

# Programme Update



## Central Africa Regional Representation Programmes<sup>1</sup>

Appeal No. MAA62001

02/September/2008

This report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup>/January/2008 to  
30/June/2008.



Distribution of non food items to Chadian refugees  
in Kousseri IFRC/Belly Diallo

### In brief

**Programmes purpose:** The Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) programmes are aimed at meeting the Federation's four Global Agenda Goals within the region, which include to reduce the number 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; and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

**Programmes summary:** Due to late or unavailability of funding during the first half of 2008, most activities planned for this period were not carried out. However, as far as Disaster Management (DM) is concerned, the National Societies (NS) of Central Africa participated in a floods preparedness workshop early this year in Dakar, Senegal. This enabled them to start developing their own floods preparedness plans in their respective countries. In addition, our DM team concentrated most efforts in providing assistance to the Chadian refugees who arrived in Northern Cameroon in February 2008.

In the area of Health and Care, the team focused on the fight against the meningitis epidemics in the Central African Republic (CAR), the assistance to Chadian refugees in Northern Cameroon, and the development and launching of the Global Alliance to fight against HIV in DRC and CAR. In

<sup>1</sup> The official name of our Office is "Central Africa Regional Representation". Therefore, we have revised the name of this 2008-2009 Appeal from "Central Africa Sub-Zonal Programmes" to "Central Africa Regional Representation Programmes".

addition, impregnated mosquito nets were distributed in Cameroon and the Female Genital Mutilations (FGM) Project was evaluated.

Concerning Organizational Development (OD), CARREP decided to make available the sum of CHF 5,000 each month for each of the 6 NS covered by this report to help them pay the monthly salaries of three major staffs and cover part of their operating budget. In addition, the Regional OD Officer conducted a mission in CAR to assess the functioning of 7 local committees of the CAR Red Cross Society and provide the technical and financial support required to improve the situation.

As far as Coordination is concerned, the first meeting of Presidents of NS of Central Africa for 2008 was organised in April. On that occasion, participants approved their terms of reference and adopted the name "Coordination of Central Africa National Societies", known by its French acronym "COSNAC<sup>2</sup>".

Another major activity carried out during the first half of 2008 was the development of the 2009-2010 plan, which is now completed.

**Financial situation:** The total 2008 budget is CHF 3,030,702 (USD 2,755,184 or EUR 1,876,596), of which 40 per cent covered. Expenditure overall is CHF 2,536,426

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report](#)

See also: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual08/MAA62001app.pdf>

**No. of people we help:** A large number of people benefited directly from secretariat-supported programme interventions during the reporting period. In fact, over 35,000 Chadian refugees were assisted in Northern Cameroon, 130,000 people benefited from a meningitis operation in CAR, and about 400,000 more are currently benefiting from a cholera operation in Congo Brazzaville. It is estimated that if the money requested for is made available, about 2,000,000 people in Central Africa will benefit directly from secretariat-supported programme interventions during the rest of the year.

**Our partners:** As far as the 2008-2009 Appeal is concerned, partnership was very timid within the region during this reporting period. In fact, apart from the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross societies who responded to the 2008-2009 Appeal, the promises made by other partners are yet to be translated into concrete donations. However, CARREP continued to maintain contacts with potential donors to get them increasingly interested in our programmes in favour of vulnerable people.

Concerning emergency situations, several partners contributed along side with the Cameroon Red Cross Society and the Federation to assist Chadian refugees in Cameroon. The partners included ICRC, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, MSF, and Government.

## Context

A certain number of socio-political, economic or natural events affected the programmes of Central Africa NS and their target beneficiaries during the first half of 2008. In fact, political unrest in Chad pushed over 30,000 Chadian to flee into Cameroon in Early February 2008. Troops of rebels invaded N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, and caused the terror that pushed a good number of Chadian to seek refuge in Cameroon. The Cameroon Red Cross Society and the Federation's CARREP were left with no other option than to organise an operation to assist the refugees.

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<sup>2</sup> Coordination des Sociétés Nationales d'Afrique Centrale

A cholera outbreak occurred in Congo Brazzaville while a meningitis outbreak occurred in CAR. This pushed the respective NS to launch emergency operations (DREF) to respond to both disasters. While the DREF operation on Meningitis has been closed, the one on Cholera is ongoing. Another minor emergency like floods in Yaoundé, Cameroon, occurred and the Cameroon Red Cross handled it with little support from the Federation's CARREP as no external support was required.

In addition, high cost of living originated from socio-economic unrest in all the countries covered by the Federation's CARREP. Mindful of this, the NS identified fighting against high cost of living as one of their key priorities for 2009-2010. All of these events, compounded with the late or unavailability of funds accruing from the 2008-2009 Appeal, made it extremely difficult for both the Federation and the NS of Central Africa to carry out activities as planned in the appeal. Hopefully the situation will not be the same during the second half of 2008 as little funding has started coming in, and the socio-political situation in the region seems to be calm.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

#### **Programme Component 1: Disaster Response**

The 2009-2010 planning for Disaster Management was conducted during the first half of 2008.

#### **Outcomes**

- The living conditions of refugees are improved upon thanks to food and non-food supplies as well as the provision of services such as small stockbreeding and other income-generating activities (IGAs) in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo and Gabon;
- Refugees practising agriculture attain food self-sufficiency through the seeds and farm implements distributed by the Red Cross;
- Emergency situations are managed promptly by Central African National Societies through contingency planning and pre-positioning of emergency stocks and equipment.

#### **Achievements**

In early February 2008, about 30,000 Chadian refugees arrived in Kousseri (Northern Cameroon) fleeing socio-political unrest in their country. The Federation Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) joined efforts with the Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRCS) to provide assistance to those refugees. The assistance included water and sanitation, health, social and community-based activities and the management of the refugee camp that was set up on the occasion in Maltam (Far North Province of Cameroon), and later on in Langui (North Province of Cameroon). This assistance is ongoing as about 5,000 refugees are left in the Langui camp.

As far as the Central African Republic refugees in Cameroon (Eastern and Adamaoua provinces) are concerned, the Federation assisted CRCS (the local branches concerned) in developing an assistance project which has now been submitted to the German Red Cross for funding. This project is based on food security and water and sanitation.

Based on the prevailing situation in Chad and the latent insecurity in Central African countries, CARREP started revising its contingency planning on populations' movement. Thus, an emergency stock has been pre-positioned at CARREP's headquarters to ensure quick support to National Societies (NS) in case of disaster response. Part of this stock was actually used to help the Congolese Red Cross Society assist the people of the Kelle village who were internally displaced by violent winds, as well as flood victims in Brazzaville. Another part of the emergency stock was also used to assist Chadian refugees in Northern Cameroon.

## **Constraints**

The insecurity in Chad delayed the operation to assist the Central African Republic (CAR) refugees who have been in the Eastern and Adamaoua provinces of Cameroon since 2006. All the efforts were concentrated in Northern Cameroon as the Chadian refugees arrived in their impressive numbers. In addition, the late arrival and insufficient funding prevented CARREP from launching the activities planned for CAR refugees. However, we are hoping that the German Red Cross will fund the project that was submitted to them early this year to enable us to carry out food security and water and sanitation activities in favour of CAR refugees during the second half of 2008.

## **Programme Component 2: Disaster Prevention, Risk Reduction and Capacity Building**

### **Outcomes**

- The vulnerability of inhabitants of disaster-prone zones is reduced due to disaster risk prevention and reduction activities carried out by Red Cross volunteers;
- The National Societies of Central Africa are well equipped and capable of effectively responding to disasters due to their operational capacities at head office and community levels.

### **Achievements**

In early 2008, the NS of Central Africa participated in a workshop on well-prepared national societies in Dakar, and this enabled them to identify their capacities in the area of disaster preparedness. In line with the recommendations of that workshop, they all embarked on disaster prevention and risk reduction activities back in their respective countries. Moreover, the disaster management officers of all six NS participated in another workshop on flood preparedness and this contributed enormously to building their capacities in that domain.

CARREP plans to conduct missions in all six NS during the second half of 2008 to help national disaster management officers build the disaster management of their counterparts at community level. CARREP will also seize the opportunity to help set up community-based and national disaster response teams in each NS. These teams will then be trained and readied to intervene in the event of a disaster.

## **Constraints**

The lack of funding prevented the implementation of activities as planned in the appeal. Although our NS received very limited and late funding, they participated in small operations like floods in Yaoundé (Cameroon), and internally displaced persons in CAR (Berberati, Ouham Bouka, etc.) due to the exactions caused by high-way robbers.

## **Programme Component 3: Food Security**

### **Outcomes**

- The National Societies of Cameroon and CAR have enhanced their food security capacities and have contributed to reducing the risk of food insecurity;
- The Central African Red Cross Society enhances its capacity in food security through establishment of community farms and training of supervisors and community animators in Bangui, and Central, West and East zones.

### **Achievements**

No activity was carried out during the first half of 2008 due to lack of funding. However, CARREP intends to conduct missions in the NS targeted by this programme component during the second half of this year to help recruit food security supervisors and animators and build the food security capacities of the respective NS.

## **Constraints**

The emergency situations that occurred, the delay in the arrival of funding and the low level of funding prevented the implementation of activities as planned in the appeal. However, some

activities will be carried out during the second half of this year, and others will be carried over to 2009 depending on the level of priority.

## Health and Care

### **Programme Component 1: HIV and AIDS**

The 2009-2010 planning for Health and Care was conducted during the first half of 2008.

#### **Outcomes**

- Vulnerabilities to HIV and its impact are mitigated and the quality of life of people living with HIV (PLWHIV) is improved upon;
- Vulnerability to HIV is reduced through “Filles Libres” projects and by combating female genital mutilation;
- Vulnerabilities to HIV and its impact are reduced through home support for PLWH and by combating stigma and discrimination.

#### **Achievements**

Within the framework of the fight against HIV in Cameroon, the Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRCS) supported by the Federation’s Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) and the Japanese Embassy launched a project to help stop female genital mutilations (FGM) in 2007. The first half of 2008 was dedicated to the follow up and evaluation of that project. The stakeholders realised that all the women who had been identified as excision professionals before the start of the project have now abandon it to concentrate on their income-generating activities funded by the project. This will surely reduce the number of FGM in the country.

In addition, the Global Alliance on HIV was launched for the NS of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. However, most activities to fight against HIV that were planned for this semester were not carried out due to lack or very late availability of funding.

#### **Constraint**

The major constraint during this semester was financial.

### **Programme Component 2: Infectious Diseases**

#### **Outcomes**

- Community health programmes are implemented in order to roll back maternal and infant mortality and the incidence of infectious diseases;
- Access to potable water and sanitation services is improved in hazard-prone areas;
- Men, women and children are protected against malaria, tuberculosis, avian flu, cholera, Ebola, Chikungunya, meningitis and waterborne diseases through appropriate surveillance, preparedness and control measures.

#### **Achievements**

A meningitis epidemic occurred in the Central African Republic (CAR) early this year and the CAR NS supported by the Federation’s DREF carried out activities to help stop the spread of the disease. Concretely, the NS sensitised the populations to the signs and symptoms of the epidemics, as well as on the hygienic measures to be taken to avoid it. They also helped refer affected persons to health centres. The NS also organised epidemics preparedness activities with focus on avian flu for the Berbarati communities.

Within the framework of disease preparedness and the fight against Malaria, the Cameroon Red Cross Society distributed 6,500 long lasting impregnated mosquito nets to the pregnant women and

children under five of the Nkam division, in the littoral province. The Nkam division, it should be noted, is an enclosed locality with very high prevalence of malaria.

In addition, the Cameroon Red Cross Society supported by the Federation provided health and care assistance, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene services to the Chadian refugees who arrived in Cameroon early this year as a result of socio-political unrest in their country. The health team of the Federation was entirely mobilised for this operation during the first half of 2008. However, most activities planned were not carried out due to lack or very late availability of funding.

### **Constraints**

The major constraint during this semester was financial.

## **Programme Component 3: Mother and Child Care**

### **Outcomes**

- Access to the immunization service by mothers and infants is improved;
- Access to quality gender-specific services is improved for men, women and children, with special attention on the most vulnerable groups;
- The nutritional and health status of the most vulnerable in the CAR are improved through farming by animal traction.

### **Achievements**

Within the framework of the operation to assist Chadian refugees in Northern Cameroon, the Cameroon Red Cross Society supported by the Federation conducted social mobilisation activities to facilitate the immunisation of the refugees against meningitis. On their part, the CAR Red Cross Society mobilised their populations and sensitised them to the need of getting their children immunised against meningitis in Nana Gribizi. However, most activities planned were not carried out due to lack or very late availability of funding.

### **Constraint**

The major constraint during this semester was financial.

## **Programme Component 4: Community-Based First Aid and Watsan**

### **Outcomes**

First-aid workers are trained and are capable of intervening during emergency situations in their communities;

- The STP Red Cross enhances sustainable access to potable water and improvement of the living conditions of vulnerable persons exposed to water and sanitation related illnesses;
- The Equatorial Guinea Red Cross Society increases access to potable water and improves the living conditions of vulnerable persons exposed to waterborne and sanitation related diseases.

### **Achievements**

The activities planned were not carried out due to lack or very late availability of funding.

### **Constraint**

The major constraint during this semester was financial.

## Capacity Building

The 2009-2010 planning for Capacity Building was conducted during the first half of 2008.

### **Programme Component 1: National Society and Community Capacity Building**

#### **Outcomes**

- The coordination, planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, management and good governance capacities of Central Africa National Societies are built at the headquarters and local committee levels;
- The National Societies of Central Africa have undertaken strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analyses, have signed Cooperation Agreement Strategies (CAS) with partners and donors, and the capacities of communities are built to enable them improve on their living conditions;
- The fundraising capacities of Central Africa National Societies are built and their financial autonomy enhanced through the promotion of income-generating activities (IGAs).

#### **Achievements**

In order to build the coordination capacities of all the Red Cross societies of Central Africa, the Federation's Central Africa Regional Representation made available to each of them the sum of CHF 5,000 per month. The money is used to fund key positions in each of the NS, and to support their telephone, Internet and other Information Technology needs. This support has been of crucial help to the NS as communication between them and the Federation has improved considerably.

In addition, the Federation's Regional Organisational Development Officer conducted a mission to the Central African Republic where he helped assess and strengthen 7 divisional committees of the Red Cross out of the 16 that make up the country. 200 CAR Red Cross members and volunteers were mobilised within the framework of that mission. The committees that were strengthened are now ready to carry out activities in favour of vulnerable people when the money is available.

#### **Constraint**

The major constraint during this semester was financial.

### **Programme Component 2: Good Governance**

#### **Outcomes**

The governance and management of Central Africa National Societies practise good governance through the principle of separation of powers at national level and in local committees.

- All members of the board of directors and 50% of local committee bureau executives in the six National Societies are trained in good governance.
- All members of the national board of directors and 50% of local committee bureau executives in the six National Societies have signed the Code of Conduct and base their work on the work plans drawn up and adopted.

#### **Achievements**

CARRED supported, both technically and financially, the organisation of the General Assembly of Cameroon Red Cross in January 2008. On that occasion, the outgoing president was re-elected. The Federation's Regional Representative seized that opportunity to officially discuss the notion of separation of powers with the Governance members of the NS.

Moreover, the question of separation of powers between Governance and Management teams at the level of each NS was discussed by all the presidents, and recommendations were made to encourage it.

The Organisational Development Officer trained the members of 9 local committees of the Central African Republic Red Cross Society on the role of Governance and the notion of separation of powers.

During the first half of 2008, the Federation's Regional Representative visited the NS of Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe and Equatorial Guinea and held working sessions with the respective presidents and governance members, as well as with secretary generals, focussing on the need to respect the role of each authority in order to improve the effectiveness of Red Cross action in favour of vulnerable people.

### **Constraints**

The election of new presidents (Congo Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe), as well as new secretary generals (Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and CAR) over the past 18 months represents a new challenge to CARREP in the sense that we will have to restart working with them on the separation of powers between Governance and Management, as well as on organisational issues.

Apart from Cameroon and CAR, these activities have been limited to national headquarters in other NS because of limited funding.

## **Programme Component 3: Promotion and Development of Volunteers**

### **Outcomes**

- Volunteer management policies are developed and effectively implemented in the six Central Africa National Societies.
- An association for the welfare of volunteers is set up in each of the six Central Africa National Societies.
- 1,200 excelling volunteers in the six National Societies are given awards to build their loyalty to the Red Cross.

### **Achievements**

The activities planned were not carried out due to lack or very late availability of funding.

## Principles and Values

### **Programme Component 1: Principles and Values**

The person in charge of the Principles and Values Programme of the Federation's Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) is also the Communications Officer. Part of the funding expected from the 2008-2009 Appeal arrived towards the end of the first half of 2008. Thus, all the Principles and Values activities that were scheduled for that period were not carried out. However, communications activities were carried out within the framework of the emergency appeal to assist Chadian refugees in Northern Cameroon, the development of communication aids like documentaries (two on malaria in Congo Brazzaville and in Gabon), magazines, web stories), and the consolidation of public relations through Federation activities in Cameroon, Gabon and the Central African Republic. In addition, the 2009-2010 planning for Principles and Values was conducted during the first half of 2008.

### **Outcomes**

- The principles and values of the Movement, as well as activities of the Red Cross are disseminated widely in Central Africa;
- People hailing from Central African localities that have experienced conflicts are sensitized on the importance of peace building and mutual understanding;
- The targeted people have better knowledge of and respect for the Red Cross emblem.

### **Achievements**

The activities planned were not carried out due to lack or very late availability of funding.

## **Programme Component 2: Sexual Abuse and Gender-Based Violence**

### **Outcomes**

- Young girls in areas with low level of education are enrolled in schools;
- Women who practise female genital mutilation (FGM) in the East and the Great North regions of Cameroon have abandoned it and have adopted income generating activities;
- Gabonese authorities are sensitized on the need to put in place policies aimed at checking child trafficking;
- The right to education of hearing and speech impaired children in Equatorial Guinea is respected.

### **Achievements**

The activities planned were not carried out due to lack or very late availability of funding.

## **Programme Component 3: Eliminating Intolerance and Promoting the Respect for Diversity**

### **Outcomes**

- Media officials and volunteers of committees in conflict areas are better trained to facilitate the fight against intolerance and to promote respect for diversity.
- Intra-community tensions, intolerance, discrimination, exclusion and violence are reduced and human dignity respected.

### **Achievements**

The activities planned were not carried out due to lack or very late availability of funding.

## **Coordination**

### **Outcomes**

- The consolidation of the Central Africa Sub-Regional Representation team, its administrative reorganization and the improvement of coordination mechanisms at Sub-Regional level have increased the impact of the Federation's support to the 8 NSs of Central Africa;
- The Sub-Regional coordination group has improved dialogue between NSs and has consolidated its collaboration with the Federation;
- The 8 NS of Central Africa have adopted a Sub-Regional resource mobilization strategy and the volume and quality of their activities have increased at least by 20% by 2009;
- A good visibility of the Federation and NSs, reliable action plans targeting the most vulnerable communities, and quality representation underpinned by "assisted" advocacy have attracted more donors/partners.

### **Achievements**

The restructuring process of the Federation's Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) was very difficult, but was completed efficiently. In fact, the Administration and Logistics

Department that were not functioning well have been reorganised. Federation procedures have been reaffirmed and are now used systematically. Staffs have been appointed according to their respective skills and the profile required for each position. The persons whose profile did not match their positions have been sacked and replaced accordingly. This restructuring has placed CARREP in a better position to provide adequate support to the NS of Central Africa.

The collaboration between the NS of Central Africa, and between them and CARREP, was consolidated through the creation of the "Coordination of Central Africa National Societies", known by its French acronym "COSNAC", and the adoption by the presidents of the six NS of COSNAC's terms of reference. This was achieved during the first meeting of Presidents of NS of Central Africa for 2008 that was organised in April. This meeting will henceforth be known as COSNAC Meeting. A few initiatives of experience sharing among governance and management members were registered, just like fruitful dialogue between NS which led to improved responsibility of NS in joint activities.

The resource mobilisation strategy has not yet been adopted. However, this will be done probably before the end of 2008, after the second COSNAC Meeting scheduled to take place in September 2008.

## Working in partnership

As far as the 2008-2009 Appeal is concerned, partnership was very timid within the region during this reporting period. In fact, apart from the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross societies who responded to the 2008-2009 Appeal, the promises made by other partners are yet to be translated into concrete donations. However, CARREP continued to maintain contacts with potential donors to get them increasingly interested in our programmes in favour of vulnerable people.

Concerning emergency situations, several partners contributed along side with the Cameroon Red Cross Society and the Federation to assist Chadian refugees in Cameroon. The partners included ICRC, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, MSF, and Government. As far as the refugee operation in Northern Cameroon is concerned, the main partner coordinating all interventions is UNHCR, and the operating partner is the Red Cross (Cameroon Red Cross and the Federation). Cameroon Government has been ensuring security around the refugee camp. The major gap that was identified was limited funding. This could be filled if more donors are involved in the operation.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Although most of the activities that were planned for the first half of 2008 were not carried out because of lack of funding, the Federation and its NS in Central Africa seized the opportunity of emergency operations (Chadian refugees in Cameroon, Meningitis in CAR, and Cholera in Congo Brazzaville) to build the operational capacities of the NS involved. In fact, Cameroon Red Cross is now well prepared for populations' movement, CAR and Congo Brazzaville Red Cross Societies for epidemics management, and the Federation's CARREP for the coordination of several operations at the same time, including working with an ERU-WATSAN team and ensuring the transfer of their responsibilities to the operating NS. The shortcomings that were identified will be used as lessons learned for future operations.

## Looking ahead

Most activities planned for the first half of 2008 were not carried out because of lack of funding. Some of those will be carried out during the second semester, and even more if more funds are

made available to CARREP. Priority will be given to community-based disaster and epidemic preparedness, capacity building of NS and the fight against discrimination. The Chadian refugee operation in Northern Cameroon will continue with the support of UNHCR and other partners. The cholera operation in Congo Brazzaville is ongoing and will continue during the second half of the year. CARREP will maintain contacts with potential donors and plead with them to support the programmes of our NS.

How we work	
<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><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
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