

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Cameroon: Floods in Pouss (Far North Region)

DREF operation n° DRCM010  
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000154-CMR  
28 March, 2011

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 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.

**Summary:** CHF 150,294 was allocated (153,062 requested) from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 6 August, 2010 to support the Cameroon Red Cross National Society in delivering assistance to some 3,000 beneficiaries.

On 22 July 2010, torrential rains occurred in Pouss, in the Mayo Danay division of the Far North Region of Cameroon, causing serious flooding which left 600 families, i.e. about 3,000 people homeless, out of a total population estimated at 16,000 inhabitants. With the support from IFRC's DREF, Cameroon Red Cross volunteers distributed non-food items to the most affected 600 families, constructed 300 emergency shelters and 58 latrines, and treated more than 500 water points. The operation took place at a time when there was a serious cholera epidemic outbreak in Far North Region of Cameroon. Consequently, Cameroon Red Cross volunteers also conducted an intensive sensitization campaign, which contributed to preventing the spread of cholera to Pouss.



The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Details of 2010 DREF contributions are found on: [www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010\\_2010.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2010.pdf)  
and for 2011 on: [www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2011.pdf)

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## The situation

On 22 July 2010, torrential rains occurred in Pouss, in the Mayo Danay division of the Far North Region of Cameroon, causing serious flooding which left 600 families, i.e. about 3,000 people homeless, out of a total population estimated at 16,000 inhabitants. The Red Cross conducted a rapid assessment of the situation and came out with a plan of action to assist the most vulnerable people. IFRC released CHF 150,294 from its DREF to support the implementation of that plan of action, which included relief distribution, emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, emergency shelter, and communications/IT/Reporting and monitoring. In the mean time, a cholera outbreak was hitting the Far North Region of Cameroon. Understandably, this disturbed the implementation of the floods plan of action as Red Cross volunteers had to focus on cholera prevention as a priority. Moreover, the rains intensified during the first two months of the operation, making it extremely difficult to access the Pouss locality.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Head of State ordered the disbursement of CFA francs 100 million (close to CHF 200,000) to assist flood victims in Pouss. In addition, a Government-led crisis committee was set up and placed under the authority of the Governor of the Far North Region. WFP and LWF also participated in the operation working in close collaboration with the Red Cross (using Red Cross assessment results). Cameroon Red Cross authorities and volunteers worked in close collaboration with the Pouss health and municipal services within the framework of the fight against cholera.

## Achievement of planned objectives

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

**Objective: To contribute to improving the living conditions of 600 families (3,000 persons) identified as the most vulnerable following floods in Pouss.**

#### Expected results:

The 3,000 most vulnerable people in Pouss have received the quantities and quality of NFI planned and their living conditions are improved

#### Activities planned:

- Purchase and transport NFI such as 1,200 mats, 1,200 blankets, 3,000 pieces of soap of 250 g each to Pouss for distribution;
- Prepare distribution tools and the distribution list according to the census and identification made in the field;
- Distribute NFI to the most vulnerable people identified as such;
- Carry out monitoring and evaluation of distribution activities;
- Report on distribution activities.

**Achievements:** All relief materials have been purchased and transported to Maroua first and then to Pouss as initially planned. A warehouse was rented in Maroua, and another one in Pouss. IFRC sent a 4WD vehicle to Pouss, adding to that of the National Society to facilitate the implementation of the operation. Cameroon Red Cross national disaster management team members deployed to Far North Region for the operation completed the preparation of distribution tools and lists, and supervised the distribution of relief items by Red Cross volunteers. Red Cross volunteers used the scooping method throughout the distribution that enabled the beneficiaries to directly collect the aid after being identified. Keeping with SPHERE norms, each family received a cooking kit, and five pieces of soap. The blankets and mats were distributed based on the size of each family as indicated in the following table:

Size of the family	Number of blankets/mats	Number of families	Number of blankets/mats distributed
1 - 3	1	304	304
4 - 6	2	95	190
7 - 10	3	102	306
11 +	4	100	400

The 300 families whose paddy fields had been washed away each received 5 kg of enriched-rice seeds and a kit of farm implements comprising a hoe, a machete and a double-sided cutlass. Two RDRT members, one from Equatorial Guinea and the other from Chad, and 30 Cameroon Red Cross volunteers based in Pouss were mobilized for the operation.

**Impacts:** The items distributed contributed to improved living conditions, and livelihoods, as well as preventing beneficiaries from weather-related diseases, as none were recorded throughout the operation.

**Challenges:** The major challenge was the access to Pouss as the only available road is impassable during the rainy season. Transporting relief materials from Maroua to Pouss (92 km) took three days, delaying distribution activities. In addition, it was not easy to identify most of the beneficiaries as they had lost all their identification documents to the floods. Some people wanted to prove malicious by benefiting twice, but were quickly identified by perspicacious Red Cross volunteers and representatives of beneficiaries. Fuel costs were underestimated in the original budget, with corresponding over expenditure reflected under 'distribution & monitoring.'

## Emergency Health

**Objective: To contribute to preventing the outbreak of epidemics in Pouss as a result of floods.**

<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <p>Activities to promote health, hygiene and sanitation are carried out in favour of the most vulnerable 3,000 people affected by floods in Pouss, and the risks of epidemics and other diseases outbreak is reduced considerably.</p>	<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution and installation of 1,200 mosquito nets for 600 families;</li> <li>• Follow-up of the use of mosquito nets;</li> <li>• Intensification of cholera control activities such as sensitization, and disinfection of water points, individual and collective hygiene promotion;</li> <li>• Retraining of Red Cross volunteers on epidemics management, especially those who are deployed in Pouss within the framework of the operation to fight against cholera;</li> <li>• Designing and multiplication of posters and leaflets on epidemics management;</li> <li>• Reporting on emergency health activities.</li> </ul>
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**Achievements:** Cameroon Red Cross volunteers distributed 1,200 mosquito nets to flood victims on the basis of 2 mosquito nets per family. Volunteers also organized sessions to demonstrate how to install and use mosquito nets at the beginning of each distribution day, which lasted for almost one week due to intensive rains. Volunteers also assisted beneficiaries in actually installing their mosquito nets in their respective homes.

To strengthen the operational capacities of Cameroon Red Cross volunteers in Pouss, 10 first-aid kits and 50 Red Cross aprons were made available to the local committee of the Red Cross. This was in replenishment of the emergency stock that was used in the early hours of the disaster.

Within the framework of the fight against cholera, Red Cross volunteers were trained and deployed into the various neighbourhoods of Pouss. They sensitized the populations on the dangers of cholera, and on how to prevent the outbreak and avoid being contaminated. To facilitate this sensitization work, more than 1,000 posters and 2,000 leaflets were printed. Red Cross volunteers distributed all these documents bearing messages on epidemic prevention and floods risk reduction during mass and individual sensitization sessions. Still in connection with the fight against cholera, Red Cross volunteers also chlorinated more than 500 water wells, and disinfected more than 350 latrines using cresol in Pouss.

**Impacts:** This action helped prevent spread of the cholera outbreak to Pouss, despite being located in the hard-hit Far North Region of Cameroon. Replenishment of prepositioned emergency stocks means that they will be available for immediate response for the next emergency.

**Challenges:** At the time the mosquito nets were distributed, most of the beneficiaries were still homeless. Close follow-up of how the mosquito nets were being used revealed that beneficiaries who received the mosquito nets when they were still homeless instead used the ropes for hanging the mosquito nets to tie their livestock. This prompted the organization of post-distribution home installation of the mosquito nets. The other major constraint was the fact that sensitization documents were in French language only. This poses a problem for less literate rural populations like Pouss, where facilitators and beneficiaries would have preferred to have materials translated into their native *Mousgoum* and *Massa* languages.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<b>Objective: To contribute to improving the access of the most vulnerable 600 families affected by floods in Pouss to adequate water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.</b>	
<b>Expected results:</b>  The most vulnerable 3,000 people affected by floods in Pouss have access to adequate water, hygiene and sanitation facilities, and their living conditions are improved.	<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchasing 16 sanitation kits, each kit comprising miner's pans, squared shovels, wheelbarrows, pickaxes, racks, machetes, raincoats, pairs of boots, pairs of gloves, mufflers, and detergent;</li> <li>• Drill openings</li> <li>• Constructing 58 latrines on the basis of one latrine for 50 people;</li> <li>• Conducting sensitization activities;</li> <li>• Distributing containers for carrying and storing drinking water;</li> <li>• Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.</li> </ul>

**Achievements:** About 30 Cameroon Red Cross volunteers accompanied by two team leaders (water and sanitation specialists) selected among the members of the national disaster management team and the Cameroon Red Cross' National Water and Sanitation Office carried out the following activities:

- Chlorination of 500 water points and wells;
- Construction of 58 community latrines;
- Drainage of stagnant water on a surface area of more than 10 hectares;
- Disinfection of more than 350 latrines using cresol;
- Organization of 150 sessions in 16 neighbourhoods of Pouss to demonstrate how to wash hands;
- Sanitation work in schools where flood victims were accommodated immediately after the disaster, with the view to enable a hitch-free back to school in September;
- Mass (community), group (family) and individual sensitization sessions.

**Impacts:** Watsan interventions improved access to safe water and sanitation, as well as improving the environment inhabited. As with the emergency health interventions, these activities contributed to preventing an outbreak of cholera in Pouss, despite being located near the epicentre of the outbreak in Far North Region.

**Challenges:** The beneficiaries were reluctant to participate in the activities. They wanted to be paid daily allowance for participating in the reconstruction of their own houses and toilets. It took Cameroon Red Cross days to convince them that this was their own way to contribute to the operation and thus own all of the achievements. The volunteers even had to resort to the Sultan of Pouss (the local traditional ruler) to help convince the beneficiaries who finally understood what the Red Cross was doing for them.

### Emergency shelter

**Objective: To contribute to improving the access of the most vulnerable 300 families affected by floods in Pouss to emergency shelters.**

<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <p>The most vulnerable 300 families affected by floods in Pouss have access to emergency shelters, and their living conditions are improved.</p>	<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the most vulnerable 300 families whose houses have been completely destroyed;</li> <li>• Purchase shelter kits and transport them to Pouss;</li> <li>• Distribute shelter kits;</li> <li>• Monitor, evaluate and report on emergency shelter activities.</li> </ul>
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**Achievements:** For more than three weeks, 30 Cameroon Red Cross volunteers supervised by two RDRT members and a coordinator of the floods operation deployed to Pouss by the National Society constructed 331 shelters. Beneficiaries' participation in this activity was commendable as they brought the stakes needed for the construction work. The beneficiaries also dug the holes, planted the stakes in them, and covered the resulting structures with plastic sheeting, under the technical supervision of the Red Cross.

**Impacts:** Shelter operations contributed to the protection of the beneficiaries, and provided some welcome privacy.

**Challenges:** The major constraint here is that the 331 shelters have been erected right in the flooded site as the Government-led crisis committee is yet to indicate a new relocation site. As part of disaster risk reduction efforts, Red Cross volunteers conducted information, education and communication activities to sensitize the beneficiaries on how to reduce the risks of flood.

#### Communications/IT/Reporting and monitoring

<b>Objective: To support the National Society to engage in social mobilization to reach populations affected by the flood.</b>	
<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <p>Populations at risk are sensitised on floods detection, evacuation and risks associated with flooding</p>	<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforce the National Society social mobilization structures</li> <li>• National Society to sensitize affected populations</li> </ul>
<p>Timely and accurate reports are prepared and shared</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing with all partners; and preparation of timely reports</li> <li>• The National Society to report on the activities carried out</li> </ul>
<p>The floods response operations are properly monitored and evaluated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carryout regular monitoring of the floods nationwide</li> </ul>

**Achievements:**

This strengthened the National Society's social mobilization capacity. Trained volunteers sensitized almost 12,000 people out of 16,000 (total population of Pouss). Media coverage was organized to let the populations know what the Red Cross was doing to assist flood affected people in Northern Cameroon, and most importantly to raise awareness.

**Impacts:**

Communications activities promoted buy-in by affected populations and local stakeholders, as well as raising awareness and knowledge on disaster and flood risks reduction.

## 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

**MDRCM010 - Cameroon - Floods**

Appeal Launch Date: 05 aug 10

Appeal Timeframe: 05 aug 10 to 05 nov 10

**Final Financial Report**

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/8-2011/2
Budget Timeframe	2010/8-2010/11
Appeal	MDRCM010
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Funding**

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>153,062</b>					<b>153,062</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Other Income</b>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	<i>150,294</i>					<i>150,294</i>
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	<b>150,294</b>					<b>150,294</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	<b>150,294</b>					<b>150,294</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>150,294</b>					<b>150,294</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>98%</b>					<b>98%</b>

**II. Movement of Funds**

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	<b>150,294</b>					<b>150,294</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	<b>-150,294</b>					<b>-150,294</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>

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### III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>	<b>153,062</b>						<b>153,062</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	19,379	18,831					18,831	548
Clothing & textiles	10,920	15,885					15,885	-4,965
Seeds,Plants	1,927	1,856					1,856	71
Water & Sanitation	19,157	10,350					10,350	8,807
Medical & First Aid	7,123	4,998					4,998	2,125
Teaching Materials		3,871					3,871	-3,871
Utensils & Tools	14,454	13,852					13,852	602
Other Supplies & Services	6,420	2,015					2,015	4,405
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>79,380</b>	<b>71,658</b>					<b>71,658</b>	<b>7,722</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	642	593					593	49
Distribution & Monitoring	642	16,136					16,136	-15,494
Transport & Vehicle Costs	18,415	4,746					4,746	13,669
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>19,699</b>	<b>21,475</b>					<b>21,475</b>	<b>-1,776</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff		123					123	-123
Regionally Deployed Staff	4,357	6,269					6,269	-1,912
National Staff		1,080					1,080	-1,080
National Society Staff	27,344	18,406					18,406	8,938
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>31,701</b>	<b>25,878</b>					<b>25,878</b>	<b>5,823</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	3,311	2,782					2,782	529
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>2,782</b>					<b>2,782</b>	<b>529</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel		1,359					1,359	-1,359
Information & Public Relation	3,032	383					383	2,649
Office Costs	2,763	3,566					3,566	-803
Communications	2,498	6,588					6,588	-4,090
Professional Fees		101					101	-101
Financial Charges	1,335	5,312					5,312	-3,977
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>9,629</b>	<b>17,310</b>					<b>17,310</b>	<b>-7,681</b>
<b>Programme &amp; Service Support</b>								
Programme & Service Support	9,342	9,173					9,173	169
<b>Total Programme &amp; Service Support</b>	<b>9,342</b>	<b>9,173</b>					<b>9,173</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Services</b>								
Services & Recoveries		2,018					2,018	-2,018
<b>Total Services</b>		<b>2,018</b>					<b>2,018</b>	<b>-2,018</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>153,062</b>	<b>150,294</b>					<b>150,294</b>	<b>2,768</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>2,768</b>					<b>2,768</b>	