

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Africa: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRZA005
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000007-ZAF
1 February, 2011

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 and 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.

CHF 236,780 has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)'s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 8,870 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: South Africa has been experiencing above average rainfall since December 2010 that has caused devastation on a scale the country has not seen in many years. This unusual weather pattern is caused by the La Nina effect, and the resulting floods have caused unprecedented disruption of services, displacement of people, loss of livelihoods and even worse, loss of life. It is reported

that over 20,000 people have been affected by floods and an estimated 40 people have died. A national state of disaster has been declared in 28 district municipalities in 7 provinces, with more affected areas being reported on continuously.

The following nine provinces of South Africa have been affected: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West and Western Cape. This initial DREF operation is targeting 8,870 beneficiaries (1,174 families) to provide them with food and non food items (NFIs) in four provinces, identified as the most vulnerable i.e. Northern Cape, North West and Free State and Limpopo. Three cases of cholera have already been reported and the National Society is now on high alert.

The SARCS floods response operation seeks to provide emergency assistance to the targeted 1,774 families affected by the floods and to reduce the risk of communicable and water-borne diseases through community health activities, using the CBHFA approach. The SARCS volunteers involved in the operation will receive refresher training as well as protective clothing.



A flooded road in Gauteng Province: Photo SARCS

The major donors to the DREF were the Canadian, Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

<click here for the DREF budget, or here to view contact details>

Current Situation

South Africa is prone to natural and man-made disasters such as floods, wind storms, hail storms, bush and informal settlement fires, droughts, landslides, rapid population movement and health disasters including cholera, rift valley fever and human pandemic. During 2009/2010 there were devastating floods in Gazankulu, some areas in Eastern Cape (Mthatha, Ntabankulu, Mhlontlo), Kwa Zulu Natal (KwaNyuswa, Madden, Bulwer, Ngwavuma), Northern Cape (Upington and Douglas), North West (Taung and Mafikeng). More than a million people were affected in these areas. There is therefore the need to effectively respond to the current and the eminent escalation of humanitarian needs as a result the increased rains currently being experienced in the Country.

Impact at the floods at Provincial level

According to SARCS assessment carried out by the Red Cross branches in the affected areas, the following is a short summary of the damage caused by the floods in each province:

Kwa Zulu Natal: Heavy rains during December and early January collapsed houses in Harding and Ladysmith and 1,845 household were affected. SARCS assisted the affected families with 775 blankets, food and hygiene packs. Continuous assessments are being conducted in high risk areas.

Gauteng: Flooding occurred in Benoni where informal settlements were built on dolomite and due to heavy rains the areas are already sinking. A total of 9,240 households are affected. SARCS assisted with 260 food parcels, blankets and hygiene packs. Assessments are being carried out jointly with the local government in affected areas.

Free State: Large scale damage occurred, especially in informal settlements, roads are badly damaged and a bridge was washed away isolating Koffiefontein and Petrusburg communities from essential services. A total of 350 households have been affected.

Northern Cape: The Northern Cape has not experienced such heavy rains but extensive flood damage occurred due to dams and rivers overflowing. In the Kjai Garib area along the Orange river 995 households were affected. There are areas in Keimoes where people were displaced and housed in the local community halls or schools. In the Francis Baard district a further 376 households were affected. A total of 1,939 households were affected in this province and the fear of continuous rain as predicted in February and March is a cause for concern should there be further flooding.

Limpopo: Heavy rainfall, floods, severe storms, strong wind and hail was experience in the Mopani and Vhembe districts. It is estimated that at least 1,540 households were affected in the area of Vhembe alone and 140 face destitution. Assessments are still on-going.

North West: Areas affected by floods and hail are in the vicinity of the Bloemhof Dam i.e. between Warrenton and Christiana. A total of 688 households were affected, with 417 families displaced.

Eastern Cape: While the province did not experience flooding as reported in other provinces, widespread hail storms caused damage to property, livestock and crops. A total of 500 households were affected, with 1,500 people displaced.

Province that have experienced above average rainfall since November 2010, the risk of water-borne diseases will increase alarmingly. Limpopo has already reported three cases of cholera.

Coordination and partnerships

The SARCS is partnering with both the Government through the Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs department (COGTA) and Corporate South Africa through the Vodacom Red Alert partnership and local communities. The cooperation with Government is not only at the local level, but at district, provincial and national levels, through the disaster management centres and social actors.

At regional level, IFRC Southern Africa Regional Representation is a member of the interagency coordination group chaired by OCHA. The regional office has also established an inter-departmental disaster management taskforce that provided technical support to all the ten National Societies in the region.

Our local disaster response teams are working in close cooperation with the local government and provincial disaster management forums, thereby ensuring that high risk areas are identified. With this partnership based approach, the communities are part of the solution and therefore take ownership of their safety and welfare before, during and after a disaster. In order for SARCS to reach the affected, we need resources for sustainable community support and self-help.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As part of preparedness and risk reduction initiatives, in the months leading up to the floods, SARCS trained disaster response volunteer in various provinces, who are the team leaders when the flood disaster struck in their local areas. The trained volunteers lead in the assessment of affected areas, as the operation evolves, assist with providing First Aid, basic health support and identification of health risks as the disaster continues.

The Needs

The needs remain severe and will continue to be so for months to come. There are at least 92,202 South Africans affected by the floods and mostly living in informal and ad hoc settlements scattered throughout country. The vulnerable group needs long-term assistance, including health, hygiene and water purification education.

Beyond meeting the immediate needs of the identified beneficiaries that will be covered by the DREF, SARCS have launched a National Appeal for ZAR 10.5 (CHF 1.5million) that will focus on: helping communities rebuild their lives and livelihoods and to build their resilient in the face of future disasters through the community-based disaster management programme under the new **Ubuntu Initiative**. This is in line with the Strategy 2020 of the IFRC "**Saving Lives, Changing Minds**" – whose strategic aim is to: *Save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises.*

The proposed operation

This DREF request is mainly focusing on Disaster response and relief, emergency health and community based capacity building, supported by a well developed communications strategy.

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Objective: To provide emergency assistance to 1,774 families affected by the flood for a period of 3 months

Activities planned:

- Distribution of food and non food items i.e. 1,774 jerry cans, 1,774 food parcels, 3,584 blankets, 1,774 hygiene packs;
- Undertake continuous assessments in affected areas.

Emergency Health

Objectives: To reduce the risk of communicable and water-borne diseases through community-based health activities, using the CBHFA approach

Activities planned:

- Distribution of 1,774 hygiene packs that will include water treatment sachets;
- Undertake community awareness campaigns on prevention of communicable and water-borne diseases including cholera and malaria;

- Produce 50 toolkits for PHAST in emergencies;
- Train 180 volunteers on PHAST in emergencies;
- Train affected population on hygiene promotion;
- Train affected population on the safe use of water treatment chemicals (sachets/ tablets).

Communication

Objective: To provide regular credible and reliable information to the public

Activities planned:

- Conduct awareness campaigns through print and electronic medi;
- Develop/adapt information, education and communication (IEC) materials for public education on impact of floods;
- Collect audio visual material of the operation.

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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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

DREF APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

South Africa Floods (MDRZA005)

ORIGINAL

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	61,140
Food	46,960
Seeds & Plants	0
Water & Sanitation	7,983
Medical & First Aid	1,000
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	7,096
Other Supplies & Services	44,350
Emergency Response Units (ERUs)	0

Total Relief Needs

168,529

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computers & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	1,000
Distribution & Monitoring	7,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,700

PERSONNEL

International Staff	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	0
National Staff	1,200
National Society Staff	11,200
Consultants	0

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	21,200
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	1,500
Information & Public Relations	5,500
Office running costs	1,000
Communication Costs	2,000
Professional Fees	0
Financial Charges	500
Other General Expenses	0
Depreciation	0

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR

14,451

SERVICES & RECOVERIES

Services & Recoveries

Total Operational Needs

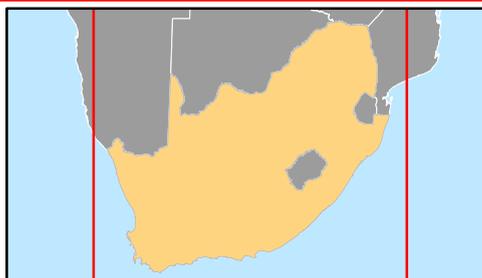
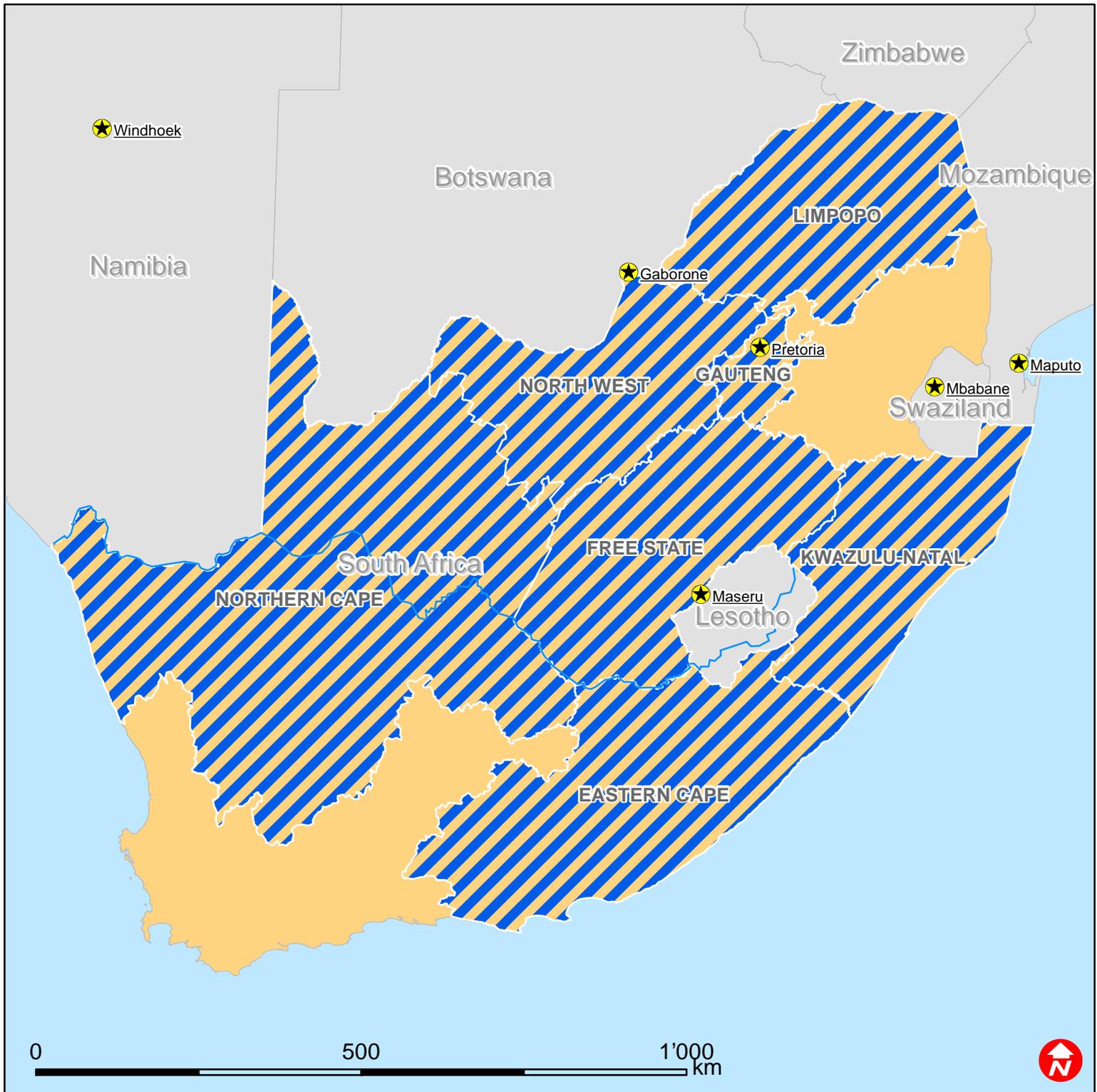
68,251

TOTAL

236,780



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 Affected provinces