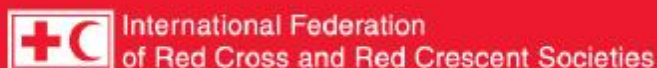


DREF operation



Cameroon (Central Africa): Population movement

DREF n° MDRCM006
6 February 2008

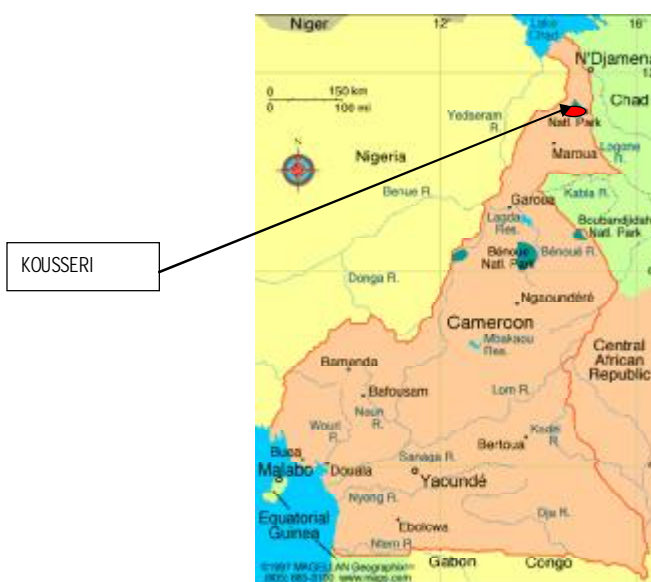
The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 300,000 (USD 277,778 or EUR 186,335) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to assist some 15,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRCS) has already mounted an effective response to this refugee influx with its extended volunteer network in the area. This DREF support will further enable the delivery of the required support to meet the needs, in the process drawing on the recent experience, training, and lessons'-learned from DREF-supported population movement operations and contingency planning efforts since 2006.

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will be completed by 5 April, 2008; a Final Report will be made available by 5 July 2008 (three months after the end of the operation).

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



[<click here for a larger map of the area.](#)

The situation

Chad experiences periods of instability that affect the general security in the country, causing humanitarian needs that necessitate external assistance. Such a situation is occurring now, with conflict taking place between rebel

elements and Government forces, causing inhabitants of N'Djamena to flee into neighbouring northern Cameroon (specifically the town of Kousseri, Logone and Chari Division, and the surrounding area).

According to the local Cameroon Red Cross Society's (CRCS's) branch, over 58,000 persons have crossed the border from Ndjamena in the last 4 days. Many are continuing to Nigeria or further into the interior of Cameroon. The number of displaced persons stopping in Kousseri has reportedly increased drastically from 6,000 persons on 2 February 2008 to nearly 15,000 persons on 3 February 2008, but the real figure is thought closer to 30,000. Red Cross volunteers of the (CRCS's) local branch in Koussari have indicated that over 15,000 refugees are registered (working with UNHCR), but more are arriving. Among the registered population are over 2,569 children, over 564 women (figures to be confirmed and updated), and many injured and wounded persons. The Federation is currently basing its immediate assistance plans on a figure of 50,000 persons.

Refugees have found temporary shelter at Kousseri's École Normale d'Instituteurs d'Enseignement Général and the Kousseri craft centre where they are living in unsatisfactory conditions. Efforts will be undertaken to improve this situation.

Regular contact has been established between the CRCS Kousseri local committee, the CRCS national headquarters, and the Federation.

Coordination and partnerships

A crisis committee composed of administrative authorities and international organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has been set up to respond to the situation.

During a crisis meeting of 4 February 2008 in Yaoundé, the UNHCR Country Representative in Cameroon indicated that some 100,000 to 150,000 refugees are expected, and called upon all the humanitarian actors present at the meeting to contribute their share in order to respond to the increasing needs of the vulnerable people. The World Food Programme has indicated the availability of protein-enriched biscuits.

In the field, 54 CRCS volunteers and four Red Cross coaches have been welcoming refugees and are providing first aid and other basic assistance. UNHCR intends to undertake field missions shortly.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A joint CRCS and Federation team was dispatched to Kousseri on 4 February, 2008 to assist the local committee of the Red Cross in carrying out the first evaluation of the situation and a limited distribution of the following non-food items: 210 blankets, 200 mosquito nets, four tarpaulins, two sprayers and a 200-litre barrel. The Federation is organizing a delivery of 5 MT of bed mats (3,000), blankets (757), and mosquito nets 1,000) today from Yaounde to Maroua (see map above).

The Federation's Central Africa Regional Disaster Management Delegate and the Federation's Water and Sanitation Delegate in Chad will join the Federation and Cameroon Red Cross team in Kousseri. Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members will be deployed in Kousseri as required, based on the initial information and assessments of the situation. The French Red Cross are arranging for technical support in the form of water and hygiene technical assistance, as well as 2 logisticians to support the operation. The Federation has a stock of some 10,000 mosquito nets available in Yaounde, with 12,000 more enroute to Cameroon.

The needs

The most urgent needs include safe drinking water, adequate latrines, food and nonfood items (more specifically mats, blankets, jerry cans, impregnated mosquito nets, cooking kits and accommodation stores, including sleeping bags). If water and food specifically is not supplied urgently, the health of the vulnerable populations, notably women and children, may deteriorate rapidly.

The proposed operation

The allocation from the Federation's DREF will support this CRCS response intended to deliver immediate assistance to some 15,000 vulnerable persons, pending the arrival of further support in Kousseri and the development of a plan of action based on more detailed assessments.

Goal: To contribute to reducing the vulnerability of over 15,000 Chadian refugees in Kousseri, Far North Province of Cameroon.

Activities planned:

- Distribute non-food items to 2,500 families (blankets, mats, impregnated mosquito nets and hygiene kits);
- Build 500 emergency latrines;
- Disinfect drinking water;
- Carry out sanitation activities in welcome places and sensitizing the refugees to hygiene rules;
- Provide the Mokolo local committee of the Red Cross with security patches, first aid kits, stretchers, means of displacement, and buckets.

Implementation strategy: the planned activities will be carried out by local Red Cross volunteers, under the supervision of the CRCS, with the support of the Federation, working in close collaboration with the crisis committee. The CRCS supervisors will ensure the planned activities are carried out, facilitate the transport and distribution of relief items, train teams of volunteers, and report on activities carried out.

National society capacity and recent operational experience

The Cameroon Red Cross has considerable experience in managing population movement situations, having effectively responded most recently in 2006 when similar instability in Chad caused unrest and insecurity, and resulted in significant population movements. With a similar allocation from the Federation's DREF, the CRCS delivered provide basic supplies, and trained CRCS volunteers and first aid workers to manage population movements. More specifically, the National Society was supported to implement the following activities:

- Evaluation and identification of risky zones, particularly for population displacements in Kousseri, Maroua, Kaélé, Mora, Yagoua, Mokolo, Garoua-Boulai and Bertoua, Yokadouma and Gari Gombo, Kentzou and Batouri, Meingaga, and Toubouro.
- Sensitization, selection and training of volunteers: leaders, volunteers and first aid workers of the above-mentioned committees have been sensitized and sent out to conduct sensitization activities in their respective administrative and traditional authorities. In May 2006, 25 volunteers from CRCS local and divisional committees in the Far North and East provinces of Cameroon were trained on population movement management. During the training, presentations and practical exercises were carried out to prepare the trainees to go to the field. The Kousseri focal point of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) facilitated the training, while coordination was assured with the UNHCR representative in Yaoundé. The training was extended to the East Province of Cameroon in June 2006 for 15 Red Cross volunteers and first aid workers of local committees located along the borders of CAR. The various points through which refugees could enter Cameroon were identified and focal points were appointed to follow up the situation on a daily basis.

In addition to the DREF support targeted to specific national societies, the International Federation provided general support to the region in 2006 with a DREF allocation of CHF 130,000 to provide general support to various National Societies in Central Africa to respond to the most urgent needs (shelter, food, health, water and sanitation) requiring reinforcement of stocks (first aid kits, stretchers, helmets, Red Cross bibs and aprons, blankets, insecticide-treated bed nets or ITNs, soap, mats, tents, kitchen kits as well as cholera kits), training (ensuring CRCS local branches along the borders are well prepared for receiving refugees from the neighbouring countries, 80 Red Cross volunteer team leaders trained in assessment and distribution, 120 volunteers trained in hygiene promotion, WatSan and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST); updating contingency plans on population movement; and conducting regional coordination and monitoring.

In terms of lessons-learned, the Federation anticipates that the experience gained in these recent operations will prove beneficial in the current refugee influx from Chad.

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

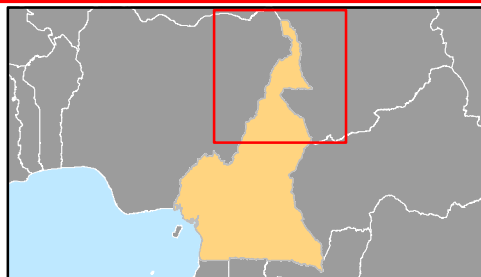
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[<map of the affected area and contact details below; click here to return to the title page](#)



Cameroon: Population movement



Displaced population



Capitals