

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central African Republic: Yellow Fever

DREF operation n° MDRCF003
GLIDE n° EP-2009-00014-CAF
18 May, 2009

The International Federation's 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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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.

Summary: CHF 30,100 (USD 27,190 or EUR 19,972) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 15 January, 2009 to support the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 300,000 beneficiaries.

Recurrent yellow fever outbreaks were registered in Central African Republic (CAR). The outbreaks requested a response in two separate geographic areas of the country, with one of them being close to the capital Bangui. The National Society was part of the crisis team and was approached by the government to take part in the vaccination campaign. The immunization campaign officially targeted 297,127 people aged from nine months to 60 years.



CAR Red Cross volunteers sensitized the populations to the need of getting their children vaccinated.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Five yellow fever outbreaks were recorded in the Central African Republic (CAR) within 24 months (September 2006 to October 2008): Boali (September 2006), Bozoum (April 2008), Boda (August 2008), Liton Village (October 2008), and Bria (Kalaga village in October 2008). So far, the Central African Republic Government has already organized five yellow fever response operations in Boali, Bozoum and Boda, and in the health zones of Ombella Mpoko (suburbs of Bangui) and Haute Kotto (600km North-East of Bangui).

The Ministry of Public Health and Populations (MoPH & P), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that supported the previous three response operations declared

that there was an urgent need to launch two new operations to help prevent a generalized outbreak of a yellow fever epidemic in Bangui. The other most important reason why this intervention was urgent was that CAR was just waking up from a conflict, with fragile economic and financial situations that were far from being able to stand the consequences of a wide-spread epidemic, the control of which was somehow the responsibility of the international community in accordance with the 2005 International Health Regulations. The two health zones are Ombella Mpoko, the suburbs of Bangui, composed of six surrounding towns, namely Bimbo, Boali, Damara, Bogangolo, Bossembélé and Yaloké, with a total population of 220,000 inhabitants; and Haute Kotto located 600km North-East of the country is part of the meningitis belt of the Central African Republic. It is composed of three towns, Bria, Yalinga and Ouadda, with a total population of 102,296 inhabitants.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Emergency Health

Objective: To contribute to the success of the campaign against the yellow fever epidemic by sensitizing the maximum number of people.

Activities planned:

- Training of 200 volunteers on yellow fever management and social mobilization techniques for immunization campaign;
- Door-to-door and public awareness sessions;
- Participating in the organization of the yellow fever immunization campaign;
- Purchasing first-aid materials.

Impact:

Some 200 volunteers were recruited, 110 in Ombella M'Poko and 90 in Haute Kotto. Nine local supervisors were also recruited, six in Ombella M'Poko and three in Haute Kotto to coach the volunteers. These volunteers and supervisors were then trained by local health authorities (physician-in-chief) on how to manage the immunization campaign which took place from 18 to 27 February, 2009. On that occasion, the trained volunteers conducted a door-to-door sensitization, with special focus on churches, mosques, market places and schools. Two central supervisors were deployed in each prefecture where they collected data to be shared during daily meetings. All these efforts contributed to the achievement of the results summarized in the following table:

Locality	Number of households visited	Total population	Total population targeted	Targeted population vaccinated	%
Ombella Mpoko	2,315	215,912	201,608	190,919	94, 69%
Haute Kotto	1,813	85,423	79,764	67,573	84,71%
TOTAL	4,128	303,335	278,372	258,492	92,85%

The insecurity prevailing in Sam-Ouandja made it extremely difficult to assess the results achieved in that locality. It is a locality where Sudanese refugees are hosted, and which is occupied by rebel groups.

Challenges:

The main challenges encountered during this operation included the weakness of some local committees of the Central African Red Cross Society in the area of disaster and epidemics management, the lack of qualified volunteers, the massive recruitment of Red Cross volunteers by other non-governmental organizations, poor logistics means and/or lack of vehicles, insecurity due to highway robbers, and the enclosed nature of some affected localities due to impassable roads.

Conclusion

Lessons learned

In late 2007, CAR Red Cross officers attended an epidemic and disaster preparedness workshop. They practised what they had learned in that workshop during this operation. This means that preparedness is crucial for an effective response. The success of the operation has moreover reinforced the partnership between the Government and the National Society. Red Cross distinguished itself as a partner to be reckoned with as far as epidemics management is concerned.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCF003 - Central Africa Republic - Yellow Fever

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/4
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/2
Appeal	MDRCF003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	30,100					30,100
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
Voluntary Income	28,462					28,462
C5. Other Income	28,462					28,462
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	28,462					28,462
D. Total Funding = B + C	28,462					28,462
Appeal Coverage	95%					95%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	28,462					28,462
E. Expenditure	-28,462					-28,462
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)	30,100					30,100		
Supplies								
Water & Sanitation		5,384				5,384		-5,384
Total Supplies		5,384				5,384		-5,384
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,358	2,741				2,741		-383
Total Transport & Storage	2,358	2,741				2,741		-383
Personnel								
National Staff	2,880							2,880
National Society Staff	6,000	15,109				15,109		-9,109
Consultants	6,814							6,814
Total Personnel	15,694	15,109				15,109		585
General Expenditure								
Travel	6,312							6,312
Information & Public Relation	1,080	2,307				2,307		-1,227
Office Costs	2,700	929				929		1,771
Communications		142				142		-142
Total General Expenditure	10,092	3,378				3,378		6,714
Programme Support								
Program Support	1,957	1,850				1,850		106
Total Programme Support	1,957	1,850				1,850		106
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	30,100	28,462				28,462		1,638
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,638				1,638		