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DREF operation update Zimbabwe: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRZW007
GLIDE n° FL-2013-000011-ZWE
Operation update n°1
1 May 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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.

Period covered by this update:
7 February to 17 April 2013

CHF 266,514 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 7 February 2013 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to 700 flood affected households or 3500 beneficiaries.

Summary:

Zimbabwe Red Cross has been providing assistance to families affected by the floods that hit the country since December 2012 and continued up to February 2013. With support from IFRC, the National Society has provided relief to households whose livelihoods, water and sanitation facilities were destroyed in the wake of the floods associated with heavy storms in some parts of the country. The planned relief stocks were provided by the IFRC Southern Africa regional office with technical support from IFRC's logistics unit in Dubai.



IFRC/ZRCS providing emergency shelter to affected communities in Zimbabwe. Photo: ZRCS

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Another unforeseen development of the DREF operation, is the devastating effects of the hailstorm which affected 300 households in Mberengwa and yet to be specified number of households in Masvingo (Mwenezi and Chiredzi) in the third week of April 2013. As human resources had to be diverted to respond to this new disaster, and coupled with the delay in the construction of latrines, a one-month extension of the DREF operation, initially planned to end on 7 May 2013, is requested.

The Belgian Red Cross/ Belgian government and Netherlands Red Cross/ Netherlands government contributed to the replenishment of the DREF allocation made for this operation.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red

Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of MRCS, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. Details of DREF contributions are found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

The situation

Zimbabwe experienced heavy rains causing heavy floods in six provinces in the country, namely Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Midlands, Masvingo, Mashonaland Central and Manicaland. The floods resulted in varying degrees of damage to livestock, shelter and even lives. At time of reporting, the rains have since stopped and the floods have receded.

Assessments done in March 2013 reaffirmed the existing needs which include temporary shelter as well as non-food items such as kitchen utensils and blankets still exist. The need for sanitation facilities in some schools where the toilets collapsed were also identified. The National Society's disaster management team carried out provincial monitoring visits to appraise on the affected provinces and provided technical support to the provincial teams in the implementation of their DREF action plans. The procurement of relief items was done with the support of the IFRC's logistics unit in Dubai. Trainings were organized for volunteers responsible for the distribution of non-food items. The Africa Zone shelter coordinator conducted emergency shelter construction training for 21 volunteers from the affected provinces.

The assessments also established that food shortage is the most immediate need that is not being met sufficiently through interventions by other humanitarian actors such as WFP.



Left- Volunteers in practical training on emergency shelter construction; Right- excavated latrines pits in Zaka waiting construction. Photo: IFRC.

Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC office has followed up on the progress of the DREF implementation through close coordination with the National Society. At field level, the National Society attends Government led monthly coordination mechanism where briefings and updates are made on the response to floods affected populations. The monthly Movement Coordination Meetings (MCM) have been critical in briefing members which include the IFRC, ZRCS, Norwegian and Finnish Red Cross as well as ICRC on the progress of the DREF operation.

In some affected districts such as Beitbridge the response has been facilitated by the then on-going project supported by the Netherlands Red Cross up to end of 28 February 2013. The Beitbridge district response was in partnership with IOM especially on shelter provision.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Temporary shelter and Relief distributions (basic non-food items)
Outcome: Living conditions improved for 3 500 people (700 households) whose houses were completely or partially damaged by the floods
Outputs: 700 families have been provided with temporary shelter and basic household items Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments in the six affected provinces.• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.• Distribute 575 shelter kits and assist beneficiaries to construct temporary shelters• Train 60 volunteer in shelter and relief activities (include distribution, erecting shelters and monitoring)• Procure and distribute non-food items for 700 families. (Each family will receive 2 blankets,1 kitchen set, 1 hygiene kit)• Distribute 175 family tents and replenish those already distributed.• Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user• Develop an exit strategy• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress towards outcome:

- Rapid needs assessment were completed to identify the most needy areas in the seven affected provinces including Mashonaland East
- Beneficiary targeting strategy was developed in partnership with the Civil Protection Unit and community stakeholders
- 144 shelter kits distributed
- 502 families assisted in constructing temporary shelters
- 21 volunteers were trained in shelter construction
- 1,454 blankets were distributed
- 214 family tents were distributed
- 450 kitchen sets were distributed
- 572 bars of soap have been distributed to 190 families
- Relief supplies continue to be distributed to the affected provinces at time of reporting
- Monitoring of flood response is currently on-going

Challenges:

The procurement of non-locally available items and subsequent distributions of the items took longer than expected, and as such there was a slight delay in the distributions to the beneficiaries.

Emergency health
Outcome: Waterborne and communicable diseases have been reduced through increased awareness of 700 families about health risks related to flooding situations, and distribution of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs).
Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 700 flood affected families are aware of water borne/related health risks including cholera and malaria and how to prevent these.• 700 flood affected families are using ITNs correctly. Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct CBHFA refresher training focusing on epidemic control and PHHE in flood situation to 30 volunteers¹• Awareness raising of 700 flood affected families how to reduce risks for diseases such as cholera and malaria• Distribute 1400 insecticide treated mosquito nets (ITNs) to 700 families (two ITNs per family)• Monitor and evaluate emergency health activities

¹ The volunteers being trained under Emergency Health will also receive refresher training on PHHE/PHAST in emergencies in order to carry out a consolidated health and hygiene promotion package to communities.

Progress towards outcome

- A total of three trainings were conducted in Matebeland South(Beitbridge) Manicaland(Chipinge) and Mashonaland Central (Muzarabani)
- Up to 190 households were reached with awareness at time of reporting
- ITNs were distributed

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Improve health and restore dignity by provision of adequate safe water, sanitation, hygiene promotion interventions to 700 households (or 3 500 beneficiaries) in the affected areas in the six affected provinces

Outputs:

- 700 households have access to clean water
- 700 households reached by hygiene promotion activities
- 700 households with improved sanitary conditions.

Activities

- Assess the water and sanitation needs of the affected population
- Support the Construction of 200 pit latrines.
- Conducting hygiene promotion to 700 families (3,500 persons) in the six provinces using the Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE/PHAST in emergencies methodology)
- Distribute and train households on use of water treatment products (37,800 chlorination tablets and 50 400 chloro-flocs sachets) to 700 households (2 sachets/household/day)
- Procure and distribute 700 buckets (one per family)
- Procure and distribute 700 jerry cans (one per family)
- Monitor and evaluate WatSan and hygiene activities

Progress towards outcome

The construction of 200 latrines has started, but had to be delayed since due to the heavy rains and subsequently soggy grounds which made it difficult to dig the squat holes. At time of reporting, 190 families were reached with hygiene promotion activities and the buckets and jerry cans were distributed.

Communications- Advocacy and Public Information

Outcome: The profile and position of the host national society and the IFRC are enhanced, leading to increased availability of funds and other resources to support this and future emergency operations.

Outputs:

- Communications products are made available to media and stakeholders.

Activities

- News releases, fact sheets, photographs/video and interviews with qualified spokespeople are developed and made available to media and key stakeholders.
- Direct outreach will be coordinated with the Host National Society and conducted with national and international media.
- The launch of this DREF and any further appeals will be supported with people-centred, community level diverse content, including web-stories, video footage and photos will be posted to ifrc.org and shared with other global humanitarian web portals and international media
- An IFRC communications officer will be deployed immediately to the affected region, coordinating the gathering and dissemination of communication materials, liaising with and supporting the Host National Society

Progress towards outcome:

The National Society response to the nationwide storm disasters and flooding was well profiled in the print and electronic media. This helped entrench the position of organisation as a leading disaster relief and humanitarian organization. The resultant goodwill has seen improved acceptance of the organization at the same time aiding safer access for Red Cross staff and volunteers. The ZRCS Communications Officer also visited affected districts like Zaka, Chivi, Bikita and Chiredzi in Masvingo Province as well as Chipinge in Manicaland for effective profiling and documentation of the response. Other reports from other provinces were also factored into the consolidated ZRCS Disaster Response Press release which was then send out to the media.

The ZRCS response story was also posted on the ZRCS website under the news section. The same story was also picked by Relief Web, thereby increasing its reader base.

Logistics

Outcome: Emergency relief non-food items are transported to the affected areas

Activities

- Procurement of non food items for relief, emergency health and water and sanitation activities
- Transporting and prepositioning of response material.
- Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Transportation of staff and volunteers to the affected areas

Progress towards outcome

Procurement is ongoing for some non-locally available items. The distribution of items such as water treatment chemicals, hygiene kits will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 7 February 2013 for CHF 266,514 for three months to assist 700 households.
- This is the first DREF operation update issued.
- There are no major changes to the DREF operation and if the rainfall situation remains normal. A one month extension to the timeframe is requested to enable the completion of latrine construction.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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