



## THE GAMBIA: FLOODS & LANDSLIDE

DREF no. MDRGM003  
27 July 2007

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 186 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 26,333 (EUR 15,843) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will be completed by August 21, 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation November 20, 2007. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

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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 longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## **The situation**

On 18 July, 2007 heavy rains occurred the locality of Sinchu Balia, situated around 30 kilometers west of Banjul, the capital city, causing floods. Over 298 people (32 families) have been affected. Four families have already been displaced and are relocated in the village community health center; 16 families are still living in the flooded houses as they have no other means to cope with the situation. Five houses collapsed during the early hours of the rains.

Weather reports indicate that the affected region received rain fall of 127.6mm. In the early hours of 19 July, 2007 another heavy rain further affected the families. Forecasts indicate that more rainfall is expected and more families will be affected. Those who have not relocated are still living in water and seeking temporary shelters in public buildings.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

Gambian Red Cross Society (GRCS) Western Region volunteers were at site helping evacuate the victims from the collapsed houses and vulnerable people to safer places. They also assessed the situation. Some of the affected families do not have other places to move and some are still leaving in the waters.

Based on the 18 July assessment of the situation by the community trained volunteers from the last CBD training, an assessment report was produced. The GRCS DM and agricultural health officer checked the preliminary report and confirmed that the community of Sinchu Balia is in a great health risk and needs immediate support.

Taking into account the quick assessment results, twenty-five (25) mattresses and bed sheets were provided to the most affected families on the night of the floods. The volunteers helped to evacuate those affected and provided drinking water.

## **The Needs**

Urgent contributions are needed in food (cereals and oil), plastic sheeting, impregnated mosquito nets, blankets, soaps, chlorine and jerry cans. There is an urgent need to carry out health education in the disaster site, to rebuild some community sanitation devises (latrines), in order to avoid exposure to various risks of precariousness (diseases) and to put in place an early warning system.

## **Coordination**

The Government through its zonal representative has put in place a crisis committee in charge of evaluating the detailed needs of affected populations. This committee will also coordinate all planned activities, including Gambia Red Cross Society plan of action

## **Plan of Action**

**Global objective: The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) will contribute to the wellbeing of the floods victims in Sinchu Balia locality for one (1) month.**

### **Specific objective 1: Food and non-food items.**

- GRCS ensures one-month food assistance for the benefit of 300 persons affected by the floods in the locality of Sinchu Balia;
- GRCS supports 200 women and children affected by the floods of the Sinchu Balia locality with kits of survival material (blankets, mats, etc.).

### **Expected Results:**

- Food availability ensured for 300 flood affected persons;
- Mats and blankets are provided to 200 affected persons (women & children).

### **Planned Activities:**

## **The Gambia: Floods; DREF Bulletin no. MDRGM003**

- Collection of food items from partners;
- Purchase of NFI and transport;
- Distribution activities;
- Follow-up activities.

### **Specific objective 2: Water and Sanitation.**

The GRCS contributes to the prevention of disease related to the lack of hygiene and the consumption of unhealthy water for 300 persons, and the construction of 32 latrines in Sinchu Balia.

#### **Expected Results:**

The GRCS will contribute to:

- The reduction of morbidity related to diarrhoeal diseases in flooded zones, and morbidity related to malaria in flooded locales;
- the rebuilding of community latrines.

#### **Planned Activities:**

- Sensitization campaign on malaria, hygiene and waterborne diseases;
- Construction of latrines;
- Distribution of impregnated mosquito nets and hygiene kits;
- Follow-up campaigns.

### **Specific objective 3: Community Capacity Building on flooding knowledge.**

- GRCS helps the affected community to set up a simplified fast alarm system aimed at decreasing the losses in case of floods;
- GRCS advocates to humanitarian partners and administrative authority for possible support for community awareness activities (preparation and the search for sustainable solutions).

#### **Expected results:**

- A simplified fast community alarm system is set up and disseminated in potential floods sites;
- Other humanitarian actors and administrative authorities are informed on the potential of recurring floods and the part they can play in mitigation activities and the search for sustainable solutions.

#### **Planned Activities:**

- Elaboration of a community alarm system in potential flood prone zones;
- Meeting with other humanitarian actors and administrative authorities;
- Follow-up activities.

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