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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Cameroon: Floods and Cholera Epidemic

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRCM020; Glide n° FL-2014-000121-CMR
Date of issue: 8 September 2014	Date of disaster: 21 August 2014
Operation manager: Josuane Flore Tene	Point of contact: Boniface Ebode, Secretary General, Cameroon Red Cross Society
Operation start date: 8 September 2014	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 179,304	
Number of people affected: 255,214	Number of people to be assisted: 26,380
Host National Society(ies) presence : 100 volunteers	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant):	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: local Administration Authorities	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Since 21 August 2014, Bibemi Subdivision, located some 64 kilometres from the city of Garoua (capital of the North Region of Cameroon) has been experiencing heavy rainfall (about 180 mm) that has caused severe flooding in more than 10 villages of the Subdivision, leaving extensive damage and loss of life (a 14-year-old girl drowned) in its wake.

Many of these villages including Sabongari, Oura-Kar 1 and 2, Bando Botare and Baksa were swept away by floodwaters, with houses and farms destroyed, animals killed or washed away and nearly 700 families (about 3,500 people), including 223 families whose homes were completely destroyed and 53 others whose homes were partially destroyed and rendered uninhabitable. These 276 families (about 1380 homeless people) live with host families and in public buildings where they are exposed to harsh weather, respiratory and dirty water-related diseases.

These families live under very precarious conditions because their farms have been destroyed and crops and small livestock and poultry washed away.

It should be noted that weather forecasts still indicate risks of flooding across the northern region of the country and steps should be taken urgently to address these risks. Furthermore, a detailed study of the situation in the entire Subdivision is underway.

These floods have been further aggravated by a cholera outbreak that was declared on 28 August, in the same locality. According to State media, twenty-two cholera cases and one fatality have already been recorded. Steps have to, therefore, be taken urgently to prevent the situation from deteriorating any further, not only for the victims, but also for the entire population of that locality and the entire North Region.

Table 1. Cholera situation in the North Region from 18 to 28 August 2014

Localities	Number of cases	Number of fatalities
Guider	21	00
Mayo-Oulo	10	00
Figuil	08	00
Pittoa	12	03
Bibémi	17	01
Touboro	09	04
TOTAL	77	08

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

As soon as the disaster struck, the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC), through its local committee, mobilized volunteers, under the supervision of a member of the National Disaster Management Team, to conduct an initial rapid assessment of the situation, through which a DMIS was prepared, with support from the IFRC. They helped in the evacuation of victims to secure areas and also provided them psychological support.

They later attended a crisis and damage assessment meeting organized by administrative and local authorities.

The North Region of Cameroon was last hit by floods in 2012, and volunteers were involved in the implementation of activities. The locals committees intend to deploy 100 volunteers and ten supervisors, who will be trained and others retrained for this new operation (Floods and Cholera).

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC is present and supporting the national society (NS) in the development and implementation of the action plan. The NS will work with the ICRC, in case of restoration of family links (RFL).

Movement Coordination

A Red Cross Movement meeting took place on the 2 August, during which the Cameroon Red Cross solicited the support of the IFRC.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

After learning about the disaster, the governor of the North Region activated the emergency mechanism. While on a visit to the locus in quo on Tuesday, 26 August, the Senior Divisional Officer (SDO) for Benue seized the opportunity to reinforce the tactical mechanism put in place against crises. Law enforcement officials, public health workers, and the Divisional Officer (DO) for Bibemi were present on site.

Another field trip led by the SDO for Benue was attended by the DO for Bibemi, a representative of the Regional Delegate for Public Health for the North Region, the Divisional Delegate for Agriculture and Rural Development for Benue, the company commander of the gendarmerie legion of the North Region, the Central Senior Superintendent of police for Benue, the brigade commander for Bibemi and Red Cross volunteers from the Bibemi local committee, supported by the Benue Divisional Red Cross committee.

The minister of basic education has provided some foods items (rice, cooking oil, etc.) and some school kits, as schools are expected to resume on 8 August.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

The rapid assessment carried out by the CRC has identified urgent needs in the areas of emergency shelter, basic household items (blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets etc.), food, safe water, access to proper sanitation and reduction of increased health risks, especially cholera, caused by the floods. As supplementary information is needed, this DREF will be used to support a more detailed assessment. In order to develop the action plan, it will be revised according to the changing needs of the most affected households, including the need for emergency shelter.

Criteria for selecting beneficiaries and to identify the most vulnerable displaced households will be developed and disseminated. Priority will be given to female-headed and child-headed households, households with children under 5 years, and households with pregnant women, the elderly or physically challenged persons. Moreover, needs in terms of food, medications and even school supplies have also been expressed. Advocacy will be carried with other partners for this purpose.

A coordination meeting convened by the Minister of the territorial administration and decentralization would be held on 5 September in order to appeal to the partners to assist the affected population.

Risk Assessment

It should be noted that this locality is part of the neighbourhoods hit by the recent floods of 2012. Unlawful occupation of land and haphazard construction renders people living in these areas more vulnerable. Access to these affected areas is very difficult and in times of heavy rainfall, most roads in this region are usually impassable. With the intensification of rainfall, the number of people affected could rise if immediate humanitarian action is not taken. In addition to the floods currently raging in the locality, there is urgent need for action to prevent further spread of cholera.

B. Operational strategy and plan

The CRC, with support from IFRC aims to provide assistance to 276 affected families whose houses have been partially or completely destroyed, with a selection of essential non-food items as well as blankets, mats, mosquito nets, hygiene kits for women of child-bearing age, kitchen sets, soap, jerry cans and buckets, emergency shelter, awareness activities on treatment and storage of water, sanitation kits for health and hygiene promotion.

With support from a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member, the National Society will carry out detailed assessments to determine whether further changes are needed to this proposed operation, based on the evolution of the situation in the field.

The CRC cholera focal point person is in the field for the cholera operation currently being implemented in the neighbouring Far North region. A similar operation will be conducted in Bibemi and surrounding communities.

At national headquarters, a crisis meeting chaired by the Secretary General took place, and trained NDRT members are being mobilized for possible deployment.

Ongoing field assessments may lead to an amendment of this action plan. The most vulnerable communities being identified for the distribution of blankets. Thirty volunteers will be briefed (retraining) on needs assessment and registration of beneficiaries (leading to registering of targeted beneficiaries who will receive assistance in the coming weeks, in each area) and health and hygiene promotion.

Overall objective

Contribute to improving the living conditions of 276 most vulnerable families affected by floods in Bibemi Subdivision and improving the health situation of the population of the North Region of Cameroon

Proposed strategy

- continue assessing the situation and needs
- identification of the most vulnerable communities and households
- mobilization and capacity building of volunteers
- support the Bibemi local Red Cross committee (deployment of NDRT and RDRT)
- distributions of non-food items to the most vulnerable identified
- awareness-raising/hygiene promotion, purification of water at households level
- aqua tabs will be distributed to each of the 276 most vulnerable flood-affected families),
- clean-up of environment (disinfection of latrines etc.) of all flood victims
- psychological support
- mid-term assessment
- lessons learned sessions lessons lea
- review of action plan according to the evolution of the situation

Regarding cholera, Red Cross volunteers will not only conduct door-to-door awareness-raising, but will also be involved in mass (radio programmes) and group awareness activities on knowledge of the disease, modes of transmission, prevention and case management. For a start, awareness-raising will be conducted at the rate of 3 sessions per week for 8 weeks. A midterm monitoring / evaluation will be conducted after 2 months in order to readjust the response.

Awareness sessions will be accompanied by drinking water treatment and purification (10 aqua tabs will be distributed to each family, for 10% of the total population). The community-based health and first-aid (CBHFA) approach will be used to organize the community, especially regarding hygiene and sanitation.

Given the context of the North Region that experiences recurring epidemics of measles, yellow fever and the circulation of the wild polio virus, refresher training sessions will also be held on the epidemics control manual.

Megaphones with batteries, Information, Education, and Communication materials, hand washing kits, sprayers, gloves, nose masks, T-shirts, boots, overalls as well as consumables such as chlorine, oral rehydration salt, soap and aqua tabs will be made available. Motorbikes will be purchased for the coordinators of the 3 most affected districts, as well as bicycles for certain branches in the most difficult to access communities, where roads are impassable.

Operational support services

The operation will be conducted in collaboration with all stakeholders linked to the operation in the field.

Human resources

The implementation of the activity will require the deployment of 100 volunteers and 10 supervisors who will be retrained/trained, with the involvement of beneficiaries, and in collaboration with administrative / local authorities. NDRTs and RDRTs will be deployed to support the volunteers. Monitoring missions from national headquarters will be conducted in collaboration with the disaster management department of the IFRC.

Other departments (Health, Logistics, PMER, Communication and Human Resources) will be involved, according to their areas of competence.

Logistics and supply chain

The response will require local procurement for WASH items – this will be conducted in strict compliance with standard procedures of the IFRC. Where possible the regional stocks available in Cameroon will be used and replenished via Dubai GLS.

Information technologies (IT)

Telephone discussions and online communication are already being held between local branch and even divisional focal points of the Cameroon Red Cross and technical departments at headquarters (NS and Federation) in order to gather information on the situation. These exchanges will continue throughout the operation in order to ensure the better monitoring of activities and the evolution of the situation.

Communications

The Cameroon Red Cross will use its internet website to share achievements on this operation. Visibility of the work of Red Cross volunteers will be ensured during the operation through local media and visibility material. A proper documentation and reporting to allow for lessons learnt will be ensured as well. The Cameroon Red Cross will provide regular updates on the operation.

Communication and community awareness will focus on decreasing fear and raising awareness on prevention methods and alertness of communities for an appropriate response. Key stakeholder groups and opinion leaders (taxi drivers, religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, community leaders and teachers) will be targeted as change agents for social mobilization and communication activities.

Where possible and relevant, cross border communication and information sharing will be undertaken amongst government precisely the civil protection department.

Security

The North Region is relatively calm for now. However, Boko Haram incursion are still being reported in the Far North, where the nearest town is about 400 km away.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

While continuous monitoring is being ensured by the National Society local branches, the Cameroon Red Cross at headquarters level, in close cooperation with the IFRC regional office will monitor the progress of the operation and provide necessary technical expertise.

The monitoring and reporting of the operation will be undertaken by the National Society. Brief weekly updates will be provided to the IFRC on the general progress of the operation, and regular monitoring reports will provide detailed indicator tracking.

A DREF review will be carried out in order to evaluate the impact of this operation and a Lessons Learned workshop will also be organized in that learning process.

Administration and Finance

The National Society has a permanent administrative and financial department, which will ensure the proper use of financial resources in accordance with conditions to be discussed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Society and the IFRC.

Management of financial resources will be effected according to the procedures of the national society and DREF guidelines.

Outcome 2 : Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Output 2.1 Daily access to safe sanitation facilities which meets Sphere and WHO standards is provided to target population

Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Train volunteers in water purification at supply points, public places and at home	■														
Organize community clean-up campaigns		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Raise awareness on appropriate use of latrines		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Provide hand-washing kits and disinfectants for community latrines		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Raise awareness on hand washing, personal and collective hygiene		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Demonstration and purification of water at supply points, public places and at home						■									
Test for residual chlorine in household water		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						

Shelter and settlements (and household items)**Needs analysis:**

Tarpaulins and shelter kits should be distributed to victims to serve as emergency shelters, with the support of volunteers.

Non-food items are purchased and distributed to 276 vulnerable families (552, tarpaulins, 552 matts, 552 blankets, 552 mosquitos net, 276 buckets, 276 jerry cans, 2,760 bars of soap of 250 g, , 276 kitchen sets). Women (119) will also receive some additional and specific items (hygiene kits, soap, hygiene pads).

Population to be assisted:

276 families who lost their homes completely and partially.

Outcome 1: Shelter conditions for 276 homeless families have improved due to emergency shelter

Output 1.1 276 families receive shelter materials

Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Provision of tarpaulins	■	■														
Monitoring of activities.		■	■	■	■	■										
Activity report							■	■	■	■						

Outcome 2: Improve living conditions of the 276 most vulnerable families through the distribution of non-food items

Output 2.1: 276 families receive non-food items (mats, mosquito nets, blankets, buckets, jerry cans, soap, etc.)

Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Purchase of equipment	■	■														
Refresher for volunteers on distribution techniques		■														
Distribution of items			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Monitoring of activities					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Activity report													■	■		

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.



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.
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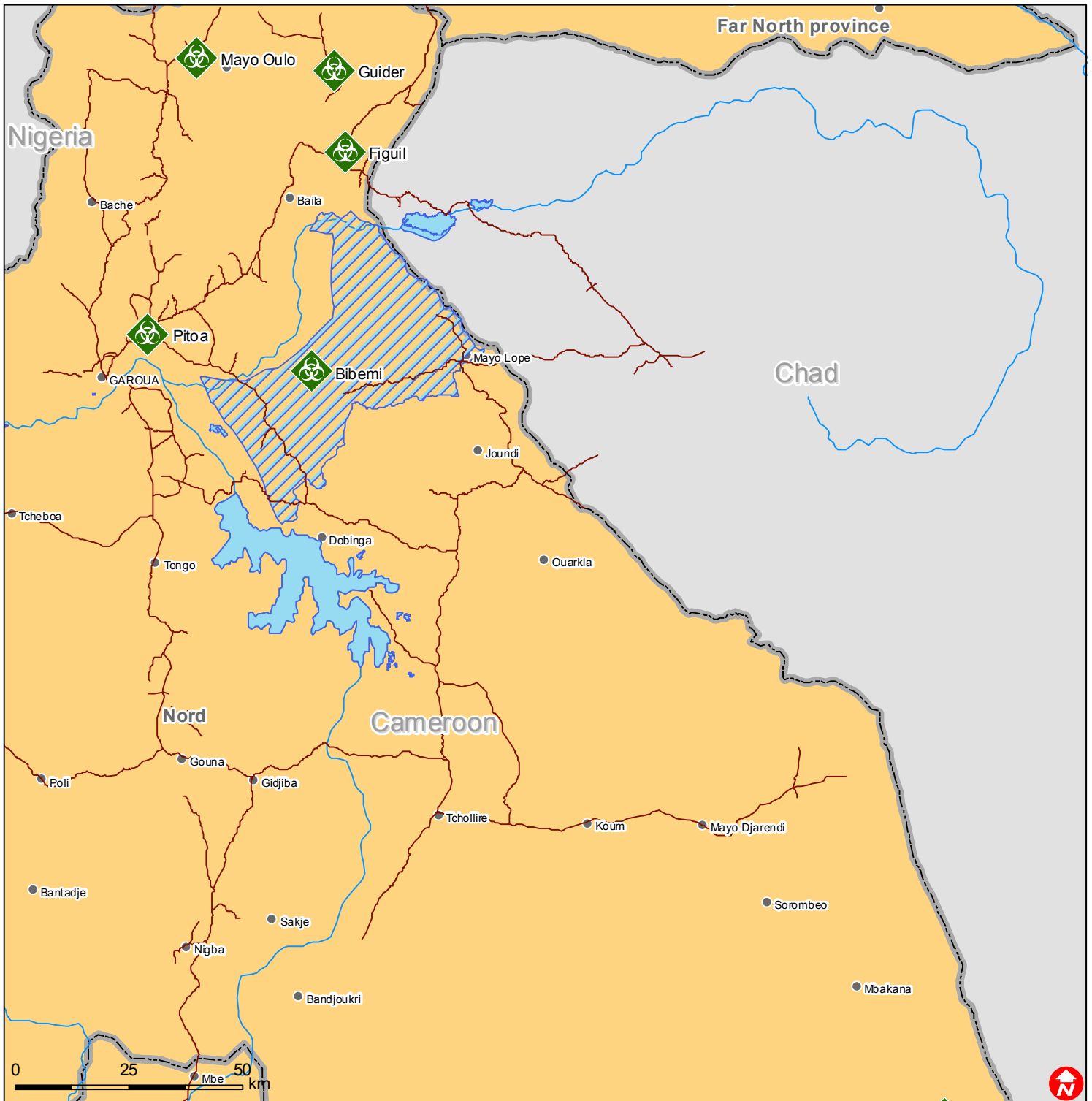
Cameroon Floods - EPoA budget

08.09.2014

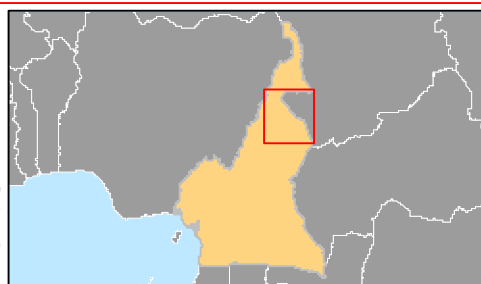
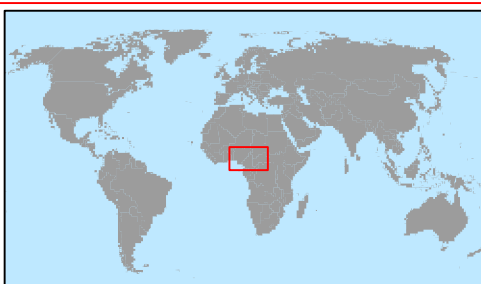
Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	7,176	7,176
Shelter - Transitional	0	0
Construction - Housing	0	0
Construction - Facilities	0	0
Construction - Materials	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	6,624	6,624
Food	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	26,751	26,751
Medical & First Aid	1,000	1,000
Teaching Materials	5,759	5,759
Ustensils & Tools	8,297	8,297
Other Supplies & Services	1,378	1,378
Emergency Response Units	0	0
Cash Disbursements	0	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	56,985	56,985
Land & Buildings	0	0
Vehicles Purchase	8,500	8,500
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
Medical Equipment	0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	8,500	8,500
Storage, Warehousing	1,875	1,875
Dsitribution & Monitoring	10,450	10,450
Transport & Vehicle Costs	9,820	9,820
Logistics Services	0	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	22,145	22,145
International Staff	12,000	12,000
National Staff	2,560	2,560
National Society Staff	11,970	11,970
Volunteers	21,880	21,880
Total PERSONNEL	48,410	48,410
Consultants	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0
Workshops & Training	18,098	18,098
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	18,098	18,098
Travel	9,099	9,099
Information & Public Relations	372	372
Office Costs	0	0
Communications	3,252	3,252
Financial Charges	1,500	1,500
Other General Expenses	0	0
Shared Support Services		
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	14,223	14,223
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	10,943	10,943
Total INDIRECT COSTS	10,943	10,943
TOTAL BUDGET	179,304	179,304







Cameroon: Floods and epidemic



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, International Federation, WRI - MDRCM020.mxd
 Map produced by DCM/GVA



-  Localities with cholera cases
-  Bibemi subdivision flooded
-  Main cities
-  Regions