

JERSEY OVERSEAS AID COMMISSION
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING

Report on emergency relief for flood victims of Kamenge, Kinama and Bubwari, Gatunguru, Gahahe and Gasenyi communes of Bujumbura city, Burundi

Background

Following unprecedented rainfall over ten hours on the night of February 9th, water flowed unobstructed from the hills surrounding Bujumbura into the River Gasenyi, to the north of the city to such an extent that it burst its banks and caused flooding up to 20 kilometres away. 69 people lost their lives and at least 1,000 families lost their homes, their possessions, and their livelihoods. DDP's local partners, Association Communautaire Pour la Promotion et la Protection des Droits de L'Homme (ACPDH), conducted a rapid needs assessment exercise and our request to JOAC was based on that and discussions with the head master of Ecole Ephphatha pour les Sourds (EES), a DDP local project partner currently supported by a JOAC grant. We are extremely grateful to the Commissioners for their award of £21,661.

The relief effort

Local people noted – and very much appreciated - that relief supplies funded by JOAC were the first to arrive internationally. While the Burundian Ministry of Health assumed responsibility for medical and sanitation needs, it was the Burundian Red Cross which coordinated the relief effort to which this initiative contributed, with further assistance from, for example, Norwegian Aid (water), USAID (cooking stoves etc.), and various UN agencies. Decisions about purchasing items were made jointly between ACPDH and EES, and distribution of all the supplies procured with JOAC funds took place between March 18th and 26th (with the food being supplied first).

The worst affected area was Gatunguru, directly in the path of the water from the Gasenyi. People from there whose homes were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable were given shelter in the tented camp at Kinama, and so this relief effort was divided between Kinama camp (organised by ACPDH) and Gutunguru and neighbouring communes (organised by EES among people who remained there).

Results

In our application for emergency funding, we estimated that we would reach 400 families comprising 2,000 people. However, with JOAC funds, our local partners were able to reach 489 families and 2,606 people, 249 families and 1,439 people in Kinama camp, and 240 families and 1,167 people in Gutunguru. Of the 2,606 people, 1,674 (64.4%) were children, with the remaining 932 being their parents or other family dependents. We would like especially to mention the funds devoted to school materials (uniforms, exercise books etc.) as it can often quite understandably be the case that, such is the urgency to relieve immediate need for food and shelter, other matters can be overlooked. We replaced the lost uniforms of 300 children and provided pens and exercise books for 480 children, without which their education would certainly have been interrupted at best and ended at worst. Please see the financial statement below and kindly note that our estimates were not quite exact: for example, our partners were able to purchase the clothes for less than budgeted, while the mosquito nets (very much needed) cost more.

Conclusion

Both ACPDH and EES have been in contact throughout this period by Skype and email with DDP regarding arrangements for the procurement and distribution of relief aid. In early May, DDP Project Officer, Simon Godziek had an opportunity to visit Burundi as part of a trip to Ethiopia and other

funded projects in Burundi. During the visit he reviewed the relief project and monitored expenditure. We commend our local partners for being proactive in making the request for assistance to DDP in the first instance, and then for expediting the relief effort. Finally, we reiterate our gratitude to JOAC for granting the funds to help people who found themselves in utter destitution.

Photos

Please see accompanying document with photos of the areas of devastation, camps and relief distribution.

Financial statement

ITEM	NOTE	Budget	Expenditure
Food	Rice, beans, maize flour, cooking oil, salt for 2,606 people @ approx. £5.00 per person	13,061	13,046
Cooking and eating equipment	Cooking utensils, crockery, cutlery for 489 families (= 2,606 people) @ approx. £4 per family	2,204	2,186
Clothes	A set of under and outerwear for each family member	1,253	996
Mosquito nets	One per family @ approx. £1.10 each	327	536
Soap	8,000 bars @ approx. 70p each	653	630
School materials	Exercise books, uniforms etc. for 480 children @ approx £5 each	2,363	2,405
Transport, procurement & distribution	For all areas	300	478
Local admin & organisational costs	For EES and ACPDH	600	484
	Subtotal local costs	20,761	20,761
DDP support	Staff time	500	500
Field trip	Contribution to one visit subsidised by other funded DDP work in Burundi – includes local travel, accomm but not flight	400	400
	Grand total	21,661	21,661