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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF)

Democratic Republic of Congo: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCD012
GLIDE n°OT-2012-000154-COD
31 August, 2012

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.

Summary: CHF 131,815 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Democratic Republic of Congo Red Cross (DRCRC) in delivering immediate assistance to 1,727 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

The villages of Pandu and Guele in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are experiencing a population influx from the villages of Gbasiki and Gbazamba in the Central African Republic (CAR). These populations, estimated at 1,727 people, are fleeing violence being committed by armed elements who invaded their home villages since June 2012, forcing them to cross the Ubangi River and seek refuge in the DRC. While refugees started arriving in June, the numbers have been steadily increasing and became concerning in August, when the number reached an unprecedented 1,727 people.



Since June 2012, more than 1,700 people from the Central African Republic have been crossing the Ubangi River to seek refuge in neighbouring DRC (Equateur Province). Photo by DRCRC

Information currently available does not allow for a detailed understanding of the situation in the DRC, but it is certain that the CAR refugees are living in precarious conditions and require urgent assistance. The two locations where refugees are settling are a long way from Kinshasa, access to these areas is through CAR as these localities are closer to Bangui and Djokou (CAR). Currently 120 volunteers are registering refugees as they arrive at the two sites, and have identified needs to include shelter, food, non-food, latrines, water supply, health care and restoring family links. However, preliminary findings need to be verified and the scope of support validated. In order to support these volunteers and local branches, this DREF will enable the DRCRC and the IFRC Regional Representation for Central Africa to conduct a joint assessment of the situation in the DRC, and at the same time distribute essential non-food items to the most vulnerable refugees.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by the end of October, 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by the end of January 2013).

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

The situation

The displaced persons have been forced to cross the Ubangi River and seek refuge in the villages of Pandu and Guele situated some 424 km from Mobay-Mbongo town in the North West of the DRC. Preliminary statistics available indicate 345 households affected—that is, 1,727 persons comprising 1,132 children under 15 years, 302 women, and 293 men.

While volunteers have done a good job of initially registering refugees, this situation will need a proper assessment given that the CAR refugees are living in precarious conditions and require urgent assistance. In fact, these refugees were forced to leave their homes and property, have no food reserves, which expose children to malnutrition that could worsen and leave weakened people vulnerable to a range of diseases.

Coordination and partnerships

The Government of the DRC, represented by the Area Manager, has provided space in the two sites and will ensure the security of this refugee population. The two sites set up by the Pandu Area Manager, with support from the local Red Cross branches to receive the refugees are completely lacking in facilities (that is, shelter, water and sanitation facilities etc.). A joint delegation of the district authorities, including the Ministry of Interior and the National Commission for Refugees have visited the site and donated medical supplies for the refugees.

The UNHCR in Kinshasa are aware of the situation. Interagency coordination meetings were held on this issue in Kinshasa at the UNHCR level, however action is yet to be taken in the field. In the field local DRCRC branches work with the National Commission of Refugees.

ICRC is not present in the affected locality (they work on the conflict zone like north Kivu); however ICRC will participate in training volunteers in restoring family links.

No other humanitarian organization is present in the field to provide the needed assistance for this vulnerable population.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

120 volunteers from the Equateur Local Committee of the Red Cross have been deployed to the field. They are registering the affected population, prepared the two relocation sites and setting up a relief station.

The needs

Considering the situation on the ground and the limited involvement of other stakeholders, urgent action needs to be undertaken to assist this population. From the outset, the local Red Cross volunteers identified emerging needs in terms of emergency shelter, food and non-food items, latrines, water supply, health care and restoration of family ties. However further information is required around the needs of the population and the scope of the operation, a joint assessment mission comprising the National Society/IFRC Regional Representation will be deployed to clarify the situation and better identify the needs of these people in the short to medium term.

The beneficiaries will be identified during the planned assessment on the basis of real needs. Priority will be given to people with specific vulnerabilities such as children under the age of 5 years, pregnant and lactating women, elderly people, disabled people, widows and women head of households, unaccompanied children, people with chronic diseases.

NFI assistance will be provided to the most vulnerable families. Assistance will include tarpaulins, blankets and mats, buckets and jerry cans, kitchen and hygiene kits.

The proposed operation

Detailed assessment of the situation and Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome: Undertake further assessments of the real situation of CAR refugees in the DRC to determine the type of assistance they needs in the medium term and distribute relief items to the most vulnerable families.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The situation is better understood and an appropriate action plan prepared. 	<p>assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare an initial plan of action adapted to the needs identified Assessment teams will train local Red Cross volunteers on assessment techniques, and give them data collection tools. These trained volunteers will then serve as assessment agents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 345 families (1725 beneficiaries) most vulnerable CAR refugees in the DRC have received emergency assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise and training volunteers in relief distribution and monitoring Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. Each family will receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 blankets 2 sleeping mats 3 mosquito nets 2 tarpaulins 1 bucket 1 jerry can 1 hygiene kit (including soap) Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions Develop an exit strategy.

Watsan

<p>Outcome: Contribute to facilitating access to safe drinking water and hygiene promotion.</p>	
<p>Outputs (expected results):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugees have access to safe drinking water through the treatment of wells and other water sources. The population is sensitized on rules of hygiene and respect them. 	<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment of wells and other water sources identified. Sensitization on hygiene promotion Monitor and evaluate the Watsan activities and provide reports

Restoration of family links

<p>Outcome: Family links are restored and maintained</p>	
<p>Outputs (expected results):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People in search of their relatives are identified and family links are restored where possible. Continue the search which is ongoing in the local branch of the Red Cross 	<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In collaboration with ICRC, train Red Cross volunteers on how to restore and maintain contact between vulnerable individuals and their families; and how to reunify them Register vulnerable individuals separated from their families and carry out active tracing of missing relatives Engage DRC Red Cross branches in active tracing of missing relatives

Logistics

The target areas in DRC for this operation are almost inaccessible by road from Kinshasa, and there is insecurity in the zone that borders the Central African Republic (CAR). Therefore, the relief materials planned for CAR refugees will be transported to Pandu and Guele villages through Bangui in the CAR. While a greater part of the material will be taken from the regional stock in Yaoundé (Cameroon), to be replaced with DREF, some items will be purchased locally in Bangui. The materials taken from the regional stock in Yaoundé will be transported by road from Yaoundé to Bangui, from Bangui to Djoukou (CAR), about 242 km from Bangui and from Djoukou straight to Pandu and Guele by boat across the Ubangi River.

The assessment team of the DRC Red Cross will fly from Kinshasa to Bangui, and will cross the Ubangi River to Pandu and Guele villages by boat.

In order to facilitate the movement of both relief materials and assessment teams, the Pandu and Guele Red Cross branches should be equipped with two outboard engines, which after calculations will be cheaper than renting a small boat.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Zone:** Loïc de Bastier, Resource Mobilisation Coordinator, Addis Ababa, phone: +251-93-003 4013, fax: +251-11-557 0799 ; email: loic.debastier@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **In IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate, Africa 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 (NGOs) 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.

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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.

DREF OPERATION

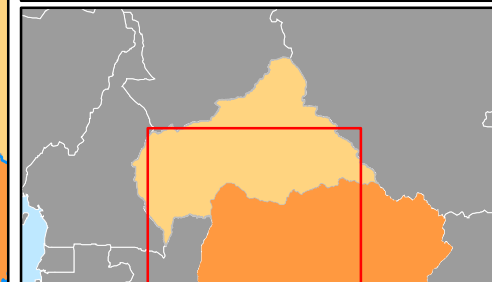
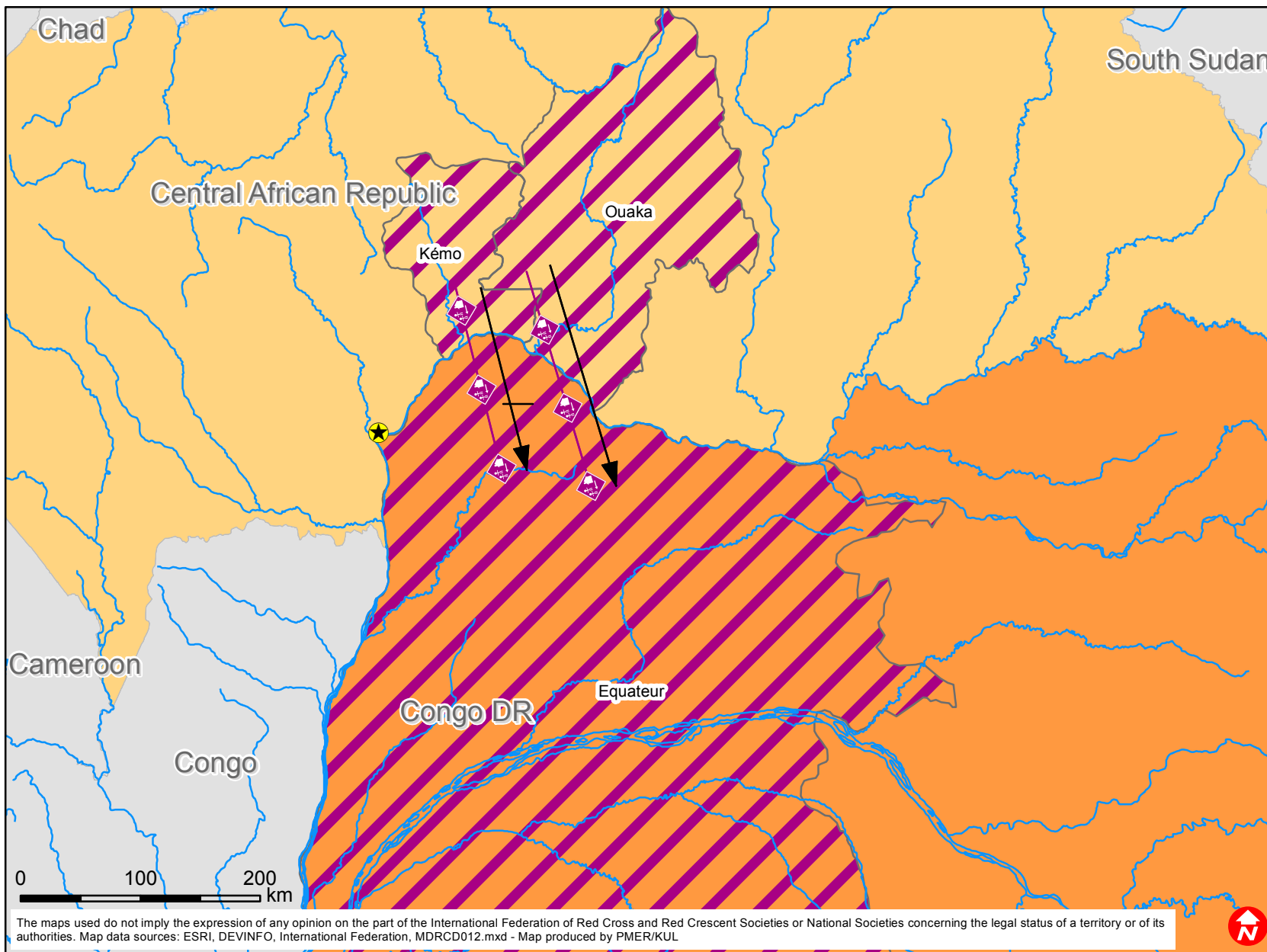
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Democratic Republic of Congo: Population Movement (MDRCD012)

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	24,077
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	24,394
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	16,100
Medical & First Aid	2,066
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	12,672
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	79,309
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	1,249
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	18,223
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	19,472
International Staff	0
National Staff	
National Society Staff	4,408
Volunteers	5,538
Total PERSONNEL	9,945
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	3,398
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	3,398
Travel	9,501
Information & Public Relations	367
Office Costs	459
Communications	859
Financial Charges	459
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	11,646
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	8,045
Total INDIRECT COSTS	8,045
TOTAL BUDGET	131,815



Democratic Republic of Congo: Population movement



- Affected prefectures/ regions
- Population movement

