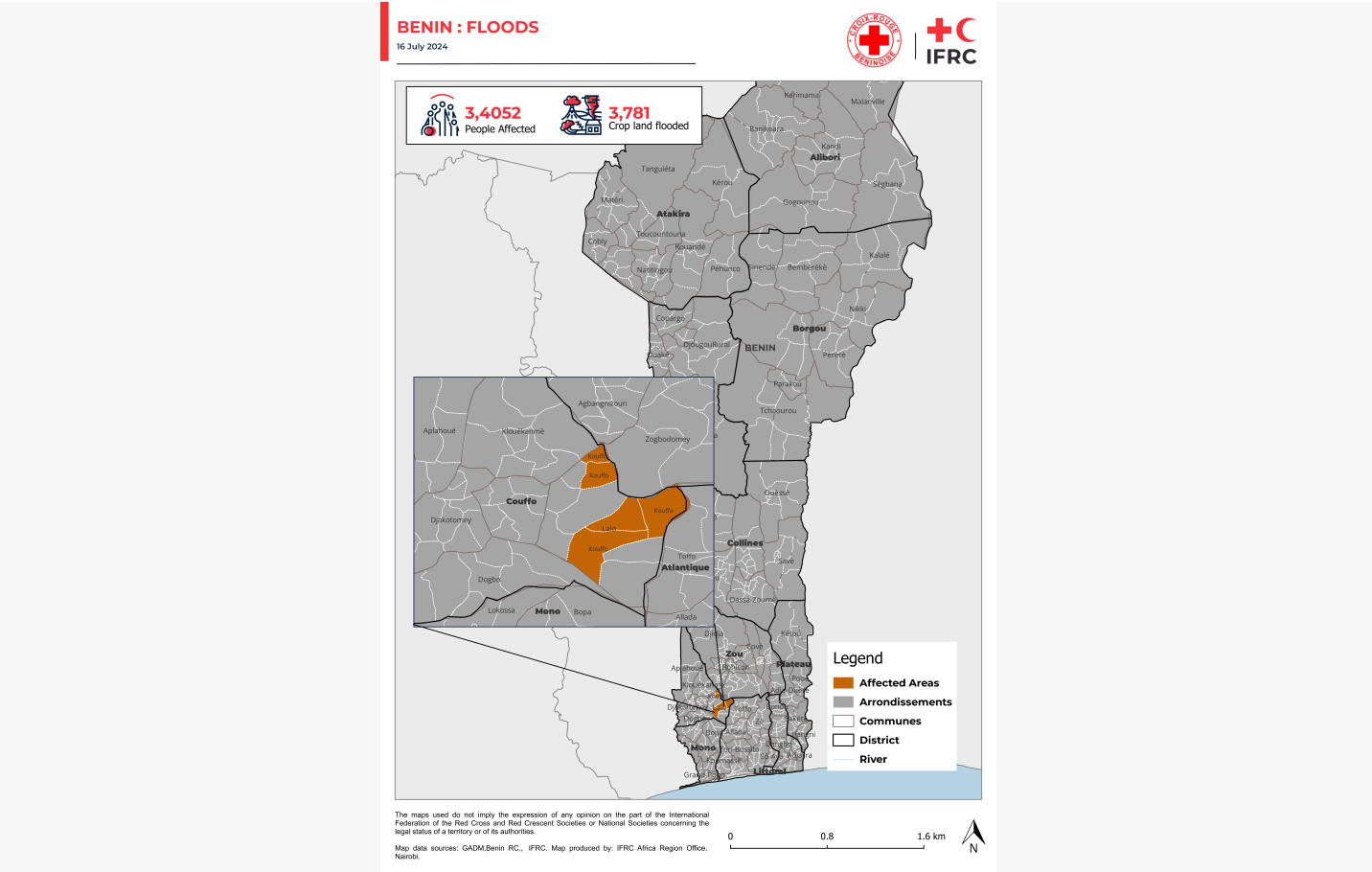




Shelters built for beneficiaries

Appeal: <b>MDRBJ019</b>	Total DREF Allocation: -	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Flood</b>
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>34,052 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>10,215 people</b>	People Assisted: <b>11,240 people</b>
Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>12-07-2024</b>	Operational End Date: <b>31-01-2025</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>
Targeted Regions: <b>Couffo</b>			

# Description of the Event



MAP most affected district by Red Cross of Benin

## Date of event

26-06-2024

## What happened, where and when?

On June 26, 2024, torrential rains had affected the departments of Mono, Couffo, Zou and Ouémé, in southern Benin, causing the Couffo River to overflow. This phenomenon had impacted six of the eleven districts of Couffo: Adoukandji, Ahomadégbé, Gnizounmè, Tchito, Tohou and Zalli. A rapid assessment carried out on 1 July 2024 by the Beninese Red Cross in collaboration with the Lalo communal council had revealed that 13 villages had been flooded, affecting 3,679 people, destroying 2,482 houses, damaging 3,781 hectares of crops and impacting 4,196 livestock and poultry.

In response to this crisis, an emergency meeting was convened on June 27 by the Municipal Platform for Reducing the Risks of Disease Disasters. During this meeting, priority actions were established, including the mobilization of volunteers to raise awareness among the population, the creation of a committee in charge of monitoring the rise in water, as well as the accompaniment of people to safe sites, including schools.

On July 4, 2024, the mayor of the municipality of Lalo had launched an appeal for help from humanitarian organizations. In response, the Red Cross Beninese had requested and obtained DREF funding from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on 12 July 2024, to provide assistance to the targets. This operation was completed on 31 January 2025, after five (5) months of implementation.





Family photo at the lessons learned workshop



Focus group sessions



The super structure of the shelters built



Shelters built for the beneficiaries

## Scope and Scale

The sudden rise in water levels on 26 June 2024, had been described by local populations as an exceptional event, unprecedented in more than 50 years. The assessment report of 1 July 2024, conducted by the Red Cross and the town hall of Lalo, had indicated that 34,052 people had been affected, of whom 3,679 were in need of emergency assistance after the destruction of their homes. The floods destroyed 2,482 homes, submerged 3,781 hectares of crops and swept away 4,196 head of livestock and poultry. The damage had heavily impacted the affected rural localities, compromising their economy, health and food security. The districts of Adoukandji, Ahodjinnako, Ahomadégbé, Gnizounmè, Tchito, Tohou and Zalli, comprising 13 villages, were among the most affected. People with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children were the most affected, as well as those who had lost their belongings, which had increased the risk of shortages and accentuated the precariousness of households.

## National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?

No

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

### Secretariat

During the operation, the IFRC provided technical and financial support for the development and implementation of the DREF. The technical support mainly took the form of the monitoring of activities carried out by the IFRC Senior Disaster Manager in Benin, as well as the field visit of the Regional Shelter Coordinator, deployed by the Abuja Cluster, to strengthen the capacities of volunteers and local craftsmen in construction. In addition, the coordination meetings of the operation, organized in collaboration with the Senior Disaster Manager, were a key element of the intervention.

### Participating National Societies

The Red Cross of Benin currently benefits from the support of the Swiss Red Cross and the Belgian Flemish Red Cross as National Partner Societies. This support is focused on the themes of First Aid, Blood and Disaster Preparedness at the level of the Belgian Red

Cross Flanders and on issues related to community health at the level of the Swiss Red Cross. Although no direct technical or financial support was provided within the framework of this intervention, the various capacity building activities carried out within the framework of the DREF were based on the achievements of the actions previously supported by the said NSPs. During the implementation of the constructions and the organization of the lessons learned workshop, the Luxembourg Red Cross took advantage of its exploratory mission to take part.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

As part of the operation, the National Society (NS) kept the ICRC informed of the implementation process. In addition, it relied on the ICRC's distribution mechanism, including the allocation of beneficiary cards, a mechanism it had already experimented with.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	Yes
<b>National authorities</b>	Throughout the process, the CRB ensured the effective involvement of the authorities at different levels in the framework of the operation. This resulted in the organization of the project launch workshop and in exchange meetings with these actors, particularly at the level of the municipality of intervention. Their commitment was also manifested through the mobilization and strengthening of community acceptance, thus facilitating the implementation of actions.
<b>UN or other actors</b>	The main UN actor that has intervened mainly in parallel is UNICEF. Its action focused on supporting the rehousing of affected people living in the period at the school level. UNICEF has also made available some latrines to improve the hygiene and sanitation conditions of the relocated people.

### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Red Cross of Benin, as an auxiliary of the public authorities in the humanitarian field and a member of several platforms at the national, departmental and local levels dedicated to disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, has actively participated in various planning and review meetings at the local level both on the operation and on the other humanitarian assistance activities in the municipality. The different assistance plans developed are shared through this platform and coordinated under the leadership of the mayor, ensuring a harmonized and effective management of the resources and interventions needed to respond to emergencies and the needs of the communities concerned. The different actors involved are as follows:

- At the macro level, the different state structures are the Ministries (Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministries of Social Affairs and Microfinance, National Agency for Civil Protection). The various planning documents were shared with the actors for their participation in the implementation of activities in the field.
- The decentralized and decentralized structures present at the local level, such as the Single Window for Social Protection (GUPS), the Health Centers and the City Hall were main actors who participated in the planning, the definition of the strategies for the implementation of the activities, the mobilization of all the stakeholders and the monitoring of the activities.
- At the community level, we have the district chiefs, the village chiefs concerned, and the beneficiaries have also been mobilized in the various processes of operationalization of interventions.

Coordination exchanges were regularly organized between the leaders of the NS, including the Local Committee and the local authorities of the municipality of Lalo. These meetings aimed to strengthen collaboration, facilitate concerted decision-making and ensure effective follow-up of actions carried out on the ground. At the same time, similar discussions were held at the level of the technical managers, to ensure a smooth and operational implementation of the planned activities, while promoting fluid communication between the different actors involved.



# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

According to information provided by the municipality of Lalo, of the 13 most affected villages identified in the assessment report, 10 had been severely affected in terms of housing and basic needs. These villages were: Ahouada (441 houses damaged), Hazin (5 houses), Yamontou (27 houses), Ahomadégbé (241 houses), Tandji (111 houses), Zounhomè (79 houses), Hehokpa (66 houses), Sawanou (329 houses), Tohou-Centre (1,163 houses) and Adjassagon (20 houses), totaling 2,482 houses affected.

Of these households, 615 shelters had been identified as completely destroyed, exposing households to the elements and requiring support for the reconstruction of shelters at a relocation site.

In the proposal for the DREF's assistance, the CRB had planned to support the reconstruction of the 615 shelters by providing the roof and superstructure, with protective measures, such as sandbags, to prevent further destruction in the event of similar disasters.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The most affected families, mainly farmers and fishermen, had lost their crops and livelihoods. Households with significant property damage were also severely affected. Economically, the destruction of 3,781 hectares of arable land had led to major losses, including ongoing crops and reserves of corn and soybeans stored in homes.

To support these families, while waiting for the necessary revival of crops, emergency food assistance had made it possible to meet immediate needs. The capacity building of volunteers had facilitated appropriate support during interventions.



## Health

Following the floods, the appearance of diseases was predictable. Due to a lack of financial means, the homeless had slept in makeshift shelters, often without mosquito nets for all family members, which had contributed to the spread of waterborne diseases and malaria, particularly affecting the elderly, pregnant women and children aged 0 to 5 years.

To prevent epidemics, information on primary health care had been disseminated within the communities. The health promotion had included teachings on essential family practices and first aid, including in the event of drowning.

To reduce the risk of malaria, the most at-risk households had expressed an urgent need for additional mosquito nets, in addition to those distributed by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Priority WASH needs have included access to safe drinking water, promotion of healthy behaviours, improvement of basic hygiene conditions, support for environmental health resources, as well as water treatment and risk reduction.

Awareness-raising activities on good hygiene practices have been carried out, in particular through the installation of washing devices the distribution of items for the transport and storage of water, as well as the supply of water purification products.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

It was necessary to collect regular feedback to better understand the needs of the affected population, to involve communities and to collect their opinions. For each activity, a feedback system had been put in place, including suggestion boxes, a dedicated line for complaints and a community satisfaction survey. Thanks to these tools, (non-sensitive) feedback could be processed and documented efficiently.



# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The objective of this operation was to help 3,679 people, or 615 households, in the municipality of Lalo, affected by the overflow of the Couffo River. The assistance provided included emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene services, as well as material support, including shelter and immediate food assistance for the 615 most vulnerable households. These priority actions had been planned over a period of six months.

## Operation strategy rationale

Training sessions for capacity building were organized for technical staff on the principles and rules, the emergency response framework, emergency call procedures and DREF procedures, to ensure their proper understanding and involvement of the DREF operational process. A preparation and planning meeting for the operation had been held with local authorities and staff, followed by coordination meetings with stakeholders to ensure harmonized implementation of activities.

Visibility and protective equipment such as t-shirts, gloves and gowns had been purchased and made available to the Volunteers. Two local BRC staff members had been deployed to support the field activities in collaboration with the volunteers. Technical and operational monitoring had been carried out from headquarters, while a joint BRC/IFRC mission had been carried out, as well as governance supervision.

Several key functions, including the Disaster Relief Coordinator, the Accountant, the Logistician, the Response Manager and the and the Health Officer, had been deployed as part of the operation. Resource management and administrative support were also provided from headquarters to accompany the local committee concerned.

# Targeting Strategy

## Who was targeted by this operation?

Direct target:

- o It was planned to directly assist the 3,679 households most affected by the overflow of the Couffo River, i.e., 615 households
- o Assistance included health services, food kits, shelter and specific support to meet their most important needs.

Indirect target:

- o The crisis affected 30 per cent of the total population and affected 10,215 people, who were at risk of disease and hygiene.
- o They have benefited from humanitarian services, and prevention, hygiene and sanitation promotion messages to reduce risks and encourage sustainable practices.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The criteria for selecting beneficiaries were established on the basis of a vulnerability analysis, prioritizing the most at-risk people, such as the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, the sick, as well as widows and widowers. People who fell ill as a result of the floods were also taken into account.

A mechanism for the active participation of communities had been incorporated throughout the process. Beneficiaries had been identified during the village assemblies, where the criteria proposed by the CRB were based on the disasters registered with the authorities and the local committee at the time of the disaster.

To ensure the selection of the most vulnerable beneficiaries, a committee had been formed with the participation of the members of the community, including their representatives, as well as community leaders, religious leaders and local authorities. The Committee had applied the established criteria in a transparent manner, under the supervision of the Committee. The selection of beneficiaries was then verified, approved by a broad community representation and made public.



# Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	2,707	Rural	55.6%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	3,048	Urban	44.6%
Assisted Men	2,580	People with disabilities (estimated)	0.9%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	2,905		
Total Assisted Population	11,240		
Total Targeted Population	10,215		

## Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

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

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

Risk	Mitigation action
The proliferation of diseases with epidemic potential such as cholera.	Red Cross of Benin will invest heavily in health promotion and disease prevention. These are activities to raise awareness among volunteers on epidemics with IEC equipment, including the means of transmission, the causes, and the action to be taken in the event of a suspected case.
Inaccessibility of the intervention areas due to the flooding of the access roads.	This would require appropriate means of travel (Motorized boats and secure pirogues). A local mobilization of volunteers in each locality will be prioritized. These volunteers will see their capacities strengthened on all the themes that will involve them.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

For the current context, given that the municipality of Lalo is vulnerable to flood disasters and that it is a rural environment where the level of development is a problem, the problems related to the destruction of roads and the accessibility of remote localities had made the implementation of activities perilous. Indeed, the degradation of rural paths and tracks due to the flood had further landlocked the villages far from the town centre of the commune. This had posed a safety problem for the volunteers as they would have to go to the disaster areas for needs assessments, the census of the victims and also during assistance through the distribution of kits.

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



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 111,238

**Targeted Persons:** 3,679

**Assisted Persons:** 1,446

**Targeted Male:** 706

**Targeted Female:** 739

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households receiving shelter items	615	241
# of constructions supervised	2	2
# of households assisted with construction	615	241
Percentage of shelters built in resettlement sites	100	39
# of households that received an additional mat	615	615

### Narrative description of achievements

• The implementation of this activity began with the construction of a model shelter from 27 to 29 August 2024. The first step consisted of identifying a secure location, carpenters, volunteers and the necessary materials (wood, spikes, mats, wire, etc.), through a field visit carried out with an RDRT in shelters of the National Society (NS). Once the site was validated by the community, located on a high ground to prevent future flooding, a six-person household was selected as the beneficiary.

The next two days were devoted to the construction of an emergency bedroom-living room with a tin roof, wooden walls, tarpaulin, two doors, two windows and an interior partition made of traditional mats. The structure, built with the active participation of the beneficiaries and the community, rested on poles anchored 1.2 meters deep, with careful backfilling to ensure its strength and durability. After this first phase, the material requirements for the construction of the shelters were precisely quantified. A call for tenders had been launched for the acquisition of the necessary equipment. This process proved to be successful, and the selected contractor delivered all the required kits on time. However, a second call for tenders for the acquisition of the timber proved unsuccessful, requiring a second reminder by the NS, which suffered the same fate. It was only in the third call for tenders that a favourable outcome was found, allowing the service provider to start the delivery of the materials concerned.

At the same time, the NS had mobilized 12 volunteers and 21 local carpenters, who had benefited from technical training provided by the Regional Shelter Manager. This training aimed to strengthen their skills to ensure efficient and standard-compliant construction.

A detailed schedule had been drawn up, dividing the volunteers and carpenters by area and task, in order to ensure an organizational optimal work.

Initially, the strategy called for the construction of the 615 shelters on relocation sites, which were to be made available by the town hall. During the descent on the sites indicated by the town hall, the populations opposed the start of construction on the three sites of Zounhomey, Tozounmey and Ahomandégbé. A review of the information collected on the ground made it possible to understand that these plots were made available by the town hall for temporary activities. Faced with this situation, the Red Cross of Benin has asked the town hall to provide it with an official letter to make the sites available. This has not been done. As this option was not effective, the strategy was reviewed, and the construction was carried out directly at the household level in the affected villages and districts, while guaranteeing the quality and durability of the structures.

A total of 241 shelters had been built for households in the respective villages of the districts of Ahomandegbé, Tohou, Tchito, Gnizounmè and Adoukandji.

On 8 October 2024, an official distribution of the kits was organized for the identified beneficiaries. Among the items handed out, mats were specifically distributed to each beneficiary household (one mat per household). The other items that make up the kits are:

- Food Kits (20 Kg Corn, 20 Kg Rice, 10 Kg Bean, 5 Litre Oil and 1 Kg Salt)
- Non-food kits (12 powdered soaps of 170 grams, 12 bars of soap 250 grams, 2 boxes of Aquatabs of 10 blister packs each containing 10 tablets and 02 mosquito nets of 02 places).



This key step in the humanitarian assistance process had made it possible to meet an essential need by providing equipment adapted to the living conditions of the affected populations.

## Lessons Learnt

- Two main lessons were learned from the implementation of this activity:
  - When it comes to disaster preparedness, it is essential that municipalities have secure sites for the relocation of communities in the event of a disaster.
  - In the future, the National Society will require prior evidentiary documents from the municipalities that request its assistance in the field of rehousing before initiating any assistance procedure in favour of the said municipalities
  - When planning activities, it is crucial to specify to the municipal stakeholders the necessary criteria for a relocation site (location, standards, surface area, required documents, etc.), so that they can anticipate and fully assume their responsibility in this area.

## Challenges

- The main difficulty experienced during this intervention was the lack of secure rehousing sites to be made available by the municipality of Lalo for the construction of the 615 shelters for the affected population. Faced with the precariousness of affected population in terms of shelters and given that most had not been able to rebuild or repair their homes, it was decided to rebuild the shelters for the households in their usual living environments. It had been particularly important to ensure that these shelters were built in slightly elevated areas to ensure, as far as possible, a certain durability. The reconstruction consists of installing the superstructure with a roof covering of 20 sheets per shelter. This reconstruction operation is carried out by trained local carpenters and with the support of mobilized and trained volunteers.

Awareness-raising messages had been sent to communities in general and to beneficiaries in particular throughout the country throughout the process of building shelters, to explain the issues, solicit their active participation to achieve the objectives, and to limit resistance. The team also listened to communities to gather feedback on complaints and challenges in reconstruction operations, which helped to adjust actions and facilitate their participation, ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of the response.

The remaining shelter kits were stored for later use. These are:

- Sheet metal sheets: 250 packs
- Galvanized tip (25 kg cartons): 8 cartons
- 15 kg spikes: 24 cartons
- 12 kg spikes: 24 cartons
- 10 kg spikes: 24 cartons
- 8 kg spikes: 20 cartons
- Rolls of galvanized iron wire: 200
- Rubber (bag): 10 cartons



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 59,793

**Targeted Persons:** 3,679

**Assisted Persons:** 4,199

**Targeted Male:** 2,049

**Targeted Female:** 2,149

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households that have received in-kind food aid.	615	615
# of PDMs performed in the targeted areas.	1	1

## Narrative description of achievements

- The first activity of this component was the identification of the affected people, and their livelihood needs. Thus, the volunteers of the CRB had been trained on the methodology and tools to be used to collect the data. The basic data had been provided by the town hall. A working session was organized with the local committee, the Center for Social Promotion (CPS), the focal point for risk and disaster



reduction of the city hall, and humanitarian organizations, in order to inform them about the process of selecting the most vulnerable beneficiaries. Subsequently, to establish a consensual list of beneficiaries, the RCB volunteers went into the field, in consultation with the local communities, to identify the eligible people. Beneficiaries with basic and livelihood needs were selected according to well-defined criteria. A total of 615 households had been identified and had received food kits consisting of 1 bag of 20 kg of rice, 1 bag of 20 kg of maize, 1 bag of 10 kg of cowpeas, 1 can of 5 liters of oil and 1 bag of 1 kg of salt.

A quality control mission of the operations of the DREF Floods Lalo 2024 had been carried out from 28 to 31 January 2025, with the aim of assessing the compliance of the actions undertaken by the DREF during its implementation. At the end of this mission, it was noted that the beneficiaries had received three categories of kits: food kits, non-food kits and shelter kits. The beneficiaries met had expressed positive perceptions and testimonies, thus expressing their great satisfaction with all the assistance operations carried out by the CRB.

The various recommendations collected from the beneficiaries met were summarized in three points:

- Add clothing, poultry, sheep and bowls to the list of kits offered.
- Contribute to the installation of drinking water sources.

Lessons Learnt

- From the implementation of this activity, it was identified as a crucial step, requiring enhanced community engagement in collaboration with stakeholders, including potential beneficiaries, in order to limit cases of exclusion and the resulting community consequences. It was also found that effective communication with the community was essential to facilitate their involvement and, therefore, their understanding of the response mechanisms put in place. Targeting is based on objectively defined inclusive criteria.

Challenges

- One of the main challenges encountered during the implementation of this activity was the selection of the 615 most vulnerable affected households. Indeed, during the needs assessment, it was noted that the total number of victims was enormous. This situation required a rigorous selection process to identify the 615 most vulnerable households. As a result, this challenge has led to the non-satisfaction of all the victims during the distribution of food kits.



**Budget:** CHF 13,806  
**Targeted Persons:** 3,679  
**Assisted Persons:** 4,002  
**Targeted Male:** 1,953  
**Targeted Female:** 2,049

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained	20	20
# of mosquito nets distributed	615	615
# of people reached by PSS	600	729
# of unpaid workers and employees trained on PSS	25	25
# of people reach with health prevention messages	11,000	10,927

Narrative description of achievements

- As part of the implementation of the project, training sessions were organized for 14 volunteers and local authorities, covering several themes, such as first aid, with a particular focus on drowning, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as themes related to community health, including essential family practices and nutrition. After this training, advanced strategy activities (door-to-door) were carried out by the trained volunteers. They were divided into seven pairs and deployed for 15 days to carry out awareness-raising activities on the prevention of community diseases (malaria, waterborne diseases, etc.), using image boxes with the affected people.



Regular supervision in the field had been ensured to guarantee the quality of the interventions.

On October 8, 2024, during the distribution of the kits to the beneficiaries, mosquito nets were included among the items delivered. These nets, which are essential for the prevention of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases, were specifically distributed to households identified as priorities in the intervention. The distribution had been carefully organized with the participation of local communities, under the supervision of Red Cross teams, as part of efforts to improve the living conditions of the affected populations and strengthen their resilience to health risks.

As part of the psychological support for the victims of Lalo, the Red Cross of Benin had deployed 16 volunteers and 4 psychologists. The activity took place in two phases: the first phase (from 10 to 13 September 2024) made it possible to take care of 396 victims, including 126 serious cases referred to psychologists. The second phase (on 21, 22, 28 and 29 September 2024) involved 333 additional victims, including 3 serious cases. In all, 729 affected people were treated for anxiety disorders, depression and post-traumatic stress, with the implementation of supportive psychotherapy. Additional needs had been identified, such as the construction of latrines and houses, the provision of mosquito nets, payment for school supplies, and the filling of areas at risk. The activity was a success thanks to the cooperation of the victims, although the state of the roads complicated access to the affected areas.

From October 29 to 4 November 2024 and from 17 to 20 November 2024, medical consultations were organized in the six districts of the municipality of Lalo, within the framework of the DREF, to carry out early detection of community diseases. Two medical teams, composed of a supervising doctor, nurses and volunteers, had been deployed for each district. The teams had consulted a large number of victims, divided into four groups for reception, registration, taking constants and carrying out additional examinations such as malaria tests and blood sugar levels. The most commonly diagnosed pathologies were osteoarthritis (45% of patients over 35 years of age), malaria (35%, mainly in children) and functional intestinal disorders (15%). Other cases included hyperglycemia, hypertension, acute malnutrition, and tooth decay. Some patients had been treated on site, while others had received prescriptions, referrals or therapeutic advice. A total of 672 people were received, 175 men and 216 women, including 281 children under 5 years old, without any incident to report. Local health actors had also been involved in the implementation of the intervention.

Lessons Learnt

- It is important to include health aspects in the needs assessment, to better assess the extent of needs and to define the most appropriate resources.

Challenges

- The major challenge had been that the health needs had been much higher than had been anticipated. As a result, the resources available, including the inputs acquired, had not been sufficient to satisfy all beneficiaries. The alternative solution was therefore to prioritize cases and advocate with other actors.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 15,611

Targeted Persons: 3,679

Assisted Persons: 3,690

Targeted Male: 1,801

Targeted Female: 1,889

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Aquatabs distributed	615	615
# of IEC materials printed	25	28
# of hygiene kits distributed	615	615
# of families that had access to treated water through the reception of water treatment material	615	615
# of people reached by WASH promotion messages	10,215	10,927



# of families that benefited from the hygiene kits distributed	615	615
Percentage of families that have effectively change their hygiene and water treatment practices during the DREF timeline	70	80

## Narrative description of achievements

• To ensure access to drinking water for the affected populations, the CRB had distributed Aquatabs to 615 households. These households had also received hygiene kits consisting of 12 powdered soaps of 170 grams and 12 neutral soaps of 250 grams. The main objective of this initiative was to promote the proper use of Aquatabs hygiene kits and tablets for water treatment.

As part of this intervention, awareness-raising actions were carried out with beneficiaries on good practices in environmental sanitation, hygiene and the use of Aquatabs. These sensitizations had actively involved community committees and heads of households. They relied on printed IEC (Information, Education, Communication) materials to strengthen the transmission of key messages and encourage the adoption of responsible and sustainable behaviours.

All planned awareness-raising activities had been successfully carried out, contributing to the improvement of good practices in the field of health and hygiene in communities. A total of 10,927 people were reached by these awareness sessions. The collection of feedback revealed that the activities implemented had been highly appreciated by the communities and that the impact had been felt immediately.

## Lessons Learnt

• The major challenge of this intervention was the ability to get communities to quickly adopt good hygiene and water treatment practices, so that the positive impact would be visible in the immediate future. Although changing social behaviour generally takes time, the perseverance of community volunteers through continuous awareness-raising and active monitoring has made it possible to overcome some resistance and to obtain the support of the majority of beneficiaries.

## Challenges

- The success of social behaviour change activities relies on continuous community monitoring and active involvement of beneficiaries to ensure sustainable impact.
- Community engagement is strengthened when good hygiene and sanitation practices are promoted and valued within the community itself, thus facilitating their appropriation.
- Regular support and constant awareness raising of community volunteers play a key role in the adoption and sustainability of desired behaviours.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 1,071

**Targeted Persons:** 10,215

**Assisted Persons:** 9,345

**Targeted Male:** 4,560

**Targeted Female:** 4,785

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers and staff briefed on PGI, minimum safeguarding and related key messages	50	50
# of people informed on the intervention safeguarding principle in the community and safe feedback system	3,679	3,690



## Narrative description of achievements

• At the beginning of the implementation of the interventions, a first wave of capacity building was carried out for the volunteers and staff involved in the operation on the themes of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI). This ensured that these aspects were taken into account throughout the interventions and minimized the risks of discrimination and exclusion, particularly with regard to communities. Protection and safeguarding messages had been integrated into community communications. Particular attention had been paid to the inclusion of minority groups, including persons with disabilities and older persons, to ensure that the criteria of assistance and the activities implemented met their specific needs.

This inclusive approach had been applied in all sectors through field visits by volunteers. These were informed of the minimum safeguards and key messages, and then signed the code of conduct, ensuring that the fundamental principles were respected throughout the intervention.

A second wave of training was then organized towards the end of the implementation of the operation to strengthen the capacities of new volunteers who joined the Movement after the start of the field interventions. This training aimed to put them at the same level of information as experienced volunteers. During this second wave, the themes of Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) were added to those of the PGI.

## Lessons Learnt

• One of the lessons learned is that it is essential to organize regular refresher sessions on the topics covered to facilitate the appropriation and implementation of the key messages. In addition, it is important to develop andragogical strategies adapted to the intended target, in order to ensure a better understanding and more effective integration of the messages by the participants.

## Challenges

• One of the main challenges encountered during the capacity-building sessions was the resistance to appropriation of the key messages of the themes addressed, especially due to social norms and socio-cultural barriers that promote exclusion, discrimination and abuse. This challenge was overcome through the introduction of practical exercises, including the community case study, which facilitated the understanding and acceptance of the messages. These mechanisms have played a key role in achieving the objectives set by these trainings.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 6,000

**Targeted Persons:** 3,679

**Assisted Persons:** 3,690

**Targeted Male:** 1,801

**Targeted Female:** 1,889

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of community meetings for the collection of feedback	39	42
# of Community Feedback System	13	13
# of communication tools on the feedback collection system	1	1
# of workshops to capitalize on what has been learned, lessons learned and sharing of experience	1	1
# of internal inter-village communication and updates on the progress of the operation	1	2



## Narrative description of achievements

As part of the intervention, 32 volunteers were trained on community engagement and accountability (CEA) through two training sessions organized during the implementation of the operation. A total of 13 community meetings were held to gather feedback from communities, including beneficiaries, on the targeting and identification of beneficiaries, distribution phases, awareness-raising activities on various themes, as well as psychological support sessions.

Regarding the community mechanism set up by the ECA and PMER teams, including community meetings, focus groups, suggestion boxes, a telephone number for complaints and satisfaction surveys, these tools had been developed to collect feedback. They also made it possible to monitor rumours and perceptions within the communities. An internal inter-village communication system had been established to share updates on the progress of the operation, while continuous communication had been ensured throughout the intervention. These mechanisms had also involved actors at the level of the districts grouping the different villages concerned.

Of the 130 feedback collected, 118 concerned requests for help with the schooling of the children of displaced persons, additional food aid, and support for water and sanitation management. A total of 98 were words of encouragement addressed to the Red Cross for the specificity of its actions, while 10 complaints were lodged, focusing mainly on the consideration of all beneficiaries, in particular regarding the lack of distribution of food kits by other organizations. Fifteen (15) questions were asked about the operation, such as the possibility of helping other people, the end of the operation, and the overall impact of the operation. The 12 suggestions were for the inclusion of other people who had not received food kits and the addition of other border localities affected by the overflow.

At the end of the implementation of the activities, a workshop to capitalize on the gains, lessons learned and sharing of experiences was held. This workshop brought together several actors involved in the operation, including beneficiaries and local workers deployed. At the end of the workshop, results, suggestions and recommendations for the various actors to improve similar future interventions were formulated.

At the lessons learned workshop, participants made the following recommendations:

- Take into account a large number of beneficiaries in operations.
- Pre-position non-perishable emergency kits close to communities.
- Organize a mini-workshop for internal stakeholders prior to the lessons learned workshop.
- Develop framework agreements for emergency procurement.

The various actors had expressed their satisfaction with the intervention.

## Lessons Learnt

- It would be essential to increase the sources and channels for collecting feedback.

## Challenges

- It is recommended that a sustainable rumour management mechanism be established and disseminated more widely.



**Secretariat Services**

**Budget:** CHF 13,838

**Targeted Persons:** 3

**Assisted Persons:** 3

**Targeted Male:** 1

**Targeted Female:** 2

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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## Narrative description of achievements

• The operational and financial monitoring of the intervention had been rigorously carried out to ensure effective management of the allocated resources. In this context, the CRB had taken out insurance to cover one thousand volunteers, this insurance being valid only when the volunteers had an official mission order. At the same time, particular attention had been paid to compliance with the requirements of the Emergency Response Mechanism (DREF), ensuring strict monitoring and developing timely reports, to ensure transparent and rigorous communication on the progress of activities.

Thus, the operational and financial monitoring was based on several essential axes, including constant support to ensure the smooth



running of the  
conduct of activities, due diligence in supporting volunteers, and management of volunteers' insurance.

## Lessons Learnt

- Regular meetings should be held with all parties involved in an operation to facilitate the implementation of operational activities.

## Challenges

- It would be good to maintain exchanges with the various actors to monitor the situation in the area through meetings with communities for resilient actions.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 33,327

**Targeted Persons:** 50

**Assisted Persons:** 55

**Targeted Male:** 15

**Targeted Female:** 28

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of technical frameworks on principles and rules, emergency response framework, emergency call procedures, and DREF procedures	15	15
# of preparation and planning meetings with national officials and staff	2	1
# of Part-Time Deployments	6	6
# of coordination meetings with stakeholders on activities	4	5
# of t-shirts and gowns for volunteers	50	30

## Narrative description of achievements

- Training had been organized for technical staff on the principles and rules, the emergency response framework, emergency call procedures and DREF procedures, to ensure their proper understanding and application. A preparation and planning meeting for the operation had been held with the national authorities and staff, followed by coordination meetings with stakeholders to ensure a harmonized implementation of the activities. Equipment such as t-shirts and gowns had been purchased and made available to the volunteers. Two local BRC staff members had been deployed to support the field activities in collaboration with the volunteers. Technical and operational monitoring had been carried out from headquarters, while a joint CRB/IFRC mission was underway at that time. Governance oversight was also underway. Several key functions, such as the Relief Coordinator, the Accountant, the Logistician, the Recovery Manager and the Health Officer, had been deployed on a part-time basis as part of the operation. Resource management and administrative support had been provided from headquarters to accompany the branches concerned.

## Lessons Learnt

- The National Society will need to work more on setting up an emergency fund for first response activities pending the appeals for funds.

## Challenges

- The transfer of implementation documents between the decentralized structures and headquarters, although improved, still needs to be perfected.



# Financial Report

## DREF Operation

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

#### MDRBJ019 - Benin - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 12 Jul 2024 to 31 Dec 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/07-2025/06	Operation	MDRBJ019
Budget Timeframe	2024/07-2024/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 25/Jul/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>254,682</b>
DREF Response Pillar	254,682
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-235,466</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>19,216</b>

### II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	254,682	235,466	19,216
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>254,682</b>	<b>235,466</b>	<b>19,216</b>
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies			0
SF12 - Effective international disaster management			0
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>254,682</b>	<b>235,466</b>	<b>19,216</b>

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

## Please explain variances (if any)

IFRC-DREF allocation to this intervention was CHF 254,682. By the end of the intervention, total expenses were CHF 235,466. The closing Balance of CHF 19,216 will be returned to the DREF pot after the closure of this operation.

Some budget lines experienced notable variances. The discrepancy observed in the variances is mainly related to shelter activities. A total of 241 shelters were built out of 615 budgeted shelters. The initial strategy was to build on a relocation site to be provided by the municipality of Lalo. Unfortunately, the municipality was unable to provide the site. This made it necessary to redirect the construction of shelters to villages and households, with the direct consequence of taking much longer than expected. Despite the approval of a six-month no-cost extension and the support of the surge shelter, the NS was only able to build 241 shelters within the regulatory



timeframe.

Consequently, it was decided that NS would return the remaining unused funds relating to the various expenses associated with the unbuilt shelters. This amount constitutes the observed variance to be reimbursed.



# Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)

