



## CAMEROON: POPULATION MOVEMENT IN CENTRAL AFRICA

No. MDRCM001  
28 April 2006

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 35,000 (USD 26,944 or EUR 22,180) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months and will be completed by 26 July 2006; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 27 October 2006). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## **Background and current situation**



For months, the security situation has been growing increasingly volatile in Chad, which is a neighbouring country to the Far North province of Cameroon.

In December 2005, the Cameroon Red Cross Society<sup>1</sup> trained executives from all the divisional committees of the northern part of Cameroon on how to respond to cross-border population movement, with the support of both the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation for Central Africa and the Federation's Central Africa sub-regional office.

During last the weeks, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been experiencing a volatile situation and several militia attacks have been registered leading to population movements towards the neighbouring Cameroon. According to the Red Cross local committee in east Cameroon, more than 10,000 people have crossed the border at Goura Boulai. At the same time, the security situation

in Chad has deteriorated seriously and population movements into northern Cameroon (around the city of Kousséri) have started.

Mindful of the situation that is fast deteriorating in Chad and the inflow of refugees in Kousséri (Cameroon), which is the entry into the country from Chad and the fact that a similar situation is prevailing in the eastern part of Cameroon — which shares boundaries with the Central African Republic (this country has been experiencing a volatile situation for some time now), there is an urgent need to train volunteer first-aid workers of the Far North and East divisional committees of the Cameroon Red Cross Society on population movement management.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far**

The Federation regional delegation (Dakar) and the sub-regional office for Central Africa (Yaoundé) are monitoring the situation closely. The Yaoundé sub-regional office is coordinating with the ICRC and UN agencies and is developing a joint plan of action to respond to the needs.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society has mobilized its volunteers to assist the arrival of the refugees. The national society is carrying out an evaluation mission to assess the basic needs and the capacities of the volunteers and branches along the borders. The regional delegation is deploying a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member to assist the national society to train volunteers and coordinate with other agencies.

The planned activities are part of the contingency plan for cross-border population movements which the Cameroon Red Cross Society developed in early March through the assistance of the Dakar regional delegation.

## **Coordination**

Every action is being taken in close collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR). The following partners have promised to work with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the field: World Health organization (WHO), United Nation Children's Funds (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Cameroon government.

At Cameroon Red Cross Society level, actions are coordinated by the Kousséri divisional committee, which is the most exposed locality. The national headquarters of Cameroon Red Cross Society and the Federation's Central Africa sub-regional office have been maintaining permanent contact with the Kousséri divisional committee.

<sup>1</sup> Cameroon Red Cross Society- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=41>

## **The needs**

The immediate needs include building the operational capacities of the targeted divisional committees in the Far North and East provinces of Cameroon for immediate response.

The national society contingency plan includes training and equipment of emergency response teams in the border areas. The CHF 35,000 DREF allocation will enable the Federation to support training while the ICRC will provide basic equipment for the trained brigades. The Federation will continue to monitor the situation and reports on any changes in the needs of the refugees.

## **Plan of action**

**Objective: To build the operational capacities of the Far North and East provinces divisional committees of Cameroon Red Cross Society to respond to the population movements from Chad and Central African Republic.**

### **Activities planned to meet the objective:**

- Assessment missions (along the northern and eastern borders) to identify capacities and mobilize volunteers;
- Training of volunteers in the following committees and localities: Far North Province - Dammars (Maroua), Mayo-Kant (Kiel), Logone and Chari (Kousseri), Mayo Sava (Mora), Mayo Danay (Yagoua), Mayo Sana'a (Mokolo); East Province - Lom and Deer (Bertoua, Garoua Boulai and Kenzou), Kadéi (Batouri);
- Sensitising executives of the committees;
- Deployment of an RDRT member to assist the Cameroon Red Cross Society in training, capacity building and coordination of activities.

## **Strategy and implementation**

The activities planned within this preparatory phase will be carried out within two months with the participation of all Movement components (Cameroon Red Cross Society, ICRC and the International Federation) and other partners (e.g. UNHCR). The national society's role will consist of providing basic and immediate assistance to the most vulnerable as per its mandate and in line with contingency plan for cross-border population movements. These activities include first aid, health and hygiene awareness, distribution of food and non-food items, tracing as well as water and sanitation (WatSan).

*[Budget summary below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)*

**Cameroon: Population Movement in Central Africa; DREF Bulletin no MDRCM001.**

**Annex 1**

**Cameroon: Population Movement in Central Africa (Budget Summary)**

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Amount (in CHF)</b>
<b>Beneficiaries' needs</b>	
Medical and first aid materials	3,438
Other Supplies	3,875
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>7,313</b>
<b>Transport and storage</b>	
Transport and vehicles	1,500
<b>Personnel</b>	
Regional staff	5,500
National staff	1,626
<b>Workshop and training</b>	
Workshop and training	12,008
<b>Administrative &amp; general services</b>	
Travel	3,000
Other general expenses	1,017
Stationery	125
Communication	625
<b>Total (Without PSR)</b>	<b>27,687</b>
Programme support (PSR)	2,286
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>35,000</b>