

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Cameroon: Population Movement

DREF operation n° MDRCM004

8 April, 2008

The International Federation's 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 166,876 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 28 May, 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 20,000 beneficiaries, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

As a result of socio-political unrest and rampant poverty in the Central African Republic (CAR) over the past years, 46,000 CAR citizens flee their country into neighbouring Cameroon, precisely in the East and Adamaoua provinces of Cameroon in 2007.

Reacting to that situation, Cameroon Red Cross supported by the Federation from Yaoundé launched two DREF operations in 2007 to assist some 20,000 vulnerable CAR refugees. The refugees that included mostly Bororo breeders arrived in Cameroon deprived of all they had back in CAR. Within the framework of the implementation of these DREF operations, the Red Cross assisted the refugees in identifying new means of life. Thus the refugees chose to work in several sectors like agriculture, breeding, poultry and market gardening, all income-generating activities. The Red Cross started funding those initiatives and intends to pursue, though the DREF budgets are now exhausted and the operations closed.



The Red Cross assisted CAR refugees with food and non-food items

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The situation

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Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Goal: Reduce the vulnerability of the displaced population from Central African Republic (CAR) in the Eastern and Northern regions of Cameroon

Objective: To improve the livelihood of some 20,000 displaced persons through a relief operation and integration initiatives.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To improve the livelihood of some 20,000 displaced persons through a relief operation and integration initiatives.

Activities planned:

- 8,000 children receive enriched flour, salt and sugar within 30 days
- 1,000 heads of families have received agricultural tools and seeds, and have therefore improved their self food assistance
- Well-trained volunteers carry out all the activities smoothly

Achievements

Red Cross volunteers distributed food and non-food items to 9,740 families on the basis of 4,453 families in the East and 5,287 in the Adamaoua province. Most of the refugees (nomads) who were initially registered did not receive anything as they were constantly moving from one place to the other in search of greener pastures. However, some who had not been registered also benefited from the distributions.

Agricultural implements were distributed to 865 heads of refugee families out of the 1,000 that were initially planned in both provinces. The tools distributed included files, machetes, trucks, hoes and seeds (corn, beans and cassava plantings). The 135 heads of families who did not receive anything were nomads who failed to show up during the distributions. However, some refugees who had not been registered but could show a refugee card from UNHCR also benefited from the distributions.

50 Red Cross volunteers were trained on distribution techniques, stocks management, and water point treatment and on the code of conduct and principle of voluntary service. The volunteers were also lectured on interagency coordination and how to keep relationship with partners within the framework of population management.

The local branches of the Red Cross in the East and Adamaoua provinces received security patches, and 3 motorbikes (2 for the East and 1 for the Adamaoua).

Impact:

The various distributions were timely as they enabled the refugees to find a new reason of hope. Although over 50% of the refugees ate the seeds that were given them and planted only cassava, the idea was original as they harvested large quantities of cassava and sold some to buy what they could need most. Some of the refugees declared: "Red Cross assistance to us came in at a very crucial moment in the lives of our families. We do appreciate it..."

Challenges:

Throughout the operation period, the situation never calmed down enough in CAR to enable the refugees to go back to their country. Therefore, the main challenge has always been to find adaptation means for the refugees. This is why we thought of agriculture. Most of the refugees have already agreed to embark on agriculture. The challenge now is to assist them till a point when they could continue without assistance from

the Red Cross. Development actions are to be encouraged to ease life for these refugees who are still in Cameroon.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To improve the livelihood of some 20,000 displaced persons through a relief operation and integration initiatives.

Activities planned:

- At least 65 per cent of the displaced population has access to clean and safe potable water
- At least 65 per cent of the displaced population is practicing hygiene rules for better health

Achievements

Trained Red Cross volunteers demonstrated water chlorination before the refugees and distributed them chlorine for their own water treatment. The volunteers further assisted the refugees in water treatment and conducted hygiene and sanitation sensitisation to avoid epidemics outbreak among the refugees. Presently, this last activity is ongoing as new refugees continue to arrive on a daily basis. The volunteers and the refugees treated over 60% of the water wells and sources in the refugees camps in both East and Adamaoua provinces.

While treating water along side with the refugees, Red Cross volunteers pursued efforts to sensitising them to the need of keeping their environment clean and drinking safe water to avoid diseases. In addition, most of the CAR refugees are not used to going to hospital for child delivery. Red Cross volunteers sensitised them to the need of sterilising the tools they use for that purpose back in their camps or homes to avoid infections.

Impact:

Following the hygiene and sanitation sensitisation conducted by the Red Cross, the refugees have been making efforts to keep their environment clean as can be seen in their respective courtyards. Women also declared that they now know that after fetching water, they have to chlorinate it before consumption to avoid diseases.

Challenges:

Access to safe drinking water remains a great challenge for the refugees. 15 water wells were constructed thanks to UNHCR. However, 135 are still needed to satisfy the water needs of the refugees. UNHCR has promised to continue the construction of well in 2008, but will need the support of other humanitarian actors. Most existing boreholes and water sources in some surrounding villages need rehabilitation, and the access to them is very difficult.

Advocacy and training

Objective: To improve the livelihood of some 20,000 displaced persons through a relief operation and integration initiatives.

Activities planned:

- Through advocacy by the Cameroon Red Cross Society, UN agencies have been informed of the plight of the vulnerable displaced persons and respond efficiently to their needs

Achievements

Throughout the operation, the Red Cross maintained regular contact with UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF. The Red Cross that was first in the field advocated before other partners for quick assistance to the refugees. This advocacy activity is ongoing as new refugees arrive on a daily basis.

Impact:

Thanks to the advocacy activity carried out by the Red Cross, the entire UN system and other international humanitarian organisations are involved in the operation to assist CAR refugees in Cameroon. The combined action of these partners contributed enormously to alleviating the sufferings of the refugees, though most is yet to be done as their number is ever increasing.

Challenges:

Despite all that has already been done so far, all the humanitarian actors involved in the operation have the strong belief that assistance has to continue, at least for some time as new refugees continue to arrive from CAR. In addition, development actions need to be taken to ensure sustainability of the assistance.

Lessons learned:

- On hearing about the situation of the refugees, the Red Cross launched a DREF operation that has been closed now. This provided relief to the refugees but much is yet to be done. For example, we could not plan long term development actions within the framework of a DREF operation, which is what is actually needed to solve the problems of the refugees. The refugees who were reluctant to embark on agriculture have now understood that it is essential for their survival in Cameroon. They are ready to take any development action provided it gives them means of survival.
- In addition, the refugees are not stable in one place, and this makes it very difficult to assist them. Huge logistics means are therefore needed for effective assistance.
- The population management capacities of Cameroon Red Cross have been built, especially in the East and Adamaoua provinces.
- The Federation participated in interagency meetings on a regular basis, and continues to do so as new refugees arrive in Cameroon. We strongly believe that it might be better to launch an emergency appeal for CAR refugees in the East and Adamaoua province of Cameroon.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCM004 - Cameroon - Population Movement

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/5-2008/3
Budget Timeframe	2007/5-2007/8
Appeal	MDRCM004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		166,874				166,874
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		166,876				166,876
C5. Other Income		166,876				166,876
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		166,876				166,876
D. Total Funding = B + C		166,876				166,876
Appeal Coverage		100%				100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		166,876				166,876
E. Expenditure		-166,876				-166,876
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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Reporting Timeframe	2007/5-2008/3
Budget Timeframe	2007/5-2007/8
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Budget	APPEAL

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		166,874					166,874	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief			3,767			3,767	-3,767	
Clothing & textiles			5,909			5,909	-5,909	
Food	52,137		47,482			47,482	4,655	
Seeds,Plants	5,500						5,500	
Water & Sanitation	10,800						10,800	
Medical & First Aid	2,400						2,400	
Teaching Materials	750		3,575			3,575	-2,825	
Utensils & Tools			1,475			1,475	-1,475	
Other Supplies & Services	30,800		37,649			37,649	-6,849	
Total Supplies	102,387		99,857			99,857	2,530	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	3,600						3,600	
Vehicles			3,644			3,644	-3,644	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	3,600		3,644			3,644	-44	
Transport & Storage								
Storage			188			188	-188	
Distribution & Monitoring	16,000		15,288			15,288	713	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,450		3,537			3,537	-1,087	
Total Transport & Storage	18,450		19,012			19,012	-562	
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff			3,097			3,097	-3,097	
National Staff	2,002		6,672			6,672	-4,670	
National Society Staff	17,220		16,731			16,731	489	
Total Personnel	19,222		26,500			26,500	-7,278	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	5,800		2,533			2,533	3,267	
Total Workshops & Training	5,800		2,533			2,533	3,267	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,670		2,726			2,726	-56	
Information & Public Relation			50			50	-50	
Office Costs	1,498		250			250	1,248	
Communications	2,400		803			803	1,597	
Financial Charges			638			638	-638	
Other General Expenses			17			17	-17	
Total General Expenditure	6,568		4,484			4,484	2,084	
Programme Support								
Program Support	10,847		10,847			10,847	-0	
Total Programme Support	10,847		10,847			10,847	-0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	166,874		166,876			166,876	-3	
VARIANCE (C - D)			-3				-3	