

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTHERN AFRICA: FOOD AID AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

28 February, 2003

Appeal No. 12/02

Launched on 2 May 2002 for CHF 6,803,000 for 12 months; revised 22 July to CHF 89,285,274 (USD 61.6 m/EUR 60.9m) in cash, kind and services to assist a minimum of 1.3 million beneficiaries for 12 months. Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000.

Operations Update No. 16; Period covered: - 28 January - 27 February 2003



Above: Zambia - TSP 6x6 M6 truck in extremely bad road conditions where commercial trucks are unable to pass.

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 61%

Summary: The overall response to the appeal has been very positive, and most operations are now well under way. A large number of beneficiaries are receiving food aid through the Southern Africa Food Security Operations, answering to the growing need for food assistance in the region. There are, however, deep concerns within the Federation and among other relief agencies about the food security situation among the most vulnerable people in Southern Africa, such as the large group of people infected or affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. With repeated crop failure in some parts of the region, the need for further food assistance will remain in Southern Africa. Especially households headed by

children and elderly, as well as families where working adults are ill because of AIDS will remain in need for continued food support and other humanitarian aid.

This operations update is designed to give an overview of all activities in the Southern Africa Food Security Operation on a monthly basis, focusing on the most recent developments. The Operations Update is intended to show what has been accomplished against each objective in the appeal as well as objectives that have been added to the operations during later stages.

Due to the complexity and size of the operation, the Operations Update cannot provide all the details for every activity, and for a more precise summary and overall statistics, readers are referred to the Operations Fact Sheet which is complementary to the Operations Update, updated on a monthly basis, and reflects in chart format the activities implemented against the objectives of the operations. The operations fact sheet and the operations update are available on www.ifrc.org and are both updated on a regular basis.



Above: Zambia - TSP long haul trucks in a convoy.

Changes in planned activities

Due to changing circumstances caused by the various factors that influence the food security in the region, there have been significant alterations to the planned activities of the Southern Africa Food Security Operation. Activities are expanding to cover an increasing number of beneficiaries and the Federation is hopeful that it will be able to adapt to changes in needs and secure the food security of an increasing number of beneficiaries. It has proven necessary to add a number of activities to the operations and targets for other objectives have been revised. Operations Updates attempt to articulate or clarify these changes as they occur.

Critical operational issues have been addressed in a recently carried out options assessment with the participation of technical experts from the Federation's Secretariat, the British Red Cross, and the Swaziland Red Cross. Findings from the assessment team and options for future programming will be discussed during a partnership meeting scheduled to be held in Nyon, Switzerland at the end of March, 2003.

Buffer stock

The applicability of a buffer stock has been re-assessed and all activities related to these objectives are presently

on hold. Buffer stock is unlikely to become necessary in the short term, and would involve additional expenses and administration to be successfully implemented. A continued need for a constant flow of food is expected for months to come, and existing pipelines have proved sufficient to ensure enough food supply for ongoing distributions. More detailed explanations of changes in plans regarding buffer stock can be found in operations update no 15.

Capacity building

The Southern Africa Food Security Operations have made it necessary for the operating national societies to recruit a large number of staff and volunteers, hold various training courses, open new branches and expand their office spaces, and purchase office equipment such as computers, phones, furniture etc. There are great demands on the mobility of Red Cross workers and volunteers and has made it inevitable to purchase new vehicles, motorcycles and mobile phones etc. New staff and volunteers need Red Cross training and often other types of professional instruction before they can contribute to the over all capacity of the national societies in Southern Africa.

The long term affects of drought and HIV/AIDS

The Southern Africa Food Security Operations are scheduled to end in July 2003, and there are signs that the harvest of 2003 will be significantly better than last year in many regions. Some regions have, however, been hit by severe droughts or floods and there are alarming signs that in these areas the disaster will not be finished at the end of the period of operations. The HIV/AIDS pandemic that has been steadily spreading over the past years has a growing impact on social structures, among them agriculture. The people who are at greatest risk of dying from the disease belong to the most productive generations, which deprives households of the main supporters of families and the work force of society in general. A very serious reduction in the productive population of southern Africa is now having a deep impact on food security in the region. A part of the long-term approach needed to address the food security situation in southern Africa is the commitment to AIDS/HIV prevention and treatment as a part of long-term operations.

HBC programmes as the most effective means of reaching the most vulnerable

The Federation activities are focusing on the need to assist the people who are most vulnerable to the present situation, and have the least means to provide food for themselves and their families. The Southern Africa Food Security Operation is closely linked to existing Red Cross programmes in the region, most notably the home based care programmes and health clinics. Through these existing structures the Federation has been able to reach many of the most vulnerable people in society, especially the large number of people living with AIDS, who were already receiving valuable care and social support before distributions of food started through the Food Operation. General food shortages in the community affect people living with AIDS more than those who are healthy and able to work. The food assistance is now in many instances the only means of nutritional support that many are able to get.

Although there are signs that agricultural outputs will improve, this will only to a very limited extent benefit the large numbers of people living with AIDS who are unable to work and have no means of purchasing food. In the long run this growing group of vulnerable people has no hope of complete recovery, and will remain in need of food support from one source or another.

Unless there is a continuation of the Southern Africa Food Security Operations, a large number of vulnerable people will lose their means of support by July, as many of the most vulnerable will remain unable to earn an income or plant their fields. The food crisis in Southern Africa is a long-term problem, and the short-term impact of the present food support will only to a limited extent have an impact on the ability of beneficiaries to cope with continued shortages. Making the already existing Red Cross home based care structures in Southern Africa serve as foundation for a long term approach could, however, turn out to be one of the most effective approach by humanitarian actors to address the severe difficulties faced by people living with AIDS in the region. Eventually adding the increased food component to the home based care programme as medium or long term assistance may greatly enhance the effectiveness of the care and support that is already being provided through the extensive network of Red Cross volunteers in Southern Africa.

This and other operational issues have been addressed in an options assessment recently carried out, and the findings will be discussed during the partnership meeting scheduled to be held in Nyon, Switzerland at the end of March, 2003.

Providing sustainable assistance through agricultural inputs.

Included in the Southern Africa Food Security Operations is the distribution of seeds to impoverished farmers in the countries of operations. After repeated crop failures as the result of drought, many families have depleted their financial resources, and are not able to purchase seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs necessary to produce enough food. The situation is often exacerbated by the impact of HIV/AIDS, as working adults have often died from the disease, or are unable to work, eliminating the possibility of earning a salary by working for others.

The distribution of seeds and fertilizers by the Federation has enabled many farmers to plant fields that would otherwise not have been used due to lack of resources. A continued drought situation is, however, having an impact on these families, and the beneficiaries of agricultural starter packs may in many cases need further assistance.

In response to the climate changes and the resulting lack of water, the Federation has initiated extensive irrigation initiatives, providing irrigation pumps to affected farmer communities and assisting in the construction of wells and dams. Irrigation enables farmers to avoid the risk of crop failure caused by insufficient rains, making it much safer to depend on high yield crops such as maize. Due to the extreme poverty in the region, and the high toll that HIV/AIDS is still taking on the most capable generations, irrigation is, however, unlikely to serve but a part of the vulnerable farmers in the region. Using irrigation systems requires not only skills but also capital, as well as higher incomes to meet the cost of maintaining them. Such assistance is therefore not applicable to individual households with limited working or financial capacity, such as families headed by elderly or children.

In designing sustainable assistance for impoverished rural households, it is important to plan for the period following the end of the present operations, in order to secure that established projects can be sustained by communities or individual farmers. Developing and sustaining advanced farming techniques such as irrigation may not be easy for households with limited resources. In those cases a simpler approach may be needed, for example growing other crops that are less vulnerable to the dry climate, such as cassava or sorghum, thereby greatly reducing vulnerability in case of drought. Such changes may, however, prove difficult to implement, as the present farming and food culture is deeply ingrained in the lifestyles of Southern Africa. Maize is the preferred food staple in the region, and farmers are not necessarily eager to change.

The agricultural starter packs that have been distributed through the Southern Africa Food Security Operations are designed to provide farmers with an opportunity to start their production again and to become independent of assistance in the long run. The success of the starter packs remains, however, dependent on a favorable climate. Repeated serious drought threatens to place many beneficiaries in the same position as before the assistance, and further agricultural support is likely to be needed after the end of these operations in July 2003.

Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation projects included in the Southern Africa Food Security Operations address the difficult access to sufficient clean water in many parts of the region. Access to good water is one of the most important factors in reducing the risk of contracting the many diseases caused by the consumption of impure water. There have been several cholera outbreaks in the region since the beginning of the operations, accentuating the importance of addressing water related problems. It is important to combine water and sanitation initiatives with other projects belonging to the Southern Africa Food Security Operations in order to maximize the impact of food distributions. Low nutrition levels are combined with general vulnerability and susceptibility to infectious disease. Diarrhoea, which is mainly caused by unclean drinking water, is one of the main reasons of death among children under five, and the lack of food has weakening effects on children's resistance against disease.

Water and sanitation activities are now being implemented in Zambia, Zimbabwe and plans are being finalized for

Malawi, where implementation will start in March. Water and sanitation activities included in the operations have been partly revised from the original plans that are outlined in the appeal, and a number of projects has been included. The revised activities are reviewed in this operations update, and more precise details are available in operations fact sheet no 3.

Telecommunications

In large operations such as the present Southern Africa Food Security Operations, covering activities in 5 large countries, telecommunications are a very important part of securing the effectiveness of co-ordination and implementation of food distributions and other projects. Much of Southern Africa has limited transportation and communications systems, which makes it vital to establish and maintain functioning HF and VHF radios in Red Cross vehicles and operations bases, both for security reasons, and also to enable effective co-ordination and administration of the complex activities.

The telecommunication delegate based at the OMCC in Johannesburg has finished installing and programming HF and VHF radios in many of the most important locations and vehicles. Between the 28th of January and the 21st of February the delegate traveled to Zambia where he visited TSP (transport support package) workshops and Federation offices in Chipata, Choma, Lusaka, Livingstone and Maamba. The delegate installed and programmed a number of HF radios in vehicles and offices, and trained staff in using the equipment. The vehicles that needed HF radios are mainly Toyota Land-cruisers, belonging to the Federation, the national society, and the Netherlands Red Cross which is involved in bilateral activities that are a part of the Southern Africa Food Security Operations. Other vehicles where HF radios have been installed are Land-Cruisers that are a part of the Federation's Transport Support Package. VHF radios, which have only a short range, were also installed in several vehicles and at Federation locations. Several handsets have also been taken into use and the delegate has provided training for their utilization.

There are still several outstanding tasks in Zambia regarding installation of both HF and VHF radios in Zambia, and delays in deliveries of the equipment are the main hindrance to implementing radio installations. In March the telecommunication delegate will complete the outstanding issues regarding installations and programming of HF and VHF radios, as well as training staff in the use of the equipment. A large number of radios will also be installed in Malawi and Lesotho, including a number of HF, VHF and VHF handset radios. Finally a HF Pactor enabled radio may need to be installed at the Federation's Operations Management and Co-ordination Centre in Johannesburg in South Africa.

LESOTHO

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure secure transportation of food from the main warehouse to distribution points, and to ensure timely and fair distribution to the targeted households.

WFP food w

As a part of the Southern Africa Food Security Operation, the Federation aims at providing WFP food to 103,000 beneficiaries in Thaba Tseka and Mokhotlong districts in Lesotho through general food distributions in the country. Beneficiaries are selected by the Lesotho Red Cross and the Federation according to WFP criteria, and the food is distributed by the Lesotho Red Cross. Each family receives a monthly ration consisting of 50 kg of maize, 5 kg of beans and 2 litres of vegetable oil.

During the first months of the operations, the Federation was confronted with various obstacles caused by late arrival of funds and bureaucratic obstacles to importing food items into the country. The first distribution round of WFP food in Lesotho started at the beginning of October, reaching 27,899 beneficiaries from 7,597 households in Mokhotlong in the first distribution round. Subsequent distribution round in November reached 38,512 beneficiaries belonging to 8,871 households in the same district. In December distributions reached 35,145 beneficiaries in 9,266 households. The fourth distribution round commenced on the 13th of January, targeting 35,777 beneficiaries belonging to 9,166 households.

Food distributions in Berea w

Distributions of Federation-resourced food to 3,000 HIV/AIDS affected households in Berea have been added to the appeal target. A ration of 50 kg maize meal, 5 kg beans and 2 litres of vegetable oil will be distributed on a monthly basis for 6 months starting in January 2003. As the HIV/AIDS situation is severe in Berea and the district is not part of the area that is targeted with distributions of WFP food it has been included in the distributions of food from the Federation. The German government through the German Red Cross funded the purchase of food rations containing oil and beans for 3000 people for 6 months and maize for 3 months. DFID through the British Red Cross contributed funds for the purchase of the remaining 3 months rations of maize needed for the food operation in Berea.

First distribution round of general food distribution in Berea district was planned to take place between the 27th of January and the 14th of February. Approximately 1,900 households received basic food rations in this first round. The second distribution round is scheduled to start in March and cover a total of 3,000 households.

WATER AND SANITATION

To improve the availability of safe water and sanitation to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of food distribution.

Included in the appeal targets for Lesotho is the rehabilitation of reticulated systems, construction of 17 springs, latrines for 1,000 families and schools, training of 160 volunteers and vector control. These activities are presently on hold, while the LRCS is currently implementing an EU funded water and sanitation project.

CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen the operational capacity of the LRCS to respond to the food insecurity situation.

The appeal aims at providing the Lesotho Red cross with a number of resources necessary to ensure the capacity of the national society in the food security operation. A number of important activities have already been fully implemented. The Berea LRCS branch and the LRCS HQ will receive one Toyota pickup truck each, and the Mokhotlong LRSC branch has already received 2 Nissan pickup trucks that will be used for monitoring and other activities related to the food security operation, and a Red Cross divisional office was officially opened on the 30th of November in Thaba Tseka district. A logistics co-ordinator has been recruited for Berea LRCS branch. On the 15th of January a re-training course was conducted for volunteers in Berea district. 47 volunteers attended the course. In January 5 mobile phones and 3 desk top computers were purchased for the Lesotho Red Cross logistics staff in Berea district.

NON-FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Reacting to the needs of severely impoverished farmers in Lesotho, the distribution of agricultural starter packs to almost 19,000 vulnerable families was included in the operations.

In November 8,996 vulnerable farmer households received a ration of 15 kg of maize seeds through the Federation in Mokhotlong and Butha Buthe districts. Out of the 4,996 families in Mokhotlong who received maize seeds, 4,500 also received a hoe and a spade each.

From the end of November until the beginning of January, 10,000 families in Berea and Leribe districts each received a ration of 20 kg of maize seeds and 50 kg of fertilizer. The same 10,000 families will also receive hoes, which were planned to be distributed in February. The distribution of starter packs in Berea and Leribe districts was conducted through bilateral co-operation between the German Red Cross and the Lesotho Red Cross.

MALAWI**GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

General food distribution of food donated by USAID and WFP started in Malawi in July, targeting the districts of Rumphu, Karonga, Chitipa, Nkhonakota and Ntchisi. There were subsequent distribution rounds in August and September, and detailed statistics for these first three months will be available soon. 80,000 people will be targeted (Revised down from 108,000 beneficiaries, which is the number stated in the appeal), but in the first distribution rounds the beneficiary numbers are lower. New beneficiaries are gradually added to distribution lists.

A total of 23,017 households received a basic ration in distributions in October. 1,364.55 MT of food, maize (1,143.80 MT), pulses (112.52 MT), and corn soy blend (108.23 MT) were distributed in the districts of Chitipa (2,817 households), Karonga (3,840 households), Rumphu (5,520 households), Nkhonakota (7,200 households), Ntchisi (3,640 households). The food was donated by WFP.

General food distributions by the MRC in November covered a total of 25,031 beneficiaries with a basic WFP ration. In total 1,439 MT of food, that is maize (1251.55 MT), pulses (103.71 MT), and corn soy blend (84 MT) were distributed in the districts of Chitipa (3,191 households), Karonga (4,080 households), Rumphu (5,640 households), Nkhonakota (7,000 households), Ntchisi (4,920 households). The food was donated by WFP.

The general food distributions in December covered a total of 20,095 households with a basic WFP ration. The amount of food that reached beneficiaries through general food distribution in December amounted to a total of 1,447 MT. The food assistance included maize (1,076.05 MT), pulses (169.12 MT), and corn soy blend (32.78 MT). The food was distributed to beneficiaries in the districts of Chitipa (3,191 households), Rumphu (5,640 households), Nkhonakota (7,200 households) and Ntchisi (4,920 households).

General food distributions by the MRC in January covered a total of 24,664 beneficiaries with a basic WFP ration. The food was distributed in the districts of Chitipa (3,191 households), Karonga (4,043 households), Rumphu (5,640 households), Nkhonakota (7,200 households), Ntchisi (4,590 households). The food was donated by WFP.

The general food distribution in Malawi that is included in this appeal is carried out by the Malawi Red Cross through bilateral co-operation with the American Red Cross.

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION / SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING

To ensure secure transportation of food from main warehouse to distribution points, and to ensure the timely and fair distribution to targeted households, namely child-headed and female-headed households, as well as the elderly and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Starting in January, 5,000 orphans and people living with HIV/AIDS will receive supplementary food rations to improve their nutritional situation. The monthly ration for each beneficiary will consist of 10 kg of maize flour, 2 kg beans, 3 kg corn soy blend, 500 ml vegetable oil, 1 kg sugar and 500 g salt. The distributions will be conducted through the home-based care programme in the districts of Mwanza, Balaka and Lilongwe and are expected to continue for five months

WATER AND SANITATION

To improve the availability of safe water and sanitation to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of food provision

A number of water and sanitation activities are now planned with funding from the FEDERATION. Most of these activities have been added to the operation after the launch of the appeal and other targets have been revised from the original plans.

Water and sanitation activities in Malawi are planned to commence in March and continue until July. Targets consist of rehabilitation of hand pumps, drilling of boreholes and installation of hand pumps and wind pumps. Activities also include construction and distribution of 'SanPlat' latrine slabs to vulnerable households, construction of latrines at schools/health centres. Included in the operations are also several different training initiatives for Red Cross Staff and volunteers. These consist of training of national society management as well as

operation and maintenance of hand pumps, and training of pump mechanics. Hygiene promotion also forms a part of the operations and a number of hygiene promoters will be trained to undertake this task.

The rehabilitation of 100 waterholes has been planned through bilateral co-operation between the Malawi Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.

CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen operational and response capacity of the MRCS to carry out the operation.

Proposals are being prepared concerning the rehabilitation of 2 MRCS branch offices. 4 motorcycles and 12 bicycles are already being purchased. Totally the purchase of 8 motorcycles is being planned for 8 districts in Malawi as a part of improving operations related transportation for staff and volunteers in RC branches such as facilitating monitoring and on site administration of distributions.

Construction of one warehouse and 2 branch offices for Lilongwe and Zomba branches is being prepared and drawings were expected to have arrived on the 15th of January. Dates for start of construction have not been finalized. Proposals for the construction of 8 new branch offices are being prepared.

2 Toyota Hi-lux 4x4 pickup vehicles were purchased for the Malawi Red Cross HQ. The vehicles arrived in the country at the end of November, but they have still not been delivered to the MRCS due to bureaucratic obstacles. One 7 ton truck will also be purchased for the MRCS.

A Malawi Red Cross programme assistant has been hired on a 6 months contract, in order to facilitate planning and implementation of activities related to the food security operation. The assistant started operating on the 1st of December.

NON FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of seeds and agricultural tools to improve the 2002-2003 harvest season to 150,000 beneficiaries in targeted areas of Chikwawa, Mchinji and Nkhhotakota for the 2002-2003 harvest season.

Through bilateral co-operation between the Malawi Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, agricultural starter packs were distributed to 45,000 families in Chikwawa and Mchinji districts. The starter packs contained each 10 kg of maize seeds, 10 kg of fertilizers, and one hoe or spade. Distributions of these starter packs were finished in November.

Distributions of starter packs to another 41,585 families in Lilongwe 11, Ntcheu, Phalombe and Mwanza took place between the 1st of November and 15th of December. The provision and distribution of agricultural starter packs was carried out through bilateral co-operation between the Malawi Red Cross and the German Red Cross. Distributions exceeded the original target of 40,000 beneficiary households.

Proposals for providing 210 irrigation treadle pumps to poor farmers in Muzuzu, Salima and Machinga districts in Malawi have been prepared and are awaiting approval. The irrigation programme has been re-designed to reflect long term development objectives and has changed to some degree from the original plans. The pumps are funded by the Federation and the selection of beneficiaries is being prepared. Other activities related to irrigation are included in this proposal.

SWAZILAND

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure a continuous support of approximately 45,000 beneficiaries for a period of four months with basic food items.

In August 19,500 people in the districts of Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselveni received a monthly ration of 12 kg of

maize, 1.8 kg beans and 0.75 litres of oil per person. The food was donated by the WFP and distributed by the Swaziland Red Cross.

In the second distribution round that took place between the 10th of September and the 15th of October, 23,853 beneficiaries in 3,150 households received the same rations of maize and oil, but beans were not available. The second distribution of WFP donated food by the Swaziland Red Cross took place in Manzini, Hhohho, and Shiselweni districts.

The third distribution in the same districts took place between the 20th of October and the 18th of November. In total 24,422 beneficiaries in 3,738 households received assistance. 342 MT of food were distributed in the four districts of Mancini, Hhohho, Shiselweni and Nkwene.

The fourth distribution round with basic WFP donated food took place between the 10th of December and the 7th of January in the districts of Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni. 55,753 beneficiaries received food assistance, which exceeds the appeal target of 45,000 beneficiaries

A new assessment was conducted in areas not covered by the WFP donated food, and distribution to 27,000 new beneficiaries was planned to start in February 2003. The estimated quantities of food that will be distributed in the first distribution of Federation-resourced food in February amounts to 648 MT of maize, 97.2 MT beans, and 40,500 litres of vegetable oil. Distribution of the Federation funded food is planned to continue until July, with the same ration size as in distributions of WFP donated food. Distributions are carried out by the Swaziland Red Cross.

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To provide nutritious food supplements to the under-fives and to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Some 6,000 school children and 10,000 malnourished children have been identified through weight monitoring in Red Cross clinics in the districts of Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni. (The number of children has been raised from the original target of 5,000 malnourished children) The children receive supplementary rations of CSB (corn soy blend), amounting to 9 kg per month. Distribution of the rations started in November. This project is implemented through bilateral co-operation between the Swaziland Red Cross and the German Red Cross.

Also through bilateral co-operation between the same partners is the distribution of food baskets to 1,500 people living with HIV/AIDS. (The number of beneficiaries has been raised from the original target of 700 home based care clients.) The beneficiaries, who are clients of the HIV/AIDS home based care programme, were planned to receive each a monthly ration of 12,5 kg maize meal, 5 kg beans, 3 kg sugar, 0.5 kg tea, 2 litres oil, 0.5 kg salt as well as basic hygiene items such as soap and toothpaste. 10 kg of corn soy blend are also included in each parcel. First distribution was planned to take place in Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni through the Red Cross clinics in these areas, starting in December. These targeted food distributions are estimated to continue on a monthly basis until June, and are carried out by the Swaziland Red Cross through bilateral co-operation with the German Red Cross.

NON FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Disaster rehabilitation of subsistence farmers by the provision of seeds and fertilizers and basic drug availability in clinics in Red Cross operation areas.

Through bilateral co-operation between the Swaziland Red Cross and the German Red Cross, distribution of basic drugs to 20,000 HIV/AIDS affected people is being conducted through the home based care programme and Red Cross clinics in the country. The drugs, funded by the German Red Cross, consist of 45 medical kits containing basic drugs according to WHO standards. The kits were delivered to the three Red Cross clinics in the districts of Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni. Deliveries were finished by the end of August

Through co-operation between the Federation and the Swaziland Red Cross, the distribution of agricultural starter

packs for 5,605 drought affected farmer households. Distribution took place between the 20th of January and the 2nd of February. The starter packs contain 10 kg beans seeds, 5 kg cow pea seeds, and 50 kg of fertilizer, and distributions were carried out by the Swaziland Red Cross in the districts of Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni.

CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to increase the capacity of the national society to deal with the increased work load combined with the Southern Africa Food Security Operation, the Federation has included the purchase of 1 Nissan 9 ton truck into the operations. The truck arrived on the 19th of December. A reporting and monitoring assistant started in November, and there will be training for national society staff who are dealing with the logistics, finance and distribution in connection with the operations.

ZAMBIA

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure secure transportation of food from main warehouse to designated distribution points and ensure the timely and fair distribution to targeted households

General food assistance in Zambia in the original appeal targeted 21,200 beneficiaries of government donated maize in Zambezi and Chavuma districts of whom 11,800 people received assistance in November. General food distributions were later greatly expanded with the addition of contributions from WFP, and from November to January a total confirmed number of 66,572 beneficiaries in Zambia had received assistance through general food distribution. Total confirmed beneficiaries of general food distribution in January distributions were 54,772 (WFP donated food) and due to increasing food donations from the WFP, the beneficiary number is expected to rise to more than 80,000 in February.

Distributions of WFP donated maize in Zambia started in January. The distributions were previously planned to start earlier, but complications related to the GMO issue, as well as logistics and administrative constraints, caused a delay in this aspect of the operations. Totally 54,772 beneficiaries received WFP donated food through the first distributions that took place in January in Zambezi (35,759 beneficiaries) and Chavuma (19,013 beneficiaries, excluding pre-positioning for 3,051) districts through the Zambian Red Cross.

The February distributions of WFP donated food will include a greatly expanded number of beneficiaries in the districts of Chavuma, Zambezi, Kasempa, Kabompo, Mufumbwe, and Mwinilunga. The planned ration size is unchanged, with each person receiving a basic WFP food ration of 12 kg of maize per month.

The Zambian Red Cross is also distributing food donated by the Zambian government for the districts of Chavuma and Zambezi. Of the 21,200 beneficiaries targeted with government donated food, a confirmed number of 11,800 people had received their assistance in November. The rations were the same as in distributions of WFP donated food in the districts.

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure that HIV/AIDS infected and affected people and malnourished children under five years have access to nutritious food supplements.

The total appeal target for the targeted food distribution in Zambia has been revised to 112,000 beneficiaries, although this target is likely to be exceeded. The food assistance targets HIV/AIDS infected and affected people and malnourished children under five years with a monthly ration of 3.6 kg beans and 10.5 kg maize per month (the maize was added to the target from December). This provides the beneficiaries with a daily supplementary food ration of 120 g beans, and 350 g of maize.

Federation-resourced food

Following the revision of operations targets 60,000 beneficiaries (HIV/AIDS affected people, elderly, orphans,

home based care clients and their families) in the districts of Kapiri Mposhi, Maamba (in Sinazongwe), Livingstone and Choma will receive food supplements purchased directly by the Federation. Distributions are carried out by the Zambian Red Cross with support from the Federation.

Over 8,500 beneficiaries received assistance in the first distribution round in November. 4,850 beneficiaries in Livingstone district received the supplementary food assistance, 2,543 in Maamba (Sinazongwe), and an estimated 1,153 people in Kapiri Mposhi. These first distributions contained only beans, as the maize component was not added until December.

Close to 26,000 beneficiaries are estimated to have received supplementary food rations in the second round of targeted food distribution that took place in December in the same districts. 13,286 beneficiaries in Livingstone, 5,873 in Mamba (Sinazongwe) and an estimated 6,722 people in Kapiri Mposhi received assistance.

A confirmed number of 40,830 beneficiaries received totally 575.7 MT of food in the third round of targeted distribution that took place between the 14th and 30th of January. 15,990 beneficiaries in Livingstone, 9,820 in Maamba (Sinazongwe), 5,473 in Choma and an estimated 9,547 in Kapiri Mposhi received assistance in the third distribution round that took place in January.

In the fourth distribution round of FEDERATION food in February 61,028 beneficiaries are planned to receive totally 860.5 MT of supplementary food rations. 23,808 beneficiaries in Livingstone district, 11,520 in Maamba (Sinazongwe), and 8,000 in Choma, and 17,700 in Kapiri Mposhi. The planned beneficiary numbers for February exceed the target of 60,000 people planned to receive FEDERATION donated food.

ECHO funded food through bilateral co-operation between the ZRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross, together with Belgian Red Cross (Flanders Section)

The total targeted food distribution through the Southern Africa Food Security Operation is planned to cover in all 112,000 beneficiaries in Zambia. Out of these, 26,500 HIV/AIDS affected people and malnourished children less than five years old will receive 333.3 MT of ECHO funded food through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross, together with Belgian Red Cross (Flanders Section). First distribution is planned to begin in February and subsequent distributions are estimated to continue until July. The ration is the same as in other targeted food distributions in Zambia through this operation, with beneficiaries receiving 3,6 kg of beans and 10.5 kg of maize each month. The food will be distributed in the districts of Choma (3,000 beneficiaries), Maamba (in Sinazongwe)(6,500 beneficiaries), Kalomo (6,500 beneficiaries), Livingstone (8,000 beneficiaries), and Kazungula (2,500 beneficiaries).

Food funded by the Belgian government and the province of Vlaams Brabant through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross, together with Belgian Red Cross (Flanders Section).

Also included in the targeted food distributions to a total of 112,000 beneficiaries in Zambia is the distribution of Belgian government funded food through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross, together with Belgian Red Cross (Flanders Section). The assistance funded by the Belgian government is planned to be distributed to 10,000 people, who will receive the same monthly rations as other beneficiaries of the targeted food distributions in Zambia. Distributions are estimated to continue until June.

Food assistance through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the German Red Cross.

Included in the targeted food assistance in Zambia is the distribution of the same ration to 22,000 beneficiaries through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the German Red Cross. The first distribution is planned to take place in February in the districts of Kapiri Mposhi (7,000 beneficiaries), and Choma (15,000 beneficiaries).

WATER AND SANITATION

To improve the availability of safe water and sanitation to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of food provision.

Following revision of original appeal targets, 250 new water points and 150 irrigation dams will be constructed in

Choma district through bilateral co-operation between the Netherlands Red Cross and the Zambian Red Cross, utilizing funds from ECHO. These plans are an upward revision from the original target of 15 new water points and the rehabilitation of 15. The rehabilitation of water points started in January.

A number of Federation funded water and sanitation activities in the district of Choma have been added to the operations in Zambia. These activities, serving 50,000 beneficiaries, were estimated to start around the end of February and continue until the end of July.

The Federation funded activities include the rehabilitation of 75 hand pumps benefiting 37,500 people, and the drilling of 25 boreholes, combined with installations of hand pumps or wind pumps. The 25 new boreholes will serve 12,500 beneficiaries.

In relation with these activities, 20 pump mechanics will be trained, as well as 200 people who receive basic education on management and maintenance of hand pumps.

400 'SanPlat' latrine slabs will be constructed and distributed to 2,000 beneficiaries in vulnerable households. 100 latrines are also planned to be constructed at schools and health centres to serve 4,000 beneficiaries. The people benefiting from latrine construction and slabs are included in the above mentioned number of 50,000 beneficiaries of water and sanitation activities.

All the water and sanitation beneficiaries will receive hygiene education as well. The hygiene education will be carried out by 200 hygiene educators that will be trained in relation with the present operation.

CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen the operational response capacity of the ZRCS to carry out the operation.

Improving the transport pool and the communications systems of the Zambian Red Cross

The Federation has provided two 4x4 pickup vehicles to the Zambian Red Cross, as well as 3 motorcycles. One vehicle has already been delivered to the ZRCS headquarters in Lusaka and the other to the ZRCS branch in Livingstone district. Through bilateral co-operation between the Netherlands Red Cross and the ZRCS an additional 2 motorcycles have also been delivered to Kalomo and Maamba, as well as 45 bicycles for volunteers. Three mobile phones and two computers have been ordered for the Zambian Red Cross in order to improve communications systems.

Training for volunteers in distribution techniques

Training of volunteers in distribution techniques and procedures in 7 districts has been ongoing since the beginning of the programme and is gradually expanding. Volunteer training has been conducted in the districts of Chavuma, Kapiri Mposhi, Livingstone, Zambezi, Choma and Kalomo. The training programme will gradually include other districts.

Strengthening of human and material resources at the Zambian Red Cross

Six food security co-ordinators were hired and trained by the Zambian Red Cross at the beginning of the programme. The food security co-ordinators co-ordinate activities related to the Southern Africa Food Security Operation on branch level in the districts of Kapiri Mposhi, Livingstone, Maamba (in Sinazongwe), Zambezi, Choma and Kalomo.

Answering to urgent need at branch level, office space will be bought or constructed for the Choma Red Cross Branch. Plans are still under preparations. Due to the increased activities of the Zambian Red Cross and consequent lack of office space, one 40 ft and four 20 ft office containers will be purchased for the Zambian Red Cross head quarters in Lusaka. The containers are planned to arrive at the end of February.

NON FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) have access to hygiene supplies

Some 8,000 home based care clients are planned to receive blankets and towels from the Federation through distribution by the Zambian Red Cross. Towels will be distributed between April and June 2003. Distributions of a monthly ration of 500 g laundry soap and 100 g vaseline are estimated to start in February to 2,500 home based care clients in the districts of Choma, Sinazongwe and Livingstone, with subsequent monthly distributions for 6 months.

60,000 elderly, orphans, HIV/AIDS affected people and their families will receive a monthly ration of 250 g of toilet soap for five months starting in February. (The target for these distributions has been reduced from the initial 197,000 beneficiaries for nine months which was the original appeal target). The soap is provided by the Federation and distributions will be carried out by the Zambian Red Cross in combination with the targeted food distributions to the same beneficiaries in the districts of Kapiri Mposhi, Choma, Sinazongwe and Livingstone.

ZIMBABWE

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure that HIV/AIDS infected and affected people and malnourished children under 5 years have access to nutritious food supplements.

Due to increased vulnerability among the urban population of Zimbabwe, 2,060 home based care clients in urban areas and members of affected households received food assistance consisting of maize, corn soy blend, beans and oil. This first targeted distribution was carried out by the Zimbabwe Red Cross in urban areas in November and December 2002.

During the second round of targeted food distributions, 23 rural districts were added to the urban beneficiaries who received aid in the first round. The distributions are estimated to have taken place one day after delivery to the distribution points which took place between the 6th of January and the 8th of February. A total of 75,978 beneficiaries were targeted in the first distribution and included care facilitators, HBC core clients, and their family members, registered orphans and other HBC and support groups. Totally 1,102 MT of Federation funded food are estimated to have been distributed, covering 23 district in 8 provinces of the country. The beneficiaries received rations containing 10 kg maize, 1.8 kg beans, 3 kg corn soy blend and 0.6 l oil.

The third round of targeted food distributions food started on the 3rd of February. Beneficiary numbers have increased slightly to a total of 78,650 beneficiaries in the same districts. Totally 1,197.3 MT of maize, beans, corn soy blend and oil were planned to be delivered in the third distribution round carried out in February.

The first distributions of cooked food to orphans under 5 years by the Zimbabwe Red Cross started at the end of November and has continued since on a daily basis. 733 orphans receive the cooked food assistance as a part of the home based care programme. The number of beneficiaries has been revised from the original target of 250 children.

WATER AND SANITATION

To improve the availability of safe water and sanitation to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of food provision.

A large number of water and sanitation activities have been added to the operations in Zimbabwe. A total number of 17,000 people are planned to benefit from water and sanitation activities in the country covering Matabele South Province, Zaka District and Masvingo Province. The activities are funded by the FEDERATION and were planned to start in February, continuing until July.

14 hand pumps in the mentioned area will be rehabilitated, providing 7,000 beneficiaries with safe water. An additional 10,000 people will benefit from the construction of 20 new boreholes. Water and sanitation activities in

the same districts also include the construction of 900 latrines for vulnerable households.

Combined with the abovementioned activities is the training of 170 people in the management and operations of hand pumps. The 17,000 beneficiaries of water and sanitation activities in Zimbabwe will also receive hygiene education. The hygiene education will be carried out by 35 hygiene promoters who will receive their training as a part of this programme.

CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen the ZRCS by increasing its capacity at central and divisional level, particularly in the field of human and logistical resources.

A training course for Zimbabwe Red Cross volunteers on protection of women and children against sexual abuse took place between the 19th and 21st of October. In total the training and re-training of 1,000 volunteers for distribution, home based care and protection is planned. One national food security officer and 8 regional food security officers started working for the Zimbabwe Red Cross on the 1st of December.

A baseline studies report was submitted to the Zimbabwe Red Cross in November. The studies covered the districts of Chivi and Marondera and provided recommendations for activities related to capacity building.

NON-FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Ensure that the HIV/AIDS affected beneficiaries have access to basic drugs, winter weather protection and means for income generation for a more dignified lifestyle.

During the first week of November distribution of agricultural starter packs took place in Mudzimurema, Zvimba and Shurugwi districts. 1,086 HIV/AIDS affected families in the existing home based care programme received each a ration of 15 kg maize seeds, 1 kg cow pea seeds, 1 package vegetable seeds and 150 kg fertilizer.

Some 2,094 HIV/AIDS affected households in Buhera, Beitbridge, Gwanda, Chivi and Zvishavane also received agricultural starter packs during the first week of November. The composition of the starter packs was different from Mudzimurema, Zvimba and Shurugwi, containing 4 kg maize seeds, 2.5 kg sorghum seeds, 1 kg cow pea seeds, and 1 package of vegetable seeds.

Distribution of blanket to HIV/AIDS clients in 19 districts took place in December. The relief items were delivered to provincial branches for onward distribution. Beneficiaries also received laundry soap, washing soap, and petroleum jelly. The original planned number of beneficiaries was 6,861 people but according to preliminary estimates it is now expected to have exceeded 8,000 beneficiaries in December.

SOUTH AFRICA

PREPARATION

The appeal originally aimed at the establishment of a SARCS office in Messina to monitor the situation on the border with Zimbabwe. Preparation also included the recruitment and training of volunteers for the home based care programme, HIV/AIDS awareness, and first aid in the same area. Funds from DFID have been allocated to these activities and a plan of action is currently being drafted.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

The implementation of a contingency plan for the possible mass movement of people across the border from Zimbabwe and refugee camp preparedness for an initial period of 3 months.

Included in appeal targets is also camp management training for 80 volunteers. These activities are currently under consideration and will include practical training of SARCS staff and volunteers at refugee camps in other African countries.

FEDERATION SUPPORT AND CO-ORDINATION

To support and contribute to the Federation Appeal by supporting the components of the operation based in South Africa.

Plans regarding Federation support and co-ordination are being developed.

TRANSPORT SUPPORT PACKAGE (TSP) FOR WFP

The WFP food pipeline has now been well established and distributions continue in the countries of operations. As the tonnage of food transported through the transport support package increases, the importance of the M6 trucks becomes more evident. The TSP M6 trucks now ensure the successful delivery of food aid to many remote areas that are not accessible by conventional vehicles due to difficult road conditions, while increased experience and streamlining of pipelines and distributions contributes to steady improvements in the efficiency of the fleet.

The transport support package presently provides the only viable means of delivering food aid to the most inaccessible regions of Southern Africa, where lack of access to other food sources has made the impact of the food situation particularly severe.

The M6 trucks are designed and equipped for transportation in extreme conditions. Without this effective transportation of the food aid, thousands of people who now are receiving food transported with these powerful all-terrain vehicles would remain without food.

All TSP M6 trucks have now arrived at their clusters in all the respective countries. The trucks in Malawi are in full operation, and in Lesotho 18 trucks out of 24 are operational, while 6 of them are presently under repair.

The total tonnage transported through the transport support package from the beginning of the operations until the 20th of January amounted to 9,028 MT.

Lesotho

TSP activities are ongoing in Lesotho, and currently 18 trucks out of 24 TSP M6 trucks located in the country are in full operation distributing food assistance for the WFP. The trucks are operating in the southern districts of Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quting, Qachas Nek, and Thaba Tseka. The 24 trucks are divided into 2 clusters, centered around Mafeteng and Thaba Tseka. Between the 21st of January and the 20th of February the TSP M6 trucks transported a total of 452 MT of WFP food in Lesotho.

The total transported by the TSP M6 trucks in Lesotho until the 20th of February amounts to 1,243 MT. of food assistance.

Malawi

58 TSP M6 trucks and 1 fuel tanker are operating in Malawi. One truck was badly damaged and had to be written off. The trucks are divided into 3 clusters. 10 in the North, 10 in the Central, and 39 in the South cluster. Deliveries of food for the WFP are ongoing and between the 21st of January and the 20th of February the TSP M6 trucks transported 2,102 MT of food.

The total transported by the M6 trucks in Malawi until 20th of February amounted to 5,053 MT of food assistance.

Zambia

116 TSP M6 trucks, 1 M6 fuel tanker, and 1 M6 recovery truck are stationed in five clusters that have been established in Zambia. The last 8 of the trucks that are stationed in Lusaka were registered during the last week of February. The whole fleet of trucks in Zambia is operational and delivering food for the WFP to final distribution points.

In Zambia long periods of constraints in the transportation, import and registration of the trucks has delayed the

utilization of many of the vehicles included in the transport support package. The last M6 trucks belonging to the large fleet in the country are finally entering operations in this year after bureaucratic obstacles hindered their timely registration.

The total transported by the M6 trucks in Zambia until the 20th of February amounted to 7,077 MT of food assistance.

Zimbabwe (long haul trucks)

Eight long haul trucks that are based in Zimbabwe are now operating in Malawi and Zambia. One truck and one trailer have been written off due to the high cost of repairing them. The long haul trucks are used as backup for the WFP when local transportation is unavailable. Local trucking companies are usually unwilling to transport food on bad roads and then the TSP long trucks provide vital backup. The trucks delivered spare parts, rubber halls, oil, lubricants and forklifts to destinations in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia in November, before meeting in Lilongwe in Malawi for final programming and preparation of communication equipment. During the month of December they took part in transport of food commodities from Mbeya in Tanzania to Malawi. During the months of January and February the long haul trucks were transporting food for the WFP between Zambia and Malawi often where road conditions were very bad.

The total amount of food aid transported by the long haul trucks based in Zimbabwe until the 20th of February was 2,979 MT.

Co-ordination between local transportation and the transport support package.

It has not been possible to hire commercial trucks to carry out transportation on the most difficult roads, as it carries great risks for less equipped vehicles, and limited chances of actually being able to transport the food to the final destinations. Initial criticism that the M6 trucks would be competing with already established local commercial transportation has proved unjustified, as ordinary commercial vehicles are not only unwilling to transport small amounts of goods at a very slow pace on bad and dangerous roads, but in most cases actually unable to go through bad terrain at all. Even where the commercial trucks are actually able to move over badly damaged and muddy country roads, the time needed and the risks of damage to the vehicles makes this type of transportation very unattractive to their owners. Transporting large quantities at high speed on good, paved roads is much less risky and much more profitable for commercial transport companies. In fact, contrary to this early criticism, the large food transportation carried out in co-operation between the WFP and the Federation have created a larger market for local trucking companies, as they are being utilized to transport the food in areas where their different qualities are appropriate, where roads are good and the TSP M6 vehicles are too slow and too expensive to operate. Being able to hire commercial vehicles is also making it possible to use the powerful TSP M6 vehicles exclusively in areas where their qualities come to full use. As the flow of WFP food increases to the region, the demand for all-terrain transportation may even grow beyond the capacities of the large TSP M6 fleet.

This is the first time the Federation has attempted a logistical operation of this kind, and the TSP programme is also a pioneer project with regard to co-operation between the Federation and the WFP, providing an unprecedented transport capacity in hitherto inaccessible regions.

Financial aspects of the Transport Support Package

The greatest financial advantage of the transport support package is that the 6x6 M6 trucks were received as a donation and shipped to Durban free of charge. This advantage made it financially possible to start this pioneer project providing an unprecedented capacity to transport food aid in remote parts of Southern Africa. Purchasing new trucks with the same capacity as the present M6 fleet would have required many times the financial resources that have been utilized for the present transport support package. The powerful TSP M6 trucks therefore remain a unique tool in the effort to reach the vulnerable population in remote areas, providing life saving aid to families suffering from food shortages who would otherwise not receive any food aid.

The running cost of TSP M6 trucks is considerably higher than if commercial vehicles are used. This is justified by the fact that no commercial vehicles available in the countries of operation would be able or willing to operate

in the regions where the TSP M6 trucks are being used. Transporting large quantities of food on bad roads is an expensive endeavour. The trucks consume more fuel on bad roads than commercial vehicles on good roads and need relatively more maintenance than ordinary trucks. Due to the stress that the M6 trucks need to endure, a certain number of them will always have to be under maintenance and repair, which is carried out at the already fully established cluster workshops. Due to the bad road conditions and the all-terrain design of the vehicles they can only move at a slow pace, which also increases the cost per km.

In some areas, such as certain locations in Malawi, the WFP has not been able to hire conventional trucks from local transportation companies, even on good roads, as trucking companies are not interested in short distances that give less profit than long distance transportation. This has made it impossible to avoid using the M6 trucks to transport food on good roads as well as off road. As a result of their specialized design for off road conditions, the M6 trucks take only small loads and are therefore not as well suited for transportation on tarmac as most commercial trucks. These difficulties that the WFP faces in finding suitable transportation for transportation on good roads in Malawi have not occurred in Zambia, Lesotho or Zimbabwe, and in Malawi plans for solving these constraints are being developed.

The rain that has been falling during the past weeks remains one of the biggest obstacles to the transportation of food in the region of operation, which has made many roads impossible to drive with conventional commercial vehicle. The M6 trucks are therefore playing a vital role in actually delivering the food to the beneficiaries. Areas that have been waiting for food to arrive for long periods of time are at last receiving the assistance. Unfortunately the long awaited rain that is now falling may not prove sufficient to prevent another crop failure in many regions of Southern Africa.

Effect of the Transport Support Package on visibility and image of the Red Cross movement

The M6 trucks that are clearly identified as belonging to the Federation, are providing unique visibility to the Red Cross movement. National societies in the region have expressed strong approval for the transport support package, and recognize the benefits of the increased visibility not only for the Federation but also for the image of the Red Cross Societies in Africa.

It has to be kept in mind, however, that through the transport support package the Federation is basically transporting food for the World Food Programme, and does not have direct control over the utilization of the trucks beyond what is stated in operational agreements. There are many different relief agencies involved in final distribution of the WFP food, including Red Cross societies, and the Federation has no control over final distributions or the selection of beneficiaries of the WFP food transported through the transport support package in this co-operation project. In this regard it is important to realize the difference between the transport support package on one hand, and the distributions organized and carried out by the national societies in Southern Africa with the support of the Federation that form the essence of Appeal 12/02

A meeting between WFP and the Norwegian Red Cross took place in Rome in February during which a decision was taken to carry out a technical review of the TSP programme, before completing arrangements for future cooperation.

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Operational Management & Coordination Centre (OMCC) in Johannesburg, South Africa w

A finance delegate has arrived in Lesotho to assist the national society in developing finance procedures. One logistics delegate has arrived in Malawi and one in Zambia, and an additional water and sanitation delegate for the operations has now taken his position in Harare in Zimbabwe.

The OMCC and the Federation's Disaster Management and Coordination Division (DMC) continue close liaison work with WFP and other UN partners, through regular coordination meetings both in Geneva and Johannesburg.

Outstanding needs and the response to date w

The overall response to the appeal has been very positive, and most operations are now well under way. A large number of beneficiaries are receiving food aid through the Southern Africa Food Security Operations, answering to the growing need for food assistance in the region. There are, however, deep concerns within the Federation and among other relief agencies about the food security situation among the most vulnerable people in Southern Africa, such as the large group of people infected or affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. With repeated crop failure in some parts of the region, the need for further food assistance will remain in Southern Africa. Especially households headed by children and elderly, as well as families where working adults are ill because of AIDS will remain in need for continued food support and other humanitarian aid.

Contributions w

See attached List of Contributions.

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Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

For further information concerning Federation operations in Southern-Africa, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org> and the regional website at <http://www.southern-africa.ifrc.org>.