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## Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Central African Republic: Local storm

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRCF014**  
**GLIDE n° [ST-2013-000027-CAF](#)**  
**21 March 2013**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 294,903 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Central African Republic Red Cross (CAR Red Cross) to provide immediate assistance to some 8,710 beneficiaries (1,314 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** On Sunday 4 March 2013, neighbourhoods of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> subdivisions of Bangui were ravaged by severe wind storms. The towns of Bimbo and Bouar located some 9 and 450 km respectively from Bangui also experienced heavy rains accompanied by strong winds. Faced with this situation that has caused extensive material damage and left several persons wounded, the CAR Red Cross mobilized 160 volunteers in the affected localities (30 in Bouar, 50 in Bimbo, 30 in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 30 in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 20 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Subdivisions of Bangui) - who carried out a rapid assessment of the situation. A total of 1,006 families' houses have been completely destroyed and 308 others whose houses are damaged.



CAR Red Cross volunteers assisted affected families to retrieve personal belongings buried under rubble in the aftermath of the storm. Photo/CAR Red Cross

With support from IFRC's DREF, CAR Red Cross will provide assistance to the affected families through the provision of emergency shelter and non-food items and conduct health and hygiene promotion activities to minimize the potential for outbreaks of diseases. Up to 140 volunteers will be mobilized to support these actions.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 30 June 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 September 2013.)

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; or here to view the map of the affected areas>](#)

## The situation

On 4 March 2013, strong winds hit the 6th, 4th and 3rd subdivisions of Bangui as well as Bimbo and Bouar. A total of 160 volunteers from local committees of the CAR Red Cross in the affected localities assessed the situation and identified 1,314 families (8,710 people) who had lost their houses to the severe wind storms. Of the 1,314 affected families, 295 are in the Sixth Subdivision, 195 in the Fourth, 79 in the Third, 495 in Bimbo and 250 in Bouar. These 1,314 families are either homeless or have lost their belongings in the storm and require emergency assistance.

**Table 1: Summary of the current situation on the ground**

Localities	Completely destroyed houses	Partially destroyed houses	Number of affected families	Affected people				Disaggregated data - most vulnerable identified		
				Children less than 5 years	Women	Men	Total vulnerable persons per locality	Pregnant women	The elderly	Fatalities / wounded
Sixth Subdivision Of Bangui	265	30	295	1,415	473	177	2,065	93	24	09 wounded
Fourth Subdivision of Bangui	109	86	195	466	449	345	1,260	42	17	10 wounded
Third Subdivision of Bangui	59	20	79	521	479	395	1,395	12	11	05 wounded
BIMBO	394	101	495	1,499	492	484	2,475	93	49	10 wounded
BOUAR	179	71	250	615	503	497	1,615	17	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>4,416</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>8,710</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>34 wounded</b>

The wind storm caused enormous human and material damage, with 1,006 houses completely destroyed and 308 others partially damaged, leaving 34 persons wounded. Up to 869 wells have been polluted by debris and 914 latrines destroyed. Some school buildings and market sheds have also been partially destroyed.

It should be noted that for several years now, the same localities of the CAR have been hit by wind storms annually. Assessments conducted during the last DREF on floods in Bangui, Bouar and other localities showed that due to excessive deforestation, there are no windbreaks, and roofs of houses that are for the most part made of temporary materials, are directly exposed to these strong winds, resulting in the recurrence of this situation. Risk reduction activities were planned (including reforestation, volunteer training and sensitization of the population on the dangers of deforestation) but the lack of funds resulted in the inability to proceed with implementation during the past years.

## Coordination and partnership

In addition to the Red Cross, the Ministry of Social Affairs, represented by the Minister, has been to the field. Local authorities are collaborating with CAR Red Cross to assess the situation and provide moral and psychosocial support. Government plans of further support are still unclear to date, with little to no support from other international non-governmental organizations at time of reporting.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CAR Red Cross mobilized its volunteers to conduct a rapid assessment in the aftermath of the disaster. Present volunteers in the affected areas provided first aid to people who were injured, and also assisted in their evacuation to health centres if needed. Volunteers also assisted affected families to recover some of their belongings where possible from the rubble and offered psychosocial support where needed.

## The needs

Among the people affected by the storms, the rapid assessment identified 1,314 vulnerable families who have completely or partially lost their houses and household belongings. Emergency shelter is a key need identified, to be complemented with the distribution of specific non-food items including mosquito nets, mats and blankets. The inclusion of mosquito nets is a result of the rapid assessments carried out, which indicate

that existing nets owned by the affected families were badly damaged in the storm. Water and sanitation facilities were also damaged.

## The proposed operation

Based on the results of the rapid assessment carried out in collaboration with the government in the affected areas, CAR Red Cross, with the support of IFRC, plans to support affected families in emergency shelter through the distribution of non-food items and technical support, sanitation and hygiene promotion, general cleaning and chlorination of polluted water sources, as well as the distribution of Aqua tabs and hygiene kits.

This emergency response will take place while awaiting the decision from the government on possible measures and assistance in the construction of permanent shelters.

To meet the needs of the 1,314 affected families, the following non-food items will be provided:

- 2,012 tarpaulins (2 per family for the 1,006 families whose homes were completely destroyed)
- 5,544 iron sheets (18 sheets per family for the 308 families whose homes were partially damaged)
- 2,628 blankets (2 per family)
- 2,628 mats (2 per family)
- 3,942 mosquito nets (3 per family)
- 15,768 pieces of 200g soaps (4 pieces per family per month X 3 months)
- 1,314 hygiene kits (1 kit per family)
- 1,314 sets of tools

Leaflets, (4,000) posters (2,000) and image boxes (10) will also be produced and distributed to affected communities to facilitate awareness-raising and hygiene promotion. In addition, volunteers will be provided with 50 sanitation kits (10 per targeted locality - Bimbo, Bouar and 3 subdivisions of Bangui) to further support this sector in the five affected areas.

At the beginning of the operation, polluted water sources will be chlorinated, so as to improve access to safe water. Household heads will then be trained on water treatment and Aquatabs will be distributed.

As for hygiene promotion, awareness-raising activities will be extended to populations in affected localities through the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach.

Up to 140 Red Cross volunteers will be mobilized and trained for the operation as follows: 30 in the Sixth, 20 in the Fourth and 10 in the Third Subdivisions, 50 in Bimbo and 30 in Bouar. These 140 volunteers will be supervised by five members from the National Disaster Response Team of the CAR Red Cross, with one supervisor assigned to each of the five affected localities. The national team will be coordinated by the National Disaster Management Coordinator of the National Society, and a regional resource person will be deployed to provide CAR Red Cross with technical support.

While conducting hygiene promotion activities, the National Society will also monitor the situation to enable an early response to any increase in disease outbreaks.

<b>Emergency health</b>	
<b>Outcome : The immediate risks to the health of the 1,514 affected families are reduced</b>	
<b>Outputs :</b>	<b>Activities planned :</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The health situation and immediate risks in the aftermath of the storm are assessed and responded to</li> <li>• Community-based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population</li> <li>• Epidemic prevention and control measures are carried out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide first aid to people who are injured</li> <li>• Provide referrals for affected people to health centres</li> <li>• Brief 140 volunteers on the installation and use of treated mosquito nets</li> <li>• Distribute 3 treated mosquito nets each to the 1,314 affected families</li> <li>• Train the 1,314 families (8,710 people) targeted in on how to install and use mosquito nets</li> <li>• Sensitize communities on health risks associated with natural disasters, epidemics and weather conditions</li> </ul>

### Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH)

**Outcome : The capacity of the 1,314 affected families (8,710 people) is strengthened against potential outbreak of diseases related to poor hygiene**

Outputs :	Activities planned :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 90 percent of the affected population is sensitized on health risks associated with natural disasters and the prevention of diseases such as malaria.</li> <li>• Information, education and communications materials are produced and distributed in affected communities to increase knowledge of recommended water, sanitation and hygiene practices</li> <li>• Sanitation kits are distributed to Red Cross teams to support affected communities to improve sanitation in affected areas</li> <li>• Targeted families receive 12 pieces of 200g bars of soap and a hygiene kit each</li> <li>• Polluted water sources are cleaned</li> <li>• Targeted families receive Aquatabs and are provided with guidance on safe utilization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct training/ refresher for 60 of the 140 volunteers on water and the CLTS (Community-led Total Sanitation) approach</li> <li>• Produce leaflets and posters bearing messages on reducing health and hygiene risks related to natural disasters, epidemics and diseases.</li> <li>• Sensitize communities on risks associated with natural disasters, epidemics, weather conditions and other diseases related to poor hygiene.</li> <li>• Procure 14 sanitation kits and hand over to the 14 operational teams formed (10 volunteers per team). Each kit includes a wheelbarrow, two shovels, two rakes, two raincoats, three pairs of boots, three pair of gloves, three nose masks, etc.</li> <li>• Procure 15,768 pieces of 200g soap and distribute 12 pieces per family (4 pieces/ month)</li> <li>• Procure 1,314 hygiene kits and distribute to the affected families</li> <li>• Procure 30 blocks of Aquatabs and distribute to all affected families, accompanied with sensitization to families on proper utilization</li> <li>• Train volunteers on identifying, cleaning and safe chlorination of polluted water sources</li> <li>• Support cleaning and safe chlorination of polluted water sources identified</li> <li>• Conduct sanitation activities in the Sixth, Fourth and Third Subdivisions of Bangui, Bimbo and Bouar using the CLTS approach.</li> <li>• Ensure monitoring, evaluation of and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.</li> </ul>

### Emergency shelter

**Outcome: Contribute to improving the living conditions of the 1,314 affected families (8,710 people) identified as most vulnerable due to complete or partial damage to their houses**

Outputs :	Activities planned :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted families receive construction materials and tools to build and/or repair emergency and damaged shelters</li> <li>• Targeted families receive sleeping mats and blankets</li> <li>• A total of 20 volunteers are trained to sensitize communities on utilization of tool kits and construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure 2,012 tarpaulins, 2,628 sleeping mats, 2,628 blankets, 3,942 mosquito nets (ITNs), 13,140 iron sheets, 2,464 rafters, 1,848 slats and 1,314 tool kits in accordance with IFRC procurement standards</li> <li>• Distribute tarpaulins and tool kits to 1,006 families to build emergency shelters</li> <li>• Distribute tool kits, iron sheets (18 pieces each), rafters (8 pieces each) and slats (6 pieces each) to 308 families to repair their roofs</li> <li>• Distribute sleeping mats and blankets (2 each) to the 1,314 affected families</li> <li>• Train 20 volunteers on shelter kits and construction</li> <li>• Ensure monitoring, evaluation of and reporting on the distributions, training and sensitization activities carried out</li> </ul>

Logistics	
<b>Outcome: The items planned are purchased and put at the disposal of the CAR Red Cross early enough to facilitate project implementation.</b>	
<b>Outputs:</b>	<b>Activities planned:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relief materials are made available in CAR-affected localities to facilitate the implementation of the operation.</li> <li>The regional stock in Yaoundé is replenished in preparation for subsequent operations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a refresher training for 140 volunteers on distribution and awareness raising techniques<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Procure relief items in Yaoundé according to IFRC procurement standards</li> <li>Ensure proper handling of the items in Yaoundé and in CAR affected localities</li> <li>Rent a truck for the transportation of the items in CAR to affected localities.</li> <li>Rent warehouses for the storage of the items prior to distribution</li> <li>Transport these items to the five affected localities.</li> <li>Ensure monitoring, evaluation of, and reporting on distribution activities.</li> <li>Further assess the needs in the field to inform programming</li> </ul>

IFRC's Central Africa regional representation office will support CAR Red Cross with the procurement and deployment of materials necessary for this operation. The DREF will be used to procure and transport these items from Cameroon (Yaoundé) to the CAR and onward to the various localities. It should be noted that the rains continue to degrade the state of already impassable roads; therefore, transportation costs are significantly high, and the budget for this operation is adjusted to acknowledge this challenge. This affects both the Yaoundé-Bangui and internal road stretches.

### Monitoring and evaluation

CAR Red Cross will have the overall implementation and management of the DREF operation. Monitoring will be based on the planned operation and the disaster management manager will be responsible for overseeing this DREF operation, ensuring that due compliance is observed and the financial and narrative reports are produced on time.

The IFRC Central Africa regional office will monitor the operation, and support in evaluating the intervention, with lessons learned workshop planned at the end of the operation. A final financial and narrative report will be posted based on the final reports submitted from the National Society.

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### Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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<sup>1</sup> This training will be coupled with the combined briefing on emergency planning and reporting, as well as health, water, sanitation and finance.

### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **West and Central Africa hub:** Elisabeth SECK, Resource Mobilization Officer, Dakar; phone: +221 33 869 36 60; mobile: +221 77 450 59 49; email: [elisabeth.seck@ifrc.org](mailto:elisabeth.seck@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **In IFRC Zone:** Robert ONDRUSEK, PMER/QA Delegate, Africa; Phone: +254 731 067277; email: [robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org](mailto:robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org)

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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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**Saving lives, changing minds.**



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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# DREF OPERATION

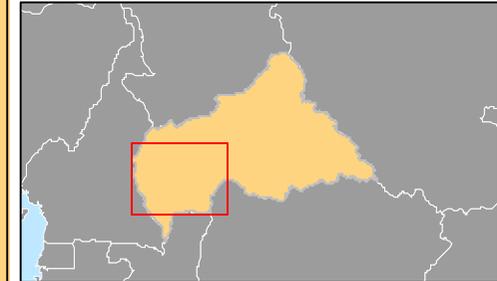
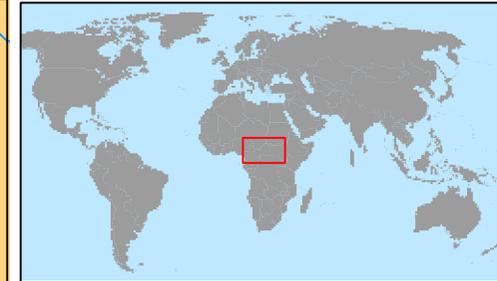
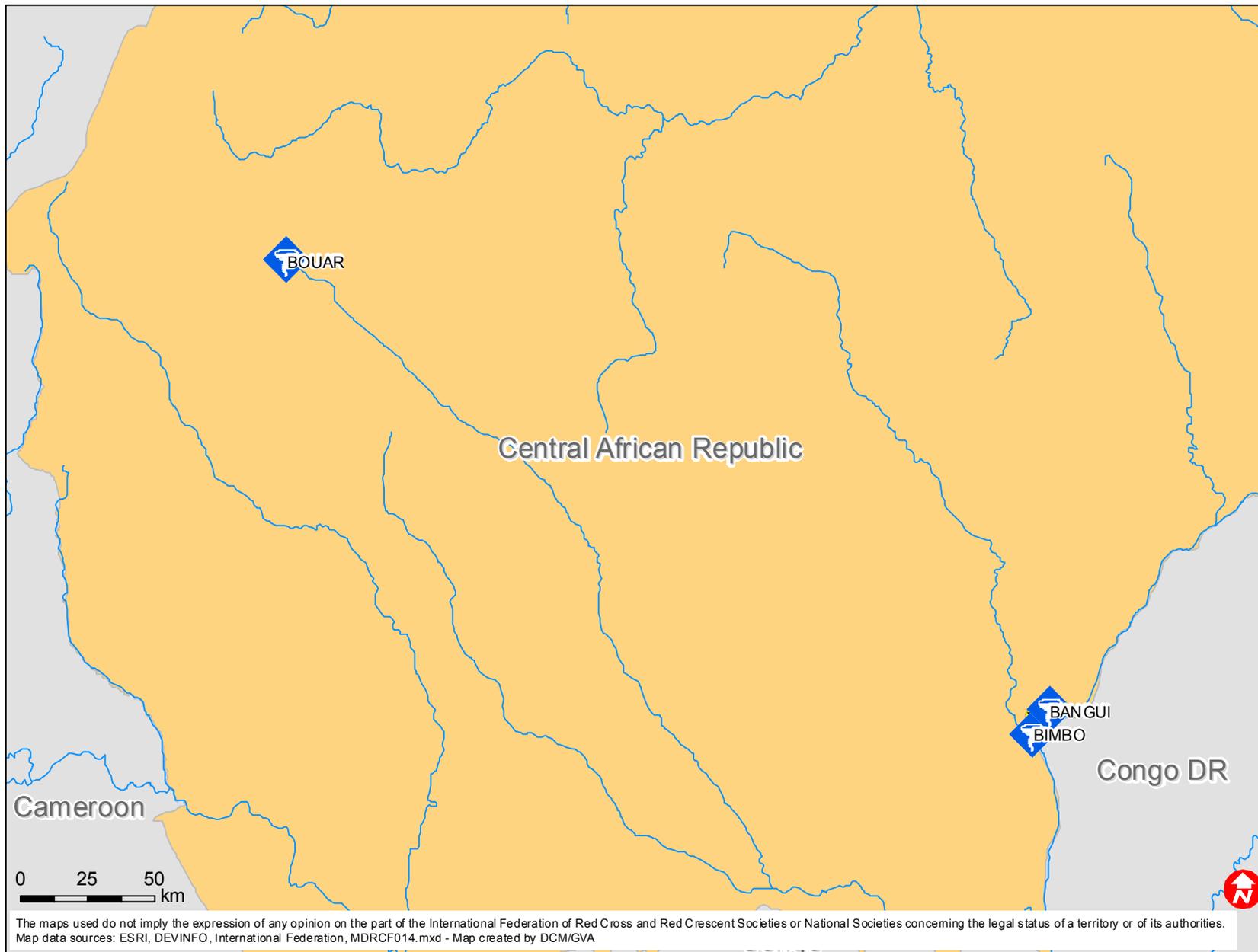
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APPEAL Local Storm

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	112,808
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	53,304
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	23,974
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>190,086</b>
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	3,585
Distribution & Monitoring	14,151
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,943
Logistics Services	0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>20,679</b>
International Staff	10,778
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	8,075
Volunteers	12,764
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>31,618</b>
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	13,711
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>13,711</b>
Travel	7,925
Information & Public Relations	7,485
Office Costs	2,830
Communications	2,098
Financial Charges	472
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>20,809</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	17,999
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>17,999</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>294,903</b>



# Central Africa Republic: Severe local storm



Affected places