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# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Cameroon: Flash floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## DREF operation n ° MDRCM016 October 1, 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 115,592 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** On the night of September 17 to 18, 2013, heavy rains caused the rupture of the dam along the Logone River at the town of Dougui, Kai Kai District in the Far North Region of Cameroon. This caused initial evacuations of people to the banks of the dam. On September 27, 2013, a second rupture in the dam 4 km from the first rupture started flooding the area and nearly 9,000 people were evacuated immediately. Following this second flooding, a team directed by the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC) Disaster Management Coordinator deployed to the area to do initial assessments and participate in the coordination mechanism.



Volunteers assess needs of flood affected households/ Photo: CRC

This initial DREF operation supports the immediate release of emergency shelter and household item kits (tarpaulins, tools and emergency shelter materials, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, buckets and jerry cans) for 500 families and the distribution of these to the most vulnerable families while further assessments are being carried out to plan the full intervention.

The initial timeframe for the operation is set for two months, but the operational plan will be revised once a full assessment has been carried out.

[<Click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

On the night of September 17 to 18, 2013, heavy rains fell in the Mayo-Danay and caused the rupture of the dam along the Logone River at the town of Dougui, District of Kai kai Far North Region, Cameroon. This has caused initial relocation of the people of the village, who were residing on the banks of the dam. The local committee of Maga, who conducted the first assessments, reported 805 affected individuals including 144 children aged 0 to 5 years, 26 pregnant/lactating women, 20 elderly people and 10 widows. Out of the four villages in the community, Begue, Palam and Djafga were seriously affected and flooding has caused

damage of farmland and loss of household items and livestock. The situation has left the affected population with increased risk of water-borne diseases, acute respiratory syndrome and other flood-related diseases.

The Cameroonian Government has allocated a sum of 60 million CFA francs (approx. CHF 110,000) to rescue these vulnerable people. Similarly, the surrounding communities have contributed to the utilization of sand bags to reduce water pressure. A site was identified for the resettlement of the victims, located 3 km from the affected area.

The departmental committee of the CRC has mobilized the Mayo Danay volunteers (30) to evacuate people and some of their personal effects to secure places. They set up tents provided by UNHCR and supported attempts by Military Engineering personnel to contain flooding with dikes.

Further torrential rains in the same area the night of September 26 to 27, 2013 caused another breach of the Houmi dam (Bégué district) located 4 kilometres from the first breach. During coordination meetings, it was specified by local authorities that the entire town of Houmi had to be evacuated, corresponding to a population of about 10,000 people, according to the 2010 census. A second resettlement site was identified, with the option of more being established in the coming days.

Currently, there are about 9,000 displaced people who reside in the open air along the banks of the dam. The summary assessment by the CRC Mayo Danay branch counted 187 families or 935 people installed on a section of the dam. These people lack everything and need immediate assistance for shelter, food and other essential items.

The Governor after his second visit to the disaster site held a meeting on Saturday morning in which he reiterated the acceleration of the construction of emergency shelters and distribution of non-food items.

## Coordination and partnerships

Humanitarian assistance is coordinated by the crisis committee under the leadership of Governor of the Far North Region. Two coordination meetings were organized with participation from CRC, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, UNFPA, and PLAN Cameroon were held on 20 and 28 September 2013 to mobilize resources. UNHCR has provided 200 tents. UNICEF has provided 176 wash kits, 176 hygiene kits and 250 mosquito nets. WHO provided 250 mosquito nets. UNFPA has provided hygiene kits. The regional health authorities provided 25 mats, 10 cartons of rehydration solution, 150 mosquito nets and a carton of T-shirts.

At the regional level, the ICRC was informed of the situation on the ground. This coordination will continue throughout this operation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The CRC local committee of the Borough of Maga deployed about thirty volunteers who have identified the most vulnerable population. The volunteers have assisted the affected population in recovering basic items from the waters and loading the sand bags donated by the Swiss Red Cross to reduce the high water pressure. Psychosocial support was also provided with special attention to the most vulnerable people. No injuries have been reported to our knowledge so far, but volunteers are on site and are ready to help beneficiaries.

The CRC national Disaster Management Coordinator and representatives of the IFRC and the French Red Cross present in the region participated in the crisis meetings and follow the evolution of the situation closely. A joint CRC and IFRC mission visited the field on September 27, 2013 for an initial assessment.

The authorities' emphasis on urgent shelter and non-food needs led the CRC to provide 75 blankets, 500 empty bags and 2 barrels of 50kgs of chlorine from emergency stocks in Kousseri located about 350 km from Maroua, The French Red Cross has made available for the operation 200 blankets, 100 two-person mats, 100 pots, 100 cups, 100 jerry cans with taps and 100 jerry cans without taps.

The IFRC is supporting the CRC in delivering emergency shelter and non-food assistance to the most vulnerable 500 families.

## The needs

The authorities have identified an urgent need for emergency shelter and non-food items for the displaced population of about 9,000 people.

It is anticipated that the need for safe water, proper sanitation and hygiene is critical to reduce the risk of diseases related to floods and displacement, and the assessment of these needs as well as the plans of humanitarian partners and government will be prioritized during the detailed assessment and will likely be included in the revised DREF plan of action.

### Beneficiary selection

The initial 500 emergency shelter and non-food family kits released by the IFRC will be distributed to the most vulnerable households with a priority to single-headed households, pregnant and breast-feeding women, elderly and households with children under 5 years.

### The proposed operation

For the implementation of the planned activities, the CRC is deploying 60 volunteers. The volunteers will work under the supervision of two supervisors of the CRC Departmental Committee of Mayo Danay. On the ground, the coordination will be ensured by a National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) to be deployed for this purpose. All these activities will be under the coordination of the National Disaster Management (DM) Manager.

The IFRC will make a Regional Disaster Management Team (RDRT) member available to provide local support to the National Society in planning and implementation of activities.. The RDRT member has a DM background and emergency watsan experience.

Assessment	
<b>Outcome:</b> Emergency needs of flood-affected families are identified and gaps documented, leading to revision of the operation's plan of action if required	
Expected Results	Planned Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed assessment is carried out across all sectors and the plan of action is revised appropriately to address outstanding needs if required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support National Society in planning and managing detailed assessments including household visits and key informant interviews</li> <li>Identify outstanding needs and gaps in consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders</li> <li>Maintain monitoring of the prevalent rains and evolving situation with regular reports</li> <li>Revise plan of action and budget as needed</li> </ul>

Emergency shelter and non-food items (NFI)	
<b>Outcome:</b> Contribute to improving the living conditions of 500 most vulnerable families (2,500 people) through provision of emergency shelter and non-food items.	
Expected Results	Planned Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>500 families receive basic household items (kitchen set, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, buckets).</li> <li>500 families receive shelter construction materials (tarpaulins, tools, support structure materials and fitting materials) and the necessary support in erecting emergency shelter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobilize / Train 30 volunteers in construction of emergency shelters to ensure the transfer of knowledge to the beneficiaries.</li> <li>Mobilize/ refresh 30 volunteers in emergency distribution and rapid assessment.</li> <li>Release and transport 1,000 tarpaulins, 100 shelter tool kits, 1,000 blankets, 1,000 sleeping mats, 500 kitchen sets, 1,000 mosquito nets, 500 buckets, 1,000 10l. jerry cans and 3,000 pieces of soap from IFRC Yaounde warehouse.</li> <li>Procure and transport 500 family hygiene kits, 130 female hygiene kits and shelter construction materials for 500 emergency shelters.</li> <li>Prepare beneficiary lists and distribution tools.</li> <li>Distribute emergency shelter and non food items to 500 most vulnerable families in the two resettlement areas.</li> <li>Support and supervise the construction of emergency shelters and ensure that families are protected from heavy rains.</li> <li>Replenish the items released from IFRC warehouse through</li> </ul>

	<p>standard IFRC logistics procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the impact of activities and report according to IFRC standards.</li> </ul>
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**Communication**

**Outcome: Contribute to the prevention and reduction of flood risks through a media campaign to raise public awareness of the affected areas and risks.**

<b>Expected Results:</b>	<b>Planned activities:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The entire population of the affected areas and surrounding is sensitized through emissions, radios, spotlights and previously designed with key prevention messages and actions taken by the SN in the operation.</li> <li>• The activities of the IFRC and the CRC are promoted through the IFRC website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a two-minute radio spot in local languages (Mousgoum, massa, foulfouldé).</li> <li>• Dissemination of radio spot twice a week alternating on community radio stations and regional stations of CRTV in Maroua.</li> <li>• Broadcast a weekly news on CRTV Maroua (on the planning and development of project activities).</li> <li>• A weekly 15 minute live broadcast on CRTV Maroua is performed.</li> <li>• Insertion of a quarter-page monthly in local written press (<i>Eye of the Sahel</i> and <i>Northward</i>).</li> <li>• Production of leaflets and posters for awareness raising of flood-risks.</li> <li>• Mission to monitor the progress of activities for the purposes of communication</li> <li>• Identify a focal point and brief communication within the county committee of the CRC Mayo-Danay</li> <li>• Support the CRC with production of stories for the IFRC website.</li> </ul>

**Security:**

The security situation in the Far North should be followed carefully. In preparing this, regular contact should be made with the CRC Departmental Committee of Mayo Danay and food security project team in Maroua.

**Logistics:**

The material available in the regional warehouse will be sent in the far north by truck and distributed by volunteers Cameroon Red Cross. The rest of the equipment will be purchased in Yaounde or directly Yagoua. The equipment available in the warehouse is: buckets, jerry cans, soap, blankets, mats, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and tool kits for building shelters for emergency. Missing items in the warehouse to be procured are hygiene and construction equipment for emergency shelter kits.

Due to flooding, traffic in the area is very difficult and is a challenge every day as part of the implementation of this operation.

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## Contact information

### For further information related to this operation please contact:

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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 Humanitarian 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.



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.
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**DREF OPERATION**

01.10.2013

DREF - Broken Dam in Cameroon Far North Region - 500 Families (2500 beneficiaries)

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	33,981
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	10,000
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,010
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	17,885
Other Supplies & Services	4,260
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>67,135</b>
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	1,308
Distribution & Monitoring	16,549
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,050
Logistics Services	2,400
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>21,307</b>
International and Regional Staff	0
National Staff	4,000
National Society Staff	2,400
Volunteers	10,312
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>16,712</b>
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	0
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	500
Office Costs	2,385
Communications	0
Financial Charges	500
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,385</b>
<b>Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery</b>	<b>7,055</b>
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>7,055</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>115,592</b>