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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Cameroon: Polio in Northern Cameroon

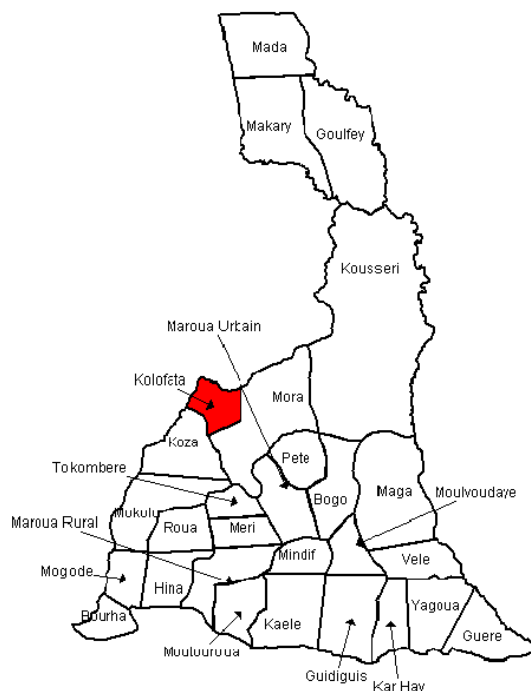
 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCM012 13 December, 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 129'083 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC) National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 421,000 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: A case of poliomyelitis was discovered in Far North region of Cameroon, precisely in the Kolofata health district along the border between Cameroon and Nigeria. Cameroon Government is currently preparing to launch a response immunisation campaign and strengthen epidemiological surveillance in the three Northern regions of the country, namely Adamaoua, North and Far North. CRC volunteers are involved in all the phases of this preparation and will contribute to the response by conducting social mobilization and facilitating epidemiological surveillance. The polio immunization campaign organized by the Ministry of Public Health is scheduled to take place from 20 to 22 December 2011 and is targeting 1,684,784 children from 0 to 59 months. With this DREF allocation, CRC will contribute to the polio immunization campaign by providing direct assistance to 421,000 Children from 0 to 59 months in the Kolofata health district and in another 12 health districts of the three Northern regions of Cameroon targeted by the campaign.

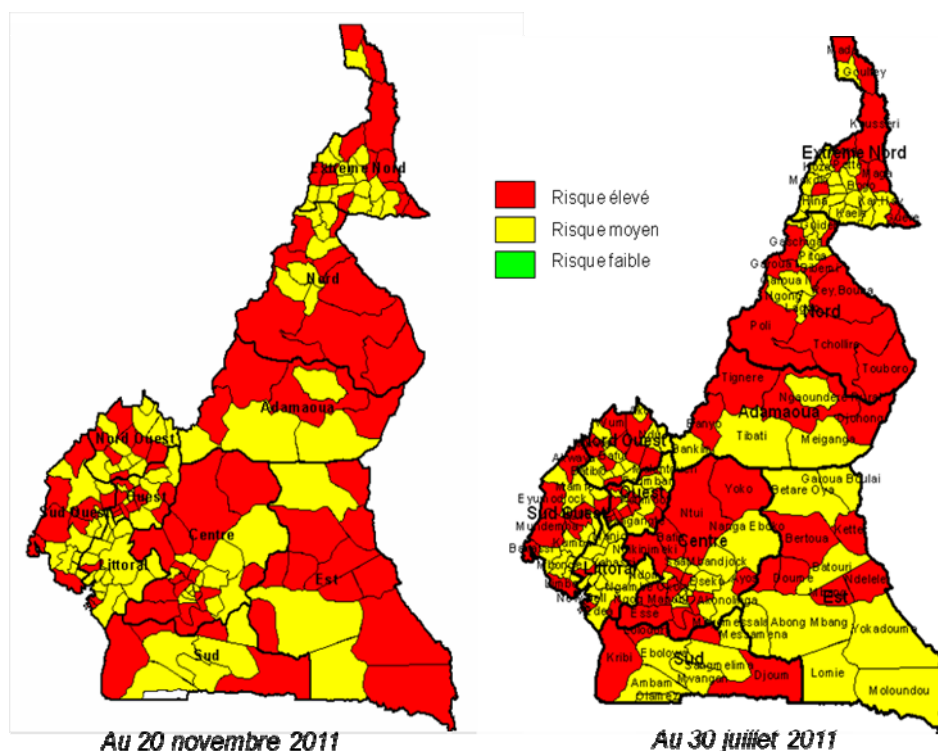


This operation is expected to be implemented over 04 months, and will therefore be completed by 13 April, 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 13 July, 2012).

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

The situation

Two preventive national immunization days (NID) were organized in April and May 2011, respectively, in the Adamaoua, North and Far North regions of Cameroon, which are highly exposed to the risk of polio. Additionally, with the persistent threat of importation of polio cases from neighbouring countries such as Chad where 90 cases of type 1 polio and 3 cases of type 3 polio have been registered since the beginning of 2011; and the Republic of Congo (RoC), which has been severely hit by polio with more than 500 cases since late 2010, Cameroon organized another two rounds of NIDs synchronized with those in Chad in September and November 2011, respectively, to help prevent the outbreak of a polio epidemic. The first of these 2 rounds was organized from 28 to 30 October 2011. The second round took place from 18 to 20 November 2011. Meanwhile a polio case was registered on October 06, 2011 in the Kolofata health district of Far North region. As usual, CRC contributed by conducting social mobilization to facilitate the various immunization campaigns. It is in response to this unexpected new development that the Government of Cameroon and its partners, including the Red Cross, is planning to conduct a polio response from 20 to 22 December 2011. The following figures show the regions of Cameroon with their respective levels of risk of polio:



Coordination and partnerships

The Cameroon Government, through the Ministry of Public Health (MPH) and its partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Red Cross have jointly developed a plan of action to respond to poliomyelitis, the headlines of which are as follows:

- To strengthen coordination
- To intensify and support epidemiological surveillance and data management
- To document, investigate and ensure adequate management of cases of polio in all health districts and health centres
- To mobilize the material and financial resources needed to support response activities.

So far, the following activities have been carried out:

- The MPH has been set on alert
- A meeting of partners has been held
- The NIDs to respond to poliomyelitis in the Adamaoua, Far North and North regions are currently being prepared. This campaign is targeting 1,684,784 children from 0 to 59 months. The targeted number of beneficiaries was calculated based on the average number of children that were actually vaccinated during the NIDs in April and May 2011. Two drops of oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) 1 & 3 will be administered to each child during the campaign. In addition to the results of the analysis of

the risk of polio that was conducted in June 2011, the 51 health districts of the three regions targeted by this campaign were selected for their proximity with the Kolofata health district (Far North region).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross has been participating in all meetings organized around poliomyelitis. Red Cross volunteers are currently active in the field facilitating epidemiological surveillance. All Red Cross committees of the regions targeted by this campaign have been set on alert.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: The Red Cross will support the MPH to ensure effective social mobilization during the campaign. Above all, the Red Cross will also strengthen epidemiological surveillance, especially at grassroots level (community level) using the community-based health and first aid in action approach (CBHFA) and the Epidemic Control for Volunteer manual and toolkit.

The proposed operation

Emergency health

Outcome: Contribute to strengthening collective immunity in children below five years by administering the oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) 1 & 3 to all the children in targeted localities (Adamaoua, North and Far North regions of Cameroon).

Outputs (expected results):	Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiological surveillance is strengthened in Adamaoua, North and Far North regions of Cameroon. • Vaccinate 100% of children from 0 to 5 months in the three regions where the risk of importation of polio is higher, namely Adamaoua, North and Far North regions of Cameroon. • Effective social mobilization is conducted in the health districts identified and targeted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Red Cross local committees on alert in the Adamaoua, North and Far North regions of Cameroon. • Conduct active search of cases of polio in communities. • Strengthen routine EIP in health districts identified as being at high risk. • Train or retrain 150 volunteers and team leaders on CBHFA and on the use of the Epidemic Control for Volunteers Manual and toolkit in the three regions targeted by this operation, namely Adamaoua, North and Far North regions of Cameroon. • Participate in campaign coordination meetings. • Recruit and train 15 supervisors (coaches). • Recruit and train 250 volunteers, including the 150 that will be trained on CBHFA. This is a briefing to be organized by the MPH at the beginning of the campaign. • Distribute the trained Red Cross volunteers by geographic area in each subdivision/neighbourhood. • Conduct mass and door-to-door sensitization, organize focus group discussions using education aids 2 days before and during the campaign. • Conduct door-to-door vaccination. • Mark children vaccinated with indelible ink. • Conduct internal and external monitoring during the campaign to assess the quality of activities on a daily basis. • Carry out a post-campaign evaluation. • Guide parents to vaccination sites. • Ensure CRC presence in the management and supervision team. • Participate in the final evaluation meeting of the campaign.

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

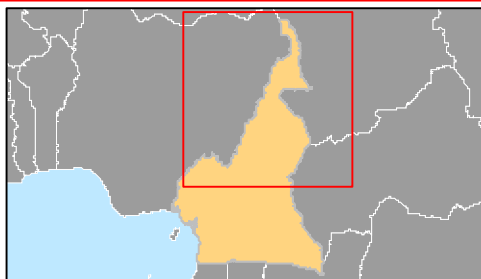
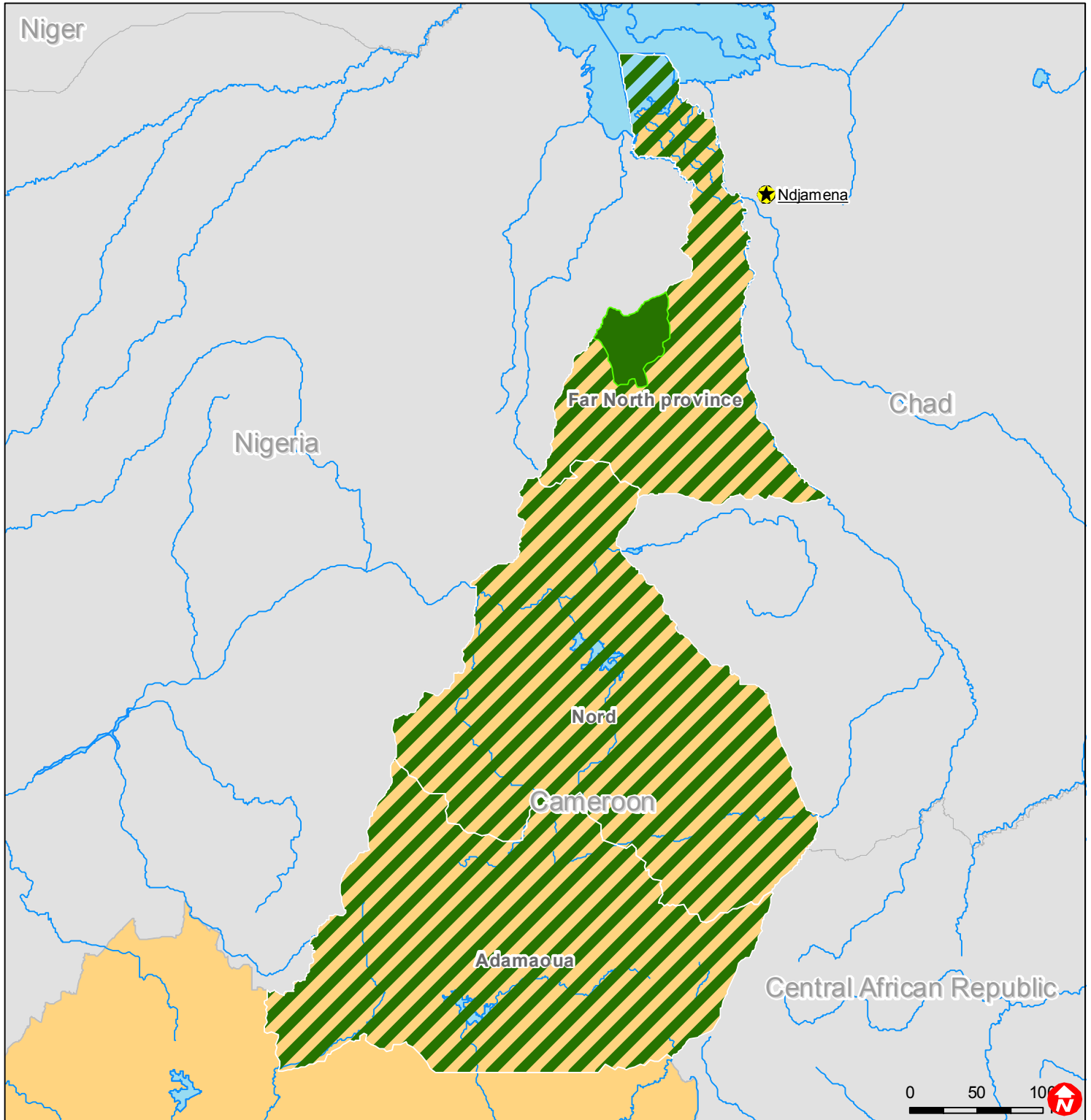
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Cameroon: Polio (MDRCM012)

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	12,427
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	250
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	12,677
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	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	12,906
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	12,906
International Staff	0
National Staff	800
National Society Staff	7,140
Volunteers	25,750
Total PERSONNEL	33,690
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	18,624
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	18,624
Travel	16,600
Information & Public Relations	20,000
Office Costs	3,000
Communications	3,000
Financial Charges	708
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	43,308
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	7,878
Total INDIRECT COSTS	7,878
TOTAL BUDGET	129,083



Cameroon: Polio



-  Polio outbreak in Kolofata
-  Targetted provinces