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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Cameroon: Floods in the North and Far North Regions

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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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 299,707 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Cameroon Red Cross National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,000 families, about 5,000 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since 15 August 2012, areas in the North and Far North Regions of Cameroon have been experiencing heavy rainfall. The situation has worsened in the Far North region following the rupture of the Maga dyke which has caused water from the dam to further flood Doreissou, Begué, Palam, Dougui, Pouss and Tekele villages. In the North Region, the regional capital Garoua has been flooded and the Lagdo area situated some 80 km from Garoua is also suffering the same fate. In both regions, the floods have left many people injured and houses destroyed, leaving about 25,000 people homeless. Most of these have sought refuge with host families, but 5,000 remain homeless (1,000 families) distributed as follows: 400 families in the North Region, and 600 in the Far North who have sought refuge in school premises. Since schools are expected to reopen this week for the 2012-2013 academic year, it is urgent to prepare emergency shelter for these internally displaced persons (IDPs). Almost all crops and granaries of the affected families have been destroyed, and livestock lost.



Transport problems and solutions in Garoua /
Photo: Cameroon Red Cross

Local committees of the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC) have mobilized about sixty volunteers who have provided first aid to the wounded and referred serious cases to health facilities. The volunteers are also supporting affected population with transport to temporary shelter in classrooms, since the only means of transport for now is by motorized canoes. They are also participating in crisis meetings organized in each affected region by the governor. A Government delegation headed by the Director of Civil Protection has been dispatched to the field to carry out a rapid assessment of the situation for possible future response to the floods. Given the precarious situation in which these IDPs find themselves, their needs in terms of safe water supply (treatment of water points) and environmental sanitation (construction of

latrines and hygiene promotion), non-food items (blankets, mats, soap, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits for women of childbearing age) and the construction of emergency shelter have been expressed. Furthermore, since many lost their crops and granaries, they have expressed the need for seeds and farming tools to cultivate their farms once more.

Considering this situation, it is urgent to provide assistance to the most vulnerable; the IDPs who are currently living in school premises. This DREF will not only enable a detailed assessment of the situation, but will also allow the distribution of non-food items to 1000 most vulnerable families, carry out water and sanitation activities in order to prevent water-related diseases (the cholera outbreak that was declared in these regions since 2010 is not yet over), and construct emergency shelter for these IDPs to leave the presently occupied classrooms early enough for the resumption of classes.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 5 December 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by March 2013).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here for a map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Since 15 August 2012, areas in the North and Far North regions of Cameroon have been experiencing heavy rainfall that has caused extensive damage in some areas. In the Far North Region, especially in the Vele subdivision of the Mayo Danay division, the situation has worsened due to the collapse of the Maga dyke, in Begué some 50 km from Yagoua (headquarters of the division). The rupture of this dyke that separates the Logone River and Yagoua, Vele and Kay-Kay subdivisions has caused floods in Grong, Blah, Varaye, Gaya, Doreissou, Begué, Palam, Dougui, Pouss and Tekele villages. 600 families, about 3000 people, are presently homeless, and have sought refuge in school premises. Several persons have also been injured, among these a girl whose tibia was fractured following the collapse of a wall. As of now, no deaths have been caused by the floods. Due to the traditional construction methods using earth and/or mud bricks, many houses have either collapsed or been rendered fragile by the heavy rains, while others have been flooded by the rushing waters. Almost all farms and cattle have also been washed away by floodwaters.

In the North region, the regional capital Garoua has been affected by heavy flooding, and large parts of the city are still under water. Floods caused by the overflow of the Benue River have also caused significant material damage in seven major areas namely Liddire, Lopere 4 and 5 Gapdire, Kilarou, Lainde Gadamayo, Lainde Intergare and Bibemiré 2. Thousands of houses have collapsed, leading to displacement of people. Livestock has been lost, farms flooded and a primary school engulfed by water only a few days before the reopening of schools. In most areas, this situation has interrupted all activities. The CRC has identified 340 families or 1,700 displaced people who have sought refuge in schools. In the North region, 4 deaths, injuries to people and cases of cholera have been reported.

In the area of Lagdo (situated some 80 km from Garoua), The CRC has identified 60 families, about 300 people displaced by the floods, seeking refuge in a school.

In both regions, a much larger number of displaced people are currently staying with host families, and even greater number has suffered from damage of houses and loss of food stock and non-food items. Cultivated areas have been flooded, livestock has been lost and fishing areas in the Logone river has become inaccessible, leaving farmers, cattle breeders and fishers vulnerable and leading to shortage of food.

Access to safe drinking water has become very difficult. Hygienic conditions have also deteriorated as latrines have been washed away, leading to open defecation, thereby causing contamination of the water sources and possible spread of water related diseases.

The flood situation is likely to deteriorate as it is still early in the rainy season and efforts of local authorities to repair the ruptured part of the dam have failed.

During an inter-agency meeting organized by United Nations system in Cameroon on 29 August 2012, it was discovered that the number of displaced and homeless people in both regions may rise to 30,000. Furthermore, population movement, overcrowding in the IDP areas and a poor water and sanitation situation may worsen the existing cholera outbreak and cause spread of other diseases. A quick response to the imminent crisis is therefore needed.,

Coordination and partnerships

Local administrative authorities have organized crisis meetings in both regions with partners like CRC, UNICEF, WFP, PLAN Cameroon, International Medical Corps, the National Army Rescue Unit and ministries like MINATD (Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization), the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Livestock, the Ministry of Basic Education and the Ministry of Public Health.

A government delegation headed by the Director of Civil Protection at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization has gone to the Far North region to carry out a rapid assessment of the situation. Some medical aid has been given to the local health facilities to prevent diseases related to faecal waste for one week. In the same vein, some financial assistance has been given to the governor of this region to facilitate the provision of food aid to affected families. At the regional level, governors have convened crisis meetings aimed at finding urgent solutions to the situation.

Furthermore, the Directorate of Civil Protection of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization held a crisis meeting on 28 August 2012 with its partners (CRC, IFRC, WFP and UNICEF). During this meeting, the Director of Civil Protection announced the possible setting up of a camp in Maga subdivision, this in a bid to liberate the occupied schools, as the academic year is about to begin. Thus, the need for tents was expressed.

In Garoua, the government has provided some food and non-food items like rice, soap and vegetable oil to the victims.

A team comprising representatives of the government, the World Health Organization and Red Cross went to Lagdo to gather more information on the situation there.

In Yaoundé (capital of Cameroon), UN agencies held a crisis meeting on the 29 August 2012 to brainstorm on actions to be undertaken in accordance with the mandate of each agency. However, WFP is planning to carry out an assessment of food availability in November 2012, but given the rather disturbing situation at hand, this assessment will be accelerated in order to help cover the gaps caused by the disaster.

No response plan has yet been shared by any UN agencies or NGOs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In both regions, more than sixty volunteers from local committees deployed to the field are assisting the population leave the affected areas to makeshift relocation sites set up in schools. All this was done with great difficulty because the only available means of transport is by motorized canoes (off-board). These volunteers also provide first aid to the victims and guide those with health problems to health facilities. Constant moral support is also provided to the population, who have lost almost everything, while waiting for solutions to improve their living conditions.

Local Red Cross committees are taking part in various crisis meetings organized by the administrative authorities as well as in field trips to assess the situation. Local CRC volunteers have built nine (9) latrines in Maga, conveniently located around the schools hosting the affected populations.

The needs

The target group for the proposed intervention has been identified as the 1,000 families currently living in school classrooms. These families have lost their houses and all possessions, and besides the urgent need for shelter, they have also expressed the need for non-food items such as mats, blankets, mosquito nets and soap in order to prevent respiratory diseases, malaria etc. Families have also expressed the need for kitchen kits (as cooking utensils were washed away), jerry cans for collection and storage of drinking water and hygiene kits for women of childbearing age.

Several water, sanitation and hygiene needs have been identified, especially those for easy access to safe drinking water throughout, treated and rehabilitated wells, and the construction of latrines.

Volunteers will carry out sensitization and hygiene promotion activities in order to help prevent diseases related to dirty water and poor sanitation.

According to SPHERE minimum standards, the 1,000 displaced families (600 in the Far North and 400 in the North) will need 2,500 mats (1 mat for 2 persons), 2,500 blankets (1 blanket for 2 people), 2,500 mosquito nets (1 net for 2 persons), 10,000 pieces of soap of 200 g (1 piece of soap per person/month for two (2) months), 1,000 kitchen kits (1 kit per family), 1,000 gallons (1 gallon per family) and 1,000 jerry cans (1 Jerry can per family), 2,500 hygiene kits, (1 kit per female).

Provision of emergency shelter materials and tools will enable the families to leave the transitional IDP areas where they are currently staying. Each family will receive two 4x6m tarpaulins, wood, nails, rope and a selection of tools.

As for the National Society, emergency kits used for first aid in cases of serious injuries will be reconstituted and handed over to the local Red Cross committees concerned; 30 kits, at the rate of 15 kits per region. The following items will be prepared and handed over to the local Red Cross committees of the areas concerned: megaphones (10), posters (500), flip charts (05), T-shirt (100) and aprons (100) for sensitization on hygiene promotion, 10 sanitation kits (shovels, wheelbarrows, gloves, masks, raincoats, etc.), sprayers (10). To enable supervisors have easy access to affected areas for a better monitoring of activities, the purchase at least 1 motorcycle is imperative as it is not easy for vehicles to get to all these localities.

The training/refresher courses for 60 volunteers on CBHFA and on IEC/BCC (information education-communication/ behaviour change Communication), risk reduction, distribution and sensitization techniques and reporting will facilitate the implementation of activities. These volunteers will be deployed to the field in turns in order to allow each one to gain some experience. They will be dispatched to the two regions depending on the size of the locality and the magnitude of the disaster.

A proper assessment of the situation is imperative not only to better measure the extent of the present damage, but also to have an idea of the magnitude of future floods and their associated epidemics. This may require long-term actions, as well as rehabilitation/recovery activities for the victims in these zones that are already exposed to very high risks of natural disasters, malnutrition and food insecurity.

The proposed operation

| Detailed assessment of the situation and relief distribution (basic non-food items) | |
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| Outcome: The situation on the ground is better understood and the 1,000 most vulnerable families (5,000 people) affected by the floods in the North and far North regions of Cameroon have received basic non-food items. | |
| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The situation on the ground is better understood and an action plan prepared to that effect • Non-food items planned are purchased and handed over to the National Society. • The 1000 most vulnerable families (5,000 people) targeted by this operation have received non-food assistance from the Cameroon Red Cross | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Carry out a rapid and in-depth assessment of the situation – Prepare an action plan in response to the in-depth assessment of the situation on the ground. – Purchase and delivery of NFI to be distributed to vulnerable persons in the affected communities of the Far North and North regions: 2,500 mats, 2,500 blankets, 2,500 mosquito nets, 1,000 kitchen kits and 10,000 pieces of 200g soaps, 2,500 hygiene kits, 1,000 gallons and 1,000 jerry cans – Organize training/refresher courses for 60 volunteers on distribution and sensitization techniques. This training will be coupled with a combined briefing on emergency intervention planning and reporting, as well as health, water, sanitation, finance. – Design of distribution tools and list of beneficiaries in accordance with the census and identification carried out on the ground. – Distribution of basic relief items to 1,000 families. – Monitoring and evaluation of activities – Production of reports |

| Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion | |
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| Outcome: The living conditions of 1,000 most vulnerable families affected by floods in the Far North and North regions are improved through the implementation of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities for 4 months. | |
| Expected results | Activities Planned |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Populations affected by floods in the North and Far North regions live in a healthy environment. • About 90% of the affected populations are sensitized on the reduction of flood-related risks and the prevention of diseases such as malaria (use of latrines, water treatment, etc.) • The affected populations of the Far North and North regions know how to install and use mosquito nets. • Populations of the localities affected by floods in the Far North and North | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Train 60 volunteers (including team leaders and supervisors) on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion through the «Community-driven total sanitation» (CDTS) approach. Volunteers will also learn how to install and use mosquito nets. – Refresh 60 volunteers on CBHFA – Train 1000 targeted households in the two regions on how to install and use mosquito nets. – Produce posters with messages on how to reduce risks associated with floods, epidemics, weather conditions and other diseases related to poor hygiene. – Distribute household water treatment items and conduct training. |

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| <p>regions awareness and practice of hygiene and sanitation is improved..</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sensitize communities on the risks associated with floods, epidemics, other weather conditions and diseases related to poor hygiene. - Purchase and delivery of 10 sanitation kits to the National Society. - Carry out sanitation activities in villages affected by floods in the Far North and North regions - Assist families in the construction/rehabilitation of 100 latrines (that is, 1 latrine for about 50 people). - Construct/rehabilitate 5 latrine blocks in affected schools - Purchase 10 sprayers - Ensure the monitoring, evaluation of, and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. |
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Emergency shelter

| <p>Objective: Contribute to improving access of the 1,000 most vulnerable families affected by floods in the North and Far North through emergency shelter</p> | |
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| <p>Expected Results</p> | <p>Activities planned</p> |
| <p>The 1,000 most vulnerable families affected by floods in the North and Far North have access to emergency shelter, and their living conditions are improved.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of the 1,000 most vulnerable families whose houses have been destroyed completely; - Purchasing tools and building materials and transporting them to the North and Far North regions - Distribution of the shelter kits; - Support in the construction of shelter - Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on emergency shelter activities |

Communications/IT/Reporting and monitoring

| <p>Outcome: Support the National Society to engage in social mobilisation to reach populations affected by the floods.</p> | |
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| <p>Outputs (expected results)</p> | <p>Activities planned</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication materials developed to reach schools, vulnerable populations at risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rental of 1 motorcycle for supervision visits - Design/update audio, print, visual and other sensitisation materials - Strengthen media cooperation at national level |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population at risk are sensitised on flood detection, evacuation and risks associated with flooding • Timely and accurate reports are prepared and shared • The floods response operation is properly monitored and evaluated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prepare a documentary/case study on national floods with a view to improving future response – Reinforce the National Society social mobilisation structures. – National Society to sensitise affected populations flooded. – Information sharing with all partners and as well prepare timely reports – The National Society to report on the activities carried out. – Carryout regular monitoring of the floods nationwide – Evaluation and lessons learned workshop within the operation timeframe. |
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Logistics

IFRC has a regional emergency stock in Yaoundé. This stock is for 2,500 families and the operation is targeting 1,000 families, meaning that all the items needed for the operation are already available locally. The DREF will be used to transport these items to North and Far North regions, and to replenish the stock in Yaoundé through IFRC Regional Logistics unit. Wood, tools and other shelter materials are available in the necessary quantity in Yaounde and will be procured locally.

Implementation strategy

As part of the support that the Yaoundé Representation gives the Cameroon Red Cross in the DREF appeal process, the Federation intends to deploy a member of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT/ERDAC) to the National Society to provide close technical support in the implementation of the activities planned above. He will work in close collaboration with the National Relief and Emergency official of the Cameroon Red Cross and with the disaster management focal points in the regions concerned (themselves members of the National Disaster Management Team). This will enable them to strengthen their technical capacity through practical activities.

A support mission from the Regional Representation will also be sent to the field and the PMER (Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting) team will provide technical assistance.

The local CRC committees of the affected regions will receive support from the national headquarters in planning and implementation of the proposed operation and national headquarter staff will be out posted in the North and Far North regions for parts of the duration of the operation.

Local CRC committees will approach local government hygiene and sanitation services in order to work in synergy for the treatment of water points and hygiene promotion. It is worth noting that the locality of Pouss has some experience in such activities, as it faced a similar disaster in 2010, though it was in a smaller scale.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

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

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.

DREF OPERATION

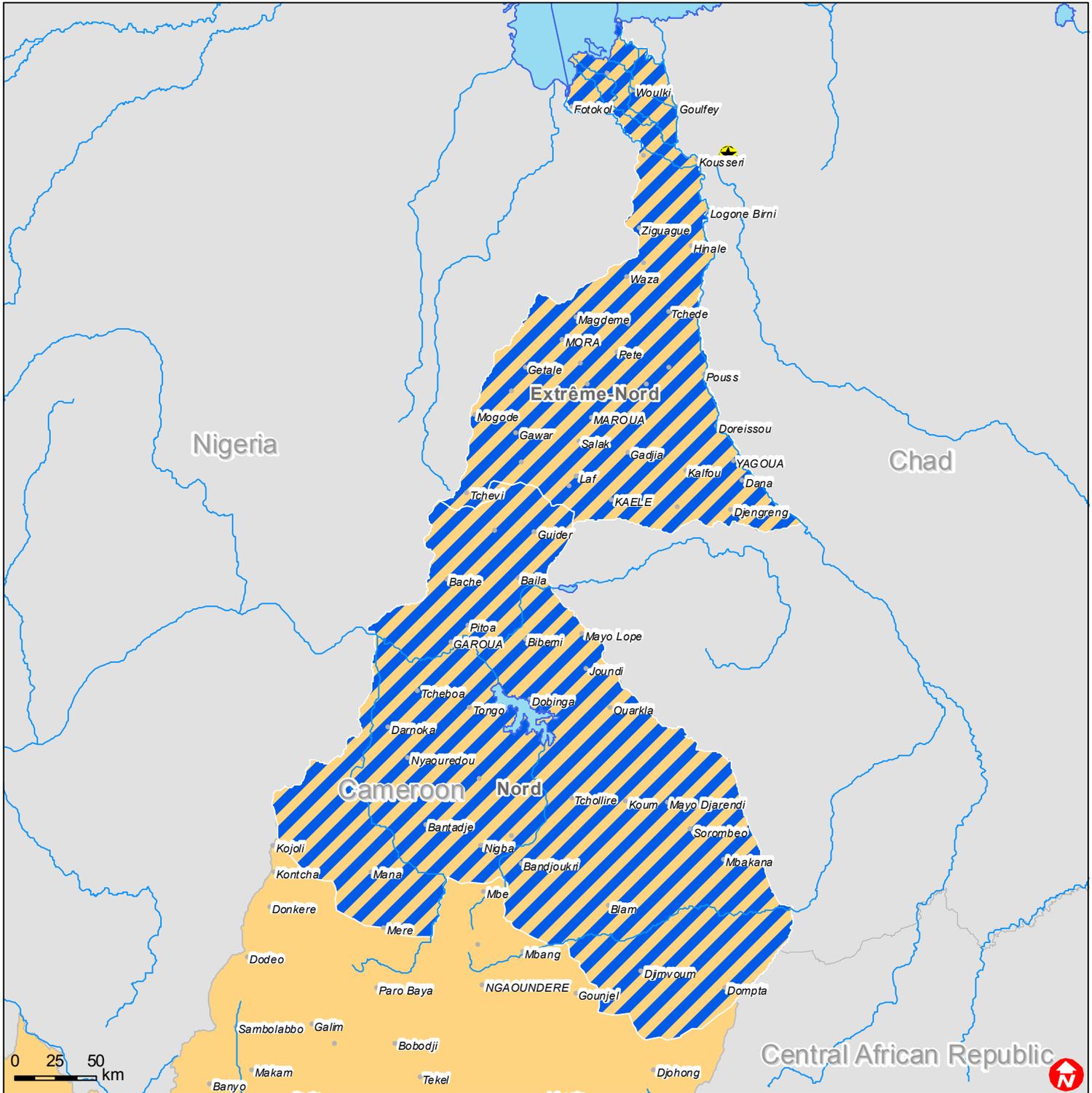
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Cameroon: Floods (MDRCM014)

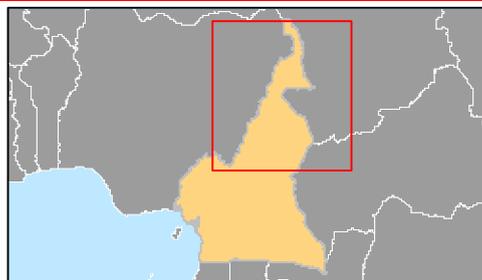
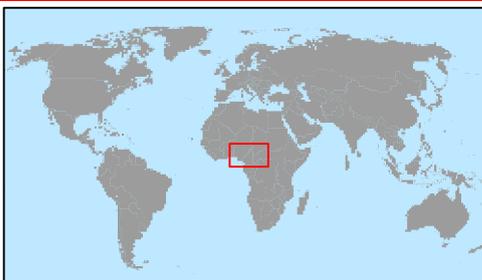
| Budget Group | DREF Grant Budget CHF |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Shelter - Relief | 53,260 |
| Shelter - Transitional | |
| Construction - Housing | |
| Construction - Facilities | |
| Construction - Materials | |
| Clothing & Textiles | 32,500 |
| Food | |
| Seeds & Plants | 0 |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 74,211 |
| Medical & First Aid | 2,938 |
| Teaching Materials | |
| Ustensils & Tools | 22,000 |
| Other Supplies & Services | 0 |
| Emergency Response Units | |
| Cash Disbursements | |
| Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES | 184,909 |
| Land & Buildings | |
| Vehicles Purchase | |
| Computer & Telecom Equipment | |
| Office/Household Furniture & Equipment | |
| Medical Equipment | |
| Other Machiney & Equipment | |
| Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT | 0 |
| Storage, Warehousing | 2,057 |
| Dsitribution & Monitoring | 25,068 |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 6,428 |
| Logistics Services | |
| Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE | 33,553 |
| International Staff | 5,831 |
| National Staff | 2,568 |
| National Society Staff | 5,234 |
| Volunteers | 20,736 |
| Total PERSONNEL | 34,370 |
| Consultants | |
| Professional Fees | |
| Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES | 0 |
| Workshops & Training | 11,136 |
| Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING | 11,136 |
| Travel | 8,264 |
| Information & Public Relations | 3,214 |
| Office Costs | 2,755 |
| Communications | 2,755 |
| Financial Charges | 459 |
| Other General Expenses | |
| Shared Support Services | |
| Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES | 17,447 |
| Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery | 18,292 |
| Total INDIRECT COSTS | 18,292 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 299,707 |



Cameroon: Floods



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 - MDRCM014.mxd
 Map produced by DCM/GVA



 Affected regions