



GRC volunteers swearing in ceremony of the President 2023. Picture from GRC

Appeal: MDRGA014	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 153,432	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Other
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 1,625,645 people	People Targeted: 10,000 people	People Assisted: 12,240 people
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 20-03-2025	Operational End Date: 30-06-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 3 months
Targeted Regions: Estuaire, Haut-Ogooue, Ogooue-Ivindo, Ogooue-lolo, Ogooue-Maritime, Woleu-Ntem			

Funding was gotten from the IFRC DREF pot.

Description of the Event



Map of the Gabon with operation areas in yellow (Picture from GRC)

Approximate date of impact

The electoral calendar for 2025 was as follows:

- March 8: deadline for the submission of candidacy declarations
 - March 29 – April 11: electoral campaign
 - April 12: convocation of the Electoral College
 - Based on past election experiences, the results were expected to be made public two weeks after the vote.
- The period with the highest risk occurred at the time of the announcement of results, but it was essential for the National Society to prepare in advance.

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

The presidential election of 2025 was part of a political and military transition process that had begun in 2023, following the ousting of the president declared elected in the previous elections of that year. The sequence of events related to these elections, combined with the evolving political and social context, indicated a significant risk for the upcoming polls. The summary of key facts regarding the evolution of the electoral process covered the period from 2023 to the present.

The last democratic presidential elections in Gabon took place on August 26, 2023.

- August 30, 2023: The Gabonese Elections Center (GEC) announced the victory of the outgoing president with 64.27% of the votes.
- Night of August 30, 2023: A group of military personnel, led by the head of the Republican Guard, announced their intention to “end the regime” of Ali Bongo Ondimba, who had been in power since 2009, just minutes after the results were proclaimed. The Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions (CTRI) annulled the general elections, denouncing the results as “manipulated,” and dissolved all



of the Republic's institutions. Brice Oligui Nguema led the coup.

- November 13, 2023: The CTRI unveiled an indicative two-year political transition timeline, concluding with the organization of elections in August 2025. The main steps included a call for national contributions (until November 30, 2023), followed by a report in February 2024 diagnosing the country's state and proposing reforms.

- April 2024: Based on this plan, the "Inclusive National Dialogue" was organized, bringing together multiple parties. A multiparty committee was tasked with drafting a new Constitution, drawing from the Dialogue's recommendations. In October 2024, the Parliament, transformed into a Constituent Assembly, presented its reasoned recommendations for the new Constitution.

- January 2025: The government announced a revision of the electoral law, rescheduling the elections to April 12, 2025, instead of August 2025. A three-month period was allocated for the various electoral stages.

A few days before the opening of the candidacy submission period, 10 candidates had already declared their intention to run, including the transitional president and nine others, some from the opposition. The January announcement triggered renewed criticism from opposition figures, many of whom were prominent actors from the former deposed regime. They condemned the poor management of the transition and the premature decision to hold elections ahead of the original August 2025 timeline.

In the weeks leading up to the elections, videos and audio recordings circulated on social media showing residents from several localities threatening a political leader and his convoy, attempting to block public meetings in certain areas. This illustrated a rise in ethnic tensions, overshadowing political debate—a trend observed in other countries and one with potentially serious consequences.

Drawing from its experience in past elections, the Gabonese Red Cross mobilized 200 volunteers across the national territory, in addition to its staff. This reinforcement addressed the limited human resources available during the 2023 operation and ensured the Society's role as an auxiliary to public authorities before, during, and after the elections.



GRC Volunteers as election observer
(Photo from GRC)



GRC Volunteers as election observers
(Picture from GRC)



GRC medical staff on alert for medical
assistance (Photo from GRC)

Scope and Scale

The electoral processes posed a threat during the pre- and post-electoral periods. During that electoral period, Gabon faced numerous socio-economic challenges, including the high cost of living and difficulties for households in accessing water and electricity. Conflicts related to the elections could have further exacerbated the vulnerability of people already in need. With Gabon being 87% urbanized, populations relied heavily on markets and supermarkets, which could have remained closed during times of crisis, creating food security concerns.

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

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

Key scenarios from the National Society's contingency plan included:

- Start of the campaign period: In previous electoral campaigns, disturbances had been recorded at the meetings of certain candidates, often orchestrated by local authorities and opposition members. Heated debates and incitements through social networks and other sources of information had already raised concerns about a deterioration of the situation as the electoral calendar progressed. These qualitative indicators were taken into account to justify the request and ensure the National Society's preparation, with actions aimed at limiting escalations of violence at the community level.
- Election Day: Although disturbances in past elections had typically begun after the proclamation of results, Election Day remained

sensitive due to the heightened stakes caused by the unprecedented situation in the country.

- o Trigger threshold: Early actions were initiated if there were clear indications that at least 100 people were exposed to a risk of violence between Election Day and the date of result proclamation, which occurred no later than one week after the elections.
- o Indicators: Number of injured individuals.
- o Means of verification: Direct observation and media reports of incidents.
- Date of result proclamation: From the date of proclamation until one week after, rescue teams were deployed.
- o Trigger threshold: Early actions were initiated if there were clear indications that at least 100 people were exposed to a risk of violence during this period. This included verbal escalation in the media, incitement to revolt, or clashes between groups affiliated with political parties, or between youth groups and law enforcement.
- o Indicators: Number of injured individuals.

Preparatory actions began as soon as the operation was approved and concluded three days before the presidential election date of April 12, 2025. The deployment of rescue teams and the monitoring of the electoral process were the main actions carried out from the eve of the elections until one week after the proclamation of the results and the inauguration of the declared elected candidate.

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 combined contributions of the IFRC and the ICRC enabled rapid, neutral, and strategic coverage in a sensitive electoral context. 1. For the IFRC: Served as the main donor to the DREF fund, fully financed the operation plan for coverage in six provinces, and provided technical staff based in Yaoundé. 2. For the ICRC: Provided additional technical assistance to the GRC, delivered training in three provinces on security in sensitive contexts, and strengthened the protection framework.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has an office in Yaoundé, Cameroon, which oversees 4 National Societies, including the Gabonese Red Cross (CRG), in various National Society development programs as well as programs related to preparedness and response to both health and natural disasters. In recent years, the IFRC has actively supported the Gabonese Red Cross (CRG) in responding to various emergencies. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the IFRC provided crucial assistance to the CRG. In 2023, the IFRC allocated DREF funding to enhance preparedness against Marburg Virus Disease in Woleu-Ntem Province. Additionally, DREF resources were mobilized to assist victims affected by violent winds in the Haut Ogooué region, particularly in Franceville. The DREF also supported preparations for the presidential elections held in August 2023. More recently, the IFRC backed the CRG through the DREF/Emergency Appeal for Mpox, facilitating awareness campaigns via multiple communication channels. The IFRC further supported the response to the 2024 floods in Libreville and Mouila, with operations continuing through May 2024. Building on these operations, the IFRC ensured robust technical and operational coordination by deploying specialized resource personnel—such as Surge staff, PMER, Finance, Logistics, and thematic leads for Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)—to support the Gabonese Red Cross (CRG) in the effective implementation of activities. As an auxiliary to public authorities and a key national partner in disaster response, the CRG also facilitated disaster preparedness initiatives across the country. To maintain a close understanding of the situation, the IFRC organized regular exchange sessions with the CRG. Additionally, collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was strengthened through joint coordination meetings. These
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	meetings enabled harmonized support for the National Society, continuous monitoring of its activities, and the development of vital documents such as the revised national contingency plan for the elections.
Participating National Societies	No PNS were present in Gabon, and the Gabonese Red Cross did not receive specific support from any PNS.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

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

The ICRC has supported the CRG in preparation for the 2025 presidential elections. These include support for health coverage during the electoral period (first aid materials worth 1,122,000 FCFA), the production of visibility materials (2,000,000 FCFA), support for electoral monitoring through the deployment of volunteers before, during, and after the elections in three provinces (3,450,000 FCFA), and internet support for the national headquarters (1,000,000 FCFA).

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The actions that were undertaken by the national authorities included - National Dialogue - Referendum - Revision of the Electoral Roll - Political consultation between the presidential majority and the opposition - Revision of the electoral code in the National Assembly and promulgation of the new electoral code - The National Commission for the Organization and Coordination of Elections and Referendum (CNOCER) - Revision of the electoral liste - Publication of the electoral calendar
UN or other actors	No actions were undertaken by UN actors or other stakeholders. However, ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States), through its Central Africa Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC) platform, monitored the situation in Gabon which is a member country.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



It was important to enhance coordination with external partners and actors to ensure smooth communication and a safer transfer of information in the event of a crisis. This critical activity was necessary during the pre-electoral phase, as it established a clear communication chain and standard operating procedures suited to various scenarios. Such coordination contributed to the success of the operation.

Additionally, this coordination was extended from the national headquarters to the targeted branches, ensuring adequate communication means (telephone and internet). Equipment was required for this purpose.

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

Prepositioning activities for the aforementioned items were carried out before the elections to anticipate potential movement restrictions



in the event of a crisis.

Furthermore, arrangements were made at the headquarters and in the relevant committees to provide gathering and rest areas for National Society personnel and volunteers in case they were unable to return to their homes during operations. Emergency operations centers were established at the headquarters and in the committees of the six high-risk localities targeted: Libreville, Koulamoutou, Franceville, Port-Gentil, Mouila, and Oyem.

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

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

In response to health, the Gabon Red Cross National Society:

- Deployed a health system focusing on emergency first aid and psychological support.
- Trained or retrained 215 volunteers across multiple provinces:
 - o 20 volunteers in psychological first aid.
 - o 70 volunteers received refresher training in emergency first aid.
 - o 130 volunteers trained in emergency first aid.
- Mobilized volunteers from five days before elections until two days after results, with possible extension if violence escalated.
- Established support stands in high-risk areas to assist individuals in need.
- Procured and distributed essential health materials:
 - o 10 stretchers (2 per province).
 - o 50 survival blankets (including 25 for Libreville).
 - o 20 first aid kits (distributed across provinces).
 - o 500 scarves/triangles.
 - o 3 oxygen kits for ambulances.
- Provided per diems for 8 psychologists offering psychological support for 30 days.
- Set up command posts/emergency operation centers in 9 targeted localities.
- Briefed 20 volunteers on psychological first aid.
- Assigned 30 volunteers trained with ICRC support to Moyen-Ogooué, Ngounié, and Nyanga provinces for polling station coverage.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

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

In response to the operational needs during the electoral period, comprehensive efforts were made to strengthen Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) through targeted volunteer training, community awareness, and inclusive engagement. These activities aimed to promote ethical conduct, social cohesion, and equitable access to humanitarian services while addressing specific vulnerabilities such as gender-based violence and child protection risks.

- A total of 215 volunteers were briefed on PGI themes.
- Both volunteers and staff received training on the Code of Conduct to reinforce ethical standards.
- PGI training for branches and staff was planned and conducted following IFRC minimum standards and gender-based violence guidelines.
- Developed 50 image boxes on PGI as part of election preparedness efforts.
- Delivered 12 awareness sessions across six provinces, reaching a total of 13,240 people, including 6,084 women.
- These sessions actively promoted social cohesion, gender-based violence prevention, and adherence to humanitarian principles.
- Of the 215 trained volunteers, 105 (49%) were women, supporting gender-balanced and inclusive participation.
- Approximately 2% of beneficiaries—fewer than 200 individuals—were persons with disabilities who benefited from adapted materials such as picture boxes and accessible awareness sessions.
- Engaged community and religious leaders through meetings to foster tolerance and equitable access to humanitarian services, emphasizing impartiality and neutrality.
- Child protection risk analysis was integrated into the overall risk assessment and monitoring processes throughout the operation.





Community Engagement And Accountability

Awareness raising was done in communities and political forces about the mandate of the Red Cross as an auxiliary to the state, as well as the mechanisms put in place, while emphasizing the principles of neutrality and impartiality. This ensured volunteers' access to the field and prevented any confusion with other intervention actors or reputational risks for the National Society. To this end, volunteers required training on CEA principles to better engage with communities and facilitate information feedback.

Key achievements in support of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) activities include:

- Deployment of 203 volunteers, nearly reaching the target of 215, demonstrating strong mobilization and commitment.
- All volunteers received comprehensive training on CEA principles to ensure effective community interaction.
- During the electoral monitoring operation in April 2025, these volunteers—comprising 98 men and 105 women—were active across six provinces.
- Over a 7-day period, daily allowances were provided for 16 lifeguards, 2 supervisors, and 1 volunteer dedicated to the feedback management team.
- A specialized group of 15 volunteers collected 356 community feedback reports between April 12 and 15, 2025, identifying key logistical and security concerns.
- Relief and supervision activities were carried out in areas with high population movement throughout the electoral period, ensuring continued support and oversight.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

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

Operation strategy rationale

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

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

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

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



- 4) Post-Election Period (After the Elections until the Day of Proclamation), Estimated at Two Weeks.
 - Formation of a monitoring team for better observation of on-the-ground situations/events.
 - Monitoring the evolution of the situation through coordination meetings.
 - An end-of-period workshop on lessons learned will be organized to highlight successful actions, areas for improvement, and recommendations for better capitalization and enhancement of future operations.

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

The Gabonese Red Cross successfully implemented a comprehensive operational strategy throughout the 2025 electoral period, focusing on volunteer training, community engagement, health support, and protection measures. These efforts ensured effective preparedness, response, and monitoring across key provinces, contributing to social cohesion and safety during a critical time.

Key Achievements included;

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

- Successfully deployed 203 volunteers across six provinces, closely matching the target of 215.
- Comprehensive CEA training was delivered to all volunteers, enhancing community interaction and trust.
- Managed an active community feedback system, collecting 356 reports that identified key operational challenges.
- Maintained continuous relief and supervision activities in high population movement areas throughout the electoral period.
- Provided daily allowances to lifeguards, supervisors, and feedback team volunteers to ensure sustained engagement.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

- Trained 215 volunteers on PGI principles and the Code of Conduct, promoting ethical standards and social cohesion.
- Delivered 12 awareness sessions reaching 13,240 people (including 6,084 women), emphasizing gender-based violence prevention and humanitarian principles.
- Engaged community and religious leaders to foster tolerance and equitable humanitarian access.
- Integrated child protection and vulnerable groups' considerations into risk assessments and operations.
- Achieved gender-balanced volunteer participation, with 49% women volunteers.

Health and Emergency Response

- Trained/retrained 215 volunteers in emergency and psychological first aid across targeted provinces.
- Deployed health teams and established support stands five days before elections until two days after results.
- Procured and distributed essential health equipment, including stretchers, first aid kits, oxygen kits, and survival blankets.
- Provided psychological support through 8 psychologists over 30 days.
- Set up command posts in 9 high-risk localities to coordinate emergency response.

National Society Strengthening

- Conducted a launch workshop for DREF implementation, involving staff and stakeholders.
- Mobilized 215 volunteers under the supervision of 15 National Society personnel, equipped with visibility and protection materials.
- Maintained coordination with partners through weekly meetings and produced regular situation reports.
- Ensured operational logistics, including vehicle branding, maintenance, fuel provision, and procurement of food kits and office supplies.
- Delivered extensive volunteer training (230 trained/retrained in first aid) and recruited 222 new volunteers during the campaign.
- Advocated with authorities, resulting in improved election security and first aid plans.
- Established a robust community feedback mechanism that improved intervention quality.

Secretariat and IFRC Support

- Provided surge personnel for preparedness, communication, and coordination.
- Established a weekly cluster coordination platform with ICRC and partners.
- Supported volunteer insurance, ensuring protection during operational risks.
- Facilitated lessons learned workshops to capture best practices and operational improvements.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

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

The 10,000 targeted individuals were those who could benefit directly from the humanitarian services planned in the operation, including relief actions, psychological support (PSS), mobile cinema initiatives, and engagement with local community leaders as well as



representatives of civil and military institutions. Monitoring, relief management, and direct awareness campaigns through volunteers specifically targeted large gatherings typically observed during the electoral calendar. The targeting priorities were determined by potential exposure, based on analysis of past observations.

The priority groups were as follows:

- Before the vote: Communities attending political meetings, community gatherings, associations—particularly youth groups—and community leaders (religious, traditional, and governmental).
- During the vote: High-traffic polling stations and gatherings in their immediate vicinity. Within these gatherings, priority was given to pregnant and breastfeeding women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, children, and foreigners (migrants). They were targeted with messages at polling station entrances and provided with support in case of escalation.
- During the results: Any gatherings for which the Gabonese Red Cross received an alert, with priority given to individuals with specific needs.
- Awareness activities were conducted on a larger scale through varied channels such as radio, announcements at political and social gatherings, and other outreach methods.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

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

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

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	6,084	Rural	12%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	0	Urban	87%
Assisted Men	6,156	People with disabilities (estimated)	2%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	0		
Total Assisted Population	12,240		
Total Targeted Population	10,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	No
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	No
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?	No
Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.	
Risk	Mitigation action
Unavailability of NS personnel and volunteers due to the management of multiple ongoing operations, leading to an increased workload for CRG staff and volunteers.	- Deployed a surge staff member - Received regular support from cluster office staff - Strengthened organizational work capacities within the NS (planning and prioritization of activities) - Prioritized actions - Accelerated the implementation of DREF 2024 Flood activities to finalize key tasks (training and distribution) before the start of the electoral campaign - Divided NS teams to finalize DREF 2024 Flood activities, while another team focused on preparing for DREF election activities
Difficulty accessing the targeted population due to the presence of protest movements.	A training session on Safer Access was provided to volunteers with the support of the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). This equipped volunteers with the tools needed to facilitate access and ensure acceptance by the community.
Risk of delays in launching DREF activities due to administrative complexities/slow processes and delays in resource allocation from the cluster to the NS (headquarters) and from the headquarters to the departmental committees (field level).	The NS initiated mobilization activities that did not require funding. The NS also committed to pre-financing the launch of activities immediately upon DREF approval while administrative challenges were being resolved.
Risk to the reputation of the National Society (NS) due to the population's lack of awareness of its mandate, missions, and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.	- Informed and raised awareness among the population. - Trained volunteers and staff on the code of conduct, as well as on combating fraud and corruption.
Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:	
In most urban areas, particularly the capital Libreville, the most significant security risks stemmed from situations of violence. During political events such as elections, the likelihood of disturbances tended to increase. Security threats included protests, spontaneous or organized riots, followed by severe repression, self-defence roadblocks, and a potential rise in occasional criminal activity. All mobilized volunteers and staff received training on safer access, with the support of the ICRC. Monitoring of the security context was supported by the IFRC and ICRC. The National Society (NS) identified a national security officer who liaised with the security officer of the IFRC cluster and the ICRC delegation to exchange security-related information. The NS security officer also communicated with branches in targeted high-risk localities, collaborated with community authorities, and provided regular updates on the situation. Reports from monitoring teams and information collected by various teams were filtered by the security focal point and shared with the headquarters based on relevance. Security updates were conducted in both directions—from branches to headquarters and vice versa—either weekly or daily, depending on the evolution of the context.	
Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No

Implementation



Budget: CHF 36,705



Targeted Persons: 10,000

Assisted Persons: 10,000

Targeted Male: 3,916

Targeted Female: 6,084

Indicators

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

Narrative description of achievements

The GRC deployed a health system focused on emergency first aid and psychological support.

A total of 215 volunteers were trained or retrained in several provinces, with strategic distribution in high-risk areas.

Teams were pre-positioned five days before the vote and remained in place for two days after the announcement of results, with the possibility of extension in case of escalating violence.

Support stands were set up to ensure the well-being of the population, and health logistics (kits, stretchers, blankets, oxygen kits) were procured and deployed.

Thirty volunteers trained with ICRC support were specifically assigned to the Moyen-Ogooué, Ngounié, and Nyanga provinces to cover polling stations.

Lessons Learnt

- Anticipating the training and pre-positioning of volunteers enabled a rapid response.
- Geographic coverage across all 9 provinces ensured a balanced humanitarian presence.
- The combination of physical first aid and psychosocial support met a genuine need.
- Collaboration with local pharmacies facilitated logistical efficiency.

Challenges

- Lack of precise information on the exact number of mobilization days, due to the rapidly evolving electoral context moving toward a calmer scenario.
- Need to strengthen capacities in medical logistics.
- Multisectoral coordination between field teams and logistics was sometimes slow.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 2,132

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Assisted Persons: 10,000

Targeted Male: 3,916

Targeted Female: 6,084



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers trained in PGI:	215	203
Number of volunteers and staff trained in the Code of Conduct	215	203
Number of image boxes produced	50	50
Number of PGI awareness campaigns conducted	12	12

Narrative description of achievements

The Gabonese Red Cross (GRCS) carried out significant actions regarding Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) as part of its interventions. The main achievements include:

- Awareness Campaigns: Organized 12 awareness sessions across 6 provinces, reaching 13,240 people, including 6,084 women, with messages on social cohesion, prevention of gender-based violence, and humanitarian principles.
- Volunteer Training: Of the 215 volunteers trained, 105 were women (49%), promoting balanced participation in relief and awareness activities.
- Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities: Approximately 2% of beneficiaries—fewer than 200 people—were persons with disabilities, supported with adapted materials such as picture boxes and accessible sessions.
- Advocacy for Inclusion: Meetings held with community and religious leaders to promote tolerance and equitable access to humanitarian services, emphasizing the GRCS's principles of impartiality and neutrality.

Lessons Learnt

The PGI activities provided several key lessons:

- Effectiveness of Visual Tools: Materials such as picture boxes and posters facilitated message delivery, especially among illiterate or disabled populations.
- Female Leadership: The active participation of women volunteers (52% of new recruits) strengthened community acceptance, particularly in conservative areas.
- Specific Needs: Rural populations (12% of beneficiaries) and persons with disabilities (limited data) require tailored approaches for optimal inclusion.

Challenges

Several challenges were identified during the implementation of PGI activities:

- Lack of Disaggregated Data: Absence of precise monitoring for persons with disabilities and those under 18 years old.
- Logistical Obstacles: Difficulties reaching rural areas during the period due to transportation requisitions.
- Cultural Resistance: Reluctance in certain provinces to address gender issues, and lower male participation in trainings.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 40,983

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Assisted Persons: 10,000

Targeted Male: 3,916

Targeted Female: 6,084



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of community feedbacks per day	900	356
Number of volunteers trained / refreshed on CEA	200	203
Number of monitoring activities conducted	30	7

Narrative description of achievements

During the electoral monitoring operation in April 2025, the GRC, with support from DREF/IFRC, mobilized 203 of the 215 planned volunteers trained in CEA—98 men and 105 women across 6 provinces.

A team of 15 volunteers collected 356 community feedback reports over 4 days, from April 12 to 15, 2025, revealing logistical and security concerns.

Relief and supervision activities were carried out in areas with high population flow.

Lessons Learnt

The integration of CEA allowed for better feedback on community perceptions, thereby facilitating the rapid adjustment of the response throughout the operation.

- The presence of volunteers strengthened the credibility and calmness of the election, according to the population.
- CEA briefings and active coordination encouraged the reporting of incidents.
- Volunteers' dissatisfaction with working conditions and logistics highlights the importance of placing volunteers at the center of the humanitarian effort and providing clear information from the start.

Community mobilization remained a powerful lever during tense electoral periods when well organized and properly trained.

Challenges

- Delay in the provision of logistical resources: lack of water, food, and medical supplies (first aid kits, blood pressure monitors, care bags) at several sites.
- Insufficient communication between field teams and logistics, health, and safety managers.
- Lack of access for vulnerable persons: difficulties for elderly people or those with disabilities to reach certain polling stations.



Coordination And Partnerships

Budget: CHF 1,523

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Assisted Persons: 10,000

Targeted Male: 3,916

Targeted Female: 6,084

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of meetings with national partners	1	8
Coordination at the branch level	6	6

Narrative description of achievements

The official launch of the DREF operation took place in the Estuaire province with the participation of 38 people, including 23 men and 15 women. The event brought together government authorities (9), GRCS staff members (22), and volunteers (7). It featured the presentation of two strategic documents: the DREF Plan and the Contingency Plan.

In parallel, significant advocacy work was conducted ahead of the presidential election on April 12, 2025. These efforts targeted key institutions (ministries, governorates, municipalities), security forces, and electoral commissions (CNOCER), as well as political leaders. Through these actions, the GRCS strengthened the credibility of peace messages delivered (a total of 8).

These advocacy efforts enabled the adjustment of the operational deployment of first aid teams according to identified sensitive areas. In total, 8 working sessions were organized, and 3 out of 9 local committees actively carried out advocacy actions.

Lessons Learnt

The personal involvement of the National President of the GRCS significantly strengthened the impact of the messages conveyed and facilitated the buy-in of the authorities met.

Organizing the launch in an official format with a diverse group of participants enhanced the visibility of the DREF Plan and the Contingency Plan.

The advocacy efforts enabled better planning of emergency interventions by helping to anticipate risk areas for more strategic deployment.

The drafting of SitReps and Two-Pagers, as well as the presentation of strategic documents such as the Contingency Plan, reinforced stakeholders' confidence in the GRCS's preparation and management of the operation.

Challenges

- The evolving electoral context required rapid adaptation through a tightly compressed acceleration plan.
- Unavailability of certain suppliers.
- The limited implementation time restricted the territorial coverage of advocacy activities: only 3 out of 9 local committees were able to carry them out.
- The lack of local facilitators prevented equitable access to all candidates, thereby reducing the reach of the peace message.
- The launch concerned only one province (Estuaire), limiting the national inclusivity of the process.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 41,380

Targeted Persons: 6

Assisted Persons: 58

Targeted Male: 35

Targeted Female: 23

Indicators

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



Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC provided support in various forms to the National Society to ensure the smooth implementation of this operation.

- At the cluster level: A weekly platform was established for technical and strategic coordination meetings, including the ICRC, to ensure better monitoring and possible guidance based on the evolving situation.
- Technical support mission: The cluster coordination lead carried out a mission to the Gabonese Red Cross to support the communication and CEA teams in developing communication tools and implementing the communication strategy.
- Global level support: A surge personnel with experience in communication during emergency operations was also deployed to the Gabonese Red Cross for six weeks to continue supporting the National Society in communication, as well as in follow-up and coordination with the cluster and other actors at the national level.
- Volunteer insurance: Insurance for the 215 volunteers was secured and the certificate transmitted to the National Society. Follow-up was carried out by the cluster and the National Society with the insurance unit regarding an incident involving two volunteers during the inauguration ceremony

Lessons Learnt

- Effective Multisectoral Technical Support:

The IFRC's support through joint and specialized missions, deployment of a surge team specialized in communication, and assistance in developing the communication strategy strengthened the Gabonese Red Cross's capacity to effectively conduct emergency operations.

- Strengthened Coordination at Multiple Levels:

The establishment of a weekly coordination platform, including the ICRC at the cluster level, enabled better monitoring of the evolving situation, faster responsiveness, and regular sharing of strategic information.

- Expanded Operational Deployment and Professionalization:

The coordination team's growth from 6 to 58 members reflects rapid adaptation to the scale of the operation, with professional structuring by responsibilities (logistics, finance, health, IT, WASH, etc.), demonstrating the National Society's commitment to effectively cover all nine provinces.

- Reinforced Volunteer Protection:

The subscription of insurance for 215 volunteers, accompanied by effective follow-up during a real incident, highlighted the importance of an active protection system for volunteer personnel.

- Experience Sharing and Capitalization:

The organization of a lessons-learned workshop, supported by the IFRC, allowed the collection of feedback useful for the National Society to strengthen its future interventions.

Challenges

- Underestimated Initial Planning:

The gap between the planned staff of 6 and the actual mobilization of 58 revealed an underestimation of the human and logistical needs at the outset, indicating a need to improve pre-deployment assessments.

- Increased Coordination Load:

The territorial expansion of the operation across all provinces, especially densely populated urban areas like Estuaire, required complex logistics, posing risks of overload for local teams.

- Incident Management:

Although volunteer insurance functioned, the occurrence of an incident during the inauguration ceremony highlights volunteers' potential exposure to risks in sensitive contexts, necessitating stronger security oversight.

- Diversity of Profiles to Manage:

The presence of very diverse profiles within the team (IT, WASH, security, etc.) demanded significant coordination efforts to align actions with common objectives, presenting a challenge for cross-functional management.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 30,709



Targeted Persons: 215

Assisted Persons: 203

Targeted Male: 98

Targeted Female: 105

Indicators

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

Narrative description of achievements

- Training and Capacity Building: The GRCS trained and retrained 230 volunteers in first aid (PS1/PS2) across 9 locations—200 volunteers supported by the IFRC and 30 by the ICRC. Both practical and theoretical modules were delivered despite time and material constraints.
- Community Awareness: A total of 13,240 people were reached through awareness campaigns on humanitarian principles and social cohesion in 6 provinces. Additionally, 222 new volunteers were recruited.
- Advocacy and Coordination: Advocacy efforts with authorities—covering 3 ministries and 2 governorates—led to adjustments in election security and first aid plans.
- Logistics and Equipment: Procurement and deployment of equipment such as stretchers, oxygen kits, and first aid kits to equip field teams.
- Community Feedback: Implementation of a feedback system, with 356 reports analyzed to improve interventions.

Lessons Learnt

- Volunteer Involvement: Their commitment was crucial for territorial coverage, but their motivation was affected by logistical issues.
- Communication: Digital tools such as WhatsApp and Google Meet strengthened coordination, but a structured formal channel is needed for future projects.
- Anticipation: The late activation of the ICS limited the effectiveness of the response. Earlier planning is recommended.
- Institutional Visibility: Advocacy actions strengthened the credibility of the GRCS with authorities and communities.

Challenges

Delays in Equipment Delivery:

- Insufficient nutritional and hydration kits for volunteers in the field.

Coordination:

- Uneven advocacy coverage, with only 6 out of 9 local committees involved.
- Insufficient facilitators to reach all political candidates.

Human Resources:

- Territorial imbalance in volunteer training, with 103 trained in Estuaire compared to 20 in other provinces.

Communication:

- Awareness messages need improvement in certain areas, e.g., the need for PGI reminders in Franceville.



Financial Report

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Operational Strategy

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	*
Budget Timeframe	*
Operation	MDRGA014
Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 06 Oct 2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGA014 - Gabon - Election Preparedness

Operating Timeframe: 20 Mar 2025 to 30 Jun 2025; appeal launch date: 20 Mar 2025

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Total Funding Requirements	153,432
Donor Response* as per 06 Oct 2025	153,432
Appeal Coverage	100.00%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Op Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0
PO02 - Livelihoods	0	0	0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	0	0	0
PO04 - Health	0	0	0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0	0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0	0	0
PO07 - Education	0	0	0
PO08 - Migration	0	0	0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	9,364	35	9,329
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	0	0	0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0
Planned Operations Total	9,364	35	9,329
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	0	0	0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	38,854	28,142	10,713
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	105,214	110,797	-5,584
Enabling Approaches Total	144,068	138,939	5,129
Grand Total	153,432	138,974	14,459

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2100/9999

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	153,432
Expenditure	-138,974
Closing Balance	14,458
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	14,458

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	Reimbursed :	Outstanding :
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Please explain variances (if any)

IFRC allocated through the DREF pot CHF 153,431.82 and CHF 138,974 were spent by the end of the intervention to achieve the above-described milestones. The balance of CHF 14,458 will be returned to the DREF pot.

The overall unspent balance is the result of different balances per cost category.

Explanations for each variance are summarized as below:

- Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery (99,64%): This discrepancy results for the wrong booking, there was no activity on DRR in the approved budget. This has been changed in WBS and might require further revision later, once the interface is completed



- Secretariat Services (27.57%): This discrepancy results to the fact that some mission at the cluster level were cancelled. Also, the Surge costs were planned for 3 months, but his mission was just for one and half month.



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