

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tanzania: Technical Accident and Floods

DREF operation n° MDRTZ007

GLIDE n° AC-2008-000040-TZA
and FL-2008-000041-TZA

17 September 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 11,593 (USD 11,041 or EUR 7,091) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Tanzania Red Cross National Society in conducting needs assessments and supporting the miners trapped under the flooded mines as well as their family members.

The TRCNS trained 40 First Aid action team members, sensitized the community about Red Cross activities and the Movement as a whole and opened a Red Cross branch in the area. Furthermore, the National Society procured and distributed relief materials to 35 most vulnerable households identified during the rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments as follows; 700 pieces of iron sheets, 350 bags of cement, 350 kilograms of roofing nails, 1,750 pieces of roofing timber, 400 buckets, 400 bed nets and 100 cartons of washing soap to the affected households.

In collaboration and cooperation with staff of the Ministry of Health (MoH), Tanzania Red Cross National Society provide First Aid services to those involved in the search and rescue operation. The National Society procured and availed for use in the rescue operation 50 body bags, 20 First Aid kits, 20 stretchers, heavy duty gloves and masks. TRCNS also provided clean drinking water to the rescue teams as well as providing them with glucose to keep their energy levels high as they worked and disinfected dead bodies and gave anti-bacterial tablets. 100,000 water treatment tablets were distributed at wells targeting persons drawing water.

The operation time frame for this operation was from 1 to 30 April 2008.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Mererani Tanzanite mines are situated in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region in Northern Tanzania. Mererani is home to about 38,000 people, the majority of whom work in mines in the Mererani Tanzanite hills four kilometres from the mining settlement of Mererani Township.

The area was hit by devastating floods leading to the deaths of an estimated 70 artisan miners, who were busy working in the mines. The floods also caused damage to houses and properties in four Mererani villages, leaving more than 540 households without shelter.

According to statistics made available by the artisan committee (miners) more than 158 artisan miners registered for work underground, on the fateful day only 93 made their way to safety and the rest were feared dead.

The rescue operation began on 29 March 2008, with rescue teams working towards draining water and removing sand from the underground mines to retrieve those persons buried in the collapsed mines.



Devastating effects of floods in Merani villages

Coordination and partnerships

In response to the disaster the Tanzania Government formed a taskforce consisting of Government officials, Tanzania Red Cross, Local NGO, the artisan committee members, and the local community and tasked them with the responsibility of coordinating all search and rescue action.

Mining companies in the country assisted the rescue efforts by availing specialised equipment, personnel and cash contributions. TRCNS worked closely with American Red Cross in responding to the needs of those affected through provision of relief items.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Needs Assessment

Objective: To assess the immediate needs of the 1,500 affected community members.

Activities planned

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.

Achievements

In response to the disaster, Tanzania Red Cross National Society deployed its Disaster Response Manager together with a team of 15 volunteers for initial assessment and provision of basic First Aid services.

Through the support of American Red Cross, the TRCNS was able to train 40 First Aid action team members, sensitize the community about Red Cross activities and the Movement as a whole and open a Red Cross branch in the area. Furthermore, the National Society procured and distributed relief materials to 35 most vulnerable households identified during the rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments as follows; 700 pieces of iron sheets, 350 bags of cement, 350 kilograms of roofing nails, 1,750 pieces of roofing timber, 400 buckets, 400 bed nets and 100 cartons of washing soap to the affected households.

The Mererani community was involved in identifying the most vulnerable households through use of the target list drawn from rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments conducted by the National Society ensuring that the most vulnerable in the community received assistance.

Search and Rescue Services

Objective: To assist in the search and rescue for the over 65 miners trapped under the flooded mines.

Activities planned

- Deploy 30 Red Cross action team members to offer psycho-social support to the affected miners and their relatives.

Achievements

In collaboration and cooperation with staff of the Ministry of Health (MoH), Tanzania Red Cross National Society was able to provide First Aid services to those involved in the search and rescue operation. The National Society procured and availed for use in the rescue operation 50 body bags, 20 First Aid kits, 20 stretchers, heavy duty gloves and masks. TRCNS also provided clean drinking water to the rescue teams as well as providing them with glucose to keep their energy levels high as they worked and disinfected dead bodies and gave anti-bacterial tablets. 100,000 water treatment tablets were distributed at wells targeting persons drawing water.

Challenges

Due to difficult working conditions in the mines caused by problems with the underground shafts and the presence of lots of water and sand in the mines, the search and rescue exercise has continued to date longer than earlier envisaged. Due to this situation, the National Society participation in search and rescue efforts continued beyond 30 April using its own resources and additional funding support from the American Red Cross. Approximately 63 bodies were retrieved as of 9 June 2008.

Conclusion

Lessons learned

One of the lessons learnt not only by the National Society but by many other actors who were involved in the search and rescue exercise, is the need to continue strengthening the preparedness and response teams in the country including in mining areas based on different disaster scenarios. The NS focus is to strengthen the recent established Red Cross branch in the Mererani disaster area.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRTZ007 - Tanzania - Technical Accident & Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/4-2008/9
Budget Timeframe	2008/4-2008/4
Appeal	MDRTZ007
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	11,594					11,594
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
Voluntary Income	10,607					10,607
C5. Other Income	10,607					10,607
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	10,607					10,607
D. Total Funding = B + C	10,607					10,607
Appeal Coverage	91%					91%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	10,607					10,607
E. Expenditure	-10,607					-10,607
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		11,594					11,594	
Supplies								
Water & Sanitation	200							200
Total Supplies	200							200
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,040	909				909		131
Total Transport & Storage	1,040	909				909		131
Personnel								
National Society Staff	8,100							8,100
Total Personnel	8,100							8,100
General Expenditure								
Travel		8,732				8,732		-8,732
Communications		180				180		-180
Financial Charges	1,500							1,500
Other General Expenses		97				97		-97
Total General Expenditure	1,500	9,009				9,009		-7,509
Programme Support								
Program Support	754	689				689		64
Total Programme Support	754	689				689		64
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	11,594	10,607				10,607		987
VARIANCE (C - D)		987				987		