

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Chad: Meningitis Epidemic

DREF operation n° MDRTD007
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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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.

CHF 73,950 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 650,000 beneficiaries in the areas affected by meningitis. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: From the 1st of January to the 20th of March 2,085 cases of meningitis and 124 deaths have been recorded in Chad. So far, in 2011, Chad remains the most meningitis affected country in the African meningitis belt and the NmA strain remains the dominant pathogen—treatable with standard vaccines. The most affected regions are located in the south of the country.



Newly infected children welcomed in the backyard of the hospital of Sarh, one of the most affected cities in the south. Photo/ Zenaba Mourba

Despite their limited financial resources, volunteers have been mobilized to assess, sensitize, and refer suspected cases to health centres. Through this operation, the Red Cross of Chad with the support of the IFRC in-country representation will provide support to the affected communities through the rapid training of volunteers in affected committees to enable them to carry out mass sensitization campaigns and refer suspected cases to health centres.

Joint assessment missions were carried out by the Red Cross of Chad national office and the Chadian Health Ministry. Findings showed that the situation verges on catastrophe and is in need of urgent intervention.

There are also measles and cholera outbreaks in the country and this operation runs concurrently to another DREF operation on Cholera. The operations are separated because the diseases themselves differ in their causes, origins and transmission routes, and have resulted in different policies and interventions for preventive measures, response and case management.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 30 June, 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 September, 2011).

[<click here for DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view map of affected area>](#)

The situation

A meningitis outbreak was confirmed by Chadian authorities and humanitarian partners beginning 18 March 2011. Based on field reports, the evolution of the situation is very alarming, affecting the two biggest regions in the south, namely; Logone Occidental and Moyen Chari. As of 20 March 2011, the total number of people so far infected is 2,085 cases, out of which 124 deaths cases have been confirmed. The most affected areas are the towns of Sarh, Moundou, Gounougaya, Bikin and Koumra. The situation is expected to worsen during April, when temperatures can sometimes reach 50°C.

The Chadian government through its health Ministry appealed for international assistance to curb the epidemics. The Red Cross of Chad with the support of the International Federation in-country representation is planning to intervene in the affected areas through the training volunteers to enable them carry out mass sensitization campaigns, reaching thereby 650,000 beneficiaries in the affected areas.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross of Chad and the International Federation representation are regularly participating in meetings organized by the Chadian Technical committee for the fight against epidemics (*Comité Technique de lute contre les épidemies*).

Additionally, United Nations led meetings organized through OCHA and the World Health Organization (WHO) will be regularly attended in order to better share views with non-movement partners, avoiding duplication and overlap in the intervention areas. Along with WHO, which provided vaccines, the National Society has been coordinating with government vaccination campaigns in Bitkine, Bousso, Goundi, Koumra, Mongo and Sahr districts.

Within the Movement partnership, the national society will closely coordinate interventions with the IFRC, the French Red Cross and the ICRC. The local branches of the Red Cross of Chad in the affected areas are working closely with the Chadian Health Ministry to provide effective humanitarian response through sensitization activities and the referral of suspected cases.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since 1 March, volunteers from the affected Red Cross of Chad regional committees have been mobilized to carry out sensitization campaigns and refer suspected meningitis cases to health centres. A joint mission composed of the Red Cross of Chad's vice president and the Chadian Health Ministry carried out a field mission to assess the scale of the meningitis epidemic in the affected areas. The National Society's office in N'Djamena and the IFRC Chad Representative actively participated in the meeting analyzing the results.

The needs

Finding from the evaluation missions showed that among the imperative action to be taken is the training of volunteers to launch mass sensitization campaigns in the affected areas. Therefore, the current DREF operation will train 100 volunteers to launch mass sensitization campaigns and refer suspected meningitis cases to hospitals and health centres. The population at risk targeted for sensitization is estimated at 650,000 people.

The proposed operation

The overall goal of the operation is to reduce incidence of meningitis and contain the spread of the outbreak through coordinated awareness raising and social mobilization activities of a cadre of trained volunteers. Since Chad is epidemic prone, having a cadre of trained volunteers can be considered an outcome in its own right.

To shore up capacities of the National Society, a health regional disaster response team (RDRT) will be brought in.

Emergency health

Outcome 1: To provide 100 Chadian Red Cross volunteers with basic knowledge about the cases, signs and symptoms, prevention and effects of meningitis.

Outputs (expected results) The Red Cross of Chad volunteers and supervisors have acquired basic knowledge about causes, signs, prevention and effects of meningitis and have gained the necessary skills to raise awareness on meningitis in Sarh, Moundou, Gounougaya, Bikin and Koumra.

Activities planned

- The Red Cross of Chad will launch the training of 100 volunteers using the *Epidemic Control for Volunteers Manual and Toolkit (ECV)* in French.

Outcome 2: Mobilize trained volunteers to reach about 650,000 people (directly and indirectly) through awareness raising and social mobilization campaigns during immunization campaigns.

Outputs (expected results); The 100 trained volunteers have reached an estimated 650,000 population with correct information on preventive measures against meningitis in Sarh, Moundou, Gounougaya, Bikin, and Koumra.

Activities planned

- Conduct household visit and group discussion to raise awareness, work on active case finding and referral cases to the health centres.
- Conduct Mobilization campaigns for vaccination
- Active participation of volunteers in the vaccination

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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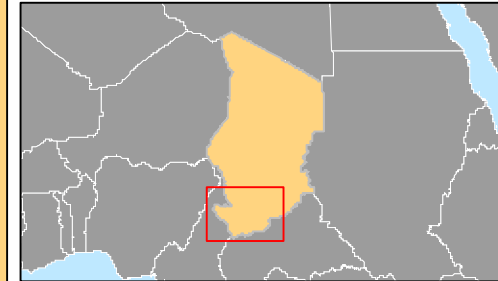
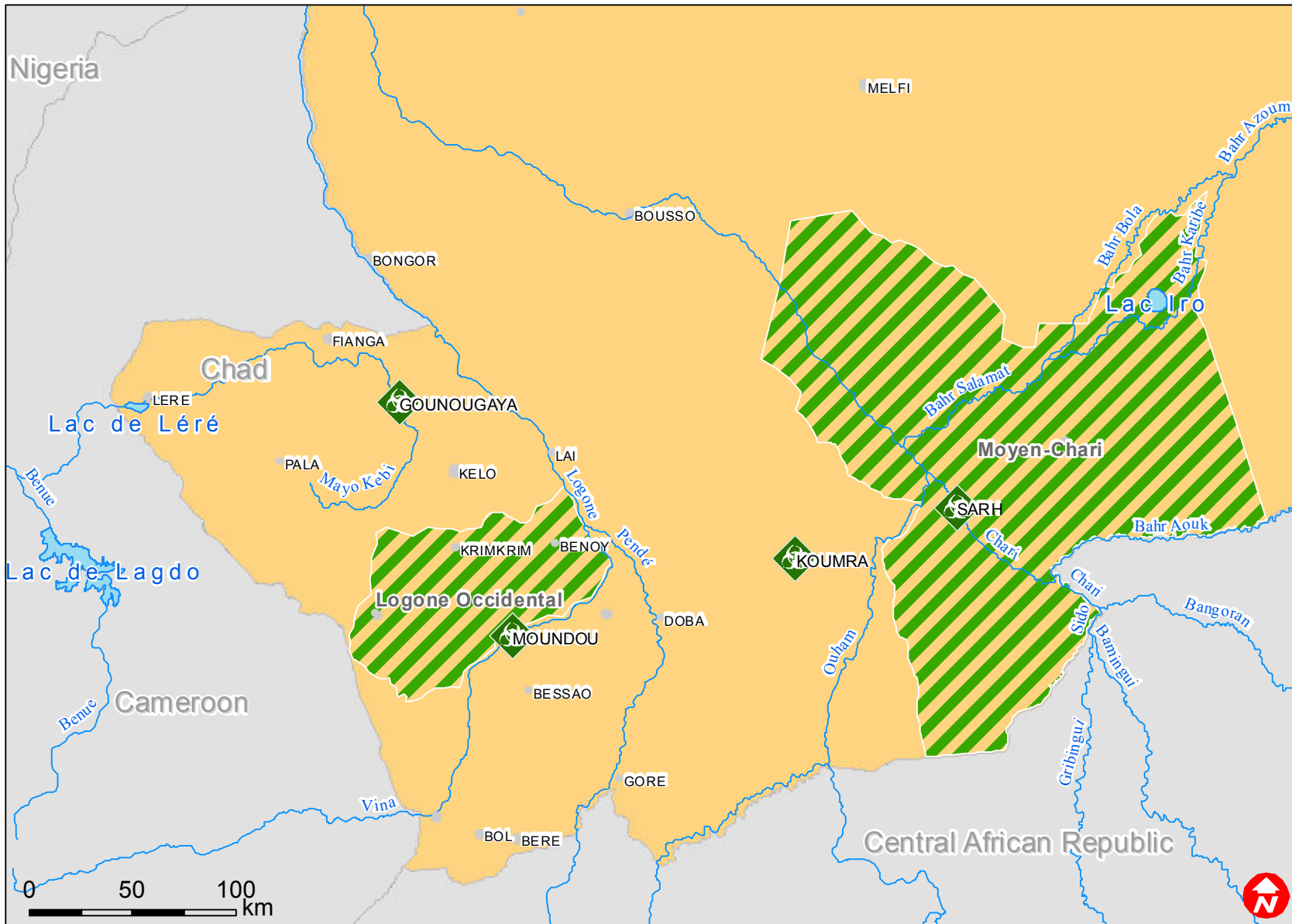
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		0
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles		0
Food		0
Seeds & Plants		0
Water & Sanitation		0
Medical & First Aid		0
Teaching Materials	1,799	1,799
Ustensils & Tools		0
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements		0
Total Supplies	1,799	1,799
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		0
Distribution & Monitoring		0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,234	7,234
Total Transport & Storage	7,234	7,234
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff	18,000	18,000
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	24,247	24,247
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
Total Personnel	42,247	42,247
Workshops & Training	4,494	4,494
Total Workshops & Training	4,494	4,494
Travel	1,205	1,205
Information & Public Relation	3,549	3,549
Office Costs	904	904
Communications	6,024	6,024
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges	990	990
Other General Expenses	990	990
Total General Expenditure	13,662	13,662
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	4,513	4,513
Total Programme Support	4,513	4,513
Services & Recoveries		0
Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	73,950	73,950



Chad: Meningitis



-  Most affected places
-  Alarming situation in these regions

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
 Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, GRUMP, GADM, International Federation, MDRTD007.mxd