

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central African Republic: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCF001
GLIDE n° FL-2007-000174-CAF
Update n° 01
10 March, 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 and 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.

Period covered by this update: 25 September, 2007 to 25 December, 2007.

Summary: CHF 98,717 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 21 September, 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 756 households (3,780 beneficiaries).

Heavy rains occurred in Bangui and Bossangoa on September 2007, resulting in flooding and many other damages like partial or complete destruction of homes and personal belongings. CAR Red Cross authorities supported by the Federation from Yaoundé conducted an assessment of the situation and launched a DREF operation to assist some 3,780 beneficiaries who had been left homeless in both localities.



CAR Red Cross volunteers distributed food and non-food items to affected populations

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Heavy rains occurred in Bangui and Bossangoa in September 2007, resulting in flooding and many other damages like partial or complete destruction of homes and personal belongings. CAR Red Cross authorities supported by the Federation from Yaoundé conducted an assessment of the situation and launched a DREF operation to assist some 3,780 beneficiaries who had been left homeless in both localities.

Within the framework of the implementation of the DREF operation, Red Cross volunteers carried out distribution activities, sanitation, hygiene promotion and general sensitization as planned, and this contributed enormously to improving the living conditions of the beneficiaries as they expressed satisfaction and gratitude to the Red Cross during an evaluation mission in the field.

Coordination and partnerships

Adding to the DREF operation launched by the Federation and CAR Red Cross, other partners like ICRC and UNICEF contributed to the efforts aimed at assisting the affected populations. Concretely, the ICRC Delegation in Bangui donated non-food items like blankets (1,500), tarpaulins (756), cooking kits (450) and mosquito nets (500). The ICRC also facilitated the transportation of the materials to be distributed to the vulnerable people of Bossangoa, which is located some 305 km North-West of Bangui. On its part, the Bossangoa-based UNICEF Office contributed to the training and retraining of 45 CAR Red Cross volunteers on the treatment of water wells and other sources. In addition, UNICEF donated the bleach that was used in treating over 150 wells in affected neighbourhoods.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The living conditions of the most vulnerable flood-affected 756 families, i.e. 3,780 beneficiaries are improved through food and non-food items distribution.

Activities planned: Non-food items, including blankets, impregnated mosquito nets, cooking and hygiene kits are distributed to selected 756 families.

Progress: Forty-five (45) Red Cross volunteers of the Bossangoa local committee of the Red Cross distributed 655 blankets; 1,440 pieces of 250g soap (3 pieces per family); 450 mosquito nets (with priority to pregnant and breastfeeding women as well as old people), 450 tarpaulins; 450 cooking kits and 1,200 mats to 450 families (2,372 beneficiaries) identified in their locality.

Challenges: N/A

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The living conditions of most vulnerable flood-affected families are improved through treatment of water points and cleaning of gutters.

Activities planned:

- At least 75% of the people in affected areas have access to potable water
- Gutters in flooded zones are cleaned
- 90% of the affected population is sensitized to hygiene and sanitation rules and puts them into practice
- The flood management capacities of Red Cross volunteers in Bangui and Bossangoa subdivisional committees are strengthened
- 90% of the affected population is sensitized to a floods early alert system
- At least 75% of the affected population is protected against waterborne diseases through sensitization by Red Cross volunteers
- Relief and sanitation materials are put at the disposal of the local committees of the Red Cross involved in the operation.

Progress and impact: Forty-five (45) Red Cross volunteers of the Bossangoa local committee of the Red Cross cleaned gutters in the neighbourhoods that were affected by floods. They also treated over 150 water wells in the same localities using the bleach that was made available by UNICEF. They also rehabilitated 255 latrines.

Trained and retrained volunteers sensitized the Bossangoa population to hygiene promotion and to how to avoid waterborne diseases. They also trained the populations on how to treat water before using. The populations were also trained on how to maintain an early alert system so as to be able to avoid further effects of flood.

In Bangui, 60 Red Cross volunteers cleaned gutters in the 5th and 8th subdivisions and removed garbage. Impressed by the move of the Red Cross, the populations joined the action as they new it was in their interest.

Relief and sanitation materials were purchased and put at the disposal of the national society. Sanitation work is ongoing in both Bossangoa and Bangui.

Challenges: It has been proven that the recurrent floods come as a result of poor sanitation and the fact of not removing garbage. The main challenge will therefore be to organize regular sensitization campaigns with the participation of populations. To that effect, some relief and sanitation materials have been put at the disposal of the national society.

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 **CAR**: Antoine Mbao Bogo, President, Central African Republic Red Cross Society, Bangui ; email : sn_crca@yahoo.fr ; phone : +236 75 50 14 11 / +236 77 09 18 00 or Albert Yomba Eyamo, Secretary General ; phone : +236 75 50 27 54 / +236 21 61 26 09
- In **Cameroon**: Javier Medrano, Federation Regional Representative for Central Africa, Yaoundé, email: javier.medrano@ifrc.org, Phone: (237) 22 21 74 37 OR (237) 96 29 87 89, Fax: (237) 22 21 74 39
- In **Senegal**: Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Zone Office, Dakar, Senegal, email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org , Phone: (221) 869 3641, Fax: (221) 22 860 2002; Youcef Ait-Chellouche, DMC, Phone: (221) 77 638 98 61, email: youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org
- In **Geneva**: Neils Scott, Operations Coordinator (West and Central Africa); email: niels.scott@ifrc.org; mobile: (41) 79 226 53 64

[<Click here to return to the title page>](#)