

Rapid insights on the floods in Nigeria

21 November 2022



Floods in Nigeria. IFRC

Introduction

A rapid desk review was carried out by Geneva's Strategic Planning Department using the IFRC Evaluation Databank to focus on evaluative initiatives related to IFRC's response to the floods in Nigeria. The idea behind this effort is the quick capture of lessons learned that could be vital in preparing and addressing the current emergency affecting Nigeria, as well as to serve as part of any desk review for any upcoming evaluative initiatives to follow. It is clear that this review will not include all the documents available on IFRC's floods response in Nigeria as well as that some of these lessons learned and/or recommendations may have already been addressed. It is hoped though that the quick capturing of these lessons learned will provide an overview that could help the operation in capitalizing on opportunities, as well as assisting in understanding any potential barriers/challenges in such an operation.

Context

Nigeria is experiencing the worst floods in at least a decade, with a widespread impact in 29 of the country's 36 states. Ongoing floods are damaging homes, infrastructure, destroying farmland and displacing people from their communities. The latest reports confirm that at least 2.8 million people have been affected, at least 603 lives have been lost, and more than 2,500 injured. Two million people have fled or were evacuated from high-risk areas, carrying only the belongings they could take with them, but finding themselves in extremely poor conditions and without sufficient safeguards, exposing them to heightened protection risks.

In addition to the displaced, the country is affected in multiple ways. Goods, such as food and fuel, cannot reach their destinations, as trucks and trains have been stuck for weeks. This market supply disruption will have even greater impact on the already high rate of inflation (23%). People cannot maintain their livelihoods, as they have lost access to farms, livestock, and shops. Services such as schools and health centres have been rendered unusable, or if still accessible, are being used as temporary shelters.

IFRC has provided an initial DREF allocation of CHF 245,622, and an Emergency Appeal for 11 million has been launched on 21 October 2022 to assist 500,000 people in a dire situation.

The IFRC Emergency Appeal aims to reach 500,000 people through a multi-sectoral intervention addressing livelihoods and basic needs (preferably through multi-purpose cash assistance), health and WASH, and emergency shelter assistance. The intervention will leverage community engagement and accountability (CEA), and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) approaches to better engage and address the needs of communities, and involve them in the selection, mobilisation, and dissemination of information, as well as prevention and monitoring of protection risks.

MANDATES



The Nigerian Red Cross Society is the largest national humanitarian organization in Nigeria. It has 500 staff and an extensive network of 800,000 volunteers in 37 branches who work with people who need humanitarian assistance, along with relevant public authorities across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

The National Society is an auxiliary to the public authorities for health and disaster management, and is a first responder during disasters and social emergencies. It also encourages long-term progress through its work in public health, community and youth development.



The IFRC works closely with the Nigerian Red Cross Society, supporting it with strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, and reinforcing the National Society's auxiliary role in Nigeria.

In recent years, the Nigerian Red Cross Society has been supported by a number of IFRC emergency appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) relating to flooding, including anticipatory action, disease outbreaks, food insecurity and election preparedness.

The IFRC also provides the National Society with technical support on a broad range of services.



The ICRC supports the Nigerian Red Cross Society on security management and safer access, as well as branch capacity information.

The ICRC has three sub-delegations in Nigeria, located in Port Harcourt, Jos and Maiduguri. It also has an office in Kano covering areas affected by armed conflict in the North East and communal clashes in the North Central and South South.

The ICRC has adapted ongoing assistance activities to include COVID-19 prevention measures in the states of Adamawa, Borno, Plateau, Rivers and Yobe. It also supports risk communication activities in Cross River, Delta, Edo, Enugu, Bauchi, Kano, Kaduna, Benue and Taraba, with a focus on weapons contamination.

Challenges

- ✓ Limited actors on the ground providing early recovery shelter post-floods.
- ✓ Challenges for recipients receiving housing materials post floods to complete their houses in view of their vulnerabilities (elderly, physically handicapped, chronically ill) or of low income.
- ✓ Many recipients had limited financial resources after the floods. This affected their purchase of materials to build and/or repair emergency shelter.
- ✓ Bias was noted on the selection criteria at the community level when assistance was provided and selection of participants was made by the community. In some cases, it led to mainly men being selected and very few women benefiting from the training.
- ✓ Further mobilisation needed of trained volunteers to assist those recipients with the technical instructions (and IEC materials) during emergency relief distributions, including on disaster risk reduction.
- ✓ Better communication needed on the registration/selection process of Non Food Items, to manage expectations of the affected/at risk population.

Successes

- ✓ Early recovery shelter interventions provided by the IFRC/NRCS well appreciated by households.
- ✓ After the floods in 2012, people prioritized their need for shelter after the flooding.
- ✓ Consultations and information received from IFRC/NRCS during floods appreciated.
- ✓ Positive relations with IFRC/NRCS staff and volunteers involved in the emergency operation.
- ✓ Empowering approach in building houses which include the participation of recipients.

KEY INSIGHTS-COORDINATION



Coordination with External Agencies and NGOs

- ✓ Participation in all coordination mechanisms at both the National Society Headquarters and at State level can help ensure good coordination amongst humanitarian actors and avoid the duplication of activities.



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KEY INSIGHTS-OPERATIONAL CAPACITY



Health and Care

- ✓ For cholera outbreaks, community and household sensitization activities should be carried out as soon as possible after the outbreak (not 2 to 3 months after the peak).
- ✓ Establish proper case management and surveillance at community level and a referral mechanism with local Ministry of Health structures to ensure quality and timely treatment, especially in remote/riverine communities where access was challenging.

Human Resources

- ✓ Community level volunteers are an important resource, as they can be mobilized immediately and have acceptance from affected/at risk populations.

Activation of Regional and International Support

- ✓ Place deployed Surge members at the branch level where they can really assist with the activities planned and provide quality assurance.

KEY INSIGHTS-OPERATIONAL CAPACITY (2)



Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

- ✓ Distribution of water treatment chemicals and water storage containers and demonstration of their use can contribute to a reduction in cholera cases. This should be carried out as soon as possible (not 2 to 3 months after the peak).
- ✓ Establishing and equipping community Watsan committees with the aim of sustaining environmental sanitation.

Selection Criteria for Affected Population

- ✓ Bias was noted on the selection criteria at the community level when assistance was provided and selection of participants was made by the community. In some cases, it led to mainly men being selected and very few women benefiting from the training.
- ✓ Better communication needed on the registration/selection process of Non Food Items, to manage expectations of the affected/at risk population.

KEY INSIGHTS-OPERATIONS SUPPORT



Staff and Volunteer Management

- ✓ Training of volunteers on how to prevent, control and manage cholera cases.
- ✓ Standardize protective equipment and visibility materials provided to volunteers. Take into account the needs of different seasons/disasters (eg, jackets and umbrellas during rainy season).
- ✓ Improve the mobility of volunteers to remote/riverine communities.

Information and Communication Technology

- ✓ Promote more innovative sensitization strategies (e.g. mobile cinema, radio etc) to increase outreach to people and better engage with different groups, including youth.
- ✓ Promote RCRC role and mandate to help address misconceptions at community level and with stakeholders at national and State level.

Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain

- ✓ Pre-positioning stocks will facilitate a quick distribution when needed.
- ✓ Rent smaller vehicles/motorbikes in order to have better access (via river crossings and for the transfer of NFIs for distribution).
- ✓ Using ODK/Mega V systems could enable more efficient and effective distributions (e.g. Use of proper bar code registration and distribution of cards to recipients).
- ✓ Adequate equipment (cell phones) need to be put in place should there be continued interest to carry out mobile data collection in country.

KEY INSIGHTS-OPERATIONS SUPPORT (2)



Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning

- ✓ During the operation, develop a monitoring and evaluation matrix, and provide guidance on PMER tools and templates to be used at branch/divisional level.
- ✓ Carry out an assessment at the initial phase, followed by KAP if needed to ensure interventions are relevant and appropriate to the needs of the affected population.

Resource Mobilization

- ✓ Responses through DREF operations can provide an entry point for engaging with donors to mobilize/advocate for additional resources to support the immediate response, as well as meet medium/longer-term needs.

Safety and Security Management

- ✓ Safety and security of staff and volunteers involved in operations could be improved by ensuring that relevant protocols are established; staff/volunteers are orientated on them; as well as a clear understanding on the insurance coverage provided (by IFRC).

Staff and Volunteer Management

- ✓ Training of volunteers on how to prevent, control and manage cholera cases.
- ✓ Training of volunteers on mobile data collection (for ex. ODK) to train or reinforce training gained.

Resources

- [Nigeria Floods 2012: Early Recovery Shelter: Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey](#)
- [Nigeria Floods 2012: An internal evaluation of the shelter kit response](#)
- [MDRNG020 Nigeria Epidemic \(Cholera\)-Operational Review Report](#)

IFRC Contact Information

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