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DREF Operations update DRC: Floods in Gemena

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Floods n° MDRCD019		Operations update n° 1	
Date of issue: 20 February 2017		Timeframe covered by this update: 23 November 2016 to 14 February 2017	
Operation start date: 23 November 2016		Timeframe extension: 1 month (New end date: 23 March 2017).	
Initial budget: CHF 183,682	Percentage of achievement: 73%	Total estimated Red Cross and Red Crescent response to date: CHF 44,130	
Additional funds requested: None			
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 44,130			
Initial N° of people being assisted: Approximately 1,390 people. New N° of people being assisted: No new registered disaster victims.			
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 40 volunteers and 3 supervisors involved in operations, as well as the provincial staff of Gemena.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Provincial Vice-Governor and the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs.			

This DREF operations update covers the activities implemented to date, representing 73% progress of the operation, and requests for an extension of the timeframe of this operation by one month (new end date: 23 March 2017). Indeed, the late signature of the Grant Agreement with the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC RC), compounded by the precarious security situation in the country, led to a disruption in the implementation of this operation. The number of people to be reached and budget remains unchanged.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Since the beginning of the month of November 2016, rains and winds have hit the town of Gemena, headquarters of the province of Sud-Ubangi. Gemena town is located 3 hours by air (979 Km) from the town of Kinshasa with a total population of 350,511 people (source: Provincial Mayor).

On 9 November 2016, rain and violent winds intensified, causing extensive floods in the Gemena neighbourhoods located on the banks of rivers Mombonga, Sukia and Labo.



Flooded houses in Gemena Township, Photo Credit: DRC RC

The impact of the rains and violent winds caused flash flooding, leaving seven people wounded. These people received first aid and were evacuated to the nearest health

centres. A rapid evaluation by the National Society noted that 105 houses were destroyed: 53 of these completely and 52 partially, while the balance of affected families, 173 families, lost their household possessions. Four wells (out of seven) in Gemena town were contaminated with dirty rainwater and 200 household latrines, half of those available, were flooded or entirely swept away. The Gemena region is already affected by cholera (source: Direction of Disease Control, DRC Government). Assessment reports indicate that health facilities have not been affected, however, the human resource capacities are not sufficient and the quality of facilities are lacking. There is a high risk of a public health disease outbreak due to the proliferation of vector and water-borne diseases. In addition, there are concerns about the prevailing access to drinking water, sanitation, and other resources required for personal hygiene.

The flood-affected communities are principally engaged in subsistence agriculture. Most of the people affected by the flood currently are staying either with host families and friends or close to their destroyed or damaged houses. Families are sharing resources and food rations with flood-affected families, thereby stretching their modest resources. In addition, due to contamination of the local water source, primarily women and girls now trek for one kilometre to the nearest water source.

The resettlement of affected families is a high priority as overcrowded shelters/accommodation leads to risk of disease proliferation related to the lack of drinking water and insufficient sanitation infrastructure.

This Operations Update is requesting for a timeframe extension by an additional one month (New end date: 23 March 2017). This situation is due to a number of reasons including the delay in the signing of the Grant Agreement, the security situation in the DRC, which was not as favourable first for the arrival of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) on the ground and for the launch of activities. Moreover, this period coincided with the end-of-year holiday during which services were at a reduced rate with minimum service both for the National Society and for the IFRC team in the DRC, which also had to provide logistics support in connection with the procurement and delivery of items from Kinshasa to Gemena and also for local procurements in Gemena. It should also be noted that the repeated postponement of flights from Kinshasa to Gemena did not help matters, especially as these flights are only once a week.

The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the USA, as well as DG ECHO, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) the Medtronic and Zurich Foundations and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Red Cross Society of Democratic Republic of Congo would like to extend many thanks to all partners for their generous contributions.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

For the initial response, the DRC Red Cross deployed 88 Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) volunteers, who provided relief assistance to families and evacuated the elderly, children and physically-challenged people to safe, flood-free sites. The wounded (in total seven people), were evacuated by DRC Red Cross volunteers to two health centres (namely the Ville and Boukouda health centres).

These volunteers also conducted an initial damage assessment. Below is a summary of the affected population. The assessment data was forwarded to the National Disaster Management Director based at the national headquarters in Kinshasa.

Table 1: Summary table of affected persons

Total number of the affected population	Total number of the most vulnerable families		
	# partially destroyed houses and all the essential items	# totally destroyed houses and all the essential items	# lost all the essential items
2,628 people (526 families)	52 families	53 families	173 families (865 people)
	105 families (525 people)		
	278 most vulnerable families (1,390 people)		

The Provincial Secretary of the Gemena Provincial Red Cross Branch and the National Disaster Management Director regularly meet at the national headquarters to assess the situation on the ground.

Due to limited resources and equipment, the volunteers of the Gemena Branch cannot provide material assistance the flood affected people, however, they visit the these people on a daily basis, providing psychological support.

About 73.01 % of activities have been implemented, amongst which environmental sanitation materials and protective equipment have been procured, awareness teams have been set up, and some already commenced community outreach activities. Aquatabs for water purification have been purchased, volunteer trainings on sensitization techniques and the use of shelter tool kit have been conducted, tenders for the supply of Non-Food Items (NFIs) and procurement of shelter construction equipment have been launched, suppliers selected, and workshops on NFI procurement standards have been organized, amongst others.

Activities left to be implemented include the distribution of NFIs, completion of shelter construction, rehabilitation of water points and sensitization, which shall be completed before the end of February, as detailed under “Proposed Strategy”.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The Red Cross of the DRC posted information on the IFRC’s Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). This information is accessible to all Movement partners. In addition, five Partner National Societies are present in the DRC: the Belgian (francophone), Canadian, French, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross Societies as well as the ICRC. The Partners in country are engaged in specific support for projects and areas of intervention.

Gemena is located in the Equateur region (Nord Ubangi) where activities related to the IFRC Emergency Appeal (MDRCD018) against Yellow Fever, Cholera and Measles epidemics are being implemented. In the same region, the DRC Red Cross is also conducting social mobilization for a polio vaccination campaign, though it should be noted that Gemena is not a target location for the above-mentioned Emergency Appeal. This DREF should be implemented as a stand-alone operation because the appeal is only covered by 53% (and then a whole series of activities cannot / could not be implemented) and this 53% funding is already fully allocated and Gemena is not part of the EA’s geographic coverage. The Operations Manager and Logistics Delegate who will support the implementation of this operation, and tools and resources, such as Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials will be shared across the operations.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The provincial government through its Provincial Minister for Public Works and humanitarian partners (including UNICEF and World Vision (which is implementing a project on mother and child follow-up, community self-reliance and education) visited the disaster site to assess the damage. In response to the floods, a representative from the Provincial Ministry of Social Affairs organised a meeting on the day of the floods. A second meeting took place on Wednesday 16 November. Officials asked for the support of the partners present at this meeting, however specific roles or responsibilities were not assigned. Those who participated included the Provincial Red Cross, the UNICEF focal point, World Vision.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Please refer to the original EPoA, which provides an overview of the needs analysis, beneficiary selection, and scenario planning for this DREF operation.

Risk Assessment

For now, the situation could worsen if measures are not taken in a timely manner by the provincial government to build another site which is safer from floods.

Also, Red Cross will pay attention to the country’s socio-political situation (elections have been postponed to 2018, which is causing tension) that could affect the schedule for the operation, both at the level of preparations and implementation. The operation plans to undertake local procurement in Kinshasa where goods are available in the local market.

In addition, the regular interruption of flights from Kinshasa to Gemena could hamper the smooth running of the operation.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The main objective is to improve of the living conditions of 278 households most vulnerable to floods in Gemena. Support will be provided in the areas of health and care, water and sanitation and hygiene promotion, distribution of non-food items and emergency shelter for those who lost their houses.

Proposed strategy

An initial assessment was conducted in Gemena by DRC Red Cross volunteers. However, a further in-depth assessment was planned under this DREF operation. Subsequent to this in-depth assessment, assistance will be provided to 1,390 households (278 families) most vulnerable among the 2,628 affected people (see distribution table above).

- This DREF will make it possible to provide urgent assistance in terms of emergency shelter, non-food items, the provision of first aid, activities for sanitation and hygiene promotion, building the capacities of volunteers through refresher trainings in the areas of response to this operation (techniques for distribution, sensitization, construction of emergency shelter).
- Volunteers will be trained on shelter, distribution and awareness techniques. The module on Oral rehydration solution (ORS) will also be part of the training package. The trainers will brief volunteers on ORS use and management techniques, and the volunteers will explain it to the community during outreach activities, showing them how to locally produce the product.
- A session for lessons learned and evaluation of the satisfaction of beneficiaries will be organised to evaluate and draw lessons from the management of this operation as well as measure the impact of the activity on beneficiaries. That opportunity will be used to brief National Society volunteers and staff on DREF and Emergency appeal guidelines.

As mentioned above, about 73% of activities have been implemented, amongst which environmental sanitation materials and protective equipment has been procured, awareness teams have been set up and some already commenced community outreach activities, Aquatabs purchased, volunteer training on sensitization techniques and the use of shelter tool kit have been conducted, tenders for the supply of NFIs and procurement of shelter construction equipment have been launched and suppliers selected, and workshops on NFI procurement standards have been organized, amongst others. Details of implemented activities can be seen below under “Detailed Operational Plan”.

With regards to the implementation of remaining activities, NFIs were received in the field on 14 February, distribution was scheduled to begin on 16 February and completed by ending February. Also, shelter construction commenced on 11 February and is due to be completed in the coming days. As regards water points, the budget planned (CHF 2,000) turned out to be insufficient to rehabilitate four (4) water points. Indeed, with regard to local market prices, rehabilitating a water point costs on average CHF 2,500. Also, none of the identified water points are public, so the Red Cross team had to negotiate with the owners for them to freely donate their water points for public use. Eventually, two water points have been retained for rehabilitation, and administrative measures taken for these structures to be ceded to the community. Their rehabilitation will be carried out with funds saved from purchases. In all, the remaining activities should be completed by 20 February. However, a one month extension is requested so that activities are completed and the operation closed without haste and awareness teams can be thorough in their activity.

Operational support services

Please refer to the original EPoA, which provides an overview of the assistance from Operational support services required for this DREF operation.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming/ Areas common to all sectors		
Outcome 1: Supporting and monitoring of the implementation of the DREF operation	Output	% of achievement
	Output 1.1: Continuous coordination with all stakeholders.	75%

Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
1.1.1 Monitoring mission of the activities planned by NHQ	X		50%
1.1.2 Deployment of a Regional Disaster Response Team member (Relief with logistics background)	X		100%
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>1.1.1. For now, the National Society has designated a focal point for the operation, who is on the field with the RDRT to implement activities. A mission by the National Director of Disaster Management and a member of the General Secretariat at the national headquarters for the follow-up of activities has been planned.</p> <p>1.1.2. The RDRT arrived in the field in Kinshasa on 17 January. The delay in deployment was due, not only to the late signature of the Memorandum of Understanding, but also to the insecure situation relative to the socio-political crisis in the DRC. As at now, the RDRT is already on the ground in Gemena, despite the various cancellations of Kinshasa to Gemena flights.</p> <p>Given this delay, the duration of the mission may be revised from 60 to 45 days. However, since the National Society intends to request an extension of the timeframe, it is advisable for the RDRT to stay within the 60 days, as originally planned, to enable it to provide further support to the National Society.</p>			

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion			
Outcome 1: Immediate risk of water-borne disease is reduced through the provision of improved sanitation and hygiene promotion in flood-affected areas of Democratic Republic of Congo, over a period of three months	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 1.1: Target population is provided with adequate environmental sanitation measures (Target 1,390 people (278 families))		81.25 %
	Output 1.2: Target population is provided with hygiene promotion, which meets SPHERE standards (Target: 1,390 people (278 families))		62.5 %
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
1.1.1 Procurement of environmental sanitation materials and protective equipment	X		100 %
1.1.2 Develop community sanitation committees (Target: 3 committees) 1 committee /district	X		100 %
1.1.3 Conduct environmental sanitation campaigns (Target: 3 committees) 1 committee/district	X		75 %
1.1.4 Procurement of HH water treatment product (aqua tabs)	X		50 %
1.2.1 Training of volunteers on health and hygiene promotion and the use of IEC materials (Target: 40 volunteers + 3 volunteer supervisors)	X		100 %
1.2.2 Production of information, education and communication materials (Target: 2,000 posters, 2,000 leaflets, and 6 image boxes)	X		50 %
1.2.3 Conduct health and hygiene promotion through house to house approach (Target: all affected families)	X		50 %
1.2.4 Procure/distribution of hygiene related NFIs comprising buckets (one pc per family), dignity kits (one pc per family), jerry cans (one pc per family) and soap (10 pcs per family); and provide sensitization on their use (Target: 278 families)		X	50%

Progress towards outcomes

- 1.1.1 Environmental sanitation and protective material have already been made available to volunteers.
- 1.1.2 Awareness teams were split into one intervention group per targeted neighbourhood. Also, some eight (8) teams of five (5) emergency shelter construction volunteers each are waiting for material
- 1.1.3 Volunteers have kicked off community outreach activities (door-to-door and mass sensitization).
- 1.1.4 Aquatabs was purchased in Kinshasa and transport to Gemena is already planned. However, there are some concerns about the frequency of flights, while payment will be made after delivery in Gemena.
- 1.2.1 40 volunteers and 3 supervisors received theoretical training on sensitization techniques for 2 consecutive days, followed by practical exercises to reconcile theory with field realities.
- 1.2.2 Printing of leaflets, posters and image boxes is still being finalized.
- 1.2.3 Beginning of awareness in the field. 10 teams of four (4) volunteers each were deployed to the field to conduct outreach activities in all 11 districts targeted by the DREF. These volunteers are monitored by 3 supervisors.
- 1.2.4. Following the launch of the tenders and the response by suppliers, a counting commission was set up by the Red Cross Committee of Gemena and in the presence of the various suppliers, for the opening of the bids and analysis. As at now, the supplier selection process has been completed and the contracts signed with selected suppliers. (See 1.2.2. On shelters and settlements).

Shelter and settlements				
Outcome 1: Immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population in flood-affected areas of DRC are met over a period of two months	Outputs		% of achievement	
	Output 1.1: Target population is provided on emergency shelter items (Target: 105 families)		83.33 %	
	Output 1.2: Target population is provided with non-foods items (Target: 278 families)		60 %	
Activities		Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
		Yes	No	
1.1.1	Training of volunteers on use of shelter tool kit (Target: 40 volunteers + 3 supervisors)	X		100 %
1.1.2	Procure/transport emergency shelter items (nails (100g per family), shelter tool kits (one pc per family), tarpaulins (3 pcs per family) and timber (13 pc per family) Target: 105 families)		X	50 %
1.1.3	Mobilization of volunteers to provide demonstration/sensitization on temporary shelter construction (Target: 40 volunteers)	X		100 %
1.2.1	Training of volunteers on distribution techniques (target 40 volunteers + 3 supervisors)	X		100 %
1.2.2	Procure/transport NFIs and emergency shelter items in accordance with IFRC procurement standards (blankets (two pcs per family), kitchen sets (one pc per family), mats (two pcs per family), (Target: 278 families) and transportation of material to Gemena		X	50 %
1.2.3	Distribute NFIs and emergency shelter items in accordance with IFRC procurement standards (blankets (two pcs per family), kitchen sets (one pc per family) (Target: 278 families)		X	30 %
Progress towards outcomes				

Volunteers trained for planned shelter activities are in the field to commence activities.

- 1.1.1 A two (2) days theoretical training of 40 volunteers and 3 supervisors on the emergency shelter construction techniques was conducted.
- 1.1.2 Working sessions on shelter tool kits were organized. Also, several documents on the general beneficiary base, dispatch plans of shelter tools kit to targeted homeless families in the various communes and districts, distribution sheets and distribution of tokens were prepared. Following the launch of tenders and the submissions by suppliers, a mixed commission (Red Cross / Suppliers) selected suppliers who met the criteria. As at now, contracts are signed with suppliers and material will be delivered in the coming days. (See 1.2.2.).
- 1.1.3 After the training, practical exercises were conducted to enable these 40 trained volunteers to reconcile theories with field realities.
- 1.2.1. Training of 40 volunteers on distribution techniques in Gemena, followed by a training on procedures.
- 1.2.2. Following the launch of the tenders, a counting commission was set up by the Red Cross Committee of Gemena, in the presence of the various suppliers, for the opening of the bids and analysis. To date, the supplier selection process has been completed and contracts signed with selected suppliers: As concerns tenders, the publication took place on 27 January 2017 and was closed on 03 February 2017 at noon.

Following this analysis, 3 suppliers were identified for the 4 lots:

- Lot 1: Construction equipment (hardware) by ETS SHIZA
- Lot 2: Kitchen kit by La Maison LUNGA
- Lot 3: Mosquito nets, tarpaulins and blankets, by LUNGA
- Lot 4: Wood was supplied by SAMAKI KOYA

The equipment will be delivered within the next few days and arrangements will be made for suppliers to be paid by wire transfer.

- 1.2.3 Workshops on NFI procurement standards have been organized. Also, several documents on beneficiaries, the dispatch plans of articles per municipality and neighbourhoods, NFI distribution plans, as well as distribution sheets and tokens were prepared. Distributions will commence upon receipt of the articles to be distributed. Suppliers started deliveries on Friday 10 February and volunteers will start preparing the kits in the coming days. Distribution shall begin in the third week of February.

Budget

An estimated CHF 30,000 was saved from purchases and since volunteers per diems for distribution and shelter construction activities were not budgeted for during the planning process, some of the saved funds shall be reallocated to that use. Also, these same saved funds shall help to rehabilitate two (2) of the planned four (4) water points, which will now cost USD 2,500 each on the local market. Thus, despite a slight change in the expenses, budget remains unchanged. Please refer to the original EPoA budget for this DREF operation.

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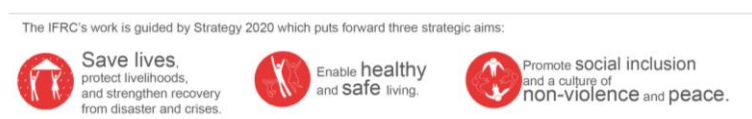
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How we work

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 Humanitarian 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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