

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central Africa Regional Representation

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This report covers the period 1/January/2009 to
31/December/2009.



Relief distributions to Central African
Republic refugees in Cameroon
/International Federation

In brief

Programme purpose: The Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) programmes are aimed at meeting the Federation's four Global Agenda Goals within the region, which include to 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; and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Programmes summary:

In 2009, considerable efforts were made in Disaster Management (DM), Health and Care, Organizational Development (OD) and Principles and Values (P&V) programmes implementation. As far as DM programme is concerned, the humanitarian context characterized by population movement and emergency situations such as violent winds in CAR and Gabon dictated the focus of interventions. Nevertheless, some development activities such as the restructuring of DM teams in Cameroon and Central African Republic (CAR) were carried out, and national and community disaster response teams were trained. In the area of health and care, the efforts made during this reporting period fell in line with the fight against HIV-AIDS, epidemics and malaria, with special focus on the activities to assist CAR refugees in the Adamaoua and East regions of Cameroon. As far as the OD programme is concerned, while focus was also on the CAR refugees operation with the creation of 72 new Cameroon Red Cross Society local branches to facilitate the implementation of the operation in the East and Adamaoua regions, some efforts were made towards the restructuring of Red Cross divisional and local committees in Congo Brazzaville and

CAR. In the area of P&V promotion, the low level of funding received did not allow the implementation of all activities as initially planned. However, both CARREP and the National Societies it is covering succeeded in producing and publishing a few issues of their respective news bulletins or magazines to promote Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values, as well as their respective activities carried out for the benefit of the most vulnerable in Central Africa.

Mindful of the low level of funding received and the consequent low level of programmes implementation that has been recorded, CARREP decided to review their programmes objectives and budget ([see Programme Update No 1](#)).

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is **CHF 4,127,468 (USD 3,798,866 or EUR 2,879,696)**, of which 76 per cent covered during the reporting period. Overall expenditure was 30 per cent of the budget.

The budget in the original plan was revised in Programme Update No 1 from **CHF 4,127,468 to CHF 3,550,000** as summarized in the following table:

Programmes	New 2009 Budget (in CHF)
Disaster management	1,700,000
Health and Care	1,100,000
Organizational Development	250,000
Regional Coordination	350,000
Humanitarian Values	150,000
Total	3,550,000

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also emergency operations reports such as [MDRCM007](#) (Cholera in Cameroon), [MDRCG005](#) (Populations Movement in Republic of Congo), [MDRGA002](#) (Violent winds in Gabon), [MDRCF004](#) and [MDRCF005](#) (Violent winds in CAR), and [MDRCF006](#) (Floods in CAR). Also find attached [Rapport d'enquête MILDA](#) and [Rapport Paludisme](#), [Rapport annuel 2009 de PROLUSIDA](#), and [Rapport Annuel 2009 du Projet d'assistance aux réfugiés centrafricains dans les régions de l'Est et du Cameroun](#). While the reports on emergency operations can be found in the International Federation's website Under Africa Reports, the other reports highlighted here have been attached to this Annual Report as they were Non Standard Specific Reports and have already been submitted to the respective donors in the field.

No. of people we have reached: About 112,000 people benefited directly from our DM interventions, on the basis of 3,500 Chadian refugees and about 50 Red Cross volunteers in Northern Cameroon; about 80,000 CAR refugees in the east and Adamaoua regions of Cameroon; 10,000 DRC refugees in Republic of Congo, 760 volunteers and 150 coaches who received training within the framework of the CAR refugees operation in Cameroon; about 13,500 urban refugees in Gabon; and about 3,420 people affected by violent winds in CAR and Gabon (2,620 people in CAR and 800 people in Gabon).

As far as our health interventions are concerned, they benefited to the same refugees described for DM. In addition to the refugees 3,375 sex workers (Filles libres) have benefited from our health interventions; 18,800 people benefited from activities to fight against HIV; and 5,003,473 people were directly reached through the various social mobilization activities organized in various countries during this reporting period within the framework of massive immunization campaigns and emergency health situations.

In the area of OD, 16 divisional committees were restructured, and 140 Governance members were installed in the respective committees. Moreover, 12 local branches were restructured and 63 Governance members installed; 16 national executives were trained in Congo Brazzaville. About 72 Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRCS) local committees were created in the East and

Adamaoua regions of Cameroon within the framework of the CAR refugees operation.

As far as the Principles and Values programme is concerned, it is very difficult to estimate the number of people who benefited directly from the sensitization sessions organized through the media, even though we are sure that a lot of people were reached. However, the same number of people reached by the DM and Health and Care programmes has also benefited from our Principles and Values programme.

This brings the total of people reached through our programmes in 2009 to over 5,000,000. Taking into consideration the trends (increasing number of displaced people in Republic of Congo, Cameroon and CAR), it is expected that about the same number of people might be reached in 2010.

Our partners: In 2009, CARREP worked in partnership with the UNHCR within the framework of the refugees operations in Cameroon and Gabon. The World Food Programme (WFP) also supported the refugees operation in Cameroon during the second half of 2009. The European Union through the Central African Economic and Monetary Commission (CEMAC) supported PROLUSIDA, which is a project to fight against HIV/AIDS along the Douala-Bangui and Douala-N'Djamena corridors, with truck drivers and sex workers as the main targets and beneficiaries. PNSs like the French and the Spanish Red Cross societies have also been working with the NS of Cameroon, CAR and Gabon. The Spanish Red Cross has been supporting the capacity building programmes, and the French Red Cross has been supporting health programmes. On their part, PNSs like the Irish and Swedish Red Cross societies have been supporting all the programmes in the 2009-2010 plan. ICRC has been supporting efforts to promote humanitarian principles and values, disaster management planning and disaster response in conflict areas. Governments in all six countries have been making available subsidies for programmes implementation and National Societies (NS) functioning. The Japanese Embassy in Cameroon contributed to the health programme. The Chinese Embassy in Cameroon contributed to all CRCS programmes. National AIDS control committees in all six countries, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, Serment Sacré, Association de la solidarité internationale, Marathon oil company, USA Crisis unit, Coca-Cola Foundation, Global Funds, ALISE, Chevron oil company, Total Gabon and Celtel are also contributing to Red Cross programmes in Central Africa, or are contemplating to do so.

Context

2009 was marked by natural, social, political and economic events that somehow had an impact on programmes implementation in Central Africa. Violent winds and floods in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Gabon, and fishing rights dispute in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) resulted into interethnic fighting, which then caused thousands of people to flee into neighbouring Republic of Congo (RoC) and CAR. Those situations added to that of over 80,000 CAR refugees that have been scattered in the East and Adamaoua regions of Cameroon for almost four years now. Cholera and measles outbreaks occurred in Cameroon.

As far as social and political events are concerned, President Omar Bongo Odimba of Gabon died, and this delayed the implementation of the Principles and Values programme in Gabon. The sensitization on child trafficking was delayed until after the election of a new President of the Republic, in December 2009. In response to these situations, DREF and emergency operations have been launched and implemented, and a huge operation to assist 80,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon was implemented. The direct consequence of this is that the Federation team in Central Africa had to concentrate much more efforts in those emergency operations, and was left with very limited time to consider the development activities planned in the 2009 plan.

However, some development activities were included in those emergency operations, such as the creation of Red Cross local committees, the training of volunteers and staff in finance, administration, good governance, reporting, advocacy, Disaster Response and Disaster risk reduction, office equipment, emergency response items, vehicle and management tools, and other

NS capacity building activities. All these development activities were carried out with funds made available by the Swedish Red Cross, the Irish Government, and the British DFID.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component 1: Disaster Planning

Outcomes

- Preparedness plans, strategies, and alert systems are developed in close coordination with partners such as the African Centre for Meteorological Applications and Development (ACMAD), Comité Inter-Etats pour la lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel (CILSS), UN Agencies, and made available in all the Central African National Societies; and have contributed to reducing risks and better managing disasters (like floods, fire destructions, epidemics) in targeted areas.
- The Central African National Societies' disaster preparedness plans are made consistent with the Federation existing strategies; with components to improve their capacities in the field of population movement management, in proper coordination with Government institutions, UN Agencies and other humanitarian organisations.
- Regional strategies on food insecurity are further strengthened and made consistent with the new challenges originating from climate change and high costs of living.

Achievements

In Cameroon, the International Federation's DM team in Yaoundé actively participated in meetings with humanitarian partners in Cameroon to prepare the revision of the contingency plan for Cameroon in 2010. CRCS and Government authorities, notably the Department for Civil Protection and the Department for Weather Services, started the development of a contingency plan to fight against climate change in Cameroon. The DM team also shared information bulletins on climate change with National Societies (NS) in Central Africa as part of their disaster preparedness, with focus on floods and landslide preparedness. This contributed to facilitating the response to floods in the Central African Republic (CAR) where the Red Cross succeeded in providing assistance to some 6,000 affected persons.

Considering the continued social and political instability in Chad, the International Federation put at the disposal of the Kousseri local committee of Cameroon Red Cross, which shares borders with N'Djamena the capital city of Chad, a stock of relief materials to be used in the event of populations' movement from neighbouring Chad. This initiative came as a result of the lessons learnt by the International Federation from the implementation of the emergency appeal for Chadian refugees in Cameroon in 2008. It will definitely improve the efficiency of Red Cross response as the case may be. In Gabon, the Federation's DM team facilitated the development by the Gabonese Red Cross Society of a contingency plan for the presidential election. This plan was successfully tested in 2009 during the presidential election that followed the death of the former President.

Constraints or Challenges

Some of the development-oriented activities planned for 2009 have not been carried out as the DM team was absorbed by emergencies, including the assistance to CAR refugees in Cameroon, floods in CAR, population movement in Congo Brazzaville and in CAR, and violent winds in Gabon and in CAR. Nevertheless, the most urgent activities will be carried forward to 2010, with focus on the development of regional population movement contingency plan for Cameroon, Chad and CAR, as this seems to be a recurrent emergency situation within the region. Presidential election will take place in CAR in 2010. The Federation's DM team will endeavour to assist the NS in developing a specific contingency plan for the elections as a preventive measure.

Programme component 2: Organizational Preparedness

Outcomes

- Central African NS have developed well-structured DM departments at headquarters with fully decentralized focal units at branch level (one DM national officer with technical assistants); all consistently with the National Society DM organization chart.
- Each NS in Central Africa has developed well-trained national disaster response teams (NDRT) and regional disaster response teams (RDRT) in their targeted regions; specifically in zones mostly at risk.
- National Societies' branches in targeted zones are provided with community-based first aid (CBFA) tools, and DM stocks and or emergency funds and appropriate communication equipment. Volunteers' networks are well-trained and better qualified to improve response to potential crises and natural disasters.

Achievements

The process to restructure DM departments in all Central Africa NS started in 2008. In 2009, it was the turn of the DM departments of the CAR and Cameroon Red. In Cameroon for example, DM and food security focal points have been trained and appointed at the level of several divisional and regional committees as part of the decentralization process initiated by the NS. Some of these committees include the East, Adamaoua and North regions that host the Chadian and CAR refugees' operations, and the Littoral region. Members of national disaster response teams (NDRT) were trained on water and sanitation in Yaoundé, Cameroon. These trainees now constitute a pool of regional resource persons in the area of water and sanitation and are ready to be deployed in any country within the region as the case may be. They are referred to as RDRT-watsan members. The DM departments of the Sao Tome & Principe and Equatorial Guinea are yet to be organized like in other Central Africa NS due to the ongoing slow general restructuring processes initiated by the authorities of both NS. Once they are through with their restructuring processes, the International Federation will now come in to organize their respective DM departments.

Constraints or Challenges

Although DM departments have been well organized at headquarters levels the bigger challenge still remains at local levels. Most localities, especially in CAR, are enclosed, and this has been slowing down the process. The training of NDRT members (in CAR specifically) and Community disaster response team members (CDRT) in other countries failed to take place in 2009 due to the numerous emergency situations, and other financial constraints. Nevertheless, the International Federation's DM team in Yaoundé seized the opportunity of DREF and emergency operations to initiate the training of CDRT members in the concerned localities. These training sessions will continue in 2010.

Programme component 3: Community Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction

Outcomes

- The vulnerability of communities to the risks of natural disaster is further reduced, and their capacities enhanced through the creation of community associations; the training and sensitization of community leaders and the promotion of community initiatives and programmes.
- Communities affected by high costs of living and its subsequent crises have actively participated in sustainable food security strategies through agricultural and cattle breeding programmes and other community initiatives for developing farming, small cattle rearing, fishing, food stock building in villages; and techniques of carving, crafts and the conservation of seasonal agricultural products.
- Communities in areas covered by this plan have good knowledge of disaster risks and threats in their environment, and have developed preventive actions for reducing the consequences of emergency situations during natural disasters. Appropriate mapping of

areas at risk, based on proven early warning systems (EWS) and strategic relocation plans are prepared and made available in all National Societies.

Achievements

Within the framework of a process to enhance the climate change management capacities of the local committees of the CRCS at high risk, the International Federation's DM teams in Dakar and Yaoundé jointly trained CRCS' volunteers in the Mfoundi division on how to reduce the risks of climate change in Cameroon. The training session that was funded by the Climate Centre was also attended by Cameroon's authorities concerned by risk reduction, notably the Department of Civil Protection (DPC). After the training, Red Cross volunteers conducted a campaign to sensitize communities on the risks surrounding them everyday and on how they can contribute to reducing them or at least alleviating their impact. Sanitation materials were put at the disposal of the local committees of the NS at high risk as part of their floods preparedness plan. Through the violent winds DREF operations in CAR and Gabon, sanitation materials were provided to the concerned localities, and sensitization campaigns on disaster risks reduction conducted.

Programme component 4: Disaster Response and Recovery

Outcomes

- Disaster situations including floods, fire destructions, epidemics, earthquakes, social crises, etc. are managed promptly by Central African National Societies through contingency planning, the deployment of disaster response teams, the adequate implementation of available DM strategies and the proper use of available DM stocks.
- An effective response strategy to refugee movements and internal population displacements in the Central African countries is put in place and is well-coordinated through food and non-food distribution, timely access of beneficiaries to quality shelters, safe water, culturally acceptable and gender-based sanitation facilities; and the provision of social services such as cultural and recreational activities, small stockbreeding and other income-generating activities (IGA) in all Central African refugee host countries like Cameroon and the Central African Republic.
- Food crises and the related consequences on vulnerable communities in Central African countries are strategically managed through the implementation of Federation's food security recommendations; mainly by supplying and distributing emergency food stocks to targeted populations in perfect alliance with all stakeholders, including interested UN agencies, Government and non-government organisations, private institutions, rural and urban focus groups and community leaders' associations.
- Working in close collaboration with the Federation and other partners, the Central Africa National Societies have determined the profiles of their target populations and have provided them with quality support for developing better recovery initiatives after emergency relief operations.
- As part of a sustainable DM system, the populations affected by natural disasters in Central Africa and host communities have joined efforts to implement sustainable community programmes (food security, micro-credit allocations, etc.).

Achievements

The DM team in Yaoundé had to run six emergency operations in 2009, including the assistance to Chadian refugees in Northern Cameroon (Langui), the Assistance to CAR refugees in the East and Adamaoua regions of Cameroon, violent winds in Gabon and in CAR, floods in CAR, and population movement in the Republic of Congo. Trained RDRT and NDRT members were deployed in the various sites to assist vulnerable people. The assistance provided was in the form of effective relief items distribution, water and sanitation, emergency shelter, emergency health, and logistics. Their efforts and those of Red Cross volunteers contributed to reaching some 90,795 persons in 2009: 63,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon; 800 and 5,995 people affected by violent wind respectively in Gabon in CAR; 11,000 flood-affected people in CAR; and 10,000 DRC refugees in the Republic of Congo. The RDRT members deployed also contributed to training and/or retraining Red Cross and community volunteers, revamping existing Red Cross local

committees and creating new ones where necessary. The emergency operations were also used as a means for establishing sustainable partnerships between the concerned NS and the various partners. Good examples are the Gabonese and the Cameroon Red Cross Societies that have established long-term partnership with UNHCR for the management of refugees. The Congolese Red Cross is also currently negotiating a similar partnership with UNHCR, and is enjoying International Federation's assistance to that effect. On their part, the Central African Red Cross Society has established a partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the African Development Bank (ADB) to assist flood-affected people, with the support of the International Federation.

Constraints or Challenges

The main challenge was the management of CAR refugees who are scattered in two regions of Cameroon. It has not been possible to group them all in a refugees' camp. Therefore, Red Cross volunteers had to go hunting them in the bush to provide assistance.

Health and Care

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

Outcomes

- 660 sex workers diagnosed with sexually transmitted infection (STI), HIV and AIDS have received appropriate treatment as a result of Behavioural change communication (BCC) interventions carried out by Red Cross volunteers in Cameroon, Central African Republic and Republic of Congo.
- The capacities of six community-based organisations (CBO) of sex workers are further enhanced in the areas of leadership, associations' management, partnership development with ministries of health, civil society organisation (CSO) management, and the development of Global Fund-funded health projects.
- The quality of life of 600 people living with HIV (PLWH) is enhanced through home-based care and support for the development of income-generating activities (IGA) in Gabon, Central African Republic, Sao Tome and Principe and Equatorial Guinea.
- 300 school children have undergone HIV screening and have collected their results following the sensitization on the need to know one's serological status within the framework of the "5 minutes Project" in Sao Tome and Principe.
- At least 2 Club 25 for blood donation are created in the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic and Cameroon, and serve as a shortcut to know the serological status of blood donors and encourage them to adopt a responsible behaviour.
- Refugees and host communities within Red Cross intervention zones have adopted safer sexual behaviour through enhanced access to means of prevention, treatment and support.
- 100% of people showing tuberculosis symptoms in areas covered by the Red Cross are referred to health centres for diagnosis and treatment in Cameroon, Central African Republic and Gabon.
- Identified TB patients have received appropriate support for treatment compliance in Cameroon, Central African Republic and Gabon.

Achievements

The fight against STI/HIV/AIDS was a key focus of the NS of Central Africa. They carried out activities to combat these diseases within the framework of the Global Alliance to fight against HIV (in CAR), the Project to fight against HIV/AIDS along the Douala-Bangui and Douala-N'Djamena corridors (PROLUSIDA), and the project to support people living with HIV (PLWH) in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe. In Sao Tome & Principe for example, Red Cross volunteers assisted 70 PLWH each month. The Red Cross also facilitated the implementation of income-generating activities, the benefit of which is being used to assist an increased number of PLWH, with special focus on sensitization in hotels (personnel and clients). To contribute to stopping the spread of HIV, 314 volunteers/peer educators were trained, 849 educative talk

sessions were organized and 37,335 people were reached, including 2,096 truck drivers and 3,375 sex workers. Some 604 home visits were conducted and 3,661 PLWH were reached. The 314 trained volunteers have distributed 12,350 condoms throughout the year. The following table summarizes the achievements within the framework of PROLUSIDA:

Results	Baseline information	Targeted population	Indicators	Beneficiaries	Comments/way forward
The knowledge of the targeted groups about STI/HIV/AIDS is improved and the number of targeted people using condoms systematically and properly during each occasional sexual intercourse has increased.	1,915 Truck drivers; 597 Filles libres (sex workers); 166,396 surrounding populations (initial evaluation)	Truck drivers, Filles Libres (sex workers), surrounding populations	80% of the persons among the targeted groups have improved their knowledge about the methods of transmission and prevention of STIs/HIV/AIDS, AND 75% of them use condoms during occasional sexual intercourses.	Truck drivers, Filles Libres (sex workers); surrounding populations	485 educative talks have been organized in 2009, out of the 1,152 that were planned; i.e. 42% achievement. 18,345 people have learnt the methods of transmission and prevention of HIV. These people include 2,096 ¹ truck drivers (11.42%), 3,375 ² Filles Libres or sex workers (18.39%), 12,875 beneficiaries among the surrounding populations (70%). The study of the impact is scheduled for year 2 (2010) within the framework of the mid-term evaluation, and will help determine the change brought by this intervention on the behaviour of the targeted groups of the CEMAC corridor.
The number of people undergoing HIV screening test has increased significantly.	44% of women and 35% men have easy access to HIV voluntary screening centres. The result of a study conducted by PPSAC in 2008 states that "access to CDV might be far from being universal in Cameroon and particularly	Truck drivers; Filles Libres (sex workers); surrounding populations	The number of people undergoing the screening test increases by 20% every 12 months.	Truck drivers; Filles Libres (sex workers); surrounding populations	290 persons were tested in Mandjou, with the support of UNHCR. 250 of them were negative while 40 were positive. HIV screening will be extended to all the sites targeted as from January 2010, and the impact will be assessed through a study of the attendance of the health centres scheduled for the end of the first semester of 2010. 357 people were also diagnosed with STI and received proper medical attention.

¹ There is a gap between the number of truck drivers reached and the baseline information because it is likely that the same drivers might have been counted several times. In any case, the actual number of truck drivers identified along the targeted corridors is 1915. What counted most was the social status of the targeted people, not their identity.

² Idem like the truck drivers. The actual number of sex workers identified is 597.

	in the rural areas of Northern Cameroon".				
Targeted health centres have received drugs and other expendables to improve their operational capacities, and proper medical follow up of targeted groups and final beneficiaries is ensure			Number of health centres that have effectively been strengthened with drugs and other expendables. Number of targeted people actually managed within the framework of the project.	Health centres along the CEMAC Corridor, Hospital personnel and patients	Five hospital personnel have been retrained on the management of the syndromes of STIs. 1,331 Kits comprising drugs for the treatment of syndromes of STIs and expendables (gloves, alcohol, absorbent cotton and syringes) have been prepositioned in health centres. 357 have been treated, i.e. 100% of the cases diagnose.

Constraints or Challenges

Very limited activities to fight against HIV were carried out in Central Africa. This was due to the weakness of NS in terms of partnership development and resource mobilization. Unforeseen events were recorded such as the delay in the purchase of a 4WD vehicle and a road accident that has affected the coordinating team of PROLUSIDA in Cameroon. In 2010, focus will be on building the partnership development capacities of NS.

Programme component 2: Community-based health and first aid

Outcomes

- Red Cross volunteers and community voluntary workers in the Central African countries are actively engaged in sensitization campaigns based on community-based health programmes (CBHP) tools developed at individual country and Movement levels.
- The Central African NS are providing safety information to communities at risk on water born diseases and other types of potential deadly diseases.
- All disaster-prone areas covered by Central African NS are provided with a detailed mapping showing the types and characteristics of recurrent health problems (epidemics, difficult access to health facilities, treatment opportunities and referral services).
- 100 women practicing excision have left female genital mutilations (FGM) in Cameroon and Central African Republic, and the capacities of six community-based organisations (CBO) bringing together such women have been enhanced in the areas of leadership, associations' management, partnership development with Ministries of Health, Civil Society Organisation (CSO), and the development of Global Fund-funded health projects.
- An increased number of children attending mass immunization campaigns against measles and polio are reached through sensitization of targeted communities.
- The impact of malaria is reduced through the training of 15,000 households on household management of malaria, the distribution of 30,000 long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLITN) to selected beneficiaries, and the conduct of behavioural change communication (BCC) campaigns and home visits to ensure that targeted persons effectively use LLITN.
- Access to sanitation facilities and potable water is improved through the construction of 100 latrines and 50 water points by the National Societies of Central Africa.

Achievements

A Regional workshop for experts/facilitators in community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) was conducted in Kribi, Cameroon in May 2009. This was the first workshop of its kind held in French to enable French speaking NS to have good mastery of CBHFA and better implement it back in their respective countries.

A Yellow Fever epidemic outbreak occurred in CAR in January 2009, and the International Federation facilitated the deployment of 200 volunteers who assisted the authorities of the Ministry of Health (MoH) within the framework of the operation to put the epidemic under control.

The Federation also facilitated the deployment of over 1,400 Cameroon Red Cross Society volunteers who contributed to the success of the cholera operation in Northern Cameroon. The operation that was coordinated by a well-trained NDRT member, 30 coaches and two zone supervisors from Cameroon Red Cross Society reached over 40,000 people. Another cholera epidemic outbreak occurred in Congo Brazzaville where 1,000 volunteers were deployed to assist affected people. The assistance was supported by DREF allocations in Cameroon and in Congo Brazzaville.

In CAR, 50 Red Cross volunteers conducted 50 sensitization sessions on measles in Bogangolo, Boali, Bossembele, Damara and Yaloke, reaching about 12,315 people. During these sensitization sessions, the volunteers discovered 213 cases of measles in Boali and immediately informed competent Government authorities. As a result an immunization campaign was organized with the support of UNICEF.

In Cameroon, 40 Red Cross volunteers and three supervisors assisted the Ministry of Health within the framework of an immunization campaign against measles in the far north region of the country. The social mobilization activities carried out by Red Cross volunteers facilitated the vaccination of 124,789 children aged from 6 months to 15 years.

Out of the 50,000 long lasting impregnated mosquito nets (LLIMN) made available by UNHCR, Cameroon Red Cross Society volunteers distributed 37,366 to CAR refugees in the East and Adamaoua regions of Cameroon. Prior to the distribution, 120 trainers had been trained. In turn, they trained 229 peers (volunteers) who assisted in the distribution. The beneficiaries included households with children aged below 5 that had been identified and sensitized prior to the distribution. The remaining 12,634 LLIMN will be used for the case management of malnourished children and to encourage the vaccination of children aged 9 to 11 months against measles.

A new agreement has been signed with the World Food Programme (WFP) for the implementation of a nutrition programme in the East and Adamaoua regions of Cameroon in favour of both CAR refugees and the host populations. This programme was launched in November 2009 as all the human resources required have been put in place.

As far as water and sanitation is concerned in Equatorial Guinea, Red Cross volunteers constructed 10 latrines, rehabilitated two water points, sensitized communities in urban peripheries to the use of water and sanitation facilities, and to waterborne diseases.

Constraints or Challenges

The Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea failed to attend the training on CBHFA because they do not have a health officer, and because of the linguistic barrier (the training was conducted in French).

Programme component 3: Emergency Health

Outcomes

- The Red Cross National Societies of Central Africa are well prepared and equipped to respond to various epidemic outbreaks, including cholera in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea,

Congo Brazzaville and Sao Tome and Principe, meningitis in Cameroon and Central African Republic, Ebola in Gabon and Congo Brazzaville, and Chikungunya in Gabon.

- The members of 15,000 households in the targeted zones at risk in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville and Gabon know the signs and symptoms of bird flu in human beings and poultry immediately rush to the nearest health centre after the first alert. An emergency stock of bird flu drugs is constituted and prepositioned at the Federation's Regional Representation in Yaoundé for distribution when necessary.

Achievements

In 2007, the Finnish Red Cross has allocated a three-year funding for emergency health preparedness and response activities in Central Africa. In 2009, the last instalment was used in CAR where 340 Red Cross volunteers organized 75 sensitization sessions on emergency health preparedness. They have reached 1,210 families, i.e. over 10,000 persons. Moreover, the Central African Red Cross Society deployed 250 volunteers for a campaign to clean gutters and the main drain of Bangui as a measure to help prevent the effects of floods as the rainy season approaches. The NS was also supported in this initiative by the CAR Ministry of Social Affairs and Family.

In Gabon, 47 Red Cross volunteers were trained on the sensitization around A/H1N1 flu, on the basis of 20 in Tchibanga, 10 in Lambarene and 17 in Mouila. The health team of the International Federation in Yaoundé assisted the Central African Red Cross Society in developing its proposals that were submitted to the H2P Manager. For Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Cameroun, CAR and Sao Tomé & Principe, the support consisted of finalizing a technical sheet for the designing and production of IEC materials, and drafting a request for funding. For DRC, in addition to the designing and production of IEC materials, there was also the need to organize the deployment of volunteers in communities for a longer period (three to six months).

Organizational Development and Capacity Building

Programme component 1: Improving National Society leadership capacities to develop and implement strategies, to ensure good performance and accountability.

Outcomes

- Statutes, internal regulations, administration and financial procedures are written and/or revised, adopted and implemented in all Central African National Societies.
- National Societies' branches are restructured, created as required and made operational. Constitutional meetings are held consistently with the provisions in the National Societies Statutes.
- Strategic plans are revised, renewed as required, adopted in constitutional gatherings and implemented to meet the organizational development priorities of each National Society.

Achievements

In addition to what was achieved during the first half of 2009 and that can be viewed in the first Programme Update, the International Federation facilitated the creation of 72 new Red Cross local committees in the East and Adamaoua regions of Cameroon within the framework of the operation to assist CAR refugees in Cameroon. Moreover, new Cameroon Red Cross volunteers have been recruited and trained, and they are being used in the operation.

In Congo Brazzaville, the Spanish Red Cross facilitated the restructuring of five divisional committees, and the construction of headquarters for these committees.

The statutes of the Cameroon and Gabonese Red Cross Societies have been reviewed prior to their respective General Assemblies to be organized in early 2010. Cameroon Red Cross Society has also developed a new strategic development plan.

Programme component 2: Ensuring a well functioning organization with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with desired level of managerial and technical competencies.

Outcomes

- Each Red Cross National Society of Central Africa has an organization chart that matches the reality of its respective contexts and capacities, as well as clearly defined terms of reference for each position.
- The Red Cross National Societies of Central Africa have personnel recruitment and development systems that are designed with the view of encouraging professionalism and competence, and ensuring the achievement of good results.
- The Red Cross National Societies of Central Africa have systems for following up and evaluating the work of their respective governance teams at all levels.

Achievements

During one of the COSNAC (Coordination des Sociétés Nationales Croix-Rouge d'Afrique Centrale) meetings in 2008, the NSs of Central Africa decided to adopt a single organization chart for their respective NS. The Gabonese Red Cross Society has immediately implemented it in 2008. In 2009, it was the turn of CAR and Cameroon Red Cross Societies to implement the organization chart, with implications at local branches level. The Federation will encourage Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe to follow the trend in 2010 so that the structures of NS are harmonized within the region taking into consideration the specificities of each NS.

Programme component 3: Increasing capacity for programme development and management and ensuring financial sustainability.

Outcomes

- The main technical staff members of the Central African National Societies are trained on project planning, programmes follow-up, evaluation and regional common strategic partnerships are developed for each priority area of the Central African National Societies and made consistent to the mandate, interest and funding requirements of potential donors within and outside the Red Cross Movement.
- The administration and finance personnel of the Central African National Societies are trained on administrative and finance procedures, on the management methods in force within the Federation. Financial resource mobilization strategies are developed, tested and implemented by each National Society with the technical support of the Federation.
- National resource mobilization policies, based on Federation's recommendations and standards financial rules and regulations, including the CAS strategies, manuals of financial and administrative procedures are developed and implemented at all levels in the Central African National Societies.

Achievements

NS staff in Central Africa has benefited from several trainings in 2009, including training on financial procedures, on emergency evaluation, report writing, production of DMIS information, and the drafting of DREF requests.

Thanks to the advocacy activity of the president of the Gabonese Red Cross Society, the Qatar Red Crescent promised to pay for its statutory contributions to the International federation for three years (2009-2011). The plan of the CAR Red Cross for the Increased Capacity Building programme has been adopted finally. The NS signed an agreement worth one million USD with the Government and the African Development Bank for the funding of the operation to assist floods victims in Bangui.

Programme component 4: Developing a nation-wide coverage of grassroots units and services.

Outcomes

- Social mobilization in the Central African communities and the respect for each community member are strengthened through self-help initiatives and the implementation of priority programmes by Red Cross volunteers.
- Red Cross volunteers are trained and organized in teams in all Central African National Societies to improve cooperation and understanding among the youth in the communities.
- Volunteering development policies are written and adopted in each National Society and used to strengthen National Society volunteering networks and Red Cross visibility.

Achievements

The Spanish Red Cross has been working in close collaboration with the NS of Central Africa to build their operational capacities. In Cameroon for example, the PNS facilitated the development of the statutes of a Cameroon Red Cross volunteers' association which aims at building the loyalty of Red Cross volunteers.

On its part, the Federation's OD Officer assisted the NS of Cameroon, Gabon and Congo Brazzaville in reviewing their statutes ahead of their respective General Assemblies.

Principles and Values

Programme component 1: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention and reduction programmes.

Outcomes

- Intra-community tensions, intolerance, discrimination, exclusion and violence are reduced and human dignity is respected in areas covered by the Red Cross in Central Africa.
- Young girls in areas with low level of education are identified, encouraged and enrolled in schools and vocational training centres with the support of the Red Cross, government institutions and other potential partners.
- Female genital mutilation (FGM) in Central Africa is reduced through sensitization and the people who practice it have adopted income-generating activities as an alternative. Emphasis will be on supporting the health team by involving the media that will serve as relay to the Red Cross.
- The right to education of hearing and speech impaired children in Central Africa is further respected through the active involvement of the Red Cross in the implementation of social welfare strategies.

Achievements

The Federation's Regional Representation has been registered as a member of the United Nations' Gender Core Group in Cameroon to actively fight against Female Genital Mutilations. As such, the Federation hosted a meeting of this Group in January 2009 in Yaoundé.

Programme component 2: Operationalization of fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

Outcomes

- Media officials and volunteers of committees in conflict areas are better trained to facilitate the fight against intolerance and to promote respect for diversity and the principles and values of the Movement. The Red Cross activities are widely disseminated in Central Africa.
- People from Central African localities that have been experiencing conflicts are sensitized on the importance of peace building and mutual understanding. Mothers and Red Cross

youths clubs are strengthened and created where necessary. They are properly managed according to the Federation existing guidelines.

- Government authorities in Central Africa are sensitized and encouraged on the need to put in place policies on the protection of Red Cross emblems, the protection of vulnerable women and children against FGM, SGBV and child trafficking.
- Central African National Societies have assisted extremely vulnerable and chronically sick persons in the areas covered by the Red Cross in their respective countries.

Achievements

In preparation of the presidential election that took place in Gabon, sensitization campaigns on the culture of peace were conducted in the main cities of the country to prevent post election unrest. Sensitization messages to that effect were developed and disseminated. Government authorities in Gabon were also sensitized to the need of taking necessary measures to help combat child trafficking in the country.

In all the six countries covered by this plan, activities to mark the 150th anniversary of the Solferino battle were organized, with focus on humanitarian principles and values, and the culture of peace and the importance of assisting the most vulnerable. Other achievements are highlighted in Programme Update No 1.

Coordination

The Central Africa Regional Representation has organized the logistics to ensure the achievements highlighted above in the respective programmes. This was done through the support services, which has been keeping a warehouse with emergency relief materials (disaster response and disaster preparedness items). The International Federation also ensure PMER services within the region as the NS are yet to appoint focal points for this important aspect of our activity as a humanitarian organization. Other coordination activities included information advocacy, facilitation of COSNAC meetings, facilitating the participation of Central Africa NS to the General Assembly of the International Federation, training and deployment of RDRT³ members within Africa (especially with DFID, Swedish and Finnish Red Cross funding), facilitating experience sharing and learning, enabling human resource changes and deployment within the region, supporting three key salaries and other administration costs in all six NS covered by this report, purchasing and distributing computers and other communication equipment for six NS with Swedish and Irish Red Cross funds, and contribution to the smooth functioning of the West and Central Africa Zone Office.

The NS of Cameroon, CAR and Congo Brazzaville have received each a 4WD vehicle as a contribution to building their operational capacities. They also received over 300 bicycles and about 30 motorcycles, 30 computers, 30 printers and other computer accessories.

Working in partnership

In 2009, CARREP worked in partnership with the UNHCR within the framework of refugee operations in Cameroon and Gabon. The World Food Programme (WFP) supported the refugees operation in Cameroon during the second half of 2009. The European Union through the Central African Economic and Monetary Commission (CEMAC) supported PROLUSIDA project that aims to fight against HIV/AIDS along the Douala-Bangui and Douala-N'Djamena corridors, with truck drivers and sex workers as the main targets and beneficiaries. PNSs like the French and the Spanish Red Cross societies have been working with the NS of Cameroon, CAR and Gabon. The Spanish Red Cross has been supporting the capacity building programmes, and the French Red Cross has been supporting health programmes. On their part, PNSs like the Irish and Swedish Red Cross societies have been supporting all the programmes in the 2009-2010 plan. ICRC has been supporting efforts to promote humanitarian principles and values, disaster management planning and disaster response in conflict areas. Governments in all six countries have been making available subsidies for programmes implementation and National Societies functioning. The

³ Regional Disaster Response Team

Japanese Embassy in Cameroon contributed to the health programme, while the Chinese Embassy contributed to all Cameroon Red Cross programmes. National AIDS control committees in all six countries, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, Serment Sacré, Association de la solidarité internationale, Marathon oil company, USA Crisis unit, Coca-Cola Foundation, Global Funds, ALISE, Chevron oil company, Total Gabon and Celtel are also contributing to Red Cross programmes in Central Africa or are contemplating to do so.

Contributing to longer-term impact

As already mentioned above, the main areas of our DM interventions in 2009 were the CAR refugees operations in Cameroon, RoC and CAR, the urban refugees operation in Gabon, and the response to violent winds in CAR and Gabon. To ensure good monitoring and evaluation, CARREP deployed RDRT members in the respective concerned countries to work with the NS and coach volunteers as required. This facilitated an efficient follow up of the various activities. National executives in these countries also seized the opportunity to improve their operational capacities through the learning-by-doing approach. The existing structures of the respective NS have been improved, new local branches have been created (73 in Cameroon, five in Gabon), and new volunteers have been trained (800 in Cameroon, 150 in Gabon). This will go a long way to making the Gabonese and Cameroon Red Cross Societies become well-functioning NS.

In the area of organizational development, efforts were made to promote gender equity and diversity. When creating the new local branches of the Red Cross, CARREP made sure that all the positions were equitably shared among men and women.

Although no concrete approach to lessons sharing has been put in place yet, the NS of Central Africa created COSNAC where they used to share their experience and good practices. In 2008 for example, the Sao Tome & Principe Red Cross shared with sister National Societies the success they obtained in the area of local fund raising through TOTOLOTO. Cameroon Red Cross also shared their experience in partnership establishment with local economic operators. Moreover, CARREP initiated a meeting of Movement partners in April 2009 in Cameroon. This is an occasion where all the components of the Movement in Cameroon take stock of their achievements and decide on where to go from there.

Looking ahead

In 2009, focus was on emergency operations such as the CAR refugees and urban refugees operations in Cameroon and Gabon, DRC refugees in RoC and in CAR, and other minor emergencies like floods, cholera and measles outbreaks, violent winds, respectively. This took much of CARREP's time, leading to only few additional activities carried out. The remaining activities could not be carried out. Moreover, the Representation did not receive enough funding to carry out all the planned activities. Thus it was decided to review the programmes objectives and budget (see Programme update No 1). Some of the activities that were initially planned for 2009 have been carried forward to 2010. The priorities in 2010 will include food security, climate change, strengthening NS PMER, disaster preparedness and risk reduction capacities, training more NDRT⁴ members, and the mapping of risk areas. Other priorities will include improving partnership development, financial management, accountability, advocating against social exclusion and discrimination, facilitating the development of contingency plans, and promoting the culture of peace.

As a result of the ongoing Federation rightsizing process, it has been proposed that the Congolese Red Cross be attached to the Kinshasa Country Representation, while a Country representation will be opened in CAR, and the number of Federation's regional staff in Yaoundé has been reduced from 21 to 15 members.

⁴ National Disaster Response Team

How we work

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

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA62001 - Central Africa Region

Annual Report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA62001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,550,990	1,258,870	842,416	70,310	404,883	4,127,468
B. Opening Balance	51,382	1,845	470	443	39,116	93,256
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross		1				1
Canadian Government		-13,845				-13,845
EU Partnership - CEMAC		139,467				139,467
Finnish Red Cross		8,898				8,898
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)		50,423				50,423
Japanese Red Cross			89,704		22,426	112,129
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	7,454					7,454
Norwegian Red Cross	393					393
Other	106,569	102,829	65,659		38,060	313,118
Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	143,009	143,009	71,504	71,504	143,009	572,035
UNHCR (UN Agency)	943,879	260,330				1,204,209
Unidentified donor	1,609					1,609
WFP		65,188				65,188
C1. Cash contributions	1,202,912	756,300	226,867	71,504	203,495	2,461,078
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
EU Partnership - CEMAC		307,144				307,144
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	7,439					7,439
UNHCR (UN Agency)	278,650	0				278,650
WFP		154,430				154,430
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	286,089	461,574				747,664
Income reserved for future periods						
EU Partnership - CEMAC		-229,325				-229,325
UNHCR (UN Agency)	-2,121	-41,753				-43,874
C3. Income reserved for future periods	-2,121	-271,078				-273,198
Inkind Personnel						
Spanish Red Cross					63,447	63,447
C5. Inkind Personnel					63,447	63,447
Other Income						
Miscellaneous Income	380		2,112		13,682	16,175
Services					16,912	16,912
C6. Other Income	380		2,112		30,594	33,086
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1,487,261	946,796	228,979	71,504	297,536	3,032,077
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,538,643	948,642	229,449	71,948	336,652	3,125,333
Appeal Coverage	99%	75%	27%	102%	83%	76%

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II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	51,382	1,845	470	443	39,116	93,256
C. Income	1,487,261	946,796	228,979	71,504	297,536	3,032,077
E. Expenditure	-1,521,043	-780,713	-165,115	-69,763	-315,615	-2,852,250
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	17,599	167,928	64,334	2,185	21,037	273,083

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination			
A		B						A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,550,990	1,258,870	842,416	70,310	404,883	4,127,468		
Supplies									
Construction Materials			1,262	3,294	238		4,794	-4,794	
Clothing & textiles	112,600		1,388	1,744	446		3,578	109,022	
Food			3,420	623			4,042	-4,042	
Seeds,Plants	108,000							108,000	
Water & Sanitation	130,800		497	8,910			9,407	121,393	
Medical & First Aid	113,370		44,268	8,740	993		54,001	59,369	
Teaching Materials			44,863	847			45,710	-45,710	
Utensils & Tools	369,147		5,602				5,602	363,545	
Other Supplies & Services			12,819	8,380			21,199	-21,199	
Total Supplies	833,917	114,118	32,539	1,677			148,334	685,583	
Land, vehicles & equipment									
Vehicles			12	98,311			98,323	-98,323	
Computers & Telecom	10,126		20,049	5,827	3,192	969	30,037	-19,911	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	6,000		2,996	106	1,082		4,184	1,816	
Others Machinery & Equipment			127				127	-127	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	16,126	23,184	104,243	4,274		969	132,670	-116,544	
Transport & Storage									
Storage	104,500		20,088	1,092	391	348	21,919	82,581	
Distribution & Monitoring			52,005	8,691	6,825	3,660	71,742	-71,742	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	51,112		220,621	59,700	15,246	7,021	303,314	-252,202	
Total Transport & Storage	155,612	292,715	69,482	22,462	4,734	7,583	396,975	-241,363	
Personnel									
International Staff	264,607		126,878	11,997	60	89	294,849	-30,241	
Regionally Deployed Staff	296,280		132,816	11,399			144,215	152,065	
National Staff	99,408		145,742	154,859	48,414	38,379	420,366	-320,958	
National Society Staff	852,199		369,005	124,711	55,075	3,327	568,679	283,520	
Consultants	73,200			1,278			1,278	71,922	
Total Personnel	1,585,694	774,441	304,245	103,549	41,794	205,358	1,429,387	156,307	
Workshops & Training									
Workshops & Training	545,028		44,143	50,784	18,582	1,311	54,387	375,821	
Total Workshops & Training	545,028	44,143	50,784	18,582	1,311	54,387	169,207	375,821	
General Expenditure									
Travel	120,615		17,223	4,374	5,669	547	17,257	75,546	
Information & Public Relation	305,041		10,563	17,350	260	10,137	3,539	41,849	
Office Costs	81,145		78,815	23,122	12,510	2,369	19,353	136,169	
Communications	49,161		30,256	35,497	7,702	3,124	7	76,585	
Professional Fees	40,000		38,903	11,037	470	1,070	3,312	54,793	
Financial Charges	6,000		-8,104	-9,614	-2,772	141	-2,676	29,025	
Other General Expenses	125,414		1,033	838	1,044		1,380	4,296	
Total General Expenditure	727,376	168,689	82,603	24,883	17,389	42,173	335,736	391,639	
Depreciation									
Depreciation							4,814	4,814	
Total Depreciation							4,814	-4,814	
Programme Support									
Program Support	263,715		99,279	51,877	10,986	4,535	16,518	183,194	
Total Programme Support	263,715	99,279	51,877	10,986	4,535	16,518	183,194	80,521	
Operational Provisions									
Operational Provisions			4,474	84,941	-21,298		-16,185	51,931	
Total Operational Provisions			4,474	84,941	-21,298		-16,185	-51,931	

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Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		1,550,990	1,258,870	842,416	70,310	404,883	4,127,468	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	4,127,468	1,521,043	780,713	165,115	69,763	315,615	2,852,250	1,275,218
VARIANCE (C - D)		29,946	478,156	677,300	547	89,268	1,275,218	