

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

West Africa: Floods

Emergency Appeal No. MDR61002

GLIDE nos. FL-2007-000153-GHA,
FL-2007-000158-TGO
and FL-2007-000132-BFA

Focus on Ghana

9 October 2007

Operations Update no. 2;

Period covered: 18 September to 5 October 2007;

Appeal target (revised): CHF 3,922,365 (USD 3.2m or EUR 2.3m) for the entire appeal; the Ghana budget component of this appeal was revised to CHF 2,505,722 (USD 2.1m or EUR 1.4m). [<Click here to view the revised appeal budget component for Ghana, or to view the consolidated revised appeal>](#)

Appeal coverage: 44% for the entire appeal, about 20% for the Ghana component; **Remaining needs for Ghana:** CHF 1,439,074.

[<Click here to go to the updated donor response report>](#)

Beneficiaries: 60,000 persons in Ghana.

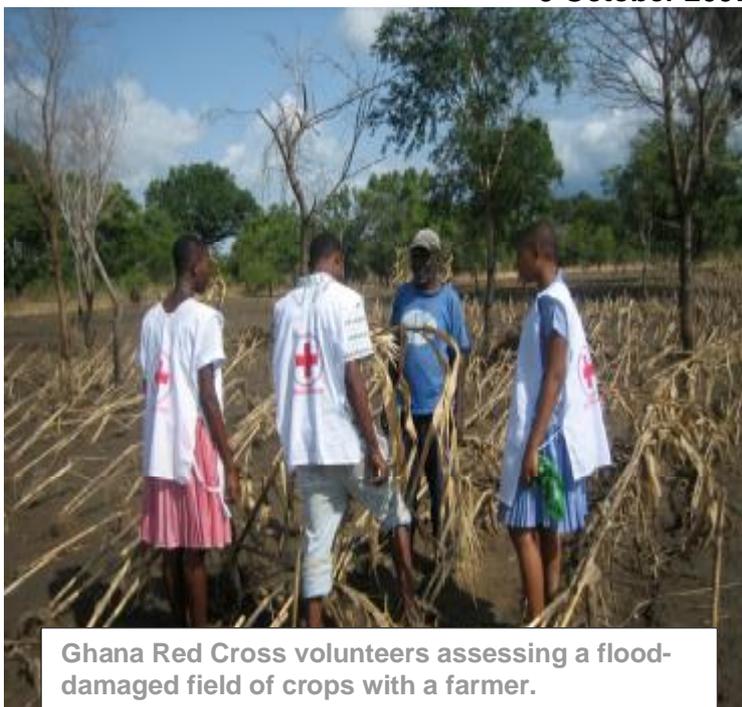
Appeal history:

- Preliminary Emergency Appeal for Ghana was launched on 17 September 2007 for CHF 1.47 million for 6 months to assist 60,000 people.
- Revised Preliminary Emergency Appeal was issued on 18 September 2007 for CHF 2.5 million to assist some 82,000 people in Ghana and Togo for 6 months.
- A Revised Appeal (focus on Burkina Faso) was issued on 2 October for CHF 2.9 million (USD 2.5 million or EUR 1.7 million) to assist 94,825 beneficiaries in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo for 6 months.
- CHF 100,000 (USD 84,280 or 60,734) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

Summary: The Federation's appeal strategy is intended to provide support to the national societies in the affected countries. The appeal is regional in nature, while reporting is country specific.

From the onset of the flooding disaster, Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) has been responding to the needs by assisting in evacuating affected people and in salvaging belongings from flooded houses. Red Cross volunteers have also been providing first aid to the affected people while at the same time providing health education.

With support from the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members and the Federation's Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) – deployed in the field since 14 September



Ghana Red Cross volunteers assessing a flood-damaged field of crops with a farmer.

2007 – the GRCS has conducted assessments to determine the needs. Early recovery assessment activities were included in relief assessments. One aim of the assessments was to seek feedback from affected communities on the appropriateness of relief items provided so as to enable the Red Cross and other humanitarian actors to improve on quality.

Assessment results have more specifically shown the extent, location and numbers of affected people in eight of the most affected districts. Assessment data corroborated the needs identified in the earlier multi-agency assessments and confirmed the Red Cross/Red Crescent interventions underway. Consequently, the initial plan of action has been revised, with objectives adjusted accordingly.

The levels of floodwaters in some locations of Upper East Region have started to recede and some of the displaced people are returning to their home communities. However, many areas are still covered by floodwater. Roads and bridges have been extensively damaged in many places, with approximately a third of the affected communities still not accessible by road. Many of the affected communities are situated away from the main road infrastructure and are widely dispersed along river banks.

Some reported cases of watery diarrhoea, availability of ready mosquito breeding spots and limited accessibility to health facilities are factors that are likely to lead to a rapid deterioration of the health situation in the most affected communities. Malaria is endemic in the Upper East Region of Ghana; 82 per cent of households report that at least one family member has suffered from malaria in the past three months.

Additionally, in most communities boreholes and shallow wells have been contaminated by floodwater thus increasing the likelihood of water borne disease outbreaks. Sixty-one per cent of households reached reported that at least one family member had suffered from diarrhoea in the past two weeks¹. As a result, health problems are expected to continue to arise and increase if short and long term health, food, water and sanitation needs are not properly met.

Up to 50 per cent of staple crops in flood-affected areas have been destroyed or are rotting in the fields, leaving households with hardly any food reserves. The affected settlements are isolated from economic centres and are highly dependent on agriculture (with some livestock and poultry) as a source of income. As such, the populations now have little opportunity to earn extra income. Prices of certain basic food commodities, such as maize, millet and corn are reported to have doubled in the local markets. Food insecurity is already a major concern and can only be expected to worsen. Furthermore, the Upper East Region has the highest prevalence of moderate malnutrition – weight for age indicator – in the country (29.1 per cent). The Northern and Upper East regions both have the highest prevalence of severe malnutrition in the country (5.9%)².

Although relief items have started to reach the affected communities, distribution has been delayed due to the centralization of management/distribution of relief items by the Ghanaian Government authorities. The centralization has made it difficult to distribute items directly to the affected communities. However, the situation will improve since an agreement has recently been reached with Ghanaian Government authorities for the Ghana Red Cross Society to work with the government in registering beneficiaries in affected areas and carry out direct distributions (with support and monitoring from the National Disaster Management Organization). Beneficiary registration and distribution by the Red Cross is now due to commence in the course of this week.

Background

¹ Source: Ghana RCS, RDRT and FACT assessment, September 2007.

² Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2006, National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) 2006 and Ghana MoH.

Continuous and exceptional rains that set in from mid-July 2007 have resulted in flooding which has caused considerable damage to life and property in the Northern (estimated population 2,000,000) and Upper East (estimated population 1,000,000) regions of Ghana. The floods are a tragic reversal of the harsh conditions which had threatened agriculture in the northern part of the country following two months of drought (5 June to 15 August 2007).

The situation was made worse by the unannounced discharge of water from the Bagary Dam in Burkina Faso during the last week of August. The discharge of water from the dam caused Volta River to overflow, washing away 52,000 hectares of farmland and extensively damaging 58,000 crop fields in Ghana. Altogether, 800 communities have been affected in one way or another, with over 20 per cent of them totally submerged.

Over 200,000 people have been affected, with 40,000 temporarily displaced (government figures). Many of the affected (who are pastoralists or farmers) have either lost part of or entire livestock and crops; their houses have been damaged or have collapsed. The displaced people are seeking shelter in schools, churches and in relatives' houses. To date, 31 people have been killed mainly by sudden crumbling of mud houses, drowning and acute watery diarrhea. Bridges and roads have collapsed making it difficult for the affected to access basic facilities.

Because of the preceding drought and the end of the planting season, there is an inevitable situation of food insecurity, which is likely to last until the next harvest. The next planting season is May 2008. Additionally, many local food storage sites have been damaged or washed away, increasing the vulnerability of affected communities to food insecurity.

Operational developments

The President of the Republic of Ghana visited the affected sites on 13 September 2007. On seeing the extent of damage and loss, he immediately declared a state of emergency and pledged government assistance to the affected communities.

From the beginning of the Red Cross intervention, Ghana Red Cross Society volunteers have been conducting the following activities at district and community levels:

- Assisting affected people to evacuate buildings and to salvage belongings;
- Carrying out health education;
- Providing first aid to affected persons.

Red Cross volunteers have also embarked on house-to-house sensitization on flood prevention as well as on education measures to prevent other hazards that occur in their communities. They are emphasizing personal responsibility for flood prevention/mitigation in the day-to-day living practices such as maintenance of drainage systems and the need to identify escape routes. Post-disaster health education on personal and community hygiene against cholera and typhoid has also begun in the shelters.

The planned emergency relief items have been ordered from the Federation's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Dubai and local procurement of relief and shelter items is underway. Procurement is being prioritized in line with funding realities.

Following assessments conducted by the GRCS with support from Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members and the Federation's FACT, the extent of needs, location and numbers of affected people in eight of the most affected districts have been established. Early recovery assessment was included in relief assessments. Assessment data corroborated the needs identified in the earlier multi-agency assessments and confirmed the interventions underway by the GRCS and the Federation. Based on the assessment, the plan of action for the Ghana intervention has been revised.

Coordination and partnerships

The government has set up a National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) which is coordinating the response centrally from Accra. All disaster relief materials have to date been delivered to NADMO from where they are to be distributed to beneficiaries through government mechanisms. An agreement has recently been reached with Ghanaian Government authorities for the Ghana Red Cross Society (with NADMO support and monitoring) to register beneficiaries in the affected areas and to carry out distributions.

Through its Geneva Secretariat and West Africa Zone offices, the Federation continues to coordinate very closely with the Ghana Red Cross Society in all initiatives taken to support the affected population. According to its mandate, the Ghana Red Cross Society is managing the emergency response while addressing the immediate shelter and health needs of the most vulnerable populations.

The Ghana Red Cross Society is working closely with UN partners such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP), and UNICEF, as well as with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Further co-ordination mechanisms are currently being explored with local actors and partners, particularly in assisting with food distributions.

The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team has provided technical support to the UN Country team in order to set up a database meant to strengthen the coordination mechanism, especially with a view of providing a rapid overview through coordinated assessments. NGOs and UN agencies' profile in Ghana is development oriented.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Revised objectives and progress

Health and Care, Water and Sanitation

During the emergency phase, priorities of the intervention will be to provide health and hygiene promotion and prevention services, home-based treatment of malaria and diarrhoeal disease, and to support Ghana Health Services (GHS) in epidemic preparedness, surveillance and response. These activities will be carried out through the GRCS mothers' clubs network, in partnership with UNICEF and GHS.

The intervention will focus on the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in flood affected communities (namely malaria, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and vaccine preventable diseases – including measles) and target the most vulnerable populations (children aged under five years and pregnant women).

An active volunteer network of regional and district committees, district organizers and community-based youth and mothers' clubs is present. Ghana Red Cross Society, in collaboration with GHS and UNICEF, is currently implementing a community-based accelerated child survival, nutrition and development project, which also covers Upper East and Northern regions.

Additional training in community-based health education and hygiene promotion is scheduled for 15 to 19 September to reinforce the mothers' club response to the floods. Ghana Red Cross Society mothers' clubs consist of 10 to 15 members each, with each member in charge of 30 households. The goal is to cover a total of 5,820 households and approximately 11,640 women and children in the flood-affected communities.

Objective 1.1: Contribute to reducing morbidity and mortality rates in the flood affected communities through community-based health education and hygiene promotion activities among at least 10,000 households. [New objective]

Activities to achieve the objective:

- Health promotion and education;
- Hygiene promotion (integrated with health promotion);
- Early diagnosis of patients with diarrhoeal illness;
- Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and improved infant feeding practices;
- Providing long-lasting insecticide treated nets (LLITNs) to prevent malaria
- Social mobilization for immunization (measles and routine immunization).

Objective 1.2: Support Ghana Health Services to provide integrated epidemic preparedness, surveillance and reporting of priority diseases. [New objective]

Surveillance of priority diseases has been initiated by GHS in Upper East and Northern regions and will be extended through community health workers and GRCS volunteers and mothers' clubs network. Any suspected cases of diseases will be reported immediately to health authorities. Simple case definitions will be used to improve diagnostic skills.

Activities to achieve the objective:

- Support to Ghana Health Services for epidemic preparedness, surveillance and response;
- Prompt home-based treatment of patients with diarrhoeal illnesses by providing oral rehydration solution (ORS);
- Recognition of the early signs of symptoms of malaria and pneumonia;
- Referral of patients with malaria to Ghana Health Services for early treatment;
- Recognition and referral of patients with acute respiratory infections (for antibiotic treatment);

Objective 1.3: Strengthen the capacity of Ghana Red Cross Society to partner with Ghana Health Services and UNICEF in ensuring effective planning and coordination of the emergency response. [New objective]

Progress

The Ghana Health Services have established weekly health sector meetings in Northern and Upper East regions to coordinate the overall health response in flood affected areas. Sub-committees in health education, disease surveillance and prevention, outbreak preparedness and case management have been formed. Members include the Ghana Red Cross Society, UN agencies, the government and NGOs, among others.

Emergency relief and shelter

Objective 2: To provide emergency shelter and essential household non-food items to at least 10,000 vulnerable flood affected households³.

Based on immediate needs, distribution of essential shelter and non-food items (NFI), specifically tarpaulins, sleeping mats, jerry cans, water purification sachets and mosquito nets, will be prioritized. The distribution of these items will be undertaken in close coordination with food distributions being undertaken by WFP.

Red Cross volunteers will play a vital role in the disaster response operation. They are engaged in assessments, distribution of emergency relief and shelter items, health and hygiene education and monitoring. Ghana Red Cross Society relief teams have been trained in assessment,

³ This objective combines objectives 1 and 2 of the initial plan of action. Activities remain as previously outlined.

beneficiary registration and distribution management. The National Society is considering mobilizing additional teams to ensure a steady rotation of volunteers and staff. The operation is focusing on distribution of essential NFI so as to meet needs as quickly and efficiently as possible, while taking into account local capacities and the challenges of access. The aim is to reach up to 1,000 households per day once operations are fully up and running and road conditions allow.

In terms of emergency shelter, two tarpaulins will be distributed per household during the first round. In the present circumstances, tarpaulins are considered to be a most useful and multi-purpose commodity which households can use not only as a means of shelter, but also for drying clothes and foodstuffs as well as to sleep on (often used as a folded sheet, keeping people off the damp ground, thereby helping to prevent respiratory tract infections and other diseases).

The procurement and distribution of tools and material for the shelter kits is underway. Tendering has been completed for the hygiene items and for the multi-purpose shelter and agricultural tools. Distribution of shelter and agricultural tools will be undertaken as a staged process so as to enable ongoing assessment of their usefulness and relevance, in light of increased population mobility and weather uncertainty.

In terms of water and sanitation, water purification sachets – combined with jerry cans – provide beneficiaries with the means to rapidly purify contaminated drinking water. The dose of the sachets matches the volume of jerry cans to facilitate accurate treatment of drinking water and to reduce cross-contamination of water storage vessels.

A detailed mobilization table is up-dated regularly on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). Local procurement is ongoing with additional specialized items (such as ORS) and emergency items (such as tarpaulins) being sourced through in-kind donations from the international community.

To date ORS and water purification sachets have been received in the country. The Finnish Red Cross has donated 20,000 tarpaulins and the Canadian Red Cross has donated 10,000 jerry cans as well as charter flight capacity. Additionally, 10,000 sleeping mats have been ordered from contingency stocks held at the Dubai RLU. Airlifting resources are being combined for the relief items to ensure efficient and rapid response to the flood affected beneficiaries.

Recovery and rehabilitation

Objective 3: To assess, plan and implement early recovery activities together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders. [New objective]

Progress

The RDRT and FACT WatSan and shelter staff undertook assessments in eight different districts over the past week. In general, a relatively small proportion of dwellings have been totally destroyed. However, a great number have been damaged and are likely to collapse should further flooding occur. This situation can be attributed to the slow flow of flood waters and the heavy rain fall, coupled with the mud-brick construction used in this area.

Although the number of destroyed houses is quite low, most of the dwellings have been affected by the floods in one way or another: walls are still damp and losing stability ('leaning' walls), wood is in constant contact with the wet ground, and the earthen floors are damp.

Most displaced people are being housed by host families in adjacent unaffected communities. The associated over-crowding and damp conditions make sleeping and living inside problematic and may lead to health, protection and WatSan-related issues. The increase in household sizes is also quickly depleting the limited food stocks of the host communities as most displaced families have lost a significant portion of their crops to the floods.

Undertaking training on better building techniques and materials is being investigated. The training could be carried out by Ghana Red Cross Society with support from the Federation's zone office and the government. This approach would complement the multi-use tools provided for both rebuilding and for agricultural purposes.

Testing of water sources has revealed that almost all boreholes and shallow wells were found to have substantial quantities of harmful *Ecoli bacteria*. Partnerships with other humanitarian actors are being developed to coordinate the Ghana Red Cross Society response with the planned well-cleaning projects.

Overall, the intent is to link all sectors closely with recovery as more of a mid-term intervention to meet a variety of needs as part of a 'holistic' and integrated approach. This can be seen in the approach taken across all the sector interventions.

Capacity Building

Objective 4: To prepare for effective, timely and appropriate monitoring and response to emergencies and vulnerabilities. [New objective]

There is a clear desire to build the Ghana Red Cross Society's capacity in needs assessment and management of relief distributions. Lessons learned and the overall outcome from the current emergency operation will be fed into the National Society's long-term programming in disaster preparedness.

In addition, the Appeal budget allows for training in emergency management and rapid assessment of emergency needs. This will strengthen the National Society's ability to effectively call on and coordinate regional and international resources when faced with large scale national disasters or crises.

Community-based programmes in health and hygiene promotion are designed to strengthen the existing capacities in these areas, particularly focusing on the strong GRCS mothers' clubs network and existing links with the Ghana Health Services.

IT & Telecommunications

The FACT IT/Telecoms delegate has been providing essential support to the operations base in Tamale and at the national headquarters in Accra. The support is to ensure rapid and effective communications from the field and for the operations as a whole.

The Global System for Mobile (GSM) communications network is well-developed with a number of providers covering most of the affected areas. Because some of the remote areas are not covered by the GSM network, each vehicle leaving for the field will be equipped with a Thuraya satellite phone handset. A total of 4 handsets will be used to cover the operation. The need for a radio network has been investigated and given the strength of the existing GSM network and the expense of installing and maintaining a radio network, a radio network will not be installed.

There is a need for an effective communications system in the GRCS branch offices for the operation to be well coordinated. Improvements of office facilities at the headquarters and affected regional offices in the Northern and Upper East regions are underway. The following activities will be undertaken:

- Replacement of old computers and printers in the Northern and Upper East regional offices. The offices will be supplied with laptops and desktops used in the operation and internet connection will be established at both offices.
- Installation of a fixed wireless access broadband connection at the national headquarters in Accra (currently, the headquarters has no internet connection).

Communications- Advocacy and public information

The Ghana Red Cross Society and the FACT have been proactive in media relations, initiating press conferences on a regular basis in order to update the public on developments, needs and to promote fundraising initiatives.

The National Society is actively meeting with private sector entities and others, such as embassies, to share information and to raise funds. So far, in country contributions totaling USD 30,000 have been received.

Visibility is being ensured in the field, through Ghana Red Cross Society caps and T-shirts being produced. International media coverage has been good, with recent reports specifically focusing on the situation in Ghana being broadcast by BBC World.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the National Society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The International Federation's activities are carried out under its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

WEST AFRICA FLOODS - TOTAL BY COUNTRY**MDR61002**

	GHANA	TOGO	BURKINA FASO	TOTAL
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>				
Shelter	1,020,000	47,070	0	1,067,070
Construction Materials	0	0	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	0	226,250	131,730	357,980
Food	0	0	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	30,698	22,420	0	53,118
Medical & First Aid	12,112	16,385	0	28,497
Teaching Materials	0	660	0	660
Utensils & Tools	580,000	89,240	56,430	725,670
Other Supplies & Services	0	45,000	40,015	85,015
Total Relief Needs	1,642,810	447,025	228,175	2,318,010
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>				
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0
Vehicles Purchase	63,200	26,000	0	89,200
Computers & Telecom Equipment	38,194	16,343	567	55,104
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0	2,758	0	2,758
Medical Equipment	0	0	0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	2,000	0	0	2,000
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>				
Storage - Warehouse	10,000	35,802	0	45,802
Distribution & Monitoring	60,000	34,100	40,500	134,600
Transport & Vehicles Costs	70,044	44,459	4,713	119,216
<u>PERSONNEL</u>				
International Staff	200,590	172,727	18,175	391,492
Regionally Deployed Staff	56,000	10,695	0	66,695
National Staff	19,187	12,567	21,276	53,030
National Society Staff	3,900	28,410	68,970	101,280
Consultants	15,300	0	0	15,300
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>				
Workshops & Training	18,000	0	5,150	23,150
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>				
Travel	70,971	21,178	2,836	94,985
Information & Public Relations	2,000	13,890	0	15,890
Office running costs	28,974	15,232	3,982	48,188
Communication Costs	21,708	11,511	2,441	35,660
Professional Fees	4,472	7,439	794	12,705
Financial Charges	500	366	0	866
Other General Expenses	15,000	7,986	18,495	41,481
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>				
Programme Support - PSR	162,872	63,157	28,925	254,954
Total Operational Needs	862,912	524,618	216,825	1,604,355
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	2,505,722	971,643	445,000	3,922,365
Available Ressources				
Net Request	2,505,722	971,643	445,000	3,922,365

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 2

WEST AFRICA FLOODS**MDR61002**

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter	766,185	1,067,070	-300,885
Construction Materials	25,000	0	25,000
Clothing & Textiles	166,520	357,980	-191,460
Food	0	0	0
Seeds & Plants	80,000	0	80,000
Water & Sanitation	198,240	53,118	145,122
Medical & First Aid	124,000	28,497	95,503
Teaching Materials	17,000	660	16,340
Utensils & Tools	234,000	725,670	-491,670
Other Supplies & Services	315,000	85,015	229,985
Total Relief Needs	1,925,945	2,318,010	-392,065
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Land & Buildings	0	0	0
Vehicles Purchase	35,000	89,200	-54,200
Computers & Telecom Equipment	46,200	55,104	-8,904
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	8,000	2,758	5,242
Medical Equipment	0	0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0	2,000	-2,000
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Storage - Warehouse	50,000	45,802	4,198
Distribution & Monitoring	59,500	134,600	-75,100
Transport & Vehicles Costs	128,350	119,216	9,134
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International Staff	130,000	391,492	-261,492
Regionally Deployed Staff	72,600	66,695	5,905
National Staff	15,750	53,030	-37,280
National Society Staff	142,720	101,280	41,440
Consultants	0	15,300	-15,300
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	11,150	23,150	-12,000
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	18,000	94,985	-76,985
Information & Public Relations	30,000	15,890	14,110
Office running costs	28,995	48,188	-19,193
Communication Costs	19,250	35,660	-16,410
Professional Fees	0	12,705	-12,705
Financial Charges	2,000	866	1,134
Other General Expenses	20,000	41,481	-21,481
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	190,722	254,954	-64,232
Total Operational Needs	1,008,237	1,604,355	-596,119
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	2,934,182	3,922,365	-988,183
Available Ressources			
Net Request	2,934,182	3,922,365	-988,183