

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Cameroon: Floods in Pouss (Far North Region)

DREF operation n° MDRCM010
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000154-CMR
06 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 153,062 (USD 146,345 or EUR 110,971) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Cameroon Red Cross National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On 22 July 2010, torrential rain coupled with violent wind caused serious floods in Pouss, a locality of the Far North Region of Cameroon. The flood is reported to have claimed 13 lives and left 95 people wounded. In addition, over 300 houses have been destroyed and close to 600 families have been left homeless. Some of these people are accommodated in the Pouss Government Primary school. While some victims have decided to remain by



Cameroon Red Cross volunteers took several people wounded to hospitals / Djoubero, President of the Mayo-Danay Local Committee of Cameroon Red Cross

the rubble of their houses to protect what has not been destroyed from thieves, others sought accommodation in relatives' houses. 1000 ha of crops have been destroyed or washed away, and granaries have been destroyed. The victims also deplore the loss of their livestock and small ruminants. The local committee of Cameroon Red Cross mobilized 30 volunteers and first-aid workers who have been administering first aid services to wounded persons before taking them to the nearest hospital. Red Cross authorities have also been participating in all crisis meetings organized by Government, which has already decided the disbursement of 50 million CFA francs, i.e. about 111,000 CHF to assist flood-affected persons. The evaluation conducted by Cameroon Red Cross shows that the populations affected 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. Considering that cholera is already hitting the same region now, there is an urgent need to assist the local populations to make sure that the situation does not deteriorate. A DREF operation is ongoing in that locality, but additional activities need to be carried out urgently.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 10 November, 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 February, 2011).

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

The situation

The Pouss locality of the Mayo-Danay division is located 94km from Maroua, the Chief-place of the Far North Region of Cameroon. Pouss is a village found in the Maga subdivision. On 22 July, 2010 torrential rain coupled with violent wind caused serious floods in this village. The flood is reported to have claimed 13 lives and left 95 people wounded. In addition, over 300 houses have been destroyed and close to 600 families have been left homeless (3,000 people). The total population of Pouss is estimated at about 16,000 people, which means that 18.75% of the population have been affected. Some of these people (700) are accommodated in the Pouss Government Primary school. While some victims have decided to remain by the rubble of their houses to protect what has not been destroyed from thieves, others sought accommodation in relatives' houses. Some 1000 ha of crops have been destroyed or washed away, and granaries have been destroyed. The victims also deplore the loss of their livestock and small ruminants (450 animals).

Red Cross volunteers are still busy trying to convince some of the victims who are wounded, but would not want to leave their property behind and go to the hospital. Others have refused to go to the school that have been indicated as the temporary accommodation site.

Access to potable water has become very difficult. The populations need food as their crops and granaries have been destroyed. The victims also need sleeping materials and cooking kits. Moreover, there is an ongoing cholera epidemic in the same region, which makes the populations extremely vulnerable. The condition is life-threatening and there is an urgent need to take action, especially to help prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases and acute respiratory infections.

Coordination and partnerships

Immediately after the disaster occurred, Government authorities activated already existing regional and divisional crisis committees with the view to organize relief operations in favour of affected persons. The Head of State disbursed the sum of 50 million CFA francs, i.e. about 111,000 CHF to assist flood-affected persons. Government has also been providing free medical care to flood-affected people in health centres. The Ministry of Health distributed 200 mosquito nets and hygiene kits to the populations that are accommodated at the Government public school.

UNFPA donated 45 bed sheets, 45 blankets, 1,000 hygiene kits, 20 boxes of 50 aqua tab tablets each for water treatment.

The Sultan of Pouss donated 100,000 CFA francs, i.e. about 222 CHF for emergency nutrition. He also donated 45 tarpaulins for the construction of a few temporary shelters.

The Director of SEMRI, a local Government-owned company specialized in the popularization and modernization of rice growing, which is based in Yagoua, made a financial contribution for the case management of wounded persons. This was when he accompanied the sub divisional officer of Mayo-Danay to the field to assess the situation.

Two barrels of 100 litres each have been pre-positioned in the Government school where the victims are accommodated. These barrels are used for supplying water to the victims from a drilling found at about 300 metres from the school. So far, the Ministry of Health has distributed 30 inflatable cans and 20 buckets with cover for water storage. The same Ministry also created two latrines in the same school, one for men and the other for women. The Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization solemnly appealed on well-wishers and all organizations that are likely to do so, for them to provide the assistance required to cover the need of affected people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The local branch of Cameroon red Cross mobilized 30 volunteers and first-aid workers who immediately went to the field to administer first aid and take wounded people to the Maroua regional hospital, to the Maga health centre (private hospital), and to the Palia hospital (Government-owned), which are all located respectively at 12 and 6 km from Pouss. The regional

and local branches of Cameroon Red Cross have been attending the crisis meetings organized by Government at regional and divisional levels.

The Mayo Danay divisional committee of the Red Cross made available dressings from five first-aid kits to the health centres where wounded persons were taken. Red Cross volunteers also distributed 100 blankets from the Kousseri (Border with Chad) warehouse where an emergency stock is pre-positioned. In addition, the volunteers have been counting the latrines that have been destroyed. They have also started the treatment of water points with the aquatab tablets provided by UNFPA.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: About 3,000 people have been identified as the most vulnerable people to be reached. However, considering the situation at hand, there will be the need to take an action that will also benefit the entire population of the locality, i.e. about 16,000 people.

Therefore, there is the need to treat five water points, make a drilling to strengthen the emergency water distribution that is being done by Government (Ministry of Health). There is also the need to build an additional 60 latrines. For this to be effective, Red Cross volunteers will have to sensitize the populations to how to avoid water borne diseases, and ensure hygiene promotion.

The non-food items needed include 1,200 mats, 1,200 blankets, 1,200 mosquito nets, 3,000 pieces of soap of 250 g each. If distributed, these items will help prevent the outbreak of respiratory diseases, malaria, etc.

The families also need 600 cooking kits, 600 cans for storing drinking water. The families are accommodated in a school, and class resumption is fast approaching. There is therefore the need to build temporary shelters out of the school to free the classrooms for the students when the time comes in early September.

Consequently, 300 shelters will be constructed to accommodate the most vulnerable 300 families. The Federation will provide shelter kits, and the communities will provide bamboos/planks. In order to enable these populations to restart, even partially, their agricultural activities, rice seeds will be distributed. There will also be the need to replace the dressings that have been removed from Red Cross first-aid kits in Pouss.

The proposed operation

IFRC will deploy an RDRT member to Cameroon to assist Cameroon Red Cross in the implementation of the plan of action below. To that effect, IFRC will deploy newly trained RDRT members, and this will give them the opportunity to put into practice the newly acquired knowledge on disaster management.

The RDRT member deployed will work in close collaboration with an RDRT member from Cameroon Red Cross 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 July 2010. This operation will give them an opportunity to build their operational capacities as RDRT members.

A training session will be organized in Pouss to brief Red Cross volunteers on distribution techniques, disaster risk prevention and reduction, with focus on floods and violent wind. In addition, the local committee of the Red Cross will get in touch with local hygiene and sanitation services for proper collaboration in the area of water point treatment and hygiene promotion.

The national relief and emergency officer of Cameroon Red Cross who is coordinating the management of the Chadian refugees' camp at Langui in the same region may also provide support for the implementation of the operation.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Contribute to improving the living conditions of 600 families (3,000 persons) identified as the most vulnerable following floods in Pouss.

Expected results: The 3,000 most vulnerable people in Pouss have received the quantities and quality of NFI planned and their living conditions are improved	Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase and transport NFI such as 1,200 mats, 1,200 blankets, 3,000 pieces of soap of 250 g each to Pouss for distribution;• Prepare distribution tools and the distribution list according to the census and identification made on the field;• Distribute NFI to the most vulnerable people identified as such• Carry out monitoring and evaluation of the distribution activities• Report on distribution activities
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Emergency Health

Objective: To contribute to preventing the outbreak of epidemics in Pouss as a result of floods.

Expected results: Activities to promote health, hygiene and sanitation are carried out in favour of the most vulnerable 3,000 people affected by floods in Pouss, and the risks of epidemics and other diseases outbreak is reduced considerably.	Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution and installation of 1,200 mosquito nets for 600 families,• Follow-up of the use of mosquito nets;• Intensification of cholera control activities such as sensitization, disinfection of water points, individual and collective hygiene promotion;• Retraining of 30 Red Cross volunteers on epidemics management, especially those who are deployed in Pouss within the framework of the operation to fight against cholera• Designing and multiplication of posters and leaflets on epidemics management• Reporting on emergency health activities
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Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To contribute to improving the access of the most vulnerable 600 families affected by floods in Pouss to adequate water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.

Expected results: The most vulnerable 3,000 people affected by floods in Pouss have access to adequate water, hygiene and sanitation facilities, and their living conditions are improved.	Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchasing 16 sanitation kits, each kit comprising miner's pans, squared shovels, wheelbarrows, pickaxes, racks, machetes, raincoats, pairs of boots, pairs of gloves, mufflers, and detergent;• Making a drilling;• Construction of 58 latrines, on the basis of a latrine for 50 people;• Sensitization;• Distribution of cans for carrying and storing drinking water;• 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 300 families affected by floods in Pouss to emergency shelters.

Expected results:	Activities planned:
The most vulnerable 300 families affected by floods in Pouss have access to emergency shelters, and their living conditions are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of the most vulnerable 300 families whose houses have been destroyed completely;• Purchasing shelter kits and transporting them to Pouss;• Distribution of the shelter kits;• Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on emergency shelter activities

Communications/IT/Reporting and monitoring

Outcome: Support the National Society to engage in social mobilization to reach populations that are affected by the flood.

Expected results	Activities planned
Populations at risk are sensitised on floods detection, evacuation and risks associated with flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the National Society social mobilisation structures;• National Society to sensitize affected populations
Timely and accurate reports are prepared and shared	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information sharing with all partners and timely reporting• The National Society to report on the activities carried out.
The floods response operations are properly monitored and evaluated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carry out regular monitoring of the floods nationwide

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>](#)

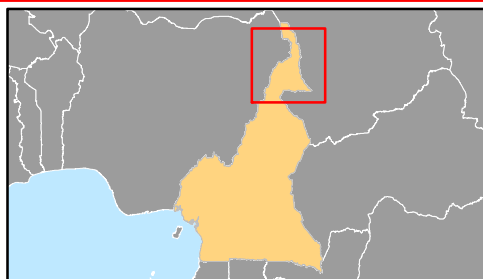
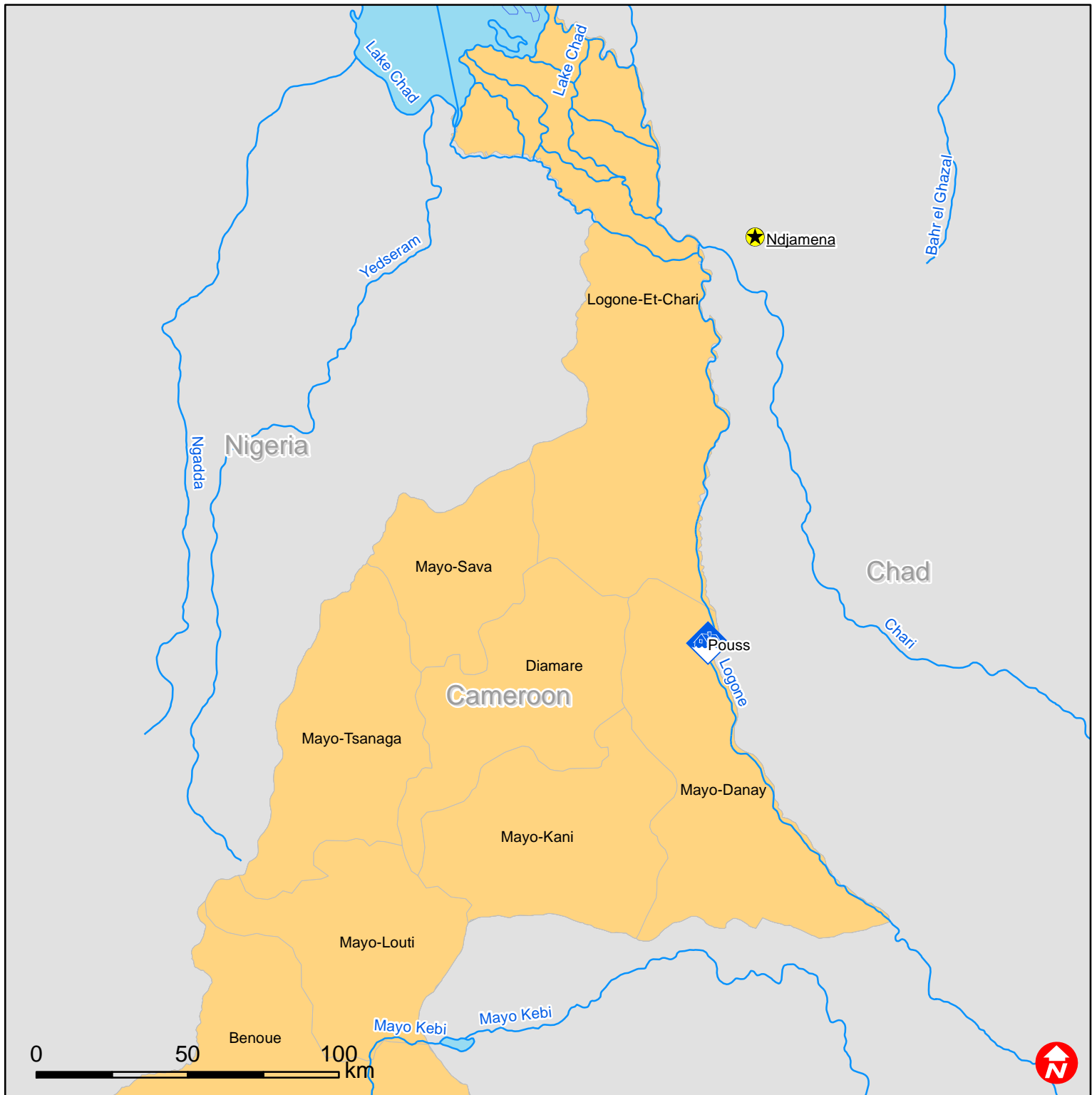
Budget Summary

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		0
Shelter - Transitional	19,381	19,381
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles	10,920	10,920
Food		0
Seeds & Plants	1,927	1,927
Water & Sanitation	19,157	19,157
Medical & First Aid	7,123	7,123
Teaching Materials		0
Utensils & Tools	14,454	14,454
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	6,420	6,420
Total Supplies	79,382	79,382
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	642	642
Transport & Vehicle Costs	18,415	18,415
Total Transport & Storage	19,699	19,699
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff	4,357	4,357
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	27,944	27,944
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
Total Personnel	32,301	32,301
Workshops & Training	3,311	3,311
Total Workshops & Training	3,311	3,311
Travel	0	0
Information & Public Relation		0
Office Costs	321	321
Communications	8,171	8,171
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges	535	535
Other General Expenses	0	0
Total General Expenditure	9,027	9,027
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	9,342	9,342
Total Programme Support	9,342	9,342

Services & Recoveries		0
Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	153,062	153,062



Cameroon: Floods



Floods in Pouss