



CAMEROON

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

19 December 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE CAMEROON RED CROSS SOCIETY



10

National Society branches



42

National Society staff



65,000

National Society volunteers

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW


in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total	Funding requirements	40.7M
IFRC	Emergency Operations Funding requirements	8.5M
	Longer-term Funding requirements	18.0M
	Income	2.9M
Participating National Societies	Income	117,000
Host National Society other funding sources	Funding requirements	14.1M
	Income	300,000






[Click here for more financial information](#)



Appeal number **MAACM002**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 566
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Bilateral Support					
	Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society						
French Red Cross						

 Planned
  Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Located in Central Africa, the Republic of Cameroon is bordered by Nigeria to the west and north, Chad to the northeast, the Central Africa Republic to the east and Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo to the south. Cameroon's coastline lies on the Bight of Biafra, part of the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean. Cameroon's location gives it good links to neighbouring countries and opportunities for trade and tourism. The relief, landscapes and cultural diversity of this Central African country give it great potential for ecotourism. However, its location also makes it susceptible to population movements and migration. Cameroon has a population of over 27.2 million (2021), with a median age of 18–19 years old. While more than 56% of the population lives in urban areas, this is expected to increase to 72% by 2050. Overall, population growth is relatively slow for the region, and it may fall in the long term, dropping from 52 to 41 in the Global Population Rank by 2050. Cameroon continues to be sparsely populated, with about 59 people per square kilometre, making it the 167th country in the world for population density.

Cameroon is endowed with rich natural resources, including oil and gas, mineral ores and high-value timber and agricultural products such as coffee, cotton, cocoa, maize and cassava. However, despite these diverse resources and levels of growth in the last decade, Cameroon is a low-income country and continues to rank 153 on the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index. This is due in part to challenges of under-investment and weak governance, with Cameroon ranked 144 in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. The country's poverty reduction rate is also lagging its population growth rate, increasing the overall number of poor people, particularly in the vulnerable northern regions. Nonetheless, the country has the potential to address these slow levels of development with appropriate support and investment.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a serious impact on Cameroon's society and economy. Lockdowns and social distancing measures caused a severe reduction in household and business incomes, significantly reducing economic activity.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is implementing the Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The ECHO PPP is implemented with the support of the French Red Cross and the IFRC. The ECHO PPP aims to address the causes of crises and disasters and to provide assistance to vulnerable people according to their needs and local realities. In Cameroon, the ECHO PPP focuses on the 4 pillars of disaster risk management, epidemic preparedness and response, cash and voucher assistance (CVA), and community engagement and accountability (CEA).

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Appeal Name	Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
MDR-Code	MGR001 Africa Hunger
Duration	6 October 2022 to 31 December 2023
People to be assisted	1.38 million
Funding requirements	Funding requirement for Cameroon through the Africa Hunger Crisis Appeal:10 million Swiss francs
Link to Appeal	Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Last Operations Update	IFRC GO - Emergency

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Cameroon](#)

Cameroon is one of the priority countries supported by the IFRC's regional Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal. Launched in October 2022, it aims to scale up its regional immediate and lifesaving response to the food insecurity crisis currently affecting the region. Country prioritization is based on a multivariate analysis, which includes the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC), and focuses on those communities experiencing a crisis or worse level of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3+). At a time of intense global humanitarian need and competing demands, sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing one of the most alarming food crises in decades. Roughly 146 million people – the equivalent to half the entire population of the United States – are suffering from acute food insecurity and require urgent humanitarian assistance.

The crisis has spread across all of Africa, including in East Africa where it is expected that there will be a fifth consecutive year of failed rains in the Horn of Africa, in South Sudan where there has been extreme flooding for four successive years, in the Sahel region of West Africa, which is plagued by insecurity and political instability, and in Southern Africa where countries are experiencing surging inflation.

Hunger has severe and long-term repercussions on communities, compromising their lives, livelihoods and prospects. Driven by the interplay of insecurity and armed conflict, extreme weather events, climate variability and negative macroeconomic conditions, the food crisis is distinct in its magnitude and geographic scope. It requires an exceptional mobilization of resources and a massive effort by all institutions and states concerned to address the drivers that underpin food insecurity.

The IFRC network has supported the African National Societies to develop an emergency response that focuses on meeting the most urgent food, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene needs of the most vulnerable groups, while also addressing longer-term outcomes of protecting livelihoods and setting a foundation for resilience building.

The Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal aligns with the IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which informs the longer-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa. The initiative takes a holistic approach to food security, combining rapid support for food security and livelihoods with its long-term strategy of working towards zero hunger and more sustainable development.

The regional Emergency Appeal focuses responds to the immediate needs of affected people, and its approach facilitates the transition to longer-term programming. Upon the completion of the appeal, the IFRC will collaborate with the Cameroon Red Cross Society to continue working through the Zero Hunger Initiative programming. This will be integrated into Cameroon's country plan for 2024.

SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Multi-purpose Cash

Objective: *Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs.*

Cash was distributed amongst the most vulnerable, food insecure households, to increase their purchasing power and meet their basic needs in the Far North and South-West regions within the first half of the year. A total of 3,500 households benefitted from a sum of 40,000 Central African Franc (XAF) per household in both regions. In the far north region, 2,800 households received cash in the Logone and Chari (Makary and Goulfey sub-divisions), and Mayo Danay divisions (Gobo and Guere sub-divisions). An additional 700 received cash in the Southwest region Fako division (Limbe and Buea sub-divisions).

A total sum of CHF 500,000 was distributed in these regions through a DREF loan in the first phase. Preparations are currently going on for the second phase of cash distribution of CHF 133,000 from the Nestlé Funds which will be carried out in the North-West Region.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The seasonal and weekly weather forecasts and monthly climate watches produced for Central Africa by the Centre for Climate Application and Forecasting in Central Africa are shared with and used by the National Society.

IFRC network joint support

The Cameroon Red Cross and the IFRC plan to plant 3,000 trees in the far north region. At the launch of the ECHO PPP in 2022 in Kaélé in the far north of the country, the National Society proceeded with the symbolic planting of 10 trees with the support of the administrative authorities present at the ceremony. The Cameroon Red Cross continued to work closely with the local authorities to find spaces to plant the remaining 2,990 trees and in April 2023, the trees were planted. Everyone knows the importance of trees for food, income and controlling the floods that weaken the region.

The Disaster Management Director of the Cameroon Red Cross participated in the conference on disaster risk reduction by the National Society. This meeting took place in Malabo in March 2023.

Cameroon Red Cross youth volunteers were engaged in tree Plantation and care (Climate Actions). At least 100,000 trees were planted in 2023.

An internal survey on 'climate, values and trust' is completed on an annual basis as champions by the Africa Senior Management Team (SMT).



Disasters and crises

Online training on DREF Evolution and new templates were shared with the National Society.

Through the ECHO PPP, the Cameroon Red Cross has been supporting communities to prepare and respond to natural disasters, including floods and epidemics. Community Response Teams (CRTs) have been formed and trained. Communal contingency plans were developed and awareness raising carried out in disaster management, hygiene and sanitation, and sustainable housing construction techniques. Storage facilities (cereal banks) were rehabilitated and stocked to be able to reduce community vulnerability through mutual aid. Response capacity was increased at branch level with the training of a Branch Disaster Response Team and pre-positioning of emergency response kits.

IFRC network joint support

The USAID/BHA Funding Assistance to Floods permitted the Cameroon Red Cross to carry out humanitarian response to floods in Mayo-Danay division (Yagoua, Kai-Kai and Vele) in the Far North Region. The floods affected approximately 3,836 households, including 2,276 people in the Mayo-Danay and Logone and Chari divisions. In response to this disaster, the Cameroon Red Cross was present on the ground through its volunteers, assisting people to evacuate their belongings, facilitating water drainage and conducting awareness sessions on waterborne diseases and registering the affected population.

The response targeted the most vulnerable (30,000) people affected by the 2022 floods in Mayo-Danay division of the Far North region, especially in Kaikai, Vélé and Yagoua sub-divisions, with 3 major activities:

- Distribution of WASH kits to 1,000 households. One kit was composed of 1 defecation pot for children under 5 years, two 20L plastic buckets with cover, two 3L plastic kettles (large model), four 400g household soap bars, 210 Aqua tabs (1 tablet per 20L of water with expiry date 2025), 1 new 20L plastic container with lid, one 2-seater plastic mats.
- Multipurpose cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to 1,000 households.

- Extensive hygiene promotion campaign to reach 30,000 people. All planned activities have been completed, and post-distribution monitoring was finalized.

Through the ECHO PPP, the Cameroon Red Cross has distributed cash assistance to 1,600 households to support approximately 112,00 people. The overall objective is to support the basic needs of households in vulnerable situations. This distribution took place in the departments of Mayo Danay, Diamaré, Logone et Chari and Mayo Kani. Additional information is available on the ECHO PPP [page](#).

Through the ECHO PPP project, 20 volunteers received training in cash, data collection and standard operating procedures (SOPs). The National Society received support with the donation of 1 laptop.

Training was held for 47 Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) members in the East (16 men/7 women) and North (18 men/6 women) regions.

IFRC supported Cameroon Red Cross response for those affected by the Buea/limbé floods and cholera by donating 50 boots, 50 raincoats with IFRC logo, 50 gloves (solid), 30 sprayers, 3 chlorine bottles, 2 masks, 5 megaphones, 5 megaphone battery, 10 dustbins, 20 long-stem brooms, 10 planters, 20 spade shovels, and 6 wheelbarrows to the departmental committee of the Fako Division.



Health and wellbeing

IFRC Network joint support

Through the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3), 15 supervisors were trained in community-based surveillance (CBS) in the North Cameroon region. Three northern supervisors were trained in CBS. Later, 323 CP3 volunteers in the North Region were trained in community-based surveillance.

Awareness raising activities were held, reaching 13,775 people, including 1,656 school children, on epidemic-related issues. A youth camp was organized with 100 pupils from Red Cross clubs in the North and East regions.

Through the CP3 programme, IFRC supported the Cameroon Red Cross by:

- Participating in the CP3 global lessons learned meeting from 24 to 28 April 2023 in Geneva.
- Training volunteers on disaster management teams, epidemic management, and CBS
- Organizing a workshop to draft a contingency plan for diarrhoea and cholera epidemics
- Training volunteers to carry out the CP3 mid-term knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) survey

There was supervision of infection prevention control in 7 Cameroon Red Cross Health Centres. A workshop was organized to prepare a contingency plan for diarrhoea and cholera epidemics for the Cameroon Red Cross.

Through the USAID funded COVID-19 programme, there was capacity building and retraining of 60 trainers on mobile cinema in Douala and Maroua to raise awareness of the importance of routine vaccination against COVID-19. The IFRC also supported the branches by donating kits, which contained 1 canteen, 1 200x200 screen and tripod, 2 speakers with a tripod, 2 chock wheels for speakers and mixer, 1 double 12-track mixer, 1 video projector, 1 laptop core 15 RAM, 1 case with connection unit, 2 microbleeds in a case, and 1 box of 4 microphones.

During the COVID-19 USAID-funded project, the IFRC supported:

- Training 500 volunteers and community health workers from 50 health districts on CEA and COVID-19 vaccines with the Ministry of Health
- Training 60 volunteer trainers on mobile cinema and donating mobile cinema kits
- Training 50 COVID-19 vaccination workers from the Littoral Region in Edéa and the Central Region in Mbalmayo on routine COVID-19 vaccination and CEA
- Training and insuring 264 volunteers for measles and rubella vaccination

IFRC support for the activities of EPIC/ACMS (Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control/ Cameroon Association for Social Marketing) for the implementation of mass awareness-raising and vaccination of schoolchildren against COVID-19 in Bertoua, Garoua and Maroua, with the participation of 2,835 people.

Awareness raising activities reached 50,651 people during the routine period with messages to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Communication material against cholera was donated to the Directorate for the fight against diseases, epidemics and pandemics in Yaoundé, including a roll up against cholera, 5 packs of 2,000 posters, and 1 pack of 15,000 flyers.

The ECHO PPP has supported epidemic preparedness and response. Community committees and village hygiene committees have been strengthened and trained on WASH. Awareness raising activities have been carried out in the communities, as well as radio broadcasts, with messages about preventing cholera and rabies. At the national level, the Cameroon Red Cross supported the Health Districts to carry out mass vaccination campaigns and support community-based surveillance.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

In line with its auxiliary role, the National Society continues to collaborate closely with the government authorities in Cameroon. It also collaborates with a range of other actors, including United Nations agencies and private institutions.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC continues to support the National Society in operational coordination.

Through the ECHO PPP, a coordination meeting is held every month with members of the consortium to coordinate and align the support provided. The French Red Cross is supporting disaster risk management and epidemic preparedness and response. The IFRC is providing technical support for CVA and CEA. A country meeting was also held with the ECHO team to discuss the progress of Year 2 activities and get their feedback on their field mission. Meetings will occur every 2 months, and the next one will be in December 2023.

Strategic coordination

- Cameroon Red Cross has updated its Unified Plan (2024-2025) aligned with Pan Africa Key Initiatives and with active engagements of participating National Societies and the ICRC
- IFRC continues to ensure membership coordination (through quarterly calls) with the National Society on the Unified Plan and Pan Africa Key Initiatives
- The National Society was supported to organize 1 COSNAC (Coordination of Central African National Societies) meeting and 1 sub-regional National Society leadership level meeting in 2023
- Understanding was increased between the four National Societies' leadership on [Seville 2.0](#)

Operational coordination

- Ensured robust support to Cameroon Red Cross for successful implementation of the Africa CDC-SLL program.
- Facilitated effective coordination between French Red Cross (lead EU National Society) and the Cameroon Red Cross for the successful implementation of the ECHO PPP
- Engaged participating National Societies and Cameroon Red Cross for scaling up one pan-African initiative (Zero Hunger), which also includes components of the 3 other pan-African initiatives
- Developed a resource mobilization plan and joint proposals for Hunger Crisis response
- Effective coordination for DREF and Emergency Appeal with improved key performance indicators
- Readiness to respond (4 Red Ready) for flood season readiness, response teams, peer to peer support mission)



National Society Development

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC has been supporting the National Society through the following:

- Provided technical support to the National Society to meet their statutory requirements and conditions
- Provided technical support to the National Society regarding planning and participation in the upcoming Red Cross Red Crescent Pan-African Conference
- Supported the National Society for their smooth Annual General Meeting and updating their critical policies



Humanitarian diplomacy

IFRC network joint support

In its humanitarian diplomacy plan to meet with key partners and ambassadors, the IFRC supported the Cameroon Red Cross in visiting various organisations, including UN agencies, World Bank, and embassies between January and June 2023.

The main items on the agenda were:

- Presentation of the Cameroon Red Cross and IFRC, their mandates and key activities
- Update on the evolution of the humanitarian context in Cameroon (including public health emergencies, humanitarian crises, the situation of displaced people, food insecurity crises and climate change) and the actions undertaken by the IFRC and the Cameroon Red Cross
- Update on the programmes implemented with the support of different partners by the Cameroon Red Cross
- Discussions on the possibilities to increase the humanitarian contribution to Cameroon through IFRC/Red Cross channels in the future

The main results so far were:

- Receiving support from USAID to respond to the floods in the far north region of Cameroon
- Becoming a member of the humanitarian country team as an observer
- Receiving a contribution to the DREF from DG-ECHO to fight against the spread of cholera and monkeypox in Cameroon



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

To be reported on in the Annual Report.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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