

# 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 INSECURITY FOCUS ON MALAWI**

5 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**

**Appeal no. 05EA023; Operations Update no. 7; Period covered: 1 January to 31 March 2006; Appeal coverage: 25.2%; [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions list](#) or [here for the one on the website](#).**

#### **Appeal history:**

- Launched on 18 October 2005- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA023.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA023.pdf) for CHF 39,360,753 (USD 30,193,299 or EUR 25,301,687) for 9 months to assist up to for 1.5 million beneficiaries.
- Operations Update no. 1- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA02301.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02301.pdf) was posted on 7 November 2005.
- Operations Update no. 2- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA02302.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02302.pdf) was posted on 21 November 2005. This update focused on Malawi and the impact of DREF.
- Operations Update no. 3- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA02303.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02303.pdf) was posted on 4 January 2006.
- Operations Update no. 4- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA02304.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02304.pdf) was posted on 25 January 2006.
- Operations Update no. 5- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA02305.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02305.pdf) was posted on 17 February 2006.
- Operations Update no. 6- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA02306.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02306.pdf) was posted on 6 March 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 1,160,000.

**Outstanding needs: CHF 29,442,659 (USD 22,665,634 or EUR 18,658,212).**

**Related Annual Appeal: Southern Africa Regional Programmes and National Society Capacity Building: Appeal 2006-2007 (MAA63001).** Refer to [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA63001.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA63001.pdf)

**Operational Summary:** The food insecurity operation in Southern Africa is designed to respond to the acute humanitarian situation in the region, with an estimated 12 million people in desperate need of assistance. The Federation's Emergency Appeal has resulted in programmes being implemented in seven countries, Malawi being one of the worst affected. In direct correlation to the high humanitarian needs, the Malawi operation is the largest in southern Africa. This Operations Update no. 7 focuses exclusively on Malawi.

In March, the Malawi Red Cross Society/Federation successfully concluded the third round of food distributions within the supplementary feeding programme, which targeted over 130,000 beneficiaries. Preparations were completed for the food-for-work programme, which will target a further 28,000 beneficiaries, who are building 11 community-based health structures. The national society also worked on its bilateral operations with the Government, Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Food Programme (WFP), providing food to a further 85,000 beneficiaries.



Agricultural starter packs, with a variety of different seeds and fertilizers, were distributed in January, bringing prospects of a good harvest and a degree of self-sufficiency to over 80,000 people in the country. Excellent progress was also made on the 18 much needed borehole interventions in Zomba District, which will provide safe water for 4,500 people and hygiene promotion to 30,000 people.

*Photo left: Malawi Red Cross volunteers at Kasungu distribution point, Malawi.*

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 numbers 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 and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background

The Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) for Malawi highlighted that the shortfall in food production for the 2004/5 agricultural season was 23% lower than the previous season. In mid October 2005 the President declared a food crisis across all 28 districts of the country. In November 2005, the revised Malawi VAC analysis indicated that the number of food insecure people had increased from 4.2 million to nearly 5.1 million for the period April 2005 to March 2006. This was followed by the joint Government of Malawi, Ministry of Health, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) country-wide survey in December 2005 to ascertain the malnutrition rates. The survey also revealed that districts in the central and Southern regions were the most affected.

According to Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net) southern Africa food security update for February 2006, a growing number of households in Malawi, especially in the Southern Region, have run out of both cash and food and are now depending entirely on relief distributions. Overall, food aid has ensured food access to the most vulnerable households and cross border trade has kept local markets supplied with maize. However, due to the limited supply of maize, prices have risen to unprecedented levels, that are well above the reach of financially insecure households.

Fortunately WFP targeted just over 2 million beneficiaries by 31 March 2006. Due to the delayed on-set of rains, prolonged dry spells in some areas, increased malnutrition rates, flooding and increased prices of staple foods, WFP decided that it will extend large-scale targeted food distributions until 30 April 2006 in selected vulnerable districts.

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The above mentioned cycle of droughts or floods have been common in Malawi over the last couple of years, but trends witnessed in the first quarter of 2006 have been particularly bad, especially in southern Malawi with persistent heavy rain resulting in floods which destroyed nearly 2,000 houses, 24,000 hectares of planted crops and displacing people. In January 2006, CHF 99,826 was allocated to the Malawi Red Cross Society from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable it to provide emergency relief items such as tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, buckets and building materials, including timber and carpentry tools. Additionally, an outbreak of cholera has, according to UNICEF, claimed over 50 lives with it being exacerbated by the floods, as people do not have access to potable safe drinking water.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress and impact**

**Overall goal: To assist some 1,483,900 vulnerable beneficiaries in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe with food security, water and sanitation projects and to reinforce coping mechanisms (promoting livelihoods).**

#### **Food Assistance**

**Objective: To meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable individuals in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe until the next harvest in 2006.**

#### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The Emergency Appeal outlined that 456,000 beneficiaries would be targeted in the Malawi food distributions. Whilst the Malawi Red Cross Society has not yet reached that number of beneficiaries, every effort has been made to support as many vulnerable households as possible, with a number of different projects being implemented simultaneously.

The national society is not only implementing an emergency food relief programme funded through this appeal, reaching 158,000 beneficiaries (including the food-for-work programme) but is also distributing food funded by the Government and DFID. This operation is focused on Karonga, Chitipa, Rumphi, Nkhosakota, Kasungu and Salima districts supporting 74,000 beneficiaries on a monthly basis. Additionally, the national society is implementing a WFP programme in Salima, distributing food to 350 TB patients, 500 chronically ill people and 1,150 orphans on a monthly basis, with the total households being 2,000 households/over 11,000 beneficiaries. Consequently, a total of 243,000 beneficiaries are being supported by the Malawi Red Cross Society during the acute food insecurity period.

#### **Procurement**

The Malawi procurement process for the supplementary feeding programme is conducted through the Finnish Red Cross, with support from the regional delegation's logistics unit. The first procurement process was actually an in-kind donation from the Finnish Red Cross, with orders being placed with the suppliers from 10 November 2005, with the cooking oil being the first item to arrive on 13 December 2005. Contracts for the second procurement process were signed three weeks later and incoming from January, with the third and last orders for the supplementary feeding programme being signed on 8 February 2006. The pipeline is now fluid, with items incoming on a continuous basis.

At the beginning of March 2006, the two items (maize and beans) for the food-for-work project were procured, with maize being taken from existing stocks and the beans being ordered from a local supplier, with both items ready for distribution from mid-March 2006.

**Table 1: Status of procured food items**

<b>Operation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Maize MT</b>	<b>Pulses MT</b>	<b>Oil - L</b>	<b>CSB MT</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Supplementary	Ordered	3003	601	300,304	901	Procured by Finnish RC
	Incoming	1,634	483.8	210,620	597	Continual pipeline
Food for Work	Ordered	281.5	28.15	n/a	n/a	All incoming mid-March

Note: Malawi Red Cross Society's maize/oil supplier withdraw 'incoming' items available for distribution from their warehouse (MRCS now sourcing its own FS warehouse), therefore incoming items are reported as less in this OU when compared to Operations Update No. 6

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### Warehousing, transport and custom clearance

The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) only has one small warehouse in Blantyre, but the warehousing needs for the operation were reduced as the maize and CSB suppliers agreed to store the 'incoming' food in their own warehouse until the items were dispatched to the operational areas. This arrangement worked well until trucks went to load up maize from the supplier's warehouse on 27 February 2006 for distributions, only to find that the supplier had reallocated Red Cross 'incoming' maize to another organisation, which delayed the distributions by a week. As a result of this, the Malawi Red Cross Society/Federation organized to rent a section of a warehouse in Lilongwe from the end of March, with the warehouse already having adequate security, pallets and stevedores. At the time of writing this report, a warehouse manager and guard were being recruited by the national society.

The following contracts were arranged by the Malawi Red Cross Society:

- Manica Freight, for custom clearance;
- Strategic Business Solutions Audit firm, for goods inspection;
- Littleway Limited, for local transport of items from the warehouses to the distribution points;
- Export Trading, for the Lilongwe warehouse space.

### Supplementary feeding

This project is targeting orphans, the chronically ill and other vulnerable children affected or infected by HIV and AIDS. The first two distributions targeted over 16,000 households in the following districts: Mwanza, Zomba, Balaka, Chiradzulu and Blantyre in the Southern Region.

The food packs were designed to meet two-months of need for each household (based on an average size of five people per household), and consists of:

- 50 kg maize;
- 10 kg beans;
- 15 kg CSB;
- 5 litres vegetable oil.

### First round of distributions for December 2005 /January 2006

The distributions (for December 2005/January 2006) commenced on 29 December, with an official launch on 9 January 2006. They started in Mwanza District and continued in the districts of Zomba, Balaka, Chiradzulu and Blantyre. Distributions were concluded on 10 February 2006.

A two-month ration was provided to all commodities apart from pulses, which were short in Chiradzulu District, with less than half the households receiving beans/peas and no households receiving pulses in Blantyre District at all. Those households received double-rations in the February/March distributions.



*Photo right: Beneficiaries walk back home after receiving food from Ntschisi distribution point.*

**Table 2: First round of food Distribution in Malawi for December 2005/January 2006**

District	Households	Maize (MT)	Pulses (MT)	Oil (L)	CSB (MT)
Chiradzulu	4,808	240.4	17.2	24,040	72.12
Mwanza	1,831	91.55	18.28	9,155	27.465
Zomba	3,153	157.65	31.5	15,765	47.295
Balaka	4,787	239.35	47.87	23,935	71.805
Blantyre	2,168	108.4	0	10,840	32.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,747</b>	<b>837.35</b>	<b>114.85</b>	<b>83,735</b>	<b>251.205</b>

### Second round of distributions for February/March 2006

The second two-month distributions, again with a double ration, commenced on 18 February 2006 in Mwanza District and were concluded on 18 March 2006.

**Table 3: Second round of food distribution in Malawi for February/March 2006**

District	Households	Maize (MT)	Pulses (MT)	Oil (L)	CSB (MT)
Chiradzulu	4,808	240.4	78.71	24,040	72.12
Mwanza	1,831	91.55	18.31	9,155	27.465
Zomba	3,153	157.65	31.53	15,765	47.295
Balaka	3,987	199.35	39.87	19,935	59.805
Blantyre	2,168	108.4	43.36	10,840	32.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,947</b>	<b>797.35</b>	<b>211.78</b>	<b>79,735</b>	<b>239.205</b>

### Third round of distributions

The third round of distributions (April/May) will target an extra 10,370 households, focusing on an additional four districts - Karonga in the Northern Region and Kasungu, Dowa and Ntchisi in the Central Region, with this expansion of the operation only being possible as a result of additional incoming funds from donors. This distribution was planned to start during the second week of April, but the exact date will be dependent on the arrival date of top-up food items.

**Table 4: Summary of food relief distributions in Malawi**

Distribution period	Dates	Districts	Households	Maize (MT)	Pulses (MT)	Oil (L)	CSB (MT)
1 <sup>st</sup> (Dec/Jan)	29 Dec-10 Feb	5	16,747	837.35	114.85	83,735	251.205
2 <sup>nd</sup> (Feb/March)	18 Feb-18 March	5	15,947	797.35	211.78	79,735	239.21
3 <sup>rd</sup> (April/May)	April	9	26,317				

### Malawi Red Cross Society food-for-work programme

#### Background to Netherlands Red Cross-funded community based health care programme (CBHC)

The Malawi Red Cross Society, in partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross, has been implementing a CBHC programme in Kasungu, Dowa and Ntchisi districts in Malawi targeting 120,000 beneficiaries since October 2003.



*Construction of one of the Netherlands Red Cross-funded community-based health centres structure. Beneficiaries will receive food for work done.*

The CBHC is designed to strengthen capacities of stakeholders and beneficiary communities to identify, plan, and implement health interventions aimed at sustainable improvement of their health status. As such, it supports the provision of infrastructure and equipment as well as community health promotional activities. Major activities on the infrastructure component include: construction of health posts; maternity wards' under-five clinic shelters' staff houses and rehabilitation and expansion of Dowa Training Centre of the Malawi Red Cross Society. Community health promotional activities include: training of traditional birth attendants (TBAs); partners from line ministries; Malawi Red Cross Society first aid volunteers and committee members. The programme also provides drugs and insecticide treated bed nets on a cost recovery scheme, condoms free of charge and various information, education and communication (IEC) materials for dissemination of information.

Since the programme is community based, it solely depends on the community itself to take an active role in the identification of priorities and the implementation of its activities. For the infrastructural development, the community mobilizes all the local materials. Similarly for the software the community, through their established local structures, carry out the IEC dissemination plus dispersing of drugs, bed nets and condoms.

#### Food-for-work (FFW) component of the programme

As a result of the drought in 2005 and subsequent food shortages, community participation was impaired as people had to spend the majority of their time in search of food. Programme activities started to suffer from July 2005 and almost came to a complete halt by November, 2005. Unfortunately the communities were not targeted by external

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food aid support. Consequently the Netherlands Red Cross has supported the food-for-work component of the Federation's Emergency Appeal in order to draw the attention of other stakeholders to the need to link food aid to development activities and provide households involved in the project with a food ration. The funding allocated to this programme has resulted in an expansion of the FFW operation into a third district with community members working on eleven health structures in Kasungu, Dowa and Ntchisi districts receiving food.

A total of 5,630 households/28,150 beneficiaries will receive a household food ration of 50 kg maize and 5 kg pulses at the end of March 2006, when the community-based construction volunteers have completed a proportion of the building work, with the food commodities being delivered to the three districts during the week starting 20 March 2006.

### **Other food relief partnership agreements**

The Malawi Red Cross Society also has a partnership agreement with DFID/Government, where 74,000 beneficiaries in six districts (Karonga, Chitipa, Rumphi, Nkhosakota, Kasungu and Salima) receive monthly food rations. An additional agreement with WFP also secures food for monthly distributions to 11,000 beneficiaries (TB patients, chronically ill and OVC) in Salima.

### **Reinforcing self-reliance and coping mechanisms (livelihoods)**

**Objective: To re-enforce or rebuild self-reliance and to restore their positive coping mechanisms through food-for-work/food-for-assets (income generating opportunities), cash transfers, targeted agricultural support, and the provision of vegetable garden drip kits.**

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

One of the major components of the Federation's food security strategy was to focus support on reinforcing productive capacities for recovery purposes, with the provision of an agricultural starter packs.

**Table 5: Incoming items for the Malawi Red Cross Society's agricultural starter packs**

<b>Households</b>	<b>Peas/beans (kg)</b>	<b>Cassava (pieces)</b>	<b>Vegetable seeds (g)</b>	<b>Top fertilizer (MT)</b>	<b>Basal fertilizer (MT)</b>
16,747	66.981	1,674,599	164.47	167.47	167.47

It was agreed that pulses (peas and bean seeds), rather than the standard maize seeds would be provided for Malawi, as the maize seed needed to be planted earlier in the planting season.

Malawi agriculture starter packs, per household consist of:

- 4 kg pulses (beans and peas);
- 10 g vegetable seeds;
- 100 pieces of cassava cuttings;
- 10 kg basil fertilizer;
- 10 kg top fertilizer.

The food security team distributed the agricultural starter packs through fifteen distribution points in five districts, targeting 16,747 households. The distributions commenced on 9 January and were completed on 1 February 2006, with beneficiaries at several of the sites receiving the commodities at different times, as and when stocks were available.

**Table 6: Distribution of agricultural starter packs in Malawi**

<b>District</b>	<b>Chiradzulu</b>	<b>Mwanza</b>	<b>Zomba</b>	<b>Balaka</b>	<b>Blantyre</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Households</b>	4,808	1,831	3,153	4,787	2,168	<b>16,747</b>

## **Water and Sanitation**

**Objective: Ensure access to safe and adequate drinking water, borehole rehabilitation, sanitation, small-scale irrigation, latrine construction, and hygiene education by vulnerable individuals.**

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The Malawi Red Cross Society is one of four national societies of the seven involved in this Emergency Appeal to receive WatSan funds to date. As these activities have been the last to receive funding, implementation in Malawi is still at the planning stage, with funds being transferred from the regional delegation to the national society at the end of March 2006.

The national society is being supported by the Federation's regional delegation's WatSan delegate, who works closely with the Malawi Red Cross Society's WatSan coordinator and two mobile technicians.

The national society is targeting 4,500 beneficiaries in water supply and 30,000 beneficiaries in hygiene promotion in the Territorial Authority (T/A) Mwambo, in Zomba district. The work is closely coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Agriculture.

#### Activities:

- Drilling 10 new boreholes and equipping them with hand pumps;
- Rehabilitating 8 water boreholes and equipping them with functioning hand pumps and aprons;
- Selecting and training 18 water committees for community-based management of each of the boreholes;
- Training 36 hygiene promotion volunteers, who will conduct 12 hygiene promotion sessions each, ultimately disseminating good practises to 30,000 beneficiaries.

All activities should be implemented by the end of June 2006, several weeks before the Operating time-frame for this Emergency Appeal expires.

## **Reinforcing capacities in assessing livelihoods, and food security monitoring and reporting**

**Objective: To ensure that national society staff is well versed in livelihood and food security interventions**

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The Malawi Red Cross Society's food security operation is supported by the regional delegation in Harare by a food security operations coordinator; FS roaming logistics delegate; FS reporting delegate and a FS finance officer. Disaster management and finance/administration were also working with the Malawi team.

As the Malawi operation is currently the largest Red Cross/Red Crescent food security operation in Southern Africa, two delegates were allocated specifically to support the national society. A logistics delegate has been in post since November 2005 and one relief coordinator has been in post since January 2006, reinforcing the national society's newly recruited team for this operation, providing technical support, guidance and coordination assistance. Each of the five districts under the supplementary feeding programme recruited extra staff, with the majority being recruited in late December 2005. Per district, there is a district coordinator, monitoring and evaluation officer, logistician and two food monitors. Two warehouse staff were also being recruited at the end of March 2006.

To date, two regional food security operational coordination meetings have been held in Johannesburg, South Africa (in January and March 2006). The third meeting has been planned for early April. All FS delegates and key national society staff attended these workshops, reinforcing capacities within the region.

At the country level, the following had been achieved by the national societies and federation's regional delegation to support this intervention:

- The operation has received many support visits from Federation delegates/officers, including: FS operations coordinator; FS roaming logistics delegate; Secretariat's food security advisor and the monitoring and evaluation officer.
- 1 coordinator; 1 logistician, 1 monitoring and evaluation officer, 2 food monitors were allocated/recruited in each of the 5 districts, bringing the total to 25. 4 warehouse staff were put in place for the FS operation too. 2 further warehouse staff were being sought.

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- A review workshop was held in Blantyre for FS staff from Lilongwe, with the 2 country delegates, the FS operations coordinator and all relevant national society FS staff present. Distribution up-dates were given, constraints highlighted and solutions sought. Distribution duplication in one area was noted, with a follow-up meeting held with the NGO in question, to ensure coordination/cooperation over beneficiary lists.
- A monitoring and evaluation FS workshop was held for 11 staff, with participants from the districts included in the participant list.

### **Impact**

The first objective *'To meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable individuals in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe until the next harvest in 2006'* will be measured in Malawi using a number of different methodologies. Measuring impact for the food component is firstly achieved through the analysis of monitoring forms. Monitoring and evaluation tools were developed by the Malawi Red Cross Society's monitoring and evaluation officer, with the respective district monitoring and evaluation officers (at each district), implementing monitoring exercises at the food distribution points and conducting follow-up exercises at the beneficiary household level. The monitoring and evaluation officer put together a monitoring report in March on the operation and is currently analysing findings from the field exercises. The Federation's regional monitoring and evaluating officer, who visited the NS in February and also worked closely with his newly appointed counterparts, provided technical support for the operation. One of the key objectives of the final evaluation will also be to focus on impact.

The impact of the livelihood objective *'To re-enforce or rebuild self-reliance and to restore their positive coping mechanisms through food-for-work/food-for-assets (income generating opportunities), cash transfers, targeted agricultural support, and the provision of vegetable garden drip kit'* is being measured in Malawi by a post-harvest survey, designed by the RD's food security advisory. In Malawi, the relief delegate and Malawi Red Cross Society monitoring and evaluation officer conducted training exercises at the beginning of March for the district monitoring and evaluation officers. The district officers and volunteers conducted interviews with household members who received the agricultural seed packages in March. The questionnaires have been collected and the data is currently being analysed, with the findings including: number and type of crops planted; area planted by crop type; fertilizer applied; crop production and size of the household.

The objective of the Water and Sanitation component of the programme *'Ensure access to safe and adequate drinking water, borehole rehabilitation, sanitation, small-scale irrigation, latrine construction, and hygiene education by vulnerable individuals'* will be evaluated for impact using beneficiary baseline surveys before and after each intervention. The final evaluation will also measure impact.

The impact of the final objective, *'Reinforcing capacities in assessing livelihoods, and food security monitoring and reporting'* will in part be measured by the real time evaluation exercise to follow in April, with a consultant being recruited over the reporting period. Malawi will be one of four countries to be visited under this Appeal. Additionally, a final evaluation of the entire operation will fully explore all impact issues.

### **Constraints**

- Insufficient funding for the appeal has resulted in a proportion of the planned appeal intervention being put on hold in Malawi, with the delegation/national societies in the region hoping additional resources will be incoming in April.
- The procurement of the agricultural starter pack items commenced late in the season, consequently seeds/fertilizer were slow to arrive. The whole situation was exacerbated during the long Christmas/New Year break with many of the suppliers and components of the Red Cross closed during the period. Seeds were therefore distributed later than planned.
- Extreme weather conditions, such as floods, hampered some of the relief distributions, with trucks being delayed in the mud, etc. Fuel shortages have also been problematic.
- The maize and CSB suppliers agreed to store the 'incoming' food in their own warehouse until the items were dispatched to the operational areas, thereby reducing the NS's need for warehousing space. However, in February delays were encountered with distributions as the supplier had reallocated Red Cross 'incoming' maize to another organization. This was overcome by additional warehousing space being organized.

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- Effective monitoring resulted in the Malawi Red Cross Society discovering that beneficiaries in one district were also receiving food from another NGO. The national society quickly organized a meeting with the NGO to share beneficiary lists, which resulted in the problem being resolved.

### **Federation Coordination**

#### **Regional Level**

A third regional food security coordination meeting has been planned for 5 April 2006 in Johannesburg. It will bring together key RD FS delegates/national staff, NS relief delegates/officers and programme coordinators, as well as the food security advisor from the Secretariat. The major discussion areas will be development of a five-year food security plan as well as NS outstanding plans/accompanying budgets to be implemented/utilized and reported on by the end of this operation.

The Federation FS task force, made-up of all key delegates/national staff at the RD, meets every two weeks to ensure coordination and communication at the RD level. Minutes of the meeting are circulated to all involved in the operation, including the NS and the Secretariat.

#### **Country level**

The Malawi Red Cross Society also organizes its own FS task force meetings on a very regular basis, with over 45 meetings being held since the start of the emergency appeal process. The Malawi Red Cross Society/delegates share the minutes of the meeting with the RD, thereby enhancing communication and coordination. Furthermore, they regularly organize internal review and training workshops as well as district level coordination meetings.

The Malawi Red Cross Society/delegates attend the various government coordination meetings: Food Security Joint Task Force Session (Ministry of Agriculture), Joint Emergency Food Aid Programme (Government and WFP) and the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs meeting on humanitarian programme coordination. The NS also holds meetings directly with other partners implementing food operations in the same districts, such as Concern, to ensure that beneficiary lists are coordinated so as to limit duplication.

#### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

Malawi Television attended the official launch of the national society's food relief programme on 9 January 2006 in Balaka and visited the operation on 20 January 2006 to make a documentary which will be aired on the national TV. A journalist from Reuters attended a Malawi Red Cross Society field trip, which was part of the Federation's regional information workshop. As a result, four stories were published on Reuters' AlertNet website while several others were published on UN News Wire.

Since October 2005, the Federation's website has also published a total of five stories focusing on the Malawi Red Cross Society's FS operation, of which three were published this year. The stories are: [\*The International Federation distributes food aid in Malawi\*](#); [\*Struggling with hunger in Malawi\*](#) and [\*A day in the life of an aid worker in Malawi\*](#)".

[\*Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.\*](#)

# Southern Africa - food insecurity

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA023

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

04/04/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	39,360,753	TOTAL COVERAGE 25.2%			
AMERICAN - RC	1,000,000	USD	1,321,000	06.02.06	LESOTHO, MALAWI, ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA
AUSTRALIAN - RC	39,173	AUD	38,194	27.02.06	MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE
BRITISH - RC	100,000	GBP	225,900	01.12.05	MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/HAPS	990,000	CAD	1,077,318	07.11.05	
DANISH - RC			67,394	14.02.06	
FINNISH - RC	100,000	EUR	155,700	25.10.05	MALAWI
FINNISH - GOVT	14,625	EUR	22,771	25.10.05	MALAWI
IRISH - RC	66,668	EUR	103,169	20.12.05	MOZAMBIQUE WATSAN
IRISH - RC	100,000	EUR	155,650	23.01.06	MALAWI
JAPANESE - RC	30,000,000	JPY	332,400	02.11.05	
MONACO - RC	20,000	EUR	31,140	25.10.05	
NETHERLANDS - RC	106,952	EUR	165,294	23.11.05	FOOD-FOR-WORK 30'000 PEOPLE IN MALAWI
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	10,326,000	NOK	2,007,374	15.11.05	INCL. 2 RELIEF DELEGATES
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE			567	22.12.05	
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE			4,545	26.01.06	
SWEDISH - RC	5,000,000	SEK	810,000	11.11.05	
SWEDISH - RC	3,000,000	SEK	486,000	18.11.05	
SWEDISH - GOVT	14,250,000	SEK	2,315,625	16.12.05	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR			1,000	07.11.05	
USA - PRIVATE DONOR			63	13.01.06	MALAWI
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>			<b>9,321,104</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>23.7%</b>

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINNISH - GOVT		270,000	EUR	420,390	25.10.05	MALAWI: 540 MT MAIZE, 150 MT CSB, 90 MT BEANS, 50'000 L. VEGETABLE OIL
ICELAND	DELEGATES			38,600		
IRELAND	DELEGATES			33,600		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			37,600		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATES			36,400		
AMCROSS	DELEGATES			30,400		
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>596,990</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

# Southern Africa - food insecurity

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA023

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

04/04/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	