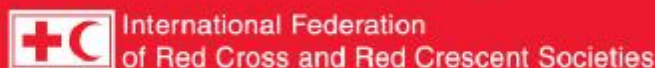


DREF operation final report



CAMEROON PLANE CRASH IN MBANGA PONG, DOUALA

DREF operation n° MDRCM003

30 December 2008

The International Federation's 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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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 24,967 (USD 22,604 or EUR 16,251) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 7 May 2007 to support Red Cross intervention in plane crash occurred in Douala.

Immediately after it was announced that the plane had disappeared from the radar, Cameroonian authorities organized a search and rescue operation. After 48 hours of search, the wreckage of the plane was found in a swampy area in Mbanga-Pongo, 23 kilometres from Douala. Reports from Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRCS) volunteers and first-aid workers, who were among the first to reach the macabre scene, indicated that none of the 115 passengers survived. It is suspected that bad weather could have caused the plane to crash.



Cameroon Red Cross volunteers at the scene of the Kenya Airways plane crash in May 2007.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

In the night of 4 to 5 May 2007, a Kenya Airways passenger plane with 115 people on board crashed in a densely forested area of southern Cameroon. The Boeing 737-800 5 YKYA airliner was carrying 105 passengers of various nationalities and nine members of crew who were all Kenyans. The aircraft left Douala International Airport at 23:07 en route to Nairobi, Kenya, but disappeared from the radar screens of the control tower five minutes after taking off.

As soon as the disaster was announced, Government, the Red Cross and other actors mobilized to see whether some lives could be saved. Unfortunately none! However, the timely intervention of the Red Cross (Cameroon Red Cross supported by the Federation's Central Africa Regional Representation) contributed to removing the corpses blown to pieces, thereby saving the surrounding populations from a potential contamination.

The operation showed a good collaboration between Red Cross, government services and other actors. In fact, for an effective intervention, Cameroon Government set up crisis committees in Yaoundé, Douala and other localities where the plane was first alleged to have crashed. The Cameroon Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization through its Department of Civil Protection (DPC) coordinated the intervention of humanitarian actors, the most active of which was Cameroon Red Cross Society supported by the International Federation. UN agencies and other international Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) also intervened during the operation. A road map was developed to state clearly the roles and responsibilities of each actor. In the field, the National Fire Brigade, the Red Cross and the emergency unit of the Ministry of Health worked hand in hand to ensure efficient intervention.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Goal: To efficiently contribute to the search and recovery activities organized after the crash of the Kenya Airways plane in Douala

Objective: The victims of the crash are found and the survivors are taken care of

Expected Result 1: Pick up and stretcher bearing is effective for all the victims found

Achievements: About 50 Cameroon Red Cross volunteers benefiting from the technical and financial support of the Federation's Central Africa Regional Representation searched for the victims of the crash during four days, but were only able to find corpses that had been blown into pieces by the explosion of the plane. Ignoring the smell, they collected the pieces of bodies and arranged them into small bundles, which they then carried right to where the Government-sent medical team was waiting, i.e. three kilometres from the site of the disaster. Volunteers first treated the corpses, and put them into body bags before taking them to the medical team for identification and transport to the Laquintini Hospital that had been chosen for the occasion. The volunteers constituted and carried about 150 bundles of bodies as no corpse was found complete. Those bundles were gathered with the dignity every human being deserves.

Expected result 2: Families and other relatives present on the field identify their corpses

Achievements: After the hard work on the field, the families were allowed to identify their corpses at the Laquintini Hospital, but very few of them succeeded given the state in which the corpses had been found. There is no doubt that some corpses or parts of them are still in Mbanga Pongo (in the waters), as no one could find them.

Expected result 3: Families and other relatives of victims receive moral and psychological support.

Achievements: The National Society deployed 70 volunteers at the "Cercle Municipal de Douala" and at Laquintini Hospital where they welcomed families and relatives of crash victims, listened to them, provided them with counselling, gave them the available information they needed, accompanied them and followed them up. Indeed, the volunteers who had been trained to that effect provided psychological support to the families gathered to know what had become their dear ones. The volunteers did this in close collaboration with the psychological support unit set up place by the Government.

Impact of the operation

Thanks to the quick and timely intervention of the Red Cross, some pieces of bodies were found and collected for proper burial. The Red Cross also drew the attention of Government to the fact that the site should not be accessed by the populations to avoid a risk of epidemics

In addition to that, the operation highly contributed to enhance the image of the Red Cross in Cameroon and in the world as the event was highly covered by several international media.

Constraints

Volunteers who participated in the operation appeared morally affected by the end because of what they had seen. Thus Red Cross authorities supported by the Federation's Central Africa Regional Representation saw the need to call in psychologists to counsel and take proper care of them. It is in this respect that the Federation's Regional Representative for Central Africa joined the volunteers in the field. The National President of Cameroon Red Cross Society did the same later



The Federation's Central Africa Regional Representative with Cameroon Red Cross volunteers on the field.

Another major constraint faced by the National Society was the poor communication between the teams in the field and the headquarters as well as the lack of computers in the field to ensure accurate and timely reporting.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:

- In **Central Africa Regional Representation**, Cameroon: Javier Medrano, Regional Representative; email: javier.medrano@ifrc.org ; phone: +237 22 21 74 37; and fax.: +237 22 21 74 39
- In **West and Central Africa Zone Office**, Senegal: Alasan Senghore, Head of Zone; email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org ; phone +(221) 33869 3641; and fax.: +(221) 33 860 2002

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCM003 - Cameroon - Plane Crash

Interim Financial Report

| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2007/1-2007/12 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2007/5-2007/6 |
| Appeal | MDRCM003 |
| Budget | APPEAL |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

| | Goal 1: Disaster Management | Goal 2: Health and Care | Goal 3: Capacity Building | Goal 4: Principles and Values | Coordination | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| A. Budget | 24,967 | | | | | 24,967 |
| B. Opening Balance | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| <u>Other Income</u> | | | | | | |
| <i>Voluntary Income</i> | 20,384 | | | | | 20,384 |
| C5. Other Income | 20,384 | | | | | 20,384 |
| C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5) | 20,384 | | | | | 20,384 |
| D. Total Funding = B + C | 20,384 | | | | | 20,384 |
| Appeal Coverage | 82% | | | | | 82% |

II. Balance of Funds

| | Goal 1: Disaster Management | Goal 2: Health and Care | Goal 3: Capacity Building | Goal 4: Principles and Values | Coordination | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| B. Opening Balance | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| C. Income | 20,384 | | | | | 20,384 |
| E. Expenditure | -20,384 | | | | | -20,384 |
| F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E) | 0 | | | | | 0 |

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Interim Financial Report

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|---------------------|----------------|
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| Appeal | MDRCM003 |
| Budget | APPEAL |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

| Account Groups | Budget | Expenditure | | | | | TOTAL | Variance |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| | | Goal 1: Disaster Management | Goal 2: Health and Care | Goal 3: Capacity Building | Goal 4: Principles and Values | Coordination | | |
| A | | | | | | | B | A - B |
| BUDGET (C) | | 24,967 | | | | | 24,967 | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Clothing & textiles | | 563 | | | | 563 | -563 | |
| Seeds,Plants | | 3,031 | | | | 3,031 | -3,031 | |
| Medical & First Aid | 7,350 | 5,388 | | | | 5,388 | 1,962 | |
| Teaching Materials | | 2,895 | | | | 2,895 | -2,895 | |
| Other Supplies & Services | 6,250 | | | | | | 6,250 | |
| Total Supplies | 13,600 | 11,877 | | | | 11,877 | 1,723 | |
| Transport & Storage | | | | | | | | |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 1,000 | 396 | | | | 396 | 604 | |
| Total Transport & Storage | 1,000 | 396 | | | | 396 | 604 | |
| Personnel | | | | | | | | |
| National Staff | 658 | 1,117 | | | | 1,117 | -459 | |
| National Society Staff | 2,900 | 5,346 | | | | 5,346 | -2,446 | |
| Total Personnel | 3,558 | 6,463 | | | | 6,463 | -2,905 | |
| General Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | 2,100 | | | | | | 2,100 | |
| Information & Public Relation | | 152 | | | | 152 | -152 | |
| Office Costs | 1,406 | 9 | | | | 9 | 1,398 | |
| Communications | 1,680 | 125 | | | | 125 | 1,555 | |
| Professional Fees | | 38 | | | | 38 | -38 | |
| Total General Expenditure | 5,186 | 323 | | | | 323 | 4,863 | |
| Programme Support | | | | | | | | |
| Program Support | 1,623 | 1,325 | | | | 1,325 | 298 | |
| Total Programme Support | 1,623 | 1,325 | | | | 1,325 | 298 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D) | 24,967 | 20,384 | | | | 20,384 | 4,583 | |
| VARIANCE (C - D) | | 4,583 | | | | 4,583 | | |