

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central African Republic: Meningitis in Kaga Bandoro

DREF operation n° MDRCF002
GLIDE n° EP-2008-000021-CAF
8 February 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.

CHF 57,594 (USD 52,089 or EUR 35,929) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 130,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The Central African Republic is part of the meningitis belt that stretches from Senegal in the West to Ethiopia in the East. Yearly outbreaks occur mainly throughout the dry season (between January and May). Recently, 25 cases have been registered, out of which five deaths. This DREF is requested to support the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) to mount an immunization campaign, thereby preventing the spread of the disease, and its potential affect on the 130,000 inhabitants in the affected areas.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 6 May, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 6 August, 2008).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

From 1 December 2007 to 28 January 2008, a significantly high number of meningitis cases have been registered in the Nana Gribizi health district, an area with 130,000 inhabitants, the Chef-lieu of which is Kaga Bandoro (see attached map). Twenty-five cases were registered in the Ndenga, Nana-outa, Bandoro city and Ngrevaï-pamia councils, representing an increase of 23.3% in the rate of incidence. So far, five out of the 25 have died, representing a lethality rate of 20%.

Authorities (political and health) and other health-oriented non governmental organizations, notably "Médecins sans frontières", the International Committee of the Red Cross, MERLIN, "Aide Médicale", IRC, UNICEF, WHO, etc., have expressed serious concerns that the situation is likely to worsen taking into consideration the strong prevailing seasonal winds that move from the East to the West at this time of year (the Harmatan), and the precarious living conditions in the affected locality (a post-conflict zone). In addition, the rains that could reduce the propagation of meningococcus A, the germ that is responsible for meningitis, are only expected by the first weeks of April. Until then, the conditions that promote the spread of the illness are expected to remain the same.

Coordination and partnerships

The World Health Organisation (WHO) made available 6,000 doses of chloramphenicol, 2,000 of which have been distributed to health centres of the Nana Gribizi health district. According to WHO, there is an urgent need to launch a preventive immunization campaign in order to reduce the spread of the epidemic. Some 100,000 doses of vaccines are needed, WHO said, but presently, the country has only 30,500 doses. Humanitarian actors are therefore called upon to provide 70,000 doses.

So far, no humanitarian organization has embarked on community mobilization and sensitization. Very limited information, education and communication (IEC) messages have been disseminated, even by local political and health authorities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) has been contributing regularly to the fight against the epidemic within the framework of the crisis committee set up by Government.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: Within the short term, the meningococcus breeding place and affected areas will be identified and contained in order to avoid uncontrollable propagation germ.

Within the medium and long term, there will be the need to promote environmental hygiene through sanitation campaigns and the diffusion of simple messages on cleanliness. There will also be the need to reinforce the epidemiological surveillance system of the CAR Red Cross' local committee.

The proposed operation

Emergency health

Objective: To improve the health conditions of the population that is exposed to meningitis.

Activities planned:

The following activities are planned for three months:

- Training and retraining 300 volunteers on IEC in order to enable them to maintain a constant campaign in their respective communities;
- Participating in an immunization campaign as the case may be;
- Producing sensitization aids, including folders, posters and image boxes;
- Social mobilization: 300 volunteers will carry out sensitization activities during three months, on the basis of three sessions per week; promoting body and individual hygiene;
- Advocating before administrative authorities and partners;
- Follow-up and reporting.

Expected results:

- The populations are sensitized to the signs and symptoms of meningitis; they are also encouraged to refer to the nearest health centres;
- Individual and environmental hygiene is promoted.

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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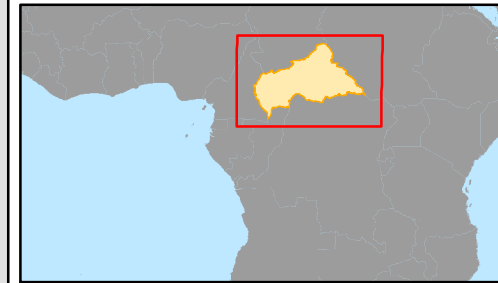
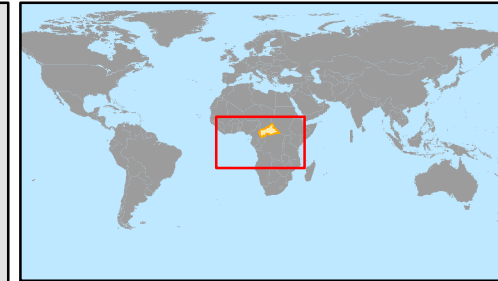
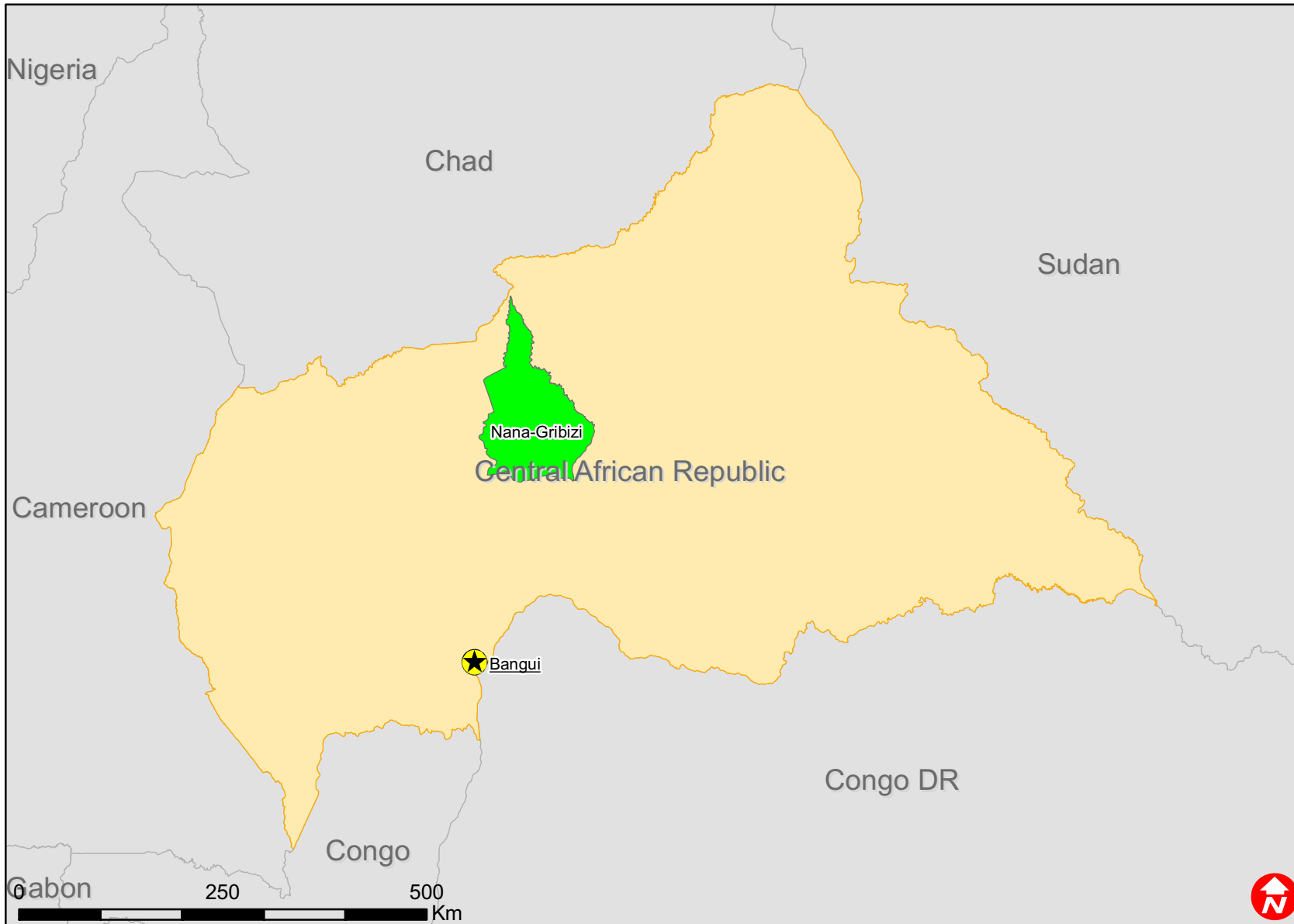
BUDGET SUMMARY



TYPE	VALUE IN CHF
BENEFICIARIES NEEDS	
Water & Sanitation	6,250
Medical Kits and First Aid	3,600
Teaching Materials	11,675
<u>TOTAL BENEFICIARIES NEEDS</u>	21,525
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6,5% of total)	3,762
Transport & Vehicles	3,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
National staff	17,407
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel	4,900
Other General Expensive	3,000
Communications	4,000
<u>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</u>	36,069
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	57,594

[<DREF budget above and map of the affected below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



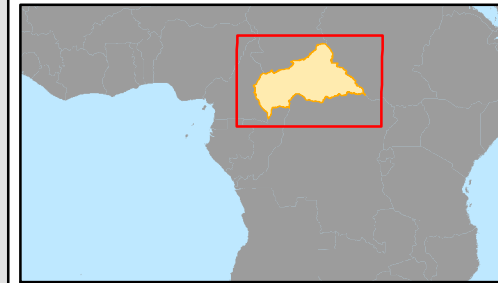
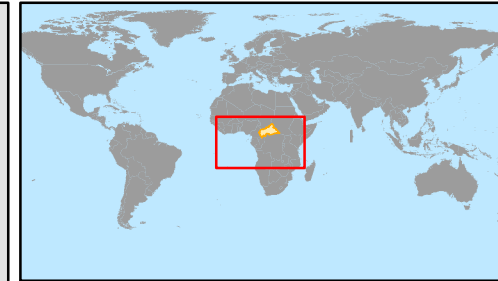
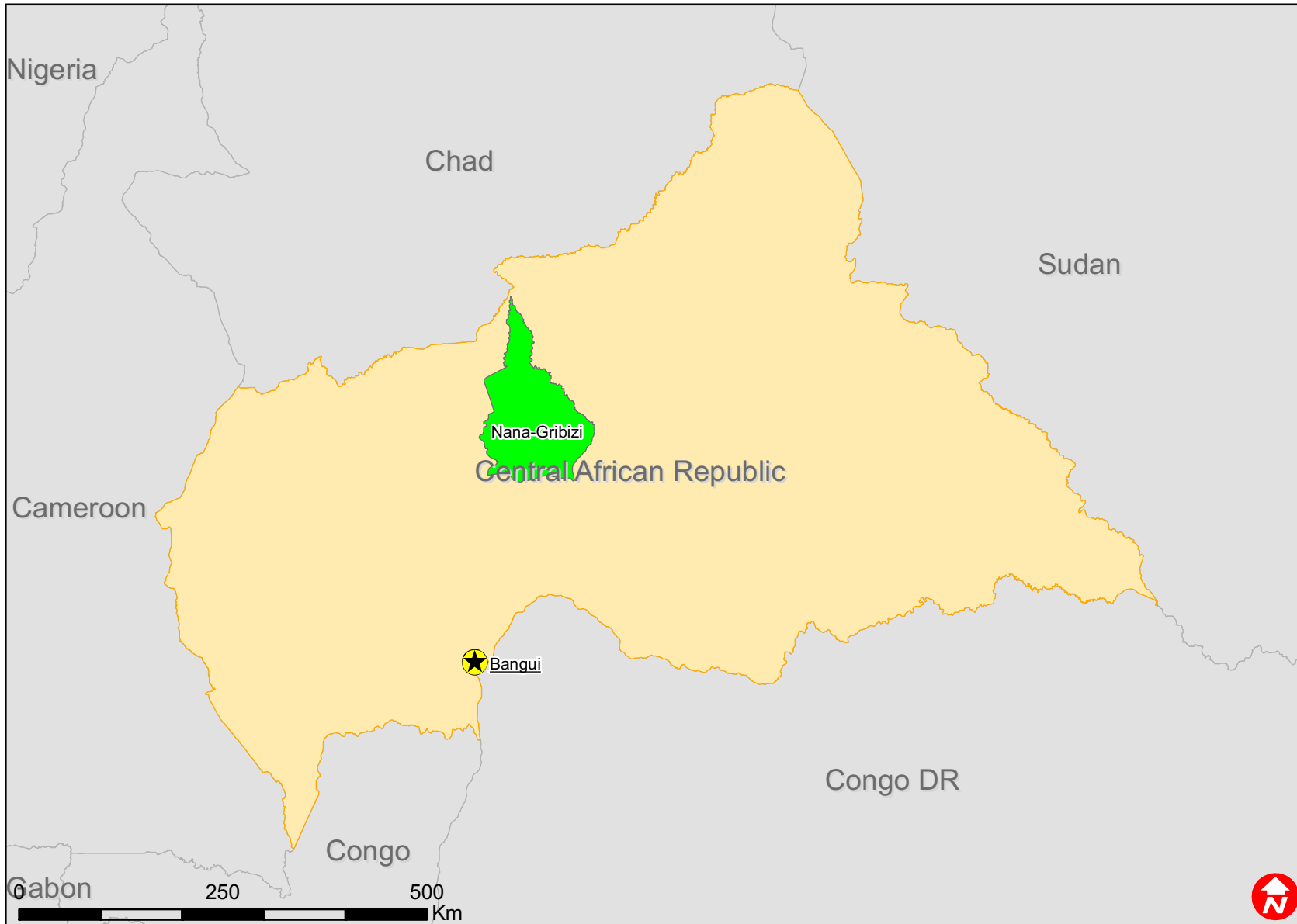
Central African Republic: Meningitis





-  Capitals
-  Affected district



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-  Capitals
-  Affected district