

DREF operation update Cameroon: Flash floods

DREF operation n° MDRCM016 Operation Update n° 1 22 November, 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.

Period covered by this update: 1 October to 11 November, 2013.

Summary: CHF 115,592 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 1 October, 2013 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries.

Following the rupture of the dam along the Logone River at Dougi in late September 2013, DREF funds were allocated to support Cameroon Red Cross (CRC) in delivering assistance to affected populations. So far, the National Society (NS) has used the funds to purchase the planned non-food items (NFIs) and distribute them to 240 families (1440 beneficiaries). Furthermore, Red Cross volunteers have assisted the beneficiaries build 197 shelters to date. In addition, the National Society conducted a thorough assessment of the flood situation resulting in the need for a timeframe extension to clearly identify remaining gaps that could lead to implementation of additional activities.



Cameroon Red Cross staff and volunteers out on a field assessment mission. Photo/Cameroon RC

This operation was expected to be implemented in two months, and completed by 30 November, 2013. However, considering the additional gaps identified recently in the field and the need to clarify which ones remain uncovered, as well as to allow for the necessary replenishment of items deployed to be completed, this DREF operation update extends the implementation timeframe for an additional two months. Consequently, the operation is now expected to be completed by 31 January 2014. The Final Report will therefore be made available by 30 April, 2014.

The Netherlands Red Cross/ Netherlands government contributed to the partial replenishment of the DREF allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. Details of DREF contributions are found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

IFRC, on behalf of Cameroon Red Cross, would like to extend its thanks to all for their generous contributions.

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Following field visits, discussions with partners and exchange of beneficiary lists, it appears that the number of beneficiaries is smaller than initially expected. The actual number is 395 families (2344 beneficiaries). Therefore, the emergency shelters kits and NFI initially planned for 500 were sufficient. Also, the unfortunate burning of the warehouse where remaining wood aimed at emergency shelter construction was stored didn't have an impact on the operation. Nevertheless, the CRC/IFRC assessment done in the field and discussions with partners revealed a few gaps that could have an impact on beneficiaries' security and quality of life. Therefore, it is important to clarify these gaps and to identify potential activities to be added to this DREF.

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 on 20 and 28 September 2013 to mobilize resources. Since then, coordination meetings are happening on a weekly basis with all partners in the field; WFP, UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, IMC, UNFPA, Public Concern and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (CRC, FRC and IFRC).

A number of partners have provided Nonfood items to date and include; 200 tents from UNHCR , 176 wash kits, 176 hygiene kits by WHO and hygiene kits by UNFPA. The regional health authorities provided 25 mats, 10 boxes of rehydration solution, 150 mosquito nets and a carton of T-shirts, IV Solution, 150 mosquito nets and a box of tee-shirts.

In the field, CRC, local authorities and community leaders maintain regular communications ensuring that information sharing is regular out between IFRC and ICRC on a regional level to share information on activities conducted in the field.

UNICEF signed an agreement with Cameroon RC in order to build and provide beneficiaries with following: 80 latrines, 40 showers, 50 garbage cans, 2 water bladders and 1 water pit to access safe water.

WFP is distributing food for all beneficiaries for at least 3 months. Based on the evolution of the situation, they may continue this distribution longer if needed.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In this reporting timeframe, Cameroon RC signed an agreement with UNICEF in order to build latrines and to increase access to safe water. French Red Cross (FRC) distributed NFI to 100 families. Field visits have taken place: FRC team on 19 September, CRC/FRC/UNICEF/WHO on 25 September, FRC/UNICEF/WHO/WFP on 02 October and FRC/ECHO on 24 October.

IFRC Regional Operation Coordinator visited together with CRC DM and IFRC Program Manager Relocation sites on 17-19 October. Meeting took place with local authorities and discussions happened with WHO, UNICEF and WFP.

Progress towards outcomes

Assessment	
Outcome: 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"> Detailed assessment is carried out across all sectors and the plan of action is revised appropriately to address outstanding needs if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support National Society in planning and managing detailed assessments including household visits and key informant interviews Identify outstanding needs and gaps in consultation with

	local authorities and other stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain monitoring of the prevalent rains and evolving situation with regular reports • Revise plan of action and budget as needed
--	---

Progress: The IFRC Regional Operation Coordinator conducted a field visit to the relocation sites together with CRC DM and IFRC Program Manager between 17 and 19 October. A meeting was held with local authorities and discussions held with WHO, UNICEF and WFP regarding the progress of the response operation. With the distributions already carried out, not all beneficiaries received NFIs because NFI quantities were not properly indicated in the distribution list and as a result CRC will be sure to be more vigilant for upcoming distributions. All the NFI is stored in Yagoua warehouse (Far North Region of Cameroon) and the CRC team will identify uncovered needs and distribute the additional NFIs. Even if a small quantity remains at the end of the DREF, it will be too expensive to ship it back to Yaoundé, so it will remain repositioned in Yagoua warehouse.

On-going discussions with partners in the field will lead us to identify remaining gaps to be covered by this operation.

Emergency shelter and non-food items (NFI)

Outcome: 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"> • 500 families receive basic household items (kitchen sets, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, buckets). • 500 families receive shelter construction materials (tarpaulins, tools, support structure materials and fitting materials) and the necessary support in erecting emergency shelter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize / Train 30 volunteers in construction of emergency shelters to ensure the transfer of knowledge to the beneficiaries. • Mobilize/ refresh 30 volunteers in emergency distribution and rapid assessment. • 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 Yaoundé warehouse. • Procure and transport 500 family hygiene kits, 130 female hygiene kits and shelter construction materials for 500 emergency shelters. • Prepare beneficiary lists and distribution tools. • Distribute emergency shelter and non-food items to 500 most vulnerable families in the two resettlement areas. • Support and supervise the construction of emergency shelters and ensure that families are protected from heavy rains. • Replenish the items released from IFRC warehouse through standard IFRC logistics procedures. • Monitor and evaluate the impact of activities and report according to IFRC standards.

Progress: All the planned items for shelter construction, as well as other NFIs, were purchased and transported to the affected localities. These items included 1,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 blankets, 1,000 sleeping mats, 500 kitchen sets, 3,000 pieces of soap, 1,000 mosquito nets, 500 buckets of 16 litres each, 100 shelter tool kits, and 1,000 jerry cans of 10 litres each, as well as 500 family hygiene kits, 130 hygiene kits for women and shelter construction materials for 500 emergency shelters. All of these items were then repositioned in a warehouse rented to that effect in Yagoua. From there, the items were transported to the two distribution sites by River (River Bénoué) in Begue-Palam.

A total of 30 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized and trained on distribution techniques and shelter construction. These volunteers then prepared distribution tools, including robs, sheets, lists of beneficiaries, and tokens. They also paved identified distribution sites to facilitate the displacement of beneficiaries. Trained volunteers assisted the beneficiaries with the construction of 197 emergency shelters while another 198 shelters were built by UNICEF and local authorities.

Overall, 240 families were assisted in terms of NFI distribution. Volunteers distributed 340 tarpaulins, 561 blankets, 561 sleeping mats, 240 kitchen sets, 2,000 pieces of soap, 486 mosquito nets, 429 buckets of 16 litres each, 408 jerry cans of 10 litres each, as well as 219 family hygiene kits, 30 female hygiene kits for women and shelter construction materials for 197 emergency shelters.

The NFI remaining in Yagoua warehouse will be distributed once the on-going assessment on uncovered gaps is done for all 395 families. Any NFIs remaining after all distributions have been carried out will be repositioned as it would be very expensive to ship it back to our main warehouse.

Regular contact was maintained with local authorities in view of agreeing on a common strategy to assist affected people.

Challenges:

- Each actor in the field had their own distribution list and as such hampered coordination efforts and this led to some beneficiaries being left with no assistance in the first stage of the operation. It was quickly noted by CRC volunteers and these beneficiaries have been immediately added to CRC distribution list. Then, through discussion with partners, a single list regrouping all 395 families was produced.
- As stated earlier, the assessment conducted in the field showed that NFI distribution did not happen as expected because errors were made in the distribution list, more specifically regarding the quantity of NFI to be distributed to each family.
- Bad roads made it extremely difficult to access affected localities. Therefore, the use of boats was indispensable for NFI to reach beneficiaries.
- One of the two warehouses rented by the NS in Yagoua burnt during the night of 3-4 November 2013. The fire destroyed 1300 laths, 39 chevrons and 3 boxes of nails for approximately 5,000 CHF. Insurance claims have been made.

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

Progress: An article was prepared by the Communication Department in Yaoundé in partnership with the teams in the field. This article was published on IFRC website on 3 October 2013. This article can be seen here : <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/africa/cameroon/heavy-rains-force-thousands-to-run-for-higher-ground-in-cameroon-63471/>

Currently the National Society communication department is working with the team in the field to publish on CRTV regional radio some information about the RC work for beneficiaries. This will start by the end of November and continue in December.

Security: The security situation is closely monitored and regular contacts are maintained with Mayo Danay Departmental Comity and with IFRC team working on Food Security Program in Maroua.

Logistics: The NFI material available in the regional warehouse was sent in the far north Region by truck. The rest of the equipment was purchased in Yaoundé or directly in Yagoua to save on transport costs. The materials available in the warehouse included buckets, jerry cans, soap, blankets, mats, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and tool kits for building shelters for emergency. The items not found in the warehouse included hygiene and construction equipment for emergency shelter kits. Hygiene kits were purchased in Yaoundé and construction equipment for emergency shelter kits was purchased in Maroua (4 hours by road from Yagoua).

Due to flooding, traffic in the area was very difficult and was a challenge every day as part of the implementation of this operation. Boats have been rented to ship NFI to beneficiaries' relocation sites.

Solar lamps will be bought in Maroua City in order to cover an urgent need for beneficiaries affected by floods. IFRC Logistics Department in Yaoundé will lead the purchase and shipping process.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Denis Duffaut, Regional Representative for Central Africa, Yaoundé Phone: (office) +237 22 21 74 37, (mobile) +237 77 11 77 97, fax: +237 22 21 74 39, email: denis.duffaut@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolanos, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa, Nairobi, phone: +254 (0) 731 067 489, email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zonal Logistics Unit (ZLU): Rishi RAMRAKHA**, Nairobi; phone +254 20 283 5142, Fax +254 20 271 2777, email: rishi.ramrakkha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **West and Central Africa:** Elisabeth Seck, Resource Mobilization Officer, Dakar; phone: +221 33 869 36 60; mobile: +221 77 450 59 49; email: elisabeth.seck@ifrc.org

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

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator, Nairobi, phone: +254 731 067277, email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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.
-