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Information Bulletin

Tanzania: Hail Storm

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of issue: 6 March, 2015	Point of contact: Joseph Kimaryo; Disaster Management Director.
Date of disaster: 3 March, 2015	Operation start date: 4 March, 2015
Number of people affected: 5,000	Host National Society: Tanzania Red Cross Society
National Societies currently involved in the operation: Spanish and American Red Cross Societies.	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children and corporate communication partners (Tigo and Vodacom).	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. Tanzania Red Cross Society will however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

The situation

On the night of 3 March 2015 at around 2300hrs a hail storm accompanied with strong winds and heavy rains hit three villages in Mwakata Ward, Msalala District, in Shinyanga Region. The three villages most affected are Mwakata, Magung'unhwa and Nhumbi. Mwakata Ward is located about 75 kilometres from Shinyanga town and about 20 kilometres from Kahama town. Shinyanga is located approximately 1,000 kilometres North-West of Dar es Salaam.

The hail storm and strong winds caused damage to houses affecting many people. Roofs flew off causing deaths and injuries. As of 5 March 2015, the death toll has reached 47, while 112 have been reported injured, most of them children. Moreover, 634 houses have been damaged either completely or partially and about 5,000 people have been affected, with 3,500 displaced.



Tanzania Red Cross Society Shinyanga Branch volunteers providing first aid and ambulance services to injured people after the hail storm/strong winds in Mwakata village. Photo/TRCS Shinyanga Branch.

<click [here](#) for contact information>

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) local branch in Shinyanga is participating in the initial assessment and is in regular contact with the TRCS disaster management department at headquarters to provide situation updates. Local branch volunteers are assisting the affected families through provision of first aid, helping to salvage household belongings as well as participating and assisting in burial activities. A branch vehicle has been deployed to the affected area to provide ambulance services to those injured, and transport them to Kahama district hospital and Bugando referral hospital in Mwanza. The TRCS headquarters has mobilized non-food items (NFIs) from the zonal storage facility in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam. The NFIs include blankets, mosquito nets, buckets and jerry cans to be distributed to the affected

people. TRCS is in contact with IFRC East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands regional representation in Nairobi, to discuss a request for a DREF allocation to address the immediate needs of the affected population.

Action taken by the Government and other actors

The TRCS is sharing and updating its partners with information and disaster related data as it is availed from the local branch in Shinyanga. American and Spanish Red Cross have in-country presence in Tanzania and are in close collaboration with the National Society in monitoring the situation. Other partners involved include Plan International, Save the Children, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as well as corporate communication partners- Tigo and Vodacom.

The Government is coordinating the food and shelter component and relocation sites for the affected families.

Current needs and gaps

The TRCS local branch has indicated that immediate needs on ground are temporary shelter, water, food and non-food items such as water buckets, kitchen and eating utensils, blankets, mosquito nets, mattresses and soap.

The TRCS has dispatched NFI items which include blankets, mosquito nets, buckets and jerry cans to be distributed to the affected people. The Needs assessment will provide more information.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 (NGOs) 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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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.