant security situation during the intervention period.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	Yes
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Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 163,065

Targeted Persons: 4,800

Assisted Persons: 1,175

Targeted Male: 494

Targeted Female: 681

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of multi-sectoral needs assessment carried out.	1	8
# of households that received essential household items.	800	915
# of households that received emergency shelter kits.	800	805
# of NDRT deployed.	8	5
% of families who confirmed the provided shelter items contributed to improve their life	80	97
Number of PDMs conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

• Procurement of Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Kits: 692 shelter kits and 542 kits of essential household items were procured and prepositioned at both the central warehouse and the Fort Portal regional warehouse. This strategic positioning ensured that the relief items can be distributed promptly to affected communities, minimizing delays in response and addressing immediate humanitarian needs. The prepositioning of these items is a key component of the preparedness strategy, enabling the National Society to respond efficiently and effectively to flood affected populations, providing them with the necessary shelter and essential household items to support their recovery and well-being.

Multi-Sectoral Assessments: To ensure a comprehensive understanding of the flooding's impact and effectively guide response efforts, multi-sectoral assessments were conducted across eight districts, including Mbale, Bukedea, Kasese, Kayunga, Sironko, Katakwi, Nakapiripirit, and Ntoroko. These assessments focused on key areas such as shelter needs, water and sanitation conditions, livelihood disruptions, and overall community vulnerability. By examining these critical factors, the assessments provided valuable insights into the specific challenges faced by affected communities, enabling the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) to design targeted interventions that address the most urgent needs. The findings of these assessments were essential for optimizing response strategies, ensuring that resources were allocated where they were most needed.

Non-Food Item (NFI) and Shelter Kits Distribution: A total of 915 Non-Food Item (NFI) kits were distributed to 915 vulnerable households affected by flooding and landslides across five districts: Bukedea (280 kits), Katakwi (150 kits), Kayunga (85 kits), Sironko (100 kits), and Ntoroko (300 kits). These kits included essential household items such as kitchen sets (saucepans, plates, cups, serving spoons, forks, tea spoons), solar lamps, mats, buckets, washing soap, jerricans, blankets, and mosquito nets, addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of affected communities. In Kasese District, specifically in Tondwe and Kyarumba Sub-counties, two 100-capacity tents were deployed to support communities where 80 households of 260 individuals (132 female: 128 male) were displaced by landslides and floods. These items enabled families get emergency shelters, providing critical relief and protection during their time of need. This distribution played a vital role in ensuring that the most vulnerable families regained a sense of dignity and had the necessary support to begin rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of the disasters.

NDRT Deployment: To enhance the effectiveness of the response operations, 5 NDRTs comprising two warehouse NDRTs, a DREF Operations Lead, a Communications NDRT, and an NDRT driver (1 female, 4 male) were deployed. This team worked closely with volunteers and technical experts, including the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Manager, PMER Officer, WASH Engineers, and EPR Officers, ensuring a highly coordinated and efficient response to the crisis. The deployment was further supported by the



administrative leadership, which included the Director of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Branch Managers, who oversaw the operations and ensured strict accountability throughout the process. This collaborative approach contributed significantly to the timely and impactful delivery of assistance to affected communities.

Post Distribution Monitoring and Evaluation of Shelter Support: An assessment was conducted in Kasese District to assess the impact of shelter support provided to flood and landslides affected communities. This focused on the adequacy, appropriateness, and effectiveness of the distributed shelter materials, aiming to ensure that future interventions align with community needs. The findings revealed that 96.86% of respondents felt the shelter support was well-planned and contributed significantly to their ability to rebuild and resettle safely. Additionally, 95.07% of respondents reported that the shelter materials provided adequate protection for their households against weather conditions. These insights highlight the overall positive impact of the intervention while underscoring the need to address gaps in meeting the needs of all beneficiaries.

Lessons Learnt

- Prepositioning shelter and NFI kits in central and regional warehouses enabled a faster response. This minimized delays and helped the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) mobilize resources quickly. Future operations should continue prioritizing strategic stockpiling for efficient emergency responses.
- Conducting multi-sectoral assessments across affected districts provided a clear understanding of diverse community needs. This guided the allocation of resources to where they were most needed.
- Effective coordination with the government and other implementing partners is essential to prevent duplication and ensure equitable distribution of relief items and services.

Challenges

- In some remote districts like Ntoroko, access roads were damaged due to the floods, making it difficult to reach affected populations in a timely manner. These delays led to frustration among communities and could have hampered the immediate impact of the intervention.
- While multi-sectoral assessments provided valuable insights, challenges in coordinating with local government bodies and other humanitarian partners sometimes delayed activity implementation.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 46,200

Targeted Persons: 4,801

Assisted Persons: 2,481

Targeted Male: 1,043

Targeted Female: 1,438

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households that received multipurpose cash.	800	321
# of PDMs conducted.	1	1
% of families that confirmed the cash has supported access to basic needs and food.	90	97
% of families that have used the cash to access more than food.	60	97

Narrative description of achievements

- **Multipurpose cash Transfer:** In response to the severe flooding that affected communities particularly in Budaka and Sironko districts during the March, April, May and June, July August seasons, 216 households (97 female: 119 male) of 1,836 individuals in Naboa Sub-County and 105 (59 female: 46 male) households of 645 individuals in Bukiise, Butandiga, and Sironko Town Council received Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCT) under the DREF Floods Response. This shot below the target of 800 households being supported due to limited funding.



Prior to the cash disbursement, a structured approach was implemented to ensure effectiveness and transparency. A Cash Feasibility Assessment was conducted in Budaka and Sironko districts, engaging community heads, market actors, and government officials to evaluate the feasibility and potential impact of the intervention. This was followed by stakeholder sensitization, where key findings were shared with local leaders to promote transparency and build community support. In collaboration with local leadership, a selection criterion was developed to identify and prioritize the most vulnerable households. Those meeting the eligibility criteria were registered and subsequently received cash support. This approach ensured that assistance effectively reached the most vulnerable flood-affected individuals, reinforcing both accountability and impact.

As part of the DREF extension, Ntoroko was the initial target beneficiary; however, funds from the ECHO-funded PPP project were allocated to support interventions in that area. Consequently, the available DREF funds were redirected to Sironko District, where communities severely affected by flooding were in urgent need of assistance.

Post-Distribution Monitoring: The cash assistance had a significant impact on beneficiaries, with funds primarily used to meet essential needs such as food (94.19%), health services (69.77%), and education (52.33%) in Budaka District. Notably, 97.09% of respondents stated that the cash enabled their households to meet basic needs. Additional expenditures included clothing, house reinforcement, and debt repayment. A small number of beneficiaries invested in small livestock and agricultural inputs, with 3.49% purchasing goats and others using the funds to cultivate land. The program also had notable secondary effects, with 91.28% of respondents reporting improved household and community well-being, and 45.93% noting enhanced feelings of dignity and self-worth. Furthermore, 97.09% of respondents confirmed that markets were accessible after receiving the cash, although challenges such as high prices and long distances were highlighted. Safety and security during the distribution process were well-maintained, with 97.09% of respondents reporting no security issues and 98.26% feeling safe while receiving and transporting the assistance. Feedback and complaint mechanisms established by URCS were generally effective, as 82.55% of respondents felt comfortable providing suggestions or lodging complaints, and 79.07% reported that their concerns were addressed appropriately.

Lessons Learnt

- The use of a structured approach to identify and prioritize the most vulnerable households through community engagement and collaboration with local leaders ensured that cash assistance reached those who needed it the most.
- The active involvement of community heads, local leaders, and beneficiaries in the sensitization process was critical in ensuring transparency and promoting trust in the intervention.
- The feedback and complaint mechanisms proved to be effective in maintaining accountability and ensuring beneficiaries felt heard.

Challenges

- Small budget allocation towards Multi-purpose Cash Transfer resulted in only a fraction of the targeted households being supported. While the target was 800 households, only 321 households received the cash assistance, significantly reducing the overall reach of the intervention.



Budget: CHF 31,240
Targeted Persons: 19,098
Assisted Persons: 19,233
Targeted Male: 8,079
Targeted Female: 11,156

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with health risks awareness messages.	12,144	12,568
# of volunteers deployed for Health promotion (ECV) and Community-based Surveillance (CBS) approaches	70	90
# of people reached with health promotion/epidemic risk communication messages	19,098	19,235



# of people reached by psychological first aid.	200	396
# of first aid kits procured.	100	9
# of volunteers trained on CBHFA.	70	25
# of volunteers deployed for PSS	10	10

Narrative description of achievements

• **Volunteer Deployment:** During the DREF operation, 90 volunteers (53 males, 37 female) were deployed for 15 days to conduct health promotion and community-based surveillance in Dokolo, Kayunga, Ntoroko, and Bukedea districts. The deployment commenced with a two-day orientation aimed at equipping the volunteers with the necessary skills to effectively engage with affected communities. The training focused on key areas such as hygiene promotion, which is vital for preventing disease and maintaining community health. Volunteers were also trained in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), enabling them to involve community members in decision-making and ensure their concerns were addressed. The orientation further emphasized the principles of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) to promote equality and safeguard the most vulnerable groups. Risk communication was a critical component of the training, ensuring volunteers were prepared to convey essential information during emergencies. Additionally, techniques for collecting and reporting feedback were introduced to enhance the responsiveness and adaptability of the Uganda Red Cross Society's (URCS) interventions. Once deployed, the volunteers made significant contributions. Over 19,235 people were reached with hygiene promotion, health risk awareness and epidemic risk communication messages across the 3 operation districts, including 3,840 individuals in Dokolo, 3,433 in Bukedea, and 4,876 in Kayunga, 7086 Ntoroko through to door to door visits, community meetings and local community radios, these efforts not only addressed immediate needs but also empowered communities with the knowledge to build resilience and better prepare for future flood events. The collection and use of feedback from community members further strengthened URCS's emergency response strategies. By listening to the affected populations, the organization was able to refine its approach, ensuring interventions were more effective and aligned with the unique needs of each community.

Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA): Due to budget constraints, 20 volunteers and 5 staff including 4 branch managers, 1 driver (10 female:16 male) from Sironko, Butaleja, Mbale, and Kamuli districts were trained on Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA). This training equipped participants with essential skills to respond to health emergencies, promote first aid practices, and enhance community resilience. The training covered several critical areas to maximize the effectiveness of the participants in the field. It began with sessions on community mobilization and needs assessment, enabling trainees to engage communities and identify urgent needs effectively. Modules on addressing health challenges and conducting community surveillance prepared volunteers to monitor and respond to public health concerns. An introduction to psychosocial first aid was provided to equip participants with the ability to offer emotional support to individuals affected by crises. First aid training emphasized basic life support techniques, including assessments and practical sessions on CPR and recovery positions. Participants also practiced essential procedures such as DRCAB (Danger, Response, Circulation, Airway, Breathing) and DRABcC (Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Compression). Additionally, practical sessions focused on managing bleeding wounds, handling broken bones, applying bandages, and safely transporting injured individuals. The training concluded with encouragement for the volunteers to cascade their knowledge and skills to other volunteers and URCS members, fostering wider resilience and preparedness within their localities.

First Aid Kits: A total of 9 first aid kits were procured, falling short of the intended 100 due to budget limitations. These kits were distributed to priority areas, ensuring essential first aid services remained available during emergencies.

Psychosocial First Aid: 10 Branch based volunteers (5 female:5 male) in Butaleja district provided psychosocial first aid support to 105 individuals (61 Female:44 Male), addressing emotional distress and promoting mental well-being among those affected by the floods.

Lessons Learnt

- The two-day volunteer orientation was essential in equipping volunteers with key skills, including hygiene promotion, community engagement, and risk communication. This training ensured they were prepared to effectively address the urgent needs of the affected communities. By focusing on essential areas, the orientation helped volunteers provide timely and impactful support.
- A key lesson learned was the importance of collecting and acting on feedback from community members. Engaging affected populations in decision-making allowed URCS to refine interventions to better meet local needs. This collaborative approach empowered communities and ensured responsive, context-specific actions.
- Equipping volunteers with skills to provide both emotional and physical care is essential for a holistic disaster response, addressing all aspects of community well-being.

Challenges

- Budget constraints hindered volunteer deployment and the procurement of some essential relief items for instance only 9 out of the planned 100 first aid kits were procured.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 82,288

Targeted Persons: 19,098

Assisted Persons: 19,235

Targeted Male: 8,079

Targeted Female: 11,156

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of water committees' people in management trained.	30	40
# of water tanks procured and installed.	14	5
# of people reached with hygien promotion sessions.	19,098	19,235
# of hygiene kits procured and distributed.	1,680	1,623
# of people who have access to safe water in the community after the installation of the tank.	3,600	0
# of strips of Chroline Tablets procured	10,000	5,000
# of boxes of Soap procured	200	345
# of DNRTs (hard ware & Software) deployed	4	4

Narrative description of achievements

• Hygiene Promotion Sessions: Hygiene promotion efforts reached a total of 19,235 individuals across Ntoroko, Dokolo, Kayunga, and Bukedea districts. The sessions emphasized safe water handling, sanitation practices, and disease prevention, aiming to strengthen community resilience against waterborne diseases. These hygiene promotion activities were integrated with SGBV and risk communication sessions, ensuring a comprehensive approach to community health and safety. By combining key health messages, the sessions provided critical knowledge that will help the communities protect themselves from both sanitation-related health risks and gender-based violence.

Hygiene Kits: A total of 1,624 hygiene kits were procured and prepositioned at both the central warehouse and the Fort Portal regional warehouse, ensuring readiness for timely distribution to affected communities.

Water Storage Tanks: Five 10,000-liter capacity water storage tanks and accessories were procured and prepositioned at URCS' central warehouse and will be distributed and installed when need arises.

Training Water Committees and Assessing Flood Impact on Water Sources: In Katakwi District, 40 water committees, comprising 80 members (two representatives from each committee; 56 male; 24 female), were trained on sustainable water source management and maintenance. This training was conducted in response to the devastating impact of flooding, which affected 90% of the primary water sources in Ongongonja, Omodoi, Okore, Magoro, Guya Guya, Akaboi, Palam, and Ngariam sub-counties. The sessions focused on equipping committee members with skills to manage, protect, and ensure the continued functionality of water sources in flood-prone areas. Following the training, a comprehensive assessment was carried out with the committees to evaluate the flood's impact on water sources in these sub-counties. The findings provided critical insights into the extent of damage and identified key gaps in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. This assessment will serve as a foundation for designing targeted WASH interventions in



Katakwi District, ensuring that future programming is informed, impactful, and aligned with the needs of the affected communities.

Chlorine Tablets and Soap: 5,000 strips of chlorine and 346 boxes of soap were procured and prepositioned at URCS' regional warehouse in Fort Portal City to support emergency WASH interventions. In Ntoroko District, the local government activated its Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan, leading to substantial public and government donations of chlorine. As a result, the available chlorine, including URCS' supply under DREF, was more than sufficient for the operation. Given the short shelf life of chlorine and the urgent need to ensure volunteer safety during the heavy rains, a strategic decision was made to reallocate the chlorine budget line towards procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and stationery to support field operations.

Deployment of WASH NDRTs (Hardware and Software): The planned deployment of a hardware WASH NDRT was not implemented due to the reallocation of funds initially earmarked for deploying a WASH Kit 5. Similarly, a software WASH NDRT was not deployed, as the district already had sufficient technical WASH personnel provided by implementing partners. These specialists collaborated closely with district technical teams, URCS volunteers, and Village Health Teams (VHTs) to ensure effective implementation of WASH activities. The funds initially allocated for the NDRT deployment were strategically repurposed to support other critical operational activities, maximizing the efficiency of available resources.

Lessons Learnt

- Prepositioning hygiene kits, water storage tanks, and other WASH supplies at central and regional warehouses ensured swift response and minimized delays in distribution.
- The training of water committees in Katakwi District showcased the importance of local capacity building in ensuring long-term sustainability of water resources.
- The collaboration between URCS, local government, and implementing partners proved crucial in achieving effective WASH outcomes, with local technical teams and Village Health Teams (VHTs) playing a key role in strengthening the capacity of response efforts. This partnership ensured that the response was well coordinated and that local expertise was effectively leveraged to address the needs of the affected communities.

Challenges

- A significant challenge during the DREF floods operation was the difficult access to affected districts, particularly in Ntoroko and Katakwi, where poor road infrastructure and extensive flood damage blocked routes. This hindered timely relief delivery and response efforts, especially in remote communities.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 27,750

Targeted Persons: 19,098

Assisted Persons: 19,235

Targeted Male: 8,079

Targeted Female: 11,156

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of assessments conducted	1	8
# of volunteers oriented on PGI and SGBV	100	80
#of volunteers deployed for RFL activities	14	65
# of referrals done	10	0
# of people reached with SGBV sessions	19,098	19,235



Narrative description of achievements

PGI Assessments: Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) considerations were integrated into multi-sectoral needs assessments conducted in Mbale, Bukedea, Kasese, Kayunga, Sironko, Katakwi, Nakapiripirit, and Ntoroko districts ensuring that vulnerabilities and protection risks were identified, reported and addressed. A reporting mechanism for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) cases was in place, operating through local council structures, starting at the village level, to facilitate survivor support and case management.

Volunteer Deployment and Capacity Building: Significant progress has been made in PGI and SGBV initiatives within the DREF operations. Before field deployment, 80 volunteers received orientation on PGI, SGBV, Restoring Family Links (RFL), risk communication, and hygiene promotion, equipping them with the skills to support vulnerable individuals and promote inclusive emergency response. These volunteers were deployed across Bukedea, Kayunga, Dokolo, Ntoroko, Katakwi, Nakapiripirit, Mbale, and Sironko districts.

Dissemination of PGI and RFL Messages: To enhance communication during outreach activities, dialogues, and meetings with beneficiaries, 11 speakers were procured and distributed across the operational districts. These speakers played a critical role in amplifying messages related to Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), as well as Restoring Family Links (RFL), ensuring they reached a wide audience effectively. The use of these speakers was particularly valuable in large gatherings, allowing for clear and impactful communication on sensitive issues such as gender equality, protection of vulnerable groups, and reconnecting families separated by the disaster. The distribution of the speakers was strategically planned to ensure their availability in key operational areas, where they facilitated ongoing community engagement. Through this initiative, the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) was able to foster a deeper understanding of PGI and RFL principles among community members, empowering them with the knowledge and resources necessary to navigate the challenges posed by the crisis.

Restoring Family Links (RFL) Kits: Two portable tents were procured and prepositioned at the central warehouse to support Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities. These tents are designed for quick deployment in areas where displaced individuals and families require assistance in reconnecting with their loved ones. By strategically positioning these tents, the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) ensures that RFL services can be rapidly set up and effectively operated in disaster-affected areas. This proactive approach enables efficient facilitation of family reunification and communication services, addressing a critical need during emergencies and enhancing the overall response capability of the organization.

SGBV Awareness and Community Engagement: Over 19,235 individuals have been reached through SGBV awareness sessions, which were designed to raise awareness, prevent violence, and ensure access to support services for those at risk. These sessions were conducted in close coordination with hygiene promotion and risk communication activities, creating a holistic approach to community engagement. Despite the broad outreach, no referrals have been received from the community or volunteers regarding SGBV cases. The integration of these activities allowed for a more comprehensive response, ensuring that key messages on gender-based violence (SGBV) were effectively communicated alongside critical health and safety information.

Lessons Learnt

- Prioritizing PGI assessments at the onset of a response ensures well-targeted, sensitive interventions for vulnerable groups.
- Using appropriate communication tools like portable speakers in both urban and rural areas greatly enhances the effectiveness of outreach activities like risk communication, dissemination of SGBV messages etc.

Challenges

- No challenges



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 6,750

Targeted Persons: 19,098

Assisted Persons: 19,235

Targeted Male: 8,079

Targeted Female: 11,156

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of CEA kiosks estblashed.	14	15



# of people reached with RCCE.	19,098	19,235
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Narrative description of achievements

- The DREF operation successfully established 15 Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) kiosks in the districts of Dokolo, Bukedea, Ntoroko, and Kayunga. These kiosks were coordinated by local branches in collaboration with local council leadership in the most affected communities, ensuring comprehensive community support and feedback channels. Additionally, over 19,235 people were reached with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) messages through door-to-door engagements, community meetings, and village rounds using megaphones.

Volunteers incorporated Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), and Restoring Family Links (RFL) into their hygiene promotion activities. This comprehensive approach ensured that the hygiene promotion efforts were not only effective but also addressed broader community needs and concerns, enhancing overall engagement and support throughout the affected districts.

Lessons Learnt

- Involving local communities in planning and coordinating response efforts, such as the establishment of CEA kiosks in collaboration with local leadership, ensured that interventions were community-centric and addressed specific needs. This approach fostered ownership, trust, and long-term resilience, ultimately enhancing the overall effectiveness of the response.
- Ensuring that volunteers were well-trained, equipped with appropriate tools, and understood the principles of community engagement and accountability helped to ensure the quality and impact of their work in the field.

Challenges

- No challenges



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 15,750

Targeted Persons: 100

Assisted Persons: 100

Targeted Male: 50

Targeted Female: 50

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of monitoring missions conducted	4	4
# of financial spot check conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

- The delegation successfully conducted all four planned monitoring missions, executed by the Logistics and PMER teams. These missions ensured thorough oversight of activities and adherence to operational standards. Additionally, financial spot checks were performed to minimize over expenditures.

Lessons Learnt

- Financial spot checks helped ensure that funds were used appropriately and in strict alignment with the planned budget, minimizing the risk of over-expenditures and ensuring financial accountability throughout the operation.
- Field monitoring enabled the real time identification of challenges and gaps, allowing for timely corrective actions. This proactive approach ensured that resources are used efficiently and that activities stay aligned with the overall objectives of the operation, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness and impact of the intervention.



Challenges

- No challenges



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 77,384

Targeted Persons: 19,098

Assisted Persons: 19,235

Targeted Male: 8,079

Targeted Female: 11,156

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers insured	100	0
# of visibility materials procured	100	235
# of monitoring missions conducted	15	15
# of lessons learnt sessions conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

• **Field Monitoring:** Throughout the DREF operation, regular monitoring missions were conducted by operations team, including the IFRC PMER Delegate, branch managers, the DREF operations lead, Director DRM, Branch Managers, procurement officers, and warehouse officers. These missions ensured robust oversight of procurement processes, field activities, and training sessions, contributing to the effective implementation of the operation.

Visibility material: 235 visibility materials, including t-shirts with URCS and IFRC logos, reflector jackets, gumboots, pull-up banners, and capes, were procured and distributed evenly across all branches, significantly enhancing the operation's visibility.

Operations Managers training: An online training session was organized on the IFRC Learning Platform for 20 nominated staff, introducing them to courses such as Security for Managers and Sphere Minimum Standards. Out of these, 12 finalists (7 male: 5 female) were selected for a four-day, in-person Emergency Operations Managers training held at the Imperial Heights Hotel in Entebbe. This initiative significantly enhanced the capacity of the National Society by establishing a technical team capable of leading emergency operations. The training aimed to mentor and equip 12 high quality Operations Managers to be deployed in leading emergency operations in Uganda. These trained Operations Managers will form the core of the National Society's emergency response. The program built key competencies in areas such as coordination and humanitarian diplomacy, resource mobilization, financial management, supply chain management, and workforce safety and security.

Lessons Learned Workshop: A Lessons Learned Workshop was conducted to bring together volunteers, staff, and external stakeholders (20 male: 5 female) involved in the DREF operation. This platform allowed participants to reflect on their experiences, share success stories, discuss challenges faced, and identify key lessons to improve future operations. Attendees included branch volunteers, District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) members from Pallisa, Kumi, and Bukedea districts, as well as branch managers from Mbale, Pallisa, and Kumi. The workshop's primary objective was to draw lessons from the three months of DREF implementation rather than focus on capacity building. Various emergencies within the Elgon and Teso regions were identified, discussed, and practically demonstrated through workshop presentations. Participants shared district-specific experiences, offering valuable insights into the challenges and successes encountered during the implementation. Key reference materials included field reports, participant experiences, and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) disaster management policy. Facilitators from URCS and a delegate from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) guided the discussions, ensuring the workshop stayed focused on its objectives. The workshop critically assessed the response to the floods, aiming to enhance preparedness and response efforts in future operations. It evaluated the effectiveness of the operation, identified areas for improvement, and documented valuable insights for future reference. Emphasis was placed on accountability, transparency, and teamwork, contributing to organizational learning and providing crucial feedback to donors and stakeholders.



Lessons Learnt

- The Lessons Learned Workshop provided a platform for volunteers, staff, and external stakeholders to reflect on their experiences and identify areas for improvement. This interactive and participatory session proved invaluable in generating actionable insights, such as the need for better coordination in emergency situations and the importance of adapting to local contexts.
- Field monitoring enabled the real time identification of challenges and gaps, allowing for timely corrective actions. This proactive approach ensured that resources are used efficiently and that activities stay aligned with the overall objectives of the operation, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness and impact of the intervention.

Challenges

- While a significant quantity of visibility materials, including t-shirts, reflector jackets, gumboots, and banners, were procured and distributed, it was quickly evident that these supplies were insufficient to cover the wide reaching operations in the flood affected regions.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRUG050 - Uganda - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 22 May 2024 to 30 Nov 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/05-2025/06	Operation	MDRUG050
Budget Timeframe	2024/05-2025/06	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 25/Jul/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	479,715
DREF Response Pillar	479,715
Expenditure	-461,054
Closing Balance	18,661

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	159,915	123,017	36,899
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	46,200	295	45,905
PO04 - Health	31,250	1,250	30,000
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	110,038	83,522	26,516
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	29,278	16,298	12,980
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	376,681	224,382	152,299
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	15,750	5,095	10,655
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	87,284	231,577	-144,293
Enabling Approaches Total	103,034	236,672	-133,638
Grand Total	479,716	461,054	18,662



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Robert KWESIGA,, Secretary General, rkwesiga@redcrossug.org, +256414258 701

IFRC Appeal Manager: Papa Moussa Tall, head of delegation, papemoussa.tall@ifrc.org, +211912179511

IFRC Project Manager: Daniel Kyalo Mutinda, Delegate, disaster management, Daniel.MUTINDA@ifrc.org, +254725599105

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Daniel Kyalo Mutinda, Delegate, Disaster Management, Daniel.MUTINDA@ifrc.org, +254725599105

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

[Click here for reference](#)

