

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central African Republic: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCF007
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000168-CAF
26 August, 2010

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.

CHF 145,252 (USD 137,758 or EUR 104,784) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 330 displaced families, i.e. 1,650 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The rainy season that started in July in Central African Republic (CAR) reached its peak on 7 August, 2010 when torrential rains caused serious floods in Bossangoa, a Northern locality situated 350 km from Bangui, the capital city. Other neighbouring localities such as Nanga-Boguila and Kombe, located 187 and 20 km respectively from Bossangoa have also been affected. Damages registered include the destruction of 587 houses (330 completely), the destruction of 1,312 latrines, the contamination of 531 water wells by rain waters and the content of the latrines that have been destroyed. About 2,598 people (505 families) have been affected by the floods. Out of these affected families, 330 have been left homeless, having lost almost all their belongings.



Evaluation of the situation in Bossangoa by CAR Red Cross volunteers / Danielle L. Ngaissio, CAR Red Cross

The local committee of CARCS has mobilized 42 volunteers and first-aid workers who conducted an emergency evaluation of the situation and have been helping affected people to move away from the affected sites as a means of avoiding the loss of human lives. The local committee of the Red Cross also participated in the crisis meeting organized by the administrative authorities of the Bossangoa sub-prefecture. The evaluation conducted by CAR Red Cross shows that the affected populations need safe drinking water (treatment of water points), adequate sanitation (construction of latrines and hygiene promotion). They also need non-food items such as blankets, mats, soap, mosquito nets and cooking kits. The situation is so precarious that if action is not taken urgently, it will deteriorate, especially with the outbreak of waterborne diseases.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 03 months, and will therefore be completed by 25 November, 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 25 February 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

The rainy season that started in July in CAR has reached its peak on 7 August, 2010 when torrential rains caused serious floods in Bossangoa a Northern locality situated 350 km from Bangui, the capital city. Heavy rains started on 25 July 2010, and have not really stopped till now. Other neighbouring localities such as Nanga-Boguila and Kombe, located 187 and 20 km respectively from Bossangoa have also been affected. Damages registered include the destruction of 587 houses (330 completely), the destruction of 1,312 latrines, the contamination of 531 water wells by rain waters and the content of the latrines that have been destroyed. About 2,598 people (505 families) have been affected by the floods. Out of these affected families, 330 have been left homeless and were identified as the most vulnerable because they have lost almost all their belongings. The populations ran away just in time before their houses collapsed, thereby avoiding the loss of human lives and injuries. Some of these most vulnerable people have sought refuge in relatives' places, but others have been waiting for assistance in the bush. The following table summarizes the situation of affected people following the floods in Bossangoa and the surrounding localities:

Table 1: Distribution of people affected by floods in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe

Localities	Number of affected families	Total number of people affected	Houses destroyed	Partially destroyed houses	Water wells contaminated	Latrines damaged
Bossangoa	330	1678	225	75	365	837
Nanga Boguila	132	800	52	132	149	432
Kombe	43	120	23	50	17	43
Total	505	2,598	330	257	531	1,312

Source: CAR Red Cross evaluation report

The situation of the affected people is further complicated by the still fresh consequences of the political and military clashes the country had experienced not too long ago. Such conditions expose the populations to a very precarious social, economic and environmental life. Besides having lost everything, they have to face promiscuity, wet environment, standing waters that will soon become breeding places for vectors of diseases such as malaria, Hepatitis E, typhoid, intestinal parasitic diseases, etc. There are serious potential hygiene concerns. Considering that the situation is yet to be solved, weather forecasts are announcing worse days to come. Therefore action needs to be urgently taken to prevent the situation from deteriorating with the outbreak of diseases that might be very difficult to put under control.

Coordination and partnerships

Immediately after the disaster occurred, the Bossangoa local committee of the CAR Red Cross alerted local Government authorities, especially the mayor of Bossangoa, who joined CARCS team in conducting the emergency evaluation of the situation. Local radio stations such as Ndekeluka, Maria, as well as the national radio station have been informing the population about the evolution of the situation. Government local authorities organized a crisis meeting at the Bossangoa Sub-prefecture during which they appealed on other humanitarian actors to join the Red Cross in providing assistance to flood-affected people, particularly those who have been left homeless. UNICEF undertook a field assessment.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As soon as the disaster occurred, the Bossangoa local committee of CARCS mobilized 42 volunteers who conducted an emergency field evaluation. These volunteers also helped the population to vacate the site of the flooding and remove their property from the houses that had collapsed. These early actions contributed to preventing the loss of human lives and reducing the number of wounded. The national headquarters of the CARCS also deployed two members of the national disaster response team (NDRT) who had just been trained as regional disaster response team members in Douala (Cameroon). Their duty was to support the local committee during the evaluation of the situation.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: The evaluation report has identified the following needs: the treatment of 531 water wells contaminated to prevent water borne diseases; the construction of 52 community latrines for 2,598 people on the basis of one latrine for 50 people; sensitization and hygiene promotion as a means of preventing waterborne diseases. The 330 families identified as the most vulnerable (1,650 people) have lost their houses and almost all their belongings. There is an urgent need to distribute non-food items such as mats (825), blankets (825), mosquito nets (660), and soap (1,650 pieces of 250g). If distributed, these items

will help prevent the outbreak of respiratory diseases, malaria, etc. The families also need 330 cooking kits, 330 cans for storing drinking water, and materials to rebuild their houses. As far as shelters are concerned, IFRC's Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) will compose emergency shelter kits to be distributed to the beneficiaries. This will avoid delay associated with international procurement. Taking inspiration from IFRC shelter kit, CARREP will make available to CARCS tarpaulins, and purchase the remaining components of the shelter kit locally. The beneficiaries will participate and contribute by providing planks and wood for the construction of their own houses.

The proposed operation

The Federation will deploy RDRT members to Central Africa Republic to assist the National Society in the implementation of the plan of action below. This will give them the opportunity to put into practice the newly acquired knowledge on disaster management. The RDRT members deployed will work in close collaboration with the national disaster response team of CARCS and the local disaster management focal point, who is member of the national disaster management team that has just been set up and trained in 2010.

A training session will be organized in Bossangoa to brief Red Cross volunteers from Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe on distribution techniques, disaster risk prevention and reduction, with focus on floods. The local committee of the Red Cross will also get in touch with local hygiene and sanitation services for proper collaboration in the area of water point treatment, latrine construction and hygiene promotion.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

<p>Objective: To contribute to improving the living conditions of 330 families (1,650 persons) identified as the most vulnerable following floods in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe.</p>	
<p>Expected results: The 1,650 most vulnerable people in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe have received NFIs and their living conditions are improved</p>	<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and transport NFI such as 825 mats, 825 blankets, 330 cooking kits to Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe for distribution; • Prepare distribution tools and distribution lists according to the census made in the field; • Distribute NFI to 330 displaced families due to the floods; • Ensure monitoring and evaluation of the distribution, and good reporting system.

Emergency Health

<p>Objective: To contribute to preventing the outbreak of epidemics in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Soumbe as a result of floods in favour of 330 displaced families (1,650 persons).</p>	
<p>Expected results: Activities to promote health and care are carried out in favour of the most vulnerable 1,650 floods affected people in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Soumbe, and the risks of epidemics and other diseases outbreak is considerably reduced</p>	<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure, distribute and install 660 mosquito nets for 330 families, on the basis of two mosquito nets per family with nails and cords; • Carry out hang-up and follow-up activities on the use of mosquito nets; • Carry out epidemic control activities such as sensitization, disinfection of water points, individual and collective hygiene promotion; • Conduct training for Red Cross volunteers on epidemics risk reduction in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Soumbe; • Design and multiply posters and leaflets on floods and epidemics risk reduction; • Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on emergency health activities.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To contribute to improving the access of all the 505 families (2,598 persons) affected by floods in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe to adequate water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.

<p>Expected results: The 2598 people affected by floods in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe have access to adequate clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities, and their living conditions are improved</p>	<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase 10 sanitation kits, each kit comprising miner's pans, squared shovels, wheelbarrows, pickaxes, racks, machetes, raincoats, pairs of boots, pairs of gloves, mufflers, and detergent;• Procure and distribute 1,650 pieces of soap of 250g for the displaced families;• Rehabilitate contaminated water wells;• Build 52 latrines, on the basis of one latrine for 50 people in favour of the 505 families affected (2,598 persons);• Sensitize on hygiene promotion through IEC, distribution of leaflets and posters;• Distribute 330 cans for carrying and storing drinking water to the 330 displaced families;• Conduct training for Red Cross volunteers on epidemics risk reduction, in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe;• Develop prevention activities such as sensitization, disinfection of water points, individual and collective hygiene promotion;• Design and multiply of posters and leaflets on floods and epidemics risk reduction;• Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.
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Emergency shelter

Objective: To contribute to improving the access of the most vulnerable 330 families affected by floods in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe to emergency shelters.

<p>Expected results: The most vulnerable 330 flood affected families in Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe have access to emergency shelters, and their living conditions are improved</p>	<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of the most vulnerable 330 families whose houses have been destroyed completely;• Purchase of shelter kits and their transportation to Bossangoa, Nanga-Boguila and Kombe;• Distribution of shelter kits and support to the building work;• Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on emergency shelter activities.
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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 \(NGO's\) 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.

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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	21,319	21,319
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles	10,695	10,695
Food		0
Seeds & Plants		0
Water & Sanitation	14,930	14,930
Medical & First Aid	1,071	1,071
Teaching Materials	890	890
Utensils & Tools	19,432	19,432
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements		0
Total Supplies	68,338	68,338
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage	642	642
Distribution & Monitoring	18,416	18,416
Transport & Vehicle Costs		0
Total Transport & Storage	19,058	19,058
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff	4,518	4,518
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	29,008	29,008
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
Total Personnel	33,526	33,526
Workshops & Training	3,311	3,311
Total Workshops & Training	3,311	3,311
Travel	1,071	1,071
Information & Public Relation	8,943	8,943
Office Costs	321	321
Communications	1,284	1,284
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges	535	535
Other General Expenses		0
Total General Expenditure	12,154	12,154
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0

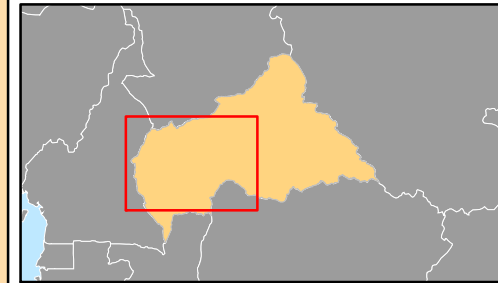
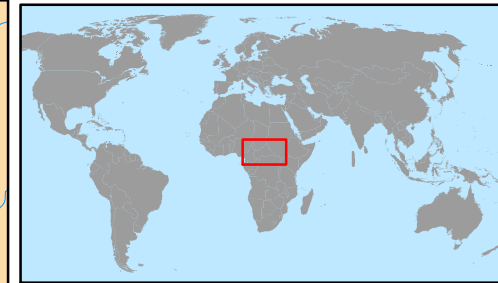
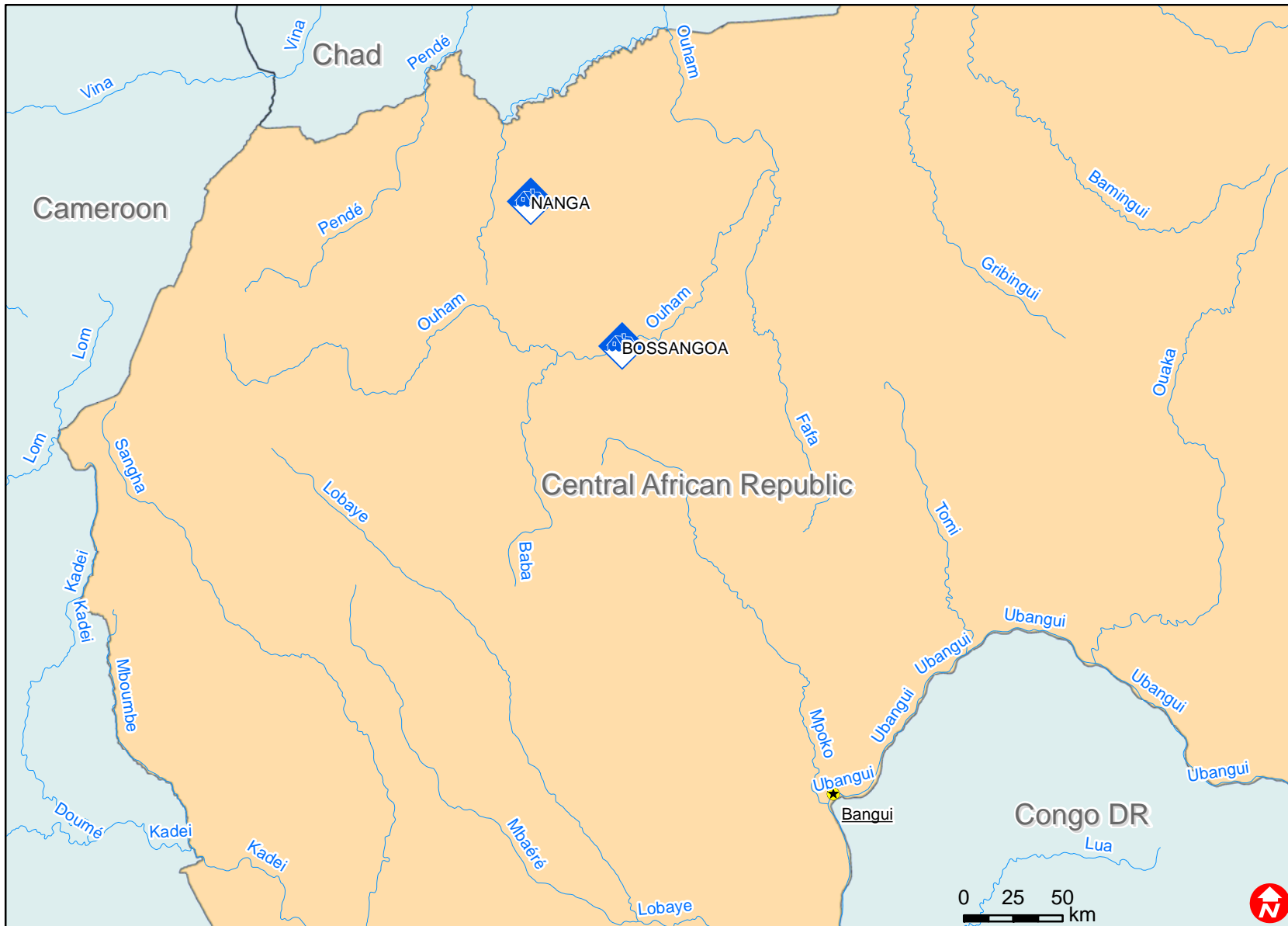
Program Support	8,865	8,865
Total Programme Support	8,865	8,865

Services & Recoveries		0
Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0

TOTAL BUDGET	145,252	145,252
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Affected places