

# DREF operation update

## Democratic Republic of Congo: Population Movement

### DREF operation n° MDRCD012 GLIDE n° OT-2012-000154-COD Update n° 2 – 13 December, 2012

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.

**Period covered by this update:** 14  
November to 10 December, 2012.

**Summary:** CHF 131,815 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 31 August, 2012 to support the Democratic Republic of Congo Red Cross (DRC RC) National Society in delivering assistance to 1,727 beneficiaries fleeing armed violence in Central African Republic (CAR).

After an in-depth assessment of the situation, DREF Operation Update No 1 was published on 14 November 2012 to revise the budget from CHF 131,815 to CHF 295,691. It also extended the timeframe from 2 months to 4 months; i.e. until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.



Construction of emergency latrines in Ngele and Pandu / Photo by Red Cross of DRC

From June 2012, Central African nationals that fled violence committed by armed groups in CAR, crossed the Ubangi River in their hundreds into neighbouring DRC. The DREF fund so far has enabled DRC RC to provide emergency assistance to 1,335 displaced persons, while conducting an in-depth assessment of the situation. Two (2) DRC RC staff members and 50 volunteers were trained in assessment methodology and sensitization, and assessment teams were set up that performed the in-depth situation and needs assessment in Ngele and Pandu. The data collected formed the basis for the revised plan of action including water and sanitation activities.

The volunteers also promoted hygiene awareness among the refugee families through leaflets and door-to-door visits, to reduce the risk of diseases, during the assessment. In addition, materials and items for the construction of emergency latrines and wells have been purchased and construction work will start in the coming weeks.

However, the operation has been affected by extreme logistical challenges hampering access to the two sites (Ngele and Pandu) covered by the DREF, and subsequently delaying the implementation of the last component (water and sanitation) of the DREF operation. Therefore, this DREF Operation Update No 2 is

further extending the timeframe of the operation for an additional one (1) month to complete the planned activities.

This DREF operation was expected to be implemented in four (4) months, and completed by 31 December, 2012. With the time frame extension, implementation will be done over five (5) months, thus the DREF operation will be finalized 31 January 2013. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) will be submitted 90 days after the end of the operation (by 31 April, 2013).

This DREF has been replenished (47%) by the Netherlands Red Cross/Government and Belgian Red Cross/Government. The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the USA, as well as DG ECHO, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) the Medtronic, Z Zurich and Coca Cola Foundations and other corporate and private donors.

Details of DREF contributions can be found on: [http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010\\_2012](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2012).

The IFRC, on behalf of the Democratic Republic of Congo Red Cross National Society, would like to extend thanks to all partners for their generous contributions.

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

Central African nationals fled violence committed by armed groups along the Ubangi River in CAR in June 2012, and crossed the river into neighbouring DRC in their hundreds. DRC RC volunteers were rapidly mobilized and started registering the arriving refugees.

Preliminary statistics indicated that 345 households (1,727 persons) were affected with majority being children: 1,132 children under 15 years, 302 women, and 293 men. These refugee families sought refuge in two sites: Ngele and Pandu situated some 424 km from Mobay-Mbongo town in the North West of the DRC, locations that are extremely remote and difficult to access. Access to the displaced families is only by boat on the Ubangi River, through CAR.

Since there was limited information available about the situation and needs of these displaced persons, DRC RC, supported by IFRC's Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP), performed an in-depth assessment of the situation in order to plan for emergency assistance to the displaced Central African nationals. The assessment performed indicated that following the initial arrival, over half of the families, or 187 CAR refugee families have remained in the two sites. 154 families were located in Ngele while 33 families stayed in Pandu. The

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has presence in Zongo, some 100 km from Ngele and Pandu. Apart from a one-day joint exploratory visit on the 18 October 2012 conducted with the DRC RC, no action has so far been taken to support the refugees in Ngele and Pandu. UNHCR has provided assistance to 400 refugees staying in a camp located around 18 km from their base in Zongo. (This location is closer to Bangui and accessible only by boat.)

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has also visited Ngele and donated some basic medication, although health statistics are not yet available. Up to now, a trained DRC RC volunteer has been acting as health personnel (nursing auxiliary) in Ngele distributing those medications.

Apart from the DRC RC volunteers no other actor has been active in the field. This further extension of the DREF support enables the NFI distribution to be completed, and water and sanitation activities to be implemented to improve living conditions and dignity of the displaced families.

During November 2012, armed conflicts occurred around Goma between the government and the M23 rebel group, causing largescale displacement and increased risk for the population (in particular vulnerable families already displaced by armed violence since long time and children at risk for recruitment) when the M23 rebels took over Goma city. This situation required DRC RC to respond, and together with the extreme logistical challenges to reach the two sites covered by the DREF, implementation of some part of the last component (water and sanitation) was delayed. An extension of one (1) month is therefore needed to finalize the DREF operation.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Government of the DRC, represented by the Area Manager, provided space in the two sites Ngele and Pandu and has continued to ensure the security of the refugee population. A joint delegation of the district authorities, including the Ministry of Interior and the National Commission for Refugees visited the site and donated medical supplies for the refugees.

Interagency coordination meetings with UNHCR were held on this issue in Kinshasa at the UNHCR level. Discussions are still ongoing with UNHCR in Zongo (DRC) however no specific plan for assistance towards the CAR refugees in Ngele and Pandu has been formulated on a longer term. In the field local DRC RC branches work with the National Commission of Refugees.

MSF donated basic medication and provided training for a DRC RC volunteer, acting as a nursing auxiliary in Ngele, with responsibility for distributing the medication.

Apart from technical and logistical support, IFRC provided assessment training for the two DRC RC staff members that performed the in-depth situation and needs assessment in Ngele and Pandu. DRC RC provided emergency assistance in the form of shelter and basic household items to the displaced families, and performed hygiene awareness raising. A revised plan of action was developed based on the needs assessment which included water and sanitation activities (construction of latrines and wells).

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has presence in the conflict zone (north Kivu), which is far from the affected area of the DREF operation. However, DRC RC and ICRC have been in contact for technical support and training of volunteers in relation to restoring family links (RFL) activities and missing persons, should the needs arise.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

120 volunteers from the DRC RC Equateur Local Committee were deployed to the field where they registered the affected population, assisted the government to prepare the two sites, and set up a relief station for distribution.

The DRC RC, supported by the IFRC CARREP, trained two (2) staff and 50 volunteers that performed an in-depth assessment of the situation and needs of the displaced Central African nationals, and a revised plan of action was developed including water and sanitation activities.

DRC RC provided emergency assistance and hygiene awareness raising to the displaced families.

DRC RC has been in contact with ICRC for potential need for technical support and training of volunteers in relation to restoring family links activities and missing persons.

## Progress towards outcomes

Detailed assessment of the situation and Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>Outcome: Undertake further assessments of the real situation of CAR refugees in the DRC to determine the type of assistance they need in the medium term and distribute relief items to the most vulnerable families.</b>	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The situation is better understood and an appropriate action plan prepared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments</li> <li>Prepare an action plan adapted to the needs identified</li> <li>Assessment teams will train local Red Cross volunteers on evaluation techniques, and give them data collection tools. These trained volunteers will then serve as evaluation agents.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>345 families (1725 beneficiaries) most vulnerable CAR refugees in the DRC have received emergency assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobilise and train volunteers in relief distribution and monitoring</li> <li>Distribute relief supplies and control supply</li> </ul>

	<p>movements from point of dispatch to end user. Each family will receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 blankets</li> <li>- 2 sleeping mats</li> <li>- 3 mosquito nets</li> <li>- 2 tarpaulins</li> <li>- 1 bucket</li> <li>- 1 jerry can</li> <li>- 1 hygiene kit (including soap)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions</li> <li>• Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul>
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**Progress:** The NS deployed two staff members who were trained by the IFRC on assessment and sensitization techniques. These two DRC RC staff members mobilized and trained 50 volunteers in the field that would take part in the assessment mission. These volunteers helped to collect information during the in-depth assessment of the situation and the needs of the displaced families. Debriefing of the assessment mission took place in Bangui, CAR, and the result of the assessment was used to produce a revised plan of action.

The DRC RC evaluators identified 187 CAR refugee families in Ngele and Pandu (Watamba) distributed as follows: 33 families in Watamba and 154 families in Ngele. The other refugees (400 persons) stayed in a camp some 18 km from Ngele where they were supported by the UNHCR.

Relief materials (tarpaulins and basic household items) were purchased and distributed to 187 refugee families (935 people) in Ngele and Pandu, and 400 refugees residing in a camp some 18 km from Zongo. Thus the total number of people assisted reached 1,335 persons, with a variance of 392 people compared to the target (1,727 persons). The DRC RC tried to trace the other refugee families that had initially been registered by the volunteers in Ngele and Pandu, however they seemed to have returned to CAR (although information remained uncertain on their whereabouts). The remaining kits were kept in the local DRC's Red Cross' premises in Zongo, for distribution as needs arose.

### Challenges

The areas where the displaced population have sought refuge (Ngele and Pandu) are extremely remote and difficult to access. The only route is by river, and crossing has to be made through CAR. Additionally, the cost of travelling the route is unpredictable due to the unstable situation in CAR, which makes it difficult to plan in terms of time as well as expenditures.

The unstable security situation in CAR posed another challenge for transportation and travel.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion

<b>Outcome: Contribute to facilitating access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion.</b>	
<p><b>Outputs (expected results):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugees have access to safe drinking water through the treatment of wells and other water sources.</li> <li>• The population is sensitized on rules of hygiene and respect them.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct 47 latrines and 5 wells, at the rate of 9 latrines and 2 wells in Pandu (Watamba) and 38 latrines and 3 wells in Ngele</li> <li>• Treatment of wells and other water sources identified.</li> <li>• Sensitization on hygiene promotion</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the WASH activities and provide reports</li> </ul>

**Progress:** During the assessment, DRC RC volunteers promoted hygiene awareness among the refugee families, to reduce the risk of diseases. The volunteers distributed leaflets to facilitate sensitization and hygiene promotion and talked with the families.

The volunteers noted the lack of water points (springs and wells), health facilities and latrines. Moreover, the refugees in Ngele had settled in an uninhabited, isolated and extremely inaccessible locality, which made interventions to support them very challenging.

Since there were no water points, the planned treatment of wells could not be performed. Chlorine for water purification was distributed to the families after demonstration on usage, for them to treat the water they collected from the river before using it. Chlorine for water purification of the planned water wells under construction was also distributed. The beneficiaries were also trained on water purification and management of the wells.

The materials and items for the construction of emergency latrines and wells have been purchased, and are being transported to the two sites, thus construction work will start in the coming weeks. Some of the items were purchased in Bangui (CAR) and Zongo, while others were shipped in from Kinshasa.

### Challenges

The planned construction of latrines and wells was delayed due to the difficulties in transporting materials to the area.

The situation in Goma led to further delays as the DRC RC had to refocus part of its capacity to respond to the evolving situation with large scale displacement and vulnerability among the population.

There were no health facilities located in this area; however MSF identified a DRC RC volunteer with health competence who served as the focal health person, able to distribute provided essential drugs. However, the capacity of the nurse is limited in terms of other medical related needs that might arise among the refugees, and other health support to the population is required.

### Restoration of family links

<b>Outcome: Family links are restored and maintained</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in search of their relatives are identified and family links are restored where possible.</li> <li>• Continue the search which is ongoing in the local branch of the Red Cross</li> </ul>	<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with ICRC, train Red Cross volunteers on how to restore and maintain contact between vulnerable individuals and their families; and how to reunify them</li> <li>• Register vulnerable individuals separated from their families and carry out active tracing of missing relatives</li> <li>• Engage DRC Red Cross branches in active tracing of missing relatives</li> </ul>

### Progress

DRC RC staff that had been trained by ICRC in RFL provided a briefing for the volunteers on RFL.

DRC RC volunteers have been assessing the situation in terms of missing persons, however no case of separated or missing family members have been reported and recorded by the volunteers.

## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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#### DREF history:

- This [DREF](#) was initially allocated on 31 August 2012 for CHF 131,815 for 2 months to assist 1,727 beneficiaries.
- The DREF [Operation Update No. 1](#), issued on 14 November 2012 extended the timeframe from 31 October to 31 December 2012 and revised the budget from CHF 131,815 to CHF 307,815.
- This Operation Update No. 2 extends the timeframe for 1 month, from 31 December 2012 to 31 January 2013.

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#### 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 (NGOs) 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.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



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.