

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: FLOODS

7 October 1996

Information bulletin No. 3

The context

Due to unusually heavy rainfall seven people have died, 1,500 more are homeless and much property has been destroyed in three regions of the Central African Republic. Wells and sources of drinking water have been polluted by the floods.

The affected regions are the city of Batangafo at 500 km north of Bangui, Kouango 400 km east of Bangui and Kagabndoro, 380 km from the capital. As heavy rains continue, new flooding is expected to threaten more regions in the North and the Centre of the country.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Volunteers of the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCS) accompanied the Minister of Social Affairs to Kouango and Kagabndoro to establish what assistance is needed. The President of the Red Cross went on October 2 and 3 to assess the situation for himself.

Red Cross volunteers distributed a few blankets and tents from stocks, but the numbers were too low to provide shelter for all the families. They also rendered health services and distribute some food aid, but do not have the resources required. The Federation has released CHF 25,000 from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) in order to enable CARCS to purchase food aid and medicines.

Outstanding needs

CARCS will assist 1,500 people for 2-3 months with food aid, shelter and medical services. Blankets and tents are required as donations in kind, whereas food aid, medicines as well as medical supplies can be bought locally. Tablets for purifying water are also required as these cannot be purchased in country. Cash assistance is urgently needed for all these items. The detailed needs are listed in the attached budget.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The needs were assessed together with the Minister of Social Affairs. CARCS is the only relief agency in the affected areas and carries out its activities in agreement with the government.

Contributions

The Federation released CHF 25,000 from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund to cover the most urgent needs for assessment and assistance.

Conclusion

A swift response from donors is required in order to assist the affected families in a timely manner.

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Budget	CHF
Donations in Kind:	
1,500 blankets	15,000
150 10-person tents	45,000
Used clothes for at least 1,500 people (children, women and men)	
Donations in Cash:	
Millet and beans for three months	30,000
Medicines and medical supplies	12,000
Water purification tablets	5,000
Transport/Logistics and Administration	9,000
Secretarial support	6,000
Total:	122,000

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