

# EMERGENCY APPEAL

## OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Cameroon | Food Insecurity Response



Community engagement activity by CRC volunteers in Yagoua in the Far North of Cameroon. (Photo credit: CRCS)

Appeal No: <b>MDRCM042</b>	To be assisted: <b>330,000 people</b>	Appeal launched: <b>26/02/2026</b>
Glide No: <b>OT-2026-000031-CMR</b>	DREF allocated: <b>CHF 1 million</b>	Disaster Categorisation: <b>Orange</b>
Operation Start date: <b>26/02/2026</b>	Operation End date: <b>31/08/2027</b>	

**IFRC Secretariat Funding requirement: CHF 9.6 million**  
**Federation-wide funding requirement:<sup>1</sup> To be confirmed**

<sup>1</sup> The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRC) in response to the emergency. It includes the CRC's domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC secretariat. This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

## TIMELINE



Community assessment conducted by a CRC volunteer in Yagoua in the Far North of Cameroon. (Photo credit: CRC)

- December 2025:** CHF 150,000 allocated from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for early action activities and detailed community assessments of food insecurity in three regions of Cameroon.
- January 2026:** IFRC Surge Capacity deployed – Rapid Response Personnel (Food Security Delegate from Kinshasa Delegation) deployed to Yaoundé for two weeks.
- February 2026:** Community assessment funded through the DREF completed and the report is published.
- February 2026:** The IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal for CHF 9.6 million for 330,000 people.
- February 2026:** The Cameroon Food Insecurity response Emergency Appeal is launched.

# DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Cameroon is facing a deepening food and nutrition insecurity crisis driven by the convergence of structural poverty, recurrent climate shocks, localised insecurity and displacement, and declining purchasing power. According to Cadre Harmonise projections (March-October 2025), more than 1.67 million people are expected to require food assistance in 2026, while approximately 535,000 will need nutrition assistance.

Chronic and acute malnutrition remain significant among children under five (including 29 per cent chronic malnutrition, 11 per cent moderate acute malnutrition, and 3.1 per cent severe acute malnutrition), while infant and young child feeding practices remain inadequate, with only 32.4 per cent of children 6–23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet.

In response, the Cameroon Red Cross Society (Croix-Rouge camerounaise – CRC), with support from the IFRC, launched the “Cameroon Food Insecurity Assessment and Response” DREF Operation in December 2025 to generate reliable, up-to-date evidence to guide a targeted and effective response for drought-affected households. To achieve this, a comprehensive multisectoral community assessment was carried out across high-risk divisions in the Far North, North, and East Regions. Conducted between January and February 2026, the assessment produced a detailed report outlining key findings and priority recommendations.<sup>2</sup>

The results of the assessment show that household food systems are increasingly fragile due to depleted production and stocks, strong market dependence, and income instability. Overall, 68 per cent of household's report having no food stocks, leaving a very limited buffer capacity; the most critical stock depletion is seen in Logone-et-Chari (17 per cent with stocks), Kadey (18 per cent), and Mayo-Danay (21 per cent). At the same time, households rely heavily on market purchases as a primary food source (market reliance ranging from 61–81 per cent across areas), reaching the highest levels in Logone-et-Chari (81 per cent), Bénoué (79 per cent), Mayo-Sava (73 per cent), and Kadey (73 per cent). While markets are generally functioning, the crisis is primarily driven by an erosion of purchasing power, rising debt, and repeated shocks that undermine livelihoods and coping capacity – particularly in Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Danay, Kadey, and Mayo-Tsanaga.

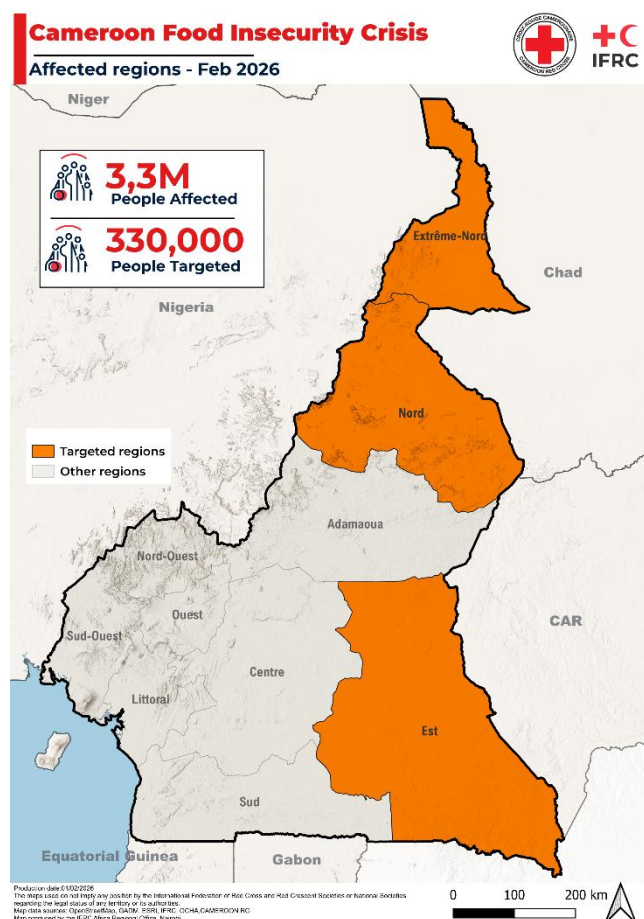
## Severity of humanitarian conditions

### Impact on accessibility, availability, quality, use and awareness of goods and services

Food availability at the household level is critically constrained despite generally functioning markets. Agricultural production remains insufficient, with 38 per cent of households not cultivating during the last season and over 76 per cent of farming households reporting moderate to poor yields. Household food stocks are largely depleted, with 68 per cent of households reporting no food stocks, particularly in Logone-et-Chari, Kadey, and Mayo-Danay, leaving households fully exposed to seasonal price fluctuations and shocks.

Food access is primarily limited by economic constraints rather than physical access. While 79–96 per cent of households can physically reach markets, affordability is a major barrier due to low and unstable incomes and rising food prices. In several divisions, more than two-thirds of household's report being unable to purchase

<sup>2</sup> [Full report food insecurity Assessment Cameroon.pdf](#)



sufficient food, peaking at 86.5 per cent in Kadey. This has led to widespread reliance on borrowing, credit purchases, and debt, undermining the ability of households to recover and increasing dependency on external assistance, particularly in the Far North.

Food quality and utilisation are severely compromised. Diets are increasingly dominated by staples, with limited intake of proteins, fruits, and vegetables. This is reflected in 84 per cent of households with poor or borderline Food Consumption Scores and 71 per cent consuming four or fewer food groups, indicating high risks of malnutrition, especially among children under five and pregnant and lactating women. Limited access to adequate WASH services further exacerbates health and nutrition risks.

### Impact on physical and mental well-being

The prolonged food insecurity situation is having a direct and cumulative impact on physical and mental well-being. Reduced food quantity and quality contribute to increased risks of acute and chronic malnutrition among children and women, weakened immunity, and higher susceptibility to disease. High levels of debt, uncertainty around food access, and repeated shocks generate significant psychological stress, particularly among displaced households and female-headed households. Communities report anxiety related to daily food access, fear of further price increases, and distress linked to the erosion of livelihoods and assets.

Coping capacity is rapidly eroding. More than half of households surveyed by the CRC had already adopted severe negative coping strategies, including selling productive assets, reducing essential expenditures, skipping meals, and withdrawing children from school as they exhaust remaining food stocks and financial resources. These practices heighten protection risks and cause long-term harm to health, livelihoods, and education, demonstrating that crisis level food insecurity is already widespread across the most affected areas and poised to further intensify without immediate, lifesaving assistance.

### Risks and vulnerabilities

The most affected and at-risk groups include displaced households, poor host communities, female-headed households, children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and households with persons with disabilities. High levels of borrowing and indebtedness exceeding 50 per cent of households in several divisions increase exposure to negative coping strategies, social tension, and protection risks. Recurrent climate shocks, insecurity in parts of the Far North, and limited access to sustainable livelihoods further prevent recovery between shocks, reinforcing chronic vulnerability while deepening humanitarian needs.

Meanwhile, humanitarian resources are diminishing, and WFP has already warned of imminent reductions in food assistance for refugees, internally displaced people, and vulnerable host communities. Health and WASH-related vulnerabilities are also worsening. In late 2025, two cholera cases were confirmed in the Doumo Health Area of the North Region, signalling deteriorating sanitation conditions and growing water scarcity. The Adamaoua and East Regions, despite experiencing lower levels of insecurity, continue to host significant numbers of displaced people, placing additional pressure on already strained services. These areas are also facing erratic rainfall patterns and vegetation anomalies, further limiting food availability and compounding health and nutritional risks.

## CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

### 1. National Society response capacity

#### National Society capacity and ongoing response

The Cameroon Red Cross Society (CRC) has a strong operational presence across the most affected regions, including the Far North, North, and East, with active branches and community-level volunteers in all assessed divisions. This network enables rapid access to affected communities, particularly in hard-to-reach and high-risk areas such as Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Sava, and Kadey, where food insecurity levels are most severe.

CRC volunteers are well embedded in communities and play a critical role in needs identification, community engagement, data collection, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. During the food insecurity assessment,

the CRC successfully mobilised 160 trained volunteers across eight departments, demonstrating its capacity to conduct large-scale, multi-sectoral assessments and generate operational evidence in a short timeframe. This capacity reflects the CRC's added value in early warning, situation monitoring, and community-based response.

The CRC's ongoing response focuses on food assistance, cash-based interventions, nutrition-sensitive activities, health and WASH actions, and protection-oriented community engagement, often implemented in coordination with Movement partners and local authorities. In the Far North, the CRC has supported vulnerable households affected by conflict, displacement, and climate shocks, while in the East, the National Society continues to respond to the prolonged refugee situation and pressure on host communities. In the North, activities are increasingly oriented towards livelihood support and resilience-building, in response to structural poverty and climate vulnerability.

The CRC benefits from established community structures, local acceptance, and auxiliary status to the public authorities, facilitating coordination with decentralised technical services and municipalities. However, the scale and severity of the current needs, characterised by widespread poor food consumption, depleted coping capacity, and high debt exceed the CRC's existing resources, underscoring the need for additional support through this Emergency Appeal.

### Capacity and response at the national level

At the national level, the Government of Cameroon, line ministries, and humanitarian partners are engaged in responding to food insecurity, climate shocks, displacement and flooding, under the coordination of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and OCHA. Sectoral coordination mechanisms are active at the national and sub-national levels, notably through the Food Security, Nutrition, Health, WASH, Cash, and Protection clusters, providing a framework for joint analysis, information sharing, and response planning.

National strategies and response plans, including those related to food security, nutrition, disaster risk management, and climate adaptation, provide an important policy framework for humanitarian action. However, limited resources, access constraints in insecure or flood-affected areas, and the scale of needs continue to challenge the effectiveness and coverage of the response.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Cameroon Red Cross Society plays a central role in operationalising community-based response efforts, bridging national coordination with local implementation. The CRC maintains close working relationships with relevant ministries and decentralised services, contributes to joint assessments and coordination fora, and supports the implementation of national response priorities through its extensive branch and volunteer network.

## 2. International capacity and response

### Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

#### IFRC membership

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Cameroon provides strategic, operational, and technical support to the CRC, ensuring alignment with IFRC policies, emergency response standards, and Federation-wide coordination frameworks. The IFRC supports the CRC's engagement with national authorities and inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including relevant sectoral clusters (Food Security, Nutrition, WASH, Health, Cash, and Protection).

The IFRC provides technical backstopping across key sectors, notably cash-based assistance, food security and livelihoods, nutrition-sensitive programming, WASH, Health and Care, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), PMER, logistics, finance, communications, and security risk management. Surge capacity has been deployed to support operational planning, implementation oversight, monitoring, accountability, and risk management at both the national and field levels. The IFRC also supports humanitarian diplomacy, Movement coordination, and National Society development to enable an effective, principled, and scalable response.

### **French Red Cross (CRF)**

The French Red Cross (Croix-Rouge française – CRF) is a Participating National Society with a longstanding operational presence in Cameroon and plays an active role in supporting the CRC-led response. Under a Federation-wide approach, the CRF provides financial contributions, technical expertise, and field-level support, including direct implementation components aligned with CRC priorities and IFRC coordination mechanisms.

The CRF works in close partnership with the CRC and IFRC, contributing to joint assessments, operational planning, and donor engagement. Joint CRC–IFRC–CRF field missions have been conducted in the affected areas to support situation analysis, strategy refinement, and response monitoring. Through this collaboration, the CRF strengthens operational capacity, promotes complementarity within the Movement, and supports resource mobilisation efforts, ensuring a coherent, efficient, and well-coordinated Movement response.

### **ICRC**

The ICRC is present in Cameroon and focuses primarily on protection and humanitarian action in conflict-affected and insecure areas, particularly in the Far North. Its mandate includes the protection of affected populations, dialogue with parties to the conflict, and efforts to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and safe humanitarian access.

Within the Movement response, the ICRC contributes to security analysis, acceptance strategies, and humanitarian diplomacy, and provides the information that facilitates safe access for CRC and IFRC operations in volatile contexts. Close coordination between the ICRC, CRC, and IFRC is maintained to ensure coherence of Movement action, respect of respective mandates, and complementarity of interventions, particularly in areas affected by insecurity, displacement, and protection risks. This coordination supports principled engagement, risk mitigation, and the overall safety of staff and volunteers.

### **International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response**

International humanitarian actors are responding to the food insecurity, malnutrition, displacement, health, WASH, and protection needs in Cameroon under the coordination of OCHA through the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and sectoral clusters, while national and sub-national clusters support joint analysis, prioritisation, information sharing, and operational coordination.

UN agencies lead key sectors: WFP and FAO on food security and livelihoods; UNICEF and WHO on nutrition, health, and WASH; and UNHCR and IOM on refugee and displacement response, particularly in the East and Far North. International and national NGOs complement these efforts with targeted interventions and access to hard-to-reach communities. However, recurrent climate shocks, insecurity, displacement, and economic pressures continue to outpace available resources.

The Emergency Appeal will therefore complement ongoing efforts by leveraging the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's comparative advantage in community-based action, local access, and acceptance to reach underserved and high-risk populations. To strengthen complementarity and avoid duplication, the CRC, supported by the IFRC, will enhance internal and external coordination. The IFRC will contribute to the HCT, while the CRC and the French Red Cross will engage in local coordination forums and task forces. The CRC will also actively participate in the OCHA-led Food Security Cluster.

Through its auxiliary role, the CRC works closely with government authorities, including the Ministry of Agriculture, participates in National Disaster Committee meetings, and is considered a partner of choice. International NGOs and UN agencies (WFP, UNICEF, FAO, IOM, UNFPA), alongside the IFRC and CRC, coordinate their activities with the public authorities. All interventions are approved by the relevant government departments, represented locally by the Governor's Office and regional ministry delegations. The government-led technical working group ensures that urgent needs are addressed across all locations, with the CRC contributing actively to strengthen coordination and overall response effectiveness.

## Gaps in the response

Despite ongoing humanitarian efforts, current responses remain insufficient to match the scale, severity, and multi-sectoral nature of the food insecurity and vulnerability observed in the assessed localities. Evidence from the assessment highlights persistent gaps across food security, nutrition, WASH, livelihoods, protection, and community engagement, which continue to undermine the ability of households to meet their basic needs, protect livelihoods, and recover from recurrent shocks.

### Food Security and Cash-Based Assistance

While food and cash assistance are ongoing, current interventions remain insufficient in coverage, duration, and transfer value relative to the magnitude of needs. Assessment results show that 84 per cent of households have poor or borderline Food Consumption Scores, and 78 per cent experience moderate to severe hunger, indicating widespread inability to meet minimum food consumption requirements despite existing support. These gaps are particularly pronounced in Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga (Far North), as well as in Kadey (East), where repeated climatic and economic shocks have severely eroded household coping capacity.

The high dependence of households on markets further exacerbates these gaps. Sixty-eight per cent of households rely primarily on food purchases, while 68 per cent report having no food stocks, leaving them highly exposed to price volatility and income shocks. This situation is especially critical in urban and peri-urban areas of Maroua, Kousseri, Mokolo, and Bertoua, as well as in conflict-affected divisions where income opportunities remain highly constrained. Similar patterns are observed in parts of the North region, particularly in Benoue and Mayo-Louti, where poor households face high market dependence, limited income opportunities, and recurrent climatic shocks.

Market-based responses remain under-scaled and insufficiently adapted to seasonal and geographic variations. In flood-affected divisions such as Logone-et-Chari and Mayo-Danay, intermittent market supply and rising prices significantly reduce the effectiveness of cash-based modalities, reinforcing reliance on negative coping strategies.

### Nutrition

Nutrition responses remain significantly under-scaled relative to needs, particularly for children under five and pregnant and lactating women in food-insecure and displacement-affected areas. The assessment indicates that 71 per cent of households consume four or fewer food groups, reflecting critically low dietary diversity, with the most severe gaps observed in Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Kadey, where recurrent shocks and limited access to diverse foods converge. In the North region, gaps in dietary diversity and access to maternal and child nutrition services are also reported, particularly in Benoue and Faro, reflecting structural service limitations and household poverty.

Only 29 per cent of households report access to maternal and child nutrition services, highlighting major gaps in coverage and continuity. These gaps are most acute in remote rural areas and insecure divisions, including parts of the Far North flood plains where weak service availability and access constraints undermine early detection and timely response to malnutrition. Insufficient linkages between food assistance, community-based nutrition services, and behaviour change activities continue to limit the effectiveness of malnutrition prevention efforts.

### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Persistent gaps in WASH access continue to undermine health and food utilisation outcomes across all targeted regions. Only 62 per cent of households have access to improved water sources, 44 per cent use improved sanitation facilities, and 47 per cent report regular handwashing with soap, exposing households, particularly children and pregnant and lactating women, to recurrent disease and nutrition-related risks. These gaps are most pronounced in flood-prone divisions of the Far North (Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Danay), in structurally underserved divisions of the North (Mayo-Louti, Faro), and in remote and conflict-affected areas of the East (Kadey) where infrastructure damage, displacement, and limited service delivery persist.

WASH interventions remain insufficiently integrated with food security and nutrition responses, limiting their contribution to improved food security and nutritional outcomes. Seasonal flooding, contamination of water sources, and poor sanitation further exacerbate risks, particularly in Far North flood plains and low-lying areas. Current responses lack the scale, flexibility, and anticipatory focus required to address climate-related WASH vulnerabilities and reduce disease-driven malnutrition risks.

### Livelihoods Protection and Early Recovery

Livelihood protection measures remain limited and insufficient to prevent the erosion of household productive assets and coping capacity across the assessed regions. The assessment shows that 55 per cent of households exhibit high reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) levels, and 38 per cent have adopted stress or crisis livelihood coping strategies, including the sale of productive assets, consumption of seed stocks, and reduced expenditures on health and education. These patterns are particularly prevalent in the agricultural and agropastoral zones of the Far North (Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Danay) and the North (Benoue, Mayo-Louti), as well as in conflict-affected rural areas where repeated shocks have severely disrupted livelihoods.

Early recovery and livelihood restoration interventions remain under-funded and weakly linked to emergency assistance, limiting the ability of households to rebuild income-generating activities between shocks. As a result, households in recurrently affected divisions across the Far North, North, and East, remain trapped in cycles of short-term emergency assistance without sustainable recovery pathways, despite repeated exposure to climatic, economic, and security shocks.

### Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

Protection risks linked to food insecurity, displacement, and household indebtedness remain inadequately addressed across intervention areas. Displaced households (11.5 per cent of the sample) consistently present worse outcomes across food consumption, hunger, and coping indicators, confirming the strong link between displacement and heightened vulnerability. Women, particularly female-headed households, face compounded barriers related to safety, restrictive social norms, and unequal access to assistance, especially in insecure and hard-to-reach areas of the Far North, North, and East regions.

Needs assessments identify female-headed households, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees as the groups most exposed to food insecurity. Their structural economic vulnerability, combined with limited access to land, basic services, and humanitarian assistance, significantly increases exposure to protection risks.

To cope with food insecurity, the most vulnerable households resort to negative coping strategies with serious protection implications, including survival sex, reduced spending on health and education, and engagement in high-risk or exploitative activities. The groups most affected include female-headed households, pregnant and lactating women, women and adolescent girls, and boys, who face increased risks of violence, school dropout, sexual exploitation and abuse, and limited access to GBV and sexual and reproductive health services.

Furthermore, discriminatory social and cultural norms heighten the risk of exclusion from assistance for women and persons with disabilities. The inconsistent integration of protection risk analysis into targeting, modality selection, and delivery mechanisms increases the likelihood of exclusion errors and unintended harm, particularly for persons with disabilities, older persons, refugees, and displaced populations in areas with limited humanitarian access.

### Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Community engagement and accountability mechanisms remain uneven across the assessed areas. Information sharing on targeting criteria, assistance modalities, and timelines is inconsistent, contributing to confusion, unmet expectations, and reduced trust. Feedback and complaints mechanisms are not systematically functional or accessible, limiting the ability of communities to influence and improve the response.

Additionally, community feedback is insufficiently analysed and used to inform adaptive programming, reducing responsiveness to evolving needs and local priorities. Strengthening two-way communication and accountability remains critical to improving programme quality, acceptance, and effectiveness.

## **OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS**

The implementation of humanitarian operations in the targeted areas faces several operational constraints linked to context, access, and capacity limitations.

Access and security constraints remain significant across multiple regions, particularly in parts of the Far North (Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga) where insecurity linked to non-state armed groups and ongoing conflict restricts movement, disrupts markets, and limits the regular presence of humanitarian actors. In these areas, access remains unpredictable and requires continuous context monitoring, strong acceptance strategies, flexible operational planning, and specific clearance when the area is rated as red according to IFRC security colour code.

Climate-related constraints further affect implementation. Seasonal flooding, poor road infrastructure, and the isolation of communities, especially in Mayo-Danay and Logone-et-Chari (Far North), Kadey (East), and in remote NOSO localities, can delay the delivery of assistance, increase transport costs, and reduce market supply during the rainy season. These constraints necessitate anticipatory planning, contingency arrangements, and pre-positioning of inputs where feasible.

Market volatility and inflation pose persistent challenges to cash-based interventions across all targeted regions. Rapid price increases, particularly in market-dependent urban and peri-urban centres and conflict-affected areas of the North-West and South-West (NOSO) regions, may erode the purchasing power of assistance if transfer values are not regularly adjusted. Continuous market monitoring and adaptive transfer value setting are therefore essential to maintain the relevance and effectiveness of cash-based modalities.

Institutional and capacity constraints include limited coverage and functionality of basic services (health, nutrition, WASH, agriculture) in remote, flood-prone, and conflict-affected areas, notably in the Far North, North, and East. Heavy reliance on volunteer-based delivery systems further constrains scale-up capacity. While the CRC benefits from strong community acceptance and an extensive volunteer network, the scale and severity of needs exceed existing resources, requiring additional support to ensure duty of care, supervision, surge capacity, and sustained service delivery, particularly in high-risk and insecure environments.

These constraints will be mitigated through flexible and phased programming, regionally tailored security management, anticipatory and seasonal planning, strong coordination with local authorities and humanitarian partners, and regular market and context monitoring, enabling timely adjustments to modalities, targeting, and operational approaches as conditions evolve.

## **FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH**

The Emergency Appeal is part of a Federation-wide approach, based on the response priorities of the Operating National Society and in consultation with all Federation members contributing to the response. The approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy, will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and those funded domestically) and will assist in leveraging the capacities of all members of the IFRC network in the country, to maximise the collective humanitarian impact.

Within this Federation-wide framework, Participating National Societies (PNSs) contribute complementary technical and operational capacities, aligned with the overall strategy and coordinated under CRC leadership. In particular, the French Red Cross (CRF) is a key Movement partner in this operation and will lead and support the Nutrition component, in close coordination with the CRC and IFRC. The CRF's engagement will strengthen the quality, coverage, and technical coherence of nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions, including community-based approaches, integration with food security and WASH actions, and alignment with national nutrition strategies.

The Federation-wide approach promotes harmonised implementation standards, common approaches to PGI, (CEA, safeguarding, planning monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER), accountability, learning, as well as coordinated reporting under the Emergency Appeal.

To operationalise this approach, a Federation-wide coordination structure will be established, ensuring effective strategic oversight, operational coherence, and technical alignment across all components of the response:

- **Strategic Steering Committee** (monthly or as needed), chaired by the CRC Secretary General, with participation from IFRC senior management and CRC senior management and contributing PNSs, including the French Red Cross. The Committee will provide strategic direction, oversee risk management, guide humanitarian diplomacy, and ensure alignment with national priorities and Movement principles.
- **Operations Task Force** (bi-weekly or monthly), led by the CRC with IFRC operational support, bringing together sector leads, including Food Security and Livelihoods/Cash, Nutrition (with CRF technical leadership), Health, WASH, logistics, PMER, and support services. This forum will coordinate implementation, resolve operational bottlenecks, and ensure timely, coherent delivery of assistance.
- **Technical Working Groups** (as required), covering key thematic areas such as FSL/Cash, Nutrition, WASH, PGI/CEA/Safeguarding, Logistics, PMER/Information Management, and Security/Safer Access. These groups will harmonise tools and standards, support quality assurance, and strengthen learning and adaptive programming across Movement partners.

Federation-wide coordination will also support joint visibility, communications, and reporting, reinforce CRC leadership while recognise the technical contributions of Movement partners, such as the French Red Cross. Where relevant, coordination with the ICRC will be ensured in line with Movement Cooperation principles, particularly in insecure or conflict-affected areas.

After 31 August 2027, the response activities to this disaster will continue under the [IFRC Network Cameroon Country Plan for 2027](#). IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's actions. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while continuing to ensure that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

## OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Vision

Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC aims to support the Cameroon Red Cross Society (Croix-Rouge camerounaise – CRC) in assisting 330,000 people affected by food insecurity. The operation will deliver timely, integrated and protection-sensitive assistance, combining cash-based support, livelihood protection and recovery, nutrition-sensitive interventions, WASH, and community-based protection and engagement. Assistance will be needs-based, gender- and age-sensitive, and adapted to evolving risks, with the dual objective of meeting immediate food needs while protecting household assets and strengthening coping capacities.

Grounded in assessment findings, the strategy recognises that food insecurity in the assessed localities is primarily driven by economic access constraints and repeated shocks, rather than by a total collapse of markets. It will therefore prioritise areas and population groups facing the most severe food insecurity, including displaced households, poor host communities, female-headed households, children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and households with persons with disabilities in the targeted localities.

The response strategy focuses on saving lives, protecting dignity, and reducing immediate suffering, while simultaneously promoting early recovery by restoring essential services and strengthening long-term community resilience. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening livelihoods, a key driver of health, food security, economic stability, and the ability of households to withstand climate-related shocks.

In line with the findings of the CRC's community assessment report, the recommended interventions are prioritised and phased to ensure strategic coherence, operational feasibility, and an effective balance between immediate life-saving response, recovery, and the strengthening of anticipatory capacities as follows:

- **Phase 1:** Immediate life-saving response (0–6 months): This phase prioritises interventions aimed at protecting food consumption and preventing further deterioration among households experiencing severe hunger and relying on crisis or emergency-level coping strategies.
- **Phase 2:** Early recovery and anticipatory capacity strengthening (3–18 months): This phase focuses on reducing dependence on erosive coping strategies, supporting recovery between shocks, and strengthening the capacity of households to anticipate and mitigate future crises.

A stakeholder conference is planned for the third month of the operation to review the evolving situation and ongoing response, as well as to mobilise support for longer-term resilience-building efforts.

#### Priority sectoral interventions

- **Immediate food and economic assistance:** Provide rapid food and/or cash support to cover the essential needs of the most affected households, using modalities suited to market conditions, access, and security to reduce negative coping strategies.
- **Livelihood protection:** Deliver targeted assistance to safeguard productive assets (tools, inputs, small livestock) and prevent distress sales, helping households maintain minimal production and income during the crisis.
- **Nutrition and essential services:** Strengthen access, coverage, and continuity of nutrition and health services, especially for children under five and women, to reduce treatment delays and limit the risk of chronic malnutrition.

The response will emphasise cash-based assistance where markets are functioning, complemented by targeted in-kind or market-support measures where supply is unstable. PGI and CEA will be mainstreamed across all sectors to ensure safe, dignified, and accountable assistance.

The operation will be implemented through the Cameroon Red Cross's community-based network, supported by the IFRC and Movement partners, and coordinated with public authorities and humanitarian actors, while maintaining flexibility to adapt to evolving climatic, security, and market conditions.

#### National Society Strengthening

This Emergency Appeal will also reinforce ongoing National Society Development (NSD) efforts for the CRC, in line with the IFRC's National Society Investment Framework (NSIF), which designates the National Society as a priority for support. NSD activities under the Appeal will contribute to key areas of the CRC NSD Plan, including strengthened volunteer management and safeguarding, improved governance and financial systems, and enhanced transparency and accountability, critical elements for institutional resilience and for sustaining effective disaster response during the current emergency. NSD-related contributions within this Appeal will be managed and reported through the Emergency Appeal framework, while drawing on existing Capacity Building Fund (CBF) mechanisms for complementary support and long-term tracking of capacity strengthening results.

#### Anticipated climate-related risks and adjustments in the operation

The operational context in the Far North, North, and East regions of Cameroon is characterised by recurrent and increasingly severe climate-related hazards, including droughts, erratic rainfall, floods, and rising temperatures. These shocks continue to disrupt agricultural production, reduce pasture and water availability, damage infrastructure, and exacerbate food insecurity, malnutrition risks, and livelihood erosion, particularly during the lean season.

Climate variability is expected to persist throughout the duration of the Emergency Appeal, with a high likelihood of seasonal flooding affecting access to communities and markets, and dry spells further constraining household food production and income opportunities. These risks may affect both the severity of needs and the feasibility of operations, particularly in hard-to-reach and flood-prone areas.

To mitigate these risks and ensure continuity and effectiveness of the response, the operation will apply adaptive and climate-sensitive operational adjustments, including flexible programming approaches that allow for adjustments to targeting, geographic prioritisation, transfer values, and the timing of assistance in response to evolving climatic and market conditions. Seasonal planning will align cash assistance, livelihood protection, nutrition, and WASH interventions with agricultural calendars and peak risk periods.

The operation will also strengthen context, market, and climate monitoring, and, where feasible, establish linkages with early warning and anticipatory action mechanisms to enable early interventions that protect food security and livelihoods ahead of predictable shocks. Community engagement will be used to inform affected populations about seasonal risks and planned operational adjustments, ensuring transparency, acceptance, and responsiveness.

## Targeting

### People to be assisted

The operation will target households experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity, prioritising populations identified by the assessment as facing the most acute needs and the lowest coping capacity. Targeting will focus on high-severity divisions in the Far North, North, and East regions, particularly Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga (Far North region), and Benoue and Mayo Louti (North region), and Kadey and Lom and Djerem (East region), where poor food consumption, depleted stocks, high market dependence, and repeated shocks converge.

The operation will target 330,000 of the most affected people, representing 10 per cent of the 3.3 million individuals currently facing food insecurity. These 330,000 people will receive an integrated package of health, nutrition, water, and sanitation services. Within this group, 72,000 individuals will also receive direct livelihood support and basic needs assistance.

This includes 61,775 children aged 6-23 months and 855 pregnant and lactating women (PLW), alongside adults (men and women) reached through food security, livelihoods, WASH, protection, and community engagement interventions. The table below presents the regional and sectoral breakdown of the targeted population.

Targeted people by region:

Region	Children 6–23 months	PLW	Total people targeted
Far North	36,683	370	130,000
North	16,572	277	100,000
East	8,520	208	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,775</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>330,000</b>

Targeted people by sector:

Sector	Total people
Multipurpose Cash	72,000
Livelihoods	48,000
Health/Nutrition (Children + PLW)	62,631
WASH	330,000
PGI (mainstreamed)	330,000
CEA (mainstreamed)	330,000

**Note:** Figures presented by sector are not cumulative. WASH, PGI, and CEA are mainstreamed across the same targeted population of 330,000 people and should therefore not be added to other sectoral figures.

Based on the CRC's community assessment, priority will be given to the following population groups:

- Displaced households (IDPs and refugees) without access to cultivable land, stable income sources, or food stocks, particularly those reporting poor or borderline Food Consumption Scores, moderate to severe hunger (HHS), and reliance on crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies.
- Very poor host households with no regular income source and spending more than 75 per cent of total expenditure on food, especially those with no savings or productive assets and high reduced Coping Strategy Index levels.
- Female-headed households with high dependency ratios and no adult male income earner, particularly those relying on informal daily labour, borrowing, or asset sales, and reporting elevated debt burdens and reduced meal frequency.
- Children under five living in households with poor dietary diversity ( $\leq 4$  food groups) or moderate to severe hunger, particularly in divisions with a high prevalence of acute malnutrition and limited access to nutrition services.
- Pregnant and lactating women in households with inadequate Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) and limited access to maternal and child nutrition services.
- Households, including persons with disabilities or older people, without active income earners, especially where mobility constraints limit access to markets, agricultural land, humanitarian assistance, or health and nutrition services.

Selection criteria will be based on a combination of food security indicators (poor or borderline FCS, low dietary diversity, depleted food stocks), socioeconomic vulnerability, displacement status (including refugee status), and exposure to recent shocks.

In conflict-affected areas of the NOSO regions, where primary assessment data are limited, prioritisation will be informed by secondary data, protection risk analysis, and community-based verification, with targeted or rapid assessments conducted during implementation, subject to access and security conditions.

PGI and CEA considerations will be systematically integrated throughout targeting and implementation, ensuring safe, equitable, and dignified access for all priority groups, including displaced populations, refugees, women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons.

### Prioritisation

The CRC, with IFRC support, has an established operational presence across the Far North, North, and East regions, building on ongoing food security, cash-based assistance, nutrition, WASH, and community-based resilience programmes. This Emergency Appeal leverages existing delivery systems, volunteer networks, and logistics platforms to enable a rapid and scalable response in priority areas.

Given the evolving humanitarian context and funding uncertainties, the Operational Strategy is designed to be flexible and scalable, allowing for adjustments in geographic coverage, sectoral focus, and caseload in line with the resources mobilised and operational conditions. Priority will be given to interventions that leverage comparative advantages and proven implementation capacity, particularly food security and cash assistance, nutrition-sensitive programming, and community-based WASH.

### DREF grant deployed for immediate relief

A DREF grant was requested by the CRC and allocated for CHF 849,785. Through an operation update, the DREF support was scaled-up from the initial Assessment DREF to a full Response DREF. The objective is to provide immediate, life-saving assistance to approximately 92,600 people across the Far North, North, and East regions. Support will be delivered through cash grants to 2,100 households (12,600 people), complemented by integrated WASH, health, and nutrition services, as well as PGI and CEA components reaching 80,000 people. The Far North and East Regions are prioritised for multipurpose cash and livelihood support due to the convergence of high food insecurity levels, asset depletion, market functionality, and heavy displacement pressure. Functioning markets in the targeted areas make cash assistance appropriate to rapidly restore purchasing power and prevent further negative coping. Targeting will focus on households facing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity, with priority given to those exhibiting poor or borderline Food Consumption Scores, moderate to severe hunger,

high Reduced Coping Strategy Index levels, depleted food stocks, and reliance on erosive livelihood coping mechanisms.

### Strategic outlook for upcoming funding

Progressive engagement in conflict-affected NOSO areas (North-West and South-West) will be pursued based on secondary data and targeted assessments, subject to access and security conditions. The table below illustrates how sectoral and geographic priorities will be phased according to funding levels, without excluding other response areas.

% of funding	Food Security/ Cash Assistance	Nutrition	WASH	Livelihoods/ Early Recovery	PGI and CEA	Geographic focus/Priority localities
≤25%	X	X			X	Highest-severity divisions only: Far North (Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Sava), selected hotspots in the North (Bénoué) and East (Kadey)
25–50%	X	X	X		X	Far North fully covered (Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga) and priority hotspots in the North (Bénoué, Mayo-Louti) and East (Kadey, Lom-et-Djérem)
50–75%	X	X	X	X	X	Far North, North, and East (all assessed divisions) and initial engagement in NWSW, subject to access (Mezam, Bui, Meme)
75–100%	X	X	X	X	X	Full geographic coverage, including the Far North, North, East, and expanded response in NWSW (Mezam, Bui, Meme, Ndian)

### Considerations for protection, gender, and inclusion and community engagement and accountability


Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) principles will guide all targeting and implementation processes. Selection criteria and assistance modalities will be clearly communicated to communities through local leaders, CRC volunteers, and community committees to ensure transparency and manage expectations.

Special attention will be paid to minimising exclusion and protection risks linked to debt, social tension, or power dynamics. Community feedback and complaint mechanisms will be established or strengthened to enable people affected to raise their concerns safely and confidentially, and to ensure that assistance is safe, dignified, inclusive, and responsive to community priorities.

## PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC seeks to support the CRC in responding to the Food Security situation affecting Cameroon in 2026 in the following priority areas:

## INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

	<b>Livelihoods</b>	Female > 18: <b>14,400</b>	Female < 18: <b>10,080</b>	<b>CHF 2,003,824</b>
		Male > 18: <b>13,440</b>	Male < 18: <b>10,080</b>	<b>Total target: 48,000</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Protect and restore livelihoods of food-insecure households in shock-prone areas to reduce negative coping strategies, prevent further erosion of productive assets, and strengthen the capacity of households to recover between shocks.			

## Priority Actions:

Livelihoods support will prioritise the most vulnerable households to prevent negative coping strategies and asset loss, while providing seasonally aligned early-recovery assistance, such as vouchers, to help restart livelihoods. Access to essential agricultural inputs such as seeds and basic tools should be facilitated where appropriate, alongside promoting income diversification and climate-sensitive livelihood options to reduce exposure to recurrent shocks. Linking livelihood support with cash assistance will enable a smoother transition from consumption aid to recovery, while communities should be engaged in identifying priority needs and feasible pathways. The operation will use a shock-responsive early recovery approach, combining cash assistance and livelihood support, to identify and register the most vulnerable households using agreed criteria and secure systems, train staff on PGI and CVA, and ensure that PGI considerations are monitored throughout.

The intervention will support early recovery and livelihood protection for targeted households through a structured, group-based economic recovery approach informed by local market assessments. Targeted households will be arranged into 50 groups of 10 households each. Each group will be structured and legally constituted, with a general assembly, the opening of a secure association account with several signatories, and technical support for the development of business plans, financial education training, and regular monitoring of activities.

Each group of 10 households will receive a total of XAF 1,000,000 (Central African CFA francs) in support of strengthening the selected income-generating activity. An initial tranche of XFA 300,000 will be paid to launch these income-generating activities, followed by two additional tranches conditional on performance and monitoring results. This collective and secure approach will enable the sharing of benefits, improve household resilience, and ensure the economic and social sustainability of the implemented initiatives.

- Prioritise the most vulnerable households for livelihood protection support to prevent distress coping strategies and irreversible asset loss.
- Provide early recovery assistance (vouchers), aligned with seasonal calendars, to support the timely restart of livelihood activities.
- Facilitate access to essential agricultural inputs (e.g. seeds, basic tools) where feasible and contextually appropriate.
- Promote income diversification and climate-sensitive livelihood options to reduce exposure to recurrent shocks.
- Link livelihood support with cash assistance to enable a gradual transition from consumption support to recovery.
- Engage communities in identifying priority livelihood needs and feasible recovery pathways.
- Monitor livelihood recovery outcomes and adjust support according to seasonal and shock-related risks.



### Multi-purpose Cash

Female > 18: **21,600**

Female < 18: **15,120**

**CHF 3,713,968.80**

Male > 18: **20,160**

Male < 18: **15,120**

**Total target: 72,000**

### Objective:

Restore and stabilise access to food and essential basic needs for households facing severe economic access constraints through timely, adequate, and flexible cash-based assistance in areas where markets are functioning but unaffordable, to reduce acute hunger, prevent further asset depletion, and limit negative coping strategies.


## Priority Actions:

The project will deploy multi-purpose cash transfers (MPCA) to strengthen economic resilience and restore access to basic necessities for vulnerable households in the East and Far North regions. Each locality will receive targeted support for 1,000 households, with an average size of six people per household, receiving XAF 9,500 per person over three distribution cycles. The targeted population will receive the funds via secure RedRose cards, and all operations will be supported by a structured system comprising secure distribution site


set-up, training of volunteers on MPC Cash, fraud and corruption prevention, rigorous people targeting, as well as post-distribution monitoring and continuous market surveillance. This approach will not only ensure efficient and equitable distribution but also enable households to decide how to use the funds, respond to their immediate priorities, and strengthen their long-term socioeconomic resilience.

- Conduct vulnerability-based household targeting and secure registration in line with IFRC data protection standards.
- Build staff and volunteer capacity on CVA and PGI, including risk mitigation and accountability.
- Monitor PGI integration across all stages of cash assistance.
- Assess protection risks related to cash assistance and implement mitigation measures.
- Select and contract appropriate financial service providers (FSPs) based on accessibility, capacity, and protection risk analysis.
- Deliver MPCA to prioritised households in functioning markets.
- Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) to assess use, adequacy, timeliness, and protection risks.
- Integrate nutrition, WASH, and PGI sensitive messaging into cash delivery.
- Adapt distribution modalities, timing, and locations to mitigate protection risks. Modality selection will be informed by community consultation and reviewed through post-distribution feedback mechanisms.
- Monitor markets to inform transfer values, modality choices, and scalability.

## HEALTH AND CARE INCLUDING WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

	<b>Nutrition</b>	Female > 18: <b>855</b>	Female < 18: <b>30,888</b>	<b>CHF 500,400</b>
		Male > 18: <b>0</b>	Male < 18: <b>30,888</b>	<b>Total target: 62,631</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Prevent and reduce acute malnutrition and nutrition-related morbidity among nutritionally vulnerable populations, particularly children under five and pregnant and lactating women, by improving diet quality, promoting appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, and strengthening community-based prevention and referral linkages between food security, health, and nutrition services.			
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<p>Community-based malnutrition prevention will focus on early risk identification for children under five and pregnant and lactating women through regular screening by trained CRC volunteers and health workers, supported by strengthened referral pathways to ensure timely access to care. Assistance will reinforce the early identification of severe acute malnutrition through essential nutrition inputs and capacity-building for health workers. Key practices such as infant and young child feeding and maternal nutrition will be promoted through adapted counselling and community awareness, while nutrition actions will be integrated with food security, cash, and WASH interventions to improve dietary diversity and reduce disease risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop risk communication strategies in collaboration with nutrition partners and the Ministry of Health to communicate health risks, identify information gaps/needs, and address stigma associated with diarrhoeal diseases, malnutrition, and other health issues.</li> <li>• Engage with community members and groups in developing behaviour change and health promotion messages and materials.</li> <li>• Engage with different community groups and health service providers to identify areas for improvement within nutrition facilitates and services to ensure quality healthcare and equal access.</li> <li>• Support community-based prevention of malnutrition for children under five and pregnant and lactating women, focusing on early identification of risks and the prevention of deterioration.</li> <li>• Conduct regular community-based screening for acute malnutrition (e.g. MUAC) through trained CRC volunteers and community health workers.</li> </ul>			

- Strengthen referral pathways, follow-up, and coordination with health facilities and authorities to ensure timely access to appropriate care.
- Support early identification of severe and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM/MAM) through community-based screening by trained volunteers and community health workers, with timely referral to Ministry of Health-led clinical services in line with national protocols, and follow-up support to ensure continuity of care for referred cases.
- Strengthen the capacities of health workers and health facilities in the early identification of acute malnutrition, including training, on-the-job coaching, and supportive supervision.
- Promote IYCF and maternal nutrition practices through counselling and community awareness sessions adapted to local food availability and seasonal constraints.
- Integrate nutrition actions with food security, cash, and WASH interventions to improve dietary diversity and food utilisation, while reducing nutrition-related disease risks.
- Strengthen CRC staff and volunteer capacities on basic nutrition, community screening, referral mechanisms, and nutrition-sensitive programming, with technical support from the CRF.
- Coordinate nutrition interventions with health authorities and partners to align with national protocols and avoid duplication.

 <b>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene</b>	Female > 18: <b>99,000</b>	Female < 18: <b>69,300</b>	<b>CHF 889,600</b>
	Male > 18: <b>92,400</b>	Male < 18: <b>69,300</b>	<b>Total target: 330,000</b>

**Objective:** Reduce morbidity and nutrition-related health risks among food-insecure households by improving access to safe water, hygiene practices, and basic sanitation, thereby strengthening food utilisation and preventing disease-related deterioration of nutritional status.


**Priority Actions:**

This WASH intervention aims to improve health, hygiene, and well-being in vulnerable and at-risk communities by expanding access to safe water, promoting positive hygiene behaviours, and reducing sanitation-related risks. Working closely with community leaders and diverse groups, the approach supports practical, locally led solutions while providing essential household WASH kits containing water treatment tablets (aquatabs), soap, jerry cans, safe storage containers, and temporary water treatment options where needed. Trained volunteers and health workers will deliver targeted hygiene promotion, integrated with nutrition and food security efforts to reduce disease and malnutrition. The intervention also prioritises sanitation risk mitigation, adapts to seasonal and climate-related hazards such as flooding, and continuously monitors WASH conditions to ensure interventions remain effective and responsive.

- Work with community leaders and a diverse range of community groups to identify and support them in implementing local, practical solutions to improve positive hygiene behaviours.
- Improve access to safe drinking water through household water treatment, chlorination, and temporary water supply solutions where required.
- Distribute essential hygiene and WASH kits to targeted households, prioritising displaced families and households with young children and pregnant and lactating women. Kits will include soap, aquatabs, jerry cans, and basic hygiene items selected in line with IFRC standards and confirmed through community feedback prior to procurement.
- Deliver hygiene promotion through trained CRC volunteers and community health workers, focusing on handwashing, safe water storage, food hygiene, and child feeding practices.
- Integrate WASH actions with nutrition and food security interventions to improve food utilisation and reduce disease-related malnutrition. WASH volunteers will coordinate with nutrition screening teams to ensure that households with identified malnutrition cases receive concurrent WASH support.
- Support basic sanitation risk mitigation at the household and community levels, particularly in high-density and flood-prone areas.

- Adapt WASH interventions to seasonal and climate risks, including flooding and water contamination. An anticipatory approach will be applied in flood-prone divisions of Logone-et-Chari and Mayo-Danay (Far North) by pre-positioning WASH supplies ahead of the rainy season (June to September).
- Monitor WASH conditions and practices and adjust interventions as required. Post-distribution monitoring will be conducted after each kit distribution cycle, with findings used to adapt subsequent distributions and hygiene promotion messaging.

## PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

	<b>Protection, Gender, Inclusion</b>	<b>and</b>	Female > 18: <b>99,000</b>	Female < 18: <b>69,300</b>	<b>CHF 218,786</b>
			Male > 18: <b>92,400</b>	Male < 18: <b>69,300</b>	<b>Total target: 330,000</b>

**Objective:** Ensure that humanitarian assistance is safe, dignified, inclusive, and equitable by identifying, preventing, and mitigating protection risks associated with food insecurity, displacement, indebtedness, and negative coping strategies, while addressing gender-, age-, and disability-related barriers to access.

### Priority Actions:

The operation will strengthen community engagement, accountability, and protection by ensuring that all interventions address the specific needs of women, displaced people, and other vulnerable groups. Assistance will be delivered in a safe, dignified, and inclusive manner by identifying and mitigating protection risks linked to food insecurity, displacement, and harmful coping strategies, with attention to gender, age, and disability barriers. In addition, the response will promote women's leadership and empowerment through Mother Clubs and women-led platforms, creating safe spaces for dialogue, building skills, and meaningful participation in community decision-making.

### PGI mainstreaming

- Conduct a rapid PGI analysis to identify the specific needs of different population groups and adapt the response accordingly, while avoiding the reinforcement of pre-existing gender inequalities.
- Train staff and volunteers on PGI Minimum Standards, ensuring consistent application across all sectors and modalities.
- Ensure safe, dignified, and equitable access to assistance for women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and displaced populations through adapted delivery modalities.
- Develop and strengthen collaboration and partnerships with organisations defending the rights of women, persons with disabilities, and children.
- Promote meaningful participation of women, children, and vulnerable groups in programme design, implementation, and monitoring processes.
- Monitor protection outcomes using sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data (SADD) to inform adaptive programming and accountability.
- Support the WASH and nutrition sectors to develop inclusive communication on relevant WASH and nutrition issues.

### GBV and child protection prevention and mitigation risk

- Map, regularly update, and disseminate safe referral pathways for GBV and child protection services in coordination with the Protection Cluster and relevant working groups.
- Ensure timely referrals of identified protection cases to specialised protection and psychosocial support services, in close coordination with qualified protection actors.
- Provide dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls.
- Integrate key messages on children's rights, GBV, and referral pathways into nutrition-related awareness raising activities.

### Safeguarding (PSEA and child safeguarding)

- Train or refresh staff and volunteers on PSEA, child safeguarding, survivor-centred approaches, and safe referral mechanisms.

- Ensure all staff sign the code of conduct.
- In coordination with CEA, set up a confidential and safe referral complaints mechanism.
- Conduct a child safeguarding risk analysis and develop an action plan.
- Conduct a SEA programmatic risk analysis and develop an action plan.
- Integrate key messages on PSEA and complaint mechanisms into awareness raising.



### Community Engagement and Accountability

Female > 18: **99,000**

Female < 18: **69,300**

**CHF 255,760**

Male > 18: **92,400**

Male < 18: **69,300**

**Total target: 330,000**

#### Objective:

Ensure that affected communities are meaningfully informed, consulted, and able to influence the response through transparent, accessible, and responsive accountability mechanisms that strengthen trust, relevance, and the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance.

#### Priority Actions:

Based on the Movement-wide commitments on community engagement and accountability, the Appeal will ensure that all operations are shaped by community priorities by systematically gathering and analysing people's needs, concerns, and preferences throughout the programme cycle. Teams will actively involve community members in planning, decision-making, and monitoring to strengthen ownership and ensure that activities remain relevant and effective. Clear and accessible information is shared at every stage to build trust and support informed participation, while trusted feedback and complaints mechanisms, including safe options for sensitive issues, enable communities to raise concerns and influence adjustments to programming.

- Provide timely and clear information to communities on programme objectives, targeting criteria, assistance modalities, and timelines using appropriate channels and languages. Update information shared with communities based on evolving beliefs, fears, rumours, concerns, questions, and suggestions in communities.
- Establish accessible and safe systems to collect, analyse, respond to and act on community feedback, using preferred feedback channels identified with different community groups.
- Share community feedback trends with the National Society leadership and technical sectors to ensure that trends are discussed and used to inform and guide decision-making.
- Train staff and volunteers on CEA principles, effective communication, feedback and rumour management, and accountability.
- Promote meaningful community participation throughout the planning, implementation, and monitoring phases.
- Coordinate CEA approaches across sectors and Movement partners to ensure coherent messaging and accountability.



### Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery

Female > 18: **99,000**

Female < 18: **69,300**

**CHF 255,760**

Male > 18: **92,400**

Male < 18: **69,300**

**Total target: 330,000**

#### Objective:

Reduce the exposure and vulnerability of communities to recurrent climate-related and disaster risks by strengthening preparedness, anticipatory capacity, and local disaster risk governance in the most at-risk localities.


#### Priority Actions:

The approach aims to strengthen community resilience by improving disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and governance. It supports hazard and vulnerability assessments, reinforces inclusive community disaster

management structures, and enhances early warning and anticipatory action capacities. The approach also builds institutional skills, promotes disaster law and policy awareness, and advocates for stronger legal and financial frameworks to manage emergencies. Through close coordination with local authorities, these actions ensure that community preparedness aligns with wider disaster risk management systems.

- Strengthen community-based disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
- Conduct participatory hazard, vulnerability, and capacity assessments (HVCA/eVCA) in flood- and drought-prone communities.
- Establish or reinforce inclusive community disaster risk management committees.
- Develop or update community preparedness and contingency plans, including evacuation, early warning dissemination, and response roles.
- Enhance anticipatory and early warning capacities.
- Strengthen access to and understanding of early warning information at the community level, in coordination with relevant technical services.
- Support community-based anticipatory actions to reduce the impact of predictable shocks (e.g. floods, droughts, seasonal lean periods).
- Promote preparedness measures that reduce losses before shocks occur.
- Strengthen institutional capacity and disaster risk governance.
- Build the capacities of CRC staff, volunteers, and community structures on disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and preparedness.
- Promote disaster law and policy awareness to strengthen understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms at the community and local authority levels. This will be a joint initiative that would target technical officers in relevant public authorities.
- Advocate with relevant public authorities for the revision of existing DRR legislation relating to disaster emergency management.
- Promote policy revisions focused on the development and/or implementation of a dedicated disaster crisis fund.
- Support the strengthening of the legal base of the National Society in the DRM sector through relevant legislation.
- Strengthen coordination with local authorities to align community preparedness with local and national disaster risk management frameworks.

## Enabling approaches

	<b>National Society Strengthening</b>			<b>CHF 502,846.33</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Strengthen the Cameroon Red Cross Society's institutional, technical, and operational capacity at headquarters and branch levels to deliver safe, accountable, and high-quality emergency response services at scale, while ensuring duty of care, volunteer protection, and the sustainability of essential services.			
<b>Priority Actions:</b>				
This Appeal includes targeted capacity strengthening measures to reinforce the effective delivery of the current response. These actions build on ongoing NSD investments and align with the NSD plan and the IFRC's National Society Investment Framework priorities. The IFRC Delegation and National Society will work closely with the NSD units in the regional and Geneva offices.				
<b>Branch level – Strengthen National Society Disaster Management Capacity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen CRC branch and volunteer capacities for emergency implementation, supervision, and reporting across sectors.</li> </ul>				

- Upgrade and rehabilitate branch offices, storage facilities, and essential operational infrastructure in high-risk areas.
- Reinforce technical capacities in cash, nutrition, WASH, PGI, and CEA through coaching, on-the-job support, and joint field missions with the IFRC and CRF.
- Contribute to the construction of a fence and water well for the Yagoua branch of the Cameroon Red Cross Society.

#### **Volunteer, Youth, and Staff Development**

- Support volunteer management and duty of care, including safety briefings, insurance, and psychosocial support.
- Update and digitise volunteer registries with clearer role definitions and deployment procedures.
- Deliver training for volunteers and staff on emergency response, shelter, health, PGI, safeguarding, CEA, and DRR.

#### **Strategic Leadership and Coordination**

- Establish clear leadership roles within headquarters to oversee the Appeal.
- Enhance coordination, strategic positioning, and stakeholder engagement strategies.

#### **Digital Transformation**

- Support the National Society in scaling-up the deployment of digital data collection tools for assessments, registration of the targeted population, and monitoring.

#### **Information Management**

- Strengthen information management systems to improve transparency and operational oversight.
- Reinforce multi-sectoral and sectoral assessment approaches to improve response options analysis and targeting strategies.

#### **PMER/MEAL and Accountability**

- Strengthen institutional systems for planning, coordination, and reporting to ensure continuity beyond the Emergency Appeal.
- Strengthen results-based planning and reporting systems aligned with IFRC standards.
- Improve the timeliness and quality of narrative and financial reporting.
- Conduct regular operational reviews and after-action reviews at the branch and national levels.
- Organise lessons learned workshops to institutionalise continuous improvement.



### **Coordination and Partnerships**

**CHF 168,190**

#### **Objective:**

Ensure effective, coherent, and complementary humanitarian action through strong coordination within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and with external partners, aligned with national response mechanisms and humanitarian coordination structures.

#### **Priority Actions:**

Effective coordination is key to the CRC-led response. The IFRC and in-country PNSs provide tailored support under the Ways of Working approach, while the CRC engages the government, UN agencies, and humanitarian clusters to align efforts with national priorities and community needs. Movement cooperation is strengthened through regular coordination guided by the Seville Agreement 2.0, ensuring a unified and efficient response.

#### **Membership Coordination**

- Ensure strong membership coordination under CRC leadership, with IFRC operational support and CRF technical leadership for nutrition, to ensure coherent planning, implementation, and reporting across Movement partners.
- As part of the Federation-wide approach, the IFRC and in-country Participating National Societies support the CRC with technical, financial, and in-kind contributions based on their expertise. Coordination follows the Ways of Working approach, using established platforms to ensure a unified response, joint planning, and effective information sharing. The Membership Coordination in

emergencies (MciE) guidelines and toolkit will also be activated to support the coordination of this response.

- Facilitate Federation-wide data collection and reporting.
- Maintain regular coordination and sharing information with partners.
- Harmonise planning, monitoring, and reporting among IFRC members, with the National Society in the lead and coordinated by the IFRC.

### Engagement with External Partners

- Coordinate with public authorities at the national and sub-national levels to ensure alignment with national response frameworks, sectoral strategies, and referral systems.
- The CRC and IFRC collaborate with government ministries, humanitarian agencies, the cluster system, and coordination platforms to align interventions with national priorities, avoid duplication, and leverage technical expertise.
- Partnerships are strengthened through joint assessments, outreach to private and non-traditional donors, and advocacy to ensure that community needs are represented.
- Engage with UN agencies, NGOs and clusters, including active participation in relevant coordination fora (Food Security, Nutrition, WASH, Cash) to promote complementarity, avoid duplication, and facilitate referrals.

### Movement Cooperation

- Support humanitarian diplomacy efforts to facilitate safe access, acceptance, and complementarity of interventions, in line with Movement principles and cooperation frameworks.
- Ensure close coordination with the ICRC where present, particularly in insecure and conflict-affected areas of the Far North region, to ensure coherence of Movement action, respect of respective mandates, and safe humanitarian access, including through humanitarian diplomacy, where required.



**IFRC Secretariat Services**

**CHF 565,763.61**

#### Objective:

Provide technical, operational, and support services to enable effective implementation, oversight, and accountability of the Emergency Appeal.

#### Priority Actions:

To deliver a coordinated and impactful response, the IFRC and CRC are implementing strategic support measures. These include strengthening partnerships and resource mobilisation, enhancing risk management and logistics, and investing in human resource development. Communications are being scaled-up to boost visibility and manage reputational risks, while upgraded data systems enable real-time analysis and informed decision-making. Additionally, robust PMER frameworks will ensure accountability and track progress across all response levels.

### Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation (SPRM)

- Coordinate with RCRC partners, donors, and governments to support the Emergency Appeal, including pledge management.
- Develop high quality proposals and maintain regular donor engagement through updates, calls, field visits, and meetings.
- Strengthen partnerships locally and internationally to secure financial and technical support.

### Risk management

- Support the CRC in implementing coordinated accountability and safeguarding measures.
- Strengthen business continuity planning and track emerging risks with mitigation strategies.
- Regularly review and update the operational risk matrix.

### Logistics

- Provide logistics and supply chain support, including procurement oversight, market-based approaches, and transport planning adapted to seasonal and access constraints.
- Coordinate in-kind donations and support the CRC in supply chain management and timely delivery.

- Assist with procurement and bilateral logistics, including warehousing and mobilisation.
- Ensure compliance with IFRC standards, value for money, and effective coordination with partners.

#### **Finance**

- Strengthen finance and compliance support, ensuring sound financial management, donor compliance, and transparent reporting.

#### **Human resources – surge**

- Provide human resources support, including surge coordination, duty of care, and technical backstopping to the National Society.
- Build the IFRC's team capacity and promote human resource development across Participating National Societies.
- Mobilise global and regional surge personnel to reinforce the CRC's operations and coordination. The following surge deployment has already been confirmed (additional profiles may be deployed, based on the needs and requests of the CRC).

#### **Communications**

- Support communications and visibility, including internal and external communications, donor visibility, and dissemination of key operational messages.
- Develop a coordinated communications plan activated to support humanitarian diplomacy, increase visibility of needs, and highlight Red Cross anticipatory action and response efforts at the national, regional, and global levels. Communications activities will focus on advocacy with authorities and partners, donor engagement, and amplification of community and volunteer perspectives.
- Strengthen disaster data systems and real-time community insights through feedback mechanisms.
- Build the CRC's capacity in digital tools and data management for improved decision-making.
- Develop and implement a communications strategy for the worsening food insecurity crisis and response.
- Generate in-depth and success stories from the implementation of the Emergency Appeal, together with the CRC's response.
- Regularly promote the food insecurity response on social media and traditional media.

#### **IM and data analysis**

- Co-lead the multi-sectoral assessment and analysis to ensure evidence-based targeting and response option strategies.
- Maintain the dedicated IFRC GO emergency page with relevant key information and operational dashboards.
- Strengthen CRC capacities in Information Management technical competencies, including support for CVA, CEA, Operations, and Risk Analysis.

#### **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER)**

- Strengthen PMER and Information Management, including monitoring systems, post-distribution monitoring, data analysis, and evidence-based reporting.
- Support Federation-wide PMER systems to ensure accountability and guide programming.
- Conduct regular monitoring, mid-term, and final evaluations, and structured data collection.
- Develop and maintain a monitoring system for the operation, including an appropriate data-management mechanism (a centralised database to store and retrieve data).

#### **Security**

- IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. An area specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. All IFRC personnel must, and RCRC staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe 2.0 Global edition Levels 1-3.
- Insurance for volunteers involved in the operation should be ensured.
- Deploy a Security Delegate to conduct a security support mission and a joint assessment with the National Society in the implementation locations.

## Risk management

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Access and security constraints, particularly in insecure or hard-to-reach areas	Medium-High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous context and security monitoring</li> <li>• Strong community acceptance through CEA and humanitarian diplomacy</li> <li>• Close coordination with local authorities and, where relevant, the ICRC</li> <li>• Flexible planning and remote support modalities where required</li> <li>• Joint security and access assessment pre-deployment</li> </ul>
Market volatility and inflation reduce the effectiveness of cash assistance	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular market monitoring and price tracking</li> <li>• Use of jointly validated MEB to adjust transfer values and duration</li> <li>• Flexible cash modalities and scalability options</li> <li>• Strengthen feedback mechanisms and transparency in communications to reduce confusion and build trust in the community</li> </ul>
Operational delays due to logistics, seasonal access constraints, or supply chain disruptions	Medium	Medium-High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance procurement and transport planning</li> <li>• Use of local and market-based procurement where feasible</li> <li>• Contingency planning for seasonal flooding and poor road access</li> </ul>
Protection and safeguarding risks linked to cash and in-kind assistance (PSEA, GBV, exclusion, tensions)	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of PGI and safeguarding measures across all sectors</li> <li>• Adapted delivery modalities (timing, locations, processes)</li> <li>• Safe referral pathways and staff/volunteer training</li> <li>• Child safeguarding risk analysis and mitigation action plan</li> <li>• Ensure all staff sign the code of conduct</li> <li>• Conduct awareness raising on SEA</li> </ul>
Limited National Society capacity or volunteer fatigue during the prolonged response	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted capacity strengthening and technical backstopping</li> <li>• Duty of care measures, including safety briefings and psychosocial support</li> <li>• Surge and support from the IFRC and Participating National Societies</li> <li>• Take into account the capabilities of the National Security Service (SN) when planning</li> <li>• Train new volunteers</li> </ul>
Funding shortfalls or delayed funding affecting the scale and continuity of the response	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply prioritisation and a phased scalability approach</li> <li>• Adaptive programming based on available resources</li> <li>• Transparent reporting and donor engagement to support resource mobilisation</li> <li>• Expect a considerable delay between requests for fund transfers and the planning of field activities</li> </ul>

## Quality and accountability

The operation will apply IFRC quality, accountability, and safeguarding standards across all sectors, using a multi-sector Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) framework to ensure evidence-based decision-making, programme quality, and accountability to affected populations. Monitoring will track progress against defined outcomes and outputs using standard IFRC indicators, with a strong focus on food security, livelihoods protection, nutrition, WASH, PGI, and CEA. Findings from the food insecurity assessment will serve as the baseline for key Food Security and Livelihoods indicators.

### Key sector indicators

Indicator	Target
<b>Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Monitoring will focus on household-level food security outcomes, livelihood protection, and coping capacity, using standardised IFRC FSL indicators, including:</b>	
# of people meeting their essential food and other basic needs	48,000
% of people meeting their essential food and other basic needs (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability)	80%
% of people protecting key livelihood inputs and assets prior to and early into a disaster/crisis (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability)	75%
% of households employing no negative food-related and livelihood-based coping strategies (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability)	70%
<b>Cash-Based Assistance (IFRC CVA standards)</b>	
# of people reached with timely and relevant CVA to sustain consumption and production (disaggregated by sex, age and disability)	72,000
% of households reporting that cash assistance met their priority food and basic needs	90%
% of households reporting timely, safe, and dignified access to cash assistance	90%
% of households reporting appropriate (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability) use of cash assistance without increased protection risks	90%
Evidence from market monitoring indicating no significant negative market distortion effects	100%
<b>Nutrition (IFRC Health and Nutrition standards)</b>	
# of people (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability) reached with relevant nutrition messages	62,631
# people screened and referred for malnutrition	20,000
% of children under five (disaggregated by sex and disability) and pregnant and lactating women reached with nutrition-sensitive support	85%
<b>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (IFRC WASH standards)</b>	
# of people (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability) reached with relevant WASH messages	330,000
# of people (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability) reached with relevant essential household item kits	120,000
% of targeted households (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability) with access to safe drinking water meeting minimum standards	75%
% of people (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability) with access to essential hygiene items	75%
% of people (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability) demonstrating appropriate hygiene practices (e.g. handwashing with soap at critical times)	75%
<b>Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)</b>	
# of people (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability) reached by protection, gender, and inclusion programming	330,000
% of referrals made for survivors of a protection violation, via a common referral pathway	100%
% of staff and volunteers (disaggregated by sex and age) trained in PGI and safeguarding (PSEA), including referrals	100%
# of sectoral or PGI assessments conducted using PGI Minimum Standards	
<b>Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)</b>	
% of targeted communities receiving clear and timely information on assistance criteria, modalities, and timelines	95%
% of feedback and complaints addressed within agreed timelines	85%
Evidence that community feedback is systematically used to adapt programming and operational decisions	Quarterly

<b>Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEAL) approach</b>	
Baseline and endline with assessment findings serving as baseline values	2
Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) for cash and in-kind assistance, integrating FSL, protection, and market indicators	6
# of routine field monitoring using IFRC sectoral tools for Nutrition, WASH, PGI, and CEA	18
<b>Quality Assurance – Programme quality will be ensured through:</b>	
Systematic use of IFRC sectoral guidance, tools, and standard indicators across all components	100%
Regular field supervision, spot checks, and data quality reviews by CRC and IFRC teams	100%
Triangulation of quantitative monitoring data with qualitative insights from community feedback and field observations	100%
Continuous integration of community feedback into programme adaptation and decision-making	100%
<b>Safeguarding, PSEA, and Child Safeguarding</b>	
Development and implementation of a safeguarding action plan	100%
Completion of a Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis prior to implementation	100%
Systematic screening, briefing, and training of staff and volunteers on PSEA, child safeguarding, and survivor-centred approaches.	100%
Establishment of functional, confidential, and accessible reporting and referral mechanisms, integrated within CEA systems	100%
Provision of child-friendly, gender-sensitive, and inclusive information to communities, promoting awareness of rights, safeguards, and reporting channels	100%
Integration of safeguarding modules into all staff and volunteer training sessions	
<b>National Society Strengthening</b>	
Enhanced Branch and Volunteer Operational Capacity: Percentage of targeted branches and volunteers demonstrating improved readiness and operational performance across sectors (DM, WASH, cash, nutrition, PGI, CEA), as measured through capacity assessments and operational evaluations	95%
Strengthened Institutional Systems and Leadership for Effective Response: Extent to which National Society systems – leadership structures, coordination mechanisms, PMER/MEAL, information management, and digital tools – meet IFRC standards for accountability, transparency, and strategic oversight	95%
Improved Volunteer, Staff, and Youth Development and Duty of Care: Proportion of volunteers and staff adequately trained, insured, supported, and integrated into digital registries and deployment procedures, demonstrating improved safety, competence, and retention	95%
<b>Coordination and Partnerships</b>	
Strengthened Movement Coordination and Unified Planning: Degree to which the IFRC, CRC, and in-country PNSs implement harmonised planning, monitoring, and reporting processes under the CRC's leadership (measured through adherence to Ways of Working, MciE tools, and frequency/quality of coordination meetings)	95%
Effective Engagement with Government and External Partners: % of response activities aligned with national frameworks and cluster coordination mechanisms, as evidenced by participation in coordination fora and integration into government-led sectoral plans	95%
<b>IFRC Secretariat Services</b>	
Strengthened Coordination and Resource Mobilisation: % of required financial and technical resources mobilised through strengthened partnerships and donor engagement	95%
Enhanced Risk, Logistics, and Operational Management Capacity. Extent to which risk management, logistics, and financial systems meet IFRC standards, as measured through periodic compliance and performance assessments	95%
Improved Information, Data, and Decision-Making Systems: % of operational decisions informed by real-time data, consolidated analysis, and PMER/IM systems	95%
Increased Human Resource and Surge Readiness: Proportion of required surge and staff capacity deployed and performing according to established competency and duty-of-care standards	95%

Federation-wide risk management and safeguarding standards will be applied in line with IFRC requirements for medium- and large-scale emergency operations, ensuring safe, accountable, and principled humanitarian action.

# FUNDING REQUIREMENT

## Breakdown of the IFRC secretariat funding requirement



## OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### MDRCM042 - Cameroon Food Insecurity

#### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>8,346,000</b>
Livelihoods	2,134,000
Multi-purpose Cash	3,955,000
Health	533,000
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	947,000
Protection, Gender, and Inclusion	233,000
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	272,000
Community Engagement and Accountability	272,000
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>1,254,000</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	179,000
Secretariat Services	626,000
National Society Strengthening	449,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>9,600,000</b>

*all amounts in Swiss francs (CHF)*

## Contact information

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

### At the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC):

- **Secretary General** (or equivalent): Renauld Bodiong;  
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### For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Louise Daintrey-Hall, Head of Regional Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation; email: [louise.daintrey@ifrc.org](mailto:louise.daintrey@ifrc.org), phone: +254 110 843 978

### For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Global Logistics Services:** Allan Kilaka Masavah, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit; email: [allan.masavah@ifrc.org](mailto:allan.masavah@ifrc.org),

#### Reference



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- [DREF Ops Update](#)