

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

## MOZAMBIQUE: FLOODS

9 January 2003

*Information Bulletin N° 1*

*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 70,000*

*This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider international support through an Appeal.*

### *The Situation*

Mozambique is particularly prone to natural disasters. In 2000 and 2001 the country suffered severe floods and cyclones in the southern and central regions of the country. The current flood situation started on 31 December 2002 when tropical depression "Delfina" delivered heavy rains affecting the northern province of Nampula (namely the districts of Angoche, Mongicual and Mogovolas). Preliminary assessments conducted by the provincial government indicated that 800 houses constructed with precarious materials were destroyed, and about 4,000 people were affected. Some residential areas in the Administrative Post of Aube in Angoche are flooded and the victims were transferred to safe areas. The districts of Memba, Mogovolas and Lalaua are totally or partially isolated due to the destruction of roads.

Since 31 December 2002 heavy rains have also affected the districts of Quelimane, Nicoadala, Maganja da Costa, Namacurra, Mocuba, Pebane and Gurue in the central Zambézia province. It is estimated that 1,950 people are displaced as a result of the heavy rains. Several houses have been destroyed in the locality of Naburi / Pebane (1,800 people) and Alto Molocue (150 people).

### *Red Cross and Red Crescent Action*

The Mozambique Red Cross Society (MRCS) provided critical support by delivering assistance to the population affected by the 2000 and 2001 floods in the southern and the central provinces of the country. The activities consisted of providing shelter, basic relief items, nutritional feeding, water and sanitation facilities, tracing and family reunification activities and HIV/AIDS and mine-awareness dissemination campaigns. The MRCS has also proved its capacity in responding to various major and minor disasters over the last several months (train accident, drought response, ammunition explosion in Beira, mine awareness) with basic assistance delivered from existing MRCS emergency stocks pre-positioned in the Maputo and Beira warehouses, as well as disaster training and psycho-social support.

To respond effectively to the current flood situation, multi-sectoral teams have been created to assess the needs and damage caused within the affected areas under the co-ordination of the government. Many places are isolated and the government has limited capacity to access affected sites, and the assessment process has therefore been delayed. The MRCS is playing an active role in these assessment teams, represented by the provincial secretaries and DP officers, and trained volunteers. MRCS technicians are also taking part in co-ordination meetings at all levels. A more accurate intervention plan will be drafted after the conclusion of the assessments in which the role

of the MRCS, the government, and other organizations will be clearly defined.

## Needs

CHF 70,000 has been allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the MRCS's operational costs and the immediate delivery of assistance. The MRCS is in need of further funding to help assist the victims in the affected provinces and districts and to prepare its intervention in other areas at risk. Donors are requested to support this operation by replenishing the Federation's DREF and contributing to the remaining balance of the estimated total operational cost of USD 108,000 (includes support for volunteers, dissemination materials, transport costs, replenishment of relief stocks),

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

This and other reports area available on the Mozambique Red Cross Society website: [www.redcross.org.mz](http://www.redcross.org.mz)

*For further details please contact:*

- *In Geneva; Richard Hunlede, Desk officer; Phone +41 22 730 4414; Fax +41 22 733 0395; email [richard.hunlede@ifrc.org](mailto:richard.hunlede@ifrc.org)*

*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. For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal for the Pacific Regional Programmes (no. 01.71/2003)*

John Horekens  
Director  
Division of External Relations

Bekele Geleta  
Head  
Africa Department