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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) The Gambia: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n°		Glide n°:	FL-2022-000276-GMB
Date of issue:	08 August 2022	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	31 December 2022
Category allocated to the of the disaster: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF 342,274			
Total number of people affected:	17,201 people (according to the National Disaster Management Agency)	Number of people to be assisted:	Approximately 7,021 people (606 households)¹
Provinces affected:	4 regions –North Bank Region, West Coast Region, Kanifing Municipality and Banjul	Provinces/Regions targeted:	4 regions –North Bank Region, West Coast Region, Kanifing Municipality and Banjul
Operating National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) with 14,000 volunteers and 60 GRCS staff across the country			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners 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 and United Nations (UN) agencies			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

From 30 to 31 July 2022, heavy rains hit several regions of The Gambia, leading to widespread flooding. Some houses have been so severely affected that the occupants had to be evacuated to public buildings such as mosques and schools for safety.

The most affected regions are Banjul, Kanifing Municipality, West Coast, and North Bank. In North Bank Region, five children have been reported dead and one is in critical condition and under treatment as a result of the thunderstorm that accompanied the rains on 30 July 2022. One other person is also reported dead in the West Coast Region. At the time of writing this EPoA, some roads are not yet accessible due to the overflow of rainwater. According to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), approximately 1,961 households are affected as of 31 July 2022. However, data verification done by GRCS as of 02 August 2022, shows that 606 households (7,021 people) are affected so far, with damages to their shelters, food, and latrines. This verification exercise is still ongoing and more verified data is expected to be obtained from GRCS volunteers in the field.

Preliminary information obtained as of 01 August 2022 from the first situational report produced by the NDMA indicates that a total of 17,201 people from 1,961 households have been affected. The impacts include destruction of houses, food stock, toilet facilities, and household items.



GRCS volunteer provides support to flooded community. Photo by GRCS

¹ Average family size is 8.5 persons per family, according to 2013 census. However, GRCS targeting is based on the actual number of people counted by volunteers during the rapid assessments. This gives an average of 11.5 people per household.



Impacts of the heavy rains and winds. Photo by GRCS

These are segregated per region is as follows:

Region	Affected HH	Affected persons
West Coast Region (WCR)	1,500	13,500
North Bank Region (NBR)	200	1,600
Kanifing Municipality (KM)	250	2,000
Lower River Region (LRR)	11	101

According to GRCS personnel in the field, some of the displaced households are currently being sheltered by relatives, host families, schools, mosques, health facilities, and uncompleted buildings. Preliminary information reports the destruction of several houses, and food storage facilities in the affected communities. However, in the process of developing this EPoA, data verification conducted by GRCS teams of volunteers, substantiated by informal reporting

sources such as [social media posts](#) and print media platforms, indicate a sharp increase in the number of affected people and households in the impacted regions. In fact, many social media outlets are publishing [images](#) and information about the flood situation.

The Vice President of The Gambia, during his [visit to communities](#) affected by the heavy rainfall, disclosed that the government is working on plans to come up with a resettling scheme for people residing in waterway areas to solve the flooding which people have been grappling with for years around the Greater Banjul Areas.

Prior to the outpour, the Meteorological Department had indicated slight to moderate rain and thunderstorms across the country during the night of Saturday 30 July and torrential, moderate to heavy rain and thunderstorms was expected across the country from the early hours of Sunday 31 July, until late in the afternoon which might result to flash flooding over areas prone to flooding. [Moderate to heavy rainfall is forecasted](#) until 05 August, reproducing similar patterns to those observed in the country on 01 and 02 August. Indeed, according to The Gambia's Daily Weather Forecast issued by The Department of Water Resources, thunderstorms and rain are expected across the country from late afternoon towards the end of the forecasted period.

The Gambia has a sub-tropical climate with sunshine throughout the year and average temperatures between 29°C and 34°C. The rainy season runs from June to September and sometimes beyond. The country has experienced over the past few years, extensive downpours causing severe destruction as a results of poor drainage systems, deforestation, felling of trees for new settlements (new estate developers) etc., causing floods, destruction and untold suffering. The rainy/farming season has just begun with forecasts indicating intermitted heavy rainfall accompanied by severe windstorms. These imminent precipitations may further complicate the situation and severe consequences on the rural population in particular is expected.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Operating National Society

Since the onset of the disaster, 200 GRCS volunteers have been in the affected communities conducting rapid assessments, which are still ongoing. They are also providing support to the affected households to relocate and drain the water out of their homes. So far, GRCS has verified three hundred and eighty-one (381) displaced households who are temporally hosted in schools, hospitals, and unfinished buildings.

GRCS has mobilized essential household items (EHI), from its warehouse that are immediately distributed to the severely affected households in Kanifing Municipality, Banjul, and West Coast region. The materials include mats, blankets, mosquito nets and hygiene kits. The severely affected households are those whose houses have been destroyed to the extent that residents cannot remain inside them safely because they have been completely destroyed or heavily flooded. So far, a total of 235 households have been reached with the EHIs from Banjul, Kanifing Municipality, and West Coast Region. See below table for the household items distributed so far by GRCS:



Packaging and Distribution of Hygiene Kits. Photo by GRCS

No	Items	Qty distributed
1	Sleeping Mats	705
2	Mosquito Nets	705
3	Blankets	705
4	Hygiene Kits	235
5	Aqua Tabs	810
6	Used Clothes	Assorted

The mentioned relief stock that was pre-positioned at GRCS National Headquarters has been dispatched and distributed in Banjul, Kanifing Municipality, and West Coast Region to provide initial support to the most vulnerable households and will be replenished through this DREF operation.

On 31 July 2022, the GRCS Director of Programs and Operations called for a quick coordination meeting with GRCS staff at the GRCS Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The meeting, held at around 14:00 hours with programs and support departments

such as Disaster Management (DM), Communications, Finance, Volunteer Management, Logistics, First Aid, and Information Technologies (IT) helped to assign roles to various staff in relation to responding to this flood situation.

GRCS is also in communication with the NDMA about the preparedness levels of both actors and about how they can coordinate their respective response efforts.

To note, the full picture of the impact of the disaster is still unclear as the assessments are ongoing. More information will be provided as the situation evolves. On 31 July, GRCS published on [social media and television program](#) information about the situation of the affected people and also its [response efforts](#). The GRCS will continue to work closely with the government (NDMA) and key humanitarian and government partners in carrying out continuous assessments to understand the scale of damages and suggest well-defined actions to be undertaken. The partners supporting the assessment include the World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Ministry of Environment.

The National Society has a core of trained and available volunteers and staff to support this operation and has dispatched teams which are currently working in close collaboration with the Red Cross Regional Branches and relevant stakeholders in the affected regions. A total of 200 volunteers and 30 staff are currently engaged in the operation. At HQ level, the GRCS has proficient staff in Disaster Management, Cash & Voucher Assistance (CVA), Shelter, WASH, Emergency Assessment, Community Engagement & Accountability (CEA), Health and Care, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Finance.

The GRCS is also equipped with three Advanced Life Support and six Basic Life Support ambulances, manned by paramedics trained in Pre-Hospital and health care services. The ambulances are strategically positioned to respond to emergencies countrywide on a 24-hour availability.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC technical support is provided through its Country Cluster Delegation in Dakar and Africa Region office, which are supporting GRCS with this DREF Operation. In addition, IFRC has one migration officer based in Gambia. The Gambia Red Cross Society plays the lead role in responding to disaster or emergency situations in the country with IFRC and ICRC effective collaboration and receives technical support from both Movement partners through field missions deployed to the Gambia, if/when requested. There is no ICRC delegation in-country.

The Gambia Red Cross Society has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Belgian Red Cross to support the emergency preparedness activities of The Gambia Red Cross.

Overview of other actors in-country

From the onset of the disaster, GRCS has been coordinating closely with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). The NDMA has the responsibility of coordinating all disaster-related interventions in the country. At regional level, the Office of the Governor or Mayor and Partners including NDMA are responsible for the implementation and coordination of all disaster activities.

The NDMA invited relevant emergency response partners to the office of the Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia on 02 August 2022. The meeting was attended by various ministers, representatives from humanitarian organizations, and the UN Agencies. GRCS was represented by the Director of Programs and Operations. During this meeting, it was reported that the Government of The Gambia is developing a Mitigation Plan and policies for settlement. They are also working on a relief package and a relocation plan to respond to the situation. The Government through the Vice President, called on all humanitarian organizations to coordinate together in this response. The Vice President also mentioned that they are expecting a report from the NDMA and The Gambia Red Cross Society on the implemented activities and the next steps as far as the emergency response is concerned.

The GRCS, an active member of the National Disaster Management Committee, attends regular meetings and briefing sessions to ensure a cohesive and harmonized response is guaranteed. GRCS is also a member of the Regional Coordination Groups with its branches, participating in meetings and briefings. Joint assessment missions are carried out together with these structures and report emanating from such missions are shared. The Committee makes

presentations on plans and activity implementation during such forums, to ensure and promote better understanding of implementation of planned activities. The National Society, at all times, requests the participation of National Disaster Management Agency and other partners to participate in all relevant training programmes.

Other humanitarian actors operational in the country, including the UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM and WFP) with other international and local NGOs, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations usually play an active role in responding to the needs of the affected population but for the moment, only NDMA and Red Cross are on the ground.

Coordination

The Gambia Red Cross Society maintains a good working relationship with the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation in Dakar. The National Society continues to actively participate in coordination meetings and ensure the sharing of relevant information is regular. Discussions on intervention strategies, plans, as well as logistical issues are being harmonized. The National Society and NDMA are actively monitoring the situation and activities in the operational areas and consolidating assessment reports and implementation strategies in the field to avoid duplication.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

According to the NDMA, the floods had affected 17,201 people (1,962 households) as of 01 August 2022. However, the data verified by GRCS volunteers as of 03 August 2022, indicates 7,021 people (606 households) affected. The main priorities identified by the GRCS during the verification were emergency shelter, food, WASH, and health for the affected households as seen below:

- 15% of affected households, i.e. 89 houses are completely destroyed
- 24% of affected households, i.e. 143 houses are partially destroyed
- 3% of affected households, i.e. 18 houses no longer have a roof
- 52% households, i.e. 315 houses were flooded, but not destroyed
- About 41 houses were affected with no major impact.

Many people have been displaced at the time of preparing this initial plan of action. Most of these affected people are housed with relatives, host families, in schools, mosques, health facilities, and uncompleted buildings. The majority of the damaged houses are built by owners, who are not professional builders, making houses more vulnerable to natural disasters. Adding to that, the building materials are not up to standard. Some of the affected households are house owners while some are tenants.

The immediate shelter needs identified by the assessment are:

- Building/roofing materials (trusses, rafters, iron sheets and nails);
- Building super structure for roofing (wood to provide basement for the rafters).
- Household materials (buckets, jerry cans, blankets, mosquito nets and beddings);

A detailed needs assessment has not been undertaken as yet. This plan of action has been drafted based on preliminary information GRCS received from the deployed teams and from its Branch staff conducting some verifications in the communities. A detailed assessment is planned to start on 5th August and is budgeted for under this operation and the outcome will be considered for any changes in the proposed operational strategy. Based on the verification done so far by the volunteers, there have been loss of houses, loss of seed stores, loss of toilet facilities, contaminated water sources, loss of livestock, and loss of farmlands.

In addition, a rapid and continuous market assessment will be conducted, which will provide us with information about the market systems.



A partially collapsed building. Photo by GRCS

Targeting

For now, this DREF operation focuses on all four affected regions of The Gambia, including the below, due to no actors responding in for the moment:

- Banjul,
- Kanifing Municipality,
- West Coast Region, and
- North Bank Region.

GRCS will for the moment, target all 606 verified households (7,021 people) through this response, of which:

- 107 households with cash for emergency shelter for two months
- 143 households with cash support for shelter rehabilitation as a one-off
- 565 households with household items distributions (includes households provided with cash for shelter support and replenishment of distributed items);
- 606 households with cash for basic food items of which 250 households which receive cash for shelter support will receive support for two months, while 356 households will receive support for a month.
- 606 households for health/hygiene promotion and hygiene items.

The GRCS rapid assessment teams identified the following specific vulnerabilities: the elderly, people living with disabilities, injured people, displaced persons, pregnant and lactating women, widows, children, and families that lost loved ones because of the flood situation. Trauma was common among these vulnerable groups.

Following detailed assessments, if there is an exponential rise in the caseload, GRCS will then apply below targeting criteria, given funding limitations. As such, at a later stage, the National Society will conduct a selection of most vulnerable additional affected people in the mentioned regions. Priority will then be given to affected households who are severely impacted by the floods, considering families headed by women, families with elderly people and/or children under 5 years, families with pregnant or lactating women, households headed by children, families with ailing members and people living with disabilities.

The selected beneficiaries will be informed about their selection and about the criteria used in the selection process. Community leaders will be informed about the selected beneficiaries in their various communities for accountability and transparency. The Information Management team is still working on the data to provide more details and specific segregated data.

Scenario planning

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Best case: The weather condition quickly reduces intensity; little rains, <i>no</i> additional people are affected and no secondary effects on people, their homes and livelihoods.	Short-term humanitarian needs related to loss of food, shelters, WASH and livelihood would need to be addressed.	The response will be limited to the proposed DREF operation. Humanitarian dialogue with authorities to seek durable solutions around safe shelter constructions and community engagement to ensure adherence to standards. Engagement of GRCS links and youth groups at community level to sensitize and support the public on clearing waterways and following national building standards.
Most likely: The bad weather continues, but no more than 50mm of rain in 24 hours in any part of the current affected areas. The floods will not be prolonged, and the intensity and speed reduced to average.	Mid-term humanitarian needs related to loss of food, shelters, WASH and livelihood would still need to be addressed.	Continue with the current response with continued monitoring of the situation in the communities, early warning alerts from Meteorological Department for more preparedness actions. The National Society will also explore possibilities of accessing funding for anticipatory actions to be implemented in the at-risk areas, possibly through the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF.

<p>Worst Case: The weather condition continues, and heavy rains worsened between August and September, with more intensity and speed in many parts of the currently affected areas, resulting in massive displacement of people and further destruction of infrastructure and assets.</p>	<p>Long-term humanitarian needs related to loss of food, shelters, WASH, lives, and livelihood would still need to be addressed.</p>	<p>Revision of the current DREF operation through an Operations update to widen the scope of intervention, with possible change of strategy, increased timeframe and possibly a second allocation.</p> <p>The National Society will also explore possibilities of accessing funding for anticipatory actions to be implemented in the at-risk areas, by developing either a full or simplified Early Action Protocol, possibly funded through the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF.</p>
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GRCS operational strategy will focus on the most likely scenario described above. With the current context, if households are not supported to meet their immediate needs on shelter, there is a high risk of water-related diseases as well as more destruction to shelters, which will become huge and complex because of the risk of the earth-made superstructures/walls deteriorating and potentially collapsing, potentially causing more deaths. Sheltering will become more challenging given the current context. To avert further deterioration of the shelter situation of affected families, immediate support for the families to take care of their immediate food and shelter needs is the best, as the country is in the mid of the rainy season and more rains and accompanying windstorm are predicted by weather hydro-metrological unit.

The food needs will continue to be a challenge, especially to the displaced families. WASH-related risks will also increase if the situation is not urgently addressed as people will be exposed to water-borne diseases. The farmlands are submerged and crops have been washed away which would affect people's livelihoods, especially farmers. Displaced women and children are at a higher risk of gender-based violence and security issues.

Operation Risk Assessment

In the affected regions and communities, there are no major risks which could affect and/or prevent the operation from being implemented. Access to communities in the regions is easy with the presence of security forces (police stations in almost all the districts in the region).

Although many major roads are accessible, some roads are not accessible due to the effects of the floods. This could become a key challenge through August and September 2022 which is the peak of the rainy season, due to potholes and soft soil/mud for accessibility of heavy vehicles. To mitigate this risk, the Government of The Gambia is working on fixing the roads at the soonest possible time for easy accessibility. It is important to support the affected population with provision of emergency shelter materials, food and WASH support to recover from the flood situation.

The overcrowded situation in the current hosting sites and within host households presents risks of SGBV, violence against children, and the potential spread of COVID-19. Indeed, a possible spread of COVID-19 and other diseases among overcrowded households and host families may lead to an epidemic or disease outbreak. GRCS is also distributing Aquatabs for water purification to reduce the risk of infection from contaminated water. There is need for community sensitization on Prevention and response to SGBV and disease prevention and control. GRCS will ensure safe referrals of SGBV survivors through our PGI unit.

Mitigation measures:

- Proactively seek the engagement of all affected communities and their feedback on the best way to support them;
- Implement basic Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) measures at the hosting site (separate latrines by gender, adequate lighting, registration of external visitors, sensitization sessions);
- In the event of COVID-19 cases, the specific cases will be isolated at the Government treatment centre (2 of which are free of charge), which will oversee contact tracing, sample collection and testing. In a situation where the treatment centres are full, there will be need to cover the cost for hotel serving as treatment centres operated by the Government.
- National Society responses to COVID-19 are supported through the IFRC global appeal, which will facilitate supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19. This DREF operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Regional Office for Africa, in coordination with global and regional partners. IFRC continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crisis should adapt to this crisis and provide necessary guidance to its membership on the same. The National Society will keep monitoring the

situation closely, focusing on the health risks, and revise accordingly if needed taking into consideration the evolving COVID-19 situation.

- GRCS will take alternate routes to transport the EHIs to the affected households;
- GRCS is also distributing Aquatabs for water purification in order to reduce the risk of infection from contaminated water.

B. Operational strategy

Operational objective:

The overall goal of this operation is to provide immediate lifesaving support to 606 households (7,021 people) in 4 regions affected by the flood situation of The Gambia through emergency health and psychosocial support, shelter and household items (HHIs), hygiene promotion services, with protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) cutting across all sectors.

As a lesson learned from previous emergency interventions in The Gambia, GRCS will implement a cash-based response based on the speed of its delivery and previous feedback from disaster-affected communities. Indeed, this allows targeted households access emergency assistance while maintaining their dignity by allowing them the flexibility to choose what forms of aid better fit their immediate needs. In addition, it has been noticed that both homeowners and tenants are often affected and conditionality on the cash grant limits the tenants who have also been affected to make repairs to houses they do not own, without prior consultations/approvals from the homeowners. To ensure adequate use of the funding, GRCS will ensure due sensitization to beneficiaries on the intended use of the amounts received.

GRCS currently has a 3-years long agreement with two financial service providers (Afri Money and QMoney). GRCS has agreed to work with QMoney in this operation, because of lower financial charges, flexibility, and better coverage across the (higher number of service points).

Proposed Strategy:

The current operational strategy will ensure that activities contribute to efforts of saving lives, preventing 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.

A detailed multi-sector needs assessment is planned and will help to ascertain the scope of the disaster, as the situation is still unfolding. The results of this assessment will enhance an accountable and transparent justification and implementation of activities, allow for gaps to be documented and analysed and avoid overlaps while serving as a basis for any eventual revision of this emergency plan of action. This will entail the implementation of the below activities:

- Cost recovery of GRCS for rapid assessment of the needs and vulnerabilities, damages of affected households conducted by 200 volunteers and 20 staff for 3 days. The high number of volunteers is due to accessibility challenges and the fact that GRCS already has volunteers in the affected communities. GRCS will rely on the volunteers in their communities rather than having a single set of volunteers who would be moving from region to region.
- Conduct a detailed multi-sector needs assessment for 5 days by 60 volunteers (15 per affected region) and 6 staff. This will help ascertain the number of affected and needs and will serve as a basis for any scale-up plans. GRCS staff will be there to support Branches/Regions in planning and managing a detailed assessment including household visits and key informant interviews and focus group discussions as well as market assessments for clear understanding of availability, supply, and quality.
- Conduct a market assessment to ensure the response provided is suitable based on market prices of items intended to be procured by households. This will require 2 volunteers deployed for 2 days in each of the 4 regions.
- Conduct registration of recipient families (already identified through the rapid assessment) with support from 20 volunteers and 4 staff (5 volunteers and 1 staff per region) for 2 days. To note, verification of beneficiaries in different target groups will integrate gender, diversity and disability in the response to arrive at 606 targeted households.

1. Shelter and household items (Target: 6,498 people or 565 HH)

As indicated under targeting section, GRCS will target a total of 565 households (6,498 people) with support for emergency shelter, shelter rehabilitation and household items as follows:

- Provision of cash support to **107 households for emergency shelter**. The amount provided will be a lumpsum of GMD 15,000 to 107 households as a contribution for accessing rental houses for 2 months (GMD 7,500 per month). The GMD 7,500 represents 30% of the cost for repairs of a three-bedroom earth-mold house with grass roofing (estimated at GMD 25,000) which would be considered as emergency shelter given the average size of households (8 persons) in The Gambia.
- Provision of cash support to **143 households for shelter rehabilitation**. They will be provided with GMD 7,500 (once) which is 50% of the amount provided to those who need full shelter.

Table 1: Cash disbursement for shelter support to 250 households

Number of transfers	Purpose			Number of Households
	Description	Amount per month	Amount for disbursement (GMD)	
One-off disbursement	Cash for emergency shelter (rental support for 2 months)	7,500	15,000	107 households
	Cash for shelter rehabilitation (once)	7,500	7,500	143 households

The cash will be disbursed as a one-off unrestricted cash disbursement. To note, there is a GMD 350 fee per withdrawal imputed to recipients by QMoney, which will be charged to this operation. To note, the withdrawal fees vary per amount range. GRCS will, during its sensitization sessions, emphasis on the intended use of the cash grants, to ensure that the funds are directed to the affected households are expensed in a suitable manner.

- Procurement and distribution of household items to 565 households to replace those lost. These households include the above 250 that require shelter support and 315 households that need support to replace lost household items. This support will be provided in kind, while replacing the items distributed from GRCS warehouse, detailed as follows:
 - Replenishment of 705 sleeping mats and 705 blankets (3 per household) distributed to 235 households at the start of the disaster.
 - Procurement and distribution of sleeping mats and blankets to 330 additional households (3 per household)
- Every year, rains and windstorms affect both the rural and urban areas, this seems to be a continuous trend. In this regard, training on community-based disaster risk reduction is a requirement to enhance better preparedness and risk reduction. The cost for this training will be covered through an MoU with the Belgian Red Cross (French Speaking) and set the basis for GRCS to work on early action protocols for floods/windstorm anticipatory actions.
- Volunteer capacity strengthening for the effective implementation of response activities will be supported by the emergency preparedness and response training supported by the Belgian Red Cross (this will cover the training components) and will include 50 volunteers and 10 staff for cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in the 4 affected regions. This will take into account the PGI-sensitive CVA checklist recently developed by the IFRC Africa region.
- Deployment of 20 volunteers (5 per region) to support and monitor the cash transfer process to the beneficiaries for 3 days. To note, QMoney will need to deploy agents across all affected regions for the cash disbursements – this is why 3 days are needed per region for the transfers to be completed.
- Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of the response by 20 volunteers for 3 days in the 4 affected regions. This will take place 2 weeks after cash disbursements and shall help to ensure that data is collected on the use of cash by each household. Telecommunication credit will be provided to the Branch Officers and Volunteers to contact the beneficiaries for both the cash transfer and PDM.

2. Livelihoods and basic needs (Target: 7,021 people or 606 HH)

Due to the floods, families who have lost their houses (destroyed or damaged) have lost their livelihoods and essential items which include reserved food stocks, buckets and other household items. An unrestricted cash transfer will be provided for the targeted households to purchase basic food necessities as required based on below table 2.

Table 2: Content of food basket for each household per Cash Working Group (CWG)

Item description	Quantity per day (kg)	Quantity/month /individual (kg)	Unit of measure	Quantity for HH in Kg (HH compose with 11 persons)	Cost in GMD
Rice	0.3	10	Kgs	110	2,150
Dry beans	0.066	2	Kgs	22	1,700
Cooking oil	0.025	0.75	Litres	8.25	364
Fine salt	0.006	0.2	Kgs	2.2	60
Sugar	0.02	0.6	Kgs	6.6	174
Onions	NA	N/A	Kgs	3	150
Potatoes	N/A	N/A	Bag	10	650
Total per month					5,248

The total figure is rounded up to GMD 5,250.

Based on above, a cash transfer of GMD 5,250 to cover food needs will be distributed to all affected 606 households as follows:

- 250 most vulnerable households will receive a total grant of GMD 10,500 per household for food needs covering 2 months, as they have lost everything in the floods. This will be disbursed in monthly instalments.
- 356 households will receive cash grant of GMD 5,250 for food needs covering one month.

Table 3: Cash disbursement for shelter support to 606 households

Number of transfers	Purpose			Number of Households
	Description	Amount per month	Amount for disbursement (GMD)	
Monthly disbursement	Cash for food for most vulnerable homes which have received emergency shelter support (2 months)	5,250	10,500	250 households
Single disbursement	Cash for food for other affected households (1 month)	5,250	5,250	356 households

- Orientation sessions on the unrestricted cash disbursements and financial planning of the unrestricted cash amounts received for food and shelter, respectively.
- Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of the response by 20 volunteers for 3 days. Telecommunication credit will be provided to the Branch Officers and Volunteers to contact the beneficiaries on both the cash transfer and PDM.

3. Health Target: 7,021 people or 606 HH

Under this sector, The Gambia Red Cross with the Ministry of Health will provide health services to the flood-affected population and host communities/families. As such, GRCS aims at supporting Government efforts in the targeted communities by conducting the following activities:

- Put in place one standby ambulance manned by the GRCS GPlus Emergency Response Team at the evacuation site to evacuate ill/injured persons and pregnant women, who will then be referred to nearby health facilities. The need for this measure is because the rainy season is still to hold for 2 and half months and more floods are expected which will continue to expose the affected families to health and WASH issues (Malaria, diarrhoea, cholera and skin infections).
- COVID-19 prevention and control messages will be shared during awareness sessions with the targeted population on prevention measures will be held. This will be done together with sensitization on proper hand washing practices and menstrual hygiene education.
- Provision of PSS support to community as needed by 20 volunteers (5 volunteers per region) for 3 days per month for 3 months in each of the 4 affected regions.
- Procurement and distribution of 1,818 long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets for 606 HH (3/HH) (705 for replenishment).

4. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (Target: 7,021 people or 606 HH)**

Under this sector, the Gambia Red Cross aims at providing the following services to communities:

- Refresher training of 50 volunteers on health and hygiene promotion.
- Conduct 3 hygiene and health sensitization sessions per month on open defecation including hand washing demonstration sessions (40 volunteers x 3 days x 3 months). These sessions will happen simultaneously in all 4 regions.
- Procure and distribute 606 buckets with lids for household water collection and storage (75 litres) (1 per household)
- Procure and distribute 606 buckets with lids for household water collection and storage (20 litres) (1 per household)
- Procure and distribute 606 hygiene kits (1 per family) (235 for replenishment of GRCS stock used)

5. **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) (Target: 7,021 people or 606 HH)**

GRCS will ensure that protection issues are considered and that everyone feels protected at the affected areas, despite age, gender, disability status and nationality or minority background. The National Society will conduct awareness-raising and orientation sessions on protection. For inclusion of everyone, including vulnerable groups, engagement with people in the distribution centres will be done to ensure that all the assistance is distributed equitably and impartially.

Gender roles and needs will be considered when setting up distribution points, times and dates as well as in hygiene promotion activities. As part of the needs assessment and analysis, a gender and diversity analysis will be included in all sector responses including Food, Shelter and HHIs, Livelihoods, Health and WASH, to understand how different groups have been affected differently, which will inform any revision of the operational strategy. All sectors will seek to meet the IFRC Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in emergencies and will work with other sectors to ensure PGI integration. And support in multisectoral sectoral assessments.

The activities under this sector will include:

- Sensitization sessions will be organized within affected communities, sharing basic social cohesion and protection messages, Prevention and response to SGBV and sharing safe referral pathways in case of any SGBV cases.
- RFL services will be provided to those who lost contact with their families, in cooperation with the ICRC RFL team using the available RFL services and in case of missing persons, an active and immediate coordination with the ICRC central tracing agency will be made.
- Some 50 volunteers and staff (at least 45% women) will be trained on Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies to support the women, people with disabilities, elderly and children to access health services, provide the necessary hygiene kits to them, and address issues on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Sex, Age- and Disability-Disaggregated Data (SADDD) will be collected to design sector-specific interventions. Depending on the information collected during this assessment, and on the expected duration of the displacement, additional measures can be considered, such as the reinforcement of referral networks, specialized services for children, the creation safe space for both woman and children.
- Printing and distribution of PGI-related advocacy posters.
- Work with other sectors to ensure PGI integration, and support in multisectoral sectoral assessments
- Collaboration and coordination with other actors on safe referral pathway for SGBV survivors
- PGI focal point to participate in GBV in country subclusters
- Refresher briefing for staff and volunteers on PSEA, Child Safeguarding and Code of Conduct.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): CEA will be mainstreamed throughout the intervention to guarantee maximum and meaningful participation of the affected communities. A feedback and complaint desk will be put in place for beneficiaries of GRCS support to provide direct feedback on services delivered. For clarity and for a good flow of information, clear roles and responsibilities will be agreed upon with representatives of community leaders and committees. The beneficiary selection criteria will be developed with communities and the process will be clearly communicated to all affected. Hygiene and health promotion sessions will also be instrumental in collecting feedback and responding to community concerns and will serve to amend hygiene and health promotion messaging, as necessary. Consultations will be held with communities to determine who will be registered as head of household to receive the cash grants.

The activities under this sector will include:

- Refresher training on CEA and community feedback mechanisms for 50 volunteers.
- Establishment of the feedback mechanisms and ensure to process the feedback and complaints received. Feedback will also be provided to the community and the regional authorities to ensure they are aware that their feedback have been considered.
- The GRCS will regularly monitor the circulation of rumours that can affect the response operation
- Discuss exit strategies with communities and various stakeholders.

Operational Support Services

Human resources

The National Society has over the past years gained experience in emergency response planning and management. A considerable number of staff and volunteers have been trained and exposed to emergency/disaster situations and other situations of violence in the country. Many training activities have also been conducted. The essential necessities are provision of refresher training and orientation activities to enhance coordination with partners and effective service delivery.

GRCS plans to dedicate the following HR to the operation:

1. At headquarters level, 30 staff will be dedicated to the response including the Disaster Manager and relief staff, Health and Water and Sanitation officers, Communication Officers, Shelter, Cash, PMER Officer, and other senior staff.
2. At Regional/Branch Level, the Branch Officer, supported by experience volunteers will supervise activities and give technical support.
3. Refresher trainings will be provided for 50 volunteers to do Health & hygiene Promotion and referrals, Community Engagement and Accountability
4. With the employment of a Protection, Gender and Inclusion, as well as RFL Focal Points, relating activities shall be included in the DREF operations.

The overall number of volunteers to be deployed under this operation will be 50 working across all areas of focus. However, insurance will cover up to 200 volunteers considering that they have already been deployed for rapid assessments. In addition, a surge capacity personnel with shelter background will not be needed as the response will be on Cash Transfer. Dakar CCD will provide DM support, as necessary.

Logistics and supply chain

IFRC, working in close collaboration with the GRCS Logistics and Supply Chain Department, will provide technical support in line with operational priorities and per IFRC procedures.

GRCS has identified cash disbursement as the preferred response mechanism in this sector because it currently has an existing agreement with a financial service provider (FSP) (QMoney). The agreement with the FSP will be activated and a ToR will be developed for this operation.

Procurement plans: Local procurement will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC and GRCS standard procurement procedures. Current procurement plans will include replenishment of items distributed from GRCS warehouse as detailed in the plan.

Transport and fleet needs: The operation has budgeted fuel and vehicle maintenance costs to ensure transport needs are met. GRCS will use its own vehicle for the entire operation.

Security Situation Overview

Banjul is situated on a peninsula where the Gambia river meets the Atlantic Ocean. Access to the city is only possible via the Banjul-Serrekunda motorway and a ferry link from Gambia's North Bank. Banjul is Gambia's administrative capital, hosting the national parliament building and presidential office. While the city hosts key commercial institutions, the bulk of commercial activity takes place in the adjoining city of Serrekunda (Banjul division).

To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime or violence, active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. This includes situation monitoring and implementation of minimum-security standards. All RCRC personnel actively involved in the operation must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security). Related to safer access concern, one of the main benefits of the GRCS is the nationwide recognition of the National Society. This has rendered ease and facilitation with community heads, leaders and most importantly the communities themselves. The Gambian Red Cross is well accepted by the community and trusted. The use of a financial service provider to provide relief support to affected communities is in line with reducing exposure to petty crime to the minimum. The final distribution points will be identified immediately after the selection of the beneficiaries. However, the Branch Offices of GRCS will be used as a distribution point and the agents of the Service Provider (QMoney Outlets and Reliance financial Services).

There is no permanent IFRC presence in The Gambia. However, the IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the country. Area-specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. Due preparatory works will be completed prior to any deployment or field mission.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

Regular monitoring of the evolving situation of response activities outlined will be carried out by the GRCS PMER Officer together with response teams both at HQ and branch level. This will include monitoring of assessment, beneficiary selection, and distribution of HHI as well as cash transfers. Health and Hygiene promotion activities will be monitored to see that concepts are understood and are leading to positive behavioural change. The operation will be monitored, evaluated, and reported by different levels of GRCS, from the PMER Officer, Office of the SG, and Regional Executive committees of the four affected regions as their oversight function.

The IFRC will conduct two monitoring visits, the first by the Acting DM coordinator, who is already on the field to support the launching of the response operation as well as the detailed assessments. At a later stage, the finance coordinator will also provide support in-country to ensure proper financial monitoring and reporting of the operation.

At the end of the operation, a lesson learnt workshop will be organized by GRCS with the support of IFRC and other stakeholders of this operation. This workshop will allow for informed planning in future operations planned and implemented by the NS, but also will allow the GRCS to reflect on its disaster readiness status. The participants for the lesson learnt workshop will be drawn from the beneficiaries, Government partners, local authorities, UN Agencies, Media, IFRC, GRCS Volunteers and Staff, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations among others.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Shelter

People targeted: 6,498 people or 565 households

Male: 3,184

Female: 3,314

Requirements (CHF): 102,569

P&B Output Code	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of targeted households having received cash for emergency shelter support (41% or 250 HH) • % of households acknowledging usefulness of cash grant received for emergency shelter support (Target: 100%) 															
	Shelter Output 1.1: Short-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of households supported with cash for emergency shelters (Target: 107 households) • # of households receiving cash for shelter rehabilitation (143 households) • # of households receiving Shelter household items (Target: 565 households) • # of volunteers and staff trained (refreshers) in cash and voucher assistance (Target: 50 volunteers and 10 staff) • # of multi-sector needs assessments conducted (Target: 2 ; 1 rapid and 1 detailed) • # of market assessments conducted (Target: 1) 															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP005	Detailed/continuous rapid and detailed assessment of the needs and vulnerabilities, damages of affected households																
AP005	Analysis of the local market to identify availability/access to shelter and households items by 2 volunteers deployed for 2 days in each of the 4 regions.																
AP005	Deployment of 20 volunteers and 2 staff for registration and targeting of affected households (2 days)																

AP005	Identification of community participation modalities in program design and implementation	■																
AP005	Coordination with other relevant sectors for integrated programming	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
AP005	Coordination with government and other stakeholders	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
AP005	Unrestricted Cash Transfer to support emergency shelter solutions for 107 households for a period of 2 months (7,500 GMD/month)	■	■															
AP005	Unrestricted Cash Transfer to support shelter rehabilitation for 143 households		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
AP005	Procurement and distribution/replenishment of shelter related household items	■	■	■	■													
AP005	Evaluation of the shelter support provided							■	■	■	■							
P&B Output Code	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of volunteers trained on cash and voucher assistance (Target: 50 volunteers) 																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP005	Refresher training of 50 volunteers and 10 staff for cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in the 4 affected regions.			■	■													
AP005	Deployment of 20 volunteers to support and monitor the cash transfer process to the beneficiaries for 3 days in each Region.			■	■	■	■											
AP005	Conduct post distribution monitoring (PDM) of the response by 20 volunteers for 3 days in the 4 affected regions.											■	■					



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 7,021 people or 606 HH

Male: 3,441

Female: 3,580

Requirements (CHF): 87,561

P&B Output Code		<p><i>% of targeted households reached with cash for food (Target: 100% or 250 HH)</i></p> <p><i>% of targeted households finding this support appropriate to meet their emergency needs (Target: at least 100% of HH)</i></p>
P&B Output	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities	# of households supported with cash transfers for food for two months (Target: 250 HH)

Code	Activities planned Week	# of households supported with cash transfers for food for one month (Target: 356 HH)															
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP081	Orientation sessions on the unrestricted cash disbursements and financial planning of the unrestricted cash amounts received for food and shelter, respectively.			■	■												
AP081	Cash transfer (CT) to 250 households to cover food needs sufficient for two months.			■	■			■	■								
AP081	Cash transfer (CT) to 356 households to cover food needs sufficient for one month.			■	■												
AP081	Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of the response by 20 volunteers for 3 days.									■	■	■					



Health

People targeted: 7,021 people or 606 HH

Male: 3,441

Female: 3,580

Requirements (CHF): 19,367

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment	% of affected households for whom emergency health care is available (Target: 100%)															
	Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.	# of equipped ambulances provided to support health services (Target: 1 ambulance)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP022	Put in place one standby ambulance manned by the GRCS GPlus Emergency Response Team at the evacuation site to evacuate ill/injured persons and pregnant women, who will then be referred to nearby health facilities.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
AP022	Case referral to local health structures.		■	■	■	■	■	■									

AP022	COVID-19 prevention and control messages will be shared during awareness sessions with the targeted population on prevention measures will be held.																	
AP022	Provision of PSS support to community as needed by 30 volunteers for 3 days per month for a period of 3 months in each of the 4 affected regions.																	
P&B Output Code	Health Output 4.2: Vector-borne diseases are prevented	# of mosquito nets distributed (Target: 1818 nets)																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP019	Procurement and distribution of 1818 long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets for 606 HH (3/HH) (705 for replenishment).																	
P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened	# of people provided with PSS services (Target: based on needs)																
	Health Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff	# of volunteers who have received PSS orientation (Target: 30 volunteers)																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP023	Provision of PSS support to community as needed.																	



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 7021 people or 606 HH

Male: 3,441

Female: 3,580

Requirements (CHF): 48,733

P&B Output Code	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of hygiene promotion sessions conducted (Target: 9 sessions) # of people reached with hygiene promotion activities (Target: at least 7021 people) # of volunteers involved in WASH activities (Target: 50 volunteers) 															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Conduct needs assessment: define hygiene issues and assess capacity to address the problem.																

AP030	Refresher training of 50 volunteers on health and hygiene promotion.																		
AP030	Conduct 3 hygiene and health sensitization sessions per month on open defecation including hand washing demonstration sessions (40 volunteers x 3 days x 3 months). These sessions will happen simultaneously in all 4 regions.																		
AP030	Procure 606 buckets with lids for household water collection and storage (75 litres) (1 per household)																		
AP030	Procure and distribute 606 hygiene kits (1 per family) (and for replenishment of GRCS stock used)																		
AP030	Orientation of 50 volunteers on Health & Hygiene Promotion to implement activities in affected communities.																		
AP030	Conduct Post distribution monitoring (PDM)																		



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 7021 people or 606 HH

Male: 3,441

Female: 3,580

Requirements (CHF): 2,340

P&B Output Code	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.	% of households reached with PGI and PSEA Information (Target: 100%)															
	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	# of assessments conducted and reported on PGI and PSEA (Target: 1 assessment)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP031	Conduct an assessment of specific needs of the affected population based on criteria selected from the minimum standards for PGI in emergencies.																
AP031	Sensitization sessions will be organized within affected communities, sharing basic social cohesion and protection messages, and sharing safe referral pathways in case of any SGBV cases.																
AP031	RFL services will be provided to those who lost contact with their families.																
AP031	50 volunteers (at least 45% women) will be trained on Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies to support the women, elderly and children to access health services.																

AP031	Printing and distribution of PGI related advocacy posters.																		
AP031	Collaborate and engage with other actors on SGBV safe referral pathways																		
AP031	Provide technical support to other sectors on PGI integration																		
P&B Output Code	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of volunteers oriented on PGI and PSEA (Target: 35 volunteers) • # of affected people provided with PGI support (Target: 7,021 people) 																	
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
AP033	Orientation of 50 volunteers on Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies, PSEA, and relating data collection.																		
AP033	Establish a system to ensure IFRC and NS staff and volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct and have received a briefing in on PSEA and Child safeguarding																		

Strategies for Implementation Requirements (CHF): 81,704

P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of Rapid assessments carried out (Target: n/a) • # of affected regions assessed (Target: 4 regions) • # of volunteers participating in the response (Target: 50 volunteers). • # supervision missions provided by the GRCS HQ (Target: 3 missions). • # of consultations with affected and targeted households on decision on primary recipient of cash grant per HH (Target: 2 consultations) • # of community feedback received and processed (Target: at least 80%) • # of lessons learned workshop conducted • # of volunteers trained on CEA • # of Videos produced 																	
	Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained																		
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
AP084	CEA refresher training for 50 volunteers																		

AP042	Conduct continuous assessment of situation in target communities	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
AP042	NS branch & national level and IFRC monitoring of activities			■			■			■							
AP084	Setup feedback mechanism	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
AP049	Joint DM/Finance monitoring (IFRC)			■	■						■	■	■				
AP084	Organize a Lesson Learned workshop										■	■	■				

D. Budget

The overall amount allocated for implementation of this operation is CHF 342,274 as detailed in budget below.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in
Swiss Francs
(CHF)

DREF OPERATION

MDRGM016 - GAMBIA - FLASH FLOODS

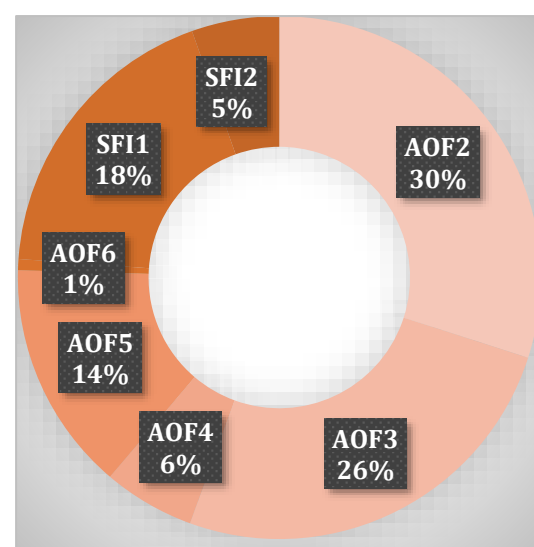
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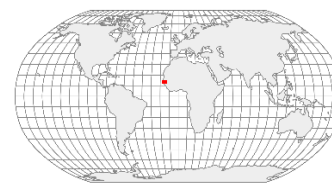
Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Clothing & Textiles	45,637
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	36,635
Teaching Materials	2,250
Utensils & Tools	5,883
Cash Disbursement	131,094
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	221,499
Distribution & Monitoring	1,271
Transport & Vehicles Costs	42,803
Logistics, Transport & Storage	44,074
National Society Staff	10,590
Volunteers	19,161
Personnel	29,752
Workshops & Training	5,295
Workshops & Training	5,295
Travel	5,295
Information & Public Relations	2,648
Office Costs	3,873
Communications	6,089
General Expenditure	19,494
DIRECT COSTS	321,384
INDIRECT COSTS	20,890
TOTAL BUDGET	342,274

Budget by Area of Intervention

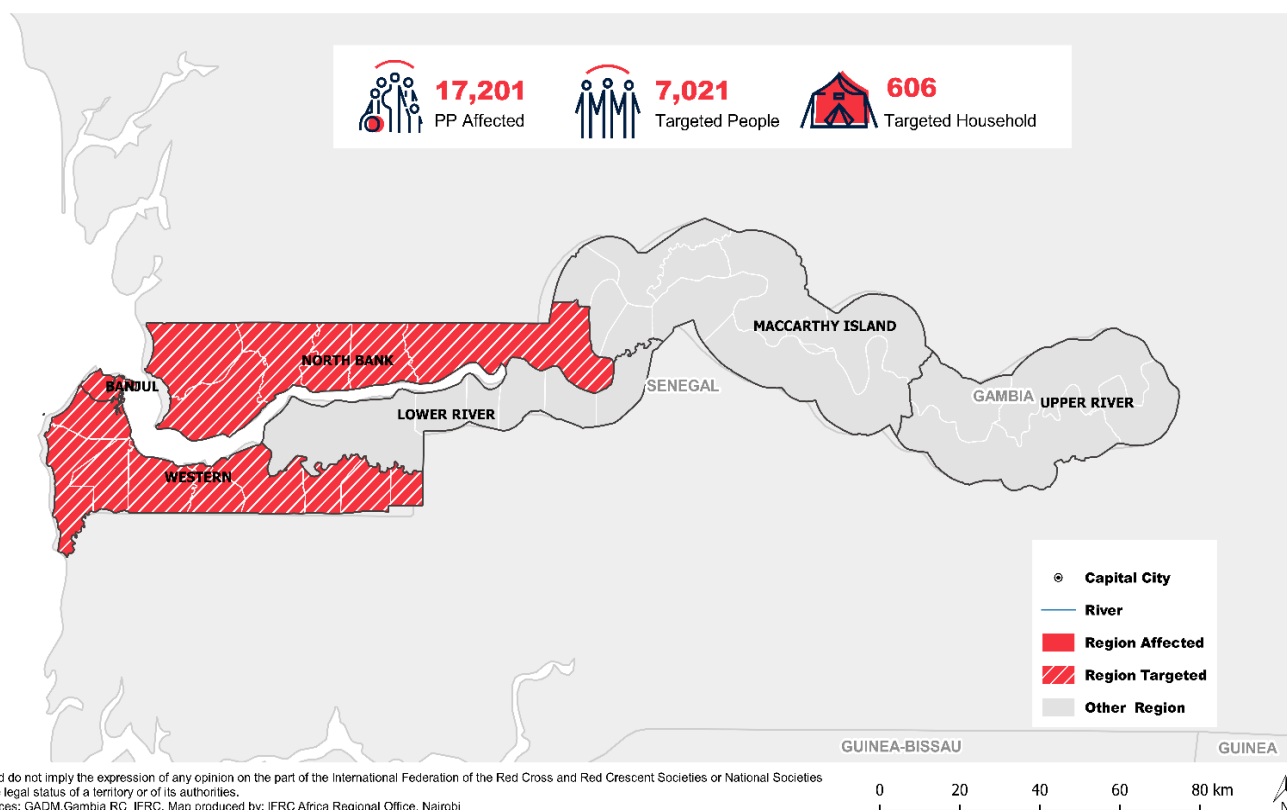
AOF2	Shelter	102,569
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	87,561
AOF4	Health	19,367
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	48,733
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,340
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	63,150
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	18,554
TOTAL		342,274





Gambia : Flash floods

5 August 2022 • FL-2022-000276-GMB



Contact information

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

For Gambian Red Cross Society (GRCS)

- Alasan Senghore, Secretary General; alasan.senghore@redcross.org or alasan.senghore@gmail.com; +220 353 4030;
- Abdoulie Fye, Director of Programmes and Operations; abdoulie.fye@redcross.org; +220 250 7929

IFRC Country Cluster Office, Sahel:

- Daniel Bolaños, Head of Sahel Country Cluster Delegation: Daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org; (+ 221) 77 740 4661

IFRC Africa Region Office

- Rui Alberto Oliveira, Acting Head of Disaster Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; phone +351914758832; email: Rui.OLIVEIRA@ifrc.org

IFRC in Geneva

- Rena IGARASHI, Operations Coordination, Senior Officer, DCPRR Unit Geneva; email: Rena.IGARASHI@ifrc.org,
- Eszter MATYEKA, Senior DREF Officer, DCPRR Geneva Unit; email: eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for resource Mobilization and Pledge: Louise Daintrey Head of Unit, Partnerships & Resource Development; email: louise.daintrey@ifrc.org; phone: +254 110 843978

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