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Emergency appeal operations update

Central Africa Republic: Berberati storms

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation: MDRCF019	Operations update n° 1
Timeframe covered by this update: 13 May 2015 – 10 August 2015	
Operation start date: 13 May 2015	End date: 31 August 2015. (Operations extended for two weeks)
DREF allocated: CHF 99,788	N° of people being assisted: 210 households (1,109 people)
Date of disaster: 24 April 2015	Point of contact: Pierre Danladi, IFRC Operations manager
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Five national headquarters staff (Head of Health, Head of communications, programme coordinator, disaster management officer and finance officer), three national disaster response team members, 35 volunteers, and two drivers	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Central African Republic Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: None	

This operations update reports on progress recorded during the first three months of the operation and requests for a timeframe extension of the operation until 31 August, 2015.

Summary: On 24 April 2015, continuous storms resulted in extensive flooding, destruction of houses and loss of household belongings in the first, second, third, fourth and fifth districts of Berbérati, located 584 kilometres from Bangui, in the Central African Republic (CAR). According to a rapid assessment carried out by the local committee of the Central African Republic Red Cross (CAR RC), 210 households (1,109 people) were affected, with 199 houses completely destroyed. It was also reported that one person was killed, and seven injured; the latter were referred to the Berbérati regional hospital for treatment. As of 5 May 2015, the displaced population was hosted by other households within Berbérati; however, some lived in the open air, which increased their exposure to the extreme weather conditions, as well as to communicable and respiratory diseases. In addition, water and sanitation infrastructure were submerged and contaminated, increasing the risk of spread of waterborne diseases. As predicted by the CAR meteorological department, the rains have continued in the affected areas. Therefore, the response by the CAR RC in collaboration with the IFRC is ongoing. The beneficiaries were already extremely vulnerable prior to the flooding, since they had also been affected by the CAR crisis, whose effects are still being felt.

As a result of the situation, a DREF operation was launched on 13 May 2015 to assist some 1,109 beneficiaries (210 households) for a period of three months in the first, second, third, fourth and fifth districts of Berberati, located 584 kilometres from Bangui in the Central Africa Republic (CAR).

This operation update reports on progress recorded during the three months of the operation and requests for a timeframe extension of the operation for an addition two weeks, until 31 August, 2015. As of now, the only Red Cross partner that is engaged in the Berberati Storm activities with the National Society is the IFRC, through this DREF worth CHF 99,788.



A beneficiary receiving NFIs from the District Officer. Photo: CAR RC

The situation

Overview of Host National Society

From the onset of the disaster, through its local Red Cross Committee in Berbérati, the CAR RC mobilized 35 volunteers for immediate response, in collaboration with the local authorities. The CAR RC volunteers initially carried out first aid for minor to medium injuries and transferred major injuries to the regional hospital. In addition, the volunteers conducted psychosocial support for some of the affected households and assisted in evacuating others to the host families. They also conducted a rapid assessment to ascertain the magnitude of the disaster and come up with an Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA). With the release of funds from the DREF, to date, the IFRC CAR representation and the CAR RC have achieved the following:

- 35 CAR RC volunteers have been trained on distribution techniques, hygiene promotion advocacy techniques, latrine disinfection techniques with the use of cresyl and in safe shelter construction techniques;
- 210 NFI kits were distributed to 210 affected families (1,109 persons). These kits consisted of 420 tarpaulins, 555 blankets, 555 mosquito nets, 555 sleeping mats, 210 jerry cans, 210 kitchen sets, 210 buckets, 420 toilet kits, 1,050 pieces of soap (250 grams), 210 solar lamps, 210 IFRC tool kits, 1,260 battens and rafters for the reconstructions 420 shelters;
- Some 500 leaflets, 100 posters and 05 flipcharts were produced with keywords on hygiene promotion and shelter construction, taking into account disaster risks
- Some 17,448 people were reached by the awareness campaign on hygiene promotion;
- Some 291 latrines were disinfected, for the benefit of 275 families or 3,966 persons;
- Fences were built for 2 water wells;
- Some 210 shelters were rebuilt by volunteers and beneficiaries
- Training of the 35 volunteers on storm-related risks and hygiene promotion;

Although the CAR RC has completed most of the activities, a beneficiary satisfaction survey is being planned in the coming days. In addition, volunteers who helped in the implementation of the various activities are still to be paid and the current security situation in Berberati does not allow the NS to complete volunteer payment within the planned timeframe of this DREF which is on 13 August. The new strategy is to transport money by air, since UNHAS now flies to Berberati every week. As such, this update thus **requests an extension of the duration of the emergency appeal by two weeks; until 31 August 2015**, so as to be able to complete the beneficiary satisfaction survey and pay the volunteers. A Final Report will be made available by 30 November, three months after completion of the DREF.

[<click here for the contact details>](#)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is providing assistance through its CAR country representation, Central Africa regional representation (CARREP), and Africa zone office. Since the onset of the disaster, there has been regular contact with the IFRC CAR country representation, CARREP and Africa zone disaster management unit (DMU) giving regular updates on the situation and activities. On 26 April 2015, an alert was issued using the IFRC disaster management information system (DMIS), and an Operational Strategy Call carried out with colleagues at Geneva, Zone and Regional level. It was agreed that an allocation should be made from the Disaster Relief and Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the CAR RC to respond to the situation. Prior to the rainfall, the population of Berbérati was already targeted by the on-going MDRCF017 Civil Unrest Emergency Appeal (EA). However, due to low funding this area did not receive any assistance hence the DREF allocation was used to support those households that had been directly affected by the storms. The IFRC CAR country representation is also working with the Global Fund, specifically on the implementation of HIV, malaria and tuberculosis related activities, which will complement the DREF operation (distribution of mosquito nets through the Global Fund malaria operation). The French Red Cross has an in-country presence, but is not actively involved in the operation as their focus is supporting the population which is affected by the civil unrest. Other Movement partners in the country include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Qatari Red Crescent. However, they have not yet mobilized resources for this response.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Approximately 100 national and international non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies are operating in CAR; however, they are mostly involved in the response to the on-going civil unrest, and not the storms in Berberati. *Médecins sans Frontières* (MSF) carried out an assessment of the situation but did not commit to providing a response; as such, the activities planned within this DREF operation are ongoing and there is no danger of any potential duplication.

Coordination and partnerships

The CAR RC launched the Berberati Storms DREF to seek the support of the IFRC in providing assistance to the population of first, second, third, fourth, and fifth districts of Berberati, which were affected by the heavy downpour of 25 April 2015. As of now, the only Red Cross partner that is engaged in the Berberati Storm activities with the National Society is the IFRC, through this DREF worth CHF 99,788. The IFRC country office currently comprises of a Country Representative, an Operation Manager and a Communication Delegate with support from seven other delegates who are currently working under the IFRC/Global Fund grants on Malaria, TB and HIV. In general, the Red Cross Movement partners hold three coordination meetings on a monthly basis (technical communication committee meeting, Movement security forum and Movement Programme Managers meetings), where the ICRC, IFRC, CAR RC, French Red Cross and Qatari Red Crescent share information, and discuss opportunities as well as challenges for the Movement.

At Government level, the local administrative authorities are fully involved in the activities. The district officer and the Mayor of Berberati local council participated in the NFIs distribution. They thank the CAR RC for its support to the affected population. Further, the traditional rulers of the affected neighbourhoods assisted the Red Cross volunteers during the assessment and the registration of the affected people. They also provided first aid the affected population and transported the wounded people to the hospital.

Operational implementation

Overview

The storm-affected population's survival and immediate needs were met through the provision of essential emergency relief, shelter items, health and care, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion assistance, targeting a total of 210 households (1,109 people) in five neighbourhoods of Berberati, CAR.

**NB though Berberati is included in the MDRCF017 Civil Unrest EA; this DREF operation is intended to support those directly affected by the storms only, and not the existing activities planned within the EA, which have not been carried out due to low funding.*

The strategy of this DREF operation aimed at providing assistance to 210 families (1,109 people) located across the first to the fifth districts of the town of Berberati, in the Mambere Kadei region of CAR with the following activities:

- Distribution of essential household items (EHIs)/non-food items to 210 households (1,109 people), who had lost all their household items following the storms, specifically: 555 blankets (one for two persons); 210 kitchen sets (one per household), 555 mats (one for two persons), 555 mosquito nets* (two for two persons), and 210 solar lamps (one per household). In addition, the 35 volunteers received briefing on distribution techniques; and provide sensitization on the use of the EHIs/NFIs at the point of receipt.
- Distribution of emergency shelter materials to 210 households (1,109 people) whose houses had been damaged/destroyed, specifically: 420 big poles (two per household), 1,260 small poles (six per household), 210 IFRC standard shelter kits (one per household), 420 tarpaulins (two per household), as well as fixing materials. In addition, the 35 volunteers received training (three days) on safe housing construction approaches, and then supported households with construction.
- Distribution of water purification tablets; and sensitization on their use to promote the provision of safe water supply, as well as disinfection of contaminated latrines using cresyl and calcium hypochlorite. In addition, five community sanitation committees were to be established (one per neighbourhood), and equipped with buckets, sanitation kits, sprayers and tumblers to ensure that the latrines could be kept clean beyond the DREF operation.

- Distribution of hygiene related NFIs to 210 households (1,109 people), specifically: 210 buckets (17 litres/one per household), 420 hygiene kits for women (two per household), 210 jerry cans (20 litres/one per household) and 1,050 pieces of soap (five pieces per household). In addition, the 35 volunteers were to receive training on storm-related risk and hygiene promotion, and carry out sensitization across the five districts. It is expected that the 35 volunteers were to carry out the storm-related risk and hygiene promotion campaigns, and were equipped with information, education and communication materials (IECs) including image boxes (five/one per neighbourhood), leaflets (500/100 per neighbourhood), posters (100/20 per neighbourhood) and megaphones (five/one per neighbourhood).
- Provision of first aid services and referral to local health centres.

All activities planned were carried out in accordance with the recognized SPHERE standards.

NB: Mosquito nets were mobilized and distributed to the beneficiaries through the Global Funds and not through the DREF allocation.

Planned interventions	Implementation (%)
Quality programming/ Areas common to all sectors	
Outcome 1: Continuous assessment, analysis and coordination to inform the design and implementation of the DREF operation	
Output 1.1: Monitoring of DREF operation informs revisions to the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)	
Activities planned :	75%
Monitoring and reporting activities	The NS conducted three monitoring missions on Berberati (100%)
Conduct beneficiary satisfaction survey (target: 10 volunteers for three days)	There is still one mission on the beneficiary satisfaction survey scheduled within the month of August. (50%)

Health & Care	
Outcome1: Immediate risks to the health of the storm-affected population is reduced in five neighbourhoods in Berberati district, over a period of three months	
Output 1.1: Target population in the affected areas are provided with mosquito nets; and sensitized on their use (Target: 210 households/1,109 beneficiaries)	
Activities planned	100%
Distribute mosquito nets to target population (two for two persons) (Target: 555 mosquito nets)*	The mosquito nets have been distributed to the affected families (100%)
Demonstration for the beneficiaries on how to use the mosquito net. (Target: 210 households / 1,109 beneficiaries)	During the distribution, the CAR RC volunteers demonstrated to the beneficiaries how to use the mosquito net (100%)
Output 1.2: Target population is provided with first aid services (Target: 210 households/1,109 beneficiaries)	
Activities planned	(100%)
Provide first aid to people who are injured.	At the occurrence of the disaster, the Red Cross volunteers provided first aid to the injured people before taking them to the hospital for better care (100%)
Provide referrals for affected people to the health centres	The volunteers also referred the affected people to the local health centre for better treatment (100%)
Replenishment of first aid kits (Target: 10 first aid kits)	Through the DREF, the NS purchased the replenishment of the first aid kits and handed over to the Red Cross local committees of the affected areas (100%)
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion	
Outcome 1: Immediate risk of waterborne disease is reduced through the provision of safe water supply, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion in five neighbourhoods of Berberati district, over a period of three months	
Output 1.1: Target population in the affected areas are provided with access to safe drinking water supply in accordance with SPHERE and WHO standards (Target: 210 households/1,109	

beneficiaries)	
Activities planned	100%
Procure aqua tab (water purification tablets) (Target: 81 boxes)	Distributed Aqua tabs were taken from the NS warehouse because the budget line was under estimated
Distribution of aqua tabs; and sensitization on their use (Target: 210 households; 1,109 beneficiaries)	The aqua tabs were distributed to the beneficiaries, but prior to the distribution, the NS volunteers conducted a sensitization campaign on their use (100%)
Output 1.2: Target population in the affected areas are provided with sanitation services, which meet SPHERE standards (Target: 210 households, 1,109 beneficiaries)	
Activities planned	100%
Identification of all existing latrines in the area of implementation	The volunteers have identified 275 latrines in the affected areas (100%)
Procure chemicals for treatment of latrines (Target: Three boxes of 12 (Cresyl); and three cans of 25kg calcium hypochlorite)	The chemicals for treatment of latrines were procured (100%)
Procure sanitation materials (Target: 5 sanitation kits; 5 sprayers; 15 buckets (20 litres); and 20 tumblers)	The sanitation kits were procured by the NS for the cleaning activities in the affected areas (100%)
Establish community hygiene committees (Target: 5 committees)	The NS have set up community hygiene committees including 5 men and 5 women and also the Red Cross local committee members in each of the affected neighbourhoods (100%)
Handover sanitation materials to the community hygiene committees	The Sanitation kits were handover to the community hygiene committees put in place (100%)
Disinfect the identified latrines	The identified latrines were all disinfected by the Red Cross volunteers (100%)
Output 1.3: Target population in the affected areas are provided with hygiene promotion services, which meet SPHERE standards (Target: 210 households / 1,109 beneficiaries)	
Activities planned	Hygiene promotion in affected areas ongoing
Procure/transport hygiene related NFIs (Target: 210 buckets with lids, 420 hygiene kits for women, 210 jerry cans, and pieces of 250 grams of soap)	The buckets, jerry cans, hygiene kits and soap were procured and transported to Berberati for the distribution to the affected families (100%)
Package the hygiene related NFIs according to the verified list of beneficiaries	All hygiene related NFIs were packaged according to the verified list of beneficiaries (100%)
Distribution of hygiene related NFIs (Target: 210 households/1,109 beneficiaries)	The 210 affected families have received the hygiene related NFIs from the NS volunteers (100%)
Procure IEC materials with related hygiene promotion messages (Target: 500 leaflets, 100 posters and 5 image boxes)	The IEC materials have been produced and there are in use currently in the hygiene promotion (100%)
Train volunteers on hygiene promotion (Target: 35 volunteers)	The NS volunteers benefited from training on the sensitization campaign using the images box and the posters (100%)
Carry out storm-related risk and hygiene promotion campaigns (Target: Five districts)	The volunteers conducted storm-related risk and hygiene promotion campaign in the five districts (100%)

Shelter and settlements (and household items)	
Outcome 1: Immediate shelter and settlement needs of the storm-affected population in five neighbourhoods of Berberati district are met, over a period of three months	
Output 1.1: Target population in the affected areas are provided with Essential Household Items (EHIs)/Non-Food Items (NFIs) (Target: 420 households/1,109 beneficiaries)	
Activities planned	100%
Procure and transport EHIs/NFIs (Target: 555 blankets, 555 kitchen sets, 555 mats, 210 solar lamps)	The EHIs/NFI were taken from the IFRC regional warehouse in Yaounde and transported to Berberati. A requisition was signed for the procurement of the replenishment with the GLS (100%)

Package the EHIs/ NFIs according to the verified list of beneficiaries	All the EHIs were packaged accordingly (100%)
Training of volunteers on methods and distribution techniques (Target: 35 volunteers)	The NS volunteers were trained on the distribution techniques prior to the distribution taking place (100%)
Distribution of EHIs/NFIs (Target: 210 households/1,109 beneficiaries)	The EHIs/NFI were distributed as planned to the 210 affected families (100%)
Output 1.2: Target population in the affected areas provided with assistance to support the construction of emergency shelter solutions in accordance with a safe housing (disaster risk reduction) building approach (Target: 210 households / 1,109 beneficiaries)	
Activities planned	100%
Procure/transport emergency shelter materials (Target: 420 tarpaulins and fixing materials (including rope and poles); and 210 IFRC shelter tool kits)	The shelter tool kits were taken from the IFRC regional warehouse in Yaounde and transported to Berberati while the poles were purchased locally (100%)
Package the emergency shelter materials according to the verified list of beneficiaries	The emergency shelter materials were packaged accordingly (100%)
Distribution of emergency shelter materials (Target: 210 households / 1,109 beneficiaries)	The emergency shelter materials were distributed to the 210 affected families (100%)
Training of volunteers on a safe housing (disaster risk reduction) building approach (Target: 35 volunteer)	The 35 volunteers of the local Red Cross branch have benefited from a 3-day training on safe housing building approach (100%)
Assist during the construction of the emergency shelter solutions (Target: 35 volunteers for 15 days)	Some 210 shelters were rebuilt by volunteers and beneficiaries (100 %)
Mobilization of shelter & settlements technical support (Target: One mission expected)	The shelter construction specialist who had been identified to lead the training session did not make it. As such, the CAR RC DM provided the needed support and the training lasted three days, after which trained volunteers could effectively assist the population in rebuilding their shelters.

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.

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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.