



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: FLOODS

No. 05ME048  
5 September 2006

### FINAL REPORT

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 185 countries.

### In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 23 August to 23 October 2005.

#### History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 46,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 22 August 2005 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. For the Minor Emergency, refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/05/05ME048.pdf>
- This operation was expected to be implemented in two months, and completed by 23 October, 2005; in line with Federation reporting standards, the DREF Bulletin Final Report was due 90 days after the end of the operation. [<Click here to go directly to the attached final financial report>](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers 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.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## **Background and Summary**

During the night of 6 to 7 August 2005, nine-hour torrential rains fell in Bangui, the capital of Central African Republic (CAR), resulting in floods which caused extensive destruction to property. By 18 August 2005, close to 2,160 households (14,517 people) were reported to be affected. The rains continued throughout Bangui, and floods continued to affect all the neighbourhoods. By 7 September 2005, close to 4,388 households were reported to have been affected as houses partially destroyed or the ones that were still standing were collapsing on a daily basis.

The neighbourhoods mostly affected by the disaster did not have potable water points. With official data indicating that 3 out of 10 people in Bangui lacked access to potable water, the floods had deprived majority of the populations of their sole water sources — traditional water wells. Septic tanks overflowed and their contents poured into the wells and stagnant water ponds. Consequently, the populations who were fetching water from wells that were located near latrines (for cooking, drinking and other household use), were exposed to waterborne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, diarrhoea and hepatitis E since the water was contaminated. In addition, the waste and stagnant waters that were found throughout those localities constituted breeding places for mosquitoes that were responsible for malaria which is the leading cause of infant mortality in CAR; the risk of epidemics increased and a resurgence of malaria was looming.

On the onset of the floods, the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) deployed volunteers to assess the situation in the field. Data was collected by the volunteers trained in first aid, data collection during disasters and in the use of evaluation sheets. The results of the assessment were used as the basis for developing a plan of action to respond to immediate needs. Out of the 2,610 households affected, 800 were identified to benefit from the non-food items offered to CARCS by the Federation and 500 blankets donated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Priority was given to families whose houses were completely destroyed and large families (with a lot of members).

Statistics presented on 25 August 2005 indicated that in the affected areas (1st subdivision, 2nd subdivision, 3rd subdivision, 4th subdivision, 5th subdivision, 6th subdivision, 7th subdivision, 8th subdivision, Begoua, Che-Boeing and Bimbo), the total number of household heads was 4,388; number of people in charge, 23,798; men, 4,925; women, 4,494 and children, 11,584. A total of 1,674 houses had been completely destroyed while 2,897 others were partially destroyed. In addition, the towns of Bambari and Bakala — located 386 km and 506 km from Bangui respectively — were also reported to be affected; an estimated 160 households in Bambari and 25 in Bakala.

Though earlier indicators showed a dire need for food assistance, after a second evaluation it became clearer that essential emphasis of the Red Cross intervention should be on sanitation activities as they are among the solutions with a lasting effect; they would reduce the vulnerability of the populations during the rainy season. Subsequently, the most urgent needs were identified as: blankets, cooking utensils, soap and clothing; training and well-furnished water and sanitation (WatSan) kits, to enable volunteers to effectively carry out the cleaning of gutters and the drainage of waste water. A third evaluation further reinforced the fact that emphasis should be laid on sanitation if a sustainable solution to the problem of floods is to be found. To this end, the NS would continue advocating for the development of a community-based disaster preparedness plan with the full participation of authorities, partners and the communities themselves.

## **Coordination**

The Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS), being a seating member of the National Disaster Commission, monitored the development of the situation. The president of the national society (NS) was appointed chairperson of the committee in charge of managing funds for the flood disaster response operation. The Crisis Committee set up by the government concentrated on sanitation activities. The committee was composed of the Red Cross, the military engineering service, the technical department of the municipal service, the hygiene services of the 7th health region and the hygiene and sanitation services of the various neighbourhoods concerned.

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Several partners worked in collaboration with CARCS in assisting the affected households. The activities of the partners are outlined below.

**The UN system:** The UN System donated the following items to be distributed to affected people: 10,000 cans and bladders that were installed in water distribution points (Red Cross volunteers distributed 75 m<sup>3</sup> of water on a daily basis); 480 lamps and 40,000 aquatab tablets, which were used for the treatment of water wells. The UN System also supported 120 Red Cross volunteers by paying them XAF 500 each per day for one month during the distribution of potable water in the eight subdivisions of Bangui and in the surrounding localities. In addition, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided daily food allowances for Red Cross volunteers during the operation.



*Photo right: Red Cross volunteers distributing NFI.*

**Diplomatic missions:** The French Embassy in Bangui donated generic drugs estimated at EUR 25,000 to the local government through the Ministry of Social Affairs; the French Cooperation donated a further XAF 5 million for the purchase of drugs. The United States of America (USA) embassy in CAR donated USD 50,000 to CARCS in aid of water and sanitation (WatSan) activities while the Japanese embassy donated tarpaulins, tents and blankets.

**Corporate:** The Fotso Group, named after the successful Cameroonian businessman Fotso Victor, donated XAF 40 million to the government through their bank — Commercial Bank Centrafrique — to facilitate the response to floods. A telecommunication company, Telecel Centrafrique, donated the following to support the Red Cross intervention:

- A telephone pack, with a toll-free number (00-236-50-59-11), to enable well-wishers to get in touch with CARCS from anywhere in the world and give their donations to assist the affected people;
- 240 prepaid airtime cards worth XAF 2,000 each, for Red Cross volunteers working in the field;
- 4 prepaid airtime cards worth XAF 25,000 each, to enable the CARCS president to contact partners locally and internationally;
- 600 litres of fuel, for vehicles;
- 6,400 lamps and 910 sachets of soap;
- 120 T-shirts for Red Cross volunteers;
- 2 banners to call for contributions.

**Other groups and individuals:** The Association of Central African Voluntary Blood Donors donated shovels to CARCS to facilitate sanitation activities. The catholic parish of the Fatima neighbourhood, in the 6<sup>th</sup> subdivision of Bangui, donated money to the NS to help alleviate the sufferings of affected people. In response to an advocacy campaign carried out by a joint CARCS and BRAC team, the Member of Parliament for Bimbo donated XAF 1,000,000.

### **Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements and impact**

Mindful of this situation, the NS developed a plan of action (PoA) to respond to the needs of the vulnerable populations. The operation was expected to cover the three-month period until 16 November 2005 and targeted to assist 4,500 direct beneficiaries.

As outlined in the PoA, the NS aimed at: distributing cooking utensils to the 800 most vulnerable families; providing kits comprising of soap and blankets to the families — especially pregnant women, children and the elderly; promoting individual hygiene through door-to-door hygiene and sanitation sensitization campaigns; rehabilitating and chlorinating water wells as well as providing basic WatSan training to 45 volunteers to ensure permanent sensitization in their respective communities.

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

**Objective: 800 families affected by the floods have received non-food aid and their accommodation and living conditions have been improved.**

**Distribution of non-food items**

Volunteers from the CARCS distributed non-food items provided by the International Federation as well as 500 blankets donated by ICRC to 800 families in the 8 subdivisions of Bangui and the surrounding localities.



*Distribution of clean water was a key activity of the Red Cross operation.*

**Water and sanitation**

Thanks to the support of the UN system, the Red Cross volunteers distributed 10-litre water cans as well as potable water (a total of 75 m<sup>3</sup> distributed on a daily basis) to the populations in the various subdivisions affected. The NS received a donation of sanitation kits from the Federation which it used in carrying out sanitation activities; the French Red Cross reinforced this with a EUR 4,000 donation.

**Follow-up and monitoring**

During the operation, the disaster management officer of the Central Africa sub-regional office (BRAC<sup>1</sup>) supported the Red Cross volunteers in assessing the situation at the field. She also contributed to advocacy activities before other partners calling on them to support vulnerable people through the CAR Red Cross Society.

**Impact and results obtained**

The operation was a success, with the Central Africa Red Cross Society occupying the frontline position in humanitarian action. Other partners involved in the operation used data collected and put at their disposal by the NS, showing that they recognized CARCS as a reliable partner in providing prompt humanitarian assistance in cases of disasters. In addition, the Red Cross volunteers participated actively in sanitation activities coordinated by the government-created Crisis Committee. As a result, the Red Cross lived up to its mandate as an auxiliary of the government.

After the operation was completed, 20 executives of CARCS were trained as trainers on community-based first aid in October and November 2005, thanks to the technical support of a regional resource person deployed by the Federation. This enabled the NS to strengthen the capacities of its volunteers to secure more efficiency and equipped them to respond in case of future emergencies.

[Financial report below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau Régional pour l’Afrique Centrale (BRAC)

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

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Final financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/1-2005/12
Budget Timeframe	2005/1-2005/12
Appeal	M05me048
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		0				0
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		32'720				32'720
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		32'720				32'720
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		32'720				32'720
D. Total Funding = B + C		32'720				32'720

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		32'720				32'720
E. Expenditure		-32'720				-32'720
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		0					0	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Construction Materials			2'627				2'627	-2'627
Clothing & textiles			4'830				4'830	-4'830
Medical & First Aid			127				127	-127
Utensils & Tools			7'939				7'939	-7'939
Other Supplies & Services			894				894	-894
<b>Total Supplies</b>			<b>16'416</b>				<b>16'416</b>	<b>-16'416</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicle Costs			1'407				1'407	-1'407
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>			<b>1'407</b>				<b>1'407</b>	<b>-1'407</b>
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>								
Delegate Benefits			72				72	-72
Regionally Deployed Staff			545				545	-545
National Staff			1'584				1'584	-1'584
National Society Staff			414				414	-414
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>			<b>2'615</b>				<b>2'615</b>	<b>-2'615</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training			7'195				7'195	-7'195
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>			<b>7'195</b>				<b>7'195</b>	<b>-7'195</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel			2'271				2'271	-2'271
Information & Public Relation			206				206	-206
Communications			222				222	-222
Financial Charges			261				261	-261
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>			<b>2'960</b>				<b>2'960</b>	<b>-2'960</b>
<b>Program Support</b>								
Program Support			2'127				2'127	-2'127
<b>Total Program Support</b>			<b>2'127</b>				<b>2'127</b>	<b>-2'127</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>			<b>32'720</b>				<b>32'720</b>	<b>-32'720</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>-32'720</b>				<b>-32'720</b>	