

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## West Africa: Floods

### Focus on Togo

Emergency Appeal No. MDR61002

*GLIDE nos. FL-2007-000153-GHA,  
FL-2007-000158-TGO  
and FL-2007-000132-BFA*

11 December 2007

#### Operations Update no. 4

**Period covered:** 30 October – 30 November 2007.

**Appeal target:** CHF 3,922,365 (USD 3.2m or EUR 2.3m) for the entire appeal; the Togo budget component is 971,643 (USD 767,032 or EUR 543,022).

**Appeal coverage:** 122% for the entire appeal (about 102% for the Togo component).

**Remaining needs for Togo:** none.

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**Targeted beneficiaries:** 6,801 households in Togo.



Distribution of non-food items in the village of Donga, district of Kpendjal, in the North of Togo

#### Appeal history:

- Preliminary Emergency Appeal for Ghana was launched on 17 September 2007 for CHF 1.47 million for 6 months to assist 60,000 people.
- Revised Preliminary Emergency Appeal was issued on 18 September 2007 for CHF 2.5 million to assist some 82,000 people in Ghana and Togo for 6 months.
- Revised Appeal (focus on Burkina Faso) was issued on 2 October for CHF 2.9 million (USD 2.5 million or EUR 1.7 million) to assist 94,825 beneficiaries in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo for 6 months.
- Revised Appeal was issued on 10 October 2007 for CHF 3,922,365 (USD 3.2m or EUR 2.3m) for the entire appeal; the initial Togo budget component of this appeal was CHF 1,043,123, but was decreased to a total of CHF 971,643 (USD 767,032 or EUR 543,022).

**Summary:** The Togolese Red Cross Society (TRCS), with the support of the International Federation, has completed the emergency phase and the operational plan revised, focused on relief. Red Cross relief activities have been carried out with partner agencies, including WFP and UNICEF. Training of Red Cross volunteers has been conducted. A core Federation team is now in place to support national societies of flood-affected countries, including Togo, in implementing immediate relief operations and midterm recovery and shelter activities. In addition to the Togo team (which is comprised of an operations manager, an RDRT watsan specialist and an RDRT logistics), the operation is also supported by a main coordination team which is based at the Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone Office in Lagos.

## Background

During the last week of August and early September 2007, the West Africa region was affected by heavy rains which resulted in serious flooding destroying many houses and washing away thousands of hectares of crop and several heads of livestock. In Togo, the floods mostly affected 42,478 vulnerable persons in the Savannes Region, and 9,000 in Maritime Region especially in the districts of Lacks and Afagnan. Most of them have been sheltered in schools out of the flooding areas until floodwaters recede.

Though floodwaters have receded and some of the displaced people are returning to their home communities, concerns remain, particularly in terms of food security, health, water and sanitation.



School in Agotime-Akoumassivi in which nearly 700 people have been sheltered.

Populations do not have access to adequate food and the normal water sources are contaminated, increasing the risk of water related illnesses. Farmers and fishermen need adequate tools to recover their agricultural and fishing activities.

## Operational developments

Red Cross volunteers continue to play a vital role in the disaster response operation. Volunteers have been trained and have been engaged in the distribution of food and emergency relief items, health and hygiene education sensitization sessions.

During the distribution phase, members of the Federation coordination team, together with their counterparts from the Togo Red Cross Society (TRCS) have conducted needs assessments in the flooded areas, and came to the conclusion that other small villages around the targeted areas have been affected. Instead of 90 as initially reported, the number of flood-affected villages passed to 97 in the Savannes region, and 38 in the Maritime region, with respectively 5,001 and 1,800 affected households. The coordination team and TRCS have been working in close cooperation with WFP and UNICEF to exchange views and ideas, and to develop collaborative strategies.

The Federation coordination team is working with the French Red Cross on watsan and relief activities in the north. Watsan coordination activities are particularly focused on the training of 12 persons divided into 3 teams of 4 persons in the Savannes region. These teams are trained to continue the watsan activities related to the disinfection of wells, chlorination of water, and sensitization on water point management and water testing. Training on maintaining water pumps will also be conducted. The Federation will provide technical support during training sessions and ensure the follow up of activities. Watsan activities have started with gathering and analyzing water samples collected from wells during non-food distributions.

Though implementation has been delayed, the Federation and the TRCS considered it prudent to adjust the plan according to available resources so that proper prioritization is done. UNICEF has started distributing non-food items with the support of Red Cross volunteers.

The strategy adopted by the coordination team, TRCS and WFP focused on assisting all the 97 affected villages in the Savannes region and 38 in the maritime region -- a total of 6,801 households.

The Togolese Government, with the support of local partners, provided assistance to these neglected areas by distributing food items. This assistance from the government only covered the need of limited beneficiaries in the affected villages, while WFP assistance reached all the targeted villages thanks to the Red Cross volunteers' network.

A Federation team is still in place to support national societies of the flood-affected countries, including the TRCS, in implementing immediate relief operations and mid-term recovery and shelter activities. The main coordination team based at the Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone Office in Lagos is assuring coordination

for the three countries (overall operations manager, a finance delegate and a reporting officer), the second team is based in Ghana (operations manager, a logistics delegate, a logistics RDRT member, a relief RDRT member, and a shelter RDRT member), and the third team is based in Togo. The Togo team is comprised of an operations manager, an RDRT watsan specialist and an RDRT logistics specialist. With the Togo team in place, relief operations, distribution of essential non-food items have been completed by 27 November, 2007 in the Savannes region and have reached 5,001 most vulnerable households. Watsan activities are ongoing through sensitization sessions on health and hygiene education. The TRCS, with the support of the Federation, will focus its activities in the Maritime region to support 1,800 displaced families to return home. In collaboration with WFP, the Federation will provide a return kits consisting of 10,000 blankets, 4,500 mosquito nets, 1,000 tarpaulins, early growing seeds, 5,400 sleeping mats, 50 first-aid kits, 3,600 jerry cans, 1,800 Kitchen sets, two water lab tests, aqua tabs and tool kits (1,800 hoes, 1,800 hacks, and 38 rolls of 95 meters of fishing nets). WFP will provide a food kit containing a 3-month ration. The Federation will develop other interventions related to health, watsan, promotion of principle and values and capacity building of TRCS as part of the revised appeal, to be posted shortly.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Emergency relief

**Objective 1: To provide relief items for 5,001 flood-affected households in 97 villages in Savannes region and 1,800 flood-affected households in 38 villages in Maritime Region.**

**Progress:** Red Cross relief activities carried out with WFP and UNICEF focused on relief and food for 97 villages in Savannes region and food items for 38 villages in Maritime region. During the phase of distribution, needs' assessment conducted by members of the coordination team, together with their TRCS counterparts revealed that the number of affected villages has increased and instead of 90 as initially reported, there were 97 flood-affected villages in the Savannes region and 38 in the Maritime region with respectively 5,001 and 1,800 affected households. The coordination team and TRCS have been working in close cooperation with WFP and UNICEF to exchange views and ideas, and to develop collaborative strategies.

The following relief items have been distributed in the Savannes region: 7,956 sleeping mats, 56,555 pieces of soap (210g), 5,001 buckets, 5,001 jerry cans, 9,951 mosquito nets, and used clothes.

#### NFI distributed by the TRCS and the Federation in the Savannes Region

REGION / PREFECTURE	Number of beneficiaries			NFI distributed					
	Number of villages reached	Number of Households	TOTAL Beneficiaries reached	Jerry cans	IMN	Sleeping Mats	Bucket	Soap	Partner
<b>Savannes Region</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>5,001</b>	<b>42,478</b>	<b>5,001</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>7,956</b>	<b>5,001</b>	<b>56,555</b>	
Prefecture of Tone	15	737	<b>7,023</b>	737	1465	1,465	737	8,300	IFRC
Sous-prefecture of Cinkasse	12	603	<b>4,554</b>	603	1206	1,206	603	6793	
Prefecture of l'Oti	22	723	<b>5,789</b>	723	1464	332	723	8,552	IFRC
Prefecture of Kpendjal	20	1,606	<b>12,911</b>	1606	3160	3,160	1,606	17,588	IFRC
Prefecture of Tandjoare	25	1,332	<b>12,201</b>	1332	2656	1,793	1,332	15,022	IFRC
<b>Total</b>									

In the coming weeks "Reinstallation kits" will be distributed in the Maritime region by the Federation comprising 10,000 blankets, 4,500 mosquito nets, 1,000 tarpaulins. These items already arrived in Togo and the team is actually proceeding to collect and send them in the field.

But other needs related to “Reinstallation kits” are also required, namely early growing seeds, 5,400 sleeping mats, 50 first-aid kits, 3,600 jerry cans, 1,800 Kitchen sets, two water lab tests, Aqua tabs and tool kits (1,800 hoes, 1,800 hacks, and 38 rolls of 95 meters of fishing nets). These NFIs will contribute to support flooding victims in recovering their agricultural and fishing activities. This distribution of NFI by the TRCS, supported by the Federation, will be combined to the second phase of WFP food distribution planned during the period of 17 - 22 December 2007 for the Maritime region.

## Health

**Objective 2: To prevent the outbreak of epidemics and water borne diseases in 97 villages of the Savannes region and 38 villages of the Maritime region.**

**Progress:** The implementation of watsan activities began in early November. Volunteer training in hygiene and health promotion will be intensified in readiness for hygiene and health promotion activities in 97 affected villages of the Savannes region and 38 villages of the Maritime region. Community members will be sensitized to clean up their villages and maintain wells. Members of the team include an RDRT watsan specialist.

During the distribution phase, field teams dispatched in different villages proceeded to an inventory of wells and bare holes for a better planning of watsan activities in the Savannes region. A collection of water samples was made in villages where NFI have been distributed and populations have been sensitized on hygiene and health promotion and on methods of water consumption.

Sensitizing sessions by TRCS volunteers: a joint watsan Federation and French Red Cross plan of action has been drafted covering the rehabilitation of contaminated wells. The first phase will consist of water testing, draining of wells with water pumps and the disinfecting, repairing, and maintenance of hand water pumps in the Savannes and Maritime regions. These activities are planned for a period of nine weeks for the two regions.



Sensitizing sessions by TRCS volunteers

## Food

**Objective 3: To distribute 2,000 tonnes of food items to flooding victims (WFP-supplied food).**

**Progress:** The first phase of food distribution has been completed with food items provided by WFP in the Maritime region. Togolese Red Cross volunteers distributed 50 per cent of food items while another local NGO, Christian Organization for Integral Development (COID) under the supervision of Caritas Togo, distributed the other 50 per cent. In the Savannes region, WFP distributions have not yet been completed and final figures will be available in the next update. The second phase of food distribution by WFP is scheduled for 17-22 December 2007 in the Maritime region. This food distribution will be combined with the distribution of NFI by the Federation in order to support flooding victims to recover their agricultural and fishing activities.



Region / Prefecture	N° of target villages & (villages reached)	Target h-holds	Total benef. targeted	Number of h-holds	Total benef.	Corn	CSB	Pulses	Vegetable Oil (KG)
Lacs	17 (12)	1,105	6,000	815	3,812	61,125	6,112.5	6,112.5	4,075
Zio	1 (1)	100	500	103	685	7725	772.5	772.5	515
Afagnan	20 (17)	1,353	2,800	891	5,276	66,825	6,682.5	6,682.5	4,455
Total	38 (29)	2,558	9,300	1,706	9,088	127,950	12,795	12,795	8,530

### Challenges/constraints:

Implementation of relief activities has been slightly delayed. However, it was prudent to adjust the plan vis-à-vis available resources according to the results of needs' assessment before the distribution of NFI. The number of affected villages has been underestimated and a new strategy of distribution has been adopted to readjust the quantities of goods.

Because of logistics problems, there was a delay in the delivery and distribution of the 2,000 planned tarpaulins. The intended beneficiaries found other temporary shelter solutions, and it was no longer necessary to distribute them. Nevertheless the tarpaulins have been delivered to the TRCS and now constitute an emergency stock for the national society.

Accessibility was a real challenge during the NFI distribution in some villages in the Savannes region. The trucks deployed were not able to reach villages, and a decision was taken by the coordination team to use the Federation's 4x4 vehicles to distribute the NFI.

### Coordination and partnerships

The humanitarian actors intervening in Togo are the Red Cross, WFP, UNICEF and Caritas through COID (Christian Organization for Integral Development), a local NGO. The Red Cross continues to work in close cooperation with these agencies to ensure that activities undertaken as part of the emergency response are complementary and well coordinated.

The continuity of the operation is insured by the coordination team and Togo Red Cross in close collaboration with the Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone Office in Lagos.

WFP provided food in the Savannas and Maritime regions where Togolese Red Cross volunteers distributed 50 per cent of food items while the local NGO named Christian Organization for Integral Development (COID) under the supervision of Caritas Togo distributed the other 50 per cent.

UNICEF provided the following relief and health items (distributed by TRCS volunteers):

Items	Savannas Region	Maritime Region
Soap	2,000	200
Sleeping mats	2,000	2,000
Tarpaulin (sheets)	2,000	580
Tarpaulin (50mx4m)	22	15
Jerry cans	5,000	0
Chlorine tablets	12,000	4,000
Cholera kits (500 persons)	4	1
Basic medical kits (10,000 persons)	4	1
Water testing mini lab	2	0
Used clothes	20	0
Anti-malaria packs	1,500	0
School kits and school fee vouchers	5,000	0
Blankets		2,000

### Communications- Advocacy and public information

The Federation's West and Central Africa Zone information delegate, together with his TRCS counterpart provided updated information to the public and media through web stories and interviews of flooding victims and distribution of food and NFI. The TRCS information officer will continue to profile and increase the

visibility of the TRCS by traveling to the affected areas, documenting the distribution process, witnessing the interaction between Red Cross staff/volunteers and beneficiaries, and producing relevant articles and photographs.

The in-country team will work in close collaboration with the Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone office in Lagos and the communications team at the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone office in Dakar to ensure regular profiling of the Red Cross and sharing of information on progress.

## How we work

*All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the National Society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

The International Federation's activities are carried out under its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

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