

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central African Republic: Meningitis in Kaga Bandoro

DREF operation n° MDRCF002
GLIDE n° EP-2008-000021-CAF
13 August, 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 57,594 (USD 54,851 or EUR 35,226) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 8 February, 2008 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 130,000 beneficiaries.

A meningitis epidemic outbreak occurred in the Central African Republic in early 2008, precisely in Kaga Bandoro. Thanks to the DREF allocation made available by the Federation, about 150 trained Central African Republic (CAR) Red Cross volunteers conducted information, education and communication activities in Kaga Bandoro with the aim of raising the awareness of the population and contributing to stop the propagation of the epidemics. The operation was successful in the sense that the propagation of the disease stopped.



Volunteers sensitised populations focussing mostly on pregnant and breastfeeding women.

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

The situation

From 31st December 2007 to 28 January 2008, an amazingly high number of meningitis cases were registered in the Nana Gribizi health district with 130,000 inhabitants, the chief place of which is Kaga Bandoro located 342 km Centre East of the Central African Republic (CAR). Some 25 cases of meningitis were registered in the Ndenga, Nana-outa, Bandoro city and Ngrevaï-pamia councils raising the attack rate to 23.3%, with a lethality rate of 20%. Thanks to the intervention of the Red Cross, other NGOs and the Ministry of Health, no additional death was registered. The number of new cases dropped considerably, from 10 to 2 or 3 per week, or even 0.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Emergency Health

Objective: To improve the health conditions of populations exposed to meningitis.

Activities planned:

- Populations are sensitized to the signs and symptoms of meningitis; they are also encouraged to refer to the nearest health centres;
- Individual and environmental hygiene is promoted.

Impact:

The CAR Red Cross Society recruited 150 volunteers and trained them on Information, Education and Communication. Volunteers have been divided into task groups and deployed in the various villages of Nana Gribizi that are affected by the epidemics with the mission to sensitise populations to the disease and the methods of prevention. The trained volunteers also mobilised and sensitised populations in Kaga Bandoro to the relevance of immunisation within the framework of the fight against meningitis. Some 56.16% of the population (about 73,008 persons) participated in the various sensitisation sessions. The method used to this effect was mass and door-to-door sensitisation. In order to facilitate the work of their volunteers, CAR Red Cross authorities developed and produced posters, leaflets and other sensitisation aids.

Activities carried out by the Red Cross contributed to stopping the propagation of meningitis in the affected localities. Based on the success of the operation, the CAR Government reaffirmed their total support to the Red Cross and promised to consider them henceforth as a key partner in the humanitarian field. The following table summarises the results obtained thanks to Red Cross intervention:

Councils	Total Population	Targeted Population (2 to 50 years)	Number of households visited	Sensitised Population	Number of persons vaccinated
Kaga Bandoro	27,256	21,805	2,601	25,275	19,272
Ndenga	37,759	30,207	3,509	36,020	27,101
Grevai	13,120	10,496	1,250	11,713	7,152
Total	78,135	<u>62,508</u>	7,360	76,515 97.92%	61,633 (98.60%)

Challenges:

The main challenges encountered in this operation included the weakness of the Kaga Bandoro local committee of the Central African Red Cross Society in the area of disaster and epidemics management; the shortage of qualified volunteers; the massive recruitment of Red Cross volunteers by other NGOs; poor logistics equipment; insecurity due to high way robbers, and the enclosed nature of some affected localities due to impassable roads.

Conclusion

Lessons learned:

In late 2007, CAR Red Cross officers attended an epidemics and disaster preparedness workshop. They used what they had learned in that workshop during this operation. Preparedness is crucial to effective response. The NS learned that Government only encourages good work, the operation was successful.

There are several NGOs in the locality, but the Red Cross distinguished herself as a partner to be relied on as far as epidemics management is concerned.

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 operation please contact:

- In CAR: Antoine Mbao Bogo, President, Central African Republic Red Cross Society, Bangui ; email : sn_crca@yahoo.fr ; phone : +236 75 50 14 11 / +236 77 09 18 00 or Albert Yomba Eyamo, Secretary General ; phone : +236 75 50 27 54 / +236 21 61 26 09
- In Cameroon: Javier Medrano, Federation Regional Representative for Central Africa, Yaoundé, email: javier.medrano@ifrc.org, Phone: (237) 22 21 74 37 OR (237) 96 29 87 89, Fax: (237) 22 21 74 39
- In Senegal: Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Zone Office, Dakar, Senegal, email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org , Phone: (221) 33 869 3641, Fax: (221) 33 820 2534; Hans Ebbing, Health Coordinator, Phone: (221) 77 638 98 61, email: hans.ebbing@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Niels Scott, Operations Coordinator (West and Central Africa); email: niels.scott@ifrc.org; mobile: (41) 79 226 53 64

[<final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCF002 - Central Africa Rep - Meningitis

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/7
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/7
Appeal	MDRCF002
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	57,595					57,595
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>DREF</i>	57,594					57,594
C1. Cash contributions	57,594					57,594
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	-1,261					-1,261
C5. Other Income	-1,261					-1,261
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	56,333					56,333
D. Total Funding = B + C	56,333					56,333
Appeal Coverage	98%					98%

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	56,333					56,333
E. Expenditure	-56,333					-56,333
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCF002 - Central Africa Rep - Meningitis

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/7
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/7
Appeal	MDRCF002
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)		57,595					57,595	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	2,608	2,608					2,608	1
Water & Sanitation	13,416	13,416					13,416	0
Utensils & Tools	5,000	5,000					5,000	0
Other Supplies & Services	229	50					50	179
Total Supplies	21,253	21,073					21,073	180
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,617	2,617					2,617	0
Total Transport & Storage	2,617	2,617					2,617	0
Personnel								
International Staff	266	266					266	-0
National Society Staff	7,550	7,550					7,550	-0
Total Personnel	7,816	7,817					7,817	-1
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	952	-48					-48	1,000
Total Workshops & Training	952	-48					-48	1,000
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,701	1,701					1,701	0
Information & Public Relation	2,817	2,817					2,817	0
Office Costs	7,942	7,942					7,942	-0
Communications	8,720	8,720					8,720	0
Financial Charges	33	33					33	-0
Total General Expenditure	21,213	21,213					21,213	-0
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,744	3,662					3,662	82
Total Programme Support	3,744	3,662					3,662	82
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	57,595	56,333					56,333	1,261
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,261					1,261	