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Emergency appeal operations update

Central African Republic: Civil Unrest

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRCF017		GLIDE n° OT-2013-000152-CAF
Operations update n° 1		Timeframe covered by this update: 25 February (launch of emergency appeal) – 12 March 2014
Emergency Appeal operation start date: 23 December 2013 (start of DREF operation)		Timeframe: 12 months; End of Operation: 22 December, 2014
Appeal budget: CHF 1,136,640	Appeal coverage: 28%	Total estimated Red Cross and Red Crescent response to date: CHF 320,785
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 245,476		
N° of people being assisted: 50,000		
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Central African Republic Red Cross Society (16 branches, 117 community-based committees, 10,000 volunteers).		
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: ICRC, French Red Cross		
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Multiple, all clusters activated		

Summary: Since 5 December 2013, serious armed clashes have caused population movements in the capital of Central African Republic (CAR), Bangui. To date, 1300 people have been killed and 232,000 others displaced to IDPs sites in Bangui, while 657,000 people have been displaced to neighbouring countries (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo,) due to the violence. Most of the displaced people are seeking safe havens in 57 internally displaced people (IDP) sites, while the remainder has sought refuge in host families. The CAR Red Cross has been assisting displaced persons in Bangui. The operation was designed to address gaps in assistance for those displaced by the fighting. The IFRC, in support of the National Society (NS), continues to monitor the situation in order to know how best to support the CAR Red Cross and the affected population, particularly given the current limited access to areas outside the capital city. This appeal is mainly intended to assist 50,000 IDPs and focuses on psychosocial care, gender-based violence, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, nutrition and livelihoods, communication/advocacy/humanitarian diplomacy, disaster preparedness and risk reduction and national society capacity building. Below is a synopsis of progress recorded so far in various sectors:

Emergency health: Psychosocial health and gender-based violence: After the volunteers received training, they were deployed in the field for awareness-raising on gender-based violence. They have also been deployed in all IDP resettlement sites to register cases of GBV and refer them to specialized health centres.

Water, Sanitation and hygiene promotion: At present, the Central African Red Cross already has 802 latrines built in IDP camps out of the 1000 targeted. The Red Cross is being assisted in this work by other humanitarian organizations and/or UN agencies grouped under the Wash Cluster banner. However, despite all these efforts, according to the Wash Cluster report, we are far from achieving the Sphere standard of 20 people per latrine. Thus, there is need to step up efforts. Hygiene promotion activities are being carried out in resettlement camps by volunteers from CAR RC. Teams of volunteers are positioned in each site and are conducting activities in conjunction with beneficiaries. Leaflets and posters are being used in the promotion of activities and these have proven useful in awareness-raising.

National Society capacity building: 06 volunteers have received training in communication techniques. They now run a radio show during the time slot given to the CAR RC over Radio Centrafrique. To date, 08 radio programmes have been broadcast. The radio programmes consist in inviting community and religious leaders to come and discuss peace building in the community. The programme is also broadcasting sketches performed by the Red

Cross theatre troupe on the importance of peace. The Regional Communications Officer of the IFRC CARREP was deployed in Bangui to support the NS in these communication activities.

Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction: Peace building sensitization activities are carried out on the sites simultaneously with those on hygiene promotion. They are also carried out through radio broadcasts. Leaflets and posters were produced and shared at the same rate as those on health promotion. In addition, advocacy on peace building activities has led to the production of 08 radio shows on Radio Centrafrique by 06 animators trained for this purpose.

According to statistics of the Commission for Population Movement published on 4 March 2014, 232, 000 IDPs are estimated to be living on 57 IDPs camps across Bangui, while 657, 000 people were displaced in the Central African Republic. These figures show that the appeal only assisted 11% of the IDPs in Bangui. There is a need to extend the assistance to 50 000 people in and outside Bangui.

Coordination and partnerships

Over 500 national and international NGOs and UN Agencies are currently working in the country and their numbers continue to increase weekly. In order to facilitate the coordination of the humanitarian response, cluster meetings in each sector are taking place on a weekly basis.

Since August 2013, IFRC team is based in Bangui and dedicated to the implementation of an 18 million USD Global Fund Program aimed at distributing mosquito nets to 2 million beneficiaries across CAR. This program also includes a component on the treatment of malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS. The current crisis had led to partnership agreements for the handover and distribution of anti malarial drugs (ACT). As of 24 March 2014, 11 organizations had received ACT from the IFRC and have been distributing them to people affected by the conflict.

In December 2013, in response to the current crisis, the IFRC Regional Operation Coordinator and Disaster Risk Management Coordinator were deployed to Bangui to assess the situation with the CARC, ICRC and the French Red Cross. They also supported the Central African Red Cross in the DREF start-up. From 17 January 2014, a Head of Emergency Operations (HeOPs) arrived in CAR to scale up IFRC strategic support to the National Society and was joined on 13 January by the Psychosocial Support delegate as requested by the national society. As of 24 February, an RDRT was deployed to Bangui to take over the work done by the HeOPs and the PSS delegate. The Federation is still continuing its support to the NS with the presence of the RDRT who is assisting the NS in planning, implementation and monitoring activities planned in the ongoing appeal. A Regional Communications Officer for the Central Africa Regional Representation was deployed to Bangui and has assisted the NS communication department in implementation of their communication strategy.

The ICRC has had a permanent presence in CAR since 2007, with its main office in Bangui and sub-offices presently in Ndélé, Kaga Bandaro, Bambari and Birao. Its activities, many of which are implemented in partnership with the CARC, include emergency relief, livelihood-support projects, water and sanitation, detainee visits, restoring family links of those separated by conflict and promoting respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. In the current emergency, the ICRC has also been providing operational guidance and support to Red Cross/Red Crescent partners.

For the recent crisis, the ICRC scaled up its operational support to the NS and has made available two trucks, four cars, body bags, personal protective equipment for volunteers including disposable gloves, nose masks, boots, and assorted tools (shovels, pick-axes, rakes) and other materials and equipment related to dead body management and first-aid. The ICRC has, among other activities, provided food and non-food support to 36,000 people, provided over five million litres of safe drinking water and constructed 307 latrines for the IDPs on the airport site. The ICRC has also provided material for the management of human remains, first-aid kits and diesel to the NS and organized medical transport for over 300 people. The ICRC will pursue its operational partnership with CARC, in particular the first-aid program and in the management of mortal remains.

The ICRC has strengthened its technical, human resource and material support to health facilities: Three surgical teams are taking care of the wounded in the Bangui main hospital, (*Hôpital Communautaire*) and at the Kaga Bandoro hospital. Nineteen ICRC health delegates are providing support to hospitals in Bangui and Kaga Bandoro; three health centres in Kaga Bandoro and 11 health centres in the countryside have received ICRC ad-hoc support in the form of drugs and materials. In support of the ICRC team in CAR, the ICRC President visited the country from 25 to 28 March 2014. He visited the ICRC office in Bangui and some of the activities and the sub-offices of Kaga Bandoro and Ndelé.

The French Red Cross is also present in the country with a focus on health and water and sanitation. Besides its development programs in Bambari and Berbérati, the French Red Cross provided a vehicle to the CARC for collecting bodies during the initial days of the crisis at the beginning of December 2013. The French Red Cross also donated some drugs to the NS health centre, and is operating mobile clinical interventions with teams composed of two vehicles, one doctor, two nurses, one medical assistant, one midwife and four CARC volunteers.

Movement Coordination

This operation is being developed and implemented in close collaboration and communication with the ICRC and French Red Cross country delegations. Regular meetings are taking place to enhance collaboration and to find, where applicable, synergies that will have a positive impact on the affected population. The emergency appeal builds on the DREF operation launched on 23 December and further reinforces coordination mechanisms established therein.

In February, the CARC, ICRC and IFRC concluded a Movement Coordination Agreement (MCA), followed by a Movement Security Framework Agreement. On 14 February, the ICRC published a joint communication on the situation in CAR and on the Movement's coordinated approach to meeting the needs of the affected population.

At regional level, regular communication continues between IFRC, ICRC and FRC offices.

On 10 March 2014, the ICRC organised an international telephone conference with all Central Africa national societies, the IFRC and the PNS participating in the CAR crisis response.

A strategy was developed by the Interagency Standing Committee, (IASC) cluster agencies aimed at encouraging IDPs to return home. Some 2,400 families (12,000 beneficiaries) were initially relocated from one part of the airport site to another part in order to create space for food and NFI distribution. Subsequent distributions were meant to take place in IDP districts of origin, mainly located around the airport, with an increased security plan, in order to encourage IDPs to gradually go back to their homes. As of early February, however, the strategy had recorded very limited success. Thus, the airport site remains one of the cluster's main concerns.

All the main UN agencies have been scaling up since the IASC's declaration on 12 December of a Level 3 system-wide emergency.

Operational implementation

Overview

Since the beginning of the implementation of this appeal, the IFRC has deployed a Head of Emergency Operations and a Psychosocial Support delegate in Bangui for 2 to 3 weeks. At the end of their stay in Bangui, an RDRT was deployed to assist the NS in the implementation of the operation activities.

A team of 4 delegates of the IFRC is also in Bangui and is working on the Global Fund, to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria project.

As for the implementation of the appeal, the activities that have been conducted so far are as follows:

Planned interventions	Implementation (%)
Health & Care: Psychosocial Health and Gender-based Violence	
<p>Outcome 1: The mental wellbeing is improved for 25,000 beneficiaries (5,000 households) living in cramped conditions in 10 IDP sites across Bangui and for 291 volunteers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 291 Central African Red Cross volunteers were trained in psychosocial support (PSS) and gender-based violence (GBV). (100%). • 30 volunteers have been deployed in 11 IDP sites for awareness-raising. (100%). • 110 public awareness sessions have been organized and 2100 people reached during the public sensitization sessions, 2150 households visited, 550 leaflets distributed, 110 posters with messages on gender-based violence and stress displayed in public places. This is an average of 12,850 people over the 25,000 planned (51.4%). • 147 GBV victims were identified and referred to dedicated health centres. • 1,000 leaflets and 300 posters were produced on PSS care and GBV.
<p>Outcome 2: The risk of epidemics is reduced for 25,000 beneficiaries (5,000 households) living in cramped conditions in 10 IDP sites across Bangui and for 291 volunteers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 volunteers were trained in health promotion with focus on the prevention of malaria, cholera, acute diarrhoea, respiratory infections, malnutrition screening and referral. (100%). • When deployed to the field, they educated 39,381 people with health messages (79%).
Water, sanitation & hygiene promotion	
<p>Outcome 1: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 50,000 beneficiaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 CARC volunteers have been trained in emergency latrine construction. (100%). • 802 latrines constructed on 19 IDP sites (churches and schools) (80.2%). • 5000 leaflets and 300 posters produced by the NS with hygiene promotion messages. (100%). • 120 public awareness sessions conducted and 39,381 people reached, 2207 households visited and 20,424 people reached. • 2207 leaflets distributed and 451 posters (mixed with some PSS posters) placed. (79%)
National Society capacity building	
<p>Outcome 1: The National Society's capacity to ensure delivery and accountability of quality services is aligned with international standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 volunteers trained in communication techniques. They now run a radio show during the time slot allocated to the CAR RC over <i>Radio Centrafrique</i>. • 08 radio programmes produced and broadcast. (100%). • The IFRC Regional Communications Officer was on a mission from 10 to 17 March 2014 to support the CAR RC Communication unit. • 291 volunteers have benefited of the psychosocial support (PSS) and the gender based violence (GBV) training from the IFRC and they are able to conduct the activities on the IDPs sites in Bangui. • 50 volunteers have trained in the registration of victims in case of disaster, assessment techniques and NFI and food distribution techniques. • 50 volunteers trained in emergency latrine construction.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 volunteers trained in peace building sensitization and how to address and deliver peace building messages. • 50 volunteers trained in hygiene and health promotion techniques.
Outcome 2: Improve NS infrastructure and capacity to deliver humanitarian programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Logistic Officer of the IFRC Central Africa Representation is in Bangui at the moment. We visited the National Society warehouse with the aim of extending the building to help store incoming NFIs for the CAR contingency plan.
Disaster preparedness and risk reduction	
Outcome 1: preparedness stocks are in place to assist up to 1,000 families in future emergencies, particularly with a view to responding during the upcoming rainy season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The needs in terms of NFIs for the contingency plan for CAR have been prepared and sent to the Regional Logistics Office in Yaounde.

Contact information

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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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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.