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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Central Africa Republic: Civil Unrest

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n ° MDRCF017
OT-2013-000152-CAF
23 December, 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 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.

CHF 245,476 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society of the Central African Republic (CAR) Red Cross to assist 25,000 beneficiaries displaced in makeshift sites. Unallocated funds are encouraged to repay the DREF.

Summary:

Since 5 December 2013, serious armed clashes have caused displacement in the nation's capital city Bangui. To date, 553 people have been killed and 163,000 people have been displaced due to fighting. Most of the 163,000 displaced are seeking safe shelter in 40 internally displaced people (IDP) sites, while the balance are taking refuge with host families. The CAR Red Cross seeks to assist displaced populations in Bangui, at the request of the Prime Minister. The operation has been



Displaced people at the Don Bosco IDP site. Source: CAR RC

designed based on discussions with Government, the ICRC, French Red Cross and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and aims to address gaps in assistance for those displaced by the fighting. While the situation seems to have stabilised over the last day or two, the context is fragile. The IFRC, in support of the National Society, will continue to monitor the situation and how best to support CAR Red Cross and affected population, particularly given the current limited access to areas outside of the capital city.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by March 2014; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by June 2014).

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

Situation

As of 16 December, 553 deaths and 143 injuries were recorded by the CAR Red Cross due to sectarian fighting in Bangui. CAR Red Cross has been active since the initial onset of violence, mobilising some 250 CAR Red Cross volunteers to provide first aid assistance for the wounded and assistance with the management of dead bodies. Initial assessments of the humanitarian situation highlighted that IDPs face enormous difficulties due to lack of food, safe water and cramped living conditions, leaving them exposed to diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections.

The Prime Minister made a statement calling for humanitarian assistance for those internally displaced. The humanitarian situation may worsen in the coming weeks as host families are already experiencing food difficulties in terms of purchasing power. Those displaced in IDP sites have lost all household and personal belongings. Some of the displaced have had their houses looted and vandalized.

On 12 December 2013 the United Nations declared the situation an 'L3' (level three) emergency response. This means all clusters have been requested to scale up their respective action plans and stocks for three months (the "100 day plan"). A global fund will be allocated in the coming days to the crisis. So far, the amount of this substance is not known. Meanwhile, a Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of USD 10 million has been released and distributed by sector as follows: USD 3 million for Food Security, USD 3 million for WASH / NFI / Shelter, USD 2 million for Health, USD 1.5 million for Protection and USD 0.5 million for Security (UNDSS).

In terms of security, the situation remains tense. The French Army and the Central Army Force (FOMAC) continue to patrol the streets of Bangui. The number of people killed and injured every day has dropped significantly since 11 December, however violence is still occurring in isolated incidences. Since 12 December, a fragile semblance of peace has settled over the city. People can be seen walking in the streets, private vehicles, taxis and motorcycles are also visible again in the city. Shops have now started to reopen, along with some banks, which should facilitate a slight recovery in economic activity.

Coordination and Partnerships

CAR Red Cross and the IFRC participated in the Inter-agency Standing Committee cluster meeting on 14 December where the different areas of intervention were presented, with an overview of activities in the field and the challenges ahead. The main issues emerging from this meeting are:

Protection Cluster:

- It is important to integrate a protection component in each sector.
- Many displaced are armed, which poses a serious risk when distributions.
- They are already reported cases of sex in exchange for food.

Health Cluster:

- A call centre has been set up for the dispatch of ambulances, including those of the CAR Red Cross.
- It is envisaged that care and free medicines are available for beneficiaries at IDP sites.
- Generally, there is a shortage of medicine and issues with the supply chain. The first shipment of medicines arrived in country on 16 December; and this should at least address the first problem.
- A tool is being developed to collect health data at IDP sites.

Nutrition Cluster:

- Medical staff are finding it difficult to report for work due to the security situation.
- Médecins Sans Frontières and Action Against Hunger work on the treatment of malnutrition in IDP sites. They expect a significant increase in the number of malnourished children in the coming weeks.

Food Security Cluster:

- As of 14 December, 100,000 people have received food in IDP sites.
- There is a need to scale up the level of distributions as needs are currently only being met in Bangui however there are needs outside the capital.
- Problems were encountered in previous distributions as distribution lists were incomplete. This has created frustration and tension.
- The current level of food stock is sufficient to cover the needs until the end of January, with sufficient funds to allow for food distribution until the end of February 2014.

- WFP / FAO plans to proceed to implementing a wet feeding programme (providing prepared supplementary feeding via canteens) as soon as is possible.
- Borders have reopened. Trucks are crossing again from the Cameroon border to Bangui, with escort from FOMAC.
- The exchange and pooling of information serious problem between the different clusters.
- A mapping is being developed to clarify what is needed and where.

Logistics Cluster:

- There is no particular problem in the fuel supply.
- WFP logistics are available to other agencies as needed.
- Needs in terms of storage will increase significantly in the days and weeks ahead.
- If necessary, the cargo could be facilitated for any items required (including food and non food items)

NFI / WASH / Shelter:

- There are 40 IDP sites to cover.
- According to the cluster, there is sufficient soap and mosquito nets available in country.
- The main actors providing sanitation at IDP sites are Médecins Sans Frontières, UNICEF and the ICRC. Coverage is currently one latrine for 166 people, with the objective one latrine for every 100 person; acutely short of the Sphere standard of one latrine per 20 people.
- There is hesitation regarding mass distribution of tarpaulins. There is a dilemma between protecting beneficiaries from the weather and providing protection where they are now.
- In Bangui, distributions were made in health centres, including families hosting those displaced.

CAR Red Cross and the IFRC participated in the WFP Food Security Cluster meeting on 16 December. The CAR Red Cross was asked to undertake more detailed assessments, prepare lists of beneficiaries and distribute food to the affected population. The aspect of protection, including prevention gender-based violence was discussed by the WFP and other partners. IFRC stressed the importance that, due to Movement's Principle of neutrality, the CAR Red Cross will not operate under the protection of military or any armed person during any distributions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

CAR Red Cross Disaster Management team conducted initial assessment of the situation and set up operations coordination centre, at the national headquarters.

Based on the findings of the initial assessment, six teams of volunteers were deployed in charge of dead body management and two teams were in charge of first aid and evacuation for the wounded. In addition, three teams based at the morgue, in charge of body identification and 10 teams, coming from different districts of Bangui, were in charge of burying the dead. The Government provided two machines for digging trenches and has provided funding for volunteer allowances and for fuel related to dead body management.

The ICRC has made available to the CAR Red Cross two trucks, four light vehicles, 433 body bags, personal protective equipment for volunteers including disposable gloves, nose covers, boots, and assorted tools (including shovels, picks, rakes). The ICRC has provided NFI support, including 400 blankets, 300 tarpaulins, insecticide for the prevention for mosquitos, bleach, detergent, and disinfectant. The ICRC has also provided a kit for the management of human remains, 17 first aid kits and 400 litres of diesel fuel.

The French Red Cross is present in country, with a focus on health and water and sanitation. The French Red Cross has provided a vehicle for the CAR Red Cross for collecting body and the municipal authorities have granted a site for burial of corpses in Bimbo. The French Red Cross has donated some medical and minor surgeries equipment to the National Society. The FRC is planning mobile clinic interventions with teams composed of two vehicles, one doctor, two nurses, on medical assistance, one midwife and four CAR Red Cross volunteers.

The IFRC is preparing to start the implementation of a Global Fund project, which involves the distribution of two million mosquito nets around the country. One IFRC staff specialized in Logistics remains in the country.

The CAR Red Cross has requested specific support from the IFRC in strengthening and reinforcing the Disaster Management capacity and in coordination. IFRC is currently supporting the Disaster Management department of the CAR Red Cross with technical advice and coordination within the Movement (ICRC and French RC) and outside the Movement (UN agencies, NGOs, clusters, etc.).

CAR Red Cross planned to carry out the first food distribution with WFP on 18 or 19 December in the site of St Joseph Moukassa for 12,000 IDP (Sources: UNHCR and Caritas). The standard food parcels contain corn flour, sunflower oil, beans and salt.

This DREF operation will be implemented in close collaboration and communication with ICRC and French Red Cross country delegations. Where applicable, synergies will be found to enhance the positive impact of the work undertaken in IDP sites.

The needs

Based on discussions at the meeting of the inter-cluster, food and NFI are available from UN agencies (WFP, FAO, UNICEF and UNHCR) and are sufficient for the entire displaced population. In addition, the ICRC is also playing an important role through the distribution of food and drinking water and latrine construction.

There are around 40 IDP sites in Bangui. It seems that there are sufficient NFI stocks in country to cover the needs of the affected population. The main gap identified is the lack of latrines at the IDP sites. According to MSF, there is only one latrine for every 600 people. MSF, UNICEF and ICRC are supporting the construction of emergency latrines to reach one for every 100 IDPs (still far from the Sphere standards of 1 per 20 users). Minimum standards for water are also not met in IDP sites (currently 7.8 litres per person per day compared to the standard 15-20 litres per person per day). Currently there are no shower facilities at the IDP sites (the standard is 1 per 40 users).

The operation plans to construct 250 double latrines (250 for women and 250 men). As it is important to integrate protection components in the sanitation component, latrines will be segregated for women and for men. Latrines will have doors which can be locked from the inside. For each latrine, a hole of two to three meters deep will be dug. Then, six chevrons, eleven laths, four planks and plastic sheeting will be assembled to provide privacy for beneficiaries.

Due to the cramped living conditions at the IDP sites, there is potential for disease outbreaks, including cholera, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections. Malaria is also a major health risk for the displaced population. CAR volunteers will need to be trained in health and hygiene promotion, and these messages passed on to displaced communities.

Any work undertaken should incorporate messages of peaceful coexistence between communities. The volunteers of the Red Cross, through the seven Fundamental Principles, are excellent ambassadors of peace and tolerance. Therefore, all 291 volunteers who will be involved in activities held in IDP camps will be sensitized and will receive key messages for beneficiaries.

Also, six experienced volunteers will be dedicated to a daily radio show moderation and facilitation. They will possibly be representing different communities to pass messages of peace. It would also be a place of exchange between Community leaders and religious representatives, in order to promote reconciliation and peace. This activity will be facilitated by an experienced communication expert.

Since 5 December, 250 volunteers have been involved in dead body recovery / management and first aid activities. These very difficult tasks can have a serious impact on their mental wellbeing and the affected population. Therefore, there is a need to provide psychological support

Also, as some of these volunteers and other will be involved in upcoming activities in IDP sites, it will be relevant to provide them with a training on psychological support (PSP), so they will be able to support beneficiaries. A Gender Based Violence (GBV) component will be included in this training, so they will know how to react appropriately with victims of GBV. Also, they will receive the list of the dedicated centres where the victims can be referred. Apart from the sensitization of all the volunteers involved in this operation, a team of 30 volunteers will be dedicated to support beneficiaries on a daily basis in IDP sites.

Even if CAR Red Cross will not distribute food or NFI in the course of this operation, many external agencies are looking for implementing partners in Bangui and likely outside Bangui in upcoming weeks. Therefore, it will be relevant to take the opportunity of this DREF operation to reinforce CAR Red Cross capacity to do site assessment, to set up beneficiary list and to prepare distribution site. Overall, 100 volunteers will attend this training / refresh course held by the CAR Red Cross.

A dedicated person will work closely with the National Society in order to facilitate the implementation of these activities, in close collaboration with the national Disaster Management.

The situation remains extremely volatile and constantly changing. Monitoring is essential as people move from site to site and to IDP sites during the day and then back home at night.

The proposed operation

Emergency health

Outcome: The mental wellbeing is improved for 25,000 beneficiaries (5,000 households) living in cramped conditions in 10 IDP sites across Bangui and for 291 volunteers.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned:
<p>Psychological support is provided to 291 volunteers and 20,000 displaced people.</p> <p>Victims of gender-based violence are identified and referred to dedicated health facilities.</p> <p>The health status for 25,000 displaced people will be improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 291 volunteers who work in IDP sites will be sensitized in psychosocial support (PSS) and gender based violence (GBV). - Refresher training for 30 volunteers in PSS. - A dedicated team of 30 volunteers will work in IDP sites to offer PSS to 20;000 IDPs in 10 locations. - Produce 1000 leaflets and 300 posters on PSP and GBV - Refer GBV victims to dedicated health facilities. - Monitor the impact of the activity. - Train 50 volunteers in health promotion focusing on malaria prevention, cholera, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections and dedication of malnutrition and referral processes - Sensitize 25,000 beneficiaries with health messages and provide referrals where necessary

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 25,000 beneficiaries of 5,000 families.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned:
<p>Hygiene conditions are improved for 25,000 beneficiaries and hygiene related diseases are prevented in 10 IDP sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refresher training 50 volunteers in beneficiary selection, beneficiary communication and monitoring - Train 50 volunteers in latrine construction. - The construction of 500 latrines (250 for women and 250 for men) to improve hygiene conditions in IDP sites, include a protection component in the construction process by providing separated area for women and men, and lockable doors. - Train 50 volunteers in Hygiene Promotion messages. - Sensitize 25,000 beneficiaries with hygiene promotion messages. - Produce 5,000 leaflets and 300 posters on hygiene promotion. - Monitor the impact of activities.

Communication and advocacy

Outcome: The culture of peace and cohabitation is transmitted by a dedicated team of 50 volunteers in 10 IDP sites and by a team of 6 volunteers animating a radio show.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned:
<p>Peace building and conflict resolution strategies help to ease tension in Bangui</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sensitize 291 volunteers working in IDP sites in peace building and beneficiary communication, namely with key messages. - Train 6 dedicated volunteers to animate a daily radio

	<p>show.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite to the radio show community and religious leaders to discuss together and to transmit peace messages. - Design key messages for dissemination in targeted communities/IDP sites. - Produce IEC materials including leaflets and posters with key messages. - Monitor the impact of activity and readjust strategy if needed.
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Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC support 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 aid 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 advancement of human dignity and peace in the world .



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 All 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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DREF Budget

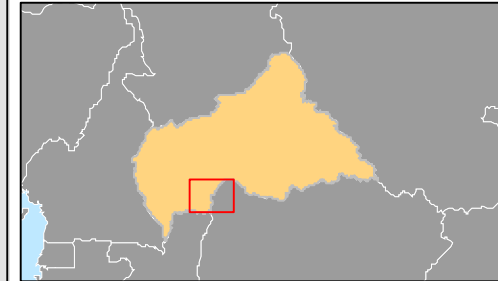
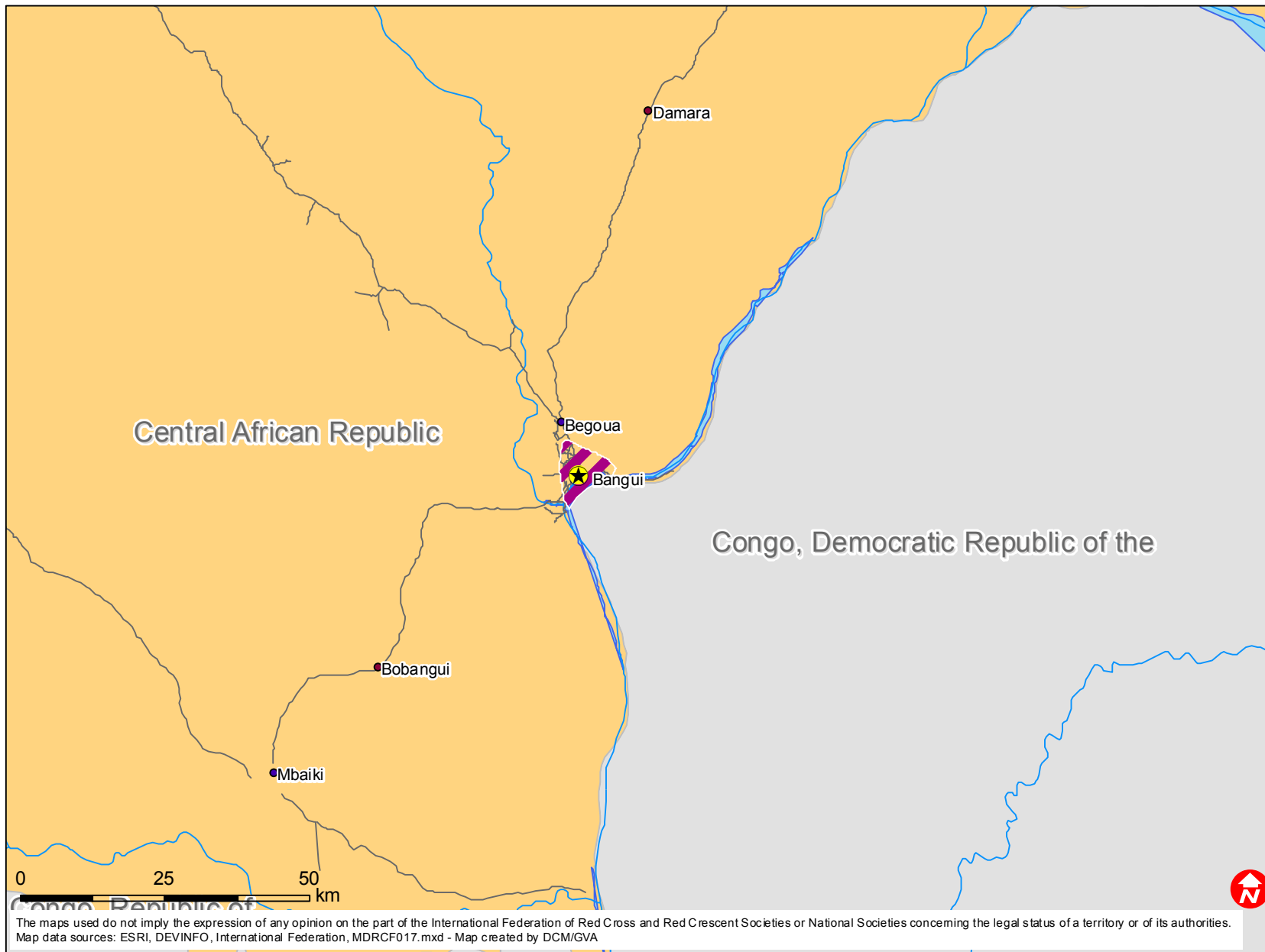
DREF - CIVIL UNREST IN CAR - MDRCF017

23.12.2013

Budget Group	Total budget (CHF)
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	38,928
Medical & First Aid	1,442
Teaching Materials	14,423
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	54,793
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	4,500
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	4,500
Storage, Warehousing	192
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	11,792
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	11,985
International and Regional Staff	45,000
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	6,808
Volunteers	61,220
Total PERSONNEL	113,028
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	31,608
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	31,608
Travel	6,000
Information & Public Relations	96
Office Costs	3,000
Communications	3,985
Financial Charges	1,500
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	14,581
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	14,982
Total INDIRECT COSTS	14,982
TOTAL BUDGET	245,476
Available Resources	
Multilateral Contributions	
Bilateral Contributions	
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	245,476



Central Africa Republic: Civil unrest



 Affected area