



CAMEROON: FLOODS

DREF Bulletin No. MDRCM005

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31 August 2007

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 34,215 (28,418 or EUR 20,736) is requested from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will be completed by 30 September 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached map>](#)

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

Background and current situation

This year, the rainy season in Cameroon started earlier than usual and with an unprecedented intensity. Since late July 2007, forecasts had been indicating potential floods, which would constitute a serious threat to agriculture and lives of communities in most provinces of Cameroon. Between 2 and 17 August 2007, heavy rains fell in Mokolo (a locality situated 1,300 km from Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon), causing serious flooding in the Sarki-Fada, Tongo, Tourou, Dza-Wandaï, Idanang, Mendeze, Nassarawo, Domayo, Djimeta, Bonguelé, Guimengayak and Zimangayak neighbourhoods. As a consequence of the flooding, six people died and about 20 were injured (one of whom, a lady, is still in coma). The floods also caused serious material damages and left 1,220 persons homeless; these persons are currently sheltered at the Franco Arabic School and in the Imam's compound in extremely precarious conditions. They are at risk of contracting diseases due to promiscuity, lack of sufficient latrines and lack of potable water, among others.

The damages registered can be summarized as follows:

- 124 families (1,220 persons) have been rendered homeless;
- 1,440 persons (428 men, 564 women and 448 children) have been seriously affected. They lost almost everything, including cattle (48 sheep, 28 goats, 68 chickens, 82 ducks, six donkeys), household items (an undetermined number of clothes and other household property), farms and granaries (including 46 bags of corn and 64 bags of millet);
- 6 people perished (one man, four women, a baby and a 16 year old child);
- 2 persons are reported missing (two children of 10 and 12 years respectively);
- 17 persons injured;
- 225 granaries swept away by fast flowing water;
- 150 houses destroyed;
- Four bridges (linking several neighbourhoods) destroyed.

According to local authorities, the affected people need urgent support because as the rains continue, the number of casualties increases, and the risk of diseases become pronounced, especially in children.

Table 1: Breakdown of the affected population (by age and gender)

Age groups	Male		Female		Total
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
0 - 5 years	120	9.84	90	7.38	210
6 - 14 years	182	14.92	143	11.72	325
15 - 59 years	98	8.03	320	26.23	418
60 years and above	130	10.66	137	11.23	267
Total	530	43.44	690	56.56	1220

Source: Divisional Officer and Local Red Cross Committee

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRCS), with support from the Federation's Central Africa Sub-Zone Office, participated in assessing the situation, identifying beneficiaries and their needs, searching for missing persons and providing psychological support to the affected people. The Red Cross also distributed 80 blankets to the most vulnerable displaced families and sensitized them about hygiene rules.

Government Action

The Government of Cameroon set up a crisis committee to manage the disaster and organized coordination meetings. The government also donated XAF 31 million (CHF 77,500) to cover the loss of household materials and to meet food needs of flood-displaced people.

Action of other partners

'Cellule de Formations aux Actions de Développement' (CEFAAD), a local non-governmental organization (NGO), facilitated the counting of affected families and donated a motorbike to ease the movement of Red Cross volunteers involved in conducting assessments and searching for missing persons.

'Organisation Paysanne pour le Développement Rural du Cameroun' (OPADER-CAM), another local NGO, donated XAF 20,000 to the divisional committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society to cover fuel costs. OPADER-CAM also put two motorbikes at the disposal of the Red Cross to ease movement in the field.

Coordination

A crisis committee has been put in place since the disaster occurred; it is composed of the local Red Cross committee of Mayo Tsanaga and several local NGOs, including CEFAAD and OPADER-CAM. In order to facilitate coordination of efforts and to ensure an efficient intervention, the committee has been placed under the authority of the senior divisional officer for Mayo Tsanaga.

Needs

In addition to needs that have already been covered by the above-mentioned actors, the following are needed: clothes, mats, blankets, security patches, sanitation materials, temporary latrines, impregnated mosquito nets, and sensitization materials.

Proposed actions

The DREF-supported intervention of the Cameroon Red Cross Society aims at improving the livelihoods of some 1,220 persons displaced by floods. The Red Cross will meet immediate needs before other partners get on board.

Goal: Reduce the vulnerability of people displaced by floods in Mokolo, Far North Province of Cameroon.

Objective: To improve the livelihood of some 1,220 displaced persons (244 families), through a relief operation.

Expected results:

- At least 65 per cent of the affected population has access to safe potable water and is practicing hygiene rules for better health;
- Vulnerable displaced people have access to hygiene facilities, such as latrines;
- Children and mothers are well protected against diseases such as malaria and cholera;

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- UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP, FAO and UNHCR) have been informed of the situation through advocacy;
- Trained Red Cross volunteers carry out activities smoothly, including sensitization campaigns.

Activities:

- Chlorinating water points;
- Building emergency latrines;
- Distributing non-food items, including clothes, blankets, mats, mosquito nets and soap;
- Conducting advocacy to encourage other agencies to come to the aid of affected vulnerable people;
- Training Red Cross volunteers in the roles of distribution and the disinfection methods.

Implementation strategy

The actions proposed above will be carried out by volunteers from the local committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society under supervision from the national headquarters and in close collaboration with the crisis committee. Supervisors will plan activities, provide items to be distributed, train volunteers, supervise the volunteers and prepare reports on activities (narrative and financial).

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.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a 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

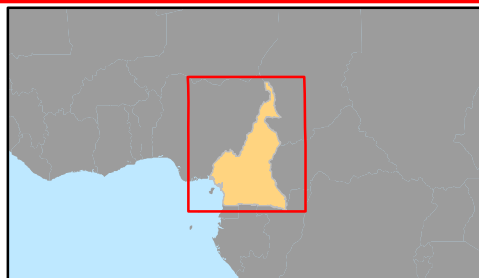
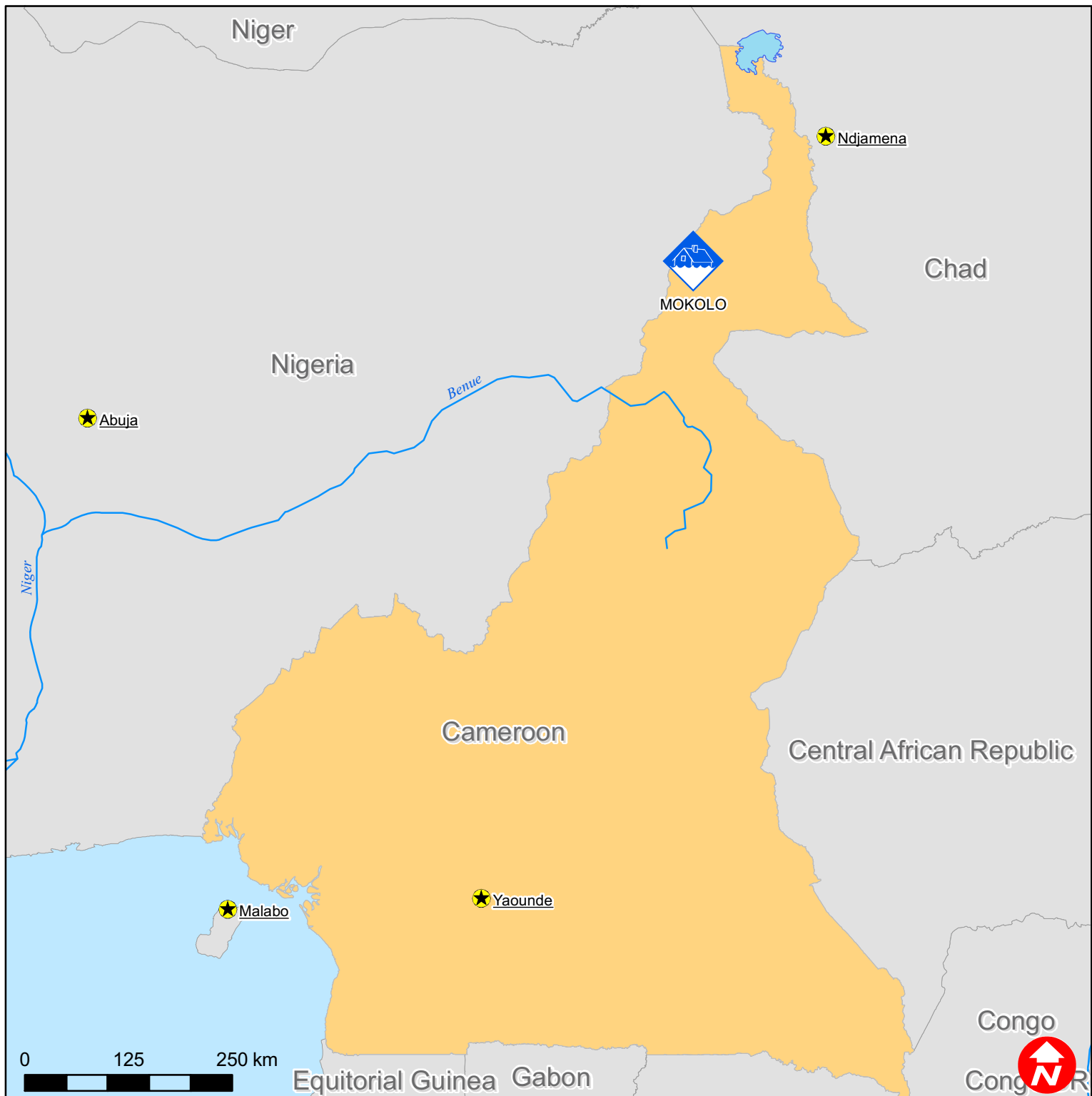
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[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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