

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

West and Central Africa: Flood preparedness

Emergency appeal n° MDR61003
Operations update n° 1
14 August, 2008

**Focus on relief stock
procurement and capacity
building for response**

Period covered by this Ops Update: 11 July-14 August 2008;
Appeal target (current): CHF 750,000 (USD 731,134 or EUR 462,475);
Appeal coverage: donor support is currently being recorded, and will be made available in the next update

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 11 July 2008 for CHF 750,000 for 2 months to assist 47,500 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 483,047 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond.

Summary: A preliminary Emergency Appeal was launched based on the evolving climatic forecasts and scientific data on the current rainy season. This preliminary Emergency Appeal aimed to respond to a request from national societies in West and Central Africa, and focused on providing timely and appropriate support to pre-emptively prepare to provide rapid flood relief during the 2008 rainy season. All the nine countries at high risk of being flooded this season have developed contingency plans and have prepared their national disaster response teams. Relief supplies have been pre-positioned at strategic locations and volunteers have been trained. With support of the Federation Regional Logistics Unit in Dubai, relief supplies have been shipped to Accra, Ghana and Yaoundé in Cameroon while Dakar has already received its stock.

Despite some flooding that has already occurred in the region (Liberia, Togo and Niger), country-based approach is being observed to respond with the support of this Appeal in terms of coordination from the Federation. As the situation evolves, the Federation is going to adapt its strategy accordingly and encourages donor support to this Appeal which remains timid, but which is achieving its goal with the contribution from the Federation DREF funds.

[<click here go to the interim financial report below; or to return to go the contact details>](#)

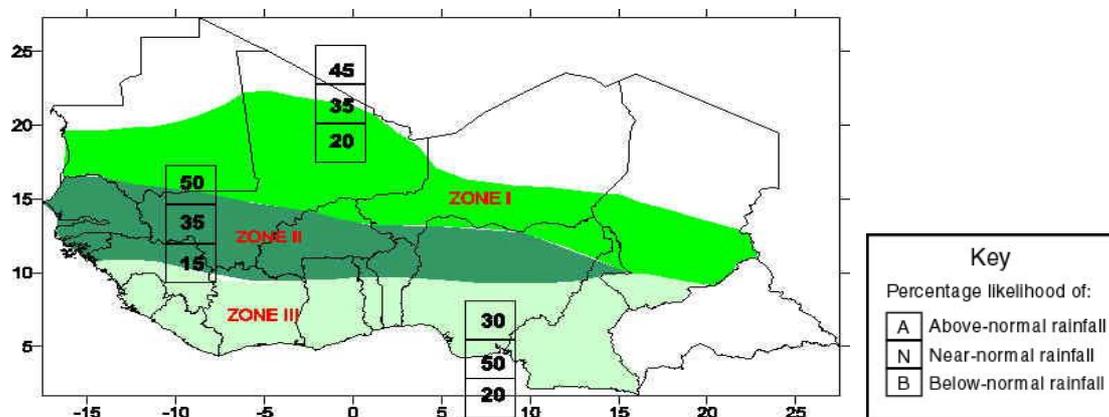


Consequences of floods in Maritime region (Togo)

The situation

West and Central Africa region has experienced severe floods over the last two years that have claimed thousands of lives, with extensive damage to property and an enormous impact on livelihoods. West Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world in terms of disaster impact and the number of persons affected. Given the humanitarian challenges in the region, the Federation and National Societies consider it vital to focus on reducing the impact of disasters. The International Federation is therefore increasing its commitment to the early and timely analysis of meteorological information that can be critical in efforts to pre-emptively prepare for weather-related disasters. This information is available through climate science organizations which have made enormous strides in their forecasting capacities. Through partnerships with these organizations, the Federation is now able to make use of appropriate seasonal predictions to assist National Societies to enhance their planning, preparedness, and response capacities process in order to effectively deliver assistance to where it is most needed.

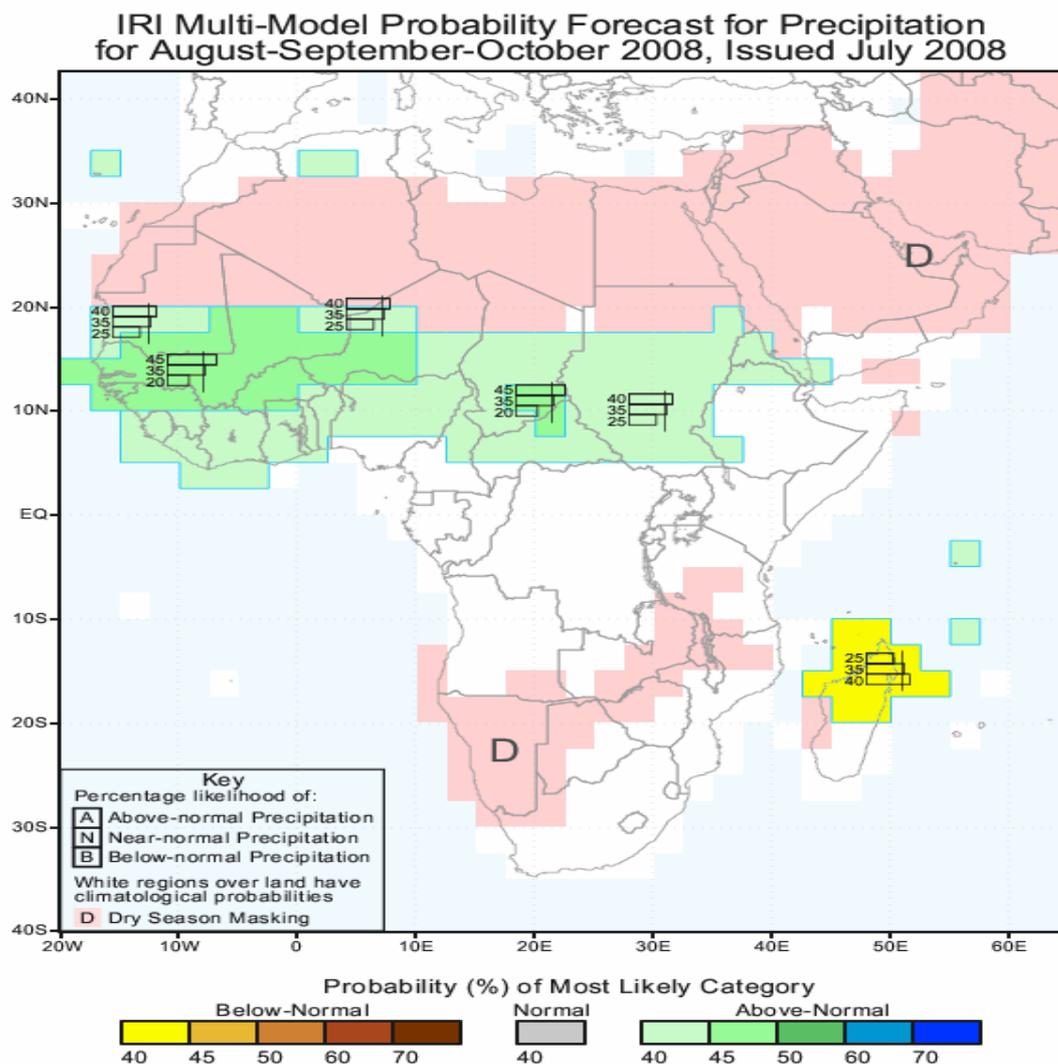
Meteorological information: The seasonal forecast for July, August, and September 2008 indicates that the northern part of the region will likely experience 'wet' conditions, the middle will experience 'very wet' conditions, while 'near normal' conditions will be expected in the south. There is a potential for extreme events particularly floods mainly in the Volta region.



Map 1: Forecast of precipitation probability for the July-August-September period, 2008
(Conditions predicted: Zone 1-Wet; Zone 2-Very Wet; Zone 3-Normal). Source: ACMAD

Based on this information, the Federation is expecting strong precipitation anomalies for most of West Africa, with a high risk of flood occurrence. Particularly at risk are the countries of Zones I and II where higher than normal rainfall is anticipated (with the significantly high probability of 0.45 and 0.50 respectively, compared to the historical probability of 0.33 of higher than normal rainfall).

The map below presents likely future precipitation extremes in June, July and August, 2008 (JJA season, Source: IRI, dated May 2008).



Map 2: Likely future precipitation extremes in June, July and August, 2008 (JJA season, Source: IRI, May 2008).
http://iri.columbia.edu/climate/forecast/net_asmt/2008/may2008/JJA08_WorldExtr_pcp.html

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

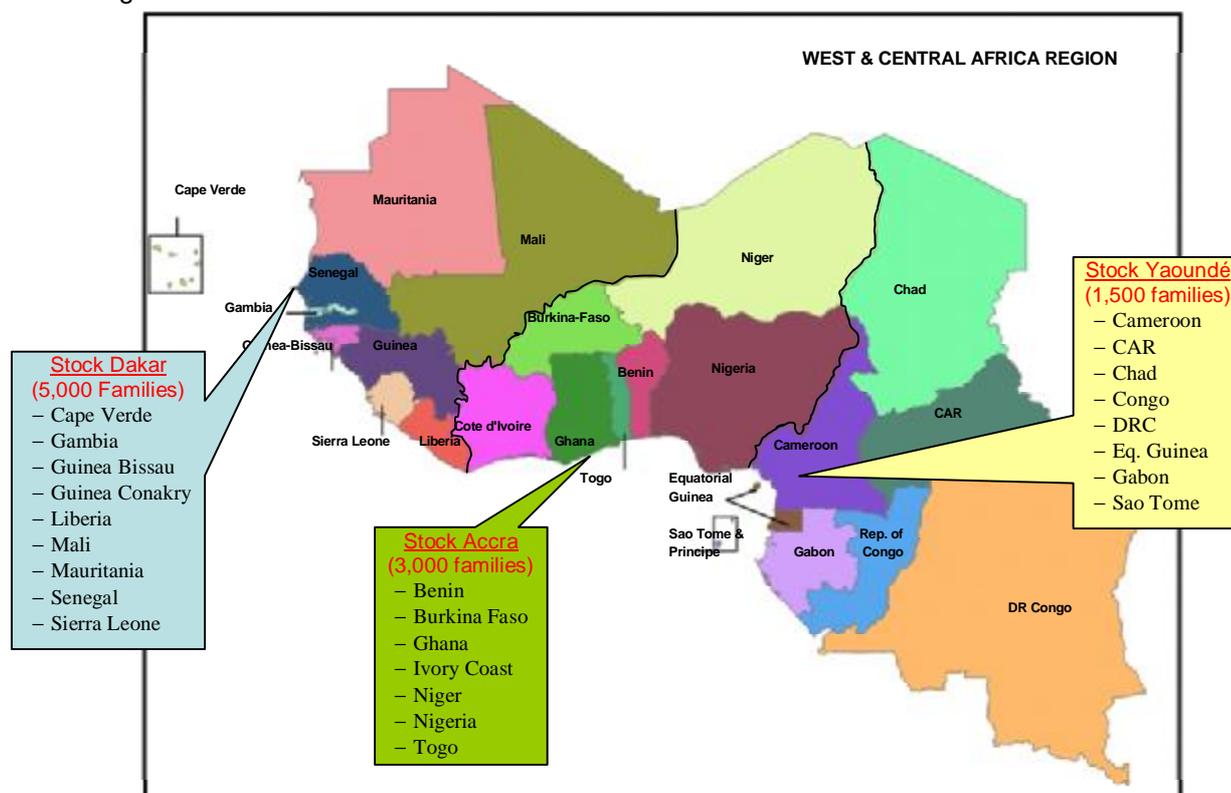
Overview

The Federation has a keen interest in preparing national societies in the target countries and communities to the rainy season which is expected with some considerable consequences like flooding. Capacity building at national society level started with the development of tools such as contingency plans and SOP's, strategic pre-positioning of relief items, and development of simple early warning system has improved their readiness. With the partnership between the Federation and the climate science organisation, national societies are provided with meteorological forecast information on a weekly basis. This information is accordingly translated into action, avoiding panic in communities at risk. A well trained team of RDRT leaders is ready for deployment to support any operation that may be launched in the event of floods.

However, there is a slight delay in receiving all relief items because of the shipping congestion from the port of Dubai and administrative procedures to fix the mode of operation as far as logistics is concerned. Moreover, the level of funding may hinder the implementation of some activities especially when services have to be delivered in the shortest time possible.

Overall objective: Provide for the immediate needs of 47,500 flood-affected beneficiaries (9,500 families, 5 persons per family) with pre-positioned relief supplies and water and sanitation equipment.

Procurement, storage, and distribution plan: the main component of this appeal is the procurement, transport, storage, and eventual distribution of a stock of non-food relief items procured with the assistance of the Federation's Dubai logistics unit. The graphic below reflects where the Federation plans to create the storage.



The countries listed under each stock location will be served by these warehouses. The stock in these locations will be used for the listed countries in case of need. Distribution within the sub-regions will be through aircraft or truck and other forms of local transportation.

Stocks will serve:

- Dakar (5,000 families): Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone.
- Accra (3,000 families): Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo.
- Yaoundé (1,500 families): Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome.

The goal of this storage plan is to position goods near the affected area through the creation of regional stocks in order to avoid delays in clearing relief items from Dakar during disaster situations. Based on the need the Federation will deploy the stock from the regional warehouses. Goods will be shipped to warehouses by air, road and boat. Once inside the country, NFI distribution methods will depend on available transport. In the case of blocked or destroyed roads, boats and horse carts will be utilized. Goods will reach the beneficiaries within 2 days. Even in the locations farthest from the stock locations, goods can be transported within this timeframe by plane and afterwards by local transport. These stock quantities are intended to cover immediate needs. Additional stock will be procured for flood situations through appeal revisions (county or situation-specific appeals) supported by additional DREF requests.

Stock locations are strategically chosen for accessibility; ease of transport, and for proximity to sub-regional Federation offices. The Federation's regional office in Yaoundé will manage the Yaoundé stock; the regional office in Lagos, Nigeria will manage the Accra stock. The UN warehouse in Accra will be utilized. The Federation maintains a modest warehouse in Yaoundé; if necessary, a larger warehouse will be identified.

Contingency planning: In preparation for the anticipated heavy rains, the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone office in Dakar has worked with National Societies in at-risk countries in updating their contingency plans to insure that emergency response efforts are timely, efficiently conducted, and that beneficiaries are effectively targeted. Contingency planning will include both life saving activities and recovery issues, which will be linked to risk reduction programmes, in order to build safer and more resilient communities that can adapt to the new climate environment.

This appeal seeks to reinforce the existing logistics network to deploy NFI to the designated warehouses by road and sea freight. There are strong local air plane services within the region. Pre-positioning of goods will facilitate their rapid shipment, to be delivered within 48 hours of needs identification. In the event of actual flood situations, activities will also be carried out to raise affected parties awareness of health promotion through sensitization conducted by the RC/RC volunteer network. Continuing assessments will analyze longer-term assistance needs.

Progress towards objectives

Relief and Logistics	
Objective: Development and maintenance of relief supplies in Yaoundé, Dakar, and Accra to meet the immediate needs of 47,500 flood-affected people, and the delivery of supplies to meet specific needs in actual flood situations.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Non-food items are pre-positioned in Accra, Yaoundé	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warehouse identification and agreements (contracts) signed. • Local market studies in Nigeria and Yaoundé. • Recruit and train a storekeeper within the Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) to manage the stock in Accra. • Procurement of NFI according to Federation Procedures. • NFI are supplied with the assistance of the Federation's Dubai-based logistics unit. • Delivery of NFI for pre-positioning in Accra and Yaoundé. • Storage and maintenance of NFI in Accra, Yaoundé, and Dakar.

Progress:

The Dakar Zone has identified and recruited a logistics delegate in order to support the Zone for the local procurements, the storage and all logistics issues in Accra and Yaoundé. An agreement has been signed by Geneva and the UNHRD in Accra to use of their warehouse for regional NFI stock storage in Accra.

For Yaoundé, the Zone has procured goods through the Federation RLU and the goods will be in place by the end of August. The Zone Office will take in charge the warehousing cost for 6 months for Yaoundé.

Yaoundé: procurement through Dubai RLU ETA Douala (arrival date 11 September, 2008)	
Description	Qty for 1,250 families
Blankets	3,750
Bucket 15 l	1,250
Jerry cans collapsible	1,250
kitchen sets	1,250
sleeping mats	3,750
Tarpaulins 4 x 6	1,250
Cholera kits	1
Soap	7,500

Ghana ongoing local procurement	
Description	Qty for 1,250 families
Blankets	3,750
Bucket 15 l	1,250
Jerry cans collapsible	1,250
kitchen set 4s	1,250
sleeping mats	3,750
Tarpaulins 4 x 6	1,250
Watsan kit for 2,000 families	1
Cholera kits	1

Challenges:

The major challenge lies in delivering all intended stock before the peak flooding season in some flood-prone countries. This achievement depends on availability of funds.

Capacity building for preparedness and response

Objective 1: Strengthen the disaster response capacity of targeted National Societies' branches in high-risk areas.

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacities of communities in high-risk areas.

Objective 3: Strengthen the health response capacity of targeted National Societies in high risk areas.

Expected results	Activities planned
Volunteers at the branch level in high risk areas are trained in rapid response, and communities in high-risk areas are involved in established response mechanisms.	<p>Activities planned to reach objective 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings for the branches on "light" (summarized) contingency planning with food security and early warning system components. • Training for branch staff, volunteers in rapid assessment, beneficiary identification and relief distribution methodology. • Earlier deployment of RDRT in emergency situations to support the National Societies in appropriate response implementation. • Carry out contingency planning with National Societies in flood prone countries according to meteorological predictions. <p>Activity planned to reach objective 2: Implementation of early warning in the communities using low-cost monitoring equipment in collaboration with ACMAD.</p> <p>Activity planned to reach objective 3: Pre-positioning volunteer's cholera kits in three strategic locations, utilising the existing stored mosquito nets, facilitation of training for volunteers in targeted National Societies.</p>

Progress:

Contingency plans have been elaborated according to meteorological predictions in flood prone areas (Togo, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina, Gambia, and Niger). The Zone has conducted a training session for national disaster response team (NDRT) and a light contingency planning training in Niger.

Visas and insurance have been requested for the 10 regional disaster response team (RDRT) team leaders to be rapidly deployed during floods.

The zone is sharing weekly meteorological predictions from ACMAD and IRI with NS for proactive action. A technical support was given to Togo, Gambia. Guinea, Liberia, and Niger Red Cross national societies during the short flooding they faced recently in order to conduct rapid assessment and elaborate a PoA based on their contingency plan scenario

A pilot shelter training workshop in collaboration with the shelter department in Geneva and Mali Red Cross was organised for 20 participants (NDRT, CDRT and RDRT) in Bamako

Challenges:

- Timely finalisation of draft contingency plans, considering the recent flooding in Liberia, Guinea, and Gambia.
- Pre-positioning of stock before 31 August 2008 in Accra, recruiting and training a storekeeper and negotiating contracts with forwarding agents; in order to respond to the emergencies on time (within 48 hours).

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with 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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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR61003 - West Africa Floods Preparedness

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/7
Budget Timeframe	2008/07-2008/10
Appeal	MDR61003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	750,000					750,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	483,047					483,047
C5. Other Income	483,047					483,047
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	483,047					483,047
D. Total Funding = B + C	483,047					483,047
Appeal Coverage	64%					64%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	483,047					483,047
E. Expenditure	-4,871					-4,871
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	478,176					478,176

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)	750,000						750,000	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	310,000							310,000
Water & Sanitation	196,000							196,000
Other Supplies & Services	24,500							24,500
Total Supplies	530,500							530,500
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	5,000							5,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	5,000							5,000
Transport & Storage								
Storage	15,000							15,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	63,000							63,000
Total Transport & Storage	78,000							78,000
Personnel								
International Staff	20,000							20,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	10,000							10,000
Total Personnel	30,000							30,000
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	39,000							39,000
Total Workshops & Training	39,000							39,000
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,000							2,000
Information & Public Relation	12,000							12,000
Communications	4,750							4,750
Total General Expenditure	18,750							18,750
Programme Support								
Program Support	48,750							48,750
Total Programme Support	48,750							48,750
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		4,871					4,871	-4,871
Total Operational Provisions		4,871					4,871	-4,871
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	750,000	4,871					4,871	745,129
VARIANCE (C - D)		745,129					745,129	