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Revised emergency appeal Cameroon: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRCM014
GLIDE n° FL-2012-000157-CMR
February 19, 2013

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,552,349

Appeal coverage: 61%. [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report>](#)

Appeal history:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was initially launched on 28 September 2012 for CHF 1,637,314 for 12 months to assist about 25,000 beneficiaries.
- [Disaster Relief Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#): CHF 299,707 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond.
- [Operations Update No 1](#) was issued on 19 November 2012 to highlight the achievements since the beginning of the operation.
- This Appeal revision is reducing the budget from CHF 1,637,314 to CHF 1,552,349 to assist same beneficiaries (25,000).



Cameroon Red Cross volunteers are constructing emergency shelters in Northern Cameroon, with the full participation of people who have been displaced by unprecedented floods. / Photo by Cameroon Red Cross

Summary: Since the second half of August 2012, heavy rains have caused severe flooding in the northern regions (North and Far North) and in two other regions in the south of the country (the North West and East). Following these floods, a DREF operation provided assistance to the affected populations in the North and Far North Regions. Considering the magnitude of the situation, this DREF was upgraded into an emergency appeal.

To date, the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC) has distributed non-food items to 921 families, constructed 237 emergency shelters for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the North and Far North Regions, build 26 emergency latrines and treated 289 wells and provided first aid to flood-affected communities. In addition, CRC volunteers have carried out health awareness-raising and hygiene promotion campaigns that reached 8,641 people (7,463 in the North, and 1,178 in the Far North Region), which has helped to prevent the outbreak of water-related diseases. Following initial assessments it was decided to focus assistance in the North and Far North Regions, rather than in the south.

Since the launch of the Emergency Appeal, new floods occurred in Kousseri (the divisional headquarters in the Far North Region), which have affected nearly 1,400 people. The Red Cross has provided and continues to provide assistance to these newly affected people, among which are many pupils forced out of their classrooms at the beginning of the school year by the floodwaters.

In the original areas however, the situation has improved. Apart from pools of stagnant water, the floodwaters have receded. Families that benefited from temporary shelters provided by the government or humanitarian organisations have

gone back to their original settlements. Those whose houses were partially destroyed have reinforced them with locally available materials such as pieces of cloth, straw (seko) or old roofing sheets. To date, 33,898 victims (15,720 in North and 18,178 in South) have already returned to their original areas of residence.

Apart from a few emergency latrines built at the relocation sites by the Red Cross and other partners such as UNICEF, the majority of people living with host families or those who recently returned to their homes, do not have access to latrines. Water points are also rare, with many of the existing ones are far away from those affected, and there are few open wells.

Due to the late arrival of funds and access difficulties caused by the rains and subsequent flooding, the activities planned for the initial phase of the operation were only partially completed. As a result, the needs in the targeted areas have changed from immediate relief assistance to early recovery and rehabilitation; this has informed this revision of the Emergency Appeal to align planned activities with current needs. The relief distribution activities in Kousseri district in the Far North region have been included, since this was also after initial Appeal launched in September.

This revision makes the following changes to the proposed operation to reflect this new focus on early recovery:-

- Emergency non-food item distribution was reduced from 5,000 to 3,166 families (including new assistance in Kousseri). This includes distribution of emergency shelter items for 3,166 families.
- Activities have been added to support an additional 550 families returning to their communities to rehabilitate damaged and destroyed houses
- The number of beneficiaries for emergency health interventions reduced from 5,000 to 3,166, and 1,800 receiving psychosocial support
- The number of beneficiaries for water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities reduced from 5,000 to 3,166.
- Activities have been added to support 150 families relying on fishing and 200 families relying on farming whose livelihoods were affected by the floods added and Disaster Risk Reduction activities are still pending depending on funding levels.

With the reduction of the budget to CHF 1,552,349 the appeal coverage now stands at 64%. Additional resources are needed to cover assistance to the additional flood affected communities and to help communities recover.

The Revised Emergency Appeal operation will end at the end of September 2013, and a final report will be issued three months after the end of the operation, at the end of December 2013.

[<click here for the Revised Emergency Appeal budget; or here for the contact details>](#)

The situation

Since the second half of August 2012, heavy rainfall in some regions of Cameroon has caused severe flooding in the northern regions (North and Far North), and in two southern regions (the North West and East Regions). A DREF operation was launched to assist the affected populations in the North and Far North Regions. Because of the magnitude of the floods this DREF operation was subsequently revised into an Emergency Appeal still focusing on the North and Far North Regions.

From the outset, the consequences of the floods were serious almost everywhere in the North and Far North Regions. More than 16,000 families or 80,000 people found themselves homeless, mainly in the North and Far North Regions and also in the North West and East regions, where serious floods destroyed homes. Since the launch of the Emergency Appeal, further affected people have been identified. The town of Kousseri was flooded in October and recorded nearly 1,400 affected and displaced persons. The overflow of the Logone River caused floods in eight neighbourhoods of Kousseri, affecting more than 180 families and rendering 1,397 people homeless, who had to stay temporarily with host families or other makeshift sites like schools.

As of 21 January 2013, the situation in the North Region has changed considerably, with the complete drying off of water in all hitherto flooded areas and the return of 15,720 of the 22,539 installed in the temporary sites (70 % of the population) to their original areas of residence. Five per cent of this population has been fully resettled by the Government; however, the majority of these people continue to live in precarious conditions, with few latrines and water points.

In the Far North Region, the situation has also changed. Currently, as the floodwaters have dried off, the majority of displaced persons have already returned to their original settlements and the Customs Camp has been closed down. Families that received temporary shelters from the Red Cross have reinstalled them in their original places of residence, while others live in shacks made from recycled materials. Those whose houses were partially destroyed have been using

some recycled materials such as pieces of cloth, timber and old roofing sheets. In Blangoua, families have been allocated a site of over 20 hectares by the authorities for their final resettlement. To date 18,178 (39%) persons have already returned to their original areas of residence, with 50% of them successfully resettled.

IFRC's Regional Programme Coordinator and Logistics Delegate have conducted a detailed assessment of the situation and provided the information used to revise the budget of this operation.

Status of affected population as of 21 January 2013

Regions	Affected people	Installed people in the sites		Returned people to areas of origin		People who have been successfully resettled by the government	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
North	45,120	22,539	50	15,720	70	732	5
Far North	54,046	46,672	86	18,178	39	9,000	50
TOTAL	99,166	69,211	70	33,898	49	9,732	29

Source – CRC (Updated government statistics not available yet)

As a result, in this Appeal, emergency assistance activities have been reduced and the focus will now be on population resettlement, especially in the reconstruction of homes and the resumption of daily activities. The number of CRC volunteers involved will be refreshed and the NS will recruit 75 further volunteers who will support the new activities in relief (health, water & sanitation, and shelter) and recovery / resettlement.

Coordination and partnerships

Immediately after the disaster, the administrative authorities held crisis meetings with partners such as the Red Cross, agencies of the UN system (UNICEF, WFP), other humanitarian agencies including PLAN Cameroon, IMC (International Medical Corps), as well as government ministries such as MINATD (Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization), the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Livestock, the Ministry of Basic Education, the Ministry of Public Health and Defence, represented by the National Rescue Unit and Military Health Department.

CRC has been involved in the flood response since the onset, alongside administrative authorities in close collaboration with all actors in the affected communities. It participates in all cluster meetings with agencies of the UN system and other stakeholders. These meetings are held on a weekly basis in the Wash cluster, the Health cluster and the Communications cluster.

Given the proven expertise of CRC and its effectiveness in the implementation of field activities, many partners, including NGOs, UN agencies and administrative authorities wish to collaborate with the Red Cross in the implementation of their action plans in this operation. Thus, the following actions were undertaken in collaboration with specific stakeholders:

- **UNHCR:** requested the training of beneficiaries on the pitching of tents in the North and Far North regions;
- **WFP:** signed a MOU with CRC for food distribution for three months in the North and Far North Regions;
- **UNICEF:** signed a MOU with CRC for the construction of 100 VIP latrines in the North and Far North Regions;
- **AES SONEL:** signed a MOU with CRC to distribute food in Lagdo (North Region);
- **UNFPA:** provided condoms to be distributed by Red Cross volunteers during field activities;
- **TOTAL FUEL STATION:** provided solar lamps for resettlement sites to be distributed by CRC volunteers in the North Region;
- **GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON:** asked CRC to support local authorities in the implementation of various distribution activities, facilitating the delivery of materials in Mayo Hourna (North Region) and Guere (Far North Region).
- **Others:** businesses and private donors provided food and non-food items for distribution by CRC.

With the support of the IFRC, CRC's National Floods Contingency Plan (2010) was activated and facilitated a rapid activation of the CRC's alert process and a rapid response by CRC volunteers in the affected communities, where they assisted families to evacuate their flooded homes to safe areas. The small emergency stock that was pre-positioned in the Far North Region was used to help the most vulnerable families during the early hours of the disaster.

Swiss Red Cross also supported the flood response with the deployment of a shelter delegate to the North and Far North districts. After a quick assessment of the situation, the delegate delivered training to 20 CRC volunteers on the use and training on shelter kits for the construction of shelters and advised CRC on minor changes to improve the proposed temporary shelters.

The needs

In-depth assessments conducted by CRC with support from the Central Africa Regional Representation's Programme Coordinator and Logistics Delegate in January, have identified new damage from the floods and associated needs and have prompted the revision of the objectives of this operation and Appeal and of the budget.

- During the assessment, it was discovered that in Kousseri, which was the latest area to be flooded and not initially assisted, most of the people had lost their homes and livelihoods, but have received limited assistance to date from partners. The affected people need material assistance, such as blankets, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and containers for fetching and conserving water (buckets and jerry cans).
- In the same area, nearly 1,400 people had been displaced and temporarily resettled far from the health centres (up to than eight kilometres). The people affected do not have the means to afford treatment at the local hospitals and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has installed a health centre in Kousseri, which is operational but not enough to cover all the needs and therefore there are health needs. Additional first aid kits, sanitation kits and a motorbike will also be needed to facilitate work in Kousseri.
- There are also ongoing needs in relation to access to potable water for the wider displaced and returnee population. Many displaced people and returnees still have to trek long distances to get to the nearest existing potable water point (borehole) and many have been using water from the river or from traditional unprotected wells. Some actors often have been distributing water treatment tablets, however the communities are not trained on how to use these tablets and need hygiene promotion and further assistance in water and sanitation, particularly in providing hygiene awareness raising for affected communities and improving water points and accessibility to functioning latrines.
- Food security is also a challenge in the affected localities. Most displaced people have lost all their food reserves as well as crops. Despite a few distributions of food items by the government and some humanitarian actors, hunger is evident in affected people. There is also a need now to look at the recovery of these communities and for agencies to consider the restoration of livelihoods. The populations who were practicing agriculture or fishing before the disaster need support to help resume their daily activities.
- The assessment revealed that the need for emergency shelter has reduced due to the return of many people to their original areas following the drying up of water in flooded sites. Some returnees (550 families) have benefited from resettlement land provided by the local authorities and are ready to move, but need support to help build their new houses in a sustainable way. There is also need to plan for shelter assistance for some of those who did not receive land for resettlement, but may soon decide to return to their original homes and will need support to help build flood-resistant foundations houses. Also, a number of displaced people are not willing to return to their original places and are thus still exposed to the risk of flooding, therefore needing temporary shelter.
- An early alert system needs to be put in place to ensure surveillance of the situation and future flooding risks. Twenty thousand (20,000) 100-litre bags will be given to the most vulnerable families for construction of dikes that will prevent water from reaching the houses, under the supervision of CRC volunteers.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From the onset of the disaster, CRC activated its alert process, which led to the rapid response of its volunteers in the affected communities and assisted families to evacuate their flooded homes. Pre-positioned emergency stocks were distributed to provide initial emergency items to the most vulnerable and these goods will be replenished. The NS also supported the population with the construction of temporary shelters to protect them against the elements and provided tarpaulins, shelter kits and other assistance. CRC volunteers have also been active providing hygiene awareness-raising to prevent water-related diseases.

Currently, the distribution of non-food items and construction of temporary shelters has been re-assessed to clarify the assistance already provided and the remaining outstanding needs in the North and Far North (including Kousseri). The

revised planned assistance will support the new total of 3,166 families in both regions (see table below). Further assistance will also be provided to targeted returnees to enable them to reconstruct their homes and to rebuild their lives.

Revised objectives and progress

The objectives below outline the revised outcomes, outputs and activities that consolidate the assistance already provided and the activities still to take place, which are further outlined in the progress section for each area.

Shelter and non-food items	
Outcome: The immediate sheltering and non-food needs of 3,166 affected families (15,830 affected people) in the North and Far North regions are met	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>The basic needs for 3,166 families are covered through the provision of non-food items in accordance with Sphere standards.</p> <p>Appropriate sheltering assistance in the form of tarpaulins and shelter kits is provided to 3,166 families and further locally purchased shelter materials (wood) and technical support is provided to a targeted 787 families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary selection based on agreed criteria. • Coordinate targeted communities with other humanitarian agencies • Procure NFI's and sheltering materials from international and local markets. • Provide 6,332 tarpaulins, 3,166 shelter kits and materials for the construction for the of temporary shelters for a total of 3,122 families • Provide 7,915 mats (one per two persons) 7,915 blankets (one per two persons), 7,915 impregnated nets (one per two persons), 126,460 pieces of soap (1 piece of soap per person/month for eight months), 3,166 kitchen sets, 3,166 10 litre buckets and 3,166 jerry cans, and 4,036 hygiene kits (1 kit per female) • Transport and store the non-food items • Distribute NFI's and sheltering materials to the selected new beneficiaries • Recruit and train 75 new volunteers (in addition to the original 100 who worked in the initial response) in distributing and non-food assistance and other aspects. • Provide technical assistance to the beneficiaries with the construction of temporary shelters, raising the awareness of proper construction techniques • Provide reports about the distributions and the monitoring and evaluation of the sheltering activities • Develop an exit strategy.
Outcome 2: The lives of 550 targeted flood-affected homeless families returning to their home areas have been improved through the rebuilding of flood-resistant houses.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>550 of the most vulnerable families have received support to help them rebuild sustainable houses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary selection • Design of flood-resistant support structures in coordination with communities. • Procurement of concrete, wood and other building materials based on individual assessments • Support to selected beneficiaries for use of professional labour for basic construction • Volunteer supervision and technical support. • Monitoring of activities.

Progress

To start up the response, up to 100 Red Cross volunteers were trained on key areas for the operation including:- the code of ethics and the Principles of the Red Cross; distribution techniques; emergency water and sanitation including water treatment methods; hygiene promotion, PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) and CLTS (Community-Led Total Sanitation); epidemiological surveillance and health awareness / social mobilization tools; shelter construction; reporting (narrative and financial report).

After the training, the volunteers distributed the planned non-food items (NFIs) to 321 households (1,638 beneficiaries) in the North Region and to 600 households (3,000 beneficiaries) in the Far



North Region. The distributions took place during the last two weeks of September and each household received a package containing:

- 1 bucket
- 1 Jerry can
- 2 pieces of soap/person, depending on household size
- 1 kitchen set
- 1 hygiene kit per woman of childbearing age
- 2 LLINs (Long Lasting Impregnated Nets) per family
- 2 blankets per family
- 2 mats per family

Regarding emergency shelter, 1,740 battens, 580 rafters and 300 shelter kits were purchased locally and given to the local Red Cross committees in the regions concerned to support construction. Local Red Cross committees in turn distributed these materials to identified beneficiaries, according to the set criteria for the construction of temporary shelters for affected families. Red Cross volunteers supported the population with the construction of temporary shelters to provide dignity and protection from the elements.

Of the 490 shelters planned in the original Appeal in the two regions (116 in the North and 374 in the Far North), 237 have already been constructed in the following areas:- 116 in Garoua (100%); 63 in Yagoua (out of 174 planned - 36%), and 58 in Kousseri (out of 200 planned - 28%).

Areas of intervention	Temporary shelters			Distribution of NFIs			Total of beneficiary families
	Already built	Current needs	Total	Already served	Current needs	Total	
North Region	179	100	279	321	78	399	678
Far North Region	58	450	508	600	1,380	1,980	2,488
Total of beneficiary families	237	550	787	921	1,458	2,379	3,166

Table 2: Emergency shelter and NFI outstanding needs

A technical support resource person was deployed by the Swiss Red Cross to evaluate the on-going distribution of materials and support to build emergency shelters. Based on this review, a plan for ongoing emergency shelter support and for mid to longer-term interventions was developed, outlining the delivery of the remaining shelter materials and equipment where still required and outlining further shelter support for returnees to help them rebuild flood resistant shelters in their home area. Swiss RC also trained 20 volunteers on the use of shelter kits. More information on these activities will be provided in the next operations update.

Challenges

- As floodwaters have now receded in many areas and some families have started making earth blocks to rebuild their houses, the NS now has to readjust its strategy to balance outstanding emergency shelter and appropriate support for those families seeking to rehabilitate their homes, where possible.
- The problem of access to certain sites remains a challenge for activities. For example, it is impossible to access the localities of Guere and Mayo Hourna except by motorcycle, canoe or wading. This limits the assistance that can be provided to these remote communities and increases challenges and costs for logistical support. Another motorbike is being sought for access to Kousseri while emergency needs are still being met.
- There are challenges to ensuring final, accurate beneficiary numbers due to challenges of access, limited volunteer numbers and government information providing different figures. This is making it difficult to plan an accurate response and is hindering resource mobilization to assist the vulnerable.

Emergency health and care

Outcome: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population is reduced through the provision of preventive, community-level services to 3,166 families (15,830 beneficiaries) in the two regions for eight months

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>The health risks of the affected population are evaluated</p> <p>The resilience of the community is improved through better health education, increased knowledge on key public health issues focused on communicable diseases like cholera, measles, yellow fever or meningitis and behavioural change result</p> <p>The psychosocial support is provided to 1,800 families displaced, by volunteers from the Cameroon Red Cross</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess risks to the health of the population in terms of prevention, and risk of communicable diseases • Distribute and train the beneficiaries on how to install and use insecticide-treated mosquito nets • Monitor the proper use of mosquito nets • Train volunteers on communicable disease surveillance in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and district health offices • Train 75 volunteers on community-based health and First Aid (CBHFA) • Support mass vaccination campaign against polio and measles but also routine vaccination through 50 volunteers (50 out of the 75 newly trained volunteers for CBHFA will be specifically trained on immunization and community-based surveillance) including social mobilization and coordination with the Ministry of Public Health/WHO/UNICEF and independent monitoring • Provide first aid and ensure transportation of people needing medical attention to health facilities • Campaigning for health promotion in the two regions, with focus on epidemic prevention (cholera) • Train volunteers on the management of MAM in collaboration with partners like the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) • Carry out activities related to the improvement of the observance of moderate malnutrition identified in collaboration with the MoPH through the regular screening in the targeted area by the trained in CBHFA volunteers. Those affected will be immediately directed towards nutritional supplementation centres (moderate malnourished) at the community level • Train 50 volunteers on psychosocial programmes and provide psychosocial support to 1,800 families affected by the disaster.

Progress

After the distribution of NFIs, CRC volunteers showed beneficiaries how to hang the mosquito nets distributed. To date, out of the 921 households receiving NFIs, 825 received mosquito nets and 700 have received technical support from volunteers on how to hang their nets effectively.

30 first aid kits have been made available to local Red Cross committees in localities affected by the floods.

Red Cross volunteers participated in the anti-polio campaign organized by Government from 9 to 11 November and over 1,000 families were reached through sensitization activities in North and Far North regions of Cameroon.

A new group of 75 volunteers have now received training to support the original 100 volunteers who started the response and these volunteers will focus on the new distributions of shelter materials, and particularly on health and water & sanitation activities outlined below.

Further information will be provided on the health activities in the next operations update.

Challenges

- There is a need to strengthen awareness campaigns on the prevention of potential epidemic disease that are prevalent in relation to the flooding and other potential threats in Cameroon.
- Focus needs to be given to the psycho-social element of the health objectives, which have not been able to progress so far.
- The health team needs to work closely with those working on shelter to ensure that both displaced and returnees have protection against ongoing bad weather, with a clear focus on ensuring that the most vulnerable (old people, children, and people with chronic diseases) have access to shelter and health care / information.

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 3,166 families in the two northern regions and in the North-West and East regions for eight months.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>Potable water is provided to 3,166 families in the two regions</p> <p>The affected population in the two regions have good access to basic sanitation.</p> <p>The health of the population is improved through hygiene promotion and behaviour change activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the need for water and wastewater systems in relocation sites. • Train volunteers on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. • Train beneficiary communities on the treatment of water from households. • Distribute jerry cans required for transportation and water conservation • Establish water committees at the water points to manage the construction/rehabilitation of the points • Rehabilitate existing latrines and water points, including the rehabilitation of 10 school latrine blocks in the affected regions. • Construct 720 household latrines for affected families • Construct/rehabilitate 10 improved forages in both regions (in the sites indicated by Government for the installation of displaced persons • Organize vector control in relocation sites • Purchase and distribute hygiene and sanitation equipment. • Train volunteers on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and on the community-led total sanitation approach (CLTS) • Organize campaigns to promote hygiene among the population in general and the population installed in the host sites through interactive activities such as traditional dances and songs, games and football, etc. • Create and facilitate clubs for hygiene promotion • Produce and distribute training booklets and posters to support hygiene promotion campaigns.

Progress

For this first phase, awareness was geared towards the change of community habits and the risks involved in certain practices. People were doing laundry, washing dishes, and bathing in the floodwaters that engulfed the town and using the same water for drinking and cooking. People and animals were also defecating in the same water that was the main source for the affected population.

In the first response, 100 volunteers were mobilized and trained on various water treatment and awareness techniques and the use of PHAST/CLTS equipment. 10 team leaders and two local supervisors were also mobilised and briefed on the follow-up support for the volunteers and the monitoring of their activities on the field.

After training, the volunteers immediately went to the field to conduct extensive public awareness campaigns and identify water points and latrines to plan for the prioritized treatment these water points and construction and disinfection of latrines. 54 CRC volunteers formerly trained on CBHFA were also trained on water point treatment and maintenance techniques, and, in turn, trained household heads in water treatment, maintenance and cleaning of water points. Water points to be treated were identified during awareness sessions - to date, 289 wells have been treated out of 308 identified across the two regions (189 in the North and 100 in the Far North Region).

Concerning the sanitation component, 10 sanitation kits consisting of round shovels, spades, rakes, wheelbarrows, boots, gloves, machetes, pickaxes, nose masks, liquid soap, bleach, cresol, raincoats, buckets and 10 sprayers have been purchased and handed over to local CRC committees for use during the hygiene and disinfection campaigns organized in the communities. To date, 14 community-wide sessions have been organized in the two regions and more than 500 people have actively participated in supporting hygiene activities in the community.

Emergency latrines have been constructed in the temporary sites and committees have been set up to manage these latrines and to manage the donated cleaning and disinfection equipment. Red Cross volunteers supervise this management committee. A total of 26 latrines have already been constructed and three management committees set up. Latrines constructed to date are distributed as follows: 22 in the North Region (two in Böckle and 20 in Lainde Bilonde-Badoudi), four in the Far North Region (in Dana). In addition, the school serving as relocation site in Garoua II subdivision has been disinfected by volunteers, after moving the occupants to a new relocation site. 69 latrines have been disinfected in this subdivision, 12 of which are in schools.

On the awareness raising side, 500 posters, 1,000 leaflets and 10 image boxes were produced and distributed to facilitate sensitization campaigns and volunteers have disseminated public awareness messages beyond areas not affected by floods. So far, 18,907 people have been reached through awareness-raising activities (door-to-door and mass strategies). 10 focus group discussions have also been organized to extend the approaches and reach of the hygiene awareness campaigns and 10 hygiene and sanitation committees have been set up in the affected communities. Following the awareness-raising sessions conducted by the volunteers, especially in the relocation sites, there has been a gradual change in the behaviour by the population - for example, they have stopped defecating in the water.

Through these awareness raising and water & sanitation activities, the NS has reinforced its visibility, credibility and its auxiliary role to public and traditional authorities in flood-affected localities.

Challenges

- There is a need to further strengthen the operational capacity of local Red Cross committees in high-risk areas (mobilization/training of volunteers and provision of tools and equipment).
- It is important to advocate with government structures for joint actions during sanitation activities in these neighbourhoods, as there is a requirement for major work and substantial resources to rehabilitate the water points and sanitation systems in the affected communities.
- Enhancing community awareness and behaviour change remains the key to preventing the risks and consequences of damage caused by floods.

Disaster preparedness and risk reduction

Outcome: Improve the level of preparedness and risk reduction in eight high-risk communities in the two affected regions	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>High-risk communities are identified and mapped</p> <p>Local preparedness plans and early warning systems are available in high-risk communities.</p> <p>Dikes and barriers are established in high-risk communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and analysis of floods risk in affected areas and selection of priority communities for risk reduction activities. • Training of volunteers in vulnerability and capacity assessment in the affected regions. • Where not established, support selected communities in establishment of community preparedness committees with participation of local authorities and local Red Cross committees. • Support selected communities to carry out emergency VCA. • Support communities to do a contingency plan, which include measures for households and schools preparedness. • Support communities in development of local early warning systems including signboards, links to local authorities and Red Cross local committees, community member orientation and simulation. • Train volunteers and heads of households on the use of the alert system. • Distribute 20,000 empty sand bags for community based dike and barrier reinforcement. . • Organize at least two warning system exercises.

Progress

The activities planned under this sector are yet to be carried out. The most urgent work was to build emergency shelters and latrines to protect the displaced persons and to date funding and time resources have limited work in this area.

Challenges

- It is too early to note the specific challenges, however, it is always challenging to deliver on longer-term disaster risk reduction objectives when time, funding and human resources are limited and emergency needs are pressing.

Livelihoods

Outcome: 350 families (1,750 individuals) affected by floods in North and Far North regions are supported to restart a normal life after the floods	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>150 fishermen have resumed their activities that were interrupted by floods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify beneficiaries of income generating activities (IGA). • Train beneficiaries on the management of IGAs.

200 farmers' families have returned to their activities that were disrupted by floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy fishing equipment and distribute to 150 target beneficiary families • Buy farm tools and inputs and distribute to 200 targeted beneficiary families • Monitor the first months of implementation of IGAs.
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Progress

Activities have not yet commenced in this area, however, based on the in-depth assessment carried out with support from the IFRC Regional Representation in January, the focus of this Emergency Appeal will now focus more on the outputs and activities in this area, to support the resettlement of the affected population. This will however be determined by the financial resources accessed through this Appeal and through partners' support.

Challenges

- It is important that the IFRC looks to support the NS and its volunteers with training on income generating activities and livelihoods activities to help them respond in the next phase of this operation and to assist the affected population to rehabilitate their homes and livelihoods.

Logistics

The IFRC's Logistics Delegate in the Regional Representation for Central Africa office supports the logistics unit of CRC to:

- Evaluate the logistical infrastructure to identify the best supply chain to support the operation.
- Receive the goods sent by air, sea and road and arranging transportation to distribution points.
- Liaise and coordinate with other key stakeholders to ensure optimal use of all information.

While some items such as tarpaulins, mosquito nets, blankets, mats, jerry cans and kitchen sets will be purchased from Dubai, the remaining items, including construction materials will be purchased locally following local tender procedures. The NS has been managing the Chadian refugees operation in North region since 2008, thus they have good warehouse management capacity. Any vehicles and trucks planned will come from the Dubai global fleet base.

Progress

All NFIs and temporary shelter materials needed for the operation have been distributed with support of the Logistics Officer from the Central Africa Regional Representation. This includes the necessary items stored in Yagoua, which are being sent to respond to the new needs in Kousseri Sub-Division. Orders for replacement of all necessary items were placed with the Global Logistics Service in Dubai and have been received in mid-December. With the support of the Logistics Department, a training workshop was organized on the construction of temporary shelters.

Three motorbikes have been purchased and sent to the field to ease the movement of Red Cross teams. The Swiss Red Cross made five bicycles available for CRC volunteers in Kousseri.

Challenges

- Assistance materials to support future shelter and rehabilitation in the areas where the affected population are returning were received in December 2012 and shall be immediately sent to affected areas to continue the construction/rehabilitation of houses.
- Transport and therefore access to certain areas is still limited due to the number of vehicles and transport resources available to the NS.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The aim has been to maintain a regular flow of reliable information, between the field and key stakeholders. This is vital for fundraising, awareness of the work of the Red Cross and to maintain a strong profile of emergency operations. Communications activities have supported the NS to improve their communication skills and develop appropriate communication tools.

To date, two local radio and television channels were involved during the launch of the CRC operations in the North and Far North regions and two press articles on the operation have also been published. Similarly, articles are published continuously on the site of the COSNAC.

Information is shared regularly between the field (CRC) and IFRC to ensure the smooth implementation and monitoring of the operation. Information on the operation has been regularly shared with the components of the Movement at the regular coordination meetings, and with local authorities and other stakeholders in the field. A progress bulletin is regularly published by the NS. In total, four bulletins have been published and shared with partners during the operation.

Challenges

- A media mission will be organized jointly by CRC and the IFRC with the involvement of national and international media to highlight the ongoing needs and operation. This is scheduled for the first quarter of 2013.

Capacity of the National Society

CRC is present throughout the territory with its 58 departmental committees. Today, the number of volunteers is estimated at 40,000, of which up to 10,000 are trained first aiders. CRC regularly holds its Ordinary General Assembly every four years, with the last held in October 2012.

At the national headquarters there is an operational management structure with five technical departments. CRC has recently formed a National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) competency. Two of these trained NDRTs were selected to supervise implementation (one per region). CRC also recruited a field project coordinator for this operation.

Further training was also provided to the original 100 volunteers working on this operation, to provide them with key basic skills in relief distributions, water & sanitation (hygiene promotion) and epidemic surveillance.

Currently, CRC has a pool of trained shelter volunteers that can be deployed to any region within the country. With support from the Swiss Red Cross, a workshop was also held for a further 20 volunteers to inform them on the construction of shelters. This was held in Kousseri and brought together participants from several departmental committees from across the disaster area. Three trainings of volunteers were also organized on site management in each of the temporary settlement sites.

Capacity of the IFRC

IFRC's Central Africa Regional Representation (CARREP), in coordination with the Africa Zone office based in Nairobi provides technical and material support to the NS with the supply of relief materials, development of action plans, provision of logistics and human resources as needed. The Regional Representation includes a regional programme coordinator, a regional health coordinator and regional disaster management coordinator, a regional officer for HIV, and a team providing support services. Additional technical support is available from the Africa Zone office in disaster management, health and care, organizational development, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), finance and administration, and mobilization of human resources as needed.

The CARREP is located in Cameroon and is therefore able to allocate staff working directly with CRC to support them in their management of the operation. Based on this capacity, it has not been considered necessary to open an operations manager or programme support position. Federation operational headquarters have been established in Maroua.

A Logistics Delegate from CARREP was deployed to the affected areas to assist the local committees of the NS with the implementation of the operation. IFRC regional staff provided monitoring and reporting, as well as technical support throughout the operation.

Security

There is a risk of highway banditry in Cameroon, particularly in the North and Far North provinces near the Chadian border. Gangs of coupeurs de route (armed highway robbers) target vehicles on the main commercial routes of rural areas. The rapid reaction forces stationed near the border have had limited success so far in fighting these bandits. Carjacking is pervasive, with thieves generally targeting luxury vehicles, especially four-wheel drives (4WD), with a single occupant. Well identified Red Cross vehicles circulating during daylight hours are not likely to be specifically targeted.

Walter Cotte
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Programme Services Division

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Contact information

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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 (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.
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EMERGENCY APPEAL

19-02-12

MDRCM014 Cameroon: Floods

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	357,981			357,981
Construction - Materials	7,926			7,926
Clothing & Textiles	103,752			103,752
Seeds & Plants	29,630			29,630
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	382,054			382,054
Medical & First Aid	3,676			3,676
Ustensils & Tools	97,687			97,687
Other Supplies & Services	18,519			18,519
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	1,001,225	0	0	1,001,225
Vehicles Purchase	10,000			10,000
Computer & Telecom Equipment	3,333			3,333
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	13,333	0	0	13,333
Storage, Warehousing	10,519			10,519
Dsitribution & Monitoring	56,788			56,788
Transport & Vehicle Costs	55,495			55,495
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	122,802	0	0	122,802
International Staff	64,815			64,815
National Staff	32,405			32,405
National Society Staff	36,593			36,593
Volunteers	80,794			80,794
Total PERSONNEL	214,606	0	0	214,606
Workshops & Training	41,219			41,219
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	41,219	0	0	41,219
Travel	18,519			18,519
Information & Public Relations	6,204			6,204
Office Costs	12,912			12,912
Communications	5,926			5,926
Financial Charges	1,481			1,481
Shared Support Services	19,378			19,378
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	64,419	0	0	64,419
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	94,744	0		94,744
Total INDIRECT COSTS	94,744	0	0	94,744
TOTAL BUDGET	1,552,349	0	0	1,552,349
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	1,552,349	0	0	1,552,349