

# Emergency appeal



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Central Africa: Chad and Cameroon floods

Emergency appeal n° MDR62003  
GLIDE n° FL-2008-000126-  
TCD/CMR  
29 September 2008

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 438,118 (USD 398,289 or EUR 271,280) in cash, kind, or services to support the National Societies of Chad, Cameroon and other Central African countries to assist 21,180 beneficiaries. This operation is expected to be completed by end-December 2008.

CHF 46,402 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to start the planned activities.

**Summary:** Torrential rains have been falling throughout the Central African region (in particular) Chad and Cameroon since July 2008, causing serious flooding and material damage. The Moyen-Chari region and the capital of N'Djamena in Chad and 27 neighbourhoods of Garoua I and Garoua II in Cameroon are most affected).

Serious flooding has also affected the Mambere Kadei prefecture of the Central African Republic. Emergency stocks in Yaoundé and Chad are being distributed, and need to be replaced to prepare for further potential floods.

This appeal is linked to the West and Central Africa Floods Preparedness Emergency Appeal launched in July 2008 to strategically place relief goods in flood prone areas to facilitate rapid response. This same strategy is again being used in this Emergency Appeal to launch a regional appeal that will enable quick response to small-scale emergencies. This Emergency Appeal is intended to:

- Support the delivery and distribution of basic relief items, and undertake water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.
- Replenish the contingency stock in Yaoundé sent to northern Cameroon, and the replenishment of Chadian National Society relief stocks used in Moyen-Chari and N'Djamena.
- Fulfil the remaining gaps in additional necessary supplies for flood-affected populations in Cameroon.

**This operation will be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by December 25, 2008.**

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget;](#) [here to link to a map of the affected area;](#) [or here to view contact details>](#)



Floods in the Moyen-Chari region of Chad

## The situation

The seasonal forecast for July, August, and September 2008 indicated that the northern part of the West and Central Africa region would likely experience 'wet' conditions, the middle would experience 'very wet' conditions, while 'near normal' conditions were expected in the south. Current forecasts indicate that the rainy season this year will continue until late October instead of September as in previous years. This is

causing hardship for a population already affected by an escalated cost of living and limited coping mechanisms.

The multiple floods are a regional phenomena, with the following countries affected: Gambia with 80 families homeless; Liberia (Monrovia) with 68 families homeless; Burkina (112 families affected); Cameroon/Yaoundé (Ekirozock, Nkomassi and Mdamvout) with an estimated 100 families homeless; Guinea (840 families affected); Senegal (Dakar, Kaolack and Saint Louis regions) with 1,996 affected families; Niger (Zender region) with 860 families homeless; Guinea Bissau with 150 families homeless; Cameroon with 5,000 affected families; Chad with 3,000 families affected; and in Central African Republic (CAR) where 795 people are homeless.

In Gambia, the Federation supported the Gambia Red Cross with CHF 34,000 from DREF for 60 homeless families. In Niger, the Niger Red Cross was supported to mobilize local resources through the US Embassy in Niamey with \$50,000 to assist the most affected communities in three communes. The Federation also supported the CAR Red Cross with CHF 32,000 with funds from the floods preparedness emergency appeal to respond to floods and landslide. In the other countries, responses were carried out based on National Society disaster management capacities.

A DREF was launched on September 24 to support the Cameroon and Chad National Society operational costs to enable the transport and distribution of basic non-food items held in contingency stocks in Yaoundé purchased under the regional emergency preparedness appeal, and other operating costs of the Cameroon and Chad Red Cross proposed plans of action. To respond to needs in Cameroon an immediate distribution of the entire regional prepositioned stock was initiated for immediate distribution for the most vulnerable people; in Chad the distribution of the National Society emergency stock in place has begun. This stock will contribute to improving the living conditions of flood-affected persons by carrying out relief activities including the distribution of non-food items and sanitation activities. Identified beneficiaries include about 4,236 families (21,180 beneficiaries) affected by floods (1,290 in Chad and 2,946 in Cameroon) representing the most vulnerable among flood-affected persons registered by the National Societies.

In **Chad**, torrential rains have been falling in almost all the regions of Chad since July 2008, causing serious flooding and extensive damage, particularly in the Moyen-Chari region and N'Djamena with 134 and 70 mm of rain, respectively. Floods began in early August. It is estimated that some 15,042 people live in the flooded areas. The Chad Red Cross evaluation mission initially concluded that 8,118 houses (4,285 in N'Djamena and 3,833 in Sarh) were seriously damaged. Some of the homes are no longer habitable, which has left 6,450 persons homeless and very vulnerable. These flood-affected persons have found temporary shelter in classrooms. The close living conditions, lack of potable water and food, and continued bad weather is raising concerns of a risk of epidemic outbreak in the locality. Several families have lost almost all of their household belongings. In addition, over 7,000 cultivated farms have been flooded and the crops destroyed, thereby exposing affected families to food insecurity as they now rely only on their limited food reserves.

In northern **Cameroon**, flooding and landslides have occurred in approximately 27 neighbourhoods of the town of Garoua, the principal town of the North province of Cameroon. This disaster, which occurred in late August and early September, 2008 left nine people dead and caused serious material damage, including the destruction of houses, and the loss of livestock. According to forecast services, heavier rains are to be expected in the days ahead.

The Cameroon Red Cross has reported that approximately 5,000 families (25,000 persons) have been affected by the disaster, 1,000 of which have been made homeless in 27 neighbourhoods of Garoua I and II. Some 5,000 persons are considered particularly vulnerable within the overall affected population. Many roads and bridges have been destroyed, thereby cutting the town from the rest of the country. Wells and other water points have all been contaminated by flood waters and by the content of the latrines that have been destroyed, and the populations lack access to potable water. Immediate needs are basic food and non-food relief items such as bedding materials, clothes for children, cooking kits, mats, mosquito nets, buckets and jerry cans. In addition, there is a need to treat water wells to avoid epidemic outbreaks.

## Coordination and partnerships

In Chad, senior Government authorities assessed the situation in the field. MSF and the Red Cross traveled to the affected localities to assess the situation and develop action plans. The Cameroon Red Cross is also

working in close collaboration with local authorities. The government requested a second assessment lead by the mayor, and including the local Red Cross branch. The Cameroon Red Cross Society is approaching WFP to satisfy food needs.

In CAR, government local authorities accompanied local Red Cross volunteers and authorities during the evaluation of the situation in the field. The Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs who was part of the evaluating team has sent a report to his Ministry, which is yet to react. Apart from that, the only actor assisting flood and landslide victims in the field is the CAR Red Cross Society, though with very limited means. The Red Cross has put a monitoring committee in place and the National Society and they are attending meetings organized by the governor to evaluate the situation. They have had meetings.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

**Chad:** the Red Cross of Chad monitored the situation in collaboration with its local branches, and with the initial signs of flooding a team headed by the national disaster management officer was deployed in the field to assess the situation. In addition, the National Society met with government authorities to share information and ensure smooth coordination of a potential response. The Red Cross volunteers deployed to the affected communities are presently delivering hygiene and sanitation awareness messages to affected people, though on a small-scale. This is to prevent the outbreak of epidemics in the area. The National Society intends to increase the sensitization efforts.

**Cameroon:** the secretary general of the Benoue divisional committee of the Cameroon Red Cross assessed the situation in the field with a team of 10 volunteers. This team has been identifying registering affected people, providing psychological support and disseminating hygiene sensitization messages. The team performed a needs assessment and came out with the following results: flood-affected people need food and non-food items (bedding materials, clothes for children, and cooking kits). There is also the need to treat water wells to avoid epidemic outbreaks. Red Cross authorities joined Government authorities in another evaluation mission in the field in order to have a clearer picture of the needs. After this mission, the Red Cross deployed 60 volunteers who have already started sanitation activities and sensitising populations to respect hygiene rules.

## The needs

**Beneficiary selection in Chad:** After the assessment mission conducted by the National Society in the affected localities, 6,450 most vulnerable people were identified among 15,000 flood affected persons as people in need of urgent assistance. These people were selected because they had all been made homeless, and had lost almost everything to the floods. The following table reflects the beneficiaries targeted by the recent DREF operation:

Towns	Vulnerable people				Material damage	
	Families	Adults (mostly women)	Children	Elderly	Houses destroyed	Flooded farms
N'Djamena	800	1,500	2,000	5	800	700
Sarh	490	1,250	1,000	195	490	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>700</b>

**Short-term needs:** there is a need for blankets, mosquito nets, mats, and clothing for children, potable water and sanitation facilities to prevent diseases and other epidemic outbreaks that threaten approximately 3,000 children.

**Medium-term needs:** in the medium-term, there will be the need to carry out environmental hygiene and sanitation activities and the cleaning of gutters. These activities will be carried out along with the sensitization of populations to hygiene and sanitation guidance, and to a flood-related early alert system. There will also be a need to train volunteers and communities on flood management, and hygiene and sanitation. Sustainable partnerships will also have to be established with government hygiene and sanitation authorities.

**Needs and beneficiary selection in Cameroon:** After the evaluation conducted in the field, the Red Cross identified the most vulnerable 2,946 families (14,730 people) of the 5,000 affected families as beneficiaries of the emergency operation. These are people who lost nearly everything. Children urgently need clothes to

protect themselves from bad weather. Beneficiaries also need food as most of their food storage lofts have been destroyed.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society will approach WFP to provide food support. Given that most latrines have been destroyed, and water wells contaminated, there is also an urgent need to facilitate access to potable water by treating contaminated water wells, rehabilitating water points and latrines that have been destroyed, and sensitising populations to respect hygiene rules.

## The proposed operation

The intervention will focus in both Chad and Cameroon on the provision of basic non-food items, health and hygiene as well as psychological assistance for about 4,236 families (21,180 beneficiaries) affected by floods (1,290 families in Chad and 2,946 families in Cameroon) representing the most vulnerable among flood-affected persons registered by the National Societies. For Cameroon an immediate distribution of the entire regional stock is underway; in Chad the distribution of the National Society emergency stock in place has commenced (see figures in below table). This Emergency Appeal will also enable the replenishment of used stocks and the filling of gaps in additional necessary supplies for Chad and Cameroon.

### Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

**Objective: some 4,236 families (21,180 beneficiaries) affected by floods (1,290 in Chad and 2,946 in Cameroon) will benefit from the distribution of non-food items.**

#### Activities planned:

- Distribution of non-food items to the point of distribution.
- Advocacy with partners for increased assistance to vulnerable people targeted by this operation.
- Follow-up and evaluation of relief activities and reporting on distribution.
- Restock the Yaoundé regional warehouse and Chad National Society emergency supply of non-food items.

#### Items planned for immediate distribution in Cameroon and Chad:

Designation	Unit	Quantity for Cameroon	Quantity for Chad
<b>Shelter</b>			
Blankets	pieces	3,750	1,000
Buckets	pieces	1,250	
Plastic sheeting	pieces		500
Sleeping mats	pieces	3,750	
<b>Water &amp; Sanitation</b>			
Jerry can	pieces	1,250	
Water purification tablets	pieces	2,500	
Hygiene kits (soap 400g)	pieces	4,688	1,000
<b>Health</b>			
Mosquito nets	pieces	2,500	500

In the CAR, the stock to be locally procured and distributed includes: 200 blankets, 200 sleeping mats, 2,100 bars of soap, and 10 buckets.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene promotion to 4,236 families (21,180 beneficiaries) affected by floods (1,290 families in Chad and 2,946 families in Cameroon)**

### Activities planned in Cameroon and Chad:

- Build sanitation capacities of the Red Cross National Societies through training and/or retraining Red Cross of volunteers on water treatment and the use of chemicals to that effect.
- Training of volunteers on household water treatment products and hygiene promotion.
- Distribution of household water treatment (HHWT) products and sensitisation on the use of HHWT.
- Empty over flooded wells by pumping, then disinfection of wells and other water sources by trained volunteers.
- Disinfect selected latrines.
- Clean gutters and carry out other sanitation activities.
- Sensitise populations to hygiene and sanitation rules.

In the CAR, the affected population has limited access to potable water. Proper hygiene and sanitation information dissemination in Berberati, Ngaoundaye and Nola will be carried out through sensitization, and hygiene promotion for 159 families (795 beneficiaries).

### Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Thomas Gurtner  
Director  
Coordination and Programmes Division

Bekele Geleta  
Secretary General

### 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

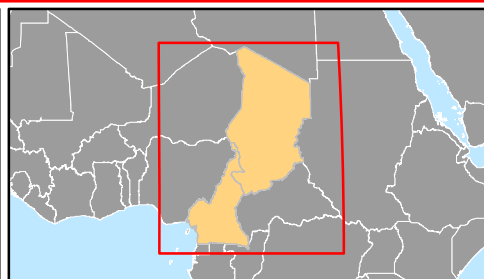
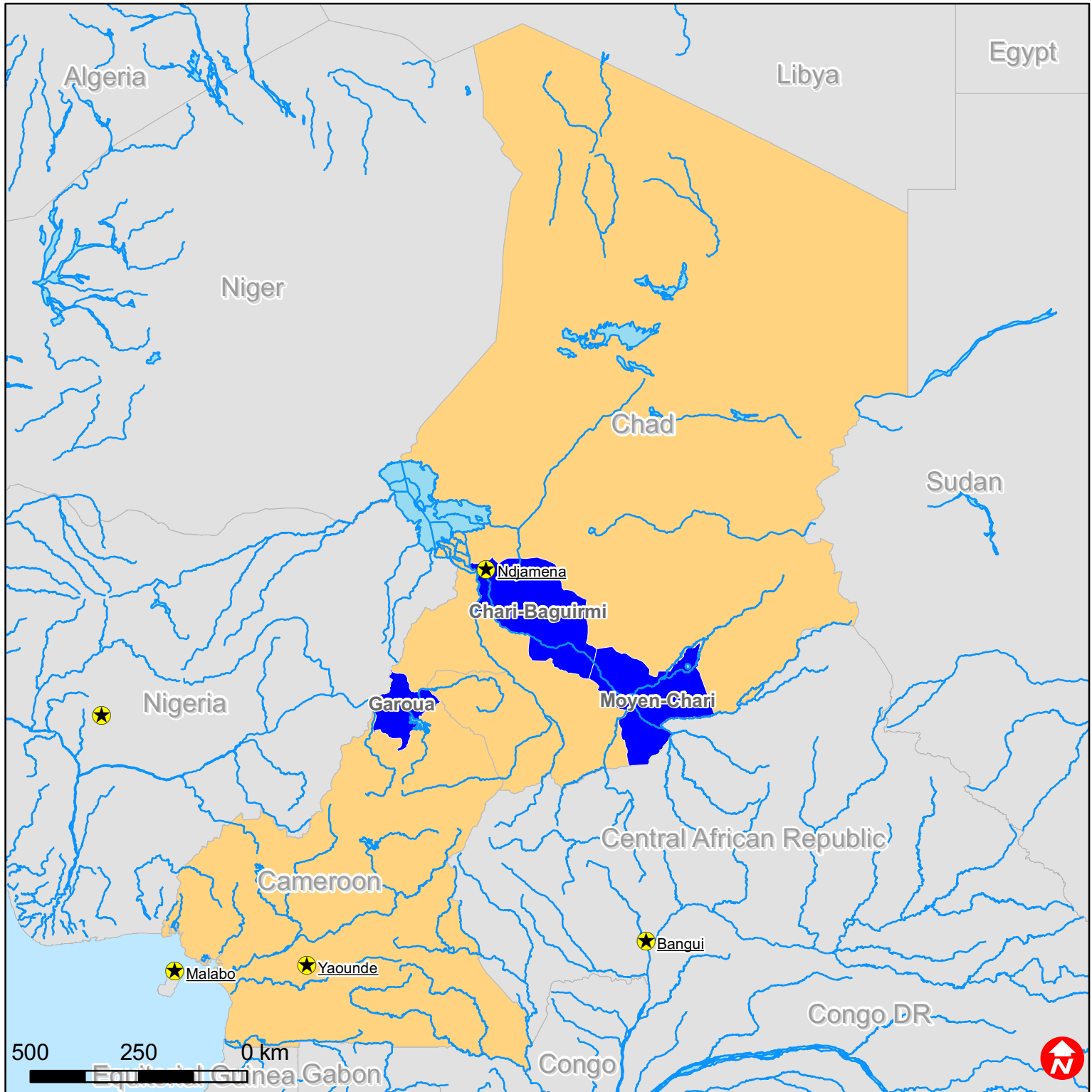
#### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Dakar:** Alasan Senghore, Head of Zone, West and Central Africa Zone, phone: +221 869 36 40, Fax: +221 33 820 25 34, email: [alasan.senghore@ifrc.org](mailto:alasan.senghore@ifrc.org) ; Youcef Aitchellouche, Disaster Management Coordinator, email: [youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org](mailto:youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org)
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[<Emergency Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



# Central Africa: Floods



 Affected area

## APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

	CAMEROON	CHAD	TOTAL
<b><u>RELIEF NEEDS</u></b>			
Shelter	0	0	0
Construction Materials	0	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	193,240	94,350	287,590
Food	0	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	13,860	1,125	14,985
Medical & First Aid	2,500	5,350	7,850
Teaching Materials	313	750	1,063
Utensils & Tools	0	0	0
Other Supplies & Services	36,825	0	36,825
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>246,738</b>	<b>101,575</b>	<b>348,313</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>			
Land & Buildings	0	0	0
Vehicles Purchase	0	0	0
Computers & Telecom Equipment	0	0	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0	0	0
Medical Equipment	0	0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0	0
<b><u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; VEHICLES</u></b>			
Storage - Warehouse	0	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000	3,000	8,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	5,625	750	6,375
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>			
International Staff	0	0	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	0	0	0
National Staff	4,550	1,900	6,450
National Society Staff	23,100	6,375	29,475
Consultants	0	0	0
<b><u>WORKSHOPS &amp; TRAINING</u></b>			
Workshops -Training & monitoring	2,625	0	2,625
<b><u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u></b>			
Travel	2,400	503	2,903
Information & Public Relations	0	0	0
Office running costs	1,625	750	2,375
Communication Costs	1,625	1,500	3,125
Professional Fees	0	0	0
Financial Charges	0	0	0
Other General Expenses	0	0	0
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>			
Programme Support - PSR	20,389	8,089	28,478
<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>66,939</b>	<b>22,866</b>	<b>89,805</b>
<b>Total Appeal Budget (Cash &amp; Kind)</b>	<b>313,676</b>	<b>124,441</b>	<b>438,118</b>
<b>Available Ressources</b>			
<b>Net Request</b>	<b>313,676</b>	<b>124,441</b>	<b>438,118</b>