

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Central African Republic: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRCF013
GLIDE n° FL-2012-000164-CAF
27 September, 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.

Summary: CHF 298,830 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Central African Republic Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to some 13,700 beneficiaries (2,740 families). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Since end of August 2012, continuous rain has led to localized floods in several places in the Central African Republic, causing collapsed and damaged houses and loss of property and livelihoods. This has resulted in a number of displaced people in several locations. Some of the affected population live with host families while others currently live in the open air. In both cases the hygiene and sanitation measures are inadequate, which poses a critical health risk to the displaced population



A house that collapsed following the floods in the Bangui 3rd District, Picture: Central African Red Cross.

Official figures of the total affected population are still not available, but the Central Africa Republic Red Cross (CAR RC) has conducted rapid assessments of the affected areas and identified 2,740 families in urgent need of immediate assistance. The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) will initiate food distributions, and the CAR is planning non-food distributions, emergency shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene and health interventions after an official request from the government of CAR directly to the CAR RC and the IFRC.

Climate related disasters like these floods are recurring events in CAR, and to address this issue the CAR RC is planning to conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments in the affected areas which can be used for planning of long-term interventions that can contribute to the disaster risk reduction and strengthen the resilience of the affected communities. However, this does not eliminate the urgent need for immediate assistance to the people affected by these floods.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 03 months, and will therefore be completed by end December 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by end March 2013.

[<click here for the DREF budget;](#) [here for contact details;](#) or [here for a map of affected areas>](#)

The situation

Since late August and early September 2012, the towns of Paoua, Bangui-Bouchia (Mbaïki), the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th districts of Bangui, and Begoua have been experiencing a series of torrential rains accompanied by local storms, which has led to flooding, collapsed and damaged houses and loss of property and livestock.

Paoua is located in the Ouham-Pende prefecture, some 487 km from Bangui, while Bangui-Bouchia is located in the Lobaye prefecture, approximately 145 km from Bangui. Begoua is located in the Ombella-Mpoko prefecture, some 12 km from Bangui.

Official information regarding the full extent of the damage and the total number of affected population is still not available, but CAR RC rapid assessments have confirmed that the disaster has led to displacement of population in the affected areas. The displaced population live with host families in overcrowded environments or in the open air, in both cases without adequate hygiene, sanitation or clean water. The flooding and the living conditions of the displaced population are causing a critical health risk, including the risk of water-related diseases such as malaria and acute respiratory infections (ARIs).

Despite the lack of official information or figures regarding the extent of the disaster, CSR RC volunteers deployed in the affected areas have been able to identify 2'740 vulnerable families in need of immediate assistance. The table below presents detailed information of the identified displaced population. The identified families have either completely lost their houses, or the houses have been damaged to a degree that they cannot currently provide the necessary shelter. The figures were confirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which is operational in the areas.

Localities	Family heads	Houses completely destroyed	Houses partially destroyed	Most vulnerable persons						Total number of most vulnerable persons	Fatalities	
				men	Women	Children	Pregnant women	Handicapped	Elderly persons			Injured
Paoua	885	754	131	869	1249	1,596	36	12	152	00	3,914	00
Bangui-Bouchia (Mbaïki)	69	55	14	106	101	194	17	00	37	10	465	00
2 nd District /Bangui	32	27	05	45	73	93	07	00	06	00	224	00
3rd District /Bangui	226	185	41	149	313	892	43	18	37	06	1458	00
4th District /Bangui	210	145	65	215	255	960	70	00	00	00	1,500	01
5th District /Bangui	1,047	725	322	1417	1565	2619	15	00	120	15	5,751	03
8th District /Bangui	41	30	11	63	92	107	09	03	11	02	287	00
Begoua	16	03	13	15	18	68	00	00	00	00	101	00
Total	2,740	1,924	602	2,879	3,666	6,529	197	33	363	33	13,700	04

While the response from the authorities has been insignificant, the Government of CAR has directed an official request to the IFRC through the CAR RC to take immediate action in response to the crisis.

Climate hazards such as heavy rain, floods and local storms are recurrent events in CAR, which often causes disruption to communities, displacement of population and loss of lives and livelihoods. This is the third DREF-operation in response to these climate related disasters launched in 2012. This indicates that there is a need to address the vulnerability of the communities with long-term initiatives to reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience. Nevertheless, this does not eliminate the need for immediate assistance to the population affected by this disaster.

Coordination and Partnership

Local authorities and the CAR RC are currently handling this operation in the field. The parliamentarian of the 3rd District and Mayors of affected localities has made field visits to assess the situation, and have provided moral support to the victims. The Central African Government, through its Ministry of Social

Affairs, the Family and Solidarity, wrote to the IFRC appealing for emergency assistance to the affected populations.

A crisis meeting was held in Paoua, and was attended by the National Disaster Management Officer of the CAR RC. UNHCR gave Caritas some NFIs, consisting of 91 tarpaulins, 400 blankets and 392 insecticide-treated mosquito nets, to distribute to the victims.

The United Nations World Food Program has indicated that they will initiate food distributions in the affected areas, and it is expected that the CAR RC will be requested to facilitate the distribution as per earlier operations.

The CAR RC plays an important role in the coordination, and CAR RC assessment data is often the basis of other humanitarian actor's response planning in floods situations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

120 volunteers from local Red Cross committees including: 30 in Paoua, 20 in Bangui-Bouchia, 10 in the 2nd District, 30 in the 3rd District, 10 in the 4th District, 30 in the 5th District, and 05 in Begoua have registered the victims, provided moral support, and assisted in their relocation to host families.

A team composed of the Programmes Officer, Local Disaster Manager (3rd and 5th Districts), the Prevention Officer, the Response Officer and the regional resource person deployed by the Federation in Bangui carried out an assessment of the situation in the field on 4 September 2012.

The ICRC intends to provide assistance in the form of NFI, consisting of tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, mats, cooking kits and soap in Birao and Ndélé by the end of the month.

The Needs

Though rapid assessments carried out by the CSR RC volunteers have identified the urgent needs, there is still a need to carry out more detailed assessments to support the response planning. The identified needs of the target population in the affected areas (see table 1 for detailed target population information) are as follows:

All of the identified 2740 beneficiary families have an urgent need for basic non-food items such as blankets, sleeping mats and kitchen sets. 500 of these families have an additional need for emergency shelter support.

To address the health risks, there is a need for distribution and use of mosquito nets, improved household water treatment and storage, improved sanitation, improved hygiene practices and knowledge on prevention of flood related diseases. Community-based health sensitization and hygiene promotion to be accompanied by household water treatment and storage items and soap. All distributed item types and quantities according to SPHERE minimum humanitarian standards.

There is a need to assess the vulnerability and capacity of the affected communities in order to plan necessary interventions to reduce the risk of future disasters in these communities and strengthen their resilience. The Red Cross Red Crescent vulnerability and capacity assessment tool will be used to obtain baseline information of the affected communities that can lead to long-term interventions and risk reduction. This will be supported by a technical mission from the IFRC regional representation for Central Africa.

150 Red Cross volunteers will be mobilized and trained for distribution activities. These volunteers will be supervised by 4 members of the National Disaster Response Team of the Central African Republic Red Cross, with a supervisor assigned to each of the 08 affected localities. This national team will be coordinated by the CAR RC National Disaster Management Coordinator.

A member of the regional disaster response team will be deployed to support the CAR RC in implementation, monitoring and reporting for a period of one month.

In-depth Assessment and Relief/Distribution (basic non-food items)

Outcome: Contribute to improving the living conditions of the 2,740 most vulnerable families (13,700 people) in the target areas through the distribution of basic non-food items for 03 months.

Expected Results	Planned Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An in-depth assessment of the situation of disasters in the CAR is conducted in high-risk areas concerned. • Planned non-food items are purchased and handed over to the national society. • The 2,740 most vulnerable families (13,700 people) targeted by this operation have received assistance in the form of NFIs from CAR RC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out an in-depth assessment of the situation of violent winds and floods in high-risk areas concerned. • Prepare an action plan for an appropriate sustainable response to the situation in the CAR. • Training/refresher course for 150 volunteers on distribution and awareness techniques. This training will be coupled with a combined briefing on emergency planning, evaluation and reporting. • Prepare distribution tools. • Distribution of non-food items (1 sleeping mat per 2 persons, 1 blanket per 2 persons, 1 kitchen set per HH) • Ensure monitoring, evaluation of, and reporting on distribution activities. • Production of activity reports

Emergency health

Objective: The health risks associated to the floods on 13,700 people are reduced through preventive community-level services over 3 months.	
Expected Results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 2740 families have received mosquito nets and use them. • Up to 13,700 people have improved knowledge of flood related diseases, including prevention measures, treatment and referral measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute mosquito nets (1 net per 2 persons) and provide training in application and usage. • Induction/refresher course in floods emergency health • Production of IEC materials • Conduct health sensitization campaign.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 2,740 families in the targeted areas over 3 months.	
Expected results	Activities Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 13,700 beneficiaries are sensitized on the reduction of flood-related risks such as water-borne diseases. • Up to 13,700 beneficiaries have access to clean water and improved sanitation and hygiene practices. • Awareness and practice of hygiene and sanitation is improved among populations in localities affected by floods in CAR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training or refresher courses for 20 volunteers in each of the 8 localities on watsan, hygiene promotion and risk prevention through the "Community-driven total sanitation" (CDTS) approach • Produce posters with messages on how to reduce risks associated with violent winds, epidemics, weather conditions and other diseases related to poor hygiene. • Distribute household water treatment items (1 bucket, 1 jerry can, 150 aqua tabs per family) and conduct training. • Conduct hygiene promotion campaign and distribute soap (1 bar per person) • Carry out sanitation activities in villages affected by floods in CAR • Encouraging community participation in the treatment of water points. • Ensure the monitoring, evaluation of, and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

Emergency shelter

Objective: Emergency shelter assistance is provided to 548 most vulnerable families spread throughout the targeted areas over 3 months.

Expected Results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The 500 most vulnerable families affected by floods and who still sleep in the open have access to emergency shelter, and their living conditions are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rapid sensitisation of the volunteers for the emergency sheltering activitiesIdentification of the 500 most vulnerable familiesPurchasing sheltering materials and transporting them to the affected localities in CARDistribution of the shelter materialsProvide emergency shelter leaflet Provide technical support with the construction of the emergency sheltersMonitoring, evaluation and reporting on emergency shelter activities and organise a lessons learned workshop

Logistics

The IFRC has a regional emergency stock in Yaounde. With the recent replenishment, the Regional Representation will make available to the CAR RC, material necessary for this operation. The DREF will be used to transport these items from Cameroon (Yaounde) to the CAR and onward to the various localities, and to replenish the stock in Yaounde from Dubai. It should be noted that the rains are further degrading the state of the already impassable roads; therefore, transportation cost will increase for this operation. This would affect both the Yaounde-Bangui and internal road stretches.

Outcome: The items planned are purchased and put at the disposal of the CARRC early enough to facilitate project implementation.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The relief materials (6,850 mats, 6,850 blankets, 6,850 mosquito nets, 2,740 kitchen kits and 13,700 pieces of 200g soaps, 2,700 buckets and 2,700 jerry cans) and other materials planned are made available in CAR affected localities early enough to facilitate the implementation of the operation.The regional stock in Yaoundé is replenished in preparation for subsequent operations.CARREP has a wider understanding of the logistics needs of the operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rent a truck for the transportation of the items to CAR affected localities.Rent warehouses for the storage of the items prior to distributionEnsure the handling of the items in Yaoundé and in CAR affected localitiesOrder the items from Dubai to replenish the regional stock in YaoundéFurther assess the needs in the field to inform programming

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- IFRC Regional Representation:** Denis Duffaut, IFRC Central Africa Regional Representative; Office phone: +237 22 21 74 37; Mobile phone: +237 77 11 77 97; email: denis.duffaut@ifrc.org
- IFRC Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator, Africa; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyaara Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone +971 50 4584872, Fax +971.4.883.22.12, email: ari.mantyaara@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC West and Central Africa hub:** Elisabeth Seck, Resource Mobilization Officer, Dakar; phone:+221 33 869 36 60; mobile: +221 77 450 59 49; email: elisabeth.seck@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate, Africa phone: +254 731 067277; email:robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org
-

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.

www.ifrc.org

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.
-

DREF OPERATION

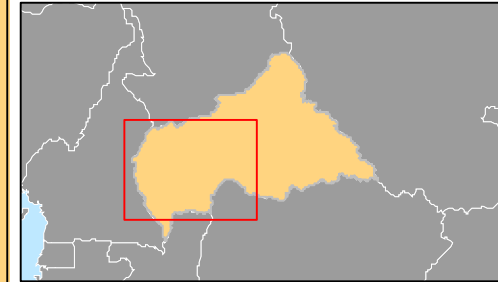
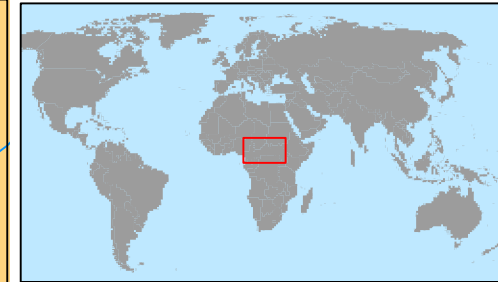
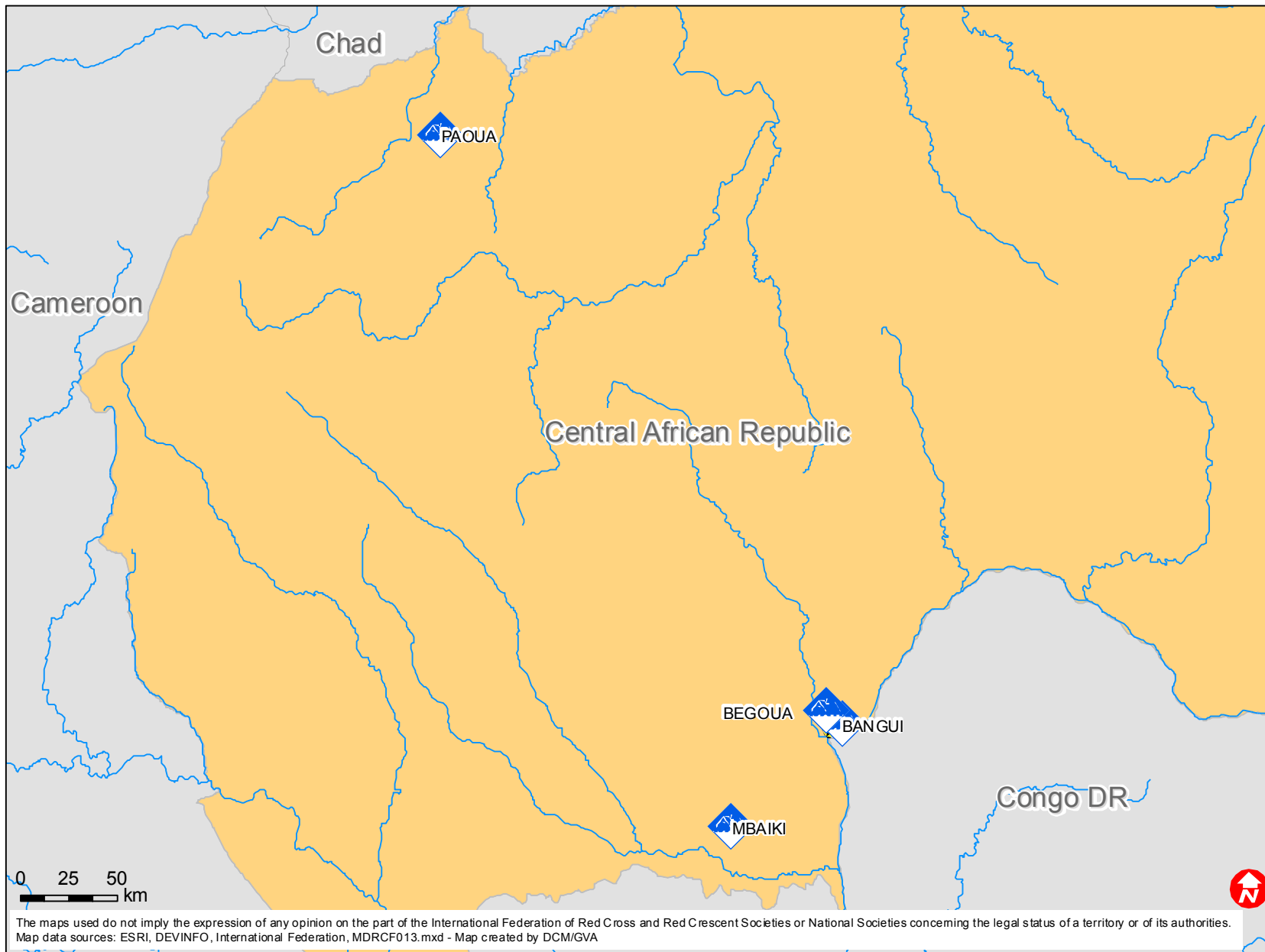
27-09-12

CAR: Floods (MDRCF013)

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	28,476
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	81,697
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	11,214
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	459
Utensils & Tools	98,037
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	219,882
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	991
Distribution & Monitoring	18,125
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,337
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	23,452
International Staff	5,780
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,468
Volunteers	4,954
Total PERSONNEL	12,202
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	7,193
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	7,193
Travel	7,339
Information & Public Relations	3,633
Office Costs	1,835
Communications	4,587
Financial Charges	468
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	17,862
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	18,238
Total INDIRECT COSTS	18,238
TOTAL BUDGET	298,830



Central Africa Republic: Floods



Affected places