



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - Storm

Date: November 18, 1981 (FY 82)

Location: Ngaragba section of the capital city of Bangui, and the village of Bimbo, about ten miles southwest of Bangui

No. Dead: None reported.

No. Affected: 900 people left homeless and about 50 people injured

Damage: Sixty-five houses were destroyed and another 110 sustained some damage. The electric system was affected, primarily in terms of broken utility poles and cables, and several fruit trees were uprooted. Damages were estimated at \$125,000.

The Disaster

On November 18, 1981, a severe storm hit the subprefecture of Bimbo, a village about ten miles southwest of Bangui, and the Ngaragba quarter of Bangui itself. In approximately thirty minutes, heavy rains and strong winds carried off the roofs of houses and destroyed 65 mud-brick homes. Approximately 265 families, or 900 people, were left homeless and some 50 people were injured.

Action Taken by the Government of the Central African Republic (GCAR) and Local Voluntary Agencies

Following the storm, Central African Republic (CAR) President Kolingba visited the disaster area. He then appealed to the international community for assistance and at the same time pledged five million CFA francs (US \$18,000) to assist disaster victims in repairing their homes and purchasing essential supplies. Each resident affected by the storm received 41,000 francs (US \$147) to purchase construction materials to repair damaged homes. However, it was reported that much of the relief money was used to purchase consumable items, leaving little to purchase roofing materials.

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The Central African Red Cross played the principal role in providing relief immediately following the storm and through the reconstruction period. Using a grant from the United States Government, the Red Cross purchased 200 blankets, 50 hurricane lamps, 10 tons of cement, 246 roofing rafters, 6,825 cubic meters of construction timbers, assorted clothing, cups and water glasses, soaps, and medical supplies. These items were distributed in February using a truck provided by the GCAR.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

In response to President Kolingba's appeal for assistance, the U.S. Ambassador made a disaster determination and notified the Central African Red Cross on November 19 that the United States would provide \$25,000 in disaster assistance. On December 2, this grant was made to the Central African Red Cross to purchase building materials needed to repair damaged homes and other relief supplies.

TOTAL \$25,000

Assistance Provided by the U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

Germany, Federal Republic of - contributed approximately \$13,000 to the CAR Red Cross.

Yugoslavia - provided school supplies for the children of affected families, valued at \$2,000.

TOTAL \$15,000

* Please note: the listings of assistance provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies and the International Community are compiled from reports submitted voluntarily to OFDA. It is not always possible to verify the accuracy of these reports, nor the dollar value of in-kind contributions. As a result, the total dollar values indicated in these sections should be taken as representative figures.