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DREF final report

Central Africa Republic: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCF013
GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000164-CAF](#)
2 April 2013

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 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.

Summary: CHF 298,830 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 27 September 2012 to support the Central Africa Republic Red Cross in delivering assistance to some 2,740 families (13,700 beneficiaries).

Continuous rain, accompanied by strong winds at the end of August, caused localized floods that led to the collapse and damage of houses and loss of property and livelihoods. Affected localities included Paoua, Bangui-Bouchia (Mbaïki) and some districts of Bangui and Begoua. In response, the National Society deployed 120 Red Cross volunteers of affected localities to conduct a rapid assessment of the situation. They identified 2,740 vulnerable families (13,700 persons) whose houses were completely or partially destroyed with urgent needs including non-food items (NFIs), basic necessities, emergency shelter and drinking water. CAR Red Cross volunteers also noted the need to ensure the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in affected communities.



CAR Minister of Social Affairs symbolically handing over NFIs to a beneficiary. *Photo by CAR RC*

Through this DREF, vulnerabilities were assessed, and the selected families were provided with essential non-food items, accompanied by water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities as well as volunteer capacity building. The 500 families that were living in the open or with host families were provided with emergency shelter through the distribution of tarpaulins and specific non-food items.

IFRC resource persons from the Central Africa regional representation were deployed to assist the National Society to implement activities on the ground. All activities planned were completed, and there remains a small balance of CHF 1,620 which will be returned to DREF.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for

International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

The IFRC, on behalf of the CAR Red Cross, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. Details on all contributions to DREF can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

In 2012, three climate-related disasters hit the Central African Republic (CAR), causing widespread damage in several localities each time. The most devastating of these disasters was the continuous rain, accompanied by strong winds of end August, which caused localized floods that led to the collapse and damage of houses and loss of property and livelihoods. Affected localities included Paoua, Bangui-Bouchia (Mbaïki) and some districts of Bangui and Begoua. In response, the National Society deployed 120 Red Cross volunteers to affected localities to conduct a rapid assessment of the situation. The assessment identified 2,740 vulnerable families (13,700 persons) whose houses were completely or partially destroyed.

The Central African government made a written appeal to the IFRC through the CAR Red Cross to assist these vulnerable people. Identified urgent needs included non-food items (NFIs), basic necessities, emergency shelter and drinking water. CAR Red Cross volunteers also noted the need to ensure the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in affected communities.

Through this DREF, a detailed assessment was carried out and with the results, essential non-food items provided to 13,700 flood-affected families, accompanied by water, sanitation (treatment of wells) and hygiene promotion activities and volunteer capacity building.

The results of the assessment are as follows:

Localities	Family heads	Houses completely destroyed	Houses partially destroyed	Most vulnerable persons							Total number of most vulnerable persons	Fatalities
				Men	Women	Children	Pregnant women	The disabled	The elderly	Injured		
Paoua	885	754	131	869	1249	1,596	36	12	152	00	3,914	00
Bangui-Bouchia (Mbaïki)	69	55	14	106	101	194	17	00	37	10	465	00
2 nd District /Bangui	32	27	05	45	73	93	07	00	06	00	224	00
3rd District /Bangui	226	185	41	149	313	892	43	18	37	06	1458	00
4th District /Bangui	210	145	65	215	255	960	70	00	00	00	1,500	01
5th District /Bangui	1,047	725	322	1417	1565	2619	15	00	120	15	5,751	03
8th District /Bangui	41	30	11	63	92	107	09	03	11	02	287	00
Begoua	16	03	13	15	18	68	00	00	00	00	101	00
Total	2,740	1,924	602	2,879	3,666	6,529	197	33	363	33	13,700	04

This operation helped to improve the living conditions of both affected families as well as host families, through the provision of temporary shelter/hangars constructed with distributed tarpaulins, while waiting for the building of better shelters. This intervention has helped to reduce overcrowding host families.

Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities (awareness and training) have enabled affected families to positively change the running of their daily lives, and acquire new habits (systematic use of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), proper utilization of latrines, cleaning of latrines and surroundings, routine maintenance of water point), as well as access to safe drinking water has been significantly improved upon.

The capacity of volunteers were also strengthened through training and equipment distributed. This equipment enabled the various local committees to plan activities in their various localities because before responding to this disaster, the various committees did not have the minimum equipment to carry out activities that could reduce the magnitude of the disaster back then.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As part of the implementation of activities planned in this DREF, members of the disaster management department of the CAR Red Cross national headquarters were deployed simultaneously to the various affected localities to support local Red Cross committees. Before going to the field, a team from IFRC's regional representation including the regional disaster management manager and the regional PMER officer were deployed to the CAR to assist the National Society in the initial assessment of the situation in the various localities.

CAR Red Cross staff deployed were supervised by the national disaster management director, with the support of an IFRC resource person. Training activities were followed by the distribution of items that took place in line with all preparation prerequisites. Water points and other drinking water sources identified in the affected localities were treated, latrines disinfected, while cleanup and awareness activities as well as the construction of temporary shelters contributed to the improvement of the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations after the floods.

The involvement of the disaster management focal points and communities concerned in implementation activities enabled the national headquarters to strengthen their capacities and implement the operation as planned.

Achievements against outcomes

In-depth Assessment and Relief/Distribution (basic non-food items)	
Outcome: Outcome: Contribute to improving the living conditions of the 2,740 most vulnerable families (13,700 people) in the target areas through the distribution of basic non-food items for 03 months.	
Outputs (Expected Results) :	Planned Activities :
An in-depth assessment of the situation of disasters in the CAR is conducted in high-risk areas concerned. Planned non-food items are purchased and handed over to the national society for distribution. The 2,740 most vulnerable families (13,700 people) targeted by this have received NFI assistance from CAR Red Cross.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out an in-depth assessment of the situation of violent winds and floods in high-risk areas concerned: • Prepare an action plan for an appropriate sustainable response to the situation in the CAR. • Training/refresher course for 150 volunteers on distribution and awareness techniques. This training will be coupled with a combined briefing on emergency planning, evaluation and reporting. • Prepare distribution tools. • Distribution of non-food items (1 sleeping mat per 2 persons, 1 blanket per 2 persons, 1 kitchen set per household) • Ensure monitoring, evaluation of, and reporting on distribution activities. • Produce activity reports

Impact:

The implementation of activities of this operation began with a visit to the various areas concerned to assess the situation. In all localities visited, we conducted surveys, observations, interviews with authorities, visits to households, group discussions, interviews with key persons, site visits to affected sites, health facilities, schools etc. It should be noted that the abject poverty of the population, the fight for survival, unhygienic conditions (lack of latrines, water points, polluted environment) difficult access to health care, food shortage are the daily problems of people in these communities. Their living conditions deteriorate gradually due to the effects of various disasters (floods, violent winds, bush fires, internal conflicts, displacement, etc.). All these problems ought to be solved in a disaster risk reduction program in the CAR. This will be carried out within the context of cross-cutting projects that take into account several components.

The operation was followed by the preparation of distribution activities, through the provision to the National Society, by IFRC's regional representation, of items planned, in addition to those that were locally purchased and their delivery to various affected localities (see logistics component).

From the outset, a total of 150 volunteers were trained in various affected localities and deployed as follows: 50 in Paoua, 20 in Banh commune, 15 in Bangui Bouchia (Mbaiki), 50 in Bangui districts concerned and 15 in Begoua commune. These volunteers were trained on distribution techniques, various distribution tools and combined with lessons on emergency planning, monitoring/evaluation and reporting.

To ensure the smooth running of distribution activities, tools were prepared (construction of distribution sites, list of beneficiaries, clearance tickets etc.) and distribution sites prepared in areas allocated to the Red Cross for the occasion by administrative and/or traditional authorities. The latter also participated in distribution sessions in various localities, this, in a bid to demonstrate their collaboration, support and encouragement to Red Cross actions.

Below, is a summary of beneficiaries:

Localities	Number of most vulnerable families identified and served
Paoua & Bannh Commune	1,099
Bangui Bouchia	69
2 nd district	32
3 rd district	226
4 th district	210
5 th district	1,047
8 th district	41
Begoua Commune	16
Total	2,740

Despite the influx of people who pretended to be uncounted vulnerable persons, distribution was strictly limited to families and persons identified during assessments in assessment centres.

Emergency Health

Outcome: The health risks associated to the floods on 13,700 people are reduced through preventive community-level services over 3 months.	
Output (expected results) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 2740 families have received mosquito nets and use them. Up to 13,700 people have improved knowledge of flood related diseases, including prevention measures, treatment and referral measures. 	Activities planned : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute mosquito nets (1 net per 2 persons) and provide training in application and usage. Induction/refresher course in floods emergency health Production of IEC materials Conduct health sensitization campaign.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 2,740 families in the targeted areas over 3 months.	
Outputs (expected results) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 13,700 beneficiaries are sensitized on the reduction of flood-related risks such as water-borne diseases. Up to 13,700 beneficiaries have access to clean water and improved sanitation and hygiene practices. Awareness and practice of hygiene 	Activities planned : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training or refresher courses for 20 volunteers in each of the 8 localities on watsan, hygiene promotion and risk prevention through the "Community-driven total sanitation" (CDTS) approach Produce posters with messages on how to reduce risks associated with violent winds, epidemics, weather conditions and other diseases related to poor hygiene. Distribute household water treatment items (1 bucket, 1

<p>and sanitation is improved among populations in localities affected by floods in CAR</p>	<p>jerry can, 150 aqua tabs per family) and conduct training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct hygiene promotion campaign and distribute soap (1 bar per person) • Carry out sanitation activities in villages affected by floods in CAR. • Encouraging community participation in the treatment of water points. • Ensure the monitoring, evaluation of, and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.
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Impact:

After training volunteers on distribution techniques and epidemic risk reduction, 20 volunteers were trained specifically on hygiene promotion, treatment of water points, mass and door-to-door awareness techniques and messages.

Awareness-raising materials like brochures and image boxes were produced for this purpose. 155 awareness sessions were organized and brought together 600,495 people. At least 75% of the population of areas concerned was sensitized on the risk of epidemics and hygiene promotion. During these awareness sessions, volunteers also sensitized the population on the importance of the use of ITNs and how to install them.

In addition, 30 sanitation kits; each consisting of a shovel, a rake, a raincoat, a pair of boots, a pair of gloves, a nose mask, etc. were purchased and handed over to local Red Cross committees of Paoua Banh commune, Mbaiki (Bangui Bouchia), the districts of Bangui and Begoua commune. This enabled volunteers deployed to conduct sanitation activities in neighborhoods, with the involvement of the community. Concerning the treatment of water points, 535 were treated and rehabilitated for 29,593 beneficiaries, and this enabled at least 75% of the population to have access to drinking water. Latrines were not disinfected because disinfectants were not budgeted for. However, the population was informed on the importance of keeping their latrines clean and the need for a latrine for each family in order to avoid open defecation and all its effects.

It should be noted that activities of this sector faced many challenges. In addition to the acute unhygienic conditions in the neighborhoods and localities, the absence of an urbanization plan further complicates the situation. The population is also weakened by their economic status and their only concern is daily survival. This was the case everywhere, more specifically in Paoua town that has been weakened by conflict and other forms of violence. Several awareness sessions had to be organized to obtain their adherence to sanitation activities. Having the community involved in sanitation activities was a good strategy for them to learn and perpetuate these activities after the operation in order to avoid a worsening of the situation.

Raising awareness is very important and advocacy with State authorities that started with a meeting with the mayor during the assessment should continue in order to strengthen Red Cross action and ensure parallel actions to improve the living conditions of these populations who are almost abandoned to themselves. The provision of sanitation kits at local committees would enable Red Cross volunteers to support the population in this work.

Emergency shelter

Outcome: Emergency shelter assistance is provided to 548 most vulnerable families spread throughout the targeted areas over 3 months.

<u>Outputs (expected results)</u>	<u>Activities planned</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 500 most vulnerable families affected by floods and who still sleep in the open have access to emergency shelter, and their living conditions are improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid sensitization of the volunteers for the emergency sheltering activities • Identification of the 500 most vulnerable families • Purchasing sheltering materials and transporting them to the affected localities in CAR • Distribution of the shelter materials • Provide emergency shelter leaflet Provide technical support with the construction of the emergency

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on emergency shelter activities and organize a lessons-learned workshop
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Impact:

The National Society distributed 1,096 tarpaulins for the construction of makeshift shelters for families who lost their homes. This served as temporary shelter for the affected families, giving them some dignity in the community, while waiting for longer-term solutions from the government regarding shelter. This also helped to reduce the burden on host families in the aftermath of the disaster.

Unfortunately, the planned lessons learned workshop with a focus on emergency shelter was not held due to the worsening security situation in the CAR in general and affected localities in particular.

Logistics

The IFRC has a regional emergency stock in Yaoundé. With the recent replenishment, the Regional Representation will make available to the CAR RC, material necessary for this operation. The DREF will be used to transport these items from Cameroon (Yaoundé) to the CAR and onward to the various localities, and to replenish the stock in Yaoundé from Dubai. It should be noted that the rains are further degrading the state of the already impassable roads; therefore, transportation cost will increase for this operation. This would affect both the Yaoundé-Bangui and internal road stretches.

Outcome: The items planned are purchased and put at the disposal of the CARRC early enough to facilitate project implementation.

Outputs :

- The relief materials 6,850 mats, 6,850 blankets, 6,850 mosquito nets, 2,740 kitchen kits and 13,700 pieces of 200g soaps, 2,700 buckets and 2,700 jerry cans) and other materials planned are made available in CAR affected localities early enough to facilitate the implementation of the operation.
- The regional stock in Yaoundé is replenished in preparation for subsequent operations.
- CARREP has a wider understanding of the logistics needs of the operation.

Activities planned

- Rent a truck for the transportation of the items to CAR affected localities.
- Rent warehouses for the storage of the items prior to distribution
- Ensure the handling of the items in Yaoundé and in CAR affected localities
- Order the items from Dubai to replenish the regional stock in Yaoundé
- Further assess the needs in the field to inform programming

Impact:

All planned items were purchased and transported from Yaoundé to Bangui. Also, the items which had to be procured locally did so, and all the materials were transported to the localities concerned. However, it should be noted here that this component was the most difficult of this operation on more than one count. The remoteness of the areas concerned seriously hampered material delivery. It should be noted that some areas like Paoua and Banh Commune are located at about 487 and 145 km respectively from the capital, Bangui. In addition to this distance, access to these localities was made more difficult by bad weather that further deteriorated the state of roads that were already in bad shape. All these hazards, put together, increased the cost of transporting these materials to the field; this was not taken into account in the budget. Based on this experience, a lesson learned includes adjusting the cost of logistics in future DREF operations in CAR, given the bad state of roads in the country.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Denis Duffaut, IFRC Central Africa Regional Representative; Office phone: +237 22 21 74 37; Mobile phone: +237 77 11 77 97; email: denis.duffaut@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator, Africa; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyaara Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone +971 50 4584872, Fax +971.4.883.22.12, email: ari.mantyaara@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC West and Central Africa hub:** Elisabeth Seck, Resource Mobilization Officer, Dakar; phone:+221 33 869 36 60; mobile: +221 77 450 59 49; email: elisabeth.seck@ifrc.org

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

- **IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate, Africa phone: +254 731 067277; email:robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 27 September 2013 for CHF 298,830 for three months to assist 13,700 beneficiaries.



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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 (NGO's) 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.

MDRCF013 - Central African Rep - Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 27 sep 12

Appeal Timeframe: 27 sep 12 to 27 dec 12

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/9-2013/2
Budget Timeframe	2012/9-2012/12
Appeal	MDRCF013
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	298,831					298,831	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	298,830					298,830	
C4. Other Income	298,830					298,830	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	298,830					298,830	
D. Total Funding = B + C	298,830					298,830	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	298,830					298,830	
E. Expenditure	-297,210					-297,210	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	1,620					1,620	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/9-2013/2
Budget Timeframe	2012/9-2012/12
Appeal	MDRCF013
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		298,831					298,831	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	28,476	28,925				28,925	-449	
Clothing & Textiles	81,697	75,657				75,657	6,040	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	11,214	11,251				11,251	-37	
Teaching Materials	459	464				464	-5	
Utensils & Tools	98,037	83,310				83,310	14,727	
Total Relief items, Construction, Suj	219,883	199,607				199,607	20,276	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom		2,178				2,178	-2,178	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment		2,178				2,178	-2,178	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	991	353				353	638	
Distribution & Monitoring	18,125	26,040				26,040	-7,915	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,337	9,867				9,867	-5,530	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	23,452	36,260				36,260	-12,807	
Personnel								
International Staff	5,780	5,445				5,445	335	
National Society Staff	1,468	2,513				2,513	-1,045	
Volunteers	4,954	4,643				4,643	311	
Total Personnel	12,202	12,600				12,600	-398	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	7,193	7,319				7,319	-126	
Total Workshops & Training	7,193	7,319				7,319	-126	
General Expenditure								
Travel	7,339	7,751				7,751	-412	
Information & Public Relations	3,633	3,685				3,685	-52	
Office Costs	1,835	1,741				1,741	94	
Communications	4,587	5,313				5,313	-726	
Financial Charges	468	2,618				2,618	-2,150	
Total General Expenditure	17,862	21,107				21,107	-3,244	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		0				0	-0	
Total Operational Provisions		0				0	-0	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	18,238	18,140				18,140	99	
Total Indirect Costs	18,238	18,140				18,140	99	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	298,831	297,210				297,210	1,620	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,620				1,620		