

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Gabon: Violent wind and floods

DREF operation n° MDRGA005  
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000261-GAB  
Update n° 01  
14 April, 2011

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.

**Period covered by this update:** 14 January to 31 March, 2011

**Summary:** CHF 96,960 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Gabonese Red Cross Society (GRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 203 families, i.e. 1,015 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

In early January 2011, the localities of Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele experienced serious torrential rains and violent wind, affecting 353 families, i.e. 1,765 people and killing 1.

Volunteers of the Gabonese Red Cross conducted an emergency assessment of the situation and identified 203 vulnerable families, i.e. 1,015 people, who had lost their homes and property and were living without shelter even as it continued to rain.



Wind-damaged house in Gabon , January 2011 /photo GRCS

Thanks to the DREF allocation, the GRCS, supported by IFRC, has distributed non-food items to the 203 families (80 families in Tchibanga, 22 in Franceville, 45 in Dzenzele and 56 in Mimongo) and assisted them in rebuilding or rehabilitating their houses. Red Cross volunteers also distributed treated bednets, carried out sanitation activities in the affected localities and raised awareness about hygiene promotion. The beneficiaries are now back home and the operation is wrapping up.

[< Click here for the DREF interim financial report; click here to view contact details >](#)

## The situation

Beginning the last week of December 2010, several localities of the Republic of Gabon have been facing violent wind and torrential rains. The situation deteriorated in early January 2011 as the localities of Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele experienced serious torrential rains and violent wind, leading to destruction of houses and other serious damages. The disaster affected 353 families, i.e. 1,765 people, claimed one life in Tchimbanga and wounded many in all four localities affected. In Tchimbanga, the

violent wind took away the roofs of the local Government technical secondary school, the Nazaire Boulingui General secondary school, the professional training centre, and the Saint Joseph catholic primary school.

Called into action by the scope of the disaster, the volunteers of the Gabonese Red Cross conducted an emergency evaluation of the situation and identified 203 vulnerable families, i.e. 1,015 people, who had been left homeless, with no household property. They were living in the open air under extremely precarious conditions as it continued to rain.

Thanks to the DREF allocation, the GRCS supported by IFRC Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) assisted the most vulnerable 1,015 people affected by the disaster. Red Cross volunteers distributed non-food items to the 203 families (80 families in Tchibanga, 22 in Franceville, 45 in Dzenzele and 56 in Mimongo) and assisted them in rebuilding or rehabilitating their houses. Red Cross volunteers also carried out sanitation activities in the affected localities, and raised awareness about hygiene promotion.

## Coordination and partnerships

At the onset of the disaster, government and private services in charge of disaster management conducted a field assessment mission. Such services included social services, the Risk Prevention Department, and the GRCS. The Government local authorities in the affected localities assisted the National Society (NS) during the launching of Red Cross response operation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Immediately after the disaster occurred, Red Cross volunteers went to the field to assess the situation, to provide emergency relief assistance to victims, to evacuate the most vulnerable, and provide psychosocial support. Thanks to the DREF allocation, the NS carried out activities in relief distribution, emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, and emergency shelter.

## Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<p><b>Objective: To contribute to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable 203 families (1,015 people) affected by violent wind and floods in Tchibanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele.</b></p>	
<p><b>Expected results:</b> The most vulnerable 203 families (1,015 people) have actually received the planned non-food items, and these have contributed to improving their living conditions following the disaster.</p>	<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase and transport 406 mats; 406 blankets; 203 cooking kits; 203 hygiene kits, 1,015 buckets; 1,015 pieces of soap of 250 g each; and 406 tarpaulins to the affected localities;</li> <li>• Train/retrain Red Cross volunteers on distribution techniques and methods;</li> <li>• Prepare distribution tools using the list of targeted beneficiaries;</li> <li>• Distribute non-food items to targeted beneficiaries</li> <li>• Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on distribution activities.</li> </ul>

### Progress:

IFRC CARREP purchased and transported 406 mats, 406 blankets, 203 cooking kits, 203 hygiene kits, and 1,015 buckets, 1,015 pieces of soap of 250 g each, and 406 tarpaulins, as well as 609 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITMN) to Libreville. From there, all items were transported to Tchibanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele.

The RDRT member that was deployed to Gabon for the operation has trained 27 Red Cross volunteers on distribution and sensitization techniques, specifically seven each in Tchibanga, Mimongo, and Dzenzele and six in Franceville. After the training, the RDRT member developed a distribution plan in close collaboration

with the trained volunteers. The plan explained how to package the items for each family of beneficiaries, prepare distribution lists and organize waiting lines.

After this preparatory work, the Governor of the Nyanga province proceeded to the official launching of Red Cross assistance. Red Cross volunteers then started distributing the items to families. Each pack contained three ITMN, two blankets, three mats, one cooking kit, one jerry can, one hygiene kit for women, two tarpaulins, one shelter kit, 15 pieces of soap of 250 g each, and a financial support of CFA F 15,480 (about CHF 30) as Red Cross contribution for rehabilitating or rebuilding houses. All targeted 203 families actually benefited from the distributions.

### Challenges:

The major challenge here was the fact that some families that had not been classified as most vulnerable complained and also wanted to benefit from the distributions. The Red Cross team discussed with them, explaining how limited the available resources were, the vulnerability criteria employed, and how those who benefited actually needed more assistance than the others did.

### Emergency health

**Objective: To contribute to preventing and reducing the risk of floods and weather-related diseases in the localities affected by floods and violent wind (Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele).**

<p><b>Expected results:</b> The GRCS has made a contribution to ensure that the most vulnerable 203 families are free from floods and weather-related diseases.</p>	<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase 609 insecticide-treated mosquito nets and distribute to the 203 most vulnerable families;</li> <li>• Provide five water purification tablets for 30 days to the 203 most vulnerable families;</li> <li>• Train 50 Red Cross volunteers in key malaria messages and hanging up and the proper use of bed nets;</li> <li>• Train the 203 families on how to install and use insecticide-treated mosquito nets;</li> <li>• Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on emergency health activities.</li> </ul>
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### Progress:

Twenty-seven Red Cross volunteers were trained in key malaria messages, including proper hanging and use of bed nets. These trained volunteers then distributed 3 ITMN to each of the 203 targeted most vulnerable families. After the distribution, they also trained the beneficiaries on how to install and use ITMN as a means of preventing malaria. So far, Red Cross volunteers have trained 30 families out of the 80 targeted in Tchibanga. This activity is ongoing and will be pursued throughout the sensitization period, i.e. until the end of the operation. To prevent outbreak of waterborne diseases, chlorine has been purchased and made available to Red Cross local committees. They will provide proper training to populations and volunteers before using it for water purification.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Objective: To contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality due to malaria among all the families affected by floods and violent wind in Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele.**

<p><b>Expected results:</b> Measures are taken to ensure that all families affected by violent wind and floods in Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele live in a healthy environment.  All affected families are aware of key hygiene promotion messages.  The outbreak of water and sanitation related diseases is prevented.</p>	<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase 15 sanitation kits, each comprising shovels, racks, raincoats, boots, gloves, mufflers, etc;</li> <li>• Organize sanitation and hygiene promotion campaigns in Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele;</li> <li>• Sensitize the population on hygiene rules using leaflets;</li> <li>• Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion</li> </ul>
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**Progress:**

With the support of the RDRT member deployed to Gabon for the operation, Red Cross volunteers organized sanitation and hygiene promotion campaigns in Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele. During these campaigns, the volunteers used the 15 sanitation kits purchased for the operation. They also used the leaflets that have been produced to promote hygiene and sanitation rules.

**Emergency shelter**

<b>Objective: To contribute to giving back at least a temporary shelter to the most vulnerable 203 families affected by floods and violent wind in Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele.</b>	
<p><b>Expected results:</b> The most vulnerable 203 families affected by floods and violent wind in Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele have been sheltered, at least on a temporary basis.</p>	<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase and distribute tarpaulins to the families whose houses have been destroyed completely or partially;</li> <li>• Provide financial support for the most vulnerable 203 families to help them rebuild their houses;</li> <li>• Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on shelter activities.</li> </ul>

**Progress:**

Shelter kits have been purchased as planned and distributed to the most vulnerable 203 families. Each shelter kit was composed of two tarpaulins, spade, hammer, saw, machete, pair of pliers, roll of iron wire, clothesline, hoe and one kilo of sheet metal nails and one kilo of 8cm nails. Red Cross volunteers then assisted the 203 targeted families in rehabilitating or building their houses. The beneficiaries are now back home.

**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 \(NGO's\) 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.

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.

**Contact information**

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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[<Financial table below; Click here to return to the title page>](#)



Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/3
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/4
Appeal	MDRGA005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Funding**

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>96,960</b>					<b>96,960</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Other Income</b>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	96,960					96,960
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	<b>96,960</b>					<b>96,960</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	<b>96,960</b>					<b>96,960</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>96,960</b>					<b>96,960</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>100%</b>					<b>100%</b>

**II. Movement of Funds**

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	<b>96,960</b>					<b>96,960</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	<b>-61,476</b>					<b>-61,476</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>35,484</b>					<b>35,484</b>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRGA005 - Gabon - Violent Wind and Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 14 jan 11

Appeal Timeframe: 14 jan 11 to 14 apr 11

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/3
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/4
Appeal	MDRGA005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>	<b>96,960</b>					<b>96,960</b>		
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	20,471						20,471	
Clothing & textiles	7,911						7,911	
Water & Sanitation	914	7,291				7,291	-6,377	
Medical & First Aid	999	900				900	99	
Teaching Materials	5,200	224				224	4,976	
Utensils & Tools	6,090						6,090	
Other Supplies & Services	8,120	10,243				10,243	-2,123	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>49,704</b>	<b>18,658</b>				<b>18,658</b>	<b>31,046</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	1,938	1,790				1,790	148	
Distribution & Monitoring	22,000	3,354				3,354	18,646	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,200	840				840	360	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>25,138</b>	<b>5,984</b>				<b>5,984</b>	<b>19,154</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	1,550						1,550	
Regionally Deployed Staff	4,500	5,305				5,305	-805	
National Staff	1,200	84				84	1,116	
National Society Staff	5,200	770				770	4,430	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>12,450</b>	<b>6,159</b>				<b>6,159</b>	<b>6,291</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training		181				181	-181	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>		<b>181</b>				<b>181</b>	<b>-181</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel		832				832	-832	
Information & Public Relation	1,250						1,250	
Office Costs	500	927				927	-427	
Communications	1,500	1,810				1,810	-310	
Financial Charges	500	909				909	-409	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>4,478</b>				<b>4,478</b>	<b>-728</b>	
<b>Programme &amp; Service Support</b>								
Programme & Service Support	5,918	3,776				3,776	2,142	
<b>Total Programme &amp; Service Support</b>	<b>5,918</b>	<b>3,776</b>				<b>3,776</b>	<b>2,142</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		22,239				22,239	-22,239	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>22,239</b>				<b>22,239</b>	<b>-22,239</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>96,960</b>	<b>61,476</b>				<b>61,476</b>	<b>35,484</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>35,484</b>				<b>35,484</b>		