

# DREF Bulletin 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

## ZAMBIA: KAZUNGULA FLOODS

No. MDRZM002  
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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 185 countries.

### In Brief

Period covered by this update: 01 April to 15 June 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 60,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 30 March 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. For the DREF Bulletin, refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRZM002.pdf>
- This operation is expected to be implemented for 3 months and was to be completed by 30 June 2006.

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](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

## **Background and current situation**

Heavy rains experienced since the beginning of the rainfall season in November 2005 caused flooding in Kazungula district in southern Zambia. Kasaya and Ngwezi rivers burst their banks and the back flow from the Zambezi River led to flooding in the surrounding villages.



*The aftermath of the floods at the Railway Bridge along the Ngwezi River.*

On 14 March 2006, the government's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), with support from the Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) and Catholic Relief Service (CRS), conducted a rapid damage assessment in the affected area. It was discovered that property such as houses, household goods, livestock and crops as well as infrastructure such as roads were destroyed. Approximately 4,000 people were directly affected and 2,500 of these needed immediate assistance with shelter, food aid, water supply and sanitation. 436 people were relocated to Kazungula District Council compound (165 men, 200 women and 133 children, 55 were school-going children). Another 450 people were stuck at Kaseya Basic School due to impassable roads. As the water levels dropped, most of the displaced families returned to their villages in early June, leaving 44 families whose homes had been completely destroyed in the relocation camp at Kazungula District Council compound.

From 1 to 3 June 2006, the ZRCS disaster response team, in coordination with the district DMMU, conducted a needs assessment in order to identify additional needs of the formerly displaced people after returning to their communities. As a result, ZRCS is currently working towards improving water and sanitation (WatSan) facilities such as construction of ventilated-improved pit (VIP) latrines, construction of a borehole as well as conducting sensitization activities on hygiene promotion in Kasaya village which was among the most affected areas and which had been inaccessible throughout the month of April due to impassable roads.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Federation allocated CHF 60,000 from DREF to ZRCS so as to support the provision of temporary shelter, clean water and adequate sanitation to 1,500 beneficiaries in the relocation camp at Kazungula District Council compound and in Kasaya village. There were only two water tap stands in the camp and most of the displaced people were using the surrounding bushes for sanitary purposes, which could have led to the outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases. The camp is less than a kilometre from the Zambezi River and is highly infested with mosquitoes. Common diseases recorded at the health post included skin infections among children, headaches due to stress among adults and a few malaria cases. The health personnel vaccinated all children aged under five years to prevent outbreaks of diseases such as measles.

The initial plan of the ZRCS was to provide food and WatSan assistance to the displaced people. However, their food needs were adequately covered by the Zambian Office of the Vice-President, CRS, Lions Club International, World Food Programme (WFP) and Care International; hence, ZRCS concentrated on WatSan needs.

## **Progress/Achievements**

### **Hygiene promotion campaign**

A three-day hygiene promotion training was conducted from 11 to 13 April 2006 where 16 people were trained, including four WatSan volunteers and 11 community members from Kazungula. Facilitation for this training was done by hygiene promotion officers from Kazungula District Council (community development officers) and an environmental health officer from the Ministry of Health (MoH), Kazungula. The training covered the following issues:

- Introduction to hygiene promotion and education;
- Diseases caused by poor sanitation;
- Hygiene promotion using the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology.

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Following this training, the trained hygiene promoters were put in charge of the hygiene promotion activities at the relocation camp, in order to prevent occurrence of any diarrhoeal disease outbreak. These hygiene promoters were left under close supervision of the environmental health officer from MoH, who was responsible for WatSan and hygiene promotion activities at the camp. The health officer has been working closely with the local authority community development officer and the Red Cross field officers to ensure activities are implemented accordingly.

### **Increasing the water points**

The relocation camp had only two water-points with taps that could not be closed; this created overcrowding at peak times when people were fetching water. In order to increase the number of water-points, three extension lines and tap stands were installed and connected to the existing reticulation system. Slabs have been constructed at tap stands to improve the sanitary condition and drainage at each water-point.

### **Construction of latrines**

A total of 16 VIP latrines were installed in the camp by other humanitarian agencies. With the increased population in the camp, these latrines were getting filled up, a situation which posed a risk of disease outbreaks. Some latrines that were constructed did not have sanitation platforms (SanPlats) and lids; these were upgraded by the ZRCS.

An additional 16 latrines were constructed by ZRCS with the support of the Federation. The constructed latrines were lined from the bottom to ensure their stability and to support the super structure. They have a concrete slab with a SanPlat and a lid. The structures are firm and solid to ensure privacy which was compromised by use of torn plastic. There is still need to increase the number of latrines, as the repatriation period for the displaced people is still unknown.



*A makeshift pit latrine at Kasaya Basic School; in the background is a dam which is the source of water for the community.*

### **Vector control: mosquitoes and flies**

The filling of latrines attracted flies, thus becoming a nuisance within the camp and posing a health hazard. The number of flies increased with usage of the latrines. Chemicals were sprayed around the camp to control the flies. Some refuse pits have been buried and filled up latrines have been demolished and buried to clear the site. Some three new refuse pits have been dug to ensure safe disposal of garbage. These pits have been sited 30m away from the tents.

The camp at Kazungula District Council compound is infested with mosquitoes due to its proximity to the Zambezi River. In order to protect the displaced people from getting malaria, 850 mosquito nets were provided to the camp's populations by ZRCS. The nets were to supplement what other agencies had donated.

### **Bathing shelters**

A total of four additional bathing shelters, with concrete slabs to improve sanitation, have been constructed and the four existing ones have been improved by replacing the torn plastic.

### **Water containers**

ZRCS distributed 500 water containers to displaced families in the camp at Kazungula District Council compound whilst 450 containers were distributed in Kasaya village.

### **Needs assessment in home communities**

A needs assessment was conducted between 1 and 3 June 2006 by ZRCS team comprising of the disaster management, WatSan and food security coordinators as well as a logistics resource person. The methodology included using individual interviews and focus group discussions with local authorities, DMMU members, the displaced people and some village headmen in Sikaunzwe and Ngwezi wards (Ngwezi Central, Kachabula, Kasaya and Bombwe). The assessment team found that approximately 1,000 people were in need of immediate food assistance in Ngwezi Ward while both Ngwezi and Sikaunzwe wards needed WatSan support.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Fundamental Principles and Initiatives**

ZRCS's response to the Kazungula floods helped to propagate the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values in so far as it was aimed at alleviating human suffering without any form of discrimination. Voluntary service was shown by the involvement of Red Cross volunteers throughout the relief operation.

**Impact:**

- No outbreak of waterborne diseases was reported at the relocation camp at Kazungula District Council compound or in Kasaya village. This is because ZRCS/Federation provided timely WatSan response in both localities;
- The fact that ZRCS/Federation had focused on WatSan needs, made it possible for other organizations to use their resources to procure food for the affected people. This ensured that the overall response met the combined needs of the displaced people;
- Timeliness of ZRCS/Federation response, coupled with the propagation of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values, has greatly enhanced the image of the Red Cross in Kazungula District. This is seen through the willingness of the DMMU to see the ZRCS branch engaged more in disaster risk reduction initiatives in the district.

**Outstanding needs**

**Immediate needs:** Food assistance for approximately 1,000 people in Ngwezi Ward;

- Rehabilitation of the water system and construction of VIP latrines in Kasaya Basic School. ZRCS will use the balance on DREF allocation to meet this need.

**Long-term needs:**

- Support to livestock restocking and agricultural production in Ngwezi Ward: a start-up package of agro input (maize seeds, millet, groundnut seeds and fertilizers) will particularly help to improve the living conditions of the displaced people;
- Support to fishing activities in Sikaunzwe ward;
- Support to WatSan sector in both Nwezi and Sikaunzwe Wards.

**Coordination and management**

The overall response was coordinated by the DMMU under the Office of the Vice President, through the District Disaster Management Committee, both at national and district levels. From the Red Cross level, the operation has been coordinated in close collaboration between ZRCS and the Federation regional delegation in Harare. At the field level, the operation was spearheaded by ZRCS WatSan officers with assistance from Red Cross volunteers. Government structures and the community have been involved in identification of needs, design of response strategies and monitoring of effective implementation.

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