

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC : FLOODS

1 November 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 1/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Emergency Appeal. Funding of CHF 20,000 from the Federation Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) has been requested.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Torrential rains fell for 96 hours, from 18-21 October 2004, causing flooding and serious damages. This affected nearly all the sub-divisions of Bangui and in other parts of the country like Mobaye and Bama located respectively 609 and 870 kms away from the capital (Bangui). The flooding left 12,096 people homeless. Water sources and wells are also polluted, thus exposing the population to risks of water-borne diseases.

The following tables reflect the impact of the rain and flooding.

Table 1 : Affected Population

Number of families	Number of women	Number of children	Other people	Total people affected
1,980	2,514	7,500	102	12,096

Table 2 : Number of deaths and damages

Number of deaths	Damaged houses	Damaged classrooms	Damaged farms
5	900	75	98

According to weather experts, the localities affected are in the middle of the rainy season which is likely to last until 8 November 2004. Consequently, other quarters of Bangui are exposed to the risk of the same disaster. If this happens, the populations will be left with no options other than to seek refuge in safer localities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Immediately after the announcement of the disaster, 150 volunteers of the Central African Red Cross Society¹ were deployed to assist the populations in the transportation of their valuable property that was still useful.

On 21 October 2004, and thanks to the ICRC Delegation in Bangui, the national society was able to offer the following non-food items to the first victims registered:

- 180 tarpaulins
- 404 blankets
- 180 buckets
- 50 liters of petrol

The national society, in its capacity as a member of the Crisis Committee put in place by the government, identified and registered the victims.

Coordination

Government action

The Government of the Central African Republic established a Crisis Committee comprised of the local councils, churches, UNDP, ICRC and the national society.

Other organizations

Another evaluation of the situation was conducted in collaboration with the UNDP.

Needs

The following were identified as urgent (phase one) needs.

- Assist the affected population: water disinfection, replacement of the food stocks destroyed by polluted water, prevention of the risk of epidemic ;
- Procure and provide non-food items such as blankets and clothing, to reinforce ICRC efforts ;
- Procure sanitation equipment, enabling national society volunteers to clean storm gutters;
- Train volunteers in the affected localities in IEC, in order to sensitize the populations to CBFA².

During the second phase of the intervention, seeds and agricultural tools will be needed to enable the populations to start their activities again, and avoid the situation of food insecurity.

Action Plan

Goal : The vulnerability of the populations affected by floods is reduced.

Objectives

- 1,980 affected families can provide for their own food needs and are able to respond to the risks of contamination by water-borne diseases ;
- 1,980 have temporary decent shelters at their disposal;
- The populations are progressively getting used to the notions of risks and have good mastery of the early alert system.

¹ Central African Red Cross Society – refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=44>

² IEC – Information, education and communication; CBFA - Community-based first aid

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Expected Results

- The emergency food needs of victims, especially women, children and the elderly are satisfied;
- The dependence of the affected populations is reduced ;
- The populations have access to potable water to cover all their needs;
- Victims are relocated in less risky areas by local authorities.

Activities

The emergency response phase will begin in November 2004:

- 1980 affected families will receive food items (rice, beans, salt, etc.)
- The distribution will be carried out by national society volunteers to the vulnerable people that had been identified previously by the national society during the first evaluation mission.
- The affected families will receive aqua tab tablets, and the national society will conduct the systematic chlorination of water points;
- National society volunteers will conduct CBFA activities in the localities affected to prevent epidemics.

A phase for rehabilitating the population will be comprised of:

- Distribution of seeds to the most vulnerable 100 agriculture-bound families;
- Distribution of agricultural tools;
- National society set-up of its national disaster management team;
- National society advocacy and support with local authorities in efforts to develop a disaster management plan, with special emphasis on floods ;
- A follow-up evaluation, carried out in December 2004.

A preliminary budget has been prepared, covering both the emergency and rehabilitation phases; this budget appears as Table 3 on the following page. Based on the budget for the emergency phase, a request for DREF funding has been submitted for CHF 20,000.

Note: This Information Bulletin has been written by the Federation Regional Disaster Management Officer for Central Africa, with the support of an ERDAC member (the Director of Emergency Relief at Cameroon Red Cross), based on news provided by the President, Central African Red Cross Society.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org/>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's 2004 Annual Appeal for Central African Republic, no. 01.41/2004, on the Federation website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/014104.pdf.

Please note that the 2005 Annual Appeal for Central African Republic, no. 05AA034, is due to be launched on 23 November 2004; please refer at that time to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05aa034.pdf. (This latter link will be functional only after the November launch).

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Table 3 : Preliminary Budget

N°	Name	Quantity	Unit Price (FCFA)	Total (FCFA)
	EMERGENCY PHASE			
	Emergency nutrition Assistance			
1	Rice	5 T	300.000	1.500.000
	Corn	5 T	250.000	1.250.000
	Beans	2 T	350.000	700.000
	Groundnuts	2T	350.000	700.000
	Salt (bag of 18 Kg)	2 T	24.000	48.000
	Sanitation Equipment for the NS			
	Sanitation kit	15	32.500	487.500
	Aqua tab for water treatment (box of 1000)	35 Boxes	12.500	437.500
	Logistics			
	Rent warehouse	FF	FF	150.000
	Rent vehicle (truck)	FF	FF	500.000
	Transportation of the operational team			
	Flying tickets for 2 ERDAC members Billet	2	300.000	600.000
	Local Transport	FF		300.000
	Communication			
	Info - Medias	FF	FF	50.000
	Info - Medias	FF	FF	50.000
	Nutrition and Accommodation of the Operational Team			
		2	FF	500.000
	Sandwich for local volunteers x 7 days	30	2.000	420.000
	SUB-TOTAL I (EMERGENCY PHASE)			7.693.000 <i>i.e.19.232,5 CHF</i>
	II - REHABILITATION PHASE			
	Seeds:			
	- Banana – plantain seedlings	3 T	FF	1.500.000
	- Yam seedlings	3 T	FF	1.500.000
	- Casava seedlings	3 T	FF	1.500.000
	Agricultural tools:			
	Hoes	200	1500	300.000
	Shovels	200	2500	500.000
	Racks	200	2500	500.000
	Machettes	200	4000	800.000
	Pickaxes	200	2500	500.000
	Non food items			
	Clothes (women – children – men)	6 Bundles	125.000	750.000
	blankets	500	5.000	2.500.000
	Training			
	- Training aid	100	3.000	300.000
	- Snack for volunteers / day	100	500	50.000
	Logistics			
	Rent warehouse	FF	FF	150.000
	Rent vehicle (truck)	FF	FF	500.000
	Transportation of the operational team			
	Flying tickets for 2 ERDAC members	2	300.000	600.000
	Local Transport	FF		300.000
	Communication			
	Info - Medias	FF	FF	50.000
	Info - Medias	FF	FF	50.000
	Nutrition and Accommodation of the Operational Team			
		2	FF	500.000
	Sandwich for local volunteers x 7 days	30	2.000	420.000
	Follow-up and evaluation	FF	FF	500.000
	TOTAL II (REHABILITATION PHASE)			13.770.000 <i>i.e. : 34.425 CHF</i>
	TOTAL GENERAL (PHASE I + PHASE II)			21.463.000 <i>i.e. : 53.657,5 CHF</i>