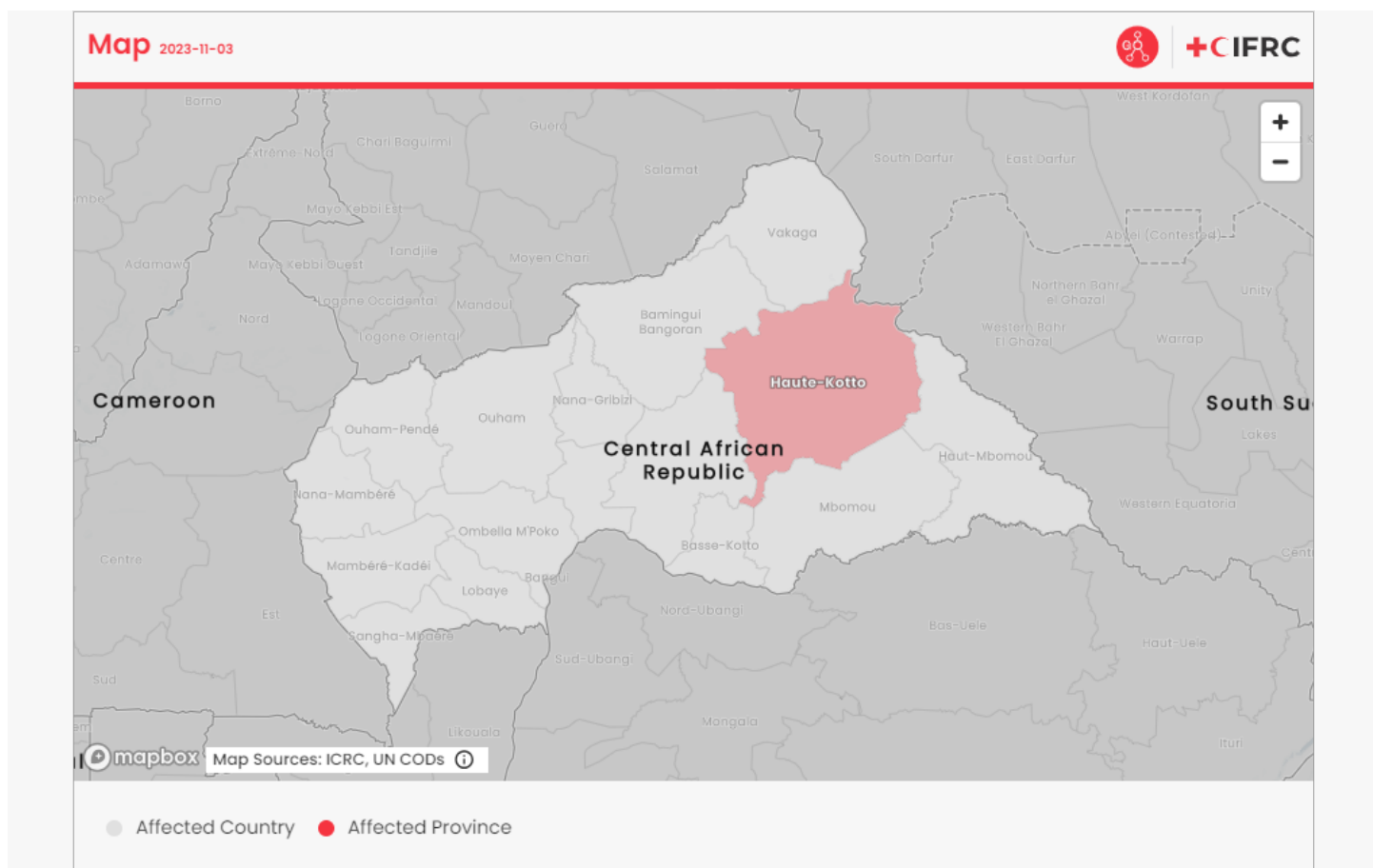




Volunteers during initial assessment and assistance

Appeal: MDRCF031	Country: Central African Republic	Hazard: Other	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 288,368	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 6,006 people	People Targeted: 3,530 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-11-22	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 2024-03-31	DREF Published: 2023-12-04
Targeted Areas: Haute-Kotto			

Description of the Event



What happened, where and when?

On the night of October 31 to 1st November 2023, from 6 p.m., torrential rains accompanied by violent winds occurred in twelve (12) neighborhoods (Borno, Amameu, Yadouma, Yafara, Boy-gbaya, Moussa-Gbadou 1, 2 and 3, and others) of the town of Bria, capital of the Haute Kotto Prefecture, causing serious material and human damage.



House destroyed due to the disaster

Scope and Scale

The local branch of the Central African Red Cross Society (CARCA) mobilized and deployed 20 rescue volunteers who assessed the situation, listed households, evacuated the injured to the Bria hospital and relocated the victims in schools or with host families with the support of local authorities.

The results after updating the information show: 726 households affected for 6006 people including 1480 men, 1502 women and 3024 children. Among the victims, seven (07) people were injured, including 01 by lightning.

In total, 12 community wells and 26 family latrines were damaged. Around 300 houses were completely destroyed, and 406 houses partially destroyed due to the poor quality of construction materials and the sandy soil.

Almost all affected households live with host families and in schools. The town of Bria is already home to more than 500 Sudanese refugees who have not yet been relocated to the site designated by the government in agreement with the UNHCR. With this disaster there is an increase in the number of people in the host families who were already sheltering Sudanese refugees and Central African returnees who have not yet been settled on the site. This situation is further affecting the community's resilience. Some households housing displaced people have been affected.

The intensive exploitation of mining sites for several decades exposed the area to intense deforestation and therefore subject to the effects of climate change marked by the occurrence of violent winds.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	No
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	Yes
If yes, please specify which operation	MDRCF028

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:

A similar event happened in Bakala, not the same area, leading to a DREF operation. Some of the challenges and lessons learned were:

- Local branches lack knowledge of response tools, needs assessment methods; they do not know the mission and role of the SN, do not have enough equipment and lack organization. This weighed on the precedent operation and created delays in the response. Which is why in July 2023 the NS management was trained to PER and in recently in October NS staff and Disaster management teams from branches were trained to the DREF. Also, 3 NDRT from the NS and the national DM will work closely with the local branch of Bria throughout the operation.
- The planned costs in the last operation did not take into account of the reality of the market. For this DREF, actual costs and price increases were taken into account during budgeting phase. Besides, local purchases will be preferred, as they are cheaper than in Bangui.
- During the previous operation, it was noted that the team only contacted the project's stakeholders and not systematically the local authorities, which led to some tension and resistance on their part. Hence, for this new operation, regular communication with the authorities will be essential. An advocacy meeting to launch this operation with the authorities and representatives of the beneficiaries is also planned.
- Difficulties in making funds available to the National Society on time have delayed the deployment of teams in the field and the implementation of operations. IFRC assisted the NS in creating a bank account specifically for IFRC operations. IFRC has also engaged in prefinancing early activities as training and advocacy meetings not to delay the implementation.

Current National Society Actions

Assessment	<p>The teams of 20 volunteers deployed in the field carried out an analysis of the situation and an assessment of needs in collaboration with local authorities.</p> <p>The results after updating the information show: 726 households affected for 6006 people including 1480 men, 1502 women and 3024 children. Among the victims, seven (07) people were injured, including 01 by lightning.</p> <p>In total, 12 community wells and 26 family latrines were damaged.</p> <p>Around 300 houses were completely destroyed, and 406 houses partially destroyed due to the poor quality of construction materials and the sandy soil.</p>
Health	<p>The teams of volunteers deployed on the ground rescued the injured through first aid and evacuation to the Bria Prefectural Hospital for appropriate care.</p> <p>Seven (07) people were injured, including 01 by lightning.</p> <p>They also provided psychological first aid and supporting the victims in host families.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>IFRC country cluster for Chad and Central Africa Republic (CAR) is based in Bangui. The IFRC office has provided its technical assistance to the NS for planning and requesting this DREF.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>French and Dutch Red Cross Societies are present in the country. Their technical support has been requested by the NS. They will be involved in the coordination meetings and their support will continue to be requested according to the evolution of the context and additional needs that could be identified on the ground.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC is present in the country with a base on the axis of the intervention zone and it has logistical means for transport by road and air. They were informed of this disaster and a meeting is planned to discuss collaboration with NS.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	Local administrative authorities and community leaders accompanied local branch volunteers in collecting information and assessing needs. Three radio stations (Barangbaké, Ndèkè Luka, and Guira FM) were on the ground for the collection and dissemination of information.
UN or other actors	The international NGO InterSOS went into the field for an assessment of the situation.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

At the level of Bria, the Prefect, the Mayor, those responsible for the defense and security forces, neighborhood leaders and local radio stations held a crisis meeting to identify needs and direct humanitarian aid.

At the national level, bimonthly meetings will be held to share information within the Movement and with stakeholders.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

The strong winds following the torrential rains, and the run-off from the flooding, drained household waste and other rubbish into wells and other drinking water supply points. Also, the living conditions of the victims who are in host families with promiscuity and difficulties in accessing basic hygiene infrastructure, the risk of epidemics and water-borne diseases including malaria are very high in affected households and the host community.

The needs of the sector are listed as follows:

1. Community-based household disease surveillance for case detection;
2. Access to first aid and care (first-aid kits and first-aid brigade);
3. Health promotion for disease prevention.
4. Access to first aid and psychological aid during this traumatic shock and the prevention of diseases transmitted by water or vectors such as malaria.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The destruction of drinking water supply points and latrines has a negative impact on the quality of life of the victims. Sanitation activities aimed at reducing health risks must be carried out, and encouraged:

1. Control of vectors;
2. Supply of drinking water and conservation materials for affected households;
3. Health infrastructure in affected households and the host community;
4. Supplies of sanitation equipment;
5. Promotion of healthy hygiene practices and strengthening of the water supply infrastructure management system.

The 706 affected households do not have access to drinking water or sanitation facilities due to the destruction of 12 community wells and 26 family latrines. This infrastructure needs rehabilitation to acceptable conditions.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The living conditions of the affected population who live precariously and promiscuously in host families constitute a risk of exposure to SGBV.

Young people under the age of 18 account for more than half 53% (1871/3530) of the total targeted population and a quarter of the people in the affected households. Because of their immaturity and precarious living conditions, they are exposed and vulnerable to the risks of SGBV and PSEA.

This puts them at greater risk of abuse or sexual exploitation to meet their basic needs.

Hence it seems important to ensure broad awareness to mobilize them and make them resilient in the face of SGBV.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The lack of knowledge of the community and the anarchic exploitation of mining sites with the untimely destruction of flora are at the origin of the violent winds and the effects of climate change in the area. To this end, it is important to mobilize the community for commitment to disease prevention and the fight against environmental degradation.

Involvement, participation and consideration of the specific needs of the community benefiting from this humanitarian support are the keys to the success and acceptance of CARCS interventions.

It is fundamental to strengthen community capacities in social sciences and feedback collection mechanisms to prepare them to prevent and respond to disasters using local solutions.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Due to the poor quality of construction materials and soil making residential houses fragile, the passage of violent winds had a harmful consequence. The anarchic exploitation of mining sites has led to massive deforestation in the area. For this sector, the need identified is the rehousing of the 300 households whose houses have been completely destroyed and who find themselves in host families.

Persistent insecurity, the increase in the price of food, the deterioration of road infrastructure and difficulties in supplying basic necessities have significantly altered the community resilience capacities of the area.

The destruction of residential homes affected essential goods and reserves.

The provision of non-food items, kitchen utensils and sleeping equipment is planned to alleviate the suffering of 706 affected households.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF allocation is intended to provide emergency humanitarian aid to 3530 people affected by the violent winds in the eight affected districts of the town of Bria for four (04) months.

Interventions will target the shelter, health, WASH, PGI and CEA/RCCE sectors, as well as building the capacity of the local branch to better respond to this disaster.

Operation strategy rationale

CARCS's strategic approach to responding to this crisis is based on a real analysis of the needs and vulnerability of those affected, while respecting the principles and standards of humanitarian aid in emergency situations. The implementation of the operation takes into account the evolving context and the mitigation of identified operational risks. The intervention strategy will be based on the provision of basic humanitarian services, i.e., the provision of shelter for homeless, access to first aid and care, the supply of drinking water and community mobilization to fight against water-borne and vector-borne diseases and environmental degradation.

Shelter: The aim here will contribute to improving the housing conditions of affected families with the construction of 300

emergency shelters and the provision of NFIs to 706 affected households.

A total of 50 volunteers and 02 NDRT supervisors will be mobilized/retrained to ensure the construction of shelters and the distribution of NFIs to beneficiaries based on the selection criteria established.

Health: To ensure continuous health support to the affected community, activities will consist in the installation of two brigades for the provision of first aid and psychological assistance. A team of four volunteers equipped with first-aid kits will provide on-call reception and orientation services as needed.

Furthermore, volunteers trained in community-based surveillance and disease prevention will provide awareness sessions for health promotion and the referral of suspected cases of diseases to the health facility.

Impregnated mosquito nets will be distributed for malaria prevention.

WaSH: The supply of drinking water will be achieved through the rehabilitation and disinfection of 30 damaged and contaminated wells, the distribution of Aquatabs to the 706 affected households during the 04 months.

Amenities and sanitary facilities will be ensured by the rehabilitation and disinfection of 30 latrines.

Raising user awareness will be done throughout the operation for the proper management and protection of the infrastructure.

PGI: Precarious living conditions with poverty and promiscuity are at the origin of the exposure of young girls to the risks of SGBV and sexual exploitation. Voluntary and household awareness sessions will be organized to prevent this phenomenon. The mechanism for collecting and managing community feedback will integrate a system for reporting cases.

CEA: For this sector, it is important to strengthen the capacities of volunteers and community leaders on their fundamental roles and on CREC for community mobilization in the fight against diseases, environmental protection and the use of local solutions to prevent and effectively respond in emergency situations. To this end, advocacy meetings will be organized with all stakeholders, FGDs on the risks linked to environmental degradation will be held, and a mechanism for collecting and managing community feedback will be established.

National society Strengthening: To better respond to this disaster, it is essential to strengthen the capacities of the local branch on themes related to the operation and the CARCS's response tools in emergency situations.

The volunteers who have been mobilized and trained on the various issues as part of the Emergency Appeal for Sudanese refugees in the area will be put to good use in this operation.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Some 706 households from the eight affected neighborhoods of the town of Bria will be reached directly through this operation.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria is based on the state of destruction of the houses: 300 households with completely destroyed houses and 406 households with partially destroyed houses will be assisted.

Priority will be given to overcrowded households, households with disabled people, young children, and pregnant/lactating women.

Total Targeted Population

Women	833	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	940	Urban	-
Men	826	People with disabilities (estimated)	15%
Boys (under 18)	931		
Total targeted population	3,530		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
The prefecture of Haute-Kotto, which is in Red phase, is one of the regions most affected by instability and violence in the country. The current security challenge is therefore very significant there. Armed groups are often engaged in acts of violence against the civilians and NGO staff (as they are considered the wealthiest). Kidnappings and assassinations are common in the area.	To mitigate security risks, the entire operation will take place in the town of Bria and no further than 5km away. Volunteers will be briefed on security rules and provided with equipment and visibility, and the end of work in the field is set for 4pm to enable them to return home at 5pm. Before the operation begins, an advocacy meeting will be held with community leaders and beneficiary representatives to explain the activities to be carried out and the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder.
Geographic accessibility due to the deterioration of roads and the increase in the cost of basic necessities	Local purchases will be favored to minimize the cost of transport and operation in general.
Late procurement of items due to country logistic challenges	The IFRC logistics team will provide technical support on logistical procedures and local purchases will be favoured after a joint study (CARCS/FICR) of the market in the locality to facilitate the timely availability of items.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The prefecture of Haute-Kotto, in the centre of the Central African Republic, is one of the regions most affected by instability and violence in the country. The current security challenge in the Haute-Kotto prefecture is therefore noteworthy. Armed groups are often engaged in acts of violence against the civilians and NGO staff members (as they are considered the wealthiest). Kidnappings and assassinations are common in the area. Armed groups, notably the Union pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC) and the Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC), are very active in the region and regularly carry out attacks on civilians armed forces and security forces. Local populations are often taken hostage in these conflicts and are faced with permanent insecurity. As a result, many inhabitants have fled their homes to seek refuge in camps for internally displaced persons or in neighboring countries. Insecurity and the unacceptable road conditions in rural areas have made it difficult to provide humanitarian aid outside Bria.

To mitigate security risks, the entire operation will take place in the town of Bria and no further than 5km away. Before the operation begins, an advocacy meeting will be held with community leaders and beneficiary representatives to explain the activities to be carried out and the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder.

Safety measures for IFRC staff in CAR:

All IFRC staff in CAR must be visible at all times and wear Red Cross waistcoats. Personal documents must be carried at all times. All staff travelling in the region must have Stay Safe Level 1, 2 and 3 training certificates.

Field missions (by vehicle) are not recommended due to road conditions and the extreme risk of being turned around. Transportation from Bangui to Bria might be authorized only by air.

Due to the limited evacuation capacity from Bria in case of emergency it is highly recommended that not more than 2 IFRC staff members are to visit the area at the same time.

In accordance with the MSR 2021 policy, all travel to red phase areas requires the formal approval of the Secretary General as risk holder for the IFRC.

Recommendations for branch staff and field headquarters:

A convoy of at least 2 vehicles is mandatory

Constant radio contact between moving vehicles is mandatory

A minimum of one satellite phone is required for the mission team.

The Red Cross logo and flags must be displayed on all vehicles in the convoy. Visibility of vehicles is mandatory.

A safety briefing is essential for each team (person) before leaving on the mission to Vakaga. After the mission, another debriefing is mandatory with the security unit.

Volunteers will work in their respective localities. As part of their training, these volunteers have all been briefed on security measures and strict adherence to the volunteer code of conduct. All of these volunteers will be insured by the Ministry of Health. In addition, volunteers and NDRTs have signed the staff security code and will be trained on safer access and response in difficult environments.

Follow-up of travel procedures and updated minimum security rule

Planned Intervention



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 6,305

Targeted Persons: 6,006

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached by awareness-raising to PGI	6,006

Priority Actions

Awareness sessions on SGBV in the 08 affected localities (50 volunteersX1dayX 4 weeksX4 months) 15 households per pair/day



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 22,146

Targeted Persons: 890

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of advocacy meetings held	1
Number of community meetings on feedback and feedback completed	4
Number of discussion groups/communication sessions on the risks of environmental degradation carried out	256

Priority Actions

- Organization of an advocacy meeting with community leaders and representatives of disaster victims
- Organize community meetings on feedback and feedback
- Organization of discussion groups/communication sessions on the risks of environmental degradation (1FGD/district/weeks for 04 months)



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 2,916

Targeted Persons: -

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of local branches having received response tools from the CRCA	1

Priority Actions

Multiplication and provision of the local Bria branch with CARCS communication and response tools.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 22,334

Targeted Persons: 62

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people trained on CRCA response tools in emergency situations	62

Priority Actions

The target here includes 50 volunteers, 10 members of local governance and 02 NDRT members who have joined the CARCS, for a total of 62 people.

- Visibility equipment, dissemination and communication
- Insurance of 50 volunteers and 02 NDRT members for the implementation of the operation
- Training of members of local governance and volunteers on CARCS response tools in emergency situations
- Lessons Learned Workshop
- Rental and fueling for 02 vehicles 07 days/month for 3 months
- CARCS team per diems (DM, 02 NDRT members, and 02 drivers)



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 149,187

Targeted Persons: 3,530

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of households reached with emergency shelters	300
Number of volunteers recycle for the construction of emergency shelters	50
Number of households reached with NFIs	706

Priority Actions

- Construction of 300 emergency shelters for affected households and 1600 tarpaulins, wood, spikes, etc.
- Distribution of blankets, mats, sheets for 706 households (2 per household).



Health

Budget: CHF 29,333

Targeted Persons: 6,006

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of households reached with awareness-raising activities	1,200
Number of people reached with first aid	60
Number of households reached with impregnated mosquito nets	706

Priority Actions

- Organization of awareness sessions on the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in the 08 affected localities (10 pairs x 2 days x 4 weeks x 4 months) 10 households per pair/day
- Purchase first aid kits
- Training volunteers on community-based disease surveillance (2 days)
- Construction of 2 first-aid brigades
- On-call service in the 2 rescue brigades
- Distribution of impregnated mosquito nets to 706 households (2 per household)



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 43,900

Targeted Persons: 3,530

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of wells rehabilitated	30
Number of latrines rehabilitated	30

Priority Actions

- Purchase and distribution of WASH kits for 706 HH: 2 buckets, 2 x 25-liter containers, laundry soap
- Rehabilitation/disinfection of 30 damaged wells with chlorine
- Rehabilitation/disinfection of 30 damaged latrines with Cresyl
- Awareness-raising of the community to hygiene and sanitation

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 50 volunteers, and 03 NDRT members will be involved in this operation.

NS DM will supervise the operation and IFRC staff (Operations Manager, CEA, Finance, and Logistics) will provide their support as required.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

All logistical purchases and acquisitions of items will be carried out by the CRCA with the support of the IFRC logistics team.

Due to the difficult access of the area and the increase in transport costs, local purchases will be favored.

A joint team will carry out a market study mission.

A purchasing plan will be developed and the establishment of a mixed team for the analysis of offers

How will this operation be monitored?

A programme contract will be signed between the cluster office and the CARCS to define roles and responsibilities.

An operational plan will be developed and implemented for monitoring activities.

The 03 NDRT members are responsible for the collection and transmission of information and data relating to the activities of volunteers.

The national DM will centralize and compile the team reports to produce an overall report.

A bi-monthly coordination meeting will be organized to discuss operational challenges and risks to address them.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The communication strategy will integrate advocacy meetings with community leaders and stakeholders, the use of the emblem and the visibility of the Red Cross Movement.

With the agreement, images and testimonies from stakeholders will be collected to communicate about the operation.

This strategy will be supported by the team from the cluster office and the Africa region.

Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRCCxxx - Croix-Rouge Centrafricaine Central African Republic - Strong Winds in Bria

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	250 871
Shelter and Basic Household Items	149 187
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	29 333
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	43 900
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	6 305
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	22 146
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	37 497
Coordination and Partnerships	6 730
Secretariat Services	8 433
National Society Strengthening	22 334
TOTAL BUDGET	288 368

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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