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DREF operation update

Benin: Fire

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n°MDRBJ011
GLIDE n° [FR-2013-000007-BEN](#)
Operations update n° 1
18 April 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 139,315 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support Benin Red Cross National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,759 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Period covered by this update:
20 February - 10 April 2013

Summary : On 6 January, a fire broke out in the village of Alloya, resulting in the destruction of hundreds of houses and displacing almost 3,000 people, leaving the affected families in a very vulnerable situation without any shelter.

The Benin Red Cross responded immediately to the disaster by providing first aid and community-based hygiene and sanitation activities. The IFRC allocated CHF 139,315 from DREF to provide emergency shelter, basic household items and support the National Society's community based health and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities alongside the response of the authorities.



Delivery of essential household non-food items to a beneficiary. Photo: Benin Red Cross

In the aftermath of the fire disaster, the Beninese authorities decided to distribute tents to the most affected families, making it necessary to change the proposed activities of the IFRC DREF operation. The planned tarpaulins were left out of the procurement process, and during distribution of basic household items, an excess of 95 kits were not needed in the affected community and were therefore stored as disaster preparedness stocks.

An assessment of the intended emergency latrine areas have shown that the soil could not support the originally planned design, and due to increased costs of the modified design, the number of emergency latrines have been reduced to 6 blocks of 2 latrines.

The Benin Red Cross have committed to support the repairs of destroyed houses in cooperation with the authorities. The amount budgeted for tarpaulins will therefore be used for items more relevant for this activity. To finalize all activities, this operation has been extended for one month and will therefore be completed by 20 May 2013. There will be no changes to the operations budget.

The Netherlands Red Cross and government as well as the Belgian Red Cross and government contributed to the replenishment of the DREF allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of Benin Red Cross, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. Details of DREF contributions are found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MDR00001.pdf>

[<click here for interim financial report; or here for contact details>](#)

The situation

Benin, like most of the others countries in the west coast, experiences the Harmattan wind, (December to March) which is a dry dusty wind blowing across the Sahara desert right through costal West African countries, resulting in frequent bush fires leading to the burning of huge farmlands, villages and other environmental entities in this period where the vegetation is dry and readily flammable.

On the afternoon of 6 January 2013, in Alloya village, in the arrondissement of chee-Ahomadegbe, municipality of Lalo in Couffo Department (south-west of Benin) a fire broke out in one of the houses and with the Harmattan wind blowing, several other houses were taken at the same time and the efforts made by the population to contain the fire were unsuccessful.

Almost everything was destroyed, with one death and several people injured, leaving 2,759 people (460 households) homeless. The volunteers from the Benin Red Cross were and remained alongside the affected populations to provide them with the necessary support in assembling tents provided by the authorities and organizing sanitation awareness activities. In this time, the municipal authorities entrusted to the Red Cross the management of site activities and distribution of items collected or made available from Town Hall.

In order to improve the living conditions of the population and reduce the risk of occurring in this kind of situation, the municipality has commissioned one surveyor to carry out a plan of subdivision of the village for its reconstruction following the typology of housing in the area.

Coordination and partnerships

Local authorities and the Red Cross went to the field to assess the scale of the situation and damage and provide moral support to those affected. The local government and authorities extended its assistance to populations affected with food and non-food items. At local level, the Benin Red Cross worked in partnership with municipal authorities, community leaders and local authorities. The implementation of planned activities in DREF is provided by volunteers from the local committee under the coordination of one local focal point who is shelter and relief trained.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Due to early distribution of tents by the authorities, the emergency shelter and non-food items

component has been revised to include more relevant shelter related activities. It was subsequently agreed that Benin Red Cross will support 112 families in repairing their houses, with this selection done in coordination with the authorities.

Emergency shelter and NFI

Outcome: The immediate needs on shelter and household basic equipment of the victims are met

Outputs (expected results):

- Support to 112 families for repairs of houses (revised)
- Basic household items are provided to 460 most affected households

Activities planned:

- RDRT deployment (shelter and relief focus) to support NS in implementation of activities
- Mobilize and train 30 Red Cross volunteers on registration and distribution strategies of the Red Cross;
- Carry out needs assessment to ensure the availability of reliable data for delivering assistance.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- **REVISED: Procurement and distribution of iron sheets, nails and timber for repairs of 112 houses.**
- Provide a shelter kit training to 20 volunteers
- Provide technical assistance to the beneficiaries during the construction of the temporary shelters
- Procure 1280 blankets, 1215 mats, 460 kitchen sets, 460 jerry cans, 460 buckets and distribute to 460 most affected households. Distribution per family 2 blankets, 2 mats, 1 kitchen set, 1 jerry can, 1 bucket) Some relief items mobilized by the government have been distributed already, and this distribution will cover the gap (as indicated in the table under coordination and partnership)
- Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

A total of 30 volunteers were mobilized and trained on beneficiary identification and distribution. The different items were purchased and distributed as follows: buckets, jerry cans, mats, blankets, soaps with kitchen sets which were taken from the regional stock and will be replaced. In total, 365 households were assisted with non-food items. A balance of 95 remaining kitchen sets will be in stock and will be use in other emergencies.

Village	Households served	Blankets	Mats	Buckets	Jerry can	Soaps	Kitchen sets
Alloya	365	730	730	365	365	6,570	365

For the shelter component, 21 volunteers were trained for three days on the utilization of shelter kits under the supervision of a shelter specialist from the Swiss Red Cross with the support of a RDRT trained resource person of the Benin Red Cross. This person is the focal point of the response in the village of Alloya and helped deliver several training sessions. The national disaster relief coordinator, in addition to the general organization of training, facilitated the session on risk reduction. At the end of this session, Beninese Red Cross has in its ranks some capacity to develop their response shelter.



Training of volunteers on shelter. Benin Red Cross

Emergency health

Outcome: The adverse effects of the disaster on health of affected population are reduced

Outputs (expected results)

- First aid has been provided to affected people and several cases referred to health centre

Activities planned:

- Red Cross volunteers continue to provide first aid to victims and referral of victims to appropriate health facilities.
- Procurement of 4 first aid kits
- Monitor the situation and prepare a report

Progress:

In the immediate aftermath of the fire, volunteers of the Red Cross on the site provided first aid and helped evacuate the wounded to the health centre. Subsequently, the authorities deployed a nurse on site with basic equipment for the care of people. First aid kits were purchased and made available to the field team.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced

Outputs (expected results) : Target population is provided with adequate environmental sanitation measures

activities planned:

- Construction of 10 blocks of 3 emergency latrines and 10 blocks of 3 showers
- Procurement and distribution of 8,280 soaps to 460 families
- Hygiene awareness raising provided to affected families.
- Monitoring and reporting on activities

Progress:

The distribution of soap was made at the same time with the other non-food items. For latrines, given the texture of the soil, it was difficult to implement emergency latrines and given the developments towards rebuilding the village with the village subdivision plan, the amount allocated to this section was reduced from the original ten blocks of three latrines to six blocks of two latrines.

National Society preparedness

Outcome: The effects of the disaster on health of affected population are reduced

Outputs (expected results):

National Society staff and volunteers are informed about the nature and trend of fire hazards based on sensitization and awareness campaign strategies.

Activities planned:

- Orient/ train 30 volunteers on fire mitigation and prevention. Initiate social mobilization activities through the development of IEC materials and fire mitigation and prevention messages in affected area
- Conduct 24 sensitization sessions on fire mitigation and prevention
- Monitor the situation and prepare a report

Progress:

The tools to raise fire awareness have been developed and disseminated. A total of 30 volunteers were trained on awareness-raising and community mobilization techniques with an emphasis on appropriate tools to raise awareness on fire mitigation as well as common diseases in and their prevention. Sensitization activities with the community started on 10 March and by the end of March 2013, through three sessions per week by volunteers in team of two, 405 households have been visited.

Challenges:

The local authorities have charged a geometer to design a very basic outline of the new main street and layout of the village. The village received some in kind donations in the form of roofing sheets and timber, and Red Cross had to revise its plans to complement the authorities' actions.

Proposed operation changes and extension:

There is need to extend this operation for one month with no additional cost to finalize the reconstruction of houses by redirecting funds originally planned for tarpaulins to cement and bricks. This will allow to provide basic material of construction of 112 local houses in line with the local authorities' plans. The timeframe extension will also allow the completion of the construction of latrines.



Training of volunteers on fire disasters in Alloya. Photo: Benin Red Cross

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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MDRBJ011 - Benin - Fire

Appeal Launch Date: 18 jan 13

Appeal Timeframe: 18 jan 13 to 18 apr 13

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2013/1-2013/3
Budget Timeframe	2013/1-2013/4
Appeal	MDRBJ011
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	139,315					139,315	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	139,315					139,315	
C4. Other Income	139,315					139,315	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	139,315					139,315	
D. Total Funding = B +C	139,315					139,315	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	139,315					139,315	
E. Expenditure	-96,747					-96,747	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	42,568					42,568	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		139,315					139,315	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	18,600							18,600
Construction Materials	12,400							12,400
Clothing & Textiles	17,400							17,400
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,900							8,900
Medical & First Aid	480							480
Utensils & Tools	20,240							20,240
Other Supplies & Services	4,968							4,968
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	82,988							82,988
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	300							300
Transport & Vehicles Costs	6,100							6,100
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	6,400							6,400
Personnel								
International Staff	11,500							11,500
National Society Staff	4,600							4,600
Volunteers	7,400							7,400
Total Personnel	23,500							23,500
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	8,500							8,500
Total Workshops & Training	8,500							8,500
General Expenditure								
Travel	4,000							4,000
Information & Public Relations	3,224							3,224
Office Costs	600							600
Communications	600							600
Financial Charges	1,000	1,872				1,872		-872
Total General Expenditure	9,424	1,872				1,872		7,552
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		88,970				88,970		-88,970
Total Operational Provisions		88,970				88,970		-88,970
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	8,503	5,905				5,905		2,598
Total Indirect Costs	8,503	5,905				5,905		2,598
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	139,315	96,747				96,747		42,568
VARIANCE (C - D)		42,568				42,568		