With a population estimated at about 33,668,402 inhabitants in 2018 (Source: www.worldometers.info/population/countries-in-africa-by-population/), the Central Africa Sub Region [Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo (RoC), and Sao Tome & Principe (ST&P)] faces a string of economic, socio-political, climatic and security challenges. These include population movement, natural disasters and reduced food production linked to climate change. Lack of access to water and sanitation and poor hygiene practices are among the principal causes of death and disease in the sub region.

Cameroon can be considered the driving force of the sub region. Meanwhile, it ranks among the lowest in terms of human development index (HDI) - 153rd position out of 188 countries classified by UNDP. This is indicative of the poor status of the major countries of Central Africa sub region, and explains to some extent their inability to respond to the enormous humanitarian challenges they are facing.

In 2019, IFRC Central Africa Country Cluster Support Team will continue to support the Red Cross National Societies (NSs) of Cameroon, RoC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome & Principe to deliver highly expected humanitarian services in 6 areas of focus, namely DRR, Shelter, Livelihoods and Basic Needs, Health, WASH and PGI. Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Disaster Risk Reduction
The activities planned under this AoF are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) number 11 of the United Nations, as well as with IFRC Africa Region’s Road Map 2017-2020, and will contribute to reaching the following indicators as follows:
- Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people
- Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services

SHELTER
The activities planned under this AoF are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) number 2 of the United Nations, as well as with IFRC Africa Region’s Road Map 2017-2020, and will contribute to reaching the:
- Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

Livelihoods and Basic Needs
The activities planned under this AoF are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) number 1 of the United Nations, as well as with IFRC Africa Region’s Road Map 2017-2020, and will contribute to reaching:
- Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Health
The activities planned under this AoF are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) number 3 of the United Nations, as well as with IFRC Africa Region’s Road Map 2017-2020, and will contribute to:
- Vulnerable people’s health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
The activities planned under this AoF are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) number 6 of the United Nations, as well as with IFRC Africa Region’s Road Map 2017-2020, and will contribute to:
- Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services;
- Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water

Protection, Gender and Inclusion
The activities planned under this AoF will ensure that protection, gender and social inclusion aspects are included in both development projects and emergency operations within the Central Africa sub-region

Strategy for Implementation
Strengthen National Society Capacities
IFRC will strengthen the capacities of National Societies in Central Africa to enable better understanding of the project cycle, including problem identification, planning, resource mobilization, communications, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting. In order to meet the agreed PAC indicators,
- IFRC will support Cameroon, RoC and Gabon NSs through the OCAC process in 2019
- Deliberations will begin with the remaining 2 NSs, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe to be completed by 2020

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 specific host National Societies. In 2019:
- The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies will use their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable
- Expand the programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC

Influence Others as Leading Strategic Partners
IFRC will participate and support National Societies to actively participate in relevant local, national and international gatherings to influence decision making. In order to meet the agreed PAC indicators, IFRC will support RoC, Gabon and Sao Tome & Principe National Societies to develop their resource mobilisation capacities.

Ensure a Strong IFRC
IFRC will support the NSs of RoC and Equatorial Guinea to conduct audits and produce finance statement annually as well as conduct self-assessment as part of an institutional learning process.

CONTACTS
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STATISTICS
33M inhabitants in 2018 in the 5 countries covered
250K Internally Displaced People in Cameroon and RoC
146K Central African Republic refugees in Cameroon, some since 2008
3.9M Swiss francs to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs in Central Africa in 2018