

# ***CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: CONFLICT IN BANGUI***

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## ***Latest events***

The mutiny in the Central African Republic which started on 20 May subsided after negotiations between the government and the rebelling soldiers. These negotiations continue nevertheless to solve the underlying problems and to prevent armed conflicts between the same groups in Bangui in the near future. Tension remains high amongst the population in the city.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

During the days of the mutiny, the Central African Red Cross Society worked in Bangui with two voluntary doctors, 100 voluntary first aiders and all its headquarters' staff from early morning until late at night every day. They treated victims in Red Cross dispensaries as well as in its headquarters, transferred wounded people to the one functioning hospital in town and collected dead bodies to be buried. Every day, an average of 75-100 patients were treated in the hospital and approximately 100 victims in the health posts and headquarters. Later on the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) assisted in the evacuation of people to the airport, because means of transport were extremely scarce in Bangui.

The ICRC had sent two vehicles with medical material and a nurse to assist the CARCS as well as the doctors in the hospital in Bangui where the victims were treated.

The Federation also sent medical material as demanded by the President of CARCS.

After the end of this period of armed conflict in Bangui, the CARCS did an evaluation of their activities and assessed their future needs. On the whole their interventions were highly appreciated not only by the people who were assisted, but also by the government and the international community. In order to fulfil their mandate, CARCS even overstretched their capacities in cash, kind and services during the events :

- The stocks of generic medicines, which they normally use in the dispensaries, are empty. As they could not sell them to the patients during the events, they do not have enough money to replenish them out of their own means.
- The coordination and the security of the volunteers during their work in town was not possible because of lack of telecommunication equipment. This created a great risk for the lives of the volunteers.
- The old - and only - vehicle used is not reliable any more.
- The President provided his personal generator in order to allow the CARCS headquarters to continue functioning.

- The fax of CARCS is no longer functional. Up to now, this was simply not convenient, but such a lack of communication facilities during an emergency prevents CARCS from functioning.
- Had the events lasted longer, no fuel, no electricity, no drinking water and no more food for the volunteers during their work would have been available in Bangui. As people in the most effected quarters in Bangui had already started to leave their homes, CARCS already felt the need for- and the utter lack of basic items for shelter. As the underlying main problems, which caused the mutinies in April and May this year, are not solved, the National Red Cross Society prepares for better and safer interventions.
- The airport was closed down two days after the beginning of the armed clashes. Later on only flights for the evacuation were allowed to take off, no incoming flights could land. This severely hampered the needed assistance to CARCS from outside.

## *Immediate needs*

To replenish their stocks of medicines, medical and First Aid material as well as water purification tablets they need contributions in cash, as everything can either be produced or is available locally. Equally a cash amount shall be kept for the local purchase of food for the volunteers and fuel for the vehicles. The Federation is asked to provide two Pick-ups as safe and practical means of transport, a new fax machine, 2 10 KV generators and torches as well as a telecommunication system to be established for CARCS in Bangui in order to connect the volunteers to the headquarters during their interventions.

Considering the possibility of displaced persons especially in Bangui, CARCS asks the Federation to provide 200 tents, 60 roles of plastic sheeting (4x5m/role), 5,000 blankets, and 5 tents (80sqm), which could be used for storage or distribution points as well as for temporary healthposts. 2 containers of used clothes (1/3 for women, 1/3 for men, 1/3 for boys and girls between 5 and 14 years of age) are also considered useful to be distributed to the displaced victims.

The attached budget reflects not only the items used in the recent operation, but also shows the needs for preparedness as explained above. This is the main reason why it is higher than the budget of the first Information Bulletin.

(See annex for details).

The Federation sent the most urgently required medical material and already paid for one pick-up for CARCS out of the emergency fund, but is not in the position to finance all the needs expressed by CARCS. Furthermore the emergency fund needs to be replenished. The Red Cross Societies are therefore kindly requested to contribute in cash or kind to the needs expressed by CARCS who proved to be very efficient in their disaster response in Bangui.

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**Outstanding needs****CHF:*****Kind:***

1 vehicle Toyota Pick-up 4x4	50,000.--
5 larger tents for storage etc.	13,050.--
5,000 blankets	50,000.--
2 containers of used clothes	5,000.--
2 10 KV generators	11,370.--

***Cash:***

telecommunication equipment, including installation	30,000.--
food-for-work for volunteers	1,000.--
medical material for hospital and dispensaries	12,000.--
1 vehicle already purchased	50,000.--
1 fax including a stabiliser	5,000.--
First Aid Equipment and material, local production/purchase	1,000.--
Administration	25,000.--

**Total****285,420.--**