

# Emergency appeal



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Central African Republic: Floods

Emergency appeal n°

MDRCF006

GLIDE n° FL-2009-000129-CAF

6 August, 2009

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 805,260 (USD 708,993 or EUR 534,133) in cash, kind, or services to support the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) to assist over 6,000 beneficiaries, identified as the most vulnerable out of the nearly 11,000 people affected by the floods. The operation will be implemented for six months, and will be completed by the end of January, 2010. A Final Report will be made available by April 2010 (three months after the end of the operation).

CHF 35,302 (USD 32,500 OR EUR 23,270) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this

operation. Un-earmarked funds to replenish the DREF are encouraged.



Many houses like this one have been destroyed by the floods. Belly Diallo/International Federation

From 16 June to 17 July 2009, heavy rains poured on Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR), causing serious flooding which led to the destruction or damage of over 2,500 houses. As a result of this disaster, two children have died, and close to 11,000 people have been made homeless and have lost their basic property, including household items, clothes, books for school children, and other essential belongings. The majority of these vulnerable people, mostly children, pregnant women and the elderly, have been left with no means of subsistence. Latrines and water wells have been blocked.

Based on the current situation, this Preliminary Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the CARRCS, and supports an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief in the following sectors: relief distribution, emergency shelter, emergency health and care, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, and logistics. This assistance will include the two internal displaced persons (IDP) camp sites management, distribution of relief items, potable water supply, construction of latrines, self-assistance activities related to hygiene, water treatment and management, and the management of a relief post. All these activities will be carried out in close collaboration with UNFPA, WHO, WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR. Technical support to the Central African Republic Red Cross National Society will be provided through Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members and delegate deployment.

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget;](#)  
[here to link to a map of the affected area;](#) or  
[here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

The Central African Republic (CAR) is one of the poorest countries in the world, and in the Central Africa region. This country has been ranked 171<sup>st</sup> out of 177 countries in human development index data (see 2007-2008 *Human Development Index* Report by UNDP). The CAR population is facing several situations that are jeopardizing social stability and that constitute a serious threat to cause a more severe humanitarian crisis. For over four years now, internal conflicts, incursions of rebels, highway banditry, etc. have pushed tens of thousands of people to flee from their usual regions of residence, an important number of whom have found refuge in neighbouring countries like Cameroon and Chad.

Recurrent serious natural disasters have been hitting the country since 2005, among them floods and violent winds, with the last cases occurring in June and July 2009. From 16 June to 17 July, 2009, heavy rains poured on Bangui, the capital city, causing serious flooding which led to the destruction or damage of over 2,500 houses. As a result of this disaster, two children have died, and close to 11,000 people have been made homeless and have lost their basic belongings, including household items, clothes, school books for school children, and other essential properties. The majority of these vulnerable people, mostly children (representing 60% of the total number of affected people), pregnant women and the elderly, have been left with no support. Water supplies and sanitation have also been badly affected. Latrines and water wells have been blocked. Thus, affected people have adopted rather dangerous and life-threatening coping mechanisms like using the flood-polluted water from the wells for household consumption, living in very bad conditions in an unhealthy and wet environment, with the related range of health risks. All these conditions have contributed to further worsening the vulnerability of the populations in Bangui, especially in the subdivisions that have been affected by the flooding, namely the 4th, 5th and 6th subdivisions of Bangui.

The situation in the field is likely to worsen because, according to weather forecast, the rainy season is just at the beginning, and the worse is yet to come in August when the rains reach their peak in Bangui. It is estimated that the places that have been flooded will only be accessible from the second half of October, and it is hoped that the effects of the ongoing climate change will not seriously aggravate the usual seasonal rains in CAR.

Government has called for emergency food, non-food and sanitation assistance for the affected populations who are temporarily sheltered in schools, churches and other public areas. Some of these are also being flooded now. The population has received support from partners like embassies and humanitarian organizations, including the Red Cross. This preliminary emergency appeal comes as an answer from the CARRCS, supported by the International Federation, to the Government call for assistance. The needs highlighted in this emergency appeal have been jointly assessed and agreed upon by the CARCS, the International Federation, the CAR Government and other stakeholders.

Since 2007, the CARRCS has benefited from the support of the International Federation within the framework of floods preparedness in the form of training, visibility reinforcement, and provision of security materials. Emergency stocks were also prepositioned in Bangui in 2007, but this stock has been exhausted during the 2007 and 2008 flood operations, because disasters have become recurrent in the country. Throughout these previous operations, the operational capacities of the National Society have been enhanced following the "learning by doing" approach. The local committees that have already been affected in the past have now developed a deployment plan which includes the use of phone calls and the identification of a meeting point in case of emergency.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Government appealed to humanitarian and diplomatic partners to assist the affected populations that have been made extremely vulnerable by the floods. They set up a crisis committee which is currently chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs. Moreover, Government has identified a site located some 15 km from the affected areas as a place where the vulnerable people made homeless by the floods can be properly assisted. The Government through the Minister of Security will take care of the security in the camp. On 15 July, 2009, the Head of State made a call to the CARRCS headquarters (considered by Government as a key partner in responding to floods within the country and thus the lead agency for this operation) to coordinate the distribution of the items to vulnerable people. The items included 1,500 tarpaulins provided by the UNHCR and 600 sheets of corrugated iron made available by Government. The Head of State seized that opportunity to commend the efforts made so far by the Red Cross, and especially the International Federation through the local National Society.

Other efforts are being made in collaboration with the French Embassy in Bangui which has pledged to make a contribution of about Euro 25,000 to this appeal. In-country collaboration is ongoing among partners: the European Union in Bangui (ECHO) for possible financial support; Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) who are deploying their mobile medical vans to assist vulnerable people; the World Food Programme (WFP) that provides food to the flood victims sheltered in camp sites and food for work for the affected people who will be involved in the sanitation programme (cleaning of gutters); UNHCR, and UNFPA that provide basic non-food items including female hygiene kits and UNICEF to support water supply in the camp sites.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Immediately after the disaster occurred, CARCS authorities mobilized and deployed 88 Red Cross volunteers to provide psychological support to the affected people, and evaluate the situation in the field to inform the actions to be taken. New rains occurred on 16 July, and the authorities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> subdivision of Bangui local committee of the Red Cross deployed 12 volunteers who worked overnight to evacuate four wounded persons, helped rescue vulnerable people from the flood waters and to be housed in temporary shelters, identified newly destroyed or damaged houses, and sensitized the population living in high risk houses in that locality. CHF 35,302 was allocated from the International Federation's DREF to provide first aid assistance to vulnerable people and further assess the situation to better understand what needed to be done. To that effect, the Central Africa Regional Representation deployed its regional disaster management delegate to Bangui to coordinate the operation and support the National Society in the in-depth assessment and development of the action plan outlined in this appeal.

The French Red Cross that is present in the country has also pledged to support the operation in making available part of the water and sanitation materials needed for this operation, and to deploy three rotations of four technical staffs for two months each. The French Red Cross is also planning to ensure connections to the water board network and distribution of bladders and water-taps for the two camp sites. Plans are underway to support the CARRCS in the construction of 300 latrines within the sites. Thus, French Red Cross will rehabilitate and disinfect water wells that have been destroyed, and treat water for the rest of the population affected by the floods beyond the population targeted by this operation. The French Red Cross will also contribute to the cleaning of gutters and will support the members of the National Society who have been trained on water and sanitation by the International Federation as part of its capacity building programme for the CARRCS. Emphasis will be on sensitization activities through CARRCS volunteers on hygiene promotion, waste and drainage management.

## The needs

**Beneficiary selection:** Out of the 11,000 people affected by the floods, over 6,000 have been identified as the most vulnerable, mostly children, women and the elderly. These people have been selected because their subdivisions of origin (4th, 5th and 6th subdivisions of Bangui) are the most affected localities, and are likely to be flooded until at least the second half of October 2009. Moreover, these populations have been made homeless, deprived of everything that they had and without access to clean water or sanitation.

**Immediate needs:** These most vulnerable people urgently need non-food items like soap, buckets, cans, bowls, blankets, mats and hygiene kits, and second-hand clothes, especially for children. The beneficiaries also need tarpaulins, water and sanitation facilities, and first-aid kits.

Red Cross volunteers need some materials to support their interventions. These materials include sanitation kits, boots, dustbins, PHAST picture boxes and megaphones for sensitization, banners and patches. Other materials will be needed to set up the relief post.

## The proposed operation

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

<b>Objective: To distribute non-food items to over 6,000 most vulnerable people in the identified temporary camp sites to cover their initial basic needs.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The targeted 6,000 flood affected have received basic household items that are essential for allowing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> </ul>

them to re-establish family life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure and distribute non-food items, including mosquito nets, blankets, mats, kitchen sets, and clothes to 1,200 targeted families.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>
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### Emergency shelter

<b>Objective: To provide temporary shelter to 6,000 of the affected people in a site (comprising two camps) made available by CAR Government for six months.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Appropriate site is identified and developed with temporary shelters built to accommodate the 6,000 affected people (1,200 families) with dignity in collaboration with Government, local authorities and the beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the extent of the shelter needs and ideal shelter solutions.</li> <li>• The site identified is protected from the risks of flooding through embankment work and appropriate canalization to ensure automatic evacuation of rain and used waters.</li> <li>• Ensure shelter and settlement programming i.e. access to required water and sanitation services and communal facilities, including health services.</li> <li>• Construction of 1,200 appropriate temporary shelters with local materials.</li> <li>• Promote increased awareness and understanding of safe and adequate shelter response with the National Society and affected communities.</li> </ul>

The two camps are located in an old factory site made available by the government and where the displaced are sheltered. There are many buildings; some of them need to be roofed. Therefore, the shelter component of the proposed operation will consist in the roofing where needed, by using local carpentry material and tarpaulins. The site design fits with the Sphere norms and standards.

### Emergency health and care

<b>Objective: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population is reduced through the provision of preventive, community-level and curative services to 1,200 families (6,000 beneficiaries) in the two camps and 4 subdivisions of Bangui, for six months.</b>	
<b>Expected Results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The risks of communicable diseases and epidemics outbreak are reduced within the identified site for the vulnerable populations and in its surrounding localities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the basic mortality and morbidity in the population during emergency.</li> <li>• Assess the health risks of the affected population in terms of health services, prevention, health needs and risk of communicable diseases.</li> <li>• Manage a first-aid post installed at the camp sites by the CARRCS.</li> <li>• Advocate for the supply of essential drugs in two targeted health centres for the treatment of the patients from the site identified for the purpose of the operation.</li> </ul>
Manage itinerant patients and provide referral services to the serious cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitize affected people to the measures to be taken in order to avoid the spread of communicable diseases and epidemics.</li> <li>• Provide first aid and referral services for affected communities through 60 volunteers in the coming three months.</li> <li>• Train 60 volunteers on communicable disease surveillance in coordination with the Ministry of Health and district health offices.</li> </ul>

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<b>Objective: To reduce the risk of waterborne and water-related diseases through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene promotion to 1,200 families at the displaced camps and to the neighbouring populations for six months.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and adequate water supply has been provided to the flood victims.</li> <li>• Reduced risk of further contamination of water and no more clogging of water ways in the affected areas and surroundings; and improved hygiene promotion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to potable water, sanitation and hygiene promotion of water and sanitation related diseases for the affected population.</li> <li>• Disinfect and rehabilitate polluted water wells in the flooded areas.</li> <li>• Train beneficiaries on environmental and personal hygiene and the use of the provided sanitation materials.</li> <li>• Sensitize communities on waste management, drainage management and sanitation.</li> <li>• Conduct mass hygiene and clean-up campaigns to sensitize the populations of affected neighbourhoods on the use of public dustbins and avoid throwing garbage in gutters and streams.</li> <li>• Work in close collaboration with the city council of Bangui, Government authorities and other partners to ensure the disposal of collected garbage in an appropriate rubbish dump on a regular basis.</li> </ul>

### Logistics

<b>Objective: To ensure good logistics coordination to ease the implementation of the operation as described in the above sections.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timely delivery of quality relief goods has been insured at low cost;</li> <li>• The CARRCS logistics capacity has been increased with a functional warehouse.</li> <li>• The coordinated mobilization of relief goods is achieved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logistic capacity building of the CARRCS with management and logistics tools (motorbikes, computers, a printer and accessories).</li> <li>• In-depth training of the logistics and finance officers of the CARCS, especially on the management of the resources made available for the purpose of this operation.</li> <li>• Mobilization of relief items through the RLU and zonal warehouse network.</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of the National Society warehouse</li> <li>• Provision of rental vehicles from regional VRP stocks.</li> </ul>

The logistics objective for the operation is to provide effective and timely logistics support to the relief and programme sectors utilizing the extensive regional logistics network of prepositioned stocks and resources. Mobilization of in kind donations and prepositioned stocks will be coordinated by the Dubai Regional Logistics Unit (RLU), taking into account the availability of prepositioned stocks in the Dubai, Canary Islands and Ghana warehouses. If required by the operation, a mobilization table will be compiled by the Dubai RLU and circulated to partner National Societies for consideration and support. Procurement will be conducted following the standard Federation procedures with support from the Dubai RLU procurement office. There are the International Federation's vehicle rental programme (VRP) vehicles available in the region for immediate deployment along with support staff if necessary. The main logistics activities will be jointly coordinated by the West and Central Africa Zone (WCAZ) Logistics Manager and the Central Africa regional representation in Cameroun with the support of the Dubai RLU. It is envisaged that the main international transport corridor will be through Cameroun via the international sea port in the city of Douala. The main logistics hub in CAR will be in Bangui, where the Federation will support the CARRCS to rehabilitate its warehouse and provide logistics capacity building support. If required additional logistics capacity will be deployed to support the operation.

**Early Recovery Objective:** To assess early recovery needs together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders. Ongoing assessments will be conducted during the response phase in order to identify interventions aimed at restoring or reconnecting affected communities to basic

services and to help the most vulnerable to restart their lives. The CARRCS will coordinate with the beneficiary community, Government authorities and UN agencies to identify early recovery needs and gaps. If it is appropriate for the CARCS and its partners to respond, then early recovery activities will be included in the revised Emergency Appeal. Food security, livelihoods and other gender-based activities will be considered as contributions to an exit strategy. The CARRCS will be supported to strengthen the capacities of communities exposed to risks to enhance community safety and resilience during the response.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. The communications activities outlined in this appeal aim at supporting the National Society to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. This will also enable donors to be informed of the progress and challenges in the implementation of the appeal. These activities are closely coordinated with the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. Here is the detailed communications plan of action for this operation.

- A press conference will be organized in Bangui for the launching of the operation.
- Three briefings will be organized, on the basis of a briefing per month, to inform the media and the public about the progress made in the field.
- Three press releases will be issued and published in the official gazette of the Central African Republic and through other media, including radio and television, especially at news time.
- Adequate media coverage of the operation will be ensured by inviting journalists in the field on a regular basis.
- Two web stories will be issued and published through the International Federation's web site and through other media as the case may be, on the basis of a web story immediately after the launching of the operation, and another towards the middle of the timeframe imparted for the operation.
- A video on the operation will be produced to highlight the efforts made by the Red Cross and its partners to assist vulnerable people within the framework of this operation.
- Development of lessons learned will be documented in multiple forms including case studies, Federation reports and incorporated into future planning processes.

### **Capacity of the National Society**

Since 2007, the CARRCS has benefited from the support of the International Federation within the framework of floods preparedness in the form of training, visibility and provision of security materials. Emergency stocks were also prepositioned in Bangui in 2007, but this stock has been exhausted through the 2007 and 2008 flood operations. Throughout these previous operations, the operational capacities of the CARRCS have been enhanced following the "learning by doing" approach. The local committees that have already been affected in the past have now developed a deployment plan which includes the use of phone calls to alert teams and the identification of a meeting point in case of emergency. This operation will be the first emergency appeal managed by the CARRCS with the support of the International Federation. Thus it will contribute to strengthening the operational capacities of the National Society. This operation follows the Sphere handbook norms and standards of an emergency operation and respect the humanitarian code of conduct.

### **Capacity of the Federation**

The International Federation has a Regional Representation in Yaoundé covering eight countries, including the Central African Republic. This Representation has a regional disaster management delegate and a regional disaster management officer who will both provide support from Yaoundé (Cameroon) for the success of the operation. Moreover, the Federation's Zone Office in Dakar will join efforts with the Yaoundé Representation to deploy field delegates who will facilitate the implementation of the operation. This notwithstanding, the other Federation human resources available in Yaoundé or within the West and Central Africa Zone will likely be deployed in the field as the needs arise. The whole operation will be monitor by the delegate, operation coordinator supported at the first stage of the assistance by one water and sanitation /relief RDRT. This would insure a good implementation and to hand over to the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members to continue the operation. Past similar operations in Cameroon have given the

Yaoundé Representation enough experience to cover the floods operation in CAR. Several trainings have taken place within the region over the past four years in preparation for such an eventuality.

### Monitoring and evaluation

The in-country operational team will be responsible for the detailed monitoring of the operation in close cooperation with the CARRCS which is implementing the activities. The sub-regional office and the zone office will provide support and advice to the National Society throughout the operation to ensure appropriate accountability and capacity building. An evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the operations phase to determine the appropriateness and effectiveness of the floods response undertaken by CARRCS with the support of the Federation. The planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting capacities of the National Society will be improved with training that will be conducted during the operation. Timely and qualitative reporting is a key component in the implementation of this appeal as the zone office has committed itself.

### Budget summary

#### **RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	39,546
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	92,700
Food	29,150
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	231,055
Medical & First Aid	17,690
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	5,781
Other Supplies & Services	
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>415,922</b>

#### **CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

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

#### **TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	77,710

#### **PERSONNEL**

International Staff	96,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	13,200
National Staff	2,124
National Society Staff	51,284
Consultants	

#### **WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

Workshops & Training	11,887
<i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>	

**GENERAL EXPENSES**

Travel	18,230
Information & Public Relations	13,000
Office running costs	41,327
Communication Costs	11,035
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	1,200
Other General Expenses	

**PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR	52,342
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<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>389,339</b>
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<b>Total Appeal Budget (Cash &amp; Kind)</b>	<b>805,260</b>
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**Available Ressources**


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<b>Net Request</b>	<b>805,260</b>
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Yasemin Aysan  
Under Secretary General  
Disaster Response and Early Recovery Division

Bekele Geleta  
Secretary General

**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 CAR: Albert Yomba Eyamo, Secretary General, Central African Republic Red Cross Society, Bangui ; email : [sn\\_crca@yahoo.fr](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:alasan.senghore@ifrc.org) , Phone: (221) 869 3641, Fax: (221) 22 860 2002; Youcef Ait-Chellouche, DMC, Phone: (221) 77 638 98 61, email: [youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org](mailto:youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org)
- For the mobilization of relief items and logistics inquiries: Peter Glenister, Regional Logistics Coordinator, Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) Dubai, phone: +971 50 600 9166; fax +971 4 883 2212; e-mail: [peter.glenister@ifrc.org](mailto:peter.glenister@ifrc.org).
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Coordinator for West Africa, email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org); phone: +41.22.730.4529.

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



# Central Africa Republic: Floods

