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## Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update

### Liberia: Montserrado & Margibi Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation:</b> MDRLR004	<b>Glide n°:</b> FL-2017-000146-LBR
<b>Date of Issue:</b> 29 December 2017	
<b>Operation Manager (responsible for this EPoA):</b> Younos Abdul Karim, Head of Country Office.	<b>Point of contact (name and title):</b> G. Ambullai Perry, Director of Programmes
Operation start date: 6th October 2017	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 3-months (Original timeframe 6 January 2018). <b>Extended timeframe:</b> 1-month extension (ending 6 February 2018)
<b>Overall operation budget:</b> CHF 127,086	
<b>Number of people at risk:</b> 10,000	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 2,500
<b>Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> Liberia National Red Cross Society presence (3,000volunteers, 67staff, 15 Chapters)	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Country Office, ICRC Delegation, Canadian RC and Danish RC	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> UNICEF, WHO, WFP, LRRRC, NDMA, MOH, OXFAM	

#### Operational progress and request for time extension

This DREF operation of CHF 127,086 was launched on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to support the LNRCS in meeting the shelter and non-food item needs of 2,500 people or 500 families, who were the most affected by heavy flooding in September 2017. The flooding left 42 communities inundated with water in lower Margibi and Montserrado counties of Liberia.

Approximately 70% of the DREF amount of CHF 127,086 is for relief items, construction supplies and training materials amounting to CHF 87,248. The bulk of these items are expected to arrive in Monrovia on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2017, and will only be cleared through customs in early January 2018. Training and distribution can then proceed in full in January 2018 once these procured items arrive.

As a consequence of the above delayed procurement, only limited funds have been spent so far amounting to CHF 15,823 being 12.4% of the DREF Budget. This will rise sharply once payment is made for the items currently being procured. The significant delay is caused due to long exemption procedures. It took eight weeks for the exemption clearances. Items were not sent to country until exemption was granted.

Liberia is in the top 15 poorest countries in the world and the 500 families targeted by this DREF who lost some or all of their possessions and tools of trade and also had their livelihoods impaired by an almost complete loss of farming crops will be pushed into a cycle of poverty if this DREF, despite its delay, is not completed. Many of these families are still in displacement centers waiting to return home. The rains were also unseasonably long in Liberia this year and the dry season started only in December 2017.

An extension of this DREF operation is therefore sought until 6th February 2018.

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the disaster

The incessant torrential rains during third-fourth week of September 2017 left 42 communities inundated with water in Lower Margibi and Montserrado Counties of Liberia. According to rapid assessments by the local Red Cross branch and the office of the City Mayor of Unification City along with local community leaders there were 21 villages/communities and close to 10,000 people or 2,000 families affected by rainfall. Around 1,500 families' homes and livelihood security were affected by the floods. water sources were contaminated as a result of the floods in the vulnerable communities. Flooded latrines, factories, graves and water sources put the community at risk of water and vector borne diseases.



Liberia is amongst the world most wet countries and has a record number of floods in the last ten years. Lower Margibi has a history of recurring floods in the last 4 years where communities remain at risk of flooding especially in the peak of the rainy season. In late June and early July 2016, the National Disaster Management Agency reported that over 15,000 persons were affected by floods in 49 communities of Lower Margibi. In Montserrado, urban communities are among the most affected with over 45% of the affected population.

Once again, the Du River joining the Atlantic Ocean in Lower Margibi overflowed its banks thereby leaving people in their communities at risk. The main road to International Airport was rendered impassable due to the flood waters, heavily constraining vehicle traffic and those travelling by air as road traffic have to find alternative routes. The rains hampered ability of those marooned in their villages for return to safety.

### Summary of the current response

#### Overview of Host National Society

In response to the back-to-back floods (2016 and 2017), the LNRCS dispatched assorted relief items procured under the current Japanese supported floods preparedness and response project. The items included 300 sleeping mats, 1000 bars of soap, 2 bales of baby clothes (boys and girls) 2 bales children's clothes (Boys and girls 5-17), 2 bales male and female clothes (Adults), 400 blankets. were people in distributed to affected communities were staying in specific shelters in Lower Margibi.

The LNRCS has a strong capacity in water and sanitation programming. The LNRCS and NDMA set up a daily National Coordination forum on 17 September to coordinate information and initial response. During the first meeting on 18 September, relief agencies including WHO, WFP, UNDP, OXFAM and PSI along with the City authorities, MOH and community leaders resolved that drinking water, food, shelter and clothing should be supplied immediately. Red Cross also prioritized search and rescue efforts as critical where some people may still be stranded for days without amenities.

The Red Cross, while validating the list of affected families commenced the distribution of minimum assorted non-food items about 200 families. These were from the IFRC, Japanese Flood Recovery Project with LNRCS and DRC emergency stocks. The Red Cross also continued to advocate for drinking water, rescue efforts and additional food and non-food supplies for the affected population.

The LNRCS capacity to respond is enhanced by its experience in managing similar emergencies, especially in 2016. There are 5 FACT trained, 1 ERU Logistics, 2 RDRTs (relief and WASH) and a reasonable logistics that need minimum augmentation to further function effectively without stress. With a well-structured Chapter and Branch on the grounds, the response actions can be easily coordinated with other actors.

## **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country**

The IFRC provides technical support to the LNRCS through its Liberia Country Office, which is based in Monrovia, West Africa Countries Cluster office in Abuja and Africa Regional Office, in Nairobi, Kenya. The DOP (MAALR001) is supporting a number of IFRC delegates in Liberia including: Head of Country Office, Programme Development Delegate, Finance Delegate and a number of well-trained national support staff, who are provided technical support to the NS in response to the flooding as needed. Alongside the DoP, the IFRC also supported LNRCS in the implementation of DREF (MDRLR003) for the Legislative and Presidential Election Preparedness in October 2017. ICRC remains a strong Movement Partner to the LNRCS. The Delegation in Monrovia provided support to the LNRCS to respond to the disaster.

### **Movement Coordination**

The LNRCS with the support of the IFRC coordinates the support of RCRC Movement partners. The Movement is part of the coordination mechanisms at national level, meeting every day on the onset of the disaster. The Canadian Red Cross donated assorted relief items including 2 bales of shower slippers, 2 bales of plastic mats, 4 dozen of bath towels, and 2 bales lappas. IFRC, ICRC and DRC teams in Liberia are supporting the LNRCS promptly respond to the floods.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

As a result of the flood, a joint assessment conducted alongside the NDMA and the Liberia Refugees Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), the Disaster Unit of the General Services Agency (GSA) to collect, collate and consolidate useful data for response. In addition, the coordination of the response was being led by the NDMA consolidating the different response support to the operation as well as coordinating resource mobilization along with partners. UN agencies were also supporting the Governments to provide timely assistance to the affected people. The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) provided rescue services using float boats and vehicles to evacuate people from their trapped communities across flood water lines.

## **Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning**

### **Needs Assessments & Analysis**

Basic needs of affected people including WASH, non-food items/relief health, psychosocial support, shelter and security were identified during two rounds of initial and rapid assessments conducted by the LNRCS. Many people could not move from their flooded and damaged homes fearing theft and insecurity. They feared going to centres and returning to find their household goods stolen. Livelihood security was greatly at risk. Other critical immediate needs included provision of ready-made safe drinking water and food. The provision of water storage gallons to enhance storage capacity at household level, and hygiene promotion to address the risk of water and vector borne diseases were among critical immediate needs of the affected population.

As part of the immediate response, and with support from the ICRC, the LNRCS WASH conducted water trucking in some extremely affected communities in Margibi. Access to communities in parts of Montserrado and Margibi was challenging. In some cases, LNRCS needed to use the Mercedes four-wheeler Truck and in some cases, it organized local arrangements for wood canoes to transport community members from risk areas that were cut-off by the floods. The LNRCS manned the Airport highway overnight and deployed staff and volunteers, a Mercedes truck rescued people and goods from stuck and stranded vehicles.

### **Beneficiary selection**

Targeted assistance beneficiary selection considered the followings;

- Partial or complete loss of household items
- Partial or complete loss of livelihood assets
- Partial or complete loss of water storage
- Houses partially and or completely damaged

Generally, all affected persons will receive support in shelter and essential non-food items, WASH, PSS, and community health promotion.

Preference will be given to:

- Households which are in the latest list of poor/near poor households
- Households which have not received any supports or received very little support from other agencies
- Households which have no sustainable source of income and livelihoods
- Households with person(s) with a disability or chronically ill person(s)
- Households headed by women
- Households with pregnant or lactating women

- Households with elderly person(s), i.e. over 65 years
- Households with children under 5 years

### **Risk Assessment**

Though Liberia is in the start of the dry season, it remains critical to consider that families that were affected by the floods still live at risk of other water-borne diseases. The affected communities in the two Chapters face recurrent and multi-hazards ranging from health risks to disaster.

It was assumed that politicians would undermine the delivery of humanitarian assistance by providing response assistances to affected people. That was an opposite of the assumption. People affected by the floods still remain in extreme vulnerability for shelter, health, WASH, and PSS needs. LNRCS still works in the communities that are faced with the impacts of the floods in September.

Liberia is yet to have an International Disaster Response Regulation on international response protocols. The assumption is that in the absence of such basic regulation, implementation would also be challenged by customs duties, clearances, and taxations.

### **Feasibility and delivery capacity**

LNRCS, through its network of volunteers down to community level, is well positioned to carry out relief and recovery interventions. Distributions will be carried out in accordance to IFRC and LNRCS procedures and processes in line with the fundamental principles. To build on local resources as well as create linkage with local authorities, the operation involved representatives from communities to support targeting and distributions. These representatives are being familiarized with the working of the Red Cross.

## **B. Operational strategy and plan**

The Plan of Action was developed based on the initial information and details provided by the rapid assessments conducted in relevant sectors of intervention including cross-cutting (common to all sectors), Non-Food Items distribution, Emergency Health, PSS and WASH.

### **Overall objectives**

- Meet the early recovery needs in shelter and essential non-food items, WASH, relief, health, PSS targeting 2,500 people or 500 families affected by floods (25% of total affected people) in Lower Margibi and Montserrado Counties.
- Support the improvement of knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction, paired with small-scale resilience-building measures in some of the worst hit communities.

### **Proposed strategy**

This plan maintains interventions aiming to address the WASH, non-food item, health, PSS and shelter needs of flood affected people.

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene**

Water and sanitation activities will be carried out through distribution of hygiene kits (1 kit/family for 1 month), water storage items/facilities, household chlorination, rehabilitation of water points, environmental cleanliness, solid waste management and provision of water purification tablets (Aquatabs). Key messages to raise awareness on prevention of water and vector borne diseases will be disseminated at community level.

### **Shelter and non-food items**

This will consider provision of emergency shelter materials (tarpaulins) and essential non-food items. 500 families whose houses (roof, partition, cooking sheds, etc.) either completely or partially damaged will receive tarpaulins. Affected families will receive 2 tarpaulins, 2 blankets, 2 sleeping mats, 2 mosquito nets, 1 kitchen set and 2 containers of 5-gallon capacity.

### **Health**

The immediate health and PSS focus will be on promoting safe communities through health and hygiene promotion. The volunteers will be trained to carry out health and hygiene promotion messages while PSS will focus on rehabilitating and providing psychological first aid support to individuals and families affected by the disaster. Key targeted among the populations are children, women, the elderly and single women household heads.

## **Operational support services**

### **Human resources**

The LNRCS has trained over 250 DM volunteers in the affected chapters in the last 4 years. These volunteers and trained staff are deployed and engaged during the operations. They carried out needs assessment and distributed initial relief and WASH items to affected people.

The HQs programme team supported the chapters from time to time as the implementation continued. In strengthening the timely delivery of the planned actions at HQs and the chapters, seven (7) - skilled volunteers (2 per chapter and 3 at HQ) will be added to the teams to provide surge support. They will receive fixed incentives for the operational period.

IFRC is providing technical support to LNRCS over the course of the operation. There has been no deployment of Relief RDRT (though mentioned in the EPoA)

The overall responsibilities of the operation in terms of implementation, monitoring, compliances and reporting lie with the operations manager.

### **Logistics and supply chain**

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain – including procurement, storage and transport – in accordance with the operation requirements and aligned to IFRC logistics standards, processes and procedures.

Procurement under this operation was by the IFRC Finance and Administration Delegate through their Procurement. additional material support from the Sahel Cluster will be added to the in-country items.

All procurement relating to this operation was done in line with the regulations of the Liberian government as well as the IFRC standard procurement systems and procedures to ensure transparency and accountability. Quality inspection were undertaken at the end of procurement process before items were accepted and goods received notes signed.

### **Communications**

LNRCS will profile the assistance provided under this operation to the public through news and features in local media. Updates on the response will also be posted on the LNRCS social media portals.

### **Security**

The main security risk is from opportunistic crime. Sporadic outbreaks of violence resulting from disputes over land, illegal mining and the exploitation of natural resources pose a potential threat to members in remote locations. Adequate risk mitigation measures must be employed. All RCRC personnel actively involved in the operations must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security). Road travel presents a considerable safety hazard, which ought to be addressed appropriately.

### **Community engagement and accountability**

Community engagement and accountability measures will ensure and effective complaints and feedback procedures and mechanism. In addition, LNRCS will inform community members that they can use a designated mobile phone number to ask questions, share their concerns or provide feedback to inform change to be made on operational plan.

### **Gender, diversity and protection**

All activities are being implemented in line with the as the IFRC Minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming and the LNRCS Gender Policy.

### **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER)**

Monitoring and reporting on the operation will be done in accordance with the IFRC minimum reporting standards, with a final report to be made available three months after the end of the operation timeframe. Regular monitoring

of the planned activities will be carried out by the operation team while scheduled monitoring visits will be made jointly by IFRC/LNRCS teams. A lesson learned workshop is planned at the end of the operation.

### Administration and Finance

The IFRC, through its finance unit in-country will oversee and regulate the financial aspect of the operation. They will provide the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets and carry out all expenditure.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

### Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

**Outcome 1: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the DREF operation**

**Output 1.1: Rapid needs assessment are carried out to inform the preparation/revision of the Emergency Plan of Action in Margibi and Montserrado Counties**

Activities planned	Implementation (%)
Conduct participatory initial assessment to inform the design of the EPoA and detailed sectoral plans	100%
Develop sectoral plans which clearly show community needs and targets	100%
Conduct community satisfaction survey	0%
Monitoring and Supervision	10%
Lesson learnt workshop	0%
Final report	0%

**Outcome 2: Reduction in risk of water and vector borne diseases in target communities**

**Output 2.1: Improved access to and use of safe water by the target population**

Conduct water purification/household chlorination crash-training for 50 LNRCS volunteers	0%
Provide water purification tablets and orientation on their use to 500 families	0%
Procure and distribute locally appropriate hygiene kits	0%
Procure and distribute assorted community environmental and waste management item	0%
Carry out mass community cleaning up and waste management in 20 communities most affected	25%

**Outcome 3: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met**

**Output 3.1: Essential household items are provided to the target population**

Procure and distribute household kits/ essential non-food items (assorted non-food items) to 500 families (following assessment and community targeting/identification)	0%
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**Output 3.2: Emergency shelter assistance is provided to the target population**

Procure and distribute emergency shelter, tool kits to 500 families	18%
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## Contact Information

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

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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 (NGO's) 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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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable healthy  
and safe living.



Promote social inclusion  
and a culture of  
non-violence and peace.

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