
DREF operation n° MDRBJ011
GLIDE n° FR-2013-000007-BEN
30 September 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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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.

Summary: CHF 139,315 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 19 January, 2013 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 2,759 beneficiaries in the affected area of Alloya in the arrondissement (district) of Chee-Ahomadegbe, municipality of Lalo in Couffo department south-west of Benin.

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

The Benin Red Cross (BRCS) responded immediately to the disaster by providing first aid and community-based hygiene and sanitation activities and supported the National Society's community based health and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities alongside the response of the authorities. 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 showed that the soil could not support the originally planned design, and due to increased costs of the modified design, the number of emergency latrines was reduced to 6 blocks of 2 latrines.

The BRCS has committed to support the repairs of destroyed houses in cooperation with the authorities. The amount budgeted for tarpaulins was therefore used for items more relevant for this activity. To finalize all activities, this operation was extended for one month.

A DREF review was carried out by an IFRC team including representatives of BRCS the IFRC regional



A group of volunteers during an awareness creation session. Photo: BRC

representation for Africa West Coast, the IFRC Africa Zone office and the Swedish Red Cross (member of the DREF advisory group).

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. A balance of CHF 4,801 will be returned to the DREF. 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 the final financial report, or here to view 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 when 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. Volunteers from the BRCS were mobilized 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. The municipal authorities entrusted to the Red Cross the management of site activities and distribution of items collected or made available from Town Hall.

All distributions were done to the great satisfaction of the municipality and beneficiaries.

In order to improve the living conditions of the population and reduce the risk of another fire occurring, the municipality commissioned one surveyor to carry out a plan of subdivision of the village for its reconstruction based on the types of housing in the area. The master plan has been done, validated by the local authorities and has served as the plan for reconstruction of houses.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Local authorities and the BRCS 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 BRCS worked in partnership with municipal authorities, community leaders and local authorities. Volunteers from the local committee supported the implementation of planned activities in the DREF under the coordination of one local focal point who is trained in shelter and relief.

As the local authorities have redesigned basic layout of the village based on rainfall analysis, the village received some in-kind donations in the form of roofing sheets and timber. BRCS revised its plans to complement the authorities' actions.

The extension of the operation obtained with no additional cost enabled the finalization of the reconstruction of houses by the redirection of funds originally planned for tarpaulins to cement and bricks. This allowed provision of basic construction material to 112 local houses in line with the local authorities' plans and also the completion of the construction of latrines.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions/ Emergency shelter

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

Outputs (expected results):

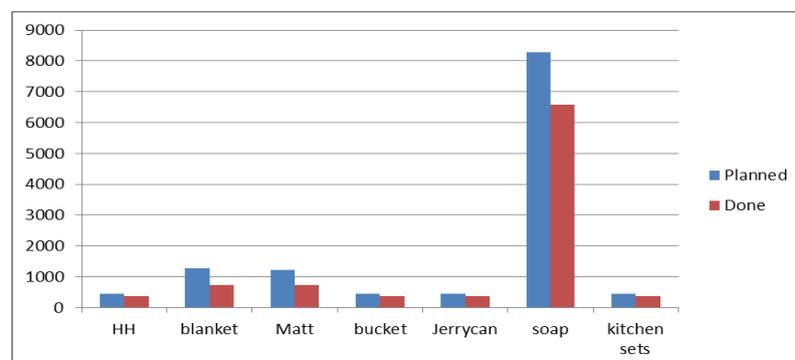
- Temporary shelter provided to 310 families still displaced from the fire
- Basic household items are provided to 460 most affected households

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.

Impact: The selection of 30 volunteers was made, volunteers trained on identification and distribution. The different items were purchased and distributed as follows: buckets, jerry cans, mats, blankets, soaps with kitchen kits which were taken from the regional stock and will be replaced. In total 365 households were assisted with NFI.

	Households served	Blankets	Mats	Buckets	Jerry cans	Soap	Kitchen kits
Planned	460	1280	1215	460	460	8280	460
Done	365	730	730	365	365	6570	365



The 95 remaining kits will be in stock and will be used in other emergencies.

For the shelter component, 21 volunteers were trained for 3 days on the shelter kit under the supervision of a shelter delegate from the Swiss Red Cross with the support of BRCS focal point for the response. This person helped deliver several training sessions. The national disaster relief coordinator organized the

training and facilitated the session on risk reduction. At the end of this session, BRCS has improved capacity to develop their shelter response.

A total of 168 packets iron sheets, 224 boxes of galvanized spikes, 675 boxes of ordinary spikes; 5,432 units of wood were made available to communities for the erection of the 112 houses.



A kit donation, Photo BRCS



Houses reconstruction, Photo BRCS

Challenges.

With polygamy commonly practiced in the area, family size usually ranges on average between 7 and 9 family members (with others potentially higher). Since the quantity of relief items were calculated based on the total number of beneficiaries, but distributed according to IFRC standard family kit, some items were left over after the distribution. For future operations, a clear understanding at all levels of basis of calculations needs to be emphasized.

Emergency health

Outcome: The adverse effects of the disaster on health of affected population are reduced	
Outputs (expected results) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid has been provide to affected people and several cases referred to health centre 	Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Impact: BRCS volunteers were on the site providing first aid services and they helped to evacuate the wounded to the health centre. Subsequently, the authorities deployed a nurse on site with basic equipment for the care of people. The four 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 10 block 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

Impact: The distribution of soap was made at the same time with NFI as a kit. For latrines, given the soil characteristics, it was difficult to construct the emergency latrines and given the development towards rebuilding the village, with the village subdivision plan, the amount allocated to this section may not be for 10 block of 3 as planned but 6 blocks of 2 latrines done.

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 based on sensitization and awareness campaign strategies.	Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Impact: The tools to raise awareness on fire have been developed and cascaded. 30 volunteers were trained on techniques of awareness and community mobilization with an emphasis on appropriate tools to raise awareness on fire but also common diseases in this period and their prevention. 27 sensitization sessions have been done (3 sessions per week done by volunteers in teams of two or three during nine weeks) 1,620 HH were visited in Alloya and the neighbouring village.



Community sensitization, Photo CRB

Lessons learnt:

- The involvement of local authorities as well as the willingness of populations to collaborate with the National Society facilitated the work of volunteers. It is worth noting that they played a key role during the initial assessment and response
- The close collaboration between the National Society and municipal authorities ensured complementary relief actions resulted in an added value in the support to affected communities. The operation was highly appreciated by the beneficiaries and the local authorities who have joined hands to support efforts made by BRCS. The authorities hope that the promptness with which the National Society has responded to the disaster will be maintained for the benefit of beneficiaries.
- Considering the devastation caused by the fire, the impact of the operation has been significant. The fire prevention messages and materials are sustainable elements of the operation. This knowledge is now embedded in local communities and will persist after the end of the DREF operation.
- Distribution of NFIs should reflect the real needs of affected families and IFRC standards should be flexible to accommodate variances in family size. Consider regarding women as heads of households.
- Construction of latrines, along with hand washing facilities, should be given priority at an earlier stage in a similar operation.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



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.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRBJ011 - Benin - Fire

Timeframe: 18 Jan 13 to 20 May 13

Appeal Launch Date: 18 Jan 13

Final DREF Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2013/1-2013/1	Programme	MDRBJ011
Budget Timeframe	2013/1-2013/1	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	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	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
C. Income		139,315				139,315	
E. Expenditure		-134,514				-134,514	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		4,801				4,801	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRBJ011 - Benin - Fire

Timeframe: 18 Jan 13 to 20 May 13

Appeal Launch Date: 18 Jan 13

Final DREF Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2013/1-2013/4	Programme	MDRBJ011
Budget Timeframe	2013/1-2013/4	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			139,315			139,315		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	18,600		15,525			15,525	3,075	
Construction Materials	12,400		15,321			15,321	-2,921	
Clothing & Textiles	17,400		17,177			17,177	223	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,900		8,816			8,816	84	
Medical & First Aid	480		476			476	4	
Utensils & Tools	20,240		6,357			6,357	13,883	
Other Supplies & Services	4,968		4,826			4,826	142	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	82,988		68,498			68,498	14,490	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom			1,519			1,519	-1,519	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment			1,519			1,519	-1,519	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage			293			293	-293	
Distribution & Monitoring	300						300	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	6,100		6,829			6,829	-729	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	6,400		7,122			7,122	-722	
Personnel								
International Staff	11,500		8,933			8,933	2,567	
National Society Staff	4,600		8,269			8,269	-3,669	
Volunteers	7,400		7,738			7,738	-338	
Total Personnel	23,500		24,940			24,940	-1,440	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	8,500		9,454			9,454	-954	
Total Workshops & Training	8,500		9,454			9,454	-954	
General Expenditure								
Travel	4,000		4,085			4,085	-85	
Information & Public Relations	3,224		5,577			5,577	-2,353	
Office Costs	600		759			759	-159	
Communications	600		1,035			1,035	-435	
Financial Charges	1,000		3,315			3,315	-2,315	
Total General Expenditure	9,424		14,771			14,771	-5,347	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	8,503		8,210			8,210	293	
Total Indirect Costs	8,503		8,210			8,210	293	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	139,315		134,514			134,514	4,800	
VARIANCE (C - D)			4,800			4,800		

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRBJ011 - Benin - Fire

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Final DREF Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2013/1-2013/1	Programme	MDRBJ011
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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

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IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	139,315	0	139,315	139,315	134,514	4,801	
Subtotal BL2	139,315	0	139,315	139,315	134,514	4,801	
GRAND TOTAL	139,315	0	139,315	139,315	134,514	4,801	