



DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

GUINEA-BISSAU - Storm

Date: July 1, 1987

Location: Tombali Region in the south

No. Dead: 1

No. Affected: 3,700 people homeless; 3 injured

Damage: Hundreds of houses and 25 school buildings were damaged.

The Disaster

On July 1, a freak storm with hurricane-force gusts struck the tiny country of Guinea-Bissau, on the coast of West Africa. Storms of this magnitude are highly unusual in the eastern Atlantic Ocean. The storm hit the southern region of Tombali, destroying hundreds of homes and leaving over 3,700 people without shelter. In addition, high winds blew the roofs off 25 schools in the region. The accompanying rains ruined many families' supply of seeds and food stocks, which was to have lasted until the harvest in October.

Action Taken by the Government of Guinea-Bissau (GOGB)

The Tombali regional authorities immediately established an Office of Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation under the chairmanship of the Governor of the region and enlisted approximately 1,000 volunteers to help with relief and reconstruction activities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery provided cement and rice to the regional office's relief operation. The national government sent a damage evaluation team to Tombali's capital, Catio. The team reported that Catio's central school, power plant, several government buildings, and hundreds of houses had been damaged or destroyed. On August 8, the Secretary of State for International Cooperation made an appeal to international donors for 194 MI of rice as emergency food rations and an unspecified amount of construction materials to repair damaged buildings.

Assistance Provided the United States Government

In response to the GOGB's appeal, U.S. Ambassador John D. Blacken determined on August 27 that the situation warranted USG assistance. A USAID representative made several trips to the region to survey the damage. The GOGB Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports requested that USG funds be used to repair schools that had been damaged by the storm. Ambassador Blacken donated \$25,000 to Societe Franzetti and Company, a private construction firm, to repair six schools in Tombali Region.

TOTAL \$25,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

FAO - contributed 90 sheets of zinc roofing.

UNDP - provided materials to repair the Catio electric power plant.

WFP - donated 100 MT of rice.