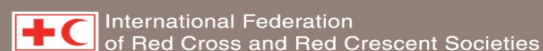




Operation Update Report

Equatorial Guinea: Explosions in Bata



DREF Operation No.: MDRGQ002	GLIDE No. AC-2021-000020-GNQ
Operation Update No. 1: 12 July 2021	Period covered by this mid-term report: 12 March 2021 to 29 June 2021
Operation start date: 12/03/2021	Expected timeframe: 6 months Operation end date: 31 September 2021
Budget for the operation: 218,628 CHF	
Number of people to be assisted: 2,250 people (450 families)	
International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Spanish Red Cross (SRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Equatorial Guinea, UNDP, UNESCO, UNDAC, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, and ECCAS	

Summary of changes brought to the Emergency Plan of Action:

- **Distribution of vouchers in lieu of cash grants:** it was initially planned to provide assistance through cash transfers via mobile phones. However, there is no telephone operator with an operational Mobil Money system in Equatorial Guinea. The option of cash distribution was also considered but proved to be risky from a security perspective. This is why, after a market study, the solution of assistance with vouchers for purchase in well-established business firms in Bata was preferred. In fact, local supermarkets are well stocked in food and household items, building materials and pharmacies, thus offering the beneficiaries a large selection.
- **Reduction in the number of beneficiaries:** After the needs assessment conducted by the National Society with IFRC support, 450 households (2,250 people) meeting the selection criteria were identified to receive Red Cross support. This is 50 households less than the initial target of 500 households (2,500 people).
- **Request for a two (2)-month extension:** Several factors delayed the start of the operation, notably the difficulty in finding a Surge with all the required characteristics to assist the Equatorial Guinea Red Cross (EGRC) in the field. As the Surge was deployed with some delay, the activities were also affected. In particular, the market survey and the definition of the most relevant type of monetary assistance to the beneficiaries. In addition, it will take some time to finalise the documents needed to produce the vouchers, to distribute them and to carry out post-distribution monitoring. The implementation timeframe of the operation will be six (6) months in total, with the new end date scheduled for 30 September 2021.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

On 7 March 2021, a series of explosions were recorded in the armoury of the Gendarmerie and the Nkuantoma military barracks in Bata, the economic capital of Equatorial Guinea. According to official data, 107 people died as a result of these explosions, which also caused extensive damage to residential areas and the military compound. More than 700 people were injured, including women and children in army barracks and residential areas near the military complex. The government described the situation as catastrophic and called for international support to meet humanitarian needs. 615 of the injured were admitted in local health facilities.

A total of 19,000 people were affected by the explosion, including 4,500 displaced persons and 8,000 people in need. According to the assessments conducted by EGRC at the very beginning of the operation, more than 400 families had their homes completely or partially destroyed, thus raising problems of shelter, access to water and food. In addition to those physically affected, there have been reports of unusual behaviour by some children who were traumatised by the blast. As many schools were destroyed, the start of the school year, which was to take place two weeks after the explosion, was compromised. It should also be noted that in the displacement caused by the explosions, some families were separated in confusion, with some parents forced to split their children between various friends and family members due to lack of resources and space. With children potentially unsupervised or beyond the reach of their usual guardians, there is a protection issue.

Summary of the current intervention

Overview of the Operating National Society's action

The city of Bata is home to a regional committee that covers the other local branches surrounding Bata, under the leadership of a regional steering committee. The Bata committee has 44 active volunteers, all of whom were deployed within the framework of this operation.

As soon as the disaster occurred, the Bata regional committee was active, particularly in providing first aid to the victims and identifying those affected. Then, with the assistance of its Movement partners, the National Society carried out an assessment of the needs of the victims and identified them. After identification, beneficiaries were selected according to pre-established vulnerability criteria, with priority given to families whose houses had been completely destroyed, large families, and families headed by women or with young children, pregnant women and the elderly. A total of 450 families were selected and will receive the planned financial assistance.

The 44 volunteers deployed were trained in psychological first aid, advanced first aid to provide relief to the victims. The same volunteers were briefed on community engagement, to make sure that Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) aspects are taken into account throughout the operation, and to ensure the involvement of the whole community and good complaint management. It should be noted that all volunteers involved in this operation were insured, briefed on the Code of Conduct and equipped with masks and hydro-alcohol gel.



*Figure 1: Simulation exercises during psychological first aid training.
Photo credit: EGRC*

After these trainings, field trips began at a rate of three trips by three pairs of volunteers each week. These visits are an opportunity for volunteers to provide psychosocial support to affected families and carry out sensitisation on water-borne diseases. To date, 224 families were sensitised, with a total of 1,527 people reached.

As a prelude to the distribution of vouchers to assist the most vulnerable people identified as part of this operation, the NS conducted a market survey which allowed to identify supermarkets that are well-stocked to provide the necessary basic products, including foodstuffs, medicines and construction materials. The provider of this service was identified, and the administrative procedures are going on to make sure that the beneficiaries are satisfied as soon as possible.

Overview of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's action in the country

The IFRC office in Yaoundé supported the NS in launching the alert and then applying for emergency funding, namely the DREF. As soon as the funding was granted, a team of IFRC and EGRC technicians, with logistical support from the ICRC, were deployed to Bata to conduct a rapid assessment of the needs of the victims, define the most appropriate type of assistance according to the context and identify the most vulnerable people with a view to providing support. This mission took place from 16 to 27 March 2021.

In addition to financial support, IFRC also provides technical expertise through the deployment of a support staff (Surge) to oversee the implementation of DREF activities. The organisation's other support services also support this operation remotely and through field missions.

Overview of other actors actions in country

The Government of Equatorial Guinea assisted the affected families of the soldiers through a direct cash distribution. Government assistance to the rest of the affected families is expected in the coming months.

UN agencies, including WHO, UNFPA, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNDP, led by UNDAC, conducted a multi-sectoral assessment of the needs of the victims in Bata, in partnership with the Red Cross Movement. Based on the results of these assessments, the UN and the Government of Equatorial Guinea launched a coordinated humanitarian response and recovery plan for Equatorial Guinea to provide emergency assistance to some 16,000 women, men, girls, boys and adolescents affected by the explosions by providing basic support (food, health and water, sanitation and hygiene), as well as support for the rapid restoration of access to basic services, the restoration of livelihoods, and the rehabilitation of destroyed homes and/or public infrastructure, for a period of one year.

Needs analysis and scenario development

Needs analysis

The results of the assessment conducted from 23 to 26 March 2021 were very similar to those made available after the initial observations. The two priority needs were shelter and food security.

- **Shelter:** About 400 families had their houses completely or partially destroyed, thus raising problems of shelter. In fact, some of those affected had no relatives to turn to and remained in their partially roofless houses, on the brink of collapse, while others moved into makeshift shelters without access to water and latrines.
- **Health:** In addition to those affected by the impact of the explosion and taken care of by the State, some victims reported unusual behaviour by some children who were traumatised by the blast.
- **Protection, Gender and Inclusion:** It should also be noted that in the displacement caused by the explosions, some families were separated in confusion, with some parents forced to split their children between various friends and family members due to lack of resources and space. As a result of these disruptions of social structures, children are often unsupervised or out of reach of their usual guardians.
- **Education:** As many schools were destroyed, the start of the school year, which was to take place two weeks after the explosion, was compromised.

Operation Risk Assessment

The risks associated with the operation are the same as in the EPoA. However, there is a major challenge that was not taken into account at the beginning of this operation, namely the unavailability of NS staff, which is manifested in administrative delays, logistical delays, and a great lack of responsiveness in official communications. The main consequence of this situation is the delay in implementation. To remedy this, the Delegation for Central Africa makes repeated field visits to support the NS. The Head of Delegation also met with EGRC executives to strengthen the relationship between the NS and IFRC. IFRC Cluster office in Yaoundé is working on a development plan for the NS through capacity building in technical areas and cross-cutting issues. This work will first start with the staff of the general secretariat of the NS before being extended to volunteers of divisional committees. This will enable the NS to be among the National Societies that are well prepared to respond to emergencies and, in turn, ensure good visibility of the Movement in Equatorial Guinea.

B. OPERATION STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The overall objective of this DREF operation is to provide immediate psychosocial and advanced first aid assistance to 2,250 people (450 families) affected by the Nkuantuma explosions in Bata, and to meet their immediate livelihood needs. In order to meet their needs for health, shelter and basic necessities, families will receive financial assistance in the form of vouchers to cover these needs. The implementation will take place over 06 months instead of the 04 initially planned due to several factors, including the change in the form of assistance. The other points of the strategy remain the same as in the EPoA.


Financial assistance to the most vulnerable: In this operation, the most vulnerable people are the families of the injured and families who have lost all or part of their property. The assessment identified their priority needs and made arrangements to provide assistance through vouchers to enable the beneficiaries to buy the minimum to regain their dignity. The operation will provide vouchers to 450 assisted households to enable the beneficiaries to buy basic necessities and/or construction materials from selected supermarkets. The 450 households will be represented by the identified family heads. That is to say 450 people, at the rate of 01 person per family. To carry out the activity, a market assessment was conducted with an analysis of the economic facilities best shared by the targeted beneficiaries. At the time of the needs assessment, the rental of shelters had not emerged as an urgent need for the affected populations. The populations had rather identified the need to repair or rebuild their houses and meet their basic needs (food, medicine and other basic materials). It should also be noted that most of the rentals are done without a contract and this was not very feasible and not to be taken into consideration for an operation. This is why the cash transfer was redirected to vouchers to allow those affected to choose for themselves what they need most in the supermarkets selected for the operation.

In general, the cost of living in Equatorial Guinea is high as can be seen from the prices of foodstuffs in the markets. It is estimated that 60,000 CFA francs, or about 100 CHF, is enough for a Guinean family to buy basic foodstuffs in Bata for one month. Thus, the amount of the transfer per family is estimated to be around 100 CHF/month. The distribution will be done in a single instalment of 120,000 CFA francs (approximately 200 CHF) /household.

The preparation process is being finalised and the distribution of the vouchers, followed by their use to purchase basic needs, will take place during the month of July. The beneficiaries' visits to the selected shopping centres will take place as soon as the procedures are completed, i.e., in mid-July and over a period of three weeks. It is important to note that these vouchers will be used by the beneficiaries to purchase the items they need in terms of basic necessities (food, medicine) as well as house repair materials. A post-distribution evaluation will be conducted three weeks after the distribution.

Although not identified as an urgent need, the need for shelter remains. These have been integrated into the IFRC's annual plan for the EGRC, and the need to build the capacities of the NS in this area and to support the population.

C. DETAILED PLAN OF THE OPERATION

 <p>Livelihoods and basic needs Beneficiaries: 2,250 people (450 households) Men: 0 Women: 0</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Indicators:	Targets	Real
Number of vulnerable families assisted with vouchers to address their most urgent needs (<i>indicator and targets adjusted following needs assessment</i>)	450	0
Indicators:	Targets	Real
Number of volunteers trained in voucher distribution	44	0

Progress towards achieving results

Volunteers will be trained in distribution in the coming days, by mid-July as soon as the logistical procedures are finalised. They were delayed because they were first registering the beneficiaries. Indeed, registration ended on Friday 25 June 2021 with the taking of photos of family heads. This activity was greatly slowed down due to the heavy rains which made it difficult to access the areas where the beneficiaries were located.



Figure 2: Registration of beneficiaries in Nakuantoma 2 Photo credit: EGRC

Distributions will take place by mid-July once the final administrative and logistical procedures have been validated. Two supermarket chains in Bata were selected to supply the voucher beneficiaries, as they are well stocked and cover the whole territory of Equatorial Guinea. They have supermarkets, shops selling construction materials and pharmacies, which will give the beneficiaries a large selection.

One difficulty in implementing the activities is the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic; in fact, the businesses open at 9:30am and close at 4pm. There is a general curfew at 6pm. These measures require certain adjustments in the organisation of activities.



Health

Beneficiaries: 2,250 people (450 households)

Men: 1080

Women: 1170

Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Health Outcome 1.2: The target population benefits from rapid medical treatment of injuries and illnesses

Indicators:	Targets	Real
% of households receiving health support (<i>target adjusted following needs assessment</i>)	100% or 450 HH	68% or 305 HH
Number of people receiving emergency health care (<i>target adjusted following needs assessment</i>)	2,250	1,528
Number of volunteers involved in health activities	44	44

Health Outcome 1.5: Psychosocial support is given to the target population

Indicators:	Targets	Real
Number of people receiving psychosocial support	2,250	1,528

Health Outcome 1.5: Psychosocial support is given to the target population

Indicators:	Targets	Actual
Number of volunteers trained in psychosocial support (<i>new indicator</i>)	44	44

Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment

Health Outcome 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Number of volunteers trained in needs assessment	44	25
Number of assessments conducted (Target: 1 assessment)	1	1

Progress towards achieving results

With the assistance of its Movement partners, the National Society carried out an assessment of the needs of the victims and identified them. Prior to this training, the 25 volunteers (11 women and 14 men) available at the time were trained in emergency needs assessment.

Some 44 volunteers (18 women and 22 men) were also trained in psychological first aid and advanced first aid.

Advanced first aid training: Rich in practice and simulation exercises, this training allowed us to understand that there was a real need for first aid training within the Bata regional committee. It was necessary to make many stops for the demonstrations and then to continue at the end of each simulation some revision of the practices in case of emergency (Lateral Safety Position, stop bleeding, immobilization, etc.) while insisting on the simplicity and the effectiveness of the gestures to be made.

Challenges: The unavailability of training materials in Spanish was a difficulty for this operation. The translation of these materials led to a delay in the start of the activities. The training was conducted in two languages - Spanish and Fang (local language). The EGRC needs capacity building in all technical areas and on cross-cutting issues. This capacity building should start with the National Society staff, before extending to branch volunteers. It will also be important to work with executive members at headquarters and local branches.

National Society capacity building

S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Targets	Actual
% of volunteers involved in activities insured (Target: 100%)	100%	100%

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Targets	Actual
# of volunteers provided with PPE	44	44

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

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Targets	Actual
# of Surge personnel deployed to support NS	1	1

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Targets	Actual
# of volunteers briefed in CEA	44	44
# of feedback mechanisms set up	1	1

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Targets	Actual
# of monitoring missions undertaken by the CCST	2	1
# of lessons learned workshop	1	0

Progress towards achieving results

The Equatorial Guinea Red Cross (EGRC) through its regional office in Bata has a great need for capacity building of its volunteers, most of whom have just joined the Red Cross Movement. To this end, additional staff were recruited for the operation and two follow-up missions have already taken place to provide logistical and monitoring-evaluation support to the NS. The first mission allowed, among other things, the training of volunteers in emergency needs assessment techniques and the provision of technical support to the NS for the conduct of this assessment in the field. A second mission was carried out by the Cluster Head in order to work with the executive of the SN at the national headquarters and the divisional committee, to further inform them of the objectives of the DREF and also the need for the NS to set up the necessary mechanisms for its proper preparation and functioning in order to be able to manage emergency situations and even implement development projects.

Logistical support was provided by a Fleet Manager from the NS, to make arrangements for the facilitation of the Surge's movements. In addition, weekly online monitoring has been taking place since the start of the Surge's arrival in the field to take stock of the activities carried out, the challenges encountered and the guidelines for the continuity of the operation. NS staff were involved in this online session and it was an opportunity to instil in them the validity of their involvement in this operation, which is a NS operation with the support of the IFRC.

The 44 volunteers were trained in communication with beneficiaries and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and a complaint management mechanism was put in place to enable disaster victims to channel their complaints through the volunteers.

D. Financial Report

The overall amount allocated for this operation is CHF 218,628 of which CHF 32,397 (15%) has been transferred to the National Society under the funds transfer modality as seen in below interim financial report. The low burn rate of the operation is due to the bulk of the cost being linked to the vouchers distribution under the Livelihoods and basic needs sector, whose procurement process is being finalised as indicated in the narrative.

Reference documents



Click here for:

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

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

In the Equatorial Guinea Red Cross-National Society

- **Vice-President:** Francisco Jacob Tuku, email: jacobtuku11@gmail.com, phone: +240,222,243,104
- **Operational coordination:** Dalmacio Bengono, Director of Disaster Management e-mail: dalmacio692@yahoo.com; phone: +240 222237626

In the IFRC Country cluster

- **Head of Country Cluster Delegation:** Thierry Balloy, e-mail: thierry.balloy@ifrc.org; phone: +41-79-844 0726
- **Disaster Management Coordinator** Josuane Flore Tene e-mail: josuane flore.tene@ifrc.org; phone: +237 677098790

In IFRC Regional Office for Africa

- Adesh Tripathy, **Head of Disaster Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department**, email: adesh.tripathy@ifrc.org; phone: +254 731 067 489

In IFRC Geneva

- Nicolas Boyrie, **Senior Officer - Operations Coordinator (Africa)**: email: nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org; phone: + 41 22 730 49 80

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Louise Daintrey-Hall, **Head of Partnerships and Resource Development Regional Office** for Africa, Email: louise.daintrey@ifrc.org; phone: +254 110 843978

For in-kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- 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, **PMER Manager**, email: philip.kahuho@ifrc.org; phone: +254 732 203081

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.

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**.

DREF Operation

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/03-2021/05	Operation	MDRGQ002
Budget Timeframe	2021/03-2021/07	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29/Juin/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGQ002 - Equatorial Guinea - Explosions in Bata

Operating Timeframe: 11 mars 2021 to 31 juil. 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	218 628
DREF Allocations	218 628
Expenditure	-32 397
Closing Balance	186 231

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	132 739	24 050	108 689
AOF4 - Health	24 356		24 356
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	157 095	24 050	133 046
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	5 740	139	5 601
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	52 598	8 208	44 390
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	3 195		3 195
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total	61 533	8 347	53 186
Grand Total	218 628	32 397	186 231

DREF Operation

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/03-2021/05	Operation	MDRGQ002
Budget Timeframe	2021/03-2021/07	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29/Juin/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGQ002 - Equatorial Guinea - Explosions in Bata

Operating Timeframe: 11 mars 2021 to 31 juil. 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	129 678	3	129 675
Medical & First Aid	16 330	3	16 326
Teaching Materials	930		930
Other Supplies & Services	1 352		1 352
Cash Disbursement	111 067		111 067
Logistics, Transport & Storage	9 178	379	8 799
Transport & Vehicles Costs	9 178	379	8 799
Personnel	23 818	1 814	22 003
International Staff	20 372	1 683	18 688
Volunteers	3 446	131	3 315
Consultants & Professional Fees	1 521		1 521
Professional Fees	1 521		1 521
Workshops & Training	20 813		20 813
Workshops & Training	20 813		20 813
General Expenditure	20 278	8 075	12 203
Travel	17 574	7 726	9 847
Information & Public Relations	592		592
Communications	1 352	42	1 310
Financial Charges	761	306	454
Operational Provisions		20 149	-20 149
Operational Provisions		20 149	-20 149
Indirect Costs	13 343	1 977	11 366
Programme & Services Support Recover	13 343	1 977	11 366
Grand Total	218 628	32 397	186 231