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DREF Operation Central African Republic: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n ° MDRCF016
GLIDE n ° [FL-2013-000112-CAF](#)
18 September 2013

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 120,702 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Central African Republic Red Cross (CAR Red Cross) to provide immediate assistance to some 1,785 beneficiaries (337 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On 3-4 September 2013, the districts of Issongo, Bea-Rex Makambo, Sara Banga-2-Gbaya Dombia, Bibalé, Souma Poto Poto, Fondo Yakite and Sara-Dah in the third district of the city Bangui was flooded following heavy rains that resulted in significant damage in those towns. Up to 75 volunteers from the local Red Cross branch conducted a rapid assessment. Up to 337 families were badly affected in the 10 sub-districts and the total number of people whose homes were either damaged or destroyed is up to 1,785 people, with 716 children, 612 women (including 15 pregnant women) and 457 men. Also, almost all wells and latrines in these areas were damaged by flood waters.



Volunteers from the Central African Republic Red Cross were deployed in the aftermath of the floods to provide first aid and conduct a quick assessment of the situation in the affected district. Photo: CAR RC

With support from IFRC's DREF, CAR Red Cross will provide assistance to the affected families through the provision of emergency shelter, WatSan and non-food items, emergency health and care and conduct health and hygiene promotion activities to minimize the potential for outbreaks of diseases. Up to 45 volunteers will be mobilized to support these actions.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 30 December 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 March 2014.)

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; or here for map of the affected areas>](#)

The situation

On 3-4 September 2013, the districts of Issongo, Bea-Rex Makambo, Banga Sara-2-Gbaya Dombia, Bibalé, Yakite, Fondo and Sara-Dah, Souma Poto Poto in the third district of Bangui in the Central African Republic faced floods following heavy rains that lasted for hours at a time, resulting in significant damage in those towns.

Of a total population of 90,000 people in the third arrondissement (district), about 32,993 people were affected by the floods, with 337 families (1,875 people) recorded as most the vulnerable, having either their homes completely destroyed or partially damaged. Also, other damage recorded include the destruction of wells and latrines. The situation on the ground is as follows:

Areas of the 3rd district	Number of affected people	Number of vulnerable families	Distribution of the most vulnerable population			Total most vulnerable people	Houses completely destroyed	Houses partially destroyed
			Children	women	men			
Gbaya-Dombia	2,703	110	236	217	139	592	62	48
Makambo	6,762	65	79	36	77	192	27	38
Bibalé	2,824	26	55	21	36	112	8	18
Sara-dah	2,540	19	59	60	29	148	6	13
Banga-Sara 2	2,211	13	39	33	23	95	6	7
Issongo	2,371	24	54	63	35	152	5	19
Souma Poto Poto	4,300	20	56	54	28	138	6	14
Bea-Rex	2,157	26	53	46	36	135	14	12
Fondo	5,272	18	59	39	28	126	6	12
Yakite	1,853	16	26	43	26	95	6	10
Total	32,993	337	716	612	457	1,785	146	191

Source: Central African Republic Red Cross

It should be noted that among the 612 women identified, 15 are pregnant. Meanwhile, school-age children have not resumed classes due to the holidays, with school scheduled to begin at the end of October.

Approximately 30% of those most vulnerable have found refuge with host families but may result in a burdening the host families' resources if prolonged. The remaining affected population are currently living out in the open, with increased exposure to weather conditions, risk of malaria and potential respiratory health issues, with the situation expected to worsen based on the weather forecasts. The situation is further complicated with a potential outbreak of diseases related to the use of contaminated water and unhealthy environment. Through this neighbourhood, there are also 97 infected wells, about 106 latrines that are dilapidated.

All these vulnerable families face enormous difficulties because they have lost their homes, most of their tools and belongings, and have expressed an urgent need for shelter materials and basic necessities.

Coordination and partnerships

The heads of the third district of Bangui accompanied CAR Red Cross members and volunteers to assess the situation and provide assistance in evacuations and rescues.

The non-governmental organization ACTED is on the ground for drainage work in this area but not in direct response to the floods. Otherwise, no other NGO or government actor is on the ground. ICRC also conducted a quick assessment in the 3rd District of Bangui on the situation. IFRC and CAR Red Cross will maintain close communication throughout the operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent response

The local committee of the Red Cross' third district deployed 75 volunteers on the ground to assess the impact of the floods and recorded information on the most vulnerable people in the district. These volunteers also provided first aid to five people who have experienced minor injuries.

Needs

Selection of beneficiaries:

After an assessment of the emergency, volunteers from the Red Cross Central identified 1,785 vulnerable people in need of urgent assistance.

The affected people expressed a need for emergency shelter, water and sanitation as well as emergency health interventions. Based on these needs, the National Society identified the following non-food items (NFI) such as tarpaulins, mats, mosquito nets, kitchen kits, soap, buckets, jerry cans and hygiene/ toiletry kits for women as well as health and hygiene promotion activities to assist the affected families. In addition, the need for access to safe drinking water is critical given the fact that existing wells are contaminated. To respond to this, aquatabs will be distributed together with instructions on its use to treat water, and the contaminated wells will be cleaned. Existing latrines will also need to be disinfected.

The National Society also identified a need to raise awareness on the health-related impact of floods and the subsequent increase in waterborne and respiratory diseases, making communication tools such as brochures, flipcharts and posters as well as mass awareness raising through media important.

For the implementation of all activities, the National Society plans to deploy 45 volunteers. These volunteers will work under the supervision of members of the National Team Response to Disasters (ENRC). All these activities will be coordinated by the National Disaster Management Manager (DM).

The CAR Red Cross will be assisted by a member of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) in planning and implementation of activities related to this operation. The RDRT member will assist in the assessment, planning, implementation and collection of documents and media reporting. See the Security section for more details about this member RDRT.

Security:

The security situation in the Central African Republic will be monitored closely throughout the operation. In preparing this, regular contacts have been established with the National Society and the ICRC office in Bangui. At the time of reporting, information received indicate that while the situation in the country is volatile, it does not prevent IFRC from conducting a distribution of non-food items as well as activities for disinfection and hygiene promotion with 337 beneficiary families affected by the floods in the third district of Bangui. Also noted to be helpful is the strong reputation of the CAR Red Cross with the public as they are continuously working in the area.

For the presence of the specialist RDRT for two months to support this operation, given the current dynamics in the country, it is important that the selected person is from the sub-region of Central Africa, to help limit unnecessary tension or misunderstandings with the local population.

The following two operational options are considered simultaneously in the preparation of the purchase and distribution of NFIs, with Option A prepared as a part of the budget:

Option A: To transport by truck NFI from the IFRC warehouse in Yaoundé to Bangui. Provision has been made for the truck the Federation uses to travel the route between the border and Bangui to make one trip during the day. CAR Red Cross will accompany the truck from the border to Bangui to facilitate administrative procedures.

Option B: To source for and procure all NFIs locally in Bangui.

If the security situation were to deteriorate, IFRC will opt for option B, to minimize the risk of theft or interception of the truck during the transportation of the non-food items.

The evolution of the security situation is being closely monitored by IFRC. If this situation were to deteriorate, the activities would be suspended for the time necessary to ensure the safety of CAR Red Cross volunteers. Noting this situation, the delivery of these non-food items may not be immediate.

The proposed operation

Ideally, non-food items will be taken from IFRC's regional warehouse in Yaoundé for prompt response and will be replenished through this DREF. For transportation, IFRC's Regional Representation for Central Africa will send the items in Yaounde to Bangui. In Bangui, the National Society will deliver the items within ten affected districts of the third district through local truck rental. (See the Security section for more details).

Emergency shelter and non-food items

Outcome: To contribute to improving the living conditions of 337 families (1,785 people).

Output:

337 vulnerable families (1,785 people) identified receive assistance.

Planned activities:

- Purchase and transport 674 tarpaulins and fixings (including rope and poles) 674 blankets, 892 mats, 337 cooking kits, 1685 pieces of soap, 1,011 mosquito nets, 337 buckets (17 litre), 337 jerry cans (20 litre), and 612 toiletry kits.
- Brief 45 volunteers on methods and techniques distribution.
- Package the items according to the list of beneficiaries, with the following breakdown: tarpaulins (2 per family), rope (30 metres per family), poles (6 x 5metres per family), mats (1 for every 2 people), covers (1 for every 2 people), and kitchen kits (1 per family)
- Distribute the non-food items in the ten districts of the third district of Bangui.
- Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on activities.

Emergency health

Outcome: The immediate risks to the health of the 337 selected families are reduced

Outputs:

- The health situation and immediate risks to malaria in the aftermath of the floods are assessed and responded to
- Community-based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population
- Epidemic prevention and control measures are carried out

Activities planned:

- Procure first aid kits.
- Provide first aid to people who are injured.
- Provide referrals for affected people to health centres.
- Encourage pregnant women to consult health centres for antenatal care.
- Train 45 volunteers on the installation and use of treated mosquito nets as well as epidemic control for volunteers (ECV)
- Purchase 1,011 nets and distribute 3 per family to 337 families identified.
- Sensitize the 337 families targeted in on how to install and use mosquito nets.
- Sensitize communities on the risks of malaria and relevant prevention.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the activities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome 1: The floods risk and water-related diseases in the third district of Bangui are reduced.

Outputs:

- Measures are taken to ensure that all families affected by floods in the third arrondissement of Bangui live in a healthy environment.
- Affected families are informed of key messages to reduce the risk of flooding.
- Risk of diseases related to water and sanitation are reduced in the ten districts of the third district of Bangui
- Red Cross Central has contributed to capacity building for vulnerable families in the ten districts of the third district of Bangui for the prevention of water-related diseases.

Activities planned:

- Purchase leaflets, posters and flipcharts with related hygiene promotion messages
- Organize and carry out a sensitization campaign to reduce flood risk and improve sanitation and hygiene promotion in the 3rd district of Bangui.
- Train 45 volunteers on technical awareness and hygiene promotion.
- Raise awareness of flood risk and hygiene using leaflets, posters and boxes images.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor, evaluate and report on water, sanitation and hygiene activities.
<p>Outcome 2: Access to drinking water and sanitation facilities for the 337 most vulnerable families are improved</p>
<p>Outputs: The 337 families have access to drinking water and sanitation facilities</p> <p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and distribute chlorine tablets for household water treatment and demonstrate usage. • Purchase chlorine for the treatment of contaminated wells. • Purchase and distribute family buckets (1 17-litre bucket per family), jerry cans (1 20-litre jerry can per family), soap (5 pieces of 250gms each per family) and a hygiene/ toiletries kit per woman (612 in total). • Disinfect contaminated latrines. • Clean contaminated wells. • Monitor, evaluate and report on the activities related to facilitating access to safe drinking water and disinfection of latrines.

<p>Communications</p>
<p>Objective: Contribute to the prevention and reduction of flood risks through a media campaign to raise public awareness of the affected areas and risks.</p>
<p>Output: The population from the affected areas and surrounding is sensitized through radios and print media using previously designed key prevention messages and actions taken by the National Society in the operation.</p> <p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a two-minute radio spot in the local dialect (Sango). • Broadcast the radio spot twice a week on alternate radio waves Ndeke Luka and Central Africa. • Broadcast a weekly news on alternate radio waves Ndeke Luka and Central Africa. • A weekly 25 minute live on national radio CAR. • Insertion of a quarter page weekly in print with a rotation between newspapers Confident, Citizen and Swallow Press.

The communication strategy will be based on awareness-raising focused on the prevention of flooding as well as the promotion of good hygiene and sanitation in the affected areas and neighbouring populations. The campaign will involve the production of tools for targeted outreach including the production of a radio spot in the local language (Sango), and will be aired through two radio stations with a large audience. In addition, a weekly radio programme of approximately 25 minutes will be broadcast on a weekly basis, to disseminate information on the actions of the Red Cross and also provide the opportunity for recipients to interact and provide feedback with the operation teams implementing the activities.

Contact information

For further information related to this operation please contact:

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

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For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, assessment and reporting inquiries)

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC support 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 aid 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 All 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.
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DREF OPERATION

18/09/2013

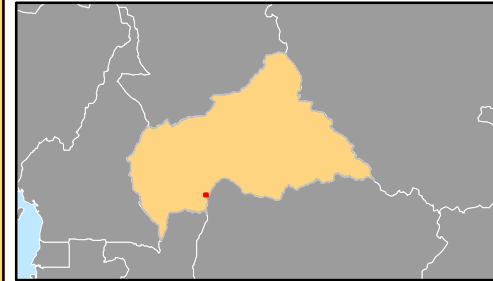
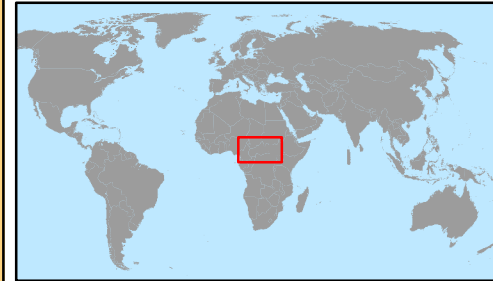
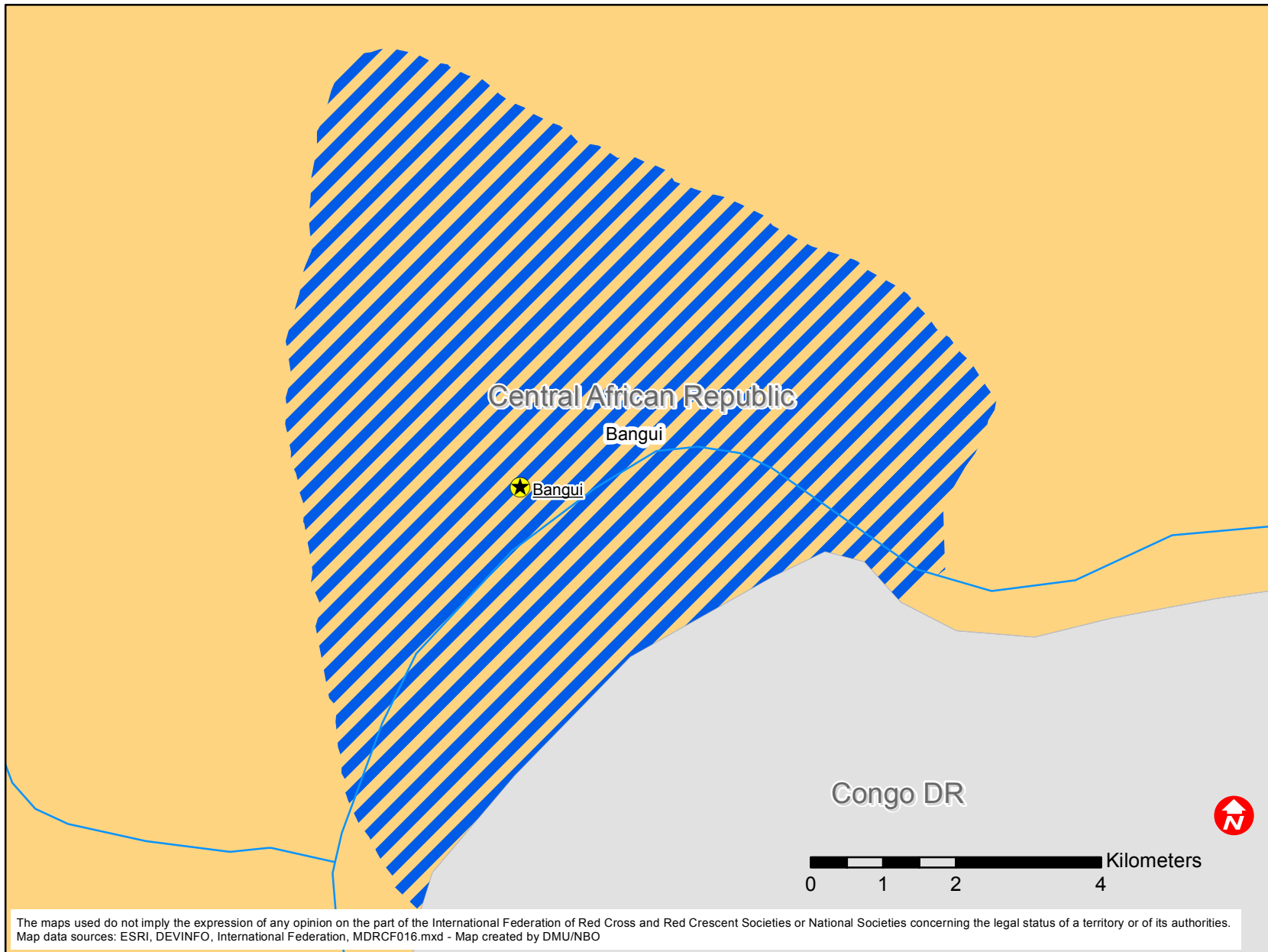
MDRCF016

Central African Republic - Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	17,070
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	11,180
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	15,276
Medical & First Aid	962
Teaching Materials	2,477
Utensils & Tools	9,225
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	56,189
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	192
Distribution & Monitoring	7,644
Transport & Vehicle Costs	6,068
Logistics Services	4,860
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	18,764
International Staff	13,700
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	3,538
Volunteers	9,777
Total PERSONNEL	27,015
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	2,615
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	2,615
Travel	3,695
Information & Public Relations	2,075
Office Costs	1,731
Communications	769
Financial Charges	481
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	8,750
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	7,367
Total INDIRECT COSTS	7,367
TOTAL BUDGET	120,701



Central Africa Republic: Floods



Legend

 Affected area