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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Central African Republic: Floods in Bangui and Paoua

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCF010
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000164-CAF
25 October, 2011

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 166,245 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Central African Republic Red Cross (CAR RC) National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 353 families, i.e. about 1,765 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since 11 October 2011, torrential rains have been falling in most localities of the Central African Republic (CAR). These rains caused flooding that affected 587 families (roughly 2,935 people) in the 7th subdivision of Bangui (Ouango Sub Prefecture), the capital of CAR, and in the Male Local Council of the Paoua Sub Prefecture located about 510 km from Bangui.



CAR Red Cross volunteers help school children through flooded road to school. / Photo CAR Red Cross

Out of the 587 families affected by floods in both localities, CAR Red Cross volunteers have so far identified 353 families (about 1,765 people) as the most vulnerable who need urgent assistance. These are families that have lost their houses and property completely or partially to the floods. An emergency assessment conducted by Red Cross volunteers in Bangui and Paoua revealed that 303 houses have been destroyed completely, and 50 partially. While the luckiest of these families have found refuge in host families, others have been sleeping in makeshift shelters, practically in the open air. In addition to the trauma associated with the loss of their houses and belongings, these most-vulnerable people are exposed to the risks of weather and water-borne diseases. Although no human casualty has been reported so far, Red Cross volunteers have identified 58 water wells and 108 latrines destroyed or contaminated by flood waters. This has exacerbated problems of access to potable water in the affected localities.

Moreover, there is a cholera epidemic outbreak also affecting Bangui which is being addressed by the National Society ([MDRCF009](#)). The recent flooding is likely to cause the rapid spread of cholera within the population unless appropriate action is promptly taken. The rain continues to fall and is not expected to stop until end of November. The situation is further complicated in Male (130 km from Paoua) by roads that are typically impassable during the rainy season. Communication between Male and Bangui is very difficult, including telephone or internet.

CAR Red Cross believes that without a prompt and effective response, there might be an uncontrollable humanitarian crisis in the affected localities. Thus, this DREF is intended to help prevent a bigger humanitarian situation by carrying out activities in the areas of relief distribution, emergency shelter, potable water supply (treatment and rehabilitation of wells), sanitation and hygiene promotion.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 4 months, and will therefore be completed by 24 February, 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 24 May, 2012).

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

The situation

Since 11 October 2011, torrential rains have been falling in most localities of the Central African Republic (CAR). These rains caused flooding that affected 587 families (roughly 2,935 people) in the 7th subdivision of Bangui (Ouango Sub Prefecture), the capital of CAR, and in the Male Local Council of the Paoua Sub Prefecture located about 510 km from Bangui by road. Out of the 587 families affected by floods in both localities, CAR Red Cross volunteers have so far identified 353 families (about 1,765 people) as the most vulnerable who need urgent assistance. These are families that have lost their houses and property completely or partially to the floods. In fact, the emergency assessment conducted by Red Cross volunteers in Bangui and Paoua revealed that 303 houses have been destroyed completely, and 50 partially. While the luckiest of these have found refuge in host families, others have been sleeping in makeshift shelters, almost in the open air. In addition to the trauma associated with the loss of their houses and belongings, these most vulnerable people are exposed to the risks of weather and water-borne diseases. No human casualty has been reported so far.

The floods that plague in the Central African Republic constitute a predisposing factor for the transmission of cholera and other water-related diseases primarily in the areas already affected. With the contamination of wells and water points and the destruction of latrines come water-related diseases and further contamination of the population.

The following table summarizes the present situation in Bangui and Male:

Affected localities	Number of families affected	Number of people affected	Most vulnerable families	Number of most vulnerable people disaggregated by sex and age			Total number of most vulnerable people	Houses completely destroyed	Houses partially destroyed
				Men > 15 years	Women > 15 years	Children from 0 to 15 years			
Male local council (Paoua)	442	2210	265	265	345	582	1192	215	50
Ouango (Bangui)	145	725	88	95	139	339	573	88	00
TOTAL	587	2935	353	360	484	921	1765	303	50

Source: CAR Red Cross

Red Cross volunteers have identified 58 water wells and 108 latrines destroyed or contaminated by rain waters. This has exacerbated problems of access to potable water in the affected localities. It should be noted that there is a cholera epidemic outbreak in the country which affects Bangui. Moreover, the rain continues to fall and is not expected to stop until end of November. The situation is further complicated in Male (130 km from Paoua) by impassable roads during the rainy season. Communication between Male and Bangui is very difficult, including by telephone or internet.

Coordination and partnerships

The Member of Parliament (MP) and the Mayor of the 7th subdivision of Bangui went to the field to assess the situation and provide psychological support to affected families. While in the field, the MP appealed to the international community for help as he declared that Government does not have the necessary means to intervene rapidly. Local authorities expressed satisfaction with the rapid intervention of the CAR Red Cross (assessment of the situation and immediate assistance to children crossing flooded roads) and commended their work as auxiliary to Government.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CAR RC mobilized 35 Red Cross volunteers in the affected localities for immediate assessment of the situation and administration of First Aid where necessary. In addition, these volunteers assisted affected families by transporting their belongings from flooded houses to safer places. Among other things, ICRC assisted CAR Red Cross with the collection of information from Paoua and Male.

IFRC's regionally deployed resource person in Bangui supported the assessment of the situation in Bangui and will coordinate operations at headquarters along with the Program Coordinator of the National Society. Additionally, monitoring missions will be done by the regional team in the field.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: After the rapid assessment of the situation by CAR Red Cross volunteers, 353 families, i.e. 1,765 people were identified as the most vulnerable; the majority of whom are women and children, all living under precarious conditions. The immediate needs as expressed by the vulnerable people themselves include materials to help rebuild their houses (tarpaulins and metal sheeting). Other needs include non-food items such as cooking kits, buckets and jerry cans for fetching and conserving water, as well as hygiene kits for women of child-bearing age, soap, mats, blankets and insecticide-treated mosquito nets.

For the 353 families targeted by this operation, the following items and quantities calculated using the Sphere standards will be needed: 706 tarpaulins, 1,765 metal sheets (5 sheets/family), 706 insecticide-treated mosquito nets, 706 mats, 353 buckets, 353 jerry cans (20 L), 353 cooking kits, 420 hygiene kits for women of child-bearing age (75% of women above 15 years) and 5,295 pieces of soap of 200 g each, on the basis of one piece of soap per beneficiary per month during 3 months.

In addition to the direct beneficiaries who will receive assistance, the entire population of the 7th district and Male/Paoua commune comprise indirect beneficiaries through their exposure to the sensitization and other actions that will be carried out. The population of the cities of Bangui, Male and Paoua, in aggregate, will also be affected by raising awareness about the consequences of floods through the media.

The two DREF operations (on cholera and floods) will be complementary, although the targeted areas are not the same. Additionally, awareness raising on cholera will be more specific in the areas already affected.

There is also the need to brief the volunteers mobilized in targeted localities on the various activities to be carried out. Leaflets, posters and megaphones will be needed to facilitate sensitization activities not only in targeted localities, but also in all the sub divisions of Bangui to help prevent the spread of waterborne diseases, especially cholera. Sanitation kits will be purchased for the treatment of water points and the disinfection of latrines. Most of the relief items needed will be taken from emergency stocks available in Yaounde and transported to Bangui and Male (Paoua). These will then be replenished using this DREF allocation.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Outcome: Contribute to improving the living conditions of 353 families (1,765 people) identified as the most vulnerable following floods in the 7th subdivision of Bangui and in the Male local council of the sub prefecture of Paoua by distributing basic non-food items for 4 months.

Outputs (expected results):

- The non-food items planned according to the needs expressed are purchased and put at the disposal of the CAR Red Cross national society for distribution in targeted localities.
- The most vulnerable 353 families (1,765 people) receive non-food items from the CAR Red Cross national society to help improve their living conditions.

Activities planned:

- Purchase 706 tarpaulins, 1765 sheet metals, 706 insecticide-treated mosquito nets, 706 mats, 353 buckets, 353 jerry cans, 353 cooking kits, and 420 hygiene kits for women of child-bearing age, as well as 5,295 pieces of soap of 200 g each.
- Put these items at the disposal of the national society.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train/retrain 85 Red Cross volunteers in targeted localities (Bangui and Male) on distribution techniques. • Prepare distribution materials and tools. • Distribute the planned items to the targeted most vulnerable 353 families. • Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on distribution activities
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Water, Sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Contribute to improving the living conditions of the 353 families (1,765 people) identified as the most vulnerable following floods in Bangui and Male local council, as well as other local populations of targeted localities by carrying out water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities for 4 months.

<p>Outputs (expected results):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The populations in the Male local council of Paoua sub prefecture and in the 7th subdivision of Bangui affected by floods live in a healthy environment. • About 75% of the populations affected by floods in Male and Bangui are sensitized on hygiene promotion. • The populations affected by floods in Male and Bangui have access to quality water and the risks of being contaminated by water borne diseases are reduced. 	<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrain 85 Red Cross volunteers in Male and Bangui on how to reduce the risks of floods. • Produce leaflets and posters on the reduction of the risks of floods, epidemics and other weather and poor hygiene-related diseases. • Sensitize communities on the risks associated with floods, epidemics and other weather and poor hygiene-related diseases. • Purchase sanitation kits and put them at the disposal of the NS. • Carry out sanitation and hygiene promotion activities in Male and not only in the 7th subdivision of Bangui, but also in all the neighbourhoods of the capital at high risk. • Purchase water point treatment materials. • Treat polluted water points and disinfect latrines. • Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.
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Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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1. DREF budget [below](#)
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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 (NGOs) 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.

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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.

DREF OPERATION

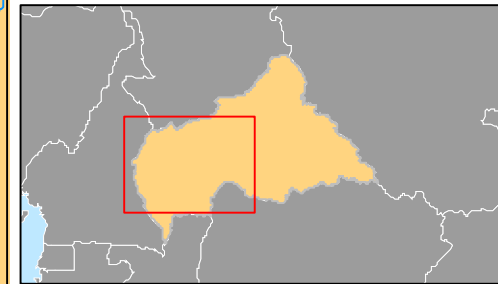
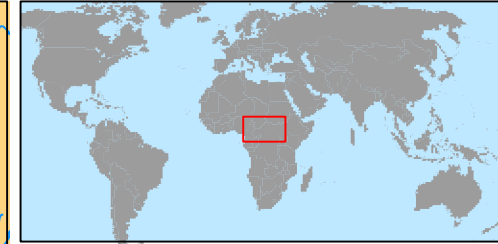
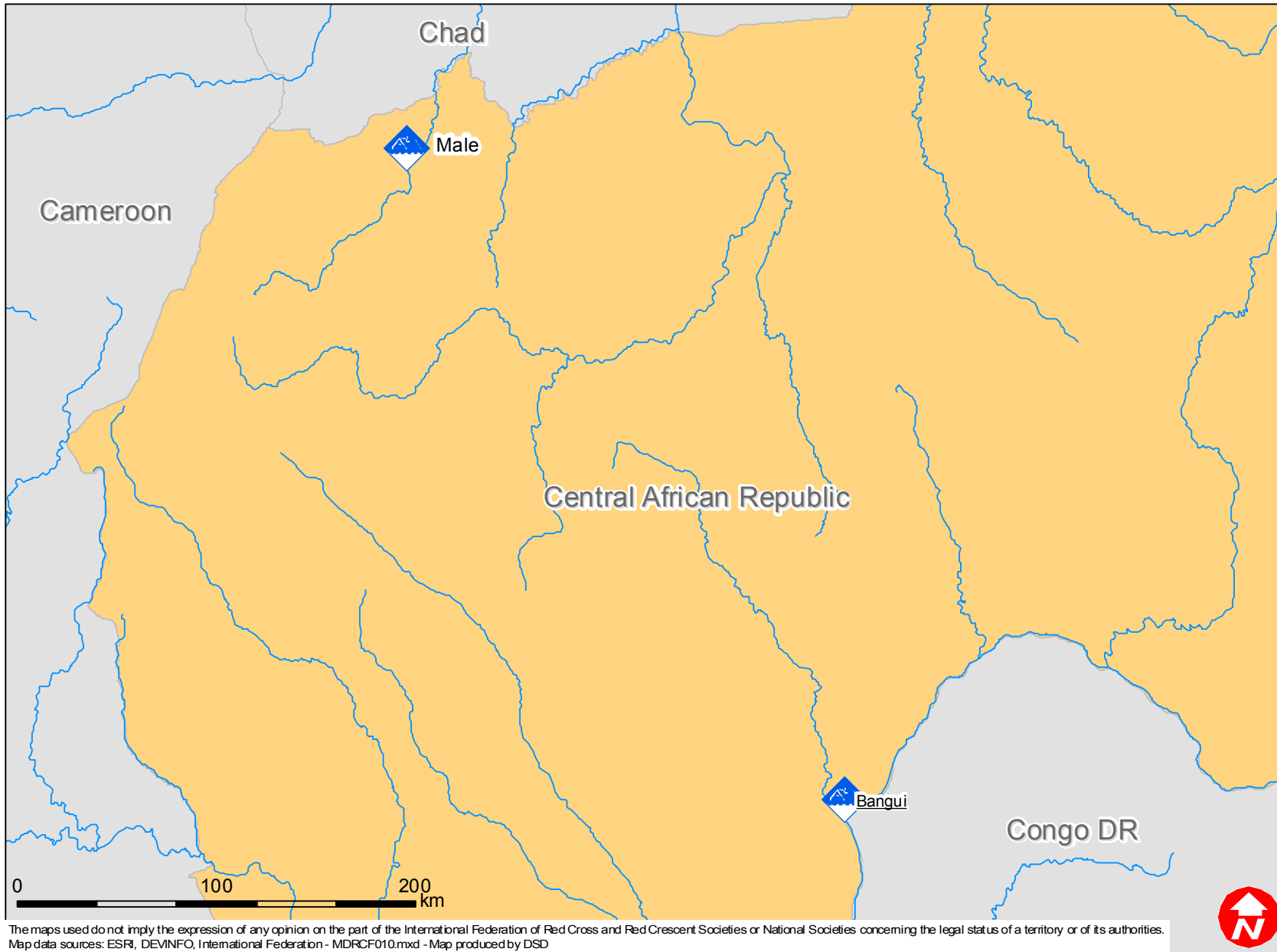
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MDRCF010

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	37,904
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	10,590
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	17,311
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	17,532
Other Supplies & Services	9,393
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	92,731
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	667
Transport & Vehicle Costs	10,611
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	11,278
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	3,833
Volunteers	16,800
Total PERSONNEL	20,633
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	3,567
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	3,567
Travel	13,501
Information & Public Relations	6,611
Office Costs	3,000
Communications	4,333
Financial Charges	444
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	27,890
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	10,146
Total INDIRECT COSTS	10,146
TOTAL BUDGET	166,245



Central African Republic: Floods



Affected municipalities

