



CENTRAL AFRICA: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR POPULATION MOVEMENTS

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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

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 130,000 (USD 107,705 or EUR 81,710) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 8 December 2006 to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 8 March 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go to the attached map>](#)

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.

Background and current situation

The Central African region is suffering from political instability and conflict, causing population movements into Cameroon. Since April 2005, some 30,000 Mboro pastorals from the Central African Republic (CAR) have sought refuge in neighbouring Cameroon to escape severe harassment and child abduction. In the recent months, population movement has increased due to frequent assaults from former rebels directed towards the CAR populations. In addition, other parts of CAR are affected by the increasing internal violence.

The crisis in Darfur, Sudan is creating unrests in Chad and CAR, causing thousands of displacements. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), about 15,000 refugees have been registered along the Cameroon border with CAR. Should the situation worsen, there could be some 300,000 Chadians crossing from the capital, N'Djamena, into Cameroon. Evacuations of humanitarian personnel have accelerated dramatically in both North Darfur and eastern Chad.

Meanwhile, the announcement of the results of presidential elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has caused trouble from parties opposing these results. This has forced over 2,500 people to flee into the Republic of Congo (RoC). There is a probability that the fleeing population may proceed to Cameroon, where it is presumed that the living conditions are better.

The needs

There is an urgent need for food and non-food items to support local Red Cross committees in providing assistance to the displaced population as well as host communities. The Red Cross committees require additional stocks, including first aid kits, stretchers, helmets, Red Cross bibs and aprons, blankets, insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs), soaps, mats, tents, kitchen kits as well as cholera kits.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Federation's Central Africa sub-regional office (CASRO) is supporting the Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRCS) in responding and preparing a contingency plan based on various scenarios – from the actual situation to an escalation of conflict. Red Cross action is concentrating on the most urgent needs such as shelter, food, health, water and sanitation (WatSan).

CRCS has mobilized its volunteers along the borders where they are organized in emergency response teams that are ready to intervene according to the contingency plan:

- The border between Chad and Cameroon: scenario building in the event of massive population movement for 50,000 refugees;
- The border between CAR and Cameroon: relief response and contingency plan as well as preparedness for 10,000 refugees;
- The border between DRC and RoC and possible entry into Cameroon.

The Red Cross has developed a plan of action (PoA) focusing on community preparedness. It involves:

- Alerting and mobilizing National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs) in focal points and providing additional volunteers along the border;
- Identifying the capacity building needs and training of 30 new volunteer team leaders;
- Providing refresher training for 50 Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) and NDRT volunteers;
- Establishing warning and response systems.

Coordination

The humanitarian community has been mobilized under the coordination of UNHCR, within the framework of inter-agency meetings, to monitor the level of preparedness of each partner. In consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Federation and the CRCS are regularly reviewing their plans of action based on the current situation and potential future population movements.

Plan of Action

Objective: Contribute to the welfare of the populations displaced from neighbouring countries into Cameroon.

Expected results:

- The CRCS local branches along the borders are well prepared for receiving refugees from the neighbouring countries;
- 80 Red Cross volunteer team leaders are trained;
- 120 volunteers are trained in hygiene promotion, WatSan and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST);
- Basic NFIs for 10,000 families are pre-positioned.

Planned activities:

- Updating the contingency plan on population movement, taking into consideration the worst possible scenario;
- Training 30 new volunteer team leaders;

Central Africa: Contingency Planning for Population Movements; DREF Bulletin no. MDR62001

- Training 120 volunteers in hygiene promotion, WatSan and PHAST;
- Providing emergency equipment and first aid materials;
- Pre-positioning relief materials for incoming refugees;
- Distributing NFIs to 2,500 displaced people;
- Deploying NDRT and RDRT;
- Conducting regional coordination and monitoring.

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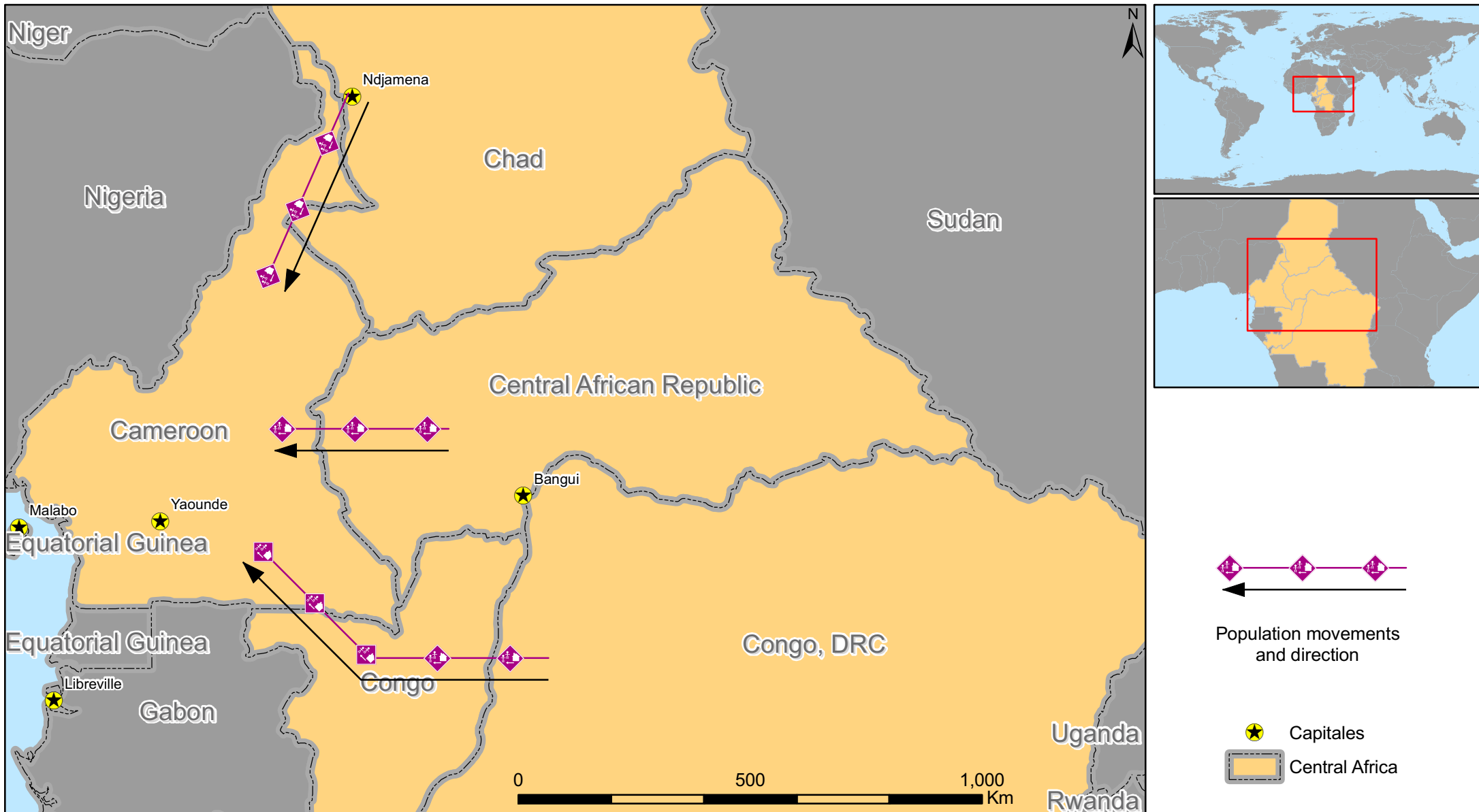
All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) 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>

[Map below; click here to return to the title page](#)



Central Africa: Population movements



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, GIST, Federation