

DREF operation update

Democratic Republic of Congo: Population Movement

DREF operation n° MDRCD012 GLIDE n° OT-2012-000154-COD Update n° 1 – 14 November, 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.

Period covered by this update:

1 September to 24 October 2012.

Summary: CHF 131,815 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 31 August, 2012 to support the Democratic Republic of Congo Red Cross (DRC RC) National Society in delivering assistance to 1,727 beneficiaries.

This DREF Operation Update is revising the budget from CHF 131,815 to CHF 193,101. It is also extending the timeframe from 2 months to 4 months.

Since June 2012, Central African Republic (CAR) nationals fleeing violence

committed by armed groups along the Ubangi River on the Central African Republic side have been crossing the river in their hundreds, into neighbouring DRC.

Reliable information about these displaced populations was unavailable. The DRC RC, with the support of IFRC received DREF funds to undertake an in-depth assessment of the situation while at the same time providing emergency assistance to the displaced persons. DRC RC deployed two staff to Ngele and Pandu where they trained volunteers, who assisted in assessing the situation of the CAR refugees there.

Access to Ngele and Pandu locations was more difficult than anticipated, with the only possible route being through Ubangi River. This difficulty has seriously delayed the implementation of the project, as it was practically impossible to accomplish everything within the initially planned timeframe, ending on 31 October 2012. Therefore, this update extends the duration of the operation another two months to 31 December 2012.

In order to take into account the water and sanitation needs of the refugees, the NS deems it necessary to build 47 latrines and 3 improved wells. Implementing these activities will require an additional CHF 61,286. Thus this operation update is revising the budget from CHF 131,815 to CHF 193,101.



On their way to Ngele, DRC Red Cross volunteers met with UNHCR staff and together, they had a discussion with CAR refugees. Photo by UNHCR

In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) will be due 90 days after the end of the operation (now by 31 March, 2013).

Donors who have replenished the DREF for this operation include the Netherlands RC/Government and the Belgian RC/ Government. Details of DREF contributions can be found on:

http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2012.pdf

[*<click here for the revised DREF budget; here to view contact details >*](#)

The situation

Since June 2012, Central African nationals fleeing violence committed by armed groups along the Ubangi River on the Central African Republic (CAR) side have been crossing the river in their hundreds, into neighbouring DRC. Since nobody had reliable information about these displaced populations, the Democratic Republic of the Congo Red Cross (DRC RC), with the support of the Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP) of the IFRC received DREF funds to enable them conduct an in-depth assessment of the situation while, at the same time, providing emergency assistance to these displaced Central African nationals. With these DREF funds, the DRC RC deployed two of its staff to the field to conduct an in-depth assessment of the situation and provide psychological support, non-food items and help reunite separated CAR refugee families. The result of this in-depth assessment shows that Central African Republic refugees are actually scattered in several localities in DRC along the Ubangi River, on a distance of about 100 km, with Pandu and Ngele locations on extreme ends.

DRC RC evaluators have not identified any health centre or safe water supply facility in Ngele and Pandu where CAR refugees are scattered. These refugees are exposed to diseases like malaria, since they live in straw huts that they built and remain exposed to other adversities. Having left without their belongings back from the Central African Republic (CAR), they lack cooking kits, food, drinking water, health facilities and appropriate emergency shelters to protect them from bad weather. Also, the evaluators have not identified any latrines in the localities occupied by the refugees.

For now, UNHCR has set up a camp some 18 km from its base in Zongo, where 400 refugees have been grouped over a surface area of 65 km. These refugees are already benefiting from UNHCR support, while those of Ngele and Pandu that are far off, are left out. So far, UNHCR has not extended its assistance to these two localities, though it went there on a joint exploratory mission with the DRC RC on 18 October 2012.

Although delayed due to the difficulties involved in reaching these localities, relief materials purchased with DREF funds have already been distributed. The assessment mission conducted by NS volunteers provided enough information that has made it possible, to assist refugees in Ngele and Pandu. The assessment mission also observed that these villages have no latrines, leading to open human waste disposal, nor safe water sources. The only source of water for drinking and other uses is the river, with all the risks involved. The DRC RC expects to take another two months to complete all the activities already planned in the DREF and also carry out activities to facilitate access to safe water and build latrines. This update therefore extends the operation to 31st December 2012.

Coordination and partnerships

UNHCR has a base in Zongo, located some 100 km from Ngele and Pandu. Apart from the one-day joint exploratory visit of 18 October 2012 conducted with the DRC RC, it has not yet taken any action in favour of refugees in Ngele and Pandu. Currently, UNHCR is assisting 400 refugees grouped in a camp located some 18 km from their base in Zongo. This locality is closer to Bangui and accessible only by boat. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has also visited Ngele and donated some basic medications, but statistics are not yet available. A Red Cross volunteer stationed in Ngele, who had been trained as a nursing auxiliary is presently the acting health personnel distributing those medications.

Apart from the DRC RC volunteers who have been giving moral and psychological support to the Central African refugees in Pandu and Ngele for over six days, no other actor has been spotted in the field.

New needs

The DRC RC found it urgent to build latrines and improved water wells in Ngele and Pandu (Watamba) in order to prevent the outbreak of epidemics in these localities. Results of the in-depth assessment show that there are 187 CAR refugee families in Ngele and Pandu (Watamba); 33 families (165 people) in Watamba, and 154 families (770 people) in Ngele. These families need 47 latrines and 3 improved wells distributed as follows: 38 latrines and 2 water wells in Ngele, and 9 latrines and 1 water well in Watamba. The quantities are based on the SPHERE minimum standards of 20 persons per public latrine and 400 per open well.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The existing operation will be extended with a water and sanitation component addressing the identified urgent needs for latrines and wells to reduce water and sanitation related health risks. A mission by the regional DM team is planned to organize partnership with UNHCR for their engagement in the identified basic health needs.

Progress towards outcomes

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 need in the medium term and distribute relief items to the most vulnerable families.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The situation is better understood and an appropriate action plan prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments Prepare an action plan adapted to the needs identified Assessment teams will train local Red Cross volunteers on evaluation techniques, and give them data collection tools. These trained volunteers will then serve as evaluation 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 train 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.

Progress:

The NS deployed two staff members who were briefed by the IFRC on assessment and sensitization techniques. They conducted an assessment mission in the field where they also trained 50 volunteers who helped to collect information during the in-depth assessment of the situation. A debriefing of the mission took place in Bangui, CAR, and the result of this assessment was used to produce this update. The NS evaluators identified 187 CAR refugee families in Ngele and Pandu (Watamba) distributed as follows: 33 families in Watamba and 154 families in Ngele. The other refugees (400) were grouped in a camp some 18 km from Ngele and are being supported by the UNHCR.

Planned relief materials have been purchased and distributed to the 187 families presently in Ngele and Pandu (935 people), including 400 refugees residing in a camp some 18 km from Zongo. This brings the

total number of people assisted to 1,335; i.e. a variance of 392 people as compared to the total number of refugees that were initially targeted (1,727 people). The evaluators of the DRC Red Cross could not trace those 392 people who are assumed to have returned to CAR, although no currently available information on their whereabouts. This activity could not be conducted earlier due to the difficulties involved in reaching these locations. Since all the 345 kits of relief items planned had already been purchased and transported to the field, the remaining 78 kits were kept in the premises DRC's Red Cross Zongo local committee, to be distributed as the need arises.

Challenges

It is very difficult to reach Ngele and Pandu. The only route is by river, and crossing costs are unstable, making it difficult to plan well.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion

Outcome: Contribute to facilitating access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion.	
Outputs (expected results): <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 hygiene rules and their upholding. 	Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct 47 emergency latrines and 3 wells, at the rate of 9 latrines and 1 wells in Pandu (Watamba) and 38 latrines and 2 wells in Ngele Treatment of wells and other water sources identified. Sensitization on hygiene promotion Monitor and evaluate the WASH activities and provide reports

Progress

During the assessment, DRC RC volunteers emphasized the need for refugees to observe rules of hygiene. The volunteers were equipped with leaflets made available by the NS to facilitate sensitization and hygiene promotion. They noted a lack of water points (springs and wells), health centres and latrines. Moreover, Ngele refugees had settled in an initially uninhabited location since their arrival, where they are cut off from the rest of the world.

Challenges

There is no health centre in this location (Ngele) but MSF identified a DRC RC volunteer nursing aide who now serves as health post chief responsible for distributing essential drugs received from them. There is therefore an urgent need for a health centre.

Restoration of family links

Outcome: Family links are restored and maintained	
Outputs (expected results): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People in search of their relatives are identified and family links are restored where possible. Sustain the search which is ongoing in the local branch of the Red Cross 	Activities planned: <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 actively in tracing of missing relatives

Progress

No case of separated or missing family has been recorded by the volunteers.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 31 August 2012 for CHF 131,815 for 2 months to assist 1,727 beneficiaries.
- 1 DREF operation update issued.
- This update No 1 is extending the timeframe from 31 October to 31 December 2012. It is also revising the budget from CHF 131,815 to CHF 193,101.

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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Saving lives, changing minds.



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

14-11-12

MDRCD012 DRC: Population Movement

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	24,736
Clothing & Textiles	25,061
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	51,205
Medical & First Aid	2,123
Ustensils & Tools	13,019
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	116,144
Storage, Warehousing	1,283
Transport & Vehicle Costs	24,146
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	25,429
National Society Staff	7,500
Volunteers	7,953
Total PERSONNEL	15,453
Workshops & Training	3,491
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	3,491
Travel	17,308
Information & Public Relations	566
Office Costs	1,132
Communications	1,038
Financial Charges	755
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	20,799
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,785
Total INDIRECT COSTS	11,785
TOTAL BUDGET	193,101