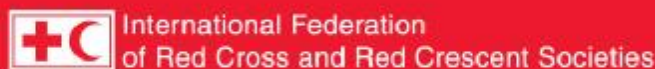


DREF operation



Central African Republic: Violent winds in Kembe, Grimari, Zangba, Mboki, Olo and Mbaïki

DREF operation n° MDRCF005
GLIDE n° VW-2009-000082-
CAF
4 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 and 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.

CHF 81,924 (USD 72,125 or EUR 54,340) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,230 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since February 2009, heavy rains accompanied by violent winds and tornados have been hitting the Central African Republic (CAR) causing important damages. The disaster started in Bangui, the capital city, and extended to Berberati, Eastern CAR. Funds were allocated in February 2009 from the International Federation's DREF to assist 278 vulnerable families identified in the affected localities. On April 2009 new localities including Kembe, Grimari, Zangba, Mboki and Obo in Southern CAR, and Mbaïki located 110 km from Bangui, have also been hit by violent winds. Field assessments conducted by the respective CARCS local committees revealed that over 10,500 people have been affected. Several houses have been partially or completely destroyed; cooking utensils and other household property have been damaged. Some of the people affected have found refuge in relatives and well-wishers places. The most recent evaluation of the situation still show about 246 households that have been made homeless and currently looking for a place to stay, especially in the forest and in cracked and abandoned houses. These families therefore live under precarious conditions as they are exposed to respiratory diseases. The situation is likely to get worse if they are not urgently given non food items to enable them to regain their human dignity while waiting for substantial support for recovery.



Houses destroyed by violent winds in
Mbaïki Judith Guenefef/CAR DM
Assistant

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by July, 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by October, 2009).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

While CARCS volunteers are still busy assisting the most vulnerable people affected by violent winds in Berberati and Bangui in February 2009, the situation has deteriorated in new localities within the country. Violent winds were reported to have extended to new localities of the country since 23 March 2009, with limited damages. On April, heavy rains accompanied by violent winds occurred, causing countless material damages in the Kembe, Grimari, Zangba, Mboki and Obo localities in Southern CAR, and Mbaïki located 110 km from Bangui, the capital city. The damages registered include the destruction of school buildings, and the partial or complete destruction of houses.

A new evaluation of the situation was conducted on 18-19 April 2009, and revealed that some of the affected people have found refuge in relatives and well-wishers places. About 246 families are still left with no assistance yet the weather conditions remain a concern in those localities. These people are extremely vulnerable as they are exposed to bad weather and the risk of having respiratory diseases if nothing is done urgently. The following table summarizes the current findings in the field:

localities	men > 14 years	women > 14 years	Children from 0 à 14 years	Houses completely destroyed	Total number of people who have completely lost their houses	Total of people left homeless
Kembe	209	408	509	187	1120	202
Zangba	157	358	557	164	1072	273
Grimari	105	460	800	109	1365	270
Mboki	145	150	305	100	600	180
Obo	151	132	169	151	452	150
Mbaïki	225	241	299	156	765	155
Total	992	1,749	2,639	867	5,374	1,230 (246 families)

Heavy rains accompanied by violent winds have become a recurrent phenomenon in CAR as the winds have been continuously blowing in southern (Bangui) and in eastern parts of the country. Deforestation, bush fire, lack of reforestation policy (firewood is harvested 40 to 620 km from big cities) have been identified as factors stimulating the occurrence of violent winds. Mindful of the fact that the rainy season is only starting, there is the fear that the situation might worsen if appropriate measures are not urgently taken.

Coordination and partnerships

When the disaster occurred, the Mbaïki Member of Parliament went to the field to encourage the local committee's Red Cross volunteers who had already started removing the trees that had fallen on houses. Still in Mbaïki, Government provided temporary food assistance for the most affected people, including 10 bags of rice, two bags of sugar of 25 kg each, and 20 bags of salt of 18 kg each, to some of the affected people who are still looking for a refuge, and called on humanitarian organizations and other groups of well-wishers to assist these vulnerable people and those found in other affected localities where the first assistance is yet to be provided.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Central African Red Cross Society local committees in the affected localities conducted field evaluations and submitted their findings to their national headquarters for action. A team of volunteers from the national headquarters led by the assistant to the national disaster management officer travelled to Mbaïki to assist the local committee in evaluating the situation and providing first aid. Red Cross volunteers are still busy providing psychological support to affected people while hoping that they will receive assistance in the days ahead.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: The beneficiaries targeted by this DREF operation are the most vulnerable people (homeless people) described above. Mindful of the fact that these people (1,230 people, i.e. 246 most vulnerable families identified by Red Cross volunteers and heads of neighborhoods) have been living under precarious conditions and are exposed to bad weather, they urgently need non-food items like blankets, mats, impregnated mosquito nets, tarpaulins, cooking kits, toilet kits, and laundry soap. Taking into

consideration the fact that all water points have been contaminated, there is an urgent need to facilitate the access of beneficiaries to potable water. Sanitation kit is also needed to enable Red Cross volunteers to assist the community in removing tree-trunks from their houses and carry out environmental hygiene.

The proposed operation

Implementation strategy

Taking into consideration the scope of the disaster that has become recurrent in the country, a member of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) will be deployed in CAR to provide temporary support to the national society's disaster management team for three weeks. Mindful of the fact that the new violent winds did not hit the same localities as the previous one, there will also be the need to brief volunteers of the newly affected localities on prevention measures. They will be able to sensitize their communities to the behavior to adopt to reduce disaster risks with focus on violent winds and floods which have become recurrent.

Trained volunteers will treat water points and carry out environmental sanitation, with the participation of the respective communities. These activities will be carried out under the supervision of a DM officer from the national headquarters and from the field who will be accompanied in each of the six localities by a team leader.

The non-food items required will be collected from the pre positioned regional stock in Yaoundé, and transported to Bangui by road. The regional stock will be replenished by this DREF.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Objective: To contribute to improving the living conditions of at least 246 most vulnerable families affected by violent winds in Kembe, Zangba, Grimari, Mboki, Obo and Mbaïki.

Activities planned:

- Purchasing items to be distributed: 492 blankets, 492 impregnated mosquito nets, 492 mats, 246 tarpaulins, 246 cooking kits and transporting them to the affected localities;
- Distributing these items to the 246 vulnerable families identified;
- Producing a report of distribution activities.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To facilitate the access of the affected populations to potable water, and promote hygiene and sanitation rules in Kembe, Zangba, Grimari, Mboki, Obo and Mbaïki localities.

Activities planned:

- Purchasing and transporting sanitation and female hygiene kits to the six affected localities: 120 hygienic kits; 2,460 pieces of soap of 200g each; and six water point treatment kits);
- Retraining Red Cross volunteers on water point treatment and on disaster prevention (risk reduction) measures;
- Treating 360 water points in the various affected localities; ,
- Sensitizing populations to hygiene and sanitation rules;
- Advocating before other actors on behalf of the affected populations;
- Producing report on activities carried out.

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:

- In **Central African Republic**: Albert Yomba Eyamo, Secretary General, Central African Republic Red Cross Society, Bangui ; email : sn_crca@yahoo.fr; phone : +236 75 50 27 54/+236 21 61 26 09
- In the **Central Africa Regional Representation**: Javier Medrano, Federation Central Africa Regional Representative, Yaoundé, email: javier.medrano@ifrc.org; phone: (237) 22 21 74 37 or (237) 77 09 87 89, Fax: (237) 22 21 74 39
- In **West and Central Africa Zone**: Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Zone Office, Dakar, Senegal, email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org , Phone: (221) 33 869 3641, Fax: (221) 33 820 25 34; Youcef Ait-Chellouche, DMC, Phone: (221) 77 638 98 61, email: youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org

[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

DREF BUDGET SUMMARY

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	32,595
Construction Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water & Sanitation	1,939
Medical & First Aid	900
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	18,683
Total Relief Needs	54,116

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computers & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	0
Distribution & Monitoring	750
Transport & Vehicles Costs	5,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	0
National Staff	1,575
National Society Staff	8,138
Consultants	0

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	1,350
<i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>	0

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	4,795
Information & Public Relations	0
Office running costs	250
Communication Costs	625
Professional Fees	0
Financial Charges	0

Other General Expenses 0

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR 5,325

Total Operational Needs 27,808

Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) 81,924

Available Ressources

Net Request 81,924



Central Africa Republic: Violent winds

