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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° 2		Timeframe covered by this update: 25 February(launch of emergency appeal) -to 27 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: 50 %	Total estimated Red Cross and Red Crescent response to date: CHF 320,754
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 245,476		
N° of people being assisted: 50 000		
Host National Society(ies) 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:

An uneasy calm reigns in Bangui, though sporadic incidents of violence still occur. Since 5 December, 2013, CAR Red Cross volunteers have collected 1,337 corpses and 989 wounded persons have been evacuated to hospitals. Some displaced persons hitherto based on IDP sites in Bangui have started returning home timidly. Muslim populations, formerly lodged on three sites in Bangui continue to leave the city under the escort of Chadian soldiers. Going by a report from the Population Movement Commission of the UNHCR dated 27 March 2014, an estimated 625,000 people have been displaced in CAR, and 200,000 displaced in Bangui alone, as against 657,000 people displaced in the entire country, and 232,000 Bangui alone, as of 4 March. These figures actually show that some people have left the site to return to their homes. The same report indicates that displaced persons in Bangui live on 42 sites, against 57 as of 4 March. There is, therefore, a net decrease, as people have left some sites. Currently, the 7 most populated sites are:

- Bangui airport, 54,500 persons;
- Don Bosco, 21,500 persons;
- St. Joseph Mukassa, 18260 persons;
- St Sauveur, 17,500 persons;
- St Charles Luanga, 15 555 persons;
- Eglise des frères Castors, 13,030 persons;
- St Jean de Galabadja, 10, 600 persons.

The people that live on the 7 sites mentioned above constitute 75% of the displaced population in Bangui. Appeal activities previously conducted on IDP sites will also be extended to the neighborhoods of Bangui, without abandoning these sites. Though IDPs are gradually going back to their homes, the airport site remains the most populous in Bangui, with 54 500 people.

CAR Red Cross has submitted a project to FAO and WFP for the distribution of seeds in parts of the country that still have gaps in the distribution of seeds.

Within the country and especially in Boda, the situation is not better as clashes have led to the division of the city into two parts. The city hospital has been completely looted and the market burnt. Displaced persons live on 08 sites spread over the town. These clashes have caused the death of 115 people and injured 436. 895 houses have been burnt down. A total of 7,489 people have been affected by these events.

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: Latrines are being built on IDP sites and in school premises. 5000 leaflets, 300 posters and 5 flip charts have been designed with messages on hygiene promotion. 50 volunteers have been trained in emergency latrine construction techniques; 50 volunteers have also been trained in health promotion with flyers and posters.

National Society capacity building:

- 291 volunteers have been trained in psychosocial support and gender-based violence (GBV) by the IFRC Psychosocial Delegate;
- 50 volunteers have been trained in assessment techniques, identification of victims and distribution of food and non food items (NFIs);
- 50 volunteers have been trained in emergency latrine construction techniques;
- 50 volunteers have been trained in health promotion with flyers and posters;
- 1000 leaflets and 300 posters have been designed to raise awareness on stress and gender-based violence (GBV);
- 5000 leaflets, 500 posters and 05 flip charts have been designed with key messages on the culture of peace.

Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction: A report on NFI needs for 1000 families to be integrated in the CAR contingency plan has been prepared and sent to the regional logistics department of the Federation in Yaounde.

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.

As far as the IFRC is concerned, since August 2013, its 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 linked to the provision of Malaria, TB and HIV treatments. 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 were 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 in 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 in Bangui to take over the work done by the HeOPs and the PSS delegate. The 2 last quoted people left on the 26 February. 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, with the strong collaboration of the national society, and the deployment of the Regional Communications Officer for the Central Africa Regional Representation of the IFRC who arrived Bangui on 10 March 2014. She assisted the NS communication department in the implementation of communication.

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 upgraded 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 National Society 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 first days of the crisis, at the beginning of December 2013 and the municipal authorities have allocated a site for the burial of corpses in Bimbo. The French Red Cross also donated some drugs to the National Society 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, for 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(HeOPs) 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 National Society 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 against Malaria, tuberculosis and HIV prevention 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	
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.	<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%). • 143 public awareness sessions have been organized and 3007 people reached during the public sensitization sessions, 2303 households visited, 703 leaflets distributed, 143 posters with messages on gender-based violence and stress displayed in public places. This is an average of 14,522 people over the 25000 planned (58.088%). • 147 GBV victims were identified and referred to dedicated health centres. • 1000 leaflets and 300 posters were produced on PSS care and GBV.
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.	<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 in the field, they were able to educate 46,183 people with health messages (92.366%).
Water, sanitation, & hygiene promotion	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 CARC volunteers have been trained in emergency latrine construction. (100%). • 934 latrines constructed on 19 IDP sites (churches and mosques) and in schools (93.4%).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5000 leaflets and 300 posters produced by the NS with hygiene promotion messages. (100%). • 158 public awareness sessions conducted and 46,183 people reached, 2207 households visited and 22,439 people reached. • 2407 leaflets distributed and 504 posters (mixed with some PSS posters) placed. (92.366%)
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. • 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. • 1000 leaflets and 300 posters have been designed to raise awareness on stress and gender-based violence (GBV). • 5000 leaflets, 300 posters and 5 flip charts have been designed with messages on hygiene promotion. • 5000 leaflets, 500 posters and 05 flip charts have been designed with key messages on the culture of peace.

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. The drafting of the contingency plan on population movement for the CAR is underway.

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1. Revised Emergency Appeal budget *(if needed)* [below](#)
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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 (NGO's) 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.