

DREF operation update

Central African Republic: Violent winds in Bangui

DREF operation n° MDRCF008 GLIDE n° ST-2011-000073-CAF Update n°01 – 16 December, 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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: 1st July to 30 September, 2011.

Summary: CHF 114,935 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 29 June, 2011 to support the CAR Red Cross National Society in delivering assistance to some 1,626 beneficiaries.

In early June 2011, serious violent winds hit the 6th subdivision of Bangui, the capital city of the Central African Republic (CAR), affecting 366 families, 326 of which were identified as the most vulnerable after having been left homeless.

With the DREF allocation, CAR Red Cross volunteers distributed non-food items such as blankets, tarpaulins, metal roofing sheets, jerry cans and cooking kits to 326 homeless families identified as the beneficiaries of this operation. Red Cross volunteers also carried out hygiene and sanitation activities such as the treatment of water wells, the rehabilitation of latrines and environmental hygiene (cleaning of gutters, etc.).

This operation has a four month duration, with a completion date of 30 October, 2011. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 31st January, 2012).

The Netherlands Red Cross/Government contributed CHF 33,956 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the U.S.A., as well as DG-ECHO, the U.K. 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, thanks all for their generous contributions. Details of contributions to DREF are found at: www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2011.pdf for 2011.

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In August 2011, CAR Red Cross volunteers distributed non-food items to people affected by violent winds in Bangui. / IFRC

The situation

In early June 2011, serious violent winds hit the 6th subdivision of Bangui, the capital city of the Central African Republic (CAR), affecting 366 families, 326 of which were identified as the most vulnerable after having been left homeless. These most vulnerable people included 311 children from 0 to 4 years, 427 children from 5 to 14 years, 482 women above 15 years, and 406 men above 15 years. The most affected neighbourhoods were Sandoumbé, Bogbaya, Linguissa 1, Linguissa 2, Gbanikola, Pétévo and Kpéténé 4. Thanks to the intervention of the Red Cross and other partners, all the 326 families that had been made homeless have benefited from the rehabilitation or reconstruction of their houses. As the operation coincided with the rainy season, some activities such as the rehabilitation of latrines and the treatment of water points were somehow disturbed or delayed by the rain.

Coordination and partnerships

CAR Government represented by the Minister of Social Affairs, National Solidarity and Gender Promotion attended the ceremony organized by CAR Red Cross to distribute non-food items to people affected by violent winds in the 6th subdivision of Bangui. On that occasion, Madame the Minister extended Government's gratitude to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Movement partners such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the French Red Cross also attended the distribution.

The Member of Parliament from the 6th subdivision of Bangui and the Mayor of the same locality provided an undisclosed financial support sealed in envelopes to some of the most vulnerable to help them purchase basic necessity materials or find any other emergency solution to their problems.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)	
Outcome: Contribute to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable 326 families (1,626 people) identified as the most vulnerable to violent winds in 7 neighbourhoods of the 6th subdivision of Bangui by distributing basic non-food items for 4 months.	
Expected results: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The non-food items planned are purchased and put at the disposal of the national society.• The most vulnerable 326 families (1,626 people) targeted by this operation have received non-food assistance from the CAR Red Cross society.	Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase 652 tarpaulins, 326 sheet metals, 652 impregnated mosquito nets, 652 blankets, 652 mats, 4,878 pieces of soap of 200 g each, 326 buckets, 326 jerry cans, 242 cooking kits, and 495 hygiene kits and put the at the disposal of the CAR Red Cross society.• Train/retrain 30 volunteers on distribution and sensitization techniques.• Prepare distribution tools.• Distribute the non-food items purchased to the most vulnerable 326 families.• Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on distribution activities.

Progress:

In line with planned objectives, IFRC Central Africa Regional Representation and CAR Red Cross actually purchased 652 tarpaulins, 326 sheet metals, 652 impregnated mosquito nets, 652 blankets, 652 mats, 4,878 pieces of soap of 200 g each, 326 buckets, 326 jerry cans, 242 cooking kits, and 495 hygiene kits. These non-food items were then distributed to the most vulnerable 1,626 beneficiaries. The Red Cross also distributed 1,630 sheet metals to the 326 families targeted, on the basis of 5 sheet metals per family instead of 1 as initially planned, to the greatest satisfaction of the beneficiaries. This was because the prices in the

market at the time of purchasing were good. Only families having lost their houses completely received cooking kits (242 families, one kit each).

Prior to the distribution proper, the NS trained 30 Red Cross volunteers on distribution techniques and disaster risk reduction, with focus on violent winds and floods. The trained volunteers then went to the field to confirm the number of beneficiaries and formally register them. Distribution sheets were designed for each neighbourhood. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude and satisfaction upon receiving the support from the Red Cross as it enabled them to improve on their accommodation conditions following the violent winds.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion	
Outcome: Contribute to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable 326 families (1,626 people) identified as the most vulnerable to violent winds in 7 neighbourhoods of the 6th subdivision of Bangui by carrying out water, sanitation and hygiene activities in their localities for 4 months.	
<p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The populations in the 7 neighbourhoods of the 6th subdivision of Bangui affected by violent winds live in a healthy environment. • About 90% of the populations affected are sensitized to how to reduce the risks of violent wind and prevent epidemic outbreaks. • The populations affected by violent wind in the 6th subdivision of Bangui know hygiene and sanitation rules and obey them. 	<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrain 30 Red Cross volunteers on how to reduce the risks of violent winds. • Produce leaflets and posters on the reduction of the risks of violent winds, epidemics and other weather and poor hygiene-related diseases. • Sensitize communities on the risks associated with violent winds, epidemics and other weather and poor hygiene-related diseases. • Purchase sanitation kits and put them at the disposal of the NS. • Carry out sanitation activities in the 7 neighbourhoods affected by violent winds in the 6th subdivision of Bangui. • Purchase water point treatment materials. • Treat polluted water points. • Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

Progress:

Thirty Red Cross volunteers were trained on sensitization, information, education and communication, as well as on epidemic risk reduction. So far, these trained volunteers have completed about 10 mass sensitization sessions on hygiene promotion in the neighbourhoods of the 6th subdivision of Bangui. The volunteers used leaflets as door-to-door sensitization aids, and posters as mass sensitization aids pasted in public places (markets, churches, mosques and schools). Red Cross volunteers sensitized about 13,000 people on the basis of 1,300 in each session with the participation of heads of neighbourhoods and community volunteers. The involvement of communities in Red Cross activities facilitated the owing of the intervention by the beneficiaries themselves as they massively adhered to the sanitation campaigns organized by the Red Cross.

Red Cross volunteers identified 91 wells to be treated but have so far chlorinated only 41 of them. They have also disinfected less than 20 latrines in the most affected neighbourhoods. This is because the persistent heavy rains are hampering sanitation work.

Challenges:

Persistent heavy rains are hampering sanitation work.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC'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.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC'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.
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