

Emergency Plan of Action Final Report

Gambia: Windstorm Surge

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRGM012
Date of Issue: 24 March 2020	Glide number: VW-2019-000069-GMB
Date of disaster: 19 June 2019	
Operation start date: 27 June 2019	Operation end date: 27 September 2019
Host National Society: The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS)	Operation budget: CHF 198,473
Number of people affected: About 15,000 people (approx. 1,666 households)	Number of people assisted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the DREF: 3,600 people (400 households) • In collaboration with UNICEF support under the WASH sector 136,750 people (15,195 households)
N° of National Societies involved in the operation: Belgian Red Cross	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: Three (3) including the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and Offices of the Regional Governors' Upper River Region (URR) and Central River Region (CRR).	

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The Netherlands Red Cross Society, the Belgian Government and the Canadian Government contributed in replenishing the DREF for this operation. On behalf of The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS), the IFRC would like to extend gratitude to all for their generous contributions.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

On 19 June 2019, a windstorm surge hit through five (5) regions in the Upper River Region (URR) namely; Jimara, Tumanna, Wuli East, Wuli West and Sandu districts as well as two districts of Central River Region (CRR) namely Upper Fulado East, Upper Fulado West and Niani, of Gambia, affecting 67 communities. The windstorm surge affected over 900 families (8,100 pax) and caused internal displacement, injuries and 4 deaths (3 in URR and 1 in CRR). The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) and National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) indicated that over 15,000 people were affected, including 1,425 people displaced, among whom many were hosted by relatives, extended families and neighbors and others were temporarily hosted in evacuation centers.



The GRCS volunteers were engaged in the DREF activities © GRCS

The report indicated that four (4) people were confirmed dead as a result of the fallen walls of buildings and flying iron sheets, 101 people were injured, and over 900 houses were either damaged or destroyed - totally destroyed (500), partially destroyed (450). According to the National Meteorological Department and authorities of the two regions, it was the first time in recorded history that Gambia was experiencing such a disaster with this scale of destruction caused to the lives and housing of communities, in addition to the injuries. Due to the urgent needs of the windstorm affected population, the Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) requested a DREF which the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), supported by releasing CHF 198,473 on 27 June 2019. The operation lasted three months as planned and focused on technical assistance in shelter and shelter materials for repairing the damaged houses, health and sanitation activities.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

Through this DREF operation, the Gambian Red Cross Society was able to support a total of 400 families (3,600 people) in CRR and URR with emergency shelter and related needs. Indeed, the National Society responded to the above-mentioned windstorm by delivering assistance to 3,600 people¹ in the Eastern Regions of Central and Upper River Region (CRR & URR). The operational teams worked to ensure the timely completion of the 400 shelter assistance materials for 400 households. Each family was supported with 20 iron sheets, 3kg of nails, 25 woods for trusses, 9 bars of soaps, 2 buckets, 3 mats, 1 kitchen set, 2 tarpaulins, 2.5kg of galvanized wire and 1 shelter kit.



Finished emergency shelter constructed by volunteers © IFRC

As part of the Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between GRCS and UNICEF on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in emergencies, UNICEF provided 150 household kits for WASH, 200 collapsible water containers and 35,000 water purification tablets (aqua tabs) to support the affected families. The GRCS, as an implementing partner, embarked on a humanitarian response that focused on distribution of aqua tablets, collapsible water containers and the WASH household kits to the affected families. This was done alongside sanitation promotion education through house-to-house approach on proper hand washing, household water treatment and open defecation.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

There is no IFRC and ICRC presence in the country. The Gambia Red Cross Society is covered by both IFRC and ICRC Dakar Cluster Offices. The only partner National Society with presence in the Gambia was the Spanish Red Cross. GRCS has been working with the Spanish Red Cross for over 10 years in areas including livelihoods, Health, WASH etc. It is worth adding that GRCS is currently working on expanding its PNSs with the China, Belgian, Turkish, Qatar and Kenya Red Cross Societies.

For this response operation, the National Society received technical support from both IFRC and ICRC through field missions deployed to the Gambia. The Belgian Red Cross deployed a delegate to The Gambia, who provided support in the following, a) development of Kobo Collect forms for real time data collection in the field, b) Training of IT and communication team on the development of Kobo Collect using the mobile phones, c) Visit to URR and CRR, the two regions that were affected by the disaster to assess the situation and collect first-hand information on how to develop the tools for data collection in the field, d) Developed a Data-Base System for GRCS and e) Donated to GRCS 10 Mobile Phones for real time data collection, Bar-code and a Bar-code scanner for future use in the relief distribution.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

From the onset of the disaster, GRCS coordinated closely with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), which has the responsibility of coordinating all forms of disaster response operations in the country, the Office of the Governor and Partners at regional and headquarters levels, in coordinating the assessment of the disaster. Also, the Government representative as the conveners of coordination efforts with Governor and GRCS had set up a coordination cell. In coordinating with all partners to ensure a harmonized response to the disaster, GRCS was looking at shelter issues and coordination with the NDMA. The GRCS through its regional structures with NDMA set up an operation base in Bansang (CRR) and in Basse (URR) to better support the operations and to ensure capacity strengthening of the regions. The GRCS had supported the emergency response and had scaled up its capacity in the two regions in carrying out assessments and then developed a detailed response plan.

On 24 June 2019, a special disaster account was launched in URR by the Governor; to mobilize more resources from the citizens of the region for affected families to receive assistance. The Gambia Red Cross staff and volunteers present

¹ The average number of people per household in The Gambia is nine (9).

at the launch contributed one thousand Dalasi (GMD 1,000.00) to the disaster account. The first trucks from the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) with food items (100 bags and 65 gallons of oil) arrived in URR and CRR on 22 June 2019. These food items were distributed on 24 June to 46 families among the displaced population. Prior to the distribution activities, on 21 June 2019, the GRCS team (National and regional), held a coordination meeting with NDMA, Governor of URR and the Special Advisor of the President, deployed in the field, to map out how to carry out assessments in the remaining communities that were not reached by the assessment team. GRCS has also partnered and coordinated with the UNICEF and UNFPA for distribution of 150 Hygiene Kits and 300 Dignity Kits respectively in addition to the DREF support.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs Analysis

The main needs identified during the initial assessments were emergency shelter for the families who lived in the more than 900 households identified as damaged: totally destroyed (500), partially destroyed (450). Over 1,453 people have been displaced in over 43 communities/villages by the windstorm. Most of these affected populations were housed with relatives or host families. Findings of the joint rapid assessment carried by both GRCS and NDMA confirmed that displaced persons were sheltering with family friends and other extended family members within the communities. Most of the damaged houses were self-built houses that were vulnerable to natural disasters. The roofing materials were very weak and, in some cases, in very bad conditions. Housing was made of locally available materials such as rum palm sticks, timber poles as rafters and trusses, thatch (grasses). Due to climate change, communities were increasingly using industrial construction materials such as iron sheet, cement, nails and timber. The damages affected both male and female headed households. The immediate shelter needs identified by the assessment were:

- Building / roofing materials (trusses, rafters, iron sheets and nails)
- Building super structure for roofing (wood for wall plates to provide basement for the rafters).
- Household materials (buckets, cooking utensils and beddings)

However, at the end of the operation, monitoring visits have shown that some huge houses could not fully recover their roofing needs due to the limited materials they received from the Red Cross. This is due to the fact that a blanket distribution was carried out for all beneficiaries while they have different house sizes and types.

Scenario planning

[Please see EPOA for scenario planning](#)

Operation Risk Assessment

On 20 August 2019, four GRCS staffs (2 DM, 1 health, and 1 driver) were involved in a car accident where the vehicle went off-road and summersaulted in the bushes of Kaiaf in Low River Region (LRR) while travelling to CRR to conduct the training on hygiene promotion and to monitor the community sensitization activities. The accident happened as a result of the slippery road that forced the vehicle off-road. Staff members involved sustained some minor injuries and internal pains and were admitted at the Soma Health Centre until the following day when the program manager came with another vehicle and brought the team back to the Kanifing Municipality for further medical check-up. The DM team involved was away from work for about two weeks which delayed implementation of some activities.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Operational objective

The overall goal of the DREF operation was to provide immediate lifesaving and emergency shelter support to 3,600 most vulnerable people (400 households) affected by the windstorm surge in the Upper River Region (URR) and the Central River Region (CRR) of The Gambia. The operation mainly focused on 300 families whose houses were fully destroyed and 100 families with partially destroyed homes. The final verification and registration of these 400 households was conducted to target the most vulnerable among the affected 950 families who had either partially or completely lost their homes.

Proposed strategy

The operation focused on shelter and WASH, in a bid to contribute to efforts in preventing from further deterioration of the living conditions, safety and dignity of affected people by providing them with the necessary and urgent support to conduct repairs on their damaged houses. Under the WASH component, the implemented activities included sensitization on hygiene promotion, provision of soap and sensitization on hand washing practices. WASH related items were also provided to support households to properly store water for household use.

Shelter and relating household items

To provide targeted population with shelter and household items as per the urgent needs of the affected families, GRCS focused on the provision of immediate shelter needs to 400 families from the over 900 families affected in the two regions (URR and CRR) who have been displaced by the windstorm surge. Considering the position of the government and authorities, temporal shelters were not used under this DREF as an option, but rather to support the affected population with building materials for quick re-fixing of their houses, to allow quick return to normal lives before more rains, which would have exposed people to more harsh weather conditions.

Through the impetus of this DREF operation, The Gambia Red Cross Society developed a model house for future intervention as the leading shelter cluster in country, supported by the deployed RDRT. The National Society also:

- Developed training modules for both volunteers and carpenters for CRR and URR
- Conducted shelter tool kit training and distribution of relief assistance to 30 volunteers from CRR and URR (15 volunteers from CRR and 15 volunteers from URR)
- Conducted training on safe shelter construction and repairs for 25 carpenters of both CRR and URR (10 carpenters from CRR and 15 carpenters from URR).
- Deployed trained volunteers and Carpenters to the households who received shelter materials to help them repair their houses.
- Conducted monitoring to different communities during re-fixation of the roofs and different repairs to the affected communities.
- Prepared a presentation and shared good practices for shelter and settlement in development context (where it was suggested that, the National Society can do a research on the new walling materials and roofing materials) it was suggested also that roof tiles can be introduced and interlocking compressed earth bricks.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Under this sector, The Gambia Red Cross Society, together with the Ministry of Health, conducted a nationwide sensitization on open defecation, especially as the rainy season was approaching. The aim of this was to have every community in the country aware of the dangers of open defecation, to reduce the related impact on the health of communities. As such, GRCS aimed at supporting these government efforts in the targeted communities by conducting the following activities:

- Training of 60 volunteers on hygiene and sanitation promotion including CEA to involve communities and help them appropriate themselves of the teachings on hygiene and sanitation (30 per region);
- Conducted 3 hygiene and health sensitization sessions within the communities on open defecation, proper hand washing, and household water treatment;
- Procured and distributed 800 buckets with lids for household water collection and storage (each household was given 2 buckets);
- Procured and distributed 400 Jerry cans (1 per household) (250 were distributed and another 100 were replenished to GRCS warehouse);
- Procured and distributed 10,800 pieces of soap for household use (9 pieces per household for 400 households).

As part of the Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between GRCS and UNICEF on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in emergencies, UNICEF provided 150 household kits for WASH, 200 collapsible water containers and 35,000 water purification tablets (aqua tabs) to support the affected families which were distributed by the National Society. The GRCS as an implementing partner embarked on a humanitarian response that focused on distribution of aqua tablets, collapsible water containers and the WASH household kits to the affected families.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)


CEA was mainstreamed throughout the DREF intervention to guarantee maximum and meaningful participation of the affected communities. The beneficiary selection criteria were developed with communities and the process was clearly communicated to all affected. The community leaders were fully involved in the operation for information and other operational needs. The community leaders were always part of the distribution in order to ensure that the right people receive the materials and to help resolve issues of similar names and name duplication. A feedback and complaint desk were put in place for recipients of distributed items to provide direct feedback on the distribution exercise. For the purpose of clarity and for a good flow of information, clear roles and responsibilities were agreed with representatives, community leaders and committees. Questionnaires were developed and used to get feedback from the beneficiaries after receiving the materials, thus enabling GRCS to receive information on their level of satisfaction with regards to the services received. Hygiene and health promotion sessions were also very participatory with the help of the CEA tool in collecting feedback and giving responses to community concerns. The GRCS CEA focal point had been in the field with the DREF team to ensure that there was proper community engagement for accountability to beneficiaries.

Coordination

The National Society, within a week after the disaster was able to generate a draft report of the disaster situation, a coordination meeting was organized at GRCS head office; partners were invited including the NDMA and were informed of the rapid assessment findings. IFRC, ICRC UNICEF and NDMA have been the partners working with GRCS in the DREF operation.

NDMA also organized another coordination meeting with all government partners, UN agencies and the same report was presented. In the field, the Red Cross regional offices implementing the DREF operations were in coordination with the Regional Disaster Management offices, data were shared among the organizations, to avoid duplication.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Shelter People reached: 3,600 or 400 families Male: 1,692 Female: 1,908</p>		
Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and short-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of households having received shelter support who have effectively conducted repairs to their damaged houses (Target: At least 80% or 320 households).	80% or 320 HHs	100% or 400 HHs
Shelter Output 1.1: Short-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households supported with emergency shelter material (Target: 400 households or 3,600 people)	400	400
# of households acknowledging usefulness of distributed with shelter items (Target: 400 households or 3,600 people)	400	400
# of volunteers and staff trained in relief distribution (Target: 30 volunteers and 8 staff)	30 volunteers + 8 staff members	30 volunteers + 8 staff members
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>1 - Assessment of shelter and other humanitarian needs posed by the disaster The GRCS conducted the assessment with NDMA, in URR and CRR involving 30 Red Cross volunteers (15 in URR and 15 in CRR). The assessment was carried out on the second day of the disaster 19 -22 June 2019. On 19 June a summary report was released about the extent of the disaster, this report was used as a secondary data and the basis for the field rapid assessment. The assessment was done by using the NDMA assessment tool kit, whereby they had tablets with an application where information collected in the field was filled. The volunteers were given an orientation session on how to use the tablets and application. Data analysis was done by the application, and information was generated for use.</p> <p>2 - Identification of caseloads and verification of beneficiaries in different target groups – inclusion factors integrate gender, diversity and disability in the response to arrive at 400 targeted households GRCS was able to generate the first draft report of the rapid assessment on 25 June 2019 and shared it with partners. Two days later NDMA organized a national coordination meeting regarding the assessment findings, and gap analysis. On 27 - 30 June 2019 GRCS conducted a verification exercise and registration of beneficiaries to determine the targeted beneficiaries to assist. The selection and registration of final beneficiaries were done upon the following criterion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • families that had their houses completely damaged, • families with partially damaged houses, • families headed by women and • families headed by vulnerable individuals. 		

3 - Identification and registration of the targeted 400 families

The identification and registration of the targeted beneficiaries was carried out. The preliminary data generated from the rapid assessment report was used. Indeed, GRCS deployed volunteers in the field for five days using the data to verify and register the affected families. This verification and registration exercise were done in close collaboration with the community leadership (village development committees, and the head of the village), the National Society's executive was informed and involved in the verification process. The list of the final targeted beneficiaries was shared with the authorities and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)



Distribution of relief materials to the affected people by volunteers © IFRC

Because the number of 96 beneficiaries from URR were not met during the distribution of shelter and household items, the volunteers of URR conducted a 'Beneficiary Verification' in order to capture the number targeted in the DREF. The activity was done under the direct supervision of the URR Branch officer and the NDMA regional coordinator for URR. The Branch officer provided regular update to the DM department. The volunteers were able to reach the targeted beneficiaries who benefited for the required materials as planned from 17 to 21 August 2019.

4 - Identification of community participation modalities in program design and implementation

During the beneficiaries' verification process, communities were engaged on the type of support needed as a result of the disaster, the authorities were also consulted for the type of support required based on their cultural knowledge and Government's position regarding the humanitarian response. The choice of beneficiaries regarding cash-based or in-kind intervention was taken into consideration. Volunteers and carpenters were selected from their own communities, which promotes ownership.

5 - Coordination with other relevant sectors for integrated programming

UNICEF provided 200 jerrycans, and 150 UNICEF health kit, ICRC provided 200 tarpaulins, and 200 kitchen set, NDMA distributed materials. Besides, due to the challenging transport for the URR, NDMA accepted providing the transport/truck for the remaining materials for 96 households to the distribution points and GRCS provided the fuel and per diem to the driver.

6- Coordination with Government and other stakeholders

The assessment of the situation was a joint rapid assessment quickly conducted by both NDMA and the National Society. The data analysis was also done in collaboration with NDMA. Additionally, there was a constant communication between the Gambia Red Cross staff, the Sahel CCST colleagues and the IFRC Africa Region DREF team.

Under the Gambia's Disaster Management contingency plan, GRCS is the lead organization for Shelter and NFI cluster in coordination with NDMA. However, there were no stock/supplies of emergency shelter relief items in country owned by the humanitarian partners. Thus, GRCS coordinated with the government and partners for the provision of shelter assistance through local materials before the normal rains started which was forecasted to begin in late June to early July 2019.

7 - Analysis of the local market to identify availability/access to shelter and household items

The GRCS acting logistics officer and DM Coordinator conducted a local market assessment within URR from the 20 to 23 June 2019. There is no market in CRR and as a result, the market assessment was only conducted in URR. Most of the needed items were available in the URR local market. On 9 July 2019, the RDRT and the GRCS acting logistics officer went to the market in Kanifing municipality to confirm the availability of some of the items such as the galvanized wires. During the first IFRC monitoring, the IFRC Sahel CCST logistics officer together with the GRCS acting logistics officer and the RDRT went to the local market for confirmation and approval of the identified items and the suppliers. Local markets were patronized as most of the materials were bought locally. Indeed, the local purchase of materials became an injection of capital to reactivate local economy which eventually created income opportunities.

8 - Procurement and distribution of the shelter and household items (including 1,200 mats and 1,200 blankets) to the affected population

The procurement of materials was done in line with the GRCS finance manual and The Gambia government public procurement procedures. The following materials were procured: 1,200 mats; 800 buckets; 1,050 kilograms of nails; 350 packets of corrugated iron sheets; 3,500 rafters and 5,500 trusses. As planned, the distribution of Shelter and NFIs

started in 18 July 2019 in Central River Region (CRR) where 4 distribution points were set up. Trained volunteers were on the distribution site and facilitated its organization. The distribution lasted for 2 days for each of the two regions and the following items were distributed to each targeted family:

- 1 packet of corrugated iron sheets which contained 20 iron sheets
- 3kg of nails
- 25 woods for trusses and rafters
- 9 soaps
- 2 buckets
- 3 mats

The distribution in URR started on 26 July 2019 and took three days, 250 households benefitted from shelter materials and NFIs. In this region the distribution was a bit different because three different partners provided relief materials to the same beneficiaries, namely: GRCS/IFRC, ICRC and UNICEF. Through the DREF, the National Society distributed per family:

- 1 packet of corrugated Iron sheets (20 iron sheets),
- 25 roofing woods
- 9 soaps
- 3 mats
- 1 shelter tool kit
- 2 buckets

Through ICRC support, the National Society distributed: 1 kitchen set and 2 tarpaulins to each beneficiary/family; UNICEF distributed 1 hygiene kit and 1 jerrycan to each family. All the above-mentioned items were distributed to the same people. This was supervised by the local branch coordinator with trained volunteers and overall monitoring of the RDRT Shelter.

9 - Monitoring of the use of distributed shelter and household items

The National Society's DM staff conducted four (4) field visits to URR and CRR in support of the supervision of the distribution of shelter and household materials by the volunteers and the fixing of damaged roofs caused by the windstorm. These monitoring visits were spread from July to September 2019. The day to day monitoring of the distributed shelter materials was done by trained volunteers. The RDRT was also in both regions monitoring the repair of damaged roofs. The GRCS Senior Management including the Secretary General and Program Manager made a field monitoring visit to CRR and URR of which they visited several households that were affected by the windstorm and have been supported by the DREF. Most of the families they visited managed to recover with the support from the DREF and were grateful to the Red Cross.

10 - Evaluation of the shelter support provided

The shelter support focused on repair and reconstruction of damaged houses to allow displaced persons to go back to their original location and avoid further degradation of the houses due to the expected rains. The support included distribution of shelter tool kits and materials, through the training of volunteers in the communities around safer emergency shelter repairs and general awareness on build back better practices, as well as the training of skilled labour to better and faster support repair and reconstruction works. It was noted that beneficiaries recovered with the support provided. Indeed, the operational team visited beneficiaries who were fixing their houses and were told how to use the materials. The lessons learnt workshop constituted another exercise of assessing the shelter support provided.

Shelter Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on safer emergency roof repairs to provide awareness raising and support to beneficiaries	30	30
# of skilled people (carpenters and builders) trained to support shelter intervention	40	25
# of post distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted	1	3

Narrative description of achievements

1 - Training of volunteers to support the shelter activities in the communities

Within the framework of the Gambia windstorm surge DREF operation, a provision for shelter training for volunteers and carpenters was entrenched to develop resilience skills within the targeted communities. The shelter training was geared towards developing a local capacity to reduce shelter related risk by raising awareness and developing skills at

community level. It targeted a total of 30 volunteers (15 from Central River Region (CRR), 15 Upper River Region (URR) who were trained on emergency shelter and build back safer on 13 and 14 July 2019 at the URR Branch Office by the RDRT Shelter. This was also attended by the two Branch officers of CRR and URR and GRCS logistics. The GRCS DM staff was part of the training as facilitators. The IFRC team comprised of the DM and Logistics staff took part to the opening session of the training. The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) also attended the session. The Governor of URR was informed of the training as well although she did not attend the training.



Practical exercises on construction of emergency shelter, in 2 hours
© IFRC

The first day of the training was theoretical where the trainer used Power Point presentations and demonstrations. They were introduced to the dimensions and required areas per person for shelter support. The volunteers were also divided into 5 groups and given assignments in order to test their level of understanding. The second day was purely practical where the volunteers maintained their groups from day 1 and were tasked to construct temporal shelters for a given number of family members. They were each supplied with a shelter toolkit that they should use for the construction. Each of the 5 groups constructed a temporal shelter of their choice and explained why they chose that type of house. They also explained the advantages and challenges associated to their constructed houses.

2 - Identification and mobilization of 40 skilled people, train them to support shelter intervention of the 400 affected families and other housing needs of the communities in the future

A total of 25 skilled carpenters (10 CRR, 15 URR) were trained on emergency shelter and build back better and safer on 13 and 14 July 2019 at the URR Branch Office by the RDRT. The proposed plan was to have 40 skilled carpenters, but this number was later reduced to 25 because the two Branch Officers of URR and CRR could only find 15 and 10 skilled carpenters respectively within the areas of the affected population.

3 - Identification, assessment and analysis of appropriate and safe local building techniques/practices

The identification of local building techniques was done during training of skilled carpenters and volunteers, where in their groups they were describing their local constructions and indicated weakness in the local practices.

4 - Monitoring of adoption of technical guidance

Monitoring for the adopted techniques for repair and construction started on 18 July 2019, after the distribution of shelter materials in communities. The technical guidance provided was monitored along with general monitoring of all other activities. Technical guidance was given to the carpenters and volunteers, who enabled to process the fixing of the roofs and iron sheets blown off by the windstorm. Both volunteers and carpenters appreciated the techniques by applying them during their repairs.

On 23 August 2019, the GRCS DM Coordinator was invited to CRR and URR by the National Assembly select committee on disaster. The purpose of this activity was for the National Assembly members to monitor the response activities that were ongoing in these two regions and make sure that they were in line with humanitarian standards. During this mission, the beneficiaries expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Red Cross for the support they received after the windstorm. The National Assembly members were very impressed and expressed appreciation to GRCS for complementing Government's efforts in the humanitarian field.

5 - Evaluation of adoption of technical guidance

The evaluation of technical guidance was carried out with the support of local staff and trained volunteers as they can easily reach affected communities. This was also manifested during the Lessons Learnt session by the beneficiaries and carpenters as they confirmed that their knowledge and capacity on shelter were well improved through the DREF.

Challenges

In URR, the ferry that connects the South Bank and the North Bank had a breakdown throughout the period of the distribution of materials and fixing of roofs. This caused a lot of delays for GRCS to transport the relief materials from the South to the North. As a result, GRCS hired and paid small boat owners to transport the materials. This took longer time than planned and more financial resources planned for the transportation. The GRCS monitoring vehicle could only move to the North Bank using the CRR road which is far and takes longer time and required more fuel.

- The roofing materials distributed to the beneficiaries were not enough to completely cover back the roofs of some of the destroyed houses due to large dimension sizes. GRCS has recommended to IFRC that in any future related DREF operation, distribution of materials be based on the required quantity rather than a blanket distribution.
- In the DREF budget, there was limited allocation for monitoring missions which were far less than required. This was realized as the operation went on. GRCS will put more consideration on this in the future.

Lessons Learned

- The combination of the volunteers and carpenters in the same training and their partnership in the roofing activities was a good strategy for effective work and for recruitment of carpenters as volunteers. Refresher trainings should be conducted for the volunteers to ensure that the knowledge gained is maintained.
- The selection of carpenters from the affected communities and the involvement of community members created room for trust and ownership of the operation. This has given the Red Cross more recognition in such communities.
- The use of motor bikes and bicycles to get to hard-to-reach communities was a good strategy as some communities could not be reached by vehicles but the distribution was possible due to the use of the bikes by volunteers and staffs.
- The immediate intervention of GRCS when the disaster occurred was the best approach that gave GRCS a huge credibility from both the Government and the population at large. GRCS was able to respond with some relief materials within the first 42 hours of the windstorm. This is an act that was well recommended by the Government and was viral on the media.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 3,600 people or 400 households

Male: 1,692

Female: 1,908

WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with hygiene promotion activities	3,600 people (400 HHs)	136,750 people (15,195 households)

WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of hygiene promotion sessions conducted	3	2
% of target population in which a behavioural change is observed	80% or 320 households	97.5% or 390 households
# of volunteers involved in WASH activities	60	60

Narrative description of achievements

Select target groups, key messages, and methods of communicating with beneficiaries (mass media and interpersonal communication)

Under this sector, the Gambia Red Cross with Ministry of Health conducted a nationwide sensitization on open defecation, especially as the rainy season was approaching the existing data of the ministry was used to define the response strategy. The aim of this was to reach every affected windstorm community of dangers of open defecation, so as to reduce the related impact on the health, of communities. As such, GRCS aimed at supporting government efforts in the targeted communities by conducting the following activities:

Under this component the families were supported from DREF and UNICEF support, for DREF support the following activities were carried out.

- Training of 60 volunteers on hygiene and sanitation promotion including CEA to involve communities and help them appropriate themselves of the teachings on hygiene and sanitation (30 per region),

- Conducted 3 hygiene and health sensitization sessions within the communities on open defecation, proper hand washing, and household water treatment,
- Procurement and distribution of 800 buckets with lids for household water collection and storage (each household was given 2 buckets),
- Procurement and distribution of 400 Jerry cans (1 per household)
- distribution of 10,800 pieces of soap for household use (9 pieces per household for 400 households) and
- 136,750 people reached for hygiene promotion messages (56,528 male and 80,222 female). This was made possible thanks to additional support from UNICEF, compounded to GRCS volunteers conducting house to house sensitization during implementation period.

Under UNICEF support through GRCS, from 26 to 28 July 2019, distribution of UNICEF household kits, collapsible water containers and sanitation promotion activities supporting additional households that were not supported by the DREF in thirty (30) communities. From 23rd to 26th August 2019, the distribution of aqua tablet and sanitation education promotion activities took place in one hundred (100) communities.

- Aquatabs were distributed to 1,800 people in 100 communities in Upper River regions
- Households Kits distributed to 3,888 people

All the communities targeted for the DREF response were the priority communities, plus the rest of the communities in the region of URR. The messages used were pre-developed hygiene messages by the Ministry of Health and Partners including the Gambia Red Cross Society. The methods adopted was social mobilization, volunteers were put into teams going from house-house to sensitize people on hygiene promotion and prevention of other communicable diseases. During the response, the National Society Disaster Management and health teams together with regional health directorate conducted a progress monitoring while the volunteers were doing the sensitization activities in the communities.

Develop a hygiene communication plan. Train 60 volunteers to implement activities from communication plan.

A health officer of GRCS together with the gender focal point conducted training on hygiene promotion and gender inclusion in CRR and URR respectively in August 2019. The training included key messages on household water treatment, proper hand washing and open defecation with a focus on gender. A total of 30 volunteers were trained in each of these two branches giving a total of 60 volunteers. From the training on hygiene promotion, the volunteers of CRR and URR conducted community sensitization on household water treatment, proper hand washing and open defecation in order to increase awareness and promote positive behavioural change. In URR an additional activity of distributing 35,000 water purification tablets was added. These tablets were handed over to the Red Cross by UNICEF for distribution.

WASH Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with soap	3,600 people or 400 HHS	3,600 people or 400 HHS
# of people acknowledging they have been taught to use distributed items	3,600	136,750

Narrative description of achievements

Procure and distribute 10,800 pieces of soap sufficient for 3 months to 3,600 people.

The procurement of materials was done in line with the GRCS finance manual and the Gambia government public procurement procedures. The following were the materials procured, 10,800 pieces soap, like other items it was pre-positioned in the distribution points and distributed to 400 households with a population of 3,600 people. This sector also enjoyed support from UNICEF and additional materials were also distributed to additional households and this has increased the total number of people reached under this sector to 136,750. Aqua tabs were distributed to 1,800 people in 100 communities in Upper River regions and households Kits distributed to 3,888 people

Challenges

- There is no Disaster Management (DM) policy in the country
- There is no DM strategy in the country
 - There is no defined Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) Mechanism in the country

Lessons Learned

- To develop and approve policies and strategies on DM
- To develop a clear CEA mechanism
- To develop the DM capacity by providing required HR, equipment, tools, and other operational requirements.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge personnel deployed	1	1

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Rapid assessments carried out	1	1
# of affected districts assessed	8	8
# of volunteers participating in the response	60	60
# supervision missions provided by the GRCS HQ and IFRC team	3	6

Narrative description of achievements

Deployment of a Surge capacity personnel by IFRC to support NS in implementation of shelter activities

In line with the launching of the DREF, IFRC deployed an RDRT shelter to support the National Society on the implementation of the DREF. He was deployed to the Gambia for 1 month, but his mission was later extended for another two weeks based on request from the National Society. As his mission was coming to an end, a debriefing meeting was held with the RDRT shelter in order to reflect on how the work on the DREF had gone so far with him. The strategy of recruiting carpenters as volunteers was part of the relevant practises he noted.

Rental of 4 vehicles for implementation

GRCS had two vehicles on rental from the IFRC. One of the vehicles was 4*4 pick-up and the other was a land crusher. Both vehicles were in good condition and arrived in the Gambia in July 2019. and arrived in the Gambia in July 2019. These vehicles were used for the entire DREF operation.

Deploy 60 volunteers for the assessment and implementation of response activities

A total of 30 volunteers were trained in each of these two branches in CRR and URR giving a total of 60 volunteers. The trained Red Cross volunteers were engaged in the response activities. This included the assessment, prepositioning of relief items, and the distribution of such items. They were engaged for the WASH component as well.

NS branch & national level and IFRC monitoring of activities.

There was continuous monitoring of activities by the GRCS DM Coordinator, GRCS Program Manager, IFRC Sahel Cluster Office and the RDRT Shelter in country. There were missions by IFRC Sahel CCST team to monitor and support the implementation of the DREF activities. In July 2019, the team including RDRT shelter was back in the field to facilitate the distribution of materials in URR and continue the monitoring of repairing of shelter for distributed materials in CRR (Central River Region). The NS senior management delegation including the Secretary General and the Program Manager conducted a field visit to both CRR and URR and were able to meet most of the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries seized the opportunity to express their appreciation regarding the support given by the GRCS/IFRC through the DREF.

Setup feedback mechanism

The operation team prepared the feedback mechanism tools in the form of questionnaire. Please see hereafter the examples of questionnaires.

- Were you informed of what you were supposed to receive?
- Have you received same quantities of items as you were informed?
- Have you faced any discrimination by distribution team?
- Was it easy for you to transport your items to home?
- Did any person ask any favour from you before or after giving your items?)

During distribution periods, volunteers were given questionnaires and were asked to interview 1 person in every five. The feedbacks given by the beneficiaries were positive. No complaint was reported after receiving the materials.

Deploy 60 volunteers for the assessment and implementation of response activities

A total of 60 volunteers were trained and engaged in the response activities. This included the assessment, prepositioning of relief items, and the distribution of such items. They were also fully involved in the implementation of WASH activities. These volunteers were identified from the two regions and are registered volunteers of the National Society.

Organize a Lesson Learned workshop

Towards the end of the DREF operation, a Lessons Learnt session was conducted for the DREF in order to review the activities implemented. The purpose was to identify the strengths, weaknesses and recommend ways forward for improvement in the future. The session was attended by GRCS staffs, volunteers, beneficiaries, carpenters, local partners, IFRC, and the Belgian Red Cross. This was conducted on the 18 September 2019. Using the opportunity of the presence of IFRC Africa Region and Geneva DCPRR colleagues who had come to facilitate the lessons learnt workshop, a DREF training was conducted for GRCS by team for three (3) consecutive days starting on the 19 September 2019.

The purpose of the training was to ensure that all staffs of the National Society have a very good understanding of the procedure and process of applying for DREF. This would help GRCS in the future to avoid unnecessary delays in the process.



Feedback mechanism: a volunteer assessing any claim with targeted person © IFRC

Challenges

GRCS staffs involved in a car accident caused some delays: the four GRCS staffs (DM 2, Health 1, and Driver 1) who were involved in a car accident in Kaiaf in LRR while travelling to CRR to conduct the training on Hygiene promotion and to monitor the community sensitization activities. The team involved was away from work for about 2 weeks which delayed some activity implementation and had to be temporally replaced for the period.

Lessons Learned

To improve the logistics and supply chain system and fleet management of GRCS.

D. THE BUDGET

The overall budget of this DREF operation was CHF **198,473**, of which **CHF 189,758 (95.6%)** were expensed, leaving a balance of **CHF 8,715** to be returned to the DREF pot.

Explanation of variances

- The variance of **CHF 5,163** represents the remaining balance of the Clothing & Textiles line. This line was not fully used because it was over budgeted.
- The variance of **CHF 1,550** storage budget line is related to an overbudgeting of this line.
- The Communications variance of **CHF 1,615** is related to the fact that this line was over budgeted
- An amount of **CHF 4,769** was budgeted for the **Consultants & Professional Fees**. However only **CHF 2,978** were expensed. The variance of **1,791** is due to the overbudgeting of this line.
- **The variance of CHF 2,313** related to the **Financial Charge** is due to the over budgeting in the Financial Charges budget line.
- The variance of **CHF-7,143** on the distribution and monitoring line is due to an accounting coding error. The logistics expenses were charged in the transport section.
- This variance of **CHF 4,371** on the Transport & Vehicles Costs line is due to an accounting coding error.
- The variance of **CHF -1,000** on Other General Expenses budget line is due to an accounting coding error.
- The Water, Sanitation & Hygiene budget line shows an overspent amount of **CHF -2,141** because this line was under budgeted.
- The variance of **CHF -1,491** related to workshops and training amounts is related to the fact that this line was under budgeted. Indeed, there were two workshops/meetings during the DREF timeframe: the Lessons Learned workshop and the DREF Training.
- **The variance of CHF -664** on the Office Costs line is due to the fact that the Office Costs line was under budgeting.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

For the Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS)

- Alasan Senghor, Secretary General; mobile phone +2203534030; email: alasan.senghore@gamredcross.org or alasan.senghore@gmail.com

IFRC Sahel Country Cluster Office:

- Daniel Bolaños, Head of Sahel Country Cluster Office (acting); phone: +221 77 740 46 61; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org

IFRC Office for Africa Region:

- Adesh Tripathee, Head of Disaster Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; phone +254731067489; email: adesh.tripathee@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva :

- Nicolas Boyrie, Operations Coordination, Senior Officer, DCPRR Unit Geneva; email: nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org
- Eszter Matyeka, DREF Senior Officer, DCPRR Unit Geneva; Email: eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org;

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for resource Mobilization and Pledge: Franciscah Cherotich Kilel, Senior Officer Partnership and Resource Development, Nairobi, email: franciscah.kilel@ifrc.org;

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit: RISHI Ramrakha, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit, email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org; phone: +254 733 888 022

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office:** Philip Komo Kahuho, Regional PMER Manager; email: philip.kahuho@ifrc.org; phone: +254 732 203 081

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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/06-2020/02	Operation	MDRGM012
Budget Timeframe	2019/06-2019/09	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 19/Mar/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGM012 - Gambia - Windstorm Surge

Operating Timeframe: 27 Jun 2019 to 27 Sep 2019

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	198,473
DREF Allocations	198,473
Expenditure	-189,758
Closing Balance	8,715

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	135,524	139,098	-3,575
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	22,198	15,181	7,017
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	157,722	154,279	3,443
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	9,258	8,423	835
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	31,493	27,055	4,438
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total	40,751	35,478	5,273
Grand Total	198,473	189,758	8,715

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/06-2020/02	Operation	MDRGM012
Budget Timeframe	2019/06-2019/09	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 19/Mar/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGM012 - Gambia - Windstorm Surge

Operating Timeframe: 27 Jun 2019 to 27 Sep 2019

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	112,161	107,061	5,100
Shelter - Relief	14,952	14,940	12
Construction Materials	26,323	25,581	742
Clothing & Textiles	19,075	13,912	5,163
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	3,219	5,360	-2,141
Medical & First Aid	30,053	28,936	1,117
Utensils & Tools	18,042	17,840	202
Other Supplies & Services	497	492	5
Logistics, Transport & Storage	18,265	19,486	-1,221
Storage	2,146	596	1,550
Transport & Vehicles Costs	11,748	18,891	-7,143
Logistics Services	4,371	4,371	0
Personnel	29,116	27,108	2,008
International Staff	7,000	6,140	860
National Society Staff	5,216	6,029	-813
Volunteers	16,900	14,939	1,961
Consultants & Professional Fees	4,769	2,978	1,791
Professional Fees	4,769	2,978	1,791
Workshops & Training	5,782	7,273	-1,491
Workshops & Training	5,782	7,273	-1,491
General Expenditure	16,267	14,269	1,997
Travel	10,500	10,767	-267
Office Costs	1,003	1,667	-664
Communications	2,384	769	1,615
Financial Charges	2,379	66	2,313
Other General Expenses		1,000	-1,000
Indirect Costs	12,113	11,581	532
Programme & Services Support Recover	12,113	11,581	532
Grand Total	198,473	189,758	8,715