

# *Central African Republic: Floods*

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## *Information Bulletin N° 01*

### *The Disaster*

Heavy and prolonged rains have caused all rivers in the Central African Republic to rise. During the night of 24th to 25th October, the river in Bangui flooded the surrounding areas and destroyed 2,700 houses, causing 6,000 people in the capital to abandon their homes. To date, throughout the country 9,200 persons are reported to have lost their homes, belongings and food stocks. Furthermore, all wells in the affected areas are polluted.

The weather forecast predicts another two weeks of torrential rains in the Central African Republic.

### *Red Cross Action*

The Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) joined the government in the assessment of the situation and identified 7,912 persons in need of immediate assistance. CARCS volunteers have helped many people to escape from the waters and settle in the school buildings made available by the government. They assisted with digging channels so that the water would drain away and also distributed 500 blankets. A CARCS nurse runs an emergency health post in the most affected area in the South West area of Bangui and CARCS volunteers run health education campaigns in the city to raise awareness in respect of diarrhoeal diseases.

### *Needs*

The government will assist those affected through provision of food, however, there will not be sufficient supplies for all victims of the floods. As most of the destroyed houses will have to be reconstructed in higher areas away from swampy ground, the government has promised to grant land, but cannot provide assistance with construction materials. The CARCS plans a three months' operation for 7,912 people with targeted food distribution (rice and beans) to complement the government's assistance, health services with one nurse under the supervision of a doctor, health education, chlorification of polluted wells, as well as provision of medicines for malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. The CARCS will distribute building materials to 400 families amongst the most vulnerable people (wood, metal sheets for roofing and cement). All material can be bought locally. 50 volunteers will be involved in the operation, which will be co-ordinated by the CARCS department for relief and health.

The CARCS has identified needs in the areas listed below in order to come to the aid of those affected by the floods.

- { **Food stuff** (rice and beans) for 7,912 persons (Approximately CHF 180,000)

- { **Medical supplies:**  
Chloroquine tablets, ampicillin tablets, paracetamol tablets, quinine tablets and mebendazole tablets  
(Approximately CHF 5,000)
- { **Water Purification:**  
Chlorine powder (Approximately CHF 500)
- { **Building Materials** for 400 families:  
Cement, timber and iron sheeting (Approximately CHF 460,000)
- { **Support for health education:**  
1 medical doctor for 1 month  
1 hygiene technician for 3 months.  
(Approximately CHF 24,430)
- { **Support from the Regional Delegation**  
Evaluation and Reporting:  
(Approximately CHF 12,000)

For more information on the situation, including specific relief needs, please contact Barbara Petersen on (41.22) 730.43.12 or by e-mail - [Petersen@ifrc.org](mailto:Petersen@ifrc.org)

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