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Emergency Plan of Action Final Report Cameroon: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRCM028
Date of Issue: 27 October 2020	Glide number: FL-2019-000134-CMR
Date of disaster: 4 October 2019	
Operation start date: 23 October 2019	Operation end date: 23 January 2020
Host National Society: Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRCS)	Operation budget: CHF 78,140
Number of people affected: 25,582 (3,402 households)	Number of people assisted: 15,095 people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct assistance: 3,248 people (464 households) • Indirect assistance: 11,847 people
N° of National Societies involved in the operation: 1 Cameroon Red Cross	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the French Red Cross (FRC)	

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) and the Canadian Government and ECHO contributed to replenishing the DREF for this operation. On behalf of the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC), the IFRC would like to extend gratitude to all for their generous contributions.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

As of 28 September 2019, the localities located along the Logone River, in the east of Logone and Chari division (Zina subdivision) and south of Lake Maga (Kai Kai subdivision - Mayo Danay division) suffered floods due to the sudden rise of the Logone River waters, aggravated by the rupture of several community dikes. Authorities registered up to 30m rise in water level between end of September and 4 October 2019, which affected Nohoye, Pinfoung, Koundouma, Guiding, Sarahara, Lahai, Guirvidig, Dawaya, Gounmi and Mouna communities.

The populations of these villages sought refuge on the dikes and some of them were reluctant to be relocated to safer areas since their basic food source was the fish from the inundated river and other animals killed during the floods. Indeed, they had lost with these floods, poultry, and livestock, but their farms had also been engulfed by the waters. There was a risk for agricultural activities and livelihoods to be impacted in the Far North, where over 70% of the population are farmers. The effects on agriculture further exacerbated food insecurity in the region due to the high-water levels in the rivers of the affected areas.



CRC volunteer with affected person during assessments
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Children attempting to fetch water from a borehole surrounded by floodwaters ©Cameroon Red Cross

Water from the river was the population's unique source of water for daily domestic needs (cooking, dishwashing, bathing, etc.), while some families went to water points which had been flooded. All toilets had been flooded and the population resorted to practicing open defecation into the river as well as in their immediate surroundings, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases, such as cholera.

Flooding had also restricted access to several villages, so canoes were being used to reach certain areas in the division, as many roads had been reported impassable. Properties had been either trapped beneath the rubble or carried away by the flood waters. The Red Cross Committee of Mayo Danay reported a total of 25,582 persons (3,402 households) affected in 4 sub-divisions, with many injured.

On 24 October 2020, this [DREF operation](#) was launched for CHF 78,140 to provide emergency assistance to 329 most vulnerable households (2,303 people) affected by the floods in the districts of the Mayo Danay division (Yagoua, Maga and Kai-Kai) for three months. At the end of the implementation, the operation reached 3,248 people.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

As soon as the disaster occurred, the Mayo Danay Red Cross Departmental Committee deployed teams of volunteers on the ground in the various Districts affected. These teams supported the population in resettlement to areas not affected by the floods, provided first aid for the injured, psychological first aid to those who needed it, as well as supplied empty bags for the construction of dikes to limit the damage in certain localities, etc.

Once the DREF grant was approved, Cameroon RC mobilized 9 staff and 93 volunteers of Mayo Danay Red Cross local branch in the Logone and Chari divisional committee to provide assistance to 2,303 people through emergency shelter, household items distribution, WASH as well as emergency health control and awareness. A one-day CEA training was delivered to 46 Red Cross volunteers and local leaders in affected localities to ensure effective integration of CEA at different stages of the intervention. Some 50 volunteers also received training on distribution techniques and 45 volunteers on WASH (hygiene and sanitation, home water treatment). Moreover, CRCS donated sanitation kits to the local committees of Maga (02), Yagoua (04) and Kai-kai (02), conducted awareness-raising campaigns on hygiene promotion and sanitation, distributed Aquatabs for home water treatment to the targeted households, and dignity kits to women of childbearing age.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC assisted CRCS with its available stock of household items from Yaoundé CCST. Technical support was also given to the National Society through needs assessment, volunteer training in using the CEA approach during implementation, as well as in the monitoring and reporting of this DREF operation.

To complement this support, the ICRC provided the CRCS with 160 complete household item kits (kitchen kit, a female hygiene kit, soap, mats, blanket, solar lamps, loincloths, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, buckets) for the population and 10 life jackets for the joint IFRC-CRC team which was to travel on canoes during the assessment.

The French Red Cross is present in the Far North Region, precisely in the Logone and Chari department. It supported the Cameroon RC in the response to the floods in the localities of this department. This support consisted in an extension and orientation of its hygiene promotion activities in the project already underway, including sensitisation to handwashing with soap, the mobilisation of a mobile clinic to reach out to patients who found it difficult to go to health centres given the inaccessibility, and the provision of tablets for home water purification.

Overview of other actors in country

A few organizations carried out a situation assessment to mobilize resources for assistance to vulnerable populations, including the ACAPS or the local NGO, APA. Several other organizations, such as WFP, UNICEF, PULCI, INTER-SOS and the Government also provided in-kind donations, mainly in the area of health, WASH, shelter and non-food items.

Local authorities as well as private donors distributed food and non-food items to the population to help them through this difficult period. In order to reduce the risk of the river overflowing, the sub-prefecture of Maga provided and stored thousands of bags of soil for the reinforcement of the 15 Km long dyke, and 12,000 bags for the protection of huts, fields that have resisted the floods.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The floods in Mayo Danay caused displacement of the population, injuries, destruction of water & sanitation facilities as well as livelihood assets. The multisector assessment carried out by WFP, UNHCR and the Government at the onset of the crisis in December 2018 helped to identify the immediate needs of the affected populations, notably: shelter, food and non-food items, protection and education, health and care, water, hygiene and sanitation, and psychosocial support. Based on this and according to its mandate, the CRC started mobilizing resources and implementing activities through this DREF operation.

After the detailed needs assessment conducted by the joint CRC/IFRC team from 13-18 November 2019, the same needs were identified. CRC focused on what was planned in the EPoA, which included:

- Providing household items to 2,303 vulnerable people; though 3,248 people were reached instead of the 2303 that had been planned first;
- Providing hygiene and dignity kits to 609 women of childbearing age;
- Providing relevant training to 93 volunteers involved in the operation.

For more details on needs analysis, targeting and scenario planning, please see [EPoA](#).

Risk Analysis

One of the main risks identified at the start of the operation was accessibility in the targeted areas. Indeed, given the extent of the floods, some areas were completely submerged, and some roads were totally impassable. To overcome this difficulty and implement the operation as planned, the field team had to rent canoes to access some villages.

Another risk was the outbreak of a cholera epidemic, especially as few cholera cases had already been identified in the communities of Karhay, Gane, Zouwaye, Datchek, Yagoua, Zebe (in the Yagoua sub-division)¹. Water from the river was the population's unique source of water for daily domestic needs and there were no toilets, so the population practiced open defecation which made the risk of an outbreak even higher. Prevention measures were put in place to mitigate this risk, notably: distribution of aquatabs for water treatment and awareness raising on hygiene promotion and home water treatment.

An unexpected risk was the discontent and aggressiveness of some affected households that had not been identified during the first registrations, which threatened to jeopardize the distribution process. To appease the situation, the CRC held a consultation with community leaders to make a complementary identification and insert other particularly vulnerable people who met the selection criteria. In the end, 3,248 people were reached by this operation.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The overall objective of this operation was to provide emergency assistance to the 329 most vulnerable households affected by the floods in the districts of the Mayo Danay division (Yagoua, Maga and Kai-Kai) for three months.

An initial assessment was carried out by CRC with the assistance of IFRC CCST PMER. The objective of the assessment was to identify the most urgent needs of the affected population in view of an appropriate response. It consisted in interviews with key persons (heads of departmental and local committees, administrative, municipal and traditional authorities); interview of key informants within the affected communities and direct observation of populations.

The operation focused its response on emergency shelter assistance, distribution of household items, WASH and emergency health control and sensitization. More details on achievements per sector is available in the detailed operational plan below.

¹ Yagoua subdivision with Yagoua as a capital for a subdivision and a capital for Mayo Danay Division.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): All 46 volunteers were briefed on CEA, including techniques for communicating with the community, how to approach them for good mutual communication, in order to collect all information on the current situation and also on their different needs.

Forty-six (46) volunteers and supervisors benefited from this training session in CEA: 16 volunteers in Yagoua on 16 November 2019, 17 volunteers in Kai Kai on 17 November 2019 and 13 volunteers in Maga on 18 November 2019. The training was initially planned for 36 people, 12 per locality.


The objective of the training was to build the capacity of volunteers and members of the target Local Committees on CEA, to contribute to the integration of CEA tools to assess the information needs of affected communities and to ensure better participation and communication with groups in their diversity throughout the operation.

Thus, the modules addressed were:

- Knowledge of the CEA approach, from its definition to its importance;
- An update on the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Code of Conduct with a focus on the prevention of abuse and what they imply in the way we work with communities;
- Communication approaches with an emphasis on the importance of clear and consistent communication with communities and the development of communication skills;
- Identifying and practicing methods to facilitate group participation within communities; Supporting a fair and transparent selection process;
- The handling of claims: the type of claim, the management of claims and the development of a feedback and claims mechanism implemented by volunteers in the field;
- The presentation of tools: the question-and-answer sheet relating to the project; the complaints and feedback sheet; sheets on the follow-up of the discussion groups.

The training was very much appreciated by the participants. However, the duration of the training was considered insufficient by the participants. They would have liked to have more time to better assimilate the modules.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 Shelter People reached: 3,248 Male: 1,558 Female: 1,690		
Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and short-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
Output 1.1: Short-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination meetings with authorities	6	7
# of volunteers trained to distribution techniques	33	51
# of households reached in the 3 target localities	329	464 HH or 3,248 people
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>The following items were distributed to 464 families: kitchen kit, a female hygiene kit, soap, mats, blanket, solar lamps, loincloths, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, buckets. To note, no procurement of HHIs was planned under this operation because stocks were provided by ICRC (for Maga targeted HH) and IFRC (for Yagoua and Kai-Kai targeted HH) from their respective warehouses.</p> <p>The team took part in seven (7) coordination meetings with the administrative and traditional authorities in the 3 districts concerned (Maga, Yagoua and Kai-kai). These meetings provided information to complement those collected in the field during the initial assessment.</p>		

Some 51 volunteers from these localities were trained to distribution of humanitarian aid with emphasis on the Sphere standards for the distribution of HHI, the RCRC Code of Conduct, the Fundamental Principles of the Movement with emphasis on respecting these during distributions.

These volunteers were equally briefed on CEA and communication techniques, notably how to approach the community to collect all information.

The distributions were made according to family sizes as they were in the field. The teams could not meet the standard of 5 persons per family since there were families of one person, two persons and others of more than 5 persons. As such, the distributions were adapted to ensure those registered received necessary support. Indeed, the kits were readjusted to fit the size of households within follow 3 ranges: 1-5 people/HH, 6 to 11 people/HH and 12 to 25 people/HH). This enabled the team to take extra items from households with less than 5 people, and give it to other families, thus increasing the number of beneficiaries to 3248 people (464 households) from initially planned 2,303 people (329 HH).

To note, ICRC kits came in a special packaging thus, they were distributed as is and as a priority to households that had never received any assistance.

Challenges

The constraints during this operation were multiple, both for the volunteers and for the support teams. These included:

- Difficult access to the disaster areas due to the isolation of villages and poor road conditions. In some places, roads were almost non-existent and other areas were accessible only by water transport. This also caused delays by transporters in delivering items due to road conditions.
- The lack of means of transportation (motorbike, etc.) because in some places they were only tracks and vehicles could not access them.
- The size of the area to be covered. It should be noted that not only is the department of Mayo Danay very vast, but also to access certain localities like Maga, it is necessary to leave Yagoua (the capital of the department) to go to Maroua (capital of the department of Diamaré) before returning to Maga. Yagoua is directly connected to the locality of Kai-kai, but the two localities are very distant and in Kai-kai, there are no logistical arrangements, so the team was forced to return to Yagoua for accommodation.
- Insufficient number of life jackets: Life jackets were required but the quantities were not sufficient to cover the staff deployed in the field as well as the volunteers. So only staff from outside the area used the life jackets.
- Lack of awareness by some committee leaders of the principles guiding humanitarian action. The governance of the local committees should also be briefed on the DREF Procedures before the launch of activities. This is the case for assistance which cannot cover all the disaster-affected populations and only take into account the most essential needs.
- The very high number of the affected persons compared to the figures that had been communicated and validated in the DREF. This was a great challenge because the DREF could not cover all the disaster-affected populations, let alone all the needs. However, it is important that a team from the national headquarters assists the local teams during rapid assessments in order to feedback information that is more relevant to the situation on the ground. An emphasis should be made on training community-based disaster response teams to increase their capacity in emergency assessment tools and techniques.
- The number of volunteers planned in the DREF was insufficient for the implementation of the operation compared to the situation on the ground. Not only were there many activities to be carried out, but also the distances between the intervention zones required more volunteers even to organize the rotations and better distribute them among the different activities.

Lessons Learned

- Strengthen communication with all stakeholders (affected populations, community leaders, authorities, governance of local RC committees) to facilitate implementation of activities.
- Strengthen the departmental committees during assessments with the deployment of a team from national headquarters to better understand the situation and develop an appropriate action plan in relation to the needs of the affected people.
- Reconsider the consistency of the HHI kits to be distributed and carry out prior consultations before planning assistance.



Health

People reached: 3,248

Male: 1,558

Female: 1690

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with community-based disease prevention and health promotion programming	2,303	3,248

Output 1.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed and mitigated using agreed guidelines

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of mosquito nets distributed	609	449
# of volunteers trained on communicable disease surveillance	33	51

Narrative description of achievements

Planned quantities of mosquito nets were not fully delivered to the field due to bad packaging. Some packs contained only 50 nets, although specified on the package that they were 100 nets, hence the discrepancy. However, in the field, the kits donated by the ICRC made it possible to complete the number of kits to satisfy all the targeted households.

Cameroon Red Cross trained more than the 33 volunteers planned on communicable disease surveillance in coordination with the Ministry of Health and District Health Posts Yagoua, Maga and Kai-Kai (supervisors included). Overall, 51 volunteers were trained to enable this department, which is always exposed to floods, to seize the opportunity of this DREF to strengthen the capacities of its volunteers. The departmental committee took charge of the surplus of volunteers so that the greatest number could benefit from training, which was equally beneficial to the operation. Only the number of volunteers planned for the operation was deployed for the operation.

Challenges

- The scope of the disaster was wider than initially reported and access to some of the affected localities was very difficult. As a result, it was not possible to reach all the affected populations.
- Also, the insufficient number of protective equipment for volunteers in these areas did not allow some volunteers to take the canoes to reach other localities.

Lessons Learned

- It will be important to provide local committees with motorcycles to facilitate travel to remote locations with poor road conditions.
- It is true that some people are used to taking canoes without protective vests, but this is a risk. A long term DRR project could help to strengthen the material capacities of this committee in this case, with the provision of lifejackets. The SN will also advocate for this with partners inside and outside the Movement, at the level of government authorities.
- Volunteers must be trained in nautical first aid.

Output 1.2: Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of injured people that have been treated	20	20
# of first aid kits made available	8	8

Narrative description of achievements

The Mayo Danay Red Cross Departmental Committee deployed teams of volunteers on the ground in the various districts affected by the disaster. These teams supported the population in resettlement to areas not affected by the floods, first aid for the injured (1,791 people (492 in Yagoua, 601 in Kai-kai and 698 in Maga)), psychological first aid (392 people (159 in Yagoua, 132 in Kai-kai and 101 in Maga)), the supply of empty bags for the construction of dikes to limit the damage in certain localities, etc.

First-aid kits were purchased and made available to the various local committees (3 kits for Maga, 3 for Kai Kai and 2 for Yagoua) to facilitate first aid care by volunteers to those who needed it. The first aid kits came at the right time. This demonstrates the need for pre-positioning in localities exposed to disasters such as floods, of certain basic necessities to enable the volunteers to truly assist the populations from the onset of the disaster.

Challenges		
No major challenges. The provision of first aid kits was a tremendous bonus to these committees as they no longer had them. Nevertheless, it would have been very useful to provide more first-aid kits per local branch.		
Lessons Learned		
This operation has demonstrated the need to pre-position basic relief items in localities exposed to disasters such as floods, to enable volunteers to truly assist the population from the very first hours of the disaster. Moreover, during the evacuation and rescue activities, in addition to the ordinary first aid, the volunteers also provided psychological first aid. This was a good point because it is the first time that they were integrated into an emergency operation in this department.		
Output 1.3: Community-based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of awareness sessions	16	12
Narrative description of achievements		
Trained volunteers were deployed to the field to raise awareness on epidemics at community level: volunteers organized and conducted field trips twice a week during the first month and once a week during the second month. Upstream, the training of volunteers on community involvement and accountability was an asset for the volunteers, facilitating their entry into the community and communication with the populations. After the sensitization sessions, the volunteers committed themselves to follow the recommendations on hygiene rules and to continue to monitor the application of these rules within their community.		
These awareness sessions were conducted jointly for health and WASH, and only 12 sessions were held instead of the planned 16 because some populations had left along the river to return to their villages. Hence, volunteers modified the frequency of awareness sessions.		
Challenges		
Problems of understanding arose with the governance of the departmental committee, which had not been sufficiently briefed on the procedures of the emergency operation, in this case, for certain logistical arrangements.		
Lessons Learned		
There is a need for in-depth capacity building of branch managers on procedures for responding to a disaster and managing an emergency operation.		
Communication should be improved with communities and all stakeholders on the ground during emergency operations. Indeed, it is vital to always communicate about the Red Cross mandate, and the fact that it cannot cover all the needs of all disaster victims. This communication needs to be strengthened with the affected communities and other actors, especially governments, so that they better understand the work of the RC.		
Output 1.4: Epidemic prevention and control measures carried out.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained	33	51
Narrative description of achievements		
51 volunteers were trained on control measures and epidemic prevention in the different localities of the operation (Kai-kai, Maga and Yagoua).		
The training was done simultaneously on the different themes to enable the volunteers to make a link between the different sectors of activity.		
Challenges		
The number of volunteers to be deployed by DREF for the implementation of the activities was not sufficient given the size of the Operation's areas. More volunteers had to be trained than planned in order to cover the needs. This had no impact on the schedule or the budget because the departmental committee was able to motivate the volunteers because the main objective was capacity building.		
Lessons Learned		
It is advisable for each operation to provide for the training of a greater number of volunteers, given that these localities are difficult to access and, above all, that they face recurrent flooding, which exposes them to the risk of epidemics.		



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 15,095

Male: 7,246

Female: 7,849

WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of assisted people through WASH actions	2,303	3,248
Number of trained volunteers	33	51

Narrative description of achievements

For the WASH sector, volunteers were trained/retrained on:

- Water management (supply, home treatment (use of Aquatab tablets and other local methods), conservation, etc.) This training enabled the volunteers to better assess the risks related to the consumption of wastewater.
- Hygiene promotion, the training also emphasized the importance of respecting hygiene rules, the risks of diseases linked to poor hygiene (environmental, corporal...), menstrual hygiene.
- As the number of volunteers planned in the DREF was not sufficient to cover the extent of the affected areas, it was necessary to train more volunteers to carry out the activities, so an additional 18 volunteers were trained for a total 51 volunteers trained.
- Training was held in Maga, Yagoua, and Kai-kai, (15 volunteers in Maga, 22 volunteers in Yagoua, and 14 volunteers in Kai-kai).

The DREF operation also provided volunteers and supervisors with 35 protection kits. Kits containing boots, nose cones, raincoats, torches, protective suits, gloves. (11 kits in Maga, 11 kits in Kai-kai and 13 in Yagoua).

Volunteers from inaccessible areas were not able to take part in the training course, which is why the committee included volunteers from areas where access is not difficult in the training courses. These volunteers will help to extend the training in these areas when access conditions are improved.

Challenges

The number of Aquatab tablets was insufficient compared to what had been planned, due to the reduction of the budget during the preparation.

Lessons Learned

- Bring volunteers from villages that are not accessible to the district capitals for training.
- Introduce the CEA into rapid assessments, which allows for more appropriate communication with beneficiaries on the sectors and types of needs to be covered.

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of Aquatab tablets distributed	69,125	69,125
Number of families who have received Aquatab	460	464

Narrative description of achievements

After the volunteers were trained on WASH, they were briefed on the use of Aquatabs for water purification. During the distributions, demonstrations were equally made to enable the communities to learn how to use the tablets. Some 69,075 Aquatabs were distributed with one tablet per person per day in 15 to 20 litres of water per day for 1 month. 50 tablets were used to carry out demonstrations.

In addition to the demonstrations for the use of Aquatabs, the volunteers also taught other methods of water treatment to the population, notably with products that are easy to access such as ash. This is an adaptation measure for the beneficiaries, especially as the quantities of Aquatabs could not cover all the needs.

Challenges

The quantity of Aquatabs did not cover the needs in the field due to the reduction of the budget during the final discussions before the approval of the DREF.

Lessons Learned

Nothing to report

Output 1.3: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of awareness sessions	16	12
Number of leaflets produced	1,000	1,000
Number of posters produced	500	500
Number of people reached with hygiene and sanitation awareness	Not set	11,847 people

Narrative description of achievements

Door-to-door awareness-raising activities took place on the themes of water treatment at home, correct and systematic hand washing, environmental and personal hygiene, maintenance of dignity kits (destruction of disposables and hygiene of washables), management of a suspected case of watery diarrhoea (suspicion of cholera or other diseases linked to the use of water unfit for consumption).

Given the access problems and the fact that some populations had left along the river to return to their villages, the volunteers conducted only 12 awareness sessions instead of 16 as planned.

The volunteers monitored the use of these tablets during field trips for mass awareness (8,662 people (2,897 in Yagoua, 2,979 at Kai-kai and 2,786 in Maga)) and door-to-door (3,185 people (987 in Yagoua, 1201 at Kai-kai, and 997 in Maga)) activities, reaching a total 11,847 people.

Overall, a total of 15,095 were reached through WASH activities under this operation, including 3,248 people reached directly with items distributed and 11,847 people with sensitization activities.

Challenges

Due to the difficulty of access and the fact that some people had left the place where they had relocated to return to their villages, the volunteers conducted only 12 awareness sessions instead of 16 as planned.

Lessons Learned

Nothing to report

Output 1.4: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of dignity kits distributed	769	769
Number of women who have received dignity kits	769	769

Narrative description of achievements



Distribution of WASH kits to targeted households ©Cameroon Red Cross

Prior to the distributions, members of the local Red Cross committee and 10 volunteers per locality were briefed on distribution techniques. In addition, fieldwork was done to consolidate and validate the lists of beneficiaries of the dignity kits. Prior to the distributions at each site, beneficiaries were made aware of good hygiene practices.

The distributions took place on 21 January 2020 in Loloko (75 beneficiaries) and Kai-Kai centre camp (175 beneficiaries) and on 22 January 2020 in Yagoua centre (419 beneficiaries) and Dana (100 beneficiaries).

During the distributions in Kai-Kai, fights took place that almost compromised the process. Fortunately, community leaders and the camp president calmed

down women not involved in the distributions who were causing trouble.

Following this experience, the project team actively involved community leaders and the Yagoua community in all phases of the distribution, including the selection and identification of beneficiaries, which facilitated the second phase of the distributions.

Feedback from women beneficiaries indicated that 80% of them did not need disposable sanitary pads, as they were not used to using them, rather, they preferred washable sanitary pads.

Tableau de distribution des kits hygiéniques

Locations				
Content of hygiene kits	Yagoua Centre	Dana	Kaï Kaï Centre	Loloko
Washable sanitary pads	419	100	175	75
Disposable sanitary pads				
Panties (medium size)				
Panties (large size)				
Buckets with lid				
Household soap				
Scented toilet soap				
Garbage bags				
Powder detergent				
Total = 769 kits distributed, including 307 washable sanitary pads and 462 disposable sanitary pads.				

Challenges

- Some items were slightly damaged due to road conditions.
- Fighting at the Kai Kai site nearly compromised the distributions.
- 80% of women reported not needing disposable sanitary napkins.

Lessons Learned

It is essential to involve the community and their leaders in all phases distribution activities, including the selection and identification of beneficiaries in order to avoid distributing items that the beneficiaries do not need and to anticipate possible unrest.

Output 1.5: Hygiene promotion activities are provided to the entire affected population.

Indicators:		Actual
Number of awareness sessions	12	12
Number of leaflets produced	1,000	1,000
Number of posters produced	500	500

Narrative description of achievements

The IEC materials produced (leaflets, posters) enabled the trained volunteers to raise awareness among the communities on hygiene rules.

The volunteers made field visits as follows: (30 volunteers and 3 supervisors for 2 months- 2 times a week the month 1 and 1 time per week the second months).

Challenges

The volunteers were able to carry out the awareness-raising sessions, but with great difficulty, given the difficulty of access to certain localities (road conditions and remote locations).

Lessons Learned

Encourage volunteers to provide more support to the community in the use of the materials distributed.

Strategies for implementation

Outcome S2.1: Disaster response and risk reduction capacity building activities with the NS

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of surge deployed	2	2

Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of cluster meetings attended	5	5

Outcome S2.2: The complementarity and strengths of the Movement are enhanced

Output S2.2.1: In the context of large-scale emergencies the IFRC, ICRC and NS enhance their operational reach and effectiveness through new means of coordination.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of coordination meetings	3	3
Number of field coordination meetings	4	4

Narrative description of achievements

IFRC participated in the final evaluation of the operation as well as in the lessons learned workshop with the presence of a Surge who was acting as temporary DCPRR Coordinator.

It should be noted that a Security Surge was also deployed to the region to conduct a security assessment and update security arrangements.

Technical meetings were held within the CCST office to harmonize interventions and ensure that each support service (logistics, finance, etc.) met its specifications and that the necessary support was given to the field team for all sectors.



Lessons Learned workshop in Yagoua. ©Cameroon Red Cross

Several meetings were held among Movement partners to coordinate and harmonize support to the NS. This led to complementary actions such as the distribution of protective equipment by the ICRC in Maga during the first days of the operation.

The IFRC provided technical support in the field right from the start of the operation, through the PMER officer who accompanied the National Society for detailed assessments of the situation and the launch of training activities. This presence in the field enabled the IFRC to be with the NS during the various meetings with the local authorities.

Several meetings were held in each department with local and traditional administrative authorities. The aim was both to obtain additional information on the situation and to present the objectives of this operation to these key partners.

Also, the IFRC participated in the final evaluation of the operation as well as in the workshop on lessons learned with the presence of a Surge temporarily acting as DCPRR Coordinator.

Challenges

The delay in launching activities at the central level of the NS prevented the involvement of other partners, such as the Luxembourg RC.

Lessons Learned

When a disaster occurs, it is important to contact partners as early as possible and involve them in the planning of the operation in order to motivate them to participate. Moreover, it is also encouraging for the partners to respect the set deadlines. Therefore, the NS should strive to stick to its schedule as much as possible.

D. THE BUDGET

The overall budget allocated for this operation was CHF 78,140 out of which CHF 64,785 (83%) were spent. A balance of CHF 13,355 has been returned to the DREF.

Explanation of variances:

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variances	Explanation
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	34,806	24,792	10,014 (29 %)	After evaluation, the initially planned washable dignity kits were not accepted by half of the targeted population. As such, the procurement of dignity kit was done 50% washable kits and 50% one-use kit to ensure satisfaction of recipients. Since the unit price for washable was budgeted for CHF 44 per unit, the budget line has a positive balance because the 50% of one-use kit cost only about 15 CHF/kit
Other Supplies & Services	2,615	1,659	960 (37%)	Local facilities obtained for some of budgeted lines reduced expenses on this line, justifying the positive balance.
Storage	671	1340	-669 (-100%)	Local storage was more expensive than anticipated. In addition, the distribution was delayed, which lengthened warehouse rental period, explaining the over expenditure on this line.
National Society Staff	3,439	3,002	437 (13%)	Some missions were conducted jointly for WASH training and distribution of MHM kit, which allowed some savings on this line.
Professional Fees	627	734	-106 (-17%)	Budget for translation was underestimated and the number of pages translated ended up being more than planned. This justifies the excess cost on this line.
Workshops & Training	7,985	6,196	1,789 (22%)	Joint trainings helped to reduce the total budgeted for training costs. In addition, local authorities provided some facilitations and there were no facilitation fees for some facilitators located at field level.
Information & Public Relations	642	335	306 (48%)	NS bought visibility items for volunteers at a lesser cost than budgeted
Communications	101	267	-166 (-165%)	This is due to field needs. Budget was underestimated for entire team involved in the operation, especially with team deployed for the security assessment which needed much communication recharges.
Financial Charges	503	860	-356 (-71%)	This is linked to system currency loss and direct bank charges related to operations, which was higher than budgeted
Other General Expenses	50		50 (100%)	Finally, unspent as coordination meeting did not cost anything, even for the papers/coffee/water budgeted. Local authorities support through their facilities helped to reduce these costs.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact: In the Cameroon Red Cross Society

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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 Humanitarian 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

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019-2020	Operation	MDRCM028
Budget Timeframe	2019-2020	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 14/Oct/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRCM028 - Cameroon - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 23 Oct 2019 to 23 Jan 2020

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	78,140
DREF Allocations	78,140
Expenditure	-64,785
Closing Balance	13,355

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	6,146	5,984	162
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health	5,869	4,725	1,144
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	39,453	37,471	1,983
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration	0		0
Area of focus Total	51,468	48,179	3,289
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	5,405	3,739	1,666
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	15,942	8,346	7,596
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	5,325	4,520	805
Strategy for implementation Total	26,672	16,606	10,066
Grand Total	78,140	64,785	13,355

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019-2020	Operation	MDRCM028
Budget Timeframe	2019-2020	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 14/Oct/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRCM028 - Cameroon - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 23 Oct 2019 to 23 Jan 2020

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	40,063	29,120	10,944
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	34,806	24,792	10,014
Medical & First Aid	1,007	944	62
Teaching Materials	1,636	1,728	-93
Other Supplies & Services	2,615	1,656	960
Logistics, Transport & Storage	7,388	7,489	-101
Storage	671	1,340	-669
Distribution & Monitoring	252	222	30
Transport & Vehicles Costs	6,465	5,927	538
Personnel	7,278	6,950	329
National Society Staff	3,439	3,002	437
Volunteers	3,839	3,948	-109
Consultants & Professional Fees	627	734	-106
Professional Fees	627	734	-106
Workshops & Training	7,985	6,196	1,789
Workshops & Training	7,985	6,196	1,789
General Expenditure	10,028	10,342	-314
Travel	8,733	8,881	-148
Information & Public Relations	642	335	306
Communications	101	267	-166
Financial Charges	503	860	-356
Other General Expenses	50		50
Indirect Costs	4,769	3,954	815
Programme & Services Support Recover	4,769	3,954	815
Grand Total	78,140	64,785	13,355