

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

CENTRAL AFRICA: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR POPULATION MOVEMENTS

DREF operation n° MDR62001
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The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 130,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 8 December, 2006 to respond to the population movements in Central Africa.

CAR refugees in both provinces of Cameroon (East and Adamaoua) can be estimated at about 20,000, all of whom are scattered in several camps with no assistance. Today, the situation is even more preoccupying as the number of CAR refugees in Cameroon is ever increasing, and their living conditions continue to deteriorate. The groups mentioned above now share the same misfortune as those who had cattle lost them as a result of the unprecedented drought that occurred in January 2007. They are thus left with no other option than to settle and adapt to local living modes, i.e. agriculture. There is an urgent need to assist and rescue CAR populations.

Apart from the situation in Chad and CAR, which have effects on the neighbouring Cameroon, the political instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been forcing the population to flee into the neighbouring Republic of Congo (RoC). Population movements along the borders between both countries have been witnessed on several occasions. However, this situation is progressively being put under control thanks to the combined action of the Congolese Red Cross and other humanitarian actors on the field. Nevertheless, preparedness and prevention measures should be taken urgently just in case the situation further deteriorates.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRCS) reviewed its contingency plan with the support of the Federation. The goal of the contingency plan was to ensure better response in emergency situations as a whole and in situations of population movement specifically. Apart from the Federation, the ICRC Regional Delegation in Yaoundé also supported the population management preparedness of Cameroon Red Cross Society. Training/retraining sessions were organized in Garoua (North Province), Garoua-Boulai and Meiganga (East Province) to build the human resource capacities of the local committees concerned.

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The situation

Since April 2005, the Central Africa has been witnessing population movements linked with political instability and insecurity in several countries. This caused many to flee into neighbouring countries. The political instability in the Central African Republic (CAR) and in Chad caused a flood of their populations in the bordering localities of Cameroon. During 2006, the flood of populations reached a peak level as CAR and Chad populations arrived massively in Cameroon.

The situation along the borders between Cameroon and Chad remains unclear because to date, no one is capable of saying exactly what would happen to the power in Ndjamena. Chadian populations are constantly on the alert, ready to flee into the nearest safer country. High-ranking and wealthy officials in Chad are regularly present in Cameroon looking for places to hide their families while they return to Chad for work. In Kousseri (Cameroon), which is the bordering locality between Chad and Cameroon, these officials have rented houses and paid for at least one year, and at extravagant prices that they propose themselves. They have been extending their search for houses to Garoua and Maroua. Some have been buying plots on which they build houses to keep their children secured in case the worse should happen in Chad.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), about 15,000 refugees were registered along the Cameroon border with CAR. Evacuations of humanitarian personnel were accelerated dramatically in both North Darfur and eastern Chad. Reports from Red Cross local committees, local authorities and other humanitarian actors say that some have been getting married with Cameroonians in order to have the right to stay. This makes it very difficult to say whether these are refugees or not.

In Kousseri, there are several people needing protection and assistance. Most of them are friends and/or relatives who live with their brothers and sisters who got married with Cameroonians. Should the worse happen in Chad, the situation would be an extremely delicate one because there has been a lot of marital links between Cameroonians and Chadians. Both Cameroonian and Chadian populations are physically undistinguishable. To date, no one has been able to estimate the exact number of Chadian refugees in Cameroon, not even by local authorities, the Red Cross or any other humanitarian actor.

The situation in Chad is relatively calm now. However, there is the need to keep an eye open and intensify population movement management preparedness.

The situation between Cameroon and CAR is quite different. There are two groups of refugees in the bordering localities (East and Adamaoua provinces of Cameroon). Both groups are composed of wretched people, but they need different types of assistance. On the one hand, there are the seminomadic Bororos who came with their herds, but with very few materials. On the other hand, there are other Bororos who are cattle breeders, but who have lost all their herds. This category of refugees can no longer continue with their cattle breeding activity and are left with no other option than to settle along the roads in small hamlets looking like a camp, where they practice subsistence farming with a lot of difficulties on lands that have been given them by the host populations. Another group is composed by the Gbaya farmers who live in extreme precariousness and have a lot of needs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Cameroon Red Cross Society/Federation team, assisted by a regional resource person member of ERDAC assessed the situation prior to determining how to build the operational capacities of the local committees concerned.

Progress towards objectives

Objective: Build the population movement capacities of Cameroon Red Cross Society in preparation of a potential massive inflow of refugees from CAR and Chad.

In order to meet this objective, the Federation's Central Africa Sub Regional Office (CASRO), working in collaboration with its Dakar Regional Delegation for West and Central Africa, supported Cameroon Red Cross Society in order to enable her to prepare her bordering local committees to respond to the situation. A regional resource person member of the Regional Disaster Response Team (ERDAC) was deployed on the field to that effect.

Expected result: The CRCS local branches along the borders are well prepared for receiving and assisting refugees from the neighbouring countries

Achievements: *Evaluation:* A joint Cameroon Red Cross Society – Federation team, assisted by a regional resource person member of ERDAC went on the field to evaluate the situation prior to determining how to build the operational capacities of the local committees concerned. The team visited the following localities:

- Borders between Cameroon and CAR: Bertoua (Administrative centre of the East province), Garoua-Boulaï, the main entry into Cameroon for CAR refugees, and Meiganga (Adamaoua province).

- Borders between Cameroon and Chad: Garoua, Bibemi, Figuil, Kaele, Maroua, Mora and Kousseri (the main entry into Cameroon from Ndjamena, located 20 m as the crow flies. The natural border between Kousseri and Ndjamena is the Logone & Chari River). It should be noted that all of these localities are entries into Cameroon from CAR and Chad.

The method used for evaluating the situation was discussion, collecting information from administrative, religious and traditional authorities, and observation. Information was also collected from local Red Cross officials who were fed by volunteers on the field. All of those sources revealed that CAR refugees are effectively present in Cameroon, but their exact number is yet to be known. It is only Government that can throw more light on this. The situation between Cameroon and Chad is even more ambiguous because most of the Chadians who flee into Cameroon and more importantly that need assistance have relatives among Cameroonians with whom they live.

Apart from evaluating the situation of refugees, the team also evaluated the human resource, logistics and material capacities of the Red Cross local committees concerned. The result is that despite the support that was brought last year, there is still the need to build capacities in all the domains.

Red Cross volunteers in the local committees concerned by the operation continue the counting of the refugees in order to establish a precise situation of the refugees in Cameroon.

Preparedness: As part of the simulation exercises to prepare for a possible massive flood of CAR and Chad refugees and/or displaced persons, Cameroon Red Cross Society reviewed its contingency plan with the support of the Federation. It should be noted that the goal of that contingency plan is to ensure better response in emergency situations as a whole and in situations of population movement specifically. Apart from the Federation, the ICRC Regional Delegation in Yaoundé also supported the population management preparedness of Cameroon Red Cross Society.

Mindful of the current socio-political situation in Chad, the political instability, the recurrent insecurity, the clashes between the various factions and all other forms of violence in CAR, all of which are likely to have serious repercussions in Cameroon, Cameroon Red Cross Society activated its early alert system and mobilized its divisional and local committees along the borders.

In order to be prepared for all the possible situations, the action focused on scenario 1 entitled "More or less stable situation that is likely to cause the flood of over 10,000 persons in Cameroon". A strategy has been put in place to facilitate emergency intervention by Cameroon Red Cross Society. This was carried out taking into consideration the assets, functioning, weaknesses and prospective activities of the National Society (NS). In addition, adequate materials have been purchased and pre-positioned to ensure urgent and efficient response in due course. Image boxes and folders have been developed to further sensitize the populations and ensure continuous briefing of Red Cross volunteers.

Expected result: Eighty (80) Red Cross volunteers team leaders are trained.

Achievements: Training/retraining sessions were organized in Garoua (North province), Garoua-Boulai and Meiganga (East province) to build the human resource capacities of the local committees concerned. The objective of those sessions was to better prepare Red Cross volunteers as team leaders for population movement management. The training was attended by a total of 80 trained volunteers from all the localities concerned by the operation. The sessions focused on identifying entry points into Cameroon and updating focal points. The training was made up of exposés, simulation exercises on refugee camp installation and management, all of which contributed to building the operational capacities of Cameroon Red Cross Society.

Expected result: One hundred-twenty volunteers are trained in hygiene promotion, WatSan and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and on the SPHERE minimal standards

Achievements: A one-week training/retraining session was organised in Garoua to build the human resource capacities of the local committees concerned. The objective of that session was to better prepare Red Cross volunteers as team leaders for population movement management. The training was attended by 25 trained volunteers from all the localities concerned by the operation. The session focused on identifying entry points into Cameroon and updating focal points. The training was made up of exposés, simulation exercises on refugee camp installation and management, all of which contributed to building the operational capacities of Cameroon Red Cross Society.

At the end of the operation, Red Cross volunteers in bordering local committees now have good mastery of the minimum intervention standards (SPHERE standards and the UNHCR standards Manual), hygiene

promotion and sanitation, including a few elements of the PHAST process. These volunteers are ready to make good use of that knowledge in emergency situations. Cameroon Red Cross Society has been coordinating its local branches effectively and stands out as a first choice humanitarian partner.

Expected result: Basic NFIs for 10,000 persons are pre-positioned.

Achievements: In order to be prepared for all the possible situations, the action focused on scenario 1 entitled “More or less stable situation that is likely to cause the flood of over 10,000 persons in Cameroon”. A strategy has been put in place to facilitate emergency intervention by Cameroon Red Cross Society. This was carried out taking into consideration the assets, functioning, weaknesses and prospective activities of the National Society (NS). In addition, adequate materials have been purchased and prepositioned to ensure urgent and efficient response in due course. Image boxes and folders have been developed to further sensitise the populations and ensure continuous briefing of Red Cross volunteers. The materials purchased and pre-positioned included 500 mats, 1000 blankets, 1000 impregnated mosquito nets, and 36 hygiene kits. These materials have been added to the stock purchased within the framework of the ongoing operation to assist CAR refugees in Cameroon, which started in June 2007. These materials are currently being distributed and will benefit 2000 families of the most vulnerable among the refugees. The following table summarises the achievements of this operation:

Red Cross local committees whose population movement capacities have been built	Number of Red Cross volunteers trained on population movement management	Red Cross local committees equipped with relief materials	Number of beneficiaries
All the local committees of the East Province	50	Relief materials pre-positioned at National headquarters level to be deployed within the framework of the ongoing response operation.	2,000 families of refugees (10'000 persons)
All the local committees of the Adamaoua Province	30		

Conclusion

Through this operation, the disaster management capacities of the NS have been built, specifically the population management capacities. Cameroon Red Cross Society now has an emergency intervention strategy that would likely be used in the event of any other type of disaster.

The good collaboration that existed between Cameroon Red Cross Society and UN agencies within the framework of this operation contributed to consolidating partnership. The contact with local administrative and traditional authorities in the localities concerned enabled the NS to confirm her position as auxiliary to Government.

Displaced persons, specifically CAR refugees living under precarious conditions, have been cheered up by Red Cross attention to their situation.

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.

<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with 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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Contact information</p>	
<p>For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Cameroon: Javier Medrano, Head of Federation Central Africa Sub-Regional Office, Yaoundé; Email javier.medrano@ifrc.org; Phone +237.221.74.37; Fax +237.221.74.39 • In Senegal: Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Regional Delegation, Dakar; Email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org; Phone +221.869.36.41; Fax +221.860.20.02 	

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR62001 - Central Africa - Contingency Plan. Pop Mvt

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/12-2007/08
Budget Timeframe	2006/12-2007/08
Appeal	MDR62001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		130,004				130,004
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions (received)</u>						
<i>DREF</i>		-23,170				-23,170
C1. Cash contributions		-23,170				-23,170
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>DREF</i>		130,000				130,000
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		130,000				130,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		106,830				106,830
D. Total Funding = B + C		106,830				106,830

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		106,830				106,830
E. Expenditure		-106,830				-106,830
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		130,004					130,004	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	26,605		4,125				4,125	22,480
Clothing & textiles			16,745				16,745	-16,745
Water & Sanitation	22,027		5,188				5,188	16,840
Medical & First Aid	16,530		9,724				9,724	6,806
Teaching Materials	5,570		5,182				5,182	388
Other Supplies & Services			8,750				8,750	-8,750
Total Supplies	70,732		49,714				49,714	21,019
Transport & Storage								
Storage			9,017				9,017	-9,017
Distribution & Monitoring			6,237				6,237	-6,237
Transport & Vehicle Costs	17,010		2,115				2,115	14,895
Total Transport & Storage	17,010		17,369				17,369	-359
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	6,810		3,419				3,419	3,391
National Staff	1,255		1,663				1,663	-408
National Society Staff	10,150		9,960				9,960	190
Total Personnel	18,215		15,042				15,042	3,173
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	12,956		11,717				11,717	1,239
Total Workshops & Training	12,956		11,717				11,717	1,239
General Expenditure								
Travel	840		84				84	756
Office Costs	801		3,457				3,457	-2,656
Communications	1,000		2,504				2,504	-1,504
Total General Expenditure	2,641		6,044				6,044	-3,403
Programme Support								
Program Support	8,450		6,944				6,944	1,506
Total Programme Support	8,450		6,944				6,944	1,506
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	130,004		106,830				106,830	23,175
VARIANCE (C - D)			23,175				23,175	