With a total land area of 622,980 Km², the Central African Republic is a country whose population is estimated at about 4,737,423 in 2018. IFRC established a Country Office in CAR in late 2013 to support the civil unrest operation and the Global Fund programmes on Malaria, TB and HIV. Since then, the Civil unrest has ended, just like the Global Fund programmes, but joint assessment conducted by IFRC and the CAR Red Cross Society have revealed that there are still enormous humanitarian challenges in the country, and that the host National Society (HNS) still needs IFRC support to be able to face those challenges. The security situation across many districts in the country remains precarious limiting access to many communities and localities which are in critical need of humanitarian and development service delivery. Poorly developed socioeconomic infrastructure, weak health systems and lack of adequate local human resources complicates the service delivery environment in CAR.

Priority areas of focus (AoF) as confirmed during planning discussions with the HNS are Health, DRR and Livelihoods. Under Health, IFRC support will enable the HNS to focus on the implementation of the German Government-funded Project to rehabilitate the Health System in CAR following the 2013-2015 crisis; and the CDC/UNICEF-funded Programme to reduce measles-related mortality by strengthening routine immunization in CAR. Under Livelihoods, IFRC will support the HNS to implement activities aimed at restoring the systems that enabled the populations to earn a living, but which were disrupted as a result of the crisis between 2013 and 2015, and are yet to be restored.

Given the Context of weak systems enumerated above, the HNS has also highlighted areas of improvement to be covered under IFRC’s Strategies for Implementation (SFI) 1, 2, 3 and 4 to enable build up of RC sytems that are able to achieve optimal service delivery. The activities identified ae in line with the IFRC Africa Road map which identifies priority National Society Development (NSD) milestones.
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Needs Assessment

The protracted crisis in CAR has led to a large number of the population to be in inadequate living conditions as result of displacement out of a population of 4.7 million 2.5 million are considered as people in need of assistance and 1.9 million considered as vulnerable persons.

Due to the topography of the population which is dense tropical rainforest most of these population are exposed to risk of floods in events of heavy rainfalls thereby worsening their living conditions.

STATISTICS

2.5M people are considered as people in need of assistance and 1.9 million considered as vulnerable persons

6,000 people to be reached with Livelihoods activities in 2019

500K people to be reached with health services in 2018

AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The interventions prioritized by the CAR RC will be targeting the population around the Health facilities targeted for rehabilitation to ensure community acceptance and uptake of services from the health facilities. The interventions identified are in line with the SDG 1, 2, 3 and 5, the interventions on building community resilience in line with milestones identified in the IFRC Africa Regional Road map.

- Communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

The CARC strategy in the area of livelihoods and food security provides for the purchase, transportation and distribution of seeds and agricultural tools to 1,200 most food insecure families in the six target areas (Mbaiki, Boali, Bossambele, Yaloke, Damara, Bodja). Planned activities is aimed at:

- Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

HEALTH

The approach to addressing Health systems gaps in the CAR will focus on providing the needed services and supply while at the same time ensuring that the demands for health services is created by the CAR RC network of volunteers. Planned activities is aimed at:

- Vulnerable people’s health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform. Planned activities is aimed at supporting CAR RC to:

- recruit and train one RM focal point to develop NS RM strategy
- develop a data base of volunteers involved in the implementation of the PEV and KFW projects. This will permit for an insurance coverage for all volunteers
- to engage in the process of carrying out organisational assessment using the OCAC instrument

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The strategies developed will be implemented through emergency operations. Wherever joint coordination is necessary, IFRC will make sure that all relevant Movement partners are involved in the planning and implementation of emergency operations with the CARC. 2019 focus will be on:

- Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured
- The complementarity and strengths of the Movement are enhanced

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

IFRC will participate and support CAR RC to actively participate in relevant local, national and international gatherings to influence decision making. Planned 2019 are in line with the IFRC Africa Road Map which seeks to:

- Enhance communication and Resource development to promote the work of the CAR RC

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

Staff performance will be aligned to the needs of the CARC programmes and capacity development needs. The CAR RC staff supporting the implementation of the EPI and Health systems strengthening projects will be based at the IFRC Country office and technically managed by the IFRC technical leads to ensure transfer of competence and skills through the course of implementation of the projects. 2019 planned activities will be aimed at:

- Enhancing effectiveness, credibility and accountability
- Develop a strategy and plan of action to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption within the IFRC Secretariat and National Societies

CONTACTS

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