

# ***CAMEROON: FLOODS***

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## ***Information Bulletin N° 1***

### ***The Disaster***

Northern Cameroon, like several other countries in sub-sahel Africa, has been affected by unusually heavy rains since the beginning of August, causing most of the rivers of the region to overflow. The city of Wouro-Haoussa, 60 kms away from Garoua (the provincial capital of the North Province), has been the hardest hit, and completely flooded. During the evacuation of part of the population, one boat sank resulting in the death of 11 persons, with 13 remaining missing. More than 1,000 persons have lost all their possessions, and the government has provided temporary lodging in schools. The pit wells in the town have been contaminated, thus creating a high risk for the outbreak of water born diseases, particularly cholera. The threat of malaria has also increased accordingly. The weather forecast predicts further heavy rains to come.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Cameroon Red Cross (CRC) branch in Garoua assessed the situation in Wouro-Haoussa and the adjoining area. Based on the identified needs, initial assistance in the form of blankets, tents, cooking sets, clothes, mosquito nets, rice and beans has been provided to the 1,000 persons who had lost all possessions. The food assistance will be distributed over a period of 2 months. Activities to chlorinate wells and the provision of basic generic drugs against respiratory diseases, malaria and diarrhoea have been or will be initiated. Red Cross volunteers have also been carrying out health education efforts amongst the affected communities. The entire operation will be co-ordinated by the crisis committee under the local governor, and is expected to be completed in two months.

The government has also provided one emergency ration of rice, smoked fish, and maize to the affected population, and the local authorities are looking for a new area to relocate the families. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has asked the Federation's Regional Delegation in Yaoundé to assist the National Society in their operation for the victims of the floods.

### ***Needs***

The CRC has expressed the need for 50 tents, 500 blankets, 600 mosquito nets, 300 cooking sets, 10 bales of used clothes, 25 Mt of rice, 12 Mt of beans, 180 kgs of chlorinating powder, Methronidazol (15,000 tablets of 250 mg), Sulfamethoxazole (1,000 tablets), Chloroquine (1000 tablets of 150 mg), 100 packs of ORS, Mebendazol (250 tablets of 100 mg) as well as sanitation tools (50 picks; 50 shovels, 25 wheelbarrows, 50 boots, and 100 pairs of gloves). The locally available tents are very light, and the CRC has requested as well an in-kind donation of 50 tents.

The total budget for this operation amounts to CHF 126,843, and the Federation has allocated CHF 70,000 from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to initiate the planned assistance.

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