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Final Report

The Gambia: 2021 Windstorm Surge

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation:	Operation n° MDRGM014
Date of Issue: 31 July 2022	Glide number: WV-2021-000080-GMB
Operation start date: 13 July 2021	Operation end date: 31 October 2021
Host National Society: The Gambia Red Cross Society	Operation budget: CHF 276,487
Number of people affected: More than 16,849 people (approximately 1,057 ¹ households)	Number of people assisted: 5,300 people (500 households)
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Offices of the Regional Governors, United Nations agencies.	

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, 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. DG ECHO and the Canadian Government contributed to 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.

<Click [here](#) for the financial report and [here](#) for contacts>

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Between 2 and 7 July 2021, a heavy windstorm surge hit all seven regions of The Gambia, affecting more than 200 communities. This natural disaster was responsible for tremendous infrastructural destruction, injury, loss of life and economic damages. Hundreds of people were severely injured, with 11 reported dead, as a result of fallen trees and/or collapsed buildings. The speed of the wind was recorded at 85 km/hour.

The joint assessment carried out by The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS), the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and other partners indicated that 36,159 people (approximately 2,653 households) were affected, including 1,531 internally displaced people (IDP), many of whom were sheltered by relatives and host families. The GRCS consequently deployed rapid assessment teams to the affected areas to conduct initial distribution of non-food items (NFIs) and dignity kits to the most vulnerable people, while also assessing the destruction of several houses, schools, health centres and community seed storage facilities in some of the affected villages.



The windstorm affected people received NFI support from the NS.
Photo GRCS

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¹ Data collected as of 12 July 2021, indicating approximately 15 people per household.

Based on the needs and capacity of the GRCS to respond to the situation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through the Dakar Country Cluster Delegation, launched a [DREF Operation](#) on 13 July 2021 for CHF 276,487. The objective was to support detailed needs assessments and the delivery of initial humanitarian assistance to approximately 5,300 people (500 households) affected by the windstorm surge across the country. The DREF Operation covered water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, shelter and basic needs, and psychological support. The duration of the operation was set at three months, ending on 31 October 2021.

Summary of response

Overview of Operating National Society

The National Society has a core of trained and available volunteers and staff across the country to support this operation. A total of 50 volunteers supported by 15 staff were mobilized, oriented, and trained on the implementation of the Emergency Plan of Action. GRCS teams worked closely with relevant stakeholders in all affected regions.

During the early hours of the disaster, GRCS published a [press release](#) on 6 July 2021, to present primary information regarding the situation of affected people as well as its response efforts ([\(20+\) Facebook](#)). The National Society also distributed essential items to respond to the immediate needs of affected households from its warehouse, which were replenished through this DREF operation. The table on the right shows the types and quantities of NFIs distributed to beneficiaries.

Table 1: Households items and quantities distributed in July 2021, from GRCS stocks

No	Item	Quantity
1	Sleeping mats	700
2	Bed Sheet	200
3	Buckets (big)	76
4	Buckets (small)	104
5	Blankets	700
6	Soap (pieces)	1,620
7	Dettol (pieces)	1,176
8	Bleach (litres)	480
9	Face masks	600

To ascertain the scope of the disaster and inform the implementation of the EPoA, the assessments were completed from 07 July to 14 July 2022 covering all seven regions of the country.

Psychosocial support (PSS) was offered to all the affected persons across seven regions, to address the trauma that they experienced.

The mobilized team on this operation received refresher trainings on PSS, protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), data collection, cash voucher assistance (CVA), and community engagement and accountability (CEA), facilitated by coordinators from the National Society.

With regards to the assistance provided through this operation, GRCS completed the cash assistance, WASH and health services targeting 5,300 most affected people. The main activities conducted from July to October 2021 include:

- Distribution of cash through QMoney to a total of 500 households of which GRCS provided GMD 22,500 (CHF 400) to 217 households to cover emergency shelter needs and GMD 7,906 (CHF 140) provided to all the 500 households for food, basic needs and emergency household items
- In-kind distribution of non-food items (NFIs) was also conducted including distribution of dignity kits for women and girls, mattresses, blankets, soaps, detergents, buckets, mats, bleach, hand sanitizer and face masks.
- Deployment of two ambulances in the localities of Basse and Fara Fenni to support first aid provision
- Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey was also conducted from 4 to 11 September 2021 to ensure a structured review of the Cash Assistance (CA) programme coordinated by the GRCS.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

There is no IFRC and ICRC presence in the country. The IFRC provided technical support to the GRCS remotely, from the Country Cluster Delegation based in Dakar, but also through field missions deployed to The Gambia.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

During the implementation of this operation, the GRCS and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) held meetings with all relevant stakeholders including WFP, UNDP, and other organizations, to ensure a cohesive and harmonized response. Joint assessment missions were carried out alongside distribution activities.

Coordination mechanism

Regular meetings were held daily to ensure coordination. The GRCS requested the participation of National Disaster Management Agency and other partners to participate in all relevant coordination meetings. This was done together with other humanitarian actors operational in the country, including the UN agencies, as well as other international and local NGOs, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations, who all played an active role in responding to the needs of the affected population.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs Analysis

The Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) was drafted based on a preliminary assessment. A detailed assessment was later conducted and confirmed the needs of the affected people. Following data analysis, Cash Transfer was identified as the preferred modality to cover needs in terms of emergency shelter.

It is worth adding that the GRCS rapid assessment team identified the following specific vulnerabilities: the elderly, people living with disabilities, injured people, displaced persons, pregnant women, lactating mothers, children and people living with trauma. Refer to the [EPoA DREF Operation](#) for more details on needs analysis.

Target

The DREF operation focused on seven regions of The Gambia and supported 500 households, with 5 additional households reached from extra funds that were received from the Netherlands RC, for a total of 505 households. The National Society conducted a selection of the most vulnerable people in the affected districts of the seven targeted regions. The Information Management team worked on the data to provide details and disaggregated data. They also developed maps capturing affected and displaced families (see Figure 4).

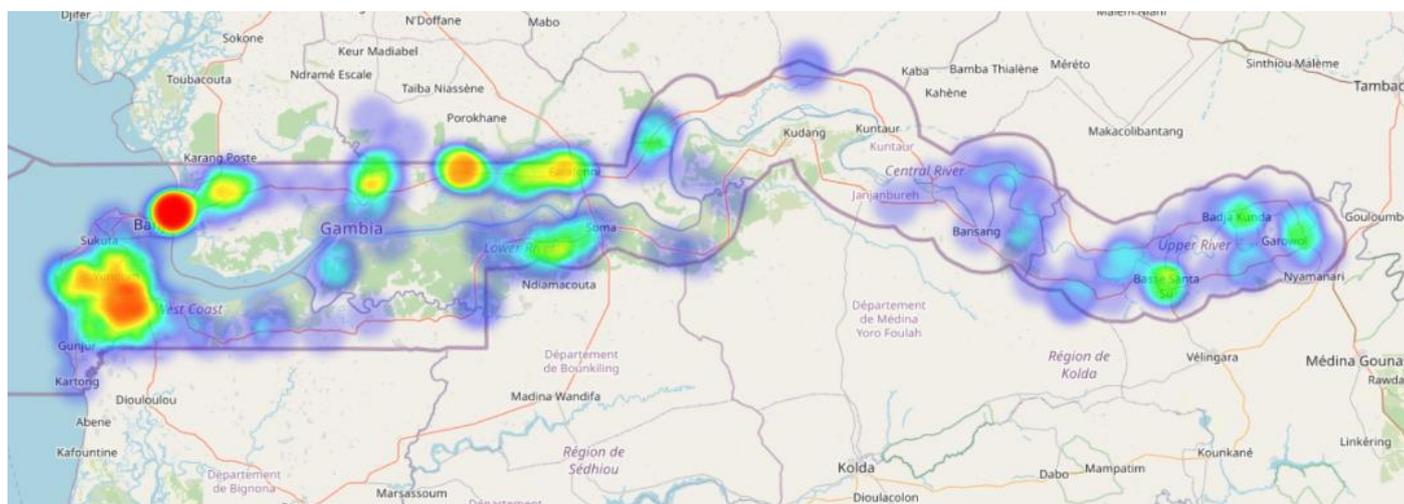


Figure 1: Mapping of areas affected by windstorm

Targeted families were selected amongst those whose houses were either completely or partially destroyed. A total of 5,300 people, 500 households, were identified to be supported: 217 whose homes were destroyed and 288 partially damaged. A more refined selection criterion was applied, considering female-headed households, families with elderly people and/or children under 5 years, families with pregnant and/or lactating women, families with ailing members and people living with disabilities. See the [EPoA DREF Operation](#) for more details on targeting and beneficiary selection criteria.

Scenario planning

The Scenario planning remained the same as was published in the [EPoA DREF Operation](#).

Risk Analysis

In all affected regions, no major risks affected or impeded the operation from being implemented. Access to communities in the regions was straightforward, with presence and strong involvement of Red Cross volunteers in the intervention areas.

Furthermore, as already indicated in the EPoA, the DREF operational strategy considered the risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mitigating actions were aligned with the IFRC global COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, which supports National Societies in delivering assistance to communities. See the [COVID-19 Operation page](#) on the IFRC Go platform.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Operational objective

The overall objective of the DREF operation was to provide immediate lifesaving and emergency shelter assistance to support 5,300 people or 500 households in all 7 regions affected by the windstorm surge in The Gambia. Of the targeted numbers, 2,137 most vulnerable people (200 households) were targeted with cash for emergency shelter and essential household items. Other areas of intervention included emergency health and PSS, hygiene promotion and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI).

The strategy of the Windstorm Surge response operation in The Gambia did not change in relation to the reference document. See the [EPoA DREF Operation](#) for the operational strategy. Progress against objectives is captured in *Section C – Detailed Operational Plan* below.

Operation support services

Human resources

A team of staff and volunteers supported the implementation of this DREF Operation. The team was made up of:

- At headquarters level: Disaster Manager and relief staff, Health and Water and Sanitation Officers, Communication Officers, a PMER Officer, and other senior staff.
- At Regional/Branch Level: The Branch director was supported by experienced volunteers.
- 175 volunteers who benefited from a refresher training on health & hygiene promotion, relief distribution, cash and voucher assistance, community-based surveillance, psychosocial support, and community engagement and accountability.

Logistics and procurement

Logistics and procurement personnel ensured that the tender offer for the Financial Service Provider (FSP) selection process was fair and transparent. They also supported fleet management, as well as procurement and transportation of NFIs and hygiene kits.

- **Procurement plans:** Local procurement was carried out in accordance with IFRC standard procurement procedures. Procurement plans included NFIs and hygiene kits from National Society Headquarters stocks.
- **Transport and fleet needs:** Transportation needs were also met. The GRCS used its own vehicles for the entire operation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

The GRCS, with support from IFRC, distributed cash to 505 households. Targeting criteria were applied to select the beneficiaries and volunteers contracted for the distribution. A month after the distribution process, in September 2021, an exit survey and a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey were completed. Both surveys aimed to collect beneficiary feedback on the cash transfer program in terms of quality, adequacy, use and effectiveness. The PDM survey more specifically evaluated the effectiveness of cash assistance provided to the beneficiaries in all affected areas.

During the lessons learned workshop, the GRCS made a presentation on the activities implemented during the DREF operation and gave an overview of the implementation strategy. Video documentation was played to all audiences and beneficiaries were invited to tell their own stories. The participants gave their views and recommendations for future response operations.

Security situation overview

All GRCS personnel actively involved in operations completed IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security). With regards to safer access, the GRCS benefits from nationwide recognition and trust, which facilitates access to community heads, leaders and most importantly, the communities themselves.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 2,137 people

Male: 908

Female: 1,229

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 targeted households who received cash for shelter and who have effectively conducted repairs to their damaged houses	At least 40%	84%

Output 1.1: Short-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households supported with cash for emergency shelter	200	217
# of cash disbursements per household	1 per HH	1 per HH
% of households who acknowledge the usefulness of the cash grant received for emergency shelter support	100	100
# of volunteers and staff trained (refreshers) in cash and voucher assistance	30 volunteers and 15 staff members	30 volunteers and 15 staff members

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	27 volunteers and 15 staff members
# of skilled people (carpenters and builders) trained to support shelter intervention	50	50
# of post-distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

Repairs to damaged houses

According to the PDM survey, 84%(182 HH) of the 217 HH supported with cash for shelter effectively conducted repairs to their damaged homes and 11% said they would wait until the end of the rainy season to complete the work.

Cash for emergency shelter

The PDM indicated that 2,137 people (217 HH) were supported with cash for shelter. The 217 households received shelter support, through cash transfers. Based on the GRCS assessment, beneficiaries were divided into 2 groups: 5,300 people (500 HH) received food support (GMD 7,906), and amongst those, 2,137 people (217 HH) received additional support for shelter (for a total of GMD 30,400) for the immediate relief operation in all 7 targeted regions. Each household received one cash transfer between 24 July to 15 September 2021.

One hundred percent of households indicated that cash transfers were useful in terms of emergency shelter support. Approximately 59% of the respondents said that they received the cash transfer on the day they expected it. Of the 217 HH who received cash on the expected date, 84% (182 HH) reported that the cash transfer was provided when it was seriously needed, as they were sleeping in the open. The windstorm occurred with no warning and communities were not prepared, since it is not a common disaster. Therefore, the cash assistance was seen as very useful and timely.

Capacity Building of Staff

The National Society conducted capacity-building trainings on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) for 30 volunteers and 15 staff. The training was conducted for GRCS staff from the head office and the seven branches from the targeted areas. This training aimed to ensure that participants understand the overall relevance, scope, and key concepts of CVA and that they can identify key considerations for carrying out delivery mechanisms, risk mitigation strategies, and selection modalities. All participants also improved their knowledge of key considerations for determining transfer value, contracting service providers, targeting, and registering beneficiaries, as well as the organizational processes and

procedures which need to be incorporated in CVA. Finally, participants are now able to identify key issues related to protection of CVA data, and to promote community participation and accountability in CVA.

Skilled people (carpenters and builders) training to support shelter intervention

The NS trained 27 volunteers, 50 skilled community laborers and 15 GRCS staff, across the 7 targeted regions, in safer emergency repairs to support better and faster repair and reconstruction works was conducted by two GRCS personnel trained in shelter. Training of skilled carpenters and builders was conducted as a complement to the unconditional cash transfers provided for beneficiaries, to support rebuilding of homes.

Post distribution monitoring

Both the exit survey and the PDM survey were completed to collect and understand the beneficiaries' feedback on the cash transfer programme in terms of its quality, adequacy, use and effectiveness. The implementation of an unconditional cash programme by the GRCS sought to ensure that beneficiaries addressed their multiple needs in accordance with household and personal priorities, including greater access to a diversified diet, better hygiene and/or shelter improvements. Beneficiaries reported no difficulties in finding the items and services they required in local markets, both in terms of quantity and quality. This approach also directly contributed to the local economy, as the markets known vendors are mainly from the host communities surrounding the area.

The post distribution monitoring (PDM) was conducted through a door-to-door exercise and telephone calls, for the purpose of completing a structured survey. The beneficiaries who were targeted for the survey were from the seven affected areas and received cash transfers between July and August 2021. A total of 253 households out of 500 were reached. Female-headed households make up 20% of this sample. The households that participated during the PDM were geo-referenced using GPS. The GPS contact details of surveyed households were sourced from data collected in the field by the GRCS.

Findings indicate that respondents are highly satisfied with the cash transfer programme in terms of its quantity, timeliness, usefulness and flexibility. The flexibility of cash transfers meant that beneficiaries were not restricted in what they could purchase and were able to spend. Cash allowed them to tackle their priorities, which were reported to be food and shelter. However, a few issues were reported, which require attention and action to ensure that beneficiaries are satisfied with the cash transfer programme. About 84% of respondents had spent the full amount received, which indicates that the cash assistance provided was not 100% enough to sustain all repairs. The majority (95%) of respondents believed that the most vulnerable members of the community were selected for the cash transfer programme and approximately 5% did not believe that they were the most vulnerable. The majority of respondents reported that they were satisfied with cash transfers, and they still preferred receiving cash rather than food or shelter materials.

When asked about decision-making on how the cash was spent, 81% of respondents reported that the male head of household decided; 12% of respondents reported all household members decided together; and 2% of respondents reported the female head of household decided. This pattern of decision on spending correlates with the high number of single-headed households who were interviewed during the survey. More than 75% of the respondents reported there was no disagreement on spending the cash they received; 15% reported that there was 'some level' of disagreement; and 11% reported disagreement in the household on how to spend the cash they received.

Information sharing on beneficiary selection was found to be effective as most of the respondents knew about it in advance. However, a few respondents mentioned that the distribution process was not communicated properly (no help desk were put in place). In the future, help desks should be set up in distribution sites to address this issue. Only one third of respondents reported that they were told about the cash transfer programme from GRCS volunteers, which also speaks to the need to expand community engagement activities in future response operations.

Challenges

Some beneficiaries could not be reached for PDM after the distribution due to phone network issues.

Lessons Learned

Organizing joint trainings for GRCS volunteers, staff, and skilled community labourers built trust, confidence, commitment and a spirit of voluntarism among community members, in supporting the affected households in emergency repairs to support better and faster repair and reconstruction works.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 5,300

Male: 2,252

Female: 3,048

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of targeted households reached with multi-purpose cash transfers who found this support met their emergency needs	80%	100%
Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households supported with cash transfers	500	500
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>Effectiveness of multi-purpose cash transfers in meeting households' emergency needs</p> <p>Hundred percent (100%) of households indicated that cash transfers helped them to meet their emergency needs. Approximately 59% of the respondents said that they received the cash transfer on the day they expected it. Of those who received cash on the expected date, 84% reported that the cash transfer was provided when it was seriously needed, as they were sleeping out in the open and hungry. In fact, at the time of the PDM survey, 84% of respondents had already spent all that they received. The windstorm occurred with no warning and communities were not prepared, since it is not a common disaster. Therefore, the cash assistance was seen as very useful and timely.</p> <p>A total of 500 households were supported with cash transfers for food and basic needs. Based on the GRCS assessment, beneficiaries were divided into 2 groups: 500 received food support only (GMD 7,906), and amongst those, 217 received additional support for shelter (for a total of GMD 30,400) for the immediate relief operation in all 7 targeted regions. Each household received one cash transfer.</p>		
Challenges		
<p>The main challenge was the presence of many unregistered households who presented themselves at distribution points with a view of receiving assistance. NS personnel and Qmoney partners were not able to respond to their requests as they were not formally part of the assistance intervention.</p> <p>Many beneficiaries also turned up without correct documentation (SIM card, ID cards or mobile phone). However, SIM cards were provided and technical support from GRCS staff and volunteers was offered to facilitate cash transfer interventions.</p> <p>Different organizations conducted the registration of affected households, but the lack of coordination caused some duplication.</p>		
Lessons Learned		
<p>Registration of affected households should be completed in a coordinated manner between partner organizations, to minimize duplication. Raw data should be shared between trusted partners to ensure basic needs assistance is organized efficiently.</p>		



Health

People reached: 10,380

Male: 4,410

Female: 5,970

Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of affected households for whom emergency health care is available	47% ² or 500 HH	47.7% or 500 HH
Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities		

² 47% is calculated on the overall affected, which was at the time of planning, 1,057 HH.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of equipped ambulances provided to support health services	2	2
Output 4.2: Vector-borne diseases are prevented		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of mosquito nets procured and distributed	600	200
Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with PSS services	N/A	10,380
Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers who received PSS orientation	35	40
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>Emergency health care provision In total, emergency health care was made available to 500 households. First-Aid Services were provided to 100 injured people. COVID-19 prevention messages were shared during distribution activities and awareness-raising sessions on mitigation measures. GRCS volunteers also raised awareness within affected communities on malaria prophylaxis, a yearly intervention by governments and partners.</p> <p>Ambulances to support health services Two ambulances were deployed to the North Bank and Upper River regions to respond to emergencies due to the windstorm and floods.</p> <p>Distribution of mosquito nets Two hundred (200) mosquito nets were provided to the most vulnerable affected households. The initial target (600) could not be reached due to delays in the procurement process.</p> <p>PSS services The GRCS and Ministry of Health conducted information and awareness sessions on psychosocial support (PSS). A total of 10 psychosocial support sessions were conducted in each affected region, reaching approximately 10,380 people.</p> <p>Among the 150 volunteers engaged in the response operation, 50 received a specific PSS orientation.</p>		
Challenges		
Due to overcrowding in some of the schools where affected households were accommodated, and in host families, COVID-19 prevention was a challenge. However, the GRCS was able to contribute to COVID-19 prevention measures through information sessions and provision of soap, buckets, bleach, and hand sanitizer.		
Lessons Learned		
During disasters, PSS is a highly valuable support to affected populations. The GRCS deployed most of its PSS services during the initial phase of the intervention, to address critical needs. Due to limited resources, the choice was then made to continue supporting monthly, which proved an effective strategy with affected communities. Joining forces with the Ministry of Health also allowed communities to be better assisted, with linkages to existing services.		



Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

People reached: 12,750

Male: 5,417

Female: 7,333

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	6	6
# of people reached with hygiene promotion activities	5,300	12,750
# of volunteers engaged in WASH activities	50	50

Narrative description of achievements
<p>Hygiene promotion</p> <p>The GRCS conducted six hygiene promotion sessions in six regions of the country, except Banjul, due to its proximity to Kanifing Municipality (KM). The sessions included hand washing demonstration sessions, reaching 12,750 people. The NS also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procured 1,620 pieces of soap, which were distributed to affected households and replenished NS stock. • Procured 700 buckets with lids for household water collection and storage. <p>During this operation, a total of 50 volunteers were oriented and engaged in WASH activities.</p>
Challenges
Due to overcrowding in some of the schools where affected households were accommodated, and in host families, ensuring proper hygiene and sanitation practices was a challenge. To mitigate risks, the GRCS provided soap, buckets, and detergents, and carried out hygiene and sanitation education using key messages on the prevention of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and skin infections.
Lessons Learned
Hygiene promotion activities should always go hand in hand with supply distribution. This makes it easier to educate affected households, discuss hygiene practices and demonstrate the proper use of distributed items.



Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

People reached: 5,300

Male: 2,252

Female: 3,048

Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of households reached with PGI and PSEA information	100	100
Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessments conducted and reported on PGI and PSEA	1	1
Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.2: Programmes and operations prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence and other forms of violence especially against children		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers oriented on PGI and PSEA	35	30
# of affected people provided with PGI support	N/A	4,500
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>PGI and PSEA</p> <p>The GRCS ensured that protection issues were considered and that beneficiaries from all 500 households assisted, regardless of age, gender, disability status and nationality or minority background, were provided with protection supports as needed. The NS conducted awareness-raising and orientation sessions on protection. With regards to inclusion, engagement with affected people in the distribution centres was prioritized to ensure that assistance was distributed equitably and impartially. In total, over 4,500 people were reached through PGI information sessions and SGBV referral paths.</p> <p>The GRCS PGI focal point and PGI-trained staff and volunteers played a vital role in addressing the risks of SGBV through monitoring; documentation, profiling, and registration; strengthening security; and promoting access to justice. Over 200 young girls and women were reached with dignity kits throughout the response, which was also used as an opportunity by GRCS personnel to inform them of available support and promote their rights – including the right to be safe from SGBV.</p>		

Thirty (30) volunteers were trained on PGI Minimum Standards in Cash-Based Interventions, which included a PSEA component. The initial target of 35 had to be revised due to availability of volunteers. The training session aimed at building capacity and commitment of participants to mainstream support to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and protection activities in cash-based interventions.

Inclusion

Gender roles and different population needs were considered when setting up distribution times and dates, and hygiene promotion activities. As part of the needs assessment and analysis, gender and diversity analysis was included in all sector assessments, including Shelter, Livelihoods, Health and WASH, to understand how the various groups were affected differently. All sectors of the operation strived to meet the IFRC Minimum Standards on PGI in emergencies.

Challenges

The GRCS PGI Unit was contacted during cash transfer distribution interventions to support SGBV issues reported in targeted regions. Notably, recurrent issues were reported around women being identified by GRCS as the head of household during the registration process, which caused violent reactions from males when revealed during the distribution phase. Registration of households was completed by taking the name of the person present in the house during the assessment as the head of the family, an assumption that will be revisited in future operations so as not to expose women to further risk of violence.

Lessons Learned

During cash transfer interventions, engaging communities on PGI and the set criteria for beneficiary selection can contribute to reducing the risk of SGBV within households, specifically on the issues of what the supported cash will be spent on and who is to receive the cash for the household.

Strengthen National Society

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

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of rapid assessments carried out	N/A	1
# of affected regions assessed	7	7
# of volunteers participating in the response	50	150
# of supervision missions completed by the GRCS HQ and IFRC team	3	7
# of consultations with affected and targeted households on decision on primary recipient of cash grant	2	2
% of community feedback received and processed	At least 80	80
# of IFRC monitoring missions	2	0
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

Rapid Assessments

Following the violent windstorm of 2 and 7 July 2021, the GRCS conducted one (1) rapid assessment in the most affected areas. All 7 most affected regions were assessed by GRCS teams, with the North Bank Region identified as the most hit area in the country. The rapid assessment helped the National Society collect information which informed the decision to request DREF funding.

Volunteers' participation in the response

A total of 150 volunteers participated in the response. The initial target of 50 was largely exceeded due to the scope of the response, the number of regions affected, and the number of response activities carried out by the GRCS.

Supervision missions by the GRCS HQ and IFRC team

The GRCS HQ team conducted seven supervision missions throughout the response, and during the different phases of the operation. Additional supervision and coordination efforts were especially required to support field teams during initial assessments, registration of households, organization of distribution campaigns (most notably cash transfers), and Post Distribution Monitoring activities (PDM).

Consultations with affected and targeted households on decision on primary recipient of cash grant

The GRCS conducted two consultations with targeted households, including one in collaboration with the ECHO team. Female-headed households made up 20% of targeted households. When asked about decision-making on how the cash was spent, 81% of respondents reported the male head of household decided; 12% of respondents reported all household members decided together; and 2% of respondents reported the female head of household decided. This

pattern of decision on spending correlates with the high number of single-headed households who were interviewed during the survey. More than 75% of the respondents reported there was no disagreement on spending the cash they received; 15% reported that there was 'some level' of disagreement; and 11% reported disagreement in the household on how to spend the cash they received.

Community feedback

Community feedback was collected from beneficiaries in all seven targeted regions. Approximately 80% of all feedback could be reviewed and processed, with the following aspects to be taken into consideration for future operations:

- Unconditional cash transfers were seen by beneficiaries as the best option to address their needs, as it gave them flexibility and freedom of choice.
- Beneficiaries indicated that when markets were fully functional, cash distributions were preferable to food and/or building materials distributions.
- Information sharing on beneficiary selection was found to be effective, as most of the respondents knew about selection criteria before distributions.
- Some respondents mentioned that the distribution process was not communicated properly (no help desk was put in place); in the future, help desks should be set up in distribution sites to address this issue.
- One third of respondents reported that they were told about the cash transfer programme from GRCS volunteers, which also speaks to the need to expand community engagement activities in future response operations.

IFRC monitoring missions

Due to conflicting priorities in the region, the IFRC Dakar Country Cluster Delegation could not conduct the monitoring missions as planned.

Lessons learned workshop

One lesson learned workshop was organized after the operation was completed. GRCS staff and volunteers, some beneficiaries, governmental and non-governmental partners participated in that workshop. The focus was on reviewing the successes and challenges of the response and identifying aspects to work on to enhance preparedness to future disasters. (See below, in *Lessons Learned* section, for key lessons learned.)

Challenges

Lack of coordination between institutions: while the crisis response structure planned for coordination between relevant actors, duplicates of support between institutions in responding to the disaster were common. This was a result of failures in coordination and communication during the operation.

Lessons Learned

The Windstorm Surge response provided key lessons in preparedness efforts: improvements were identified for early warning mechanisms, construction guidelines and for increased third-party inspection details. However, businesses still need to place greater emphasis on reviewing pre- and post-loss risk management. Preparedness efforts, particularly in rural Gambia, still need to be strengthened to better mitigate disaster losses.

Improved coordination between implementing partners was highlighted as a priority area for future response interventions. Work is planned to bring clarity on roles and responsibilities. Communication channels around what type of assistance is provided where, and by whom, are also to be strengthened with all partners.

The sheer scope of the response provided the GRCS with an opportunity to test its capabilities, to train staff and volunteers, and strengthen its response structure. A larger proportion of GRCS response personnel, both staff and volunteers, has now acquired more experience, either at field or coordination levels and is better prepared to support future response operations.

Finally, unconditional cash transfers have proven to be an efficient and flexible assistance modality, allowing affected households to address pressing needs while ensuring freedom of choice. Cash transfers should be the preferred assistance modality in future response interventions when local markets are fully functional. Engaging affected communities on beneficiary selection criteria should also be integrated to future operations, as it was found to be effective during the Windstorm Surge operation.

D. Financial Report

The overall amount allocated for implementation of this operation was CHF 276,487 of which 276,173 (99.8%) were expensed. A balance of CHF 314 will be returned to the DREF pot. Based on the attached financial report, there are no variances requiring any explanations.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

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

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

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For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

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For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

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

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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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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	2021-2022/5	Operation	MDRGM014
Budget Timeframe	2021-2022	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29/Jun/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGM014 - Gambia - Windstorm Surge

Operating Timeframe: 13 Jul 2021 to 31 Oct 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	276,487
DREF Allocations	276,487
Expenditure	-276,173
Closing Balance	314

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	126	79	46
AOF2 - Shelter	123,671	123,663	8
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	81,123	81,054	69
AOF4 - Health	11,655	11,612	44
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	20,257	20,241	16
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	636	575	61
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	237,467	237,223	244
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	28,850	28,826	24
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	10,169	10,123	46
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total	39,019	38,949	70
Grand Total	276,487	276,173	314

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021-2022/5	Operation	MDRGM014
Budget Timeframe	2021-2022	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29/Jun/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGM014 - Gambia - Windstorm Surge

Operating Timeframe: 13 Jul 2021 to 31 Oct 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	193,865	193,741	124
Clothing & Textiles	21,851	21,825	26
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,087	8,076	11
Utensils & Tools	6,992	6,908	84
Cash Disbursement	156,936	156,932	3
Logistics, Transport & Storage	16,578	16,569	9
Distribution & Monitoring	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicles Costs	16,578	16,569	9
Personnel	19,748	19,727	21
National Society Staff	9,906	9,889	17
Volunteers	9,842	9,838	4
Workshops & Training	17,267	17,224	43
Workshops & Training	17,267	17,224	43
General Expenditure	12,154	12,056	97
Travel	544	528	16
Information & Public Relations	165	125	40
Office Costs	5,964	5,955	9
Communications	3,331	3,319	12
Financial Charges	2,150	2,130	20
Indirect Costs	16,875	16,856	19
Programme & Services Support Recover	16,875	16,856	19
Grand Total	276,487	276,173	314