



Volunteers raising awareness among beneficiaries at the Moula site

Appeal: MDRCM035	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 160,003	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Population Movement
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 3,031 people	People Targeted: 2,881 people	People Assisted: 2,881 people
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 05-09-2023	Operational End Date: 29-02-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 5 months

Targeted Areas: **Extrême-Nord**

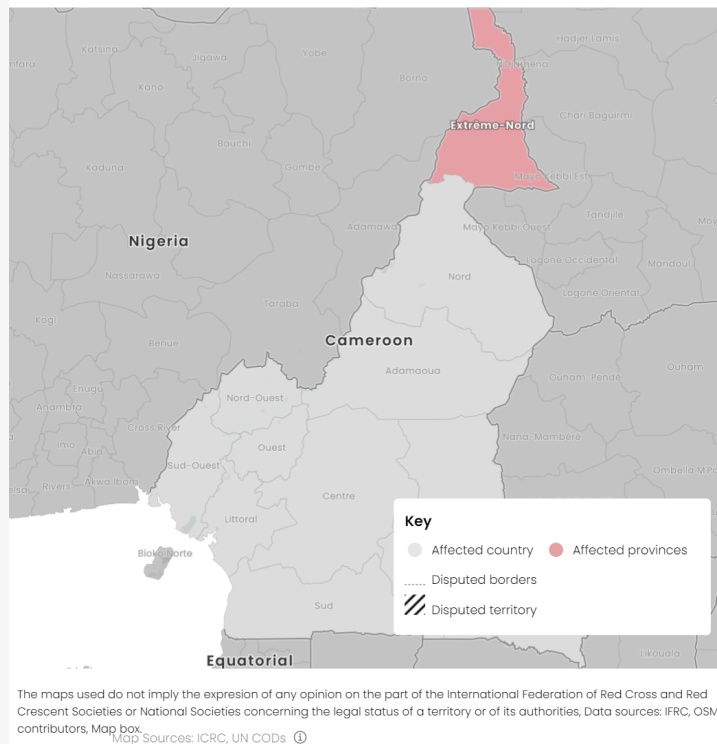
The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



+CIFRC

WRC: Population Displacement – 2023-08 – Population
Movement MAYO DANAY
16 août 2023



map from GO_Platform IFRC

Date when the trigger was met

24-10-2023

What happened, where and when?

On August 11, 2023, following heavy torrential rains, the protective dike along Logone River broke on the Chad side, causing heavy flooding in this area bordering Cameroon. Villages along the dike were completely flooded making the area uninhabitable for people. Fields, dwelling houses, livestock were destroyed. The most affected villages are Makaroua, Mirbidim, Mala and Pit-Arrey. Since August 12, these Chadian populations have gradually moved to Cameroon, which is more easily accessible, particularly in village of Moula, Maga district, Mayo Danay Department. Figures of the identification carried out by the administrative authorities show 346 households or 2,401 people affected. These figures could rise as people continue to arrive. These populations were welcomed and temporarily housed by the sub-prefect in the classrooms of public school of Lawaya and high school of Mourla.

On 3 October 2023, the Mayo-Danay department recorded the arrival of a new wave of people displaced by flooding in their localities in Chad. They settled in Cameroon in the neighbouring localities of Mourla Gobo and Mourla Gozom, as the Mourla Lawaya site was already saturated by the flood victims from August. As part of the coordination with OCHA and the humanitarian community, another multi-sectoral assessment of the needs of these new disaster victims was carried out from 11 to 14 October 2023 with partners such as the NGO Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Solidarités International, the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC), ADES and Tamoundé under the leadership of the Cameroonian RC in the settlement sites. A total of 499 new households were surveyed, including 434 refugees and 65 hosts.

On 24 October, a meeting was held with all the humanitarian partners involved in this disaster. Based on the assessment report published on 17 October, roles were reassigned, leading Cameroon Red Cross to this new strategy and target. This meeting is the trigger for this update.





Exchanges with beneficiaries as part of cash distribution



registration of beneficiaries

Scope and Scale

The report of the situation on August 14th, 2023, made by RC branch, stated that the populations arrive gradually and were welcomed by the authorities and the host populations. As soon as they arrived, the authorities housed the affected people in the building of Lawaya Public School and Mourla High School. The 346 households surveyed could not carry many belongings with them and therefore live in very precarious conditions that aggravate their vulnerability. As they live in the public school in Mourla, other resettlement areas have been identified in order to relocate them to free up classrooms ahead of start of the academic year in two weeks. The general observation that emerges is that victims live in precarious conditions: homeless, poor access to drinking water (they rely on untreated river water), only have a single latrine and very little food.

The report on the multi-sectoral assessment carried out from 11 to 14 October 2023 in the localities of Mourla Gobo and Mourla Gozom revealed that 434 affected households had experienced the complete destruction of their homes, the destruction of their fields, the loss of material goods and foodstuffs, and one case of death. 65 of these were host households that had taken in disaster victims, which is already putting pressure on already precarious household resources.

It should therefore be noted that the sub-division of Maga, which is hosting these disaster victims, is identified as an area at very high risk of flooding. With the rainy season currently in full swing in the Far North region, and with rising water levels, these people and even the host communities remain very exposed to the consequences of flooding, such as water-borne diseases, malaria and the destruction of plantations and homes.

The Maga District Committee has mobilised 23 volunteers and 03 supervisors in the field, who are continuing to monitor developments in the situation.

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>IFRC supports NS in the development of an emergency response plan and coordinates with other partners within and outside the Movement in this case ECHO and OCHA.</p> <p>Following discussions with ECHO on the relevance of Red Cross action after the positioning of International Solidarity, the Cluster carried out a rapid assessment mission in the Mourla localities with the Mayo Danay departmental Red Cross committee to get an effective update on the situation on the ground. This mission enabled discussions with displaced people and local authorities and a meeting with OCHA to improve coordination. The IFRC continued to take part with the National Society in various other coordination meetings on this crisis and provided support to the</p>
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	<p>Cameroon Red Cross in revising its intervention strategy in line with the new data from the field.</p> <p>Staff from the IFRC (CEA, Feedback and Wash) went on a field mission to support the SN in training volunteers, setting up community committees to help select beneficiaries, and arranging for materials to build wash facilities. This team provided support in terms of representation and coordination with other players such as OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR and other local NGOs, partners in charge of camp management and the RRM (Rapid Response Mechanism).</p>
Participating National Societies	French Red Cross, present in the Far North Region, has been informed of the situation by the NS. No action has been taken from CRF as part of this operation.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Although Maga is not in ICRC's areas of intervention, all information were streamlined to all partners, include ICRC as necessary and through the NS Secretary General. No action has been taken from ICRC as part of this operation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Coordination of the care of Chadian disaster victims was carried out by the administrative authority (Sub-divisional officer). On the early days of the arrival of the affected families, Cameroonian government distributed buckets, defecation pots and mosquito nets to the first 186 affected families.
UN or other actors	<p>A number of players supported the evaluation in each of their areas of intervention. The following organizations participated in the assessment : WFP, FAO, UNHCR, IOM, PUI; OCHA, UNICEF, CRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After the multi-sectoral assessment, UNICEF distributed some WASH equipment including 100 jerry cans, 60 boxes of soap, 40 boxes of 10,000 aqua tabs tablets each: 100 defecation pots for children, 100 buckets, 10 kettles. On the other hand, emergency latrine construction kits, i.e. 10 plastic tiles, 01 4/50-meter tarpaulin, 10 Belgian shovels, 10 picks, 10 round shovels were also distributed. - The UNHCR provided 150 NFI kits and 200 tents. - The AAEDC donated WASH kits. - The WHO distributed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral rehydration salts (10 boxes of 100 sachets), - Medical gloves (3 boxes of 1000 pieces), - 1 malaria kit (3 additional IEHK 2017 boxes, - Malaria modules: 1/3, 2/3 and 3/3); 1 IEHK 2017 kit, - Basic module for renewable equipment (2 boxes 1/1); 1 IEHK 2017 kit, Basic module for medicine (1 box), - Rapid cholera tests (10 packs of 10 tests), - Sprayers (2), - 12-litre buckets (50) and - 1 plastic drum of 120 litres). <p>ACF built 15 emergency latrines and rehabilitated 05 boreholes.</p> <p>Solidarité International distributed cash to disaster victims at the Mourla Lawaya site.</p> <p>The relief items went a long way to provide assistance to the vulnerable population and they could live dignified lives.</p>



Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

At the level of the Far North Region, various humanitarian actors through the different technical working groups (floods, food security and CWG) held 02 meetings and agreed on a joint multisectoral assessment. CRC has taken the lead for this evaluation led by DM person of the Mayo Danay divisional branch.

Coordination meetings on the floods were held, led by OCHA. It ensured effective coordination and adequate positioning among the humanitarian actors without overlap but also a successful coordination with the authorities and the mobilisation of additional resources.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

According to the multi-sectoral assessment report of 17 October, 87% of the households surveyed expressed an urgent need for shelter. They are living in tents in deplorable hygiene conditions, with some sleeping in the open. This leads to overcrowding in the various households, exposing them to disease and bad weather. These households have also lost their household equipment (mattresses, blankets, sheets, clothes, kitchen utensils, etc.). Unconditional cash distribution was found to be the main approach to cover the multisectoral needs the most dignified and effective way. Especially considering the existing support to shelter through distribution of shelter kits from UNHCR also provides dignified shelters for the most vulnerable persons. Any gaps could then be prioritized by families the most relevant possible.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The analysis of access to food was made based on food security indicators, the food consumption score (FCS), the survival strategy index (rCSI) and the household dietary diversity score (HDDS). The food security indicators for this assessment show that 84% of households surveyed have a low FC (≤ 28).

Indeed, most of these families eat less than one meal a day, forcing them to develop negative coping strategies. The food and nutrition challenges experienced by the communities were a high priority. In this context, with the rarity and challenge accessing adequate or minimum food ratio for the entire families or regularly, priority was mainly given to young children, while adults have to cope with the deprivation of meals.

There has been support from the host communities, but the solidarity of the host community couldn't meet the food requirement. Especially when these communities were passing through the dire period of the lean season for the Far North region. Affecting communities even in normal time and aggravating the food access challenges for both host and displaced communities. In this lean season which last up to August/September (with climate changes), family granaries and fields were practically empty, even without any crisis. The ongoing events represent an additional pressure to their available resources, capacity, food reserves and pressure to markets. As a consequence of the limited food reserves, granaries and a direct incidence of any lean season, there have been impact on the price of basic products on local markets.

However, according to discussions with OCHA and other partners, the Cameroonian RC will be redirecting cash support from livelihoods to household items and shelter, as initially planned because addressing these needs cannot be achieved with a single round of cash distribution, as planned within the DREF available budget.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Among the needs identified, access to water in terms of collection, treatment and conservation was one of the persistent challenges in the resettlement sites. The water points rehabilitated in the communities were not sufficient to meet the needs of the disaster victims. It was observed by NS branches that communities were getting their water from the Logone river, located at a reasonable distance (around 600m), and consume it without treating. This exposes them to waterborne diseases such as diarrhea or cholera. It is also the source for most of the need of these communities. Even if this could be associated to local practices, the displacement crisis and the cumulative vulnerabilities make the need of safe water more important than ever to avoid further harm.

In the Mourla-Gojom and Mourla Gobo sites, there was an urgent need for emergency latrines as the number of latrines available was

not covering the needs of the affected communities, thus leading to high level of open defecation. This posed an important risk given the main water sourced mentioned above.

Adequate sanitation facilities, awareness raising and access to safe water were key priorities to reduce the risk of an epidemic arising and in order to guarantee minimum hygiene conditions for disaster victims.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Cohabitation has been learnt from past similar context to be often difficult for the different groups called to leave in the same areas due to unforeseen circumstance. This is for both host and displaced communities. In this sense, awareness on the culture of peace was one of the priorities for all the groups to understand the situation and mitigate any risk of conflicts.

Also, with the presence of women and children under 5 years old it will be important that the shelters are sufficiently lit. The presence of these groups also called for specific attention in each sector on the protection elements and genders inclusion. These was highly considered on the diverse activities in the shelters, for the latrine construction or for the engagement and consultation with the communities. The gender and protection aspect were integrated in the WASH - latrine construction, ensuring the gender division of latrines as learnt from past project in Far north and as part of the cultural acceptance and local safety in the construction of emergency latrines.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Engaging communities was considered as an essential element for NS intervention. An integrated approach to community engagement all along the intervention was found as one of the priorities given that affected people need effective access to understandable, relevant and reliable information on the assistance and support available. As a key consideration of CEA, targeted communities needed to be involved in the decision-making processes from planning to the distribution and covering the acceptable quality and criteria that match their preferences, practices and updated needs. The community engagement was identified as an essential tool to be activated that will further enable a climate of trust with the communities, ownership of the operation, while promoting a culture of transparency, accountability and peace.

To manage any sensitivity and ensure the intervention remained aligned to the community, the satisfaction of the refugees and host community were to be constantly assessed before confirming any planning and delivery. There was also a need to track and record potential rumors to contribute to the early identification of potential risks.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This operation aimed to improve the living conditions of 300 households (261 displaced families and 39 Host families) in Maga and reduce the immediate risk for further harm to their wellbeing. The objective was to cover WASH assistance but also an unconditional cash that will help them access priority shelter needs and essential household items at the Mourla Gozom and Mourla Gobo sites for 6 months.

Given the positioning of other actors on the ground, the Cameroon Red Cross opted for direct assistance through unconditional and multi-sectoral cash transfers (AME and Shelter) to serve as a complement and well-coordinated intervention. In the same coordination approach, CRC second milestone on this intervention was the implementation of WASH activities through the construction of emergency latrines, the rehabilitation of boreholes and the installation of a water drainage system around the sites and awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices.

Operation strategy rationale

This operation was planned on the basis of information obtained during the O2 assessment missions carried out in the various sites of Mourla Lawaya, Moula-Gobo and Mourla Gozom under the coordination of OCHA. From the latest operational update, nothing was changed to the strategy. The response plan of the NS included the following intervention:

Cash assistance Target: 300 households.



The selected cash modality was delivered as unconditional and used as a multi-sectoral financial aid that effectively helped the communities on their updated needs and various priorities. Based on the assessment information, the cash served as a financial support for the vulnerable households and helped in responding effectively to their urgent needs, namely shelter and essential household items. Based on the amount agreed by the cash working group and the transfer value used in the Far North region, XAF 64,000 was transferred to each household head in a single transfer to meet the above-mentioned needs.

As part of its strategy to prepare cash activities, NS signed framework contracts with financial service providers such as MTN and Express Union, which have a presence in the region and are widely used by other players. However, as the majority of people affected do not have valid identity documents or mobile phones, the operation gave priority to on-site distributions via envelopes. Some security measures to accompany this were set-up to mitigate the risks related to distributing cash in envelopes:

- Identification of distribution sites were done with the support of the communities in collaboration with the authorities.
- Use of community volunteers and vigilance committees were enforced to ensure security on the site and to set up the site in an appropriate area.
- Beneficiary households were scheduled in groups of 50 or 100 to avoid overcrowding.
- Beneficiaries' awareness of the distribution process was raised.
- Briefing was done with the FSP on the distribution mechanism.
- Beneficiaries were informed 24 hours before distribution begins, depending on the site and the number of beneficiaries.

This aligned with the actions from other partners given the provided contexts.

WASH:

- To improve access to water and sanitation facilities, the operation planned and constructed emergency latrines (61 blocks of 2 latrines each), rehabilitated 02 boreholes and set up a water drainage system around the sites.

The emergency latrines were built from temporary materials. The soil structure of the various sites does not allow the latrines to be stable, so drums were planted inside the excreta pits while superstructures were made with wood and covered with tarpaulin. The slabs were made of hardwood and covered with tarpaulin to make it easier to clean. Each pit had a volume of approximately 2 m³, i.e. the superposition of two barrels. The bottom of the second latrine was also hermetically sealed to prevent water from rising up into the barrels (pit). With consideration of the PGI, there was gender segregation for latrines. Hence, NS worked in collaboration with the community for latrines construction separated into males and females. This ensured privacy and safety of the beneficiaries.

- Two boreholes were rehabilitated and improved the water supply for beneficiaries. A technical diagnosis was necessary and included in the plan to identify the defective aspect to repair on the boreholes. At the end of the repairs, the borehole was disinfected with chlorine. A water drainage system also was set up around the resettlement sites that drained all the rainwater around the camp and protected the latrines from overflowing.

Community Engagement and Accountability:

Engaging communities is essential for any humanitarian operation, and even more so for this type of intervention in a complex context. The aim was therefore to improve displaced people's effective access to understandable, relevant and reliable information on the assistance and support available. The NS approach was to ensure that humanitarian action is inclusive and incorporates the participation of displaced populations in decision-making processes. To achieve this, the NS did the following:

- Organized information sessions with the displaced population, the host community and the authorities to clearly explain the assistance modality, the beneficiary selection criteria and the overall operation.
- Set up a feedback mechanism to monitor the level of satisfaction, suggestions or complaints from the population and the host community, including the monitoring of actions and potential rumors, as well as the early identification of potential risks. This was to help identify areas for improvement and build a climate of trust with the communities, while promoting a culture of transparency, accountability and peace. Emphasis was placed on sensitive complaints.
- Information registers were deposited with the heads of the community committees that were set up in the localities in order to ensure an inclusive listening.
- Key messages about the assistance were produced and translated. These messages were broadcasted on prime-time programmes and during staff appearances on these programmes. These messages were also distributed via USB keys plugged into mobile speakers and broadcast during mass awareness-raising events and even door-to-door. Posters were produced to support these awareness campaigns.
- A newsletter was also planned and produced at the end of the operation to document the assistance and serve as wide visibility of the NS.



Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

This operation targeted and reached 300 households through the relief support essentially with cash and WASH services and assistance. In total NS reached in total, 10,459 people as direct and indirect beneficiaries. This included:

- 10,459 people reached with message delivery and the ones that had also access to the latrines and WASH services. This included local communities (2,354 men and 2,095 women) and 6,010 Chadian displaced persons (3,398 men and 2,612 women) aged 5 years and above.
- 2881 people (males=1152, females=1729) were reached by the relief distribution, representing the 300HH targeted. 261 affected Chadian households (1,827 people) and 39 host households (273 people).

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The operation target was based on assessment data coordinated with OCHA and focused on a selection of 300 HH most vulnerable.

- All 261 displaced households identified by the NS, representing 1,827 people.
- 39 households in the host community i.e. 273 people. targeted because of the impact on their livelihood and living conditions.

The selection of beneficiaries was done through the following criteria:

- Households living in resettlement sites,
- Households with a wife or child as head of household,
- Households with people with special needs,
- Households where the head of household has no income,
- Households that do not have a house made of good materials (acceptable),
- The marital status of the head of household (polygamous) or large families,
- The presence of several children under 5 years of age in the household,
- Number of pregnant and lactating women,
- The number of active persons,
- The number of meals consumed per day,
- Household/family facilities,
- Ownership of assets (livestock per capita by category, land, number of poultry, small/large ruminants,
- Access to land,
- Access to housing, and
- The state of the house in which they live.

A targeting committee was set up in the community. The committee reviewed the vulnerability criteria and established them as being fit for use. These vulnerability criteria were used in determining the most vulnerable households.

Total Targeted Population

Women	1,152	Rural	100%
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	0%
Men	1,729	People with disabilities (estimated)	5%
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	2,881		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
There was increase in the prices of basic needs including rice; oils; bread; milk etc was witnessed. - Risk observed.	Market price monitoring was done and as a result, this risk was controlled, and an alert threshold set (more than 10% of the



	initial price).
Inaccessibility of areas / impassability of roads in conflict-affected areas or in the rainy season _ Risk not observed.	CRC is present throughout the country and with its extensive network of volunteers, access will be easy.
Abuses related to cash distribution in resettlement sites _ Risk not observed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community sensitization. - Engagement of authorities, community leaders, communities, and stakeholders. - Including vulnerable people from the host community as beneficiaries in the project.
Limited acceptance of affected communities in the host community. Risk not observed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy is made with communities and leaders. - Host population and communities affected are sensitized on the culture of peace. - Include vulnerable people from the host community as beneficiaries in the project.
Discontent of non-beneficiaries of cash was raised by some community members. Risk observed.	- Sensitization on the selection criteria of beneficiaries was done with stakeholders and the community.
There were difficulties in accessing civilian documentation for displaced persons who were vulnerable and required assistance. Risk observed.	-Community targeting committee and complaints management committees were setup to help identify beneficiaries before and during distribution. This measure was put in place to select the right beneficiaries.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Security context in the Far North Region has been volatile for nearly a decade. Many conflicts between non-State armed groups and regular armies have been recorded. This situation makes the authorities and communities suspicious of the presence of people from neighboring countries affected by the conflict, especially since they have difficulty possessing identity documents.

In addition, the communal tensions in this part of the country recorded since 2021 has been another important factor that was consider in this context. Especially since it has just as involved the communities bordering these two neighboring countries. However, the tension between these communities and the influx of refugees did not post a significant threat during project implementation.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Implementation



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 33,438

Targeted Persons: 2,881

Assisted Persons: 2,881

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households receiving assistance in Cash	300	300
% of people who report that they used more than 50% of their cash for NFI& Shelter	70	23

Narrative description of achievements

Following community mobilization activities and coordination with other actors, the CRC met with authorities at both regional and local levels (Maga district and Mourla village). Discussions about the operation with these administrative and traditional authorities, humanitarian organizations, and communities allowed all stakeholders to fully understand and take ownership of the various activities to be conducted. After training the 20 volunteers and 6 supervisors in various aspects (Cash, Wash, CEA, PGI, data collection, code of conduct, etc.), visits were made to each community to establish community committees for beneficiary selection and complaint management, and to familiarize them with their roles and responsibilities. These committees assisted volunteers in targeting, which includes identifying and registering potential beneficiaries, conducting community analysis and validation of the assistance lists, and facilitating the communication of information from the community to the DREF team to improve the quality of our intervention.

This targeting of affected households led to the identification of 300 validated beneficiary households. The chosen method for this operation was cash distribution through an IMF (Express Union), which distributed cash on December 22 and 23 in Mourla Gozom and Gobo, respectively.

With the support of the IFRC, the Cameroon Red Cross distributed cash to 300 affected and vulnerable households, reaching 2881 (males=1152, females=1729) persons, including Chadian refugees and host communities living in Mourla, Gobo, and Gozom. Each household received a total amount of 64,000 CFA francs in a single round for multiple uses (according to their priority needs), with a total of 19,200,000 CFA francs distributed. Among the 300 households assisted (201 in Mourla Gozom and 99 in Gobo), there were 261 displaced households, including 167 women and 94 men, and 39 host community households, including 30 men and 9 women.

After each distribution at the various sites, a provisional reconciliation was conducted between the financial service provider and the CVA CRC/IFRC officials, leading to the signing of provisional reports by all stakeholders, followed by a final report at the end of the two distribution days. After this distribution phase, a PDM survey was conducted among the beneficiaries to measure satisfaction levels and identify strengths and weaknesses of the operation to improve future operations/interventions. This survey was also intended to help calculate the achievement level of certain indicators.

A PDM was conducted and revealed information on how cash was spent, 97% of beneficiaries used their cash for food, 79% for health, and 23% for shelter. It was observed that the indicator for the percentage of people reporting spending more than 50% of their money on NFI & Shelter, which was initially set at 70%, was actually 23% at the end. This was explained by the predominance of food needs over other expenditure categories. Additionally, beneficiaries did not necessarily purchase shelter kits but rather some NFI items such as mats, buckets, jerry cans, blankets, and straw, which constituted their priority needs at the time of receiving the assistance.

Lessons Learnt

During post-distribution monitoring, we noted the prevalence of food needs over other needs. This requires good coverage of food needs before satisfying other needs (Shelter, Health, etc.) and continues to encourage the multi-purpose and unconditional assistance style during our interventions, the objective being to provide assistance according to their priority needs at the time of reception.

Challenges

-In view of the recurrent documentation problems encountered during our interventions, it has been noted that errors can creep in during distribution if we don't find strategies to assist the real beneficiaries despite the similarity of names. The systematization of taking into account other complementary beneficiary data to facilitate their identification during distribution, given that they don't have identification documents, which is a primary means of identification, should be taken into account during targeting;

-Also, taking into account all eligible beneficiaries in one site to avoid frustrations would be ideal than assisting a part of beneficiaries in several areas;

-It would be advisable to continue to provide Multipurpose and unconditional cash to enable beneficiaries to meet their priority needs, especially at the time they receive this assistance;

-Given that the planned indicators are not always covered after evaluation of the implementation of activities and changing contexts, management and the IFRC should continue to lobby donors to be a little more flexible in achieving the indicators;

-The operational department will have to work harder to ensure good geographical coverage (100%) of the population's needs when drafting and planning the DREF;

-We need to take into account the amounts per type of assistance in advance (sector of intervention at the time of assistance) sized by the CWG (MEB). This will enable us to make a proper assessment based on the actual amount and sphere standards.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 48,923



Targeted Persons: 2,440

Assisted Persons: 10,459

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of the population using the latrines built.	80	100
% of the target population having access to drinking water.	80	100
% of the population who know how to name at least two ways of preventing cholera	80	100

Narrative description of achievements

The 23 volunteers and 03 supervisors mobilized for the implementation of the operation were trained on various WASH topics to conduct awareness sessions on good hygiene practices. During this training, the volunteers' capacities were strengthened, focusing mainly on home water treatment methods, the use of latrines, and personal and food hygiene. This training enabled reaching the entire affected population through focus groups and home visits during the operation.

In total, 10,459 people were sensitized on different topics, including 4,449 host community members (2,354 men and 2,095 women) and 6,010 Chadian displaced persons (3,398 men and 2,612 women) aged 5 years and above.

During the operation, 61 blocks of latrines (totaling 122 latrines) were constructed at various displaced sites and host communities. These latrines, located along the sanitation corridor, are segregated by gender (male/female) and ensure user safety. Combined with latrines built by partner organizations involved in the operation, they met the sanitation needs of the affected population.

Additionally, two boreholes were rehabilitated in the communities of Gozom and Mourla, improving access to clean water for displaced and host populations. The parts salvaged from these rehabilitated boreholes facilitated repairs on two other boreholes. In total, four boreholes were made functional during this operation.

As noted in the context of this DREF, displaced sites were flooded, necessitating drainage activities. However, as the rains ceased during the operation, surface water receded, reducing the need for extensive drainage canal digging. To maintain sanitation activities, the NS focused on weed clearing around the three sites. For this purpose, sanitation equipment such as wheelbarrows, rakes, machetes, hoes, boots, gloves, traditional cutlasses, and shovels were provided to the three sites. Volunteers and communities were engaged in this activity, which improved the living conditions of beneficiaries previously exposed to risks such as snake bites, malaria due to mosquito proliferation, and fecal-oral diseases from open defecation in tall grass.

Lessons Learnt

- The design of the latrines, with a shaft sunk into the pit, enabled the work to be carried out on schedule, as the sites were marshy, and the latrines could collapse at any moment.
- The use of volunteers with Wash pre-requisites enabled the operation to reach its targets with satisfactory results.

Challenges

- Access to the sites was difficult at the start of the operation, particularly for trucks carrying latrine construction materials.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 26

Assisted Persons: 26



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people trained in PGI	26	26

Narrative description of achievements

- As part of the PGI, the 23 volunteers and 3 supervisors involved in the project underwent training on PGI modules included in the training package. Additionally, awareness campaigns were conducted using image boxes specially crafted for this purpose with support from the IFRC PGI cluster lead.

Lessons Learnt

- During the implementation of this operation, strong awareness of gender protection and inclusion enabled the active participation of all social strata during the identification of beneficiaries.

Challenges

- The context in which communities live in the far north means that people (men and women) have to work separately, which made it a bit of a challenge to mobilize two or more groups each time in order to get the same message across.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 9,140

Targeted Persons: 5,879

Assisted Persons: 1,959

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of visits done for feedback collection.	16	16
% of feedbacks received and addressed.	100	80

Narrative description of achievements

Within the NS, CEA constitutes a crucial element in both emergency and development interventions. During this operation, CEA strategy elements were implemented to ensure a more effective intervention centered on beneficiaries, ensuring their full participation. In addition to training 26 volunteers, including 23 volunteers and 3 supervisors on CEA and feedback (comprising 6 women, 20 men, young people (girls and boys) identified based on their knowledge of the Red Cross Movement, residence, and mastery of the local language), the training lasted 5 days. Modules covered included the definition and importance of CEA, risk communication, behavior change communication, community feedback mechanisms, and feedback forms. Training was conducted by CRC officials using PowerPoint presentations, group exercises, and sharing of experiences.

The community was mobilized through door-to-door and face-to-face awareness campaigns from the onset of the disaster by the local CRC branch team. Once the DREF was approved, CRC and IFRC staff organized several meetings with humanitarian organizations to share all relevant information about the operation, better coordinate activities on the ground, and engage with administrative and traditional authorities at regional, departmental, and district levels up to the village of Mourla. In total, 1,911 individuals (901 men, 1,010 women, young people (girls/boys)) participated in these exchanges organized in women's and men's groups, FGDs (4), and community meetings (8), ensuring diverse gender and thematic representation throughout the operation.

The feedback and complaint management mechanism were established based on community preferences and realities. Volunteers were trained, and communities were informed about the mechanism during the conducted sensitizations. Feedback was collected weekly by

the CEA focal point of the operation, who analyzed the feedback and took measures to respond to communities, thereby improving the operation's quality. A total of 1,949 (males= 950, females=1019) feedback were collected, with an 80% response rate. Actions taken to address feedback included intensifying sensitizations, referring communities to the project team, and implementing field visits to collect and address feedback, totaling 16 planned field visits conducted during the operation. Two CEA reports were produced throughout this period.

Initially planned were four radio broadcasts with spot broadcasts in Mourla. However, operational staff from CRC/IFRC evaluated the situation and found that communities lacked radios and electricity in Mourla Gozom and Gobo sites. This activity was converted into additional sensitizations where 26 volunteers each conducted four extra visits beyond the initially planned 16 visits in the operation. They informed disaster victims and host communities about key messages validated by CRC and IFRC on WASH, Cash, and CEA, having a positive impact as all messages were translated into local languages by volunteers and explained in simpler terms comprehensible to communities.

Lessons Learnt

-The establishment of the CEA has greatly facilitated the implementation of activities in the field, with all stakeholders involved at every stage of the planned activities. The CEA has made it possible to redirect certain relevant activities for the benefit of the affected communities.

Challenges

-In order to facilitate better understanding and ownership by communities during emergency operations, it would be advisable to place particular emphasis on translating all key tools and messages into the local language from the outset of the operation; but also, to allow more time for the PDM during the planning of the operation.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 22,993

Targeted Persons: 26

Assisted Persons: 26

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of lessons learned workshops	1	1
Number of Surge deployed	1	1
Number of follow-up missions	3	3

Narrative description of achievements

The Yaoundé Cluster office provided both on-site and remote support for this operation. In this context, the CEA and Feedback Officer, as well as the Wash Officer, supported the National Society team during the first volunteer training mission. This mission strengthened coordination with local and administrative authorities, as well as other humanitarian partners.

For monitoring WASH activities related to the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes, the WASH Officer conducted another field mission to coordinate with cluster/sector WASH partners in the Extreme North region.

Another supervision mission took place with the project coordinator, the Cash Officer, and the CEA Officer to monitor ongoing work, discuss targeting with community committees, and coordinate with local and administrative authorities and humanitarian partners.

To support the effective implementation of Cash activities and further strengthen the capacities of National Society staff and volunteers, a surge cash was deployed to assist with cash distribution. A joint mission by the National Society with the surge and the cluster team facilitated the monetary transfer distribution activity, as well as the supervision of post-distribution monitoring and participation in the



lessons learned workshop. Specific support was provided to the 26 volunteers involved in the operation, as well as to the 13 Cash and CEA volunteers from Diamaré and 26 CRC staff responsible for CRC/IFRC operations related to Cash, PMER, CEA, logistics, and finance. Recommendations were made to improve the quality of our future interventions, with particular emphasis on data management from collection to archiving during CVA interventions.

Lessons Learnt

- At the end of this operation, it was clear that it would be important to continue strengthening the NSs through field support from the cluster (IFRC and Surge staff) to ensure greater ownership.

Challenges

In the context of this operation, a number of challenges were met in terms of secretariat support. These included:

- the deployment of the Surge (time taken by the SN to decide to deploy the Surge in view of its availability at the start of the operation), the delays in obtaining the entry visa to Cameroon and the Surge deployment period (close to the end-of-year festivities when special authorization was required from the Head of the Cluster Delegation and Security for its descent into the field) had a slight impact on the timetable for the implementation of activities.
- For a better positioning within the humanitarian coordination, it would also be necessary to shorten the procedures for validating DREFs and transferring funds to the NS in order to intervene as quickly as possible and at the right time in emergency situations, and to place particular emphasis on communication within the coordination.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 45,509

Targeted Persons: 26

Assisted Persons: 26

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of operational missions	3	3
# of insured volunteers	26	26

Narrative description of achievements

26 (males=12, females=14) community based volunteers were identified and trained to facilitate the implementation of activities. They were involved in all activities (targeting, awareness-raising, distribution, post-distribution survey, and lessons learned workshop).

To enable them to carry out these activities effectively in accordance with the RCRC policies, they underwent a five-day training covering various topics (CVA, WASH, CEA, PGI, code of conduct, fraud, data collection, etc.).

Three (3) supervision missions were conducted to ensure the proper implementation of activities (awareness-raising among stakeholders about the project, establishment of community committees, beneficiary targeting, cash distribution, WASH and Cash awareness by volunteers, feedback collection and complaint management, PDM, lessons learned workshop), as well as to ensure good coordination with other humanitarian actors and administrative authorities on the ground.

Through the lessons learnt organized, it was found that the Branches benefited greatly from this intervention. Local branches (volunteers and governance) in the Maga district of Mayo danay were also able to benefit from knowledge of the new themes addressed during the training sessions.

Lessons Learnt

The 26 volunteers mobilized during this operation who could speak the local language contributed greatly to meeting the objectives and successfully engaging the communities, which greatly facilitated the implementation of activities during the operation.



Challenges

- The fact that some volunteers did not have android phones made it very challenging for them to collect data on time. Therefore, mobile devices should be made available during training and data collection using Kobocollect.

Also, in view of the very short timeframe for implementing the DREF activities, it would also be important, when drafting and planning activities at central level, to make room for budget flexibility (budgeted timing) for a proper assessment of the situation when planning the operation before actually implementing the activities.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/09-2024/12	Operation	MDCRM035
Budget Timeframe	2023/09-2024/02	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 22/Jan/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDCRM035 - Cameroon - Population Movement

Operating Timeframe: 05 Sep 2023 to 29 Feb 2024

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	160,003
DREF Response Pillar	160,003
Expenditure	-149,871
Closing Balance	10,132

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	591		591
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	110,831	117,100	-6,269
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene		4,739	-4,739
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration		105	-105
Area of focus Total	111,422	121,944	-10,521
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	48,581		48,581
SF12 - Effective international disaster management			0
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC		27,927	-27,927
Strategy for implementation Total	48,581	27,927	20,653
Grand Total	160,003	149,871	10,132

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

IFRC allocated through the DREF pot CHF 160,003. CHF 147,066 were spent by the end of the intervention to achieve the above-described milestones. The balance of CHF 12,937 will be returned to the DREF pot. The overall unspent balance is the result of different balances per cost category. Explanations for each variance are summarized as below, noting that the national society report and execution is provided in annex of the consolidated DREF standard report.

- cost category 1 - variances explanation

- Personnel rate of consumption 71%, explanation the surge was finally deployed for two months rather than three months plan

- Other direct cost rate of consumption 90% explanation the staff mission in the field was reduce

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