

# FINAL REPORT



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

## SOUTHERN AFRICA: FOOD INSECURITY INTERIM FINAL REPORT

Emergency Appeal No. 05EA023

26 February 2006

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.*

### In Brief

Interim Final Report; Period covered: 18 October 2005 to 30 September 2006; Final appeal coverage: 100 %.

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 18 October 2005 for CHF 39,360,753 (USD 30,193,299 or EUR 25,301,687) for 9 months to assist 1.5 million beneficiaries.
- [Operations Update no. 9](#), issued on 31 July 2006, revised the Appeal budget from CHF 39,360,753 to CHF 11,067,382 and confirmed the extension of the operation's timeframe to 30 September 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 1,160,000.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

### Background and summary

A combination of HIV and AIDS erratic rain patterns and weakened government capacities resulted in an increased number of chronically food-insecure households in seven southern Africa countries namely **Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe**. The most affected countries were Malawi and Zimbabwe, where an estimated seven million people experienced severe food deficits. Large areas of Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia were also adversely affected, bringing the total number of affected people in the region to 12 million.

At the request of the seven affected Red Cross Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through the Southern Africa Federation regional delegation (RD)



*Red Cross volunteers at a distribution point in Malawi.*

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conducted a food security assessment between 18 July and 10 August 2005, which led to the launching of the Emergency Appeal (05EA023) on 18 October 2005. The emergency appeal was seeking CHF 39,360,753 in cash, kind or services for nine months. The food security operation addressed immediate food gaps and reinforced coping mechanisms of resource-poor households affected by food shortage due to poor crop harvest in the 2004/5 cropping season. It adopted an integrated short to mid-term food security approach closely linked to the HIV and AIDS programmes of the regional Red Cross Societies. The approach brought together the provision of food and innovative livelihood projects such as livestock farming, cash distribution, food-for-work, agricultural starter packs (inputs), backyard gardening and water and sanitation (WatSan).

Approximately 28.4% of the nearly CHF 40 million budget was funded for a nine month period. The appeal was then extended for just over two months from 19 July until 20 September 2006 to ensure that all activities be completed and others integrated into longer-term programming. The budget was revised according to the available funds (to CHF 11,067,382) and no further funds were required. The impact of the low funding levels, coupled with late funding commitments and the reduced food needs, resulted in the reduction of the budget. The initial funding from the Federation Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of CHF 1,160,000 was used to kick-start the operation in Malawi, to conduct country assessments and to support the development of the operation.

In 2006, food security improved as most countries in southern Africa secured better harvests. Assessments data from the Vulnerability Assessment Committees (VACs) were analysed to ascertain the number and location of chronically food-insecure households. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that up to three million people required food assistance up to December 2006.

September 30 2006, marked the end of the regional food security operation although in some countries such as Malawi, Mozambique Zambia and Zimbabwe activities were completed only in October. The Federation RD established a task force to oversee the integration of the food security intervention into long-term programmes under the disaster risk reduction and HIV and AIDS home-based care (HBC) projects. NS have also defined areas requiring support from RD and technical support will be provided according to the priorities.

### **Coordination**

Federation RD held three regional food security coordination meetings in Johannesburg attended by food security relief delegates, regional disaster management staff, WatSan, organizational development (OD), senior food security advisor from Geneva Secretariat, regional programmes coordinator and several partner national societies (PNS) working in the region. External partners such as World Food programme (WFP), Manica Warehousing and Oxfam were also invited to the regional coordination meetings to ensure sharing of experiences and lessons learnt.

The food security task force meetings were held at regional and NS levels. Minutes were shared with the operations manager and senior food security advisor. At country level, key NS staff, in-country PNS and Federation representatives attended the task force meetings. Regional Federation representatives attended the Regional Interagency Coordination Standing Office and Head of Agency meetings and working groups established by United National (UN) agencies and Ministries of Health. NS key staff also attended WFP food security coordination briefings, National Disaster Management Unit and National AIDS Councils meetings.

Federation RD provided technical support through field visits. Logistics support was provided through regional and roaming delegates. A reporting delegate provided support in information dissemination and production of monthly operations updates and fact sheets. The food security coordinator was overseeing the progress in implementation of the activities and supervised the six relief delegates stationed in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In early October 2006, Federation RD held a debriefing meeting chaired by the food security coordinator, who highlighted the progress, challenges and alerted on the areas that required further technical support.

Funding support (CHF 11,190,004) towards the emergency appeal was provided by the American, Austrian, British, Canadian, Danish, Finnish, Chinese, Irish, Japanese, Monaco, Netherlands, Norwegian, Swedish Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Various private donors contributed CHF 2,428 towards the activities. The International Federation is ever grateful for the funding and technical support from all partners and external donors which made the operation a success.

## Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements and impact

Recommendations from the food security assessments conducted by the Federation reiterated the need for a longer-term approach to food security which reinforced the Federation RD's position on developing longer-term strategies and further integration of project activities. Federation RD's technical support was provided in capacity building and ensuring the smooth implementation and integration into longer-term programme of the following projects;

- Lesotho: Backyard gardening;
- Malawi: Food-for-work, WatSan;
- Mozambique: Backyard gardening, WatSan;
- Namibia: Backyard gardening;
- Swaziland: Backyard gardening;
- Zambia: Cash distribution, livestock agricultural starter packs distribution;
- Zimbabwe: HBC and OVC supplementary feeding, small-scale irrigation, WatSan.

**Goal: To assist 1,483,900 vulnerable beneficiaries in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe with food security, WatSan projects and to reinforce coping mechanisms (promoting livelihoods).**

### Food assistance

**Objective: To meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable individuals in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe until the next harvest in 2006.**

### Achievements

#### Targeted food distribution

Targeted food distribution projects were implemented in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe where food markets could not provide enough basic food stuff due to low production levels. Where commodities were available, the prices were high and most households could not afford. A total of 161,436 beneficiaries out of the targeted 945,100 in the region received food assistance. Targeted food distribution could not be implemented in Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland due to low funding of the appeal. However, focus in these countries was put on the livelihoods approach to ascertain sustainable food security. Malawi which had the highest number of food insecure households reached only 28.35% coverage.

**Table 1: Summary of achievement of food assistance at the end of September 2006**

<b>Objective: Targeted food distributions for 945,100 beneficiaries in seven countries</b>		
	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Target</b>
Malawi	129,185 supplementary feeding programme	456,000
Zambia	31,500 supplementary feeding programme	138,000
Zimbabwe	785 - for supplementary feeding (OVC) 35,310 for general food distribution (November 2006)	148,600
Lesotho	-	52,500
Mozambique	-	33,000
Namibia	-	45,000
Swaziland	-	72,000

With the further delay of the on-set of rains, increased malnutrition rates and flooding in some areas, it became necessary to facilitate supplementary feeding schemes for the most vulnerable people in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Malawi Red Cross also distributed food funded by the Malawian government and the British governments and the Department for International Development (DFID). The supplementary feeding programme in all the countries targeted orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and the chronically ill. In Malawi, the most affected districts of Mwanza, Zomba, Bakala, Chiradzulu and Blantyre were targeted during the first two distributions. In Zimbabwe, OVC supplementary feeding projects were implemented in Bindura, Dete, Masvingo and Mwenezi centres. The centres are within the home-based care (HBC) projects and the OVC are catered for from Monday to Friday between 08:00am to 13:00pm. Given the background of acute food insecurity in the region, the NS partnerships

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with WFP, PNS and DFID went a long way in addressing some of the food deficit. All the seven NS implemented some targeted food assistance programmes under these partnerships. In Zambia, the programme provided food assistance to the food insecure, elderly and AIDS infected/affected households in Sinazongwe, Choma and Sesheke districts from April to June 2006. The beneficiary households typically manifested the following characteristics; vulnerable with high dependency ratio, with chronically ill people, widowed and low disposable daily income (less than ZMK 3,000 or less than 1USD).

**Impact**



*One of the beneficiaries who received food aid from the Red Cross in Sialwala, Sinazongwe, Zambia.*

The objectives of the food aid intervention were to rehabilitate and maintain the health and energy status of beneficiaries in order for them to be productive in the long run. Targeted food distribution met the immediate nutritional needs of the target groups and reduced the potential number of deaths from starvation. In the short-term food aid is not sustainable but if coupled with other long-term interventions as was the case in this operation, there is hope for the future in terms of access to nutritious food.

**Constraints**

The major challenge with the Red Cross food assistance programme was on procurement and logistics. There were delays in procurement, and the Malawi pipeline was the only one that operated on schedule whilst in other countries deliveries were either late or erratic. The repacking of items into the ration quantities created delays in delivery of goods. Most NS do not have capacity for storing the quantities that were ordered for the operation.

There were considerable delays in the implementation of the planned activities in Zimbabwe mainly due to the forces behind a challenging working environment. Cumbersome import procedures, shortage of fuel, and hyperinflation are some of the constraints experienced during the implementation of the programme. Importation in Zimbabwe is

always problematic and the Federation RD failed to find an efficient system to solve it. In this case procurement of fertilizers was done through Zimbabwe Red Cross, which ended up paying import fees in order to get goods in country.

**Reinforcing self-reliance and coping mechanisms (livelihoods)**

**Objective: To re-enforce or rebuild self-reliance and to restore their positive coping mechanisms through food-for-work and food-for-assets (income generating opportunities), cash vouchers, targeted agricultural support and the provisions of vegetable drip kits.**

**Achievements**

**Provision of agricultural starter packs to vulnerable households**

The overall aim of this project was to enhance individual household food security through the provision of agricultural inputs, sufficient for quarter an acre of sorghum, half acre of the staple maize and half acre of groundnuts.

**Table 2: Number of beneficiary households received agricultural inputs**

Country	Lesotho	Malawi	Namibia	Swaziland	Zambia	Zimbabwe
Number of households	5,000	16,747	2,000	2,000	1,938	11,365 (includes 3,800 households received 190MT compound D fertilizer left over from last season)

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The community, through the local leadership structures branch executive committee composed of volunteers and traditional leaders, was actively involved in the identification and screening of the beneficiary households.

In Zambia 70 Red Cross volunteers were trained as trainers in conservation farming. These have since trained 2,000 identified beneficiaries of the food security packs.

### **Cash transfer scheme (Zambia)**

With a view of exploring alternative modes of providing for needy households and individuals, the cash transfer scheme was piloted in the southern parts of Zambia. After the food aid operation of 2003 and the lessons learnt from that initiative, cash transfer scheme was viewed as a step towards curbing problems associated with the food distribution in Africa. The cash transfer scheme also referred to as the pilot cash assistance project was meant to address the short-term food needs of HIV and AIDS affected and food insecure households in one urban site in Livingstone town and another rural site close to Livingstone town. A total of USD 62,992 (ZMK 208,378,000) was disbursed to 600 beneficiary households over 5 monthly disbursements.

The beneficiaries from the urban area received the cash disbursements directly from the bank, while those from the rural areas received their money through pay points at schools in their areas. Results from monitoring, as well as informal communication with the beneficiaries, do indicate that the majority of the cash received is used for purchase of food, and to lesser extent for school fees and increased savings. Most beneficiaries indicated that they are saving for small livestock and agricultural inputs, and that there is an increase in number of meals per day in the beneficiary households.

### **Livestock project (goats and chickens) in Zambia**

The livestock support was aimed at assisting beneficiaries broaden their livelihood base and build their resilience by having diverse focus including non seasonal (field based) livelihood sources. The focus was on small size livestock – goats and chickens re-stocking within operational areas of Sinazongwe, Choma and Sesheke districts. In total, 820 households received 1,000 chickens and out of these, 319 households also received 450 goats.

The livestock support programme was implemented using the concept of “passing on the gift to the next beneficiary” and therefore the number of beneficiary households is based on the number of female animals distributed. The concept entails that the first set of beneficiary households of the goats and chickens will pass on the first offspring to the next set of beneficiaries amongst the households which benefited from the food relief distribution. In the districts, the initial set of beneficiaries has already been paired with the next benefiting group, and the passing on is being monitored by staff and volunteers.

A vaccination programme for the chickens was designed from the point of purchasing at farmer level through to the distribution of chickens to the final beneficiaries and thereafter continued provision of animal health care up to November 2006. This programme was necessitated as the livestock intervention was being conducted during the months when new castle disease re-occurs i.e. June to late November annually. Veterinary staff, under the Ministry of Agriculture has been involved to implement the program in close liaison with the project staff and volunteers.

### **Backyard gardening (Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland)**

In Swaziland 254 drip kits were distributed to beneficiary households for use in backyard vegetable gardening projects. In Namibia three small irrigation projects were handed over to households also for backyard vegetable gardening project. Three small irrigation projects were also established in Namibia at nutrition health centres for growing vegetables for children under five years. In Mozambique vegetable growing project was established in three provinces and have been replicated in other provinces. Drip/tool kit distribution and the follow-up activities and monitoring will be carried under the disaster risk reduction (DRR) project.

Exchange visits were arranged between NS to share experiences and good practices in backyard gardening. In Mozambique, beneficiaries from Chokwe district were taken to Maputo province from 14 to 16 August, to share experiences and models in gardening; poultry, management and marketing of farm products.

### **Zimbabwe Red Cross Society small irrigation scheme**

In Zimbabwe three small irrigation projects in Mashonaland West province (Chinhoyi), Mashonaland Central (Bindura) and, Masvingo province (Mwenezi), were established and are functional. The project experienced challenges because the contractor did not perform to expectations which delayed the completion of the projects.

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Despite the challenges, the Chinhoyi and Bindura schemes have become a success story as they experienced bumper harvests of maize, potatoes and vegetables and are now able to support the orphaned children under their care.

### Impact

Results from post harvest survey on beneficiaries who managed to plant indicated favourable yields in most parts of Swaziland, sections of Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Most beneficiaries revealed that the starter packs enabled them to make harvest, which extended their food secure period. The focus group discussions had a high level of enthusiasm because beneficiaries anticipated good harvests in the coming season using starter packs issued out by the Red Cross. However, this will only be possible if the coming rainy season is good. In Swaziland post harvest data indicate promising signs of self-sustaining households.

Focus group discussions held with beneficiaries in Zambia from both the urban and rural groups showed that people preferred cash transfers to food assistance. The flexibility of the cash transfer in what one can do with money, compared to food made it an obvious choice for both communities. This was not expected of the rural community whose nearest market was Livingstone town (35km away). According to the project beneficiaries interviewed during the final evaluation, most of the cash assistance was spent as follows; cereals (35%), education (25%), medication (20%), purchase of small livestock (10%), clothing (5%), other food items and basic commodities (1%).

Already there is enough capacity within the community to manage the goat and chicken scheme. In Sesheke district (Zambia), second generation goats have been born as part of concept “passing on the gift”. Beneficiaries can sell goats and buy grain if there is a food shortage. However, in the review period, the impact of livestock farming was limited as some households were yet to receive their “gift”.

Selling of chicken eggs was identified as a major source of income for most project members in Namibia, whilst the use of poultry manure in vegetable gardens increased the symbiotic relation between the two projects. In the Namibia chicken project, more people are now willing to go for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) in a bid to join the project and stigmatization is no longer as prevalent.

Funds for purchase of vegetable seed and pesticides have been generated through local sale of the vegetable harvest. Vegetable sales are now a major source of funds for basic household needs (stationery and school fees) and for micro-finance activities. Red Cross has facilitated empowerment of beneficiaries through technical skills in crop rotations, pest management, post harvest handling and selling. Although there is not yet any external marketing, vegetables are now available in the communities in the project areas and this has a significant contribution to healthy diets.

### Constraints

Some of the vulnerable people have no capacity to tend to their crops due to inadequate labour within households. The draft power required in field preparation is not always available in most countries. With no alternative sources of livelihoods, the little field output is sold to meet other households needs (school fees and uniforms) resulting in further food deficits.

Gardening activities tend to be seasonal as priority is given to field crops during the normal rain season. Most projects experienced inadequate water resources for the gardens arising from multiple demands on the boreholes for domestic and livestock watering. Another challenge has been the setting up of the irrigation system. High inflation in Zimbabwe resulted in price changes for most components of the irrigation system. The contractor for the small irrigation scheme did a very poor job delaying the take-off of the scheme.



*A beneficiary with his harvest in Kabimba, Choma District, Zambia.*

In Zambia the vegetable gardening project was affected by persistent pest attacks on vegetables. The highlighted challenges in the procurement, supply and distribution of livestock have contributed to the project failing to reach its target by July as planned. Arrangements are underway for the consultant/supplier to engage the veterinary assistants in the districts to implement the subsequent vaccination schedule beyond September, which is to be monitored by Zambia Red Cross Society project staff.

There is concern on the effectiveness of the livestock farming intervention in terms of coverage when a beneficiary only got one goat. The number of male goats was also of concern. Considering the increasing poverty, exacerbated by the HIV and AIDS pandemic, the circulation of male goats would be very slow and will take too long to go round the deserving cases.

**Water and sanitation (WatSan)**

**Objective: Ensure access to safe and adequate drinking water, borehole rehabilitation, sanitation, small-scale irrigation, latrine construction and hygiene education by vulnerable individuals.**

**Achievements**

WatSan activities were implemented in four countries thus Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In Malawi 28 boreholes were drilled and 30 rehabilitated with community users and volunteers trained in disease prevention and maintenance of hand pumps. In Mozambique, 17 boreholes out of the planned 20 were rehabilitated. A total of 500 sanitary platforms (SanPlats) were constructed out of the planned 1,000. All 12 water tanks were distributed and installed at schools. Volunteers and community members were trained in personal hygiene and environmental health.



*A latrine constructed for a child-headed household in Makoni District, Zimbabwe.*

In Zambia, WatSan activities under the emergency food security programme in Sinazongwe and Sesheke district. In total 40 boreholes have been rehabilitated, 41 ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines constructed at schools and rural health centres and 1,000 SanPlats constructed and distributed to vulnerable households to support them in building latrines. Furthermore, 50 hygiene promoters were trained of which 31 were men and 19 were women. A total of 25 pump minders were trained and 60 beneficiaries/volunteers trained on community-based management of water-points (39 men and 21 women)

In Zimbabwe, three small irrigation projects were implemented, two boreholes drilled of which one was dry, 20 boreholes rehabilitated (ten in Chikomba and ten in Makoni). In total 251 latrines were constructed, 121 in Chikomba District while 130 latrines were constructed in Makoni District. The objective was to construct 200 latrines, 100 in Chikomba and 100 Makoni District. The beneficiaries dug the pits and are participating in the construction as part of training and cost saving.

**Table 3: Summary of objectives met by end September 2006**

Country	Planned	Achieved	Activities to be handed over to risk reduction programme
Lesotho	5 irrigation schemes	Drip kits procured	Distribution and training
Malawi	10 new boreholes 8 rehabilitated	28 new boreholes 3 rehabilitated	Zero
Mozambique	15 rehabilitated/ new boreholes, 1,000 latrines	17 boreholes rehabilitated and cleaned, 500 latrine SanPlats distributed/ constructed, 12 water tanks fitted.	Zero

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Namibia	Drip kits	3 demonstration gardens	Zero
Swaziland	Drip kits	254 drip kits distributed	Project implementation
Zambia	30 rehabilitated 10 new boreholes	40 boreholes rehabilitated 1,000 SanPlats distributed 41VIP toilets constructed	Zero
Zimbabwe	20 irrigation schemes. drip kits 30 rehabilitated/ new boreholes 200 latrines.	2 new boreholes (one dry), 20 bore holes rehabilitated 251 latrines constructed	Zero

**Impact**

The impact of WatSan projects is measured according to SPHERE minimum standards, using beneficiary baseline surveys before and after each intervention. It is hoped that the impact of the final objective will in part be measured by the mid-term review exercise, with the draft report being finalized. Failing this, a questionnaire will be designed by the RD at the end of the operation and dispatched to each NS to ascertain whether this objective has been met.

**Constraints**

In Zimbabwe, the contractors for small irrigation schemes and WatSan projects (drilling new bore holes) were affected by the fuel shortage and ever increasing cost of materials. The projects were not completed within the agreed time frame.

**Reinforcing capacities in assessing livelihoods and food security monitoring and reporting**

**Objective: To ensure that national society staff is well versed in livelihood and food security interventions**

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

In order to reinforce NS capacities in project implementation, the Federation recruited relief delegates stationed in the NS and operations coordinator, roaming logistics and reporting delegates at the RD. A logistics delegate was deployed to Malawi until mid-May 2006. Each NS recruited and trained additional staff and volunteers to increase capacity in implementing the additional projects falling within this appeal. The Federation Secretariat also allocated two staff members to support the operation, with the Africa department’s senior food security officer frequently visiting the region. In the extended period the operations coordinator, roaming logistics, reporting and relief delegates in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe continued with the operation.

Periodic field visits to Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe were conducted during which the state of the implementation of the programme on the ground was made. The regional logistic officer supported Namibia Red Cross during the distribution of agricultural starter packs. The emergency food security operation helped in the development of NS capacities through the introduction of new and positive dimension brought in by the relief delegates. The Federation RD facilitated finance training for non-finance managers from 7 to 10 September in Lilongwe. Participants included managers, coordinators and heads of departments from Malawi Red Cross, supported by the relief delegate.

At the beneficiary level, a number of training workshops were conducted to reinforce the implications of taking up some of the interventions. All the interventions listed above had some form of capacity development at the community level. The continued monitoring of these initiatives is essential for both the Red Cross and the beneficiaries to maintain the good rapport that has been developed over time.

Community training also emphasised the promotion of good hygiene practices in the cholera prone areas and also ensured sustainability and ownership of the water sources through proper maintenance. Zimbabwe Red Cross Society held a builder’s training (on how to construct Blair latrines as recommended by the government) for ten members in each project district. A total of 130 hygiene promoters were trained in all districts which, in turn carried out hygiene education campaigns to the local community. The training included personal and environmental hygiene, cleaning and maintaining water points. The training was also extended to schools. The participants were drawn for the communities where the latrines were constructed.

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Zambia Red Cross Society trained 83 volunteers and nine branch executive committee members on basic disaster management in Sinazongwe, Sesheke and Choma districts. The main objective was to build capacity of the staff and volunteers on emergency food security intervention. Another 15 volunteers and two staff members were trained on monitoring the cash transfer scheme.

Under the WatSan project, training in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) approach was conducted in Malawi. The approach is globally used in rural development initiatives to capture baseline information and promote hygiene and sanitation activities. Consultative meetings held within the NS helped to build the capacity of the project staff in terms of project coordination and integration. Exchange visits with other NS such as with Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society helped in strengthening the capacity of Malawi food security team.

### **Impact**

Although the inputs came in late, a number of training workshops were conducted with the competent assistance of government extension agents. Most NS acknowledged that there were problems during the procurement of goods although the process helped them in understanding the procedures of importing goods. The network of suppliers, and service providers developed during the operation are part of the institutional memory of the Movement. The NS have been empowered to continue implementing the integrated food security projects with occasional support from the Federation RD. The knowledge and skills acquired through the trainings by staff and volunteers has contributed to improve the effectiveness of program implementation and coordination.

The multiplier effect of the community empowerment is evident, as non-beneficiaries have taken up some of the interventions introduced by the Red Cross after learning from other community members. In Zambia, the disbursement of cash and harvest of vegetables positively contributed to the improvement of the households' income, food security and dietary needs. Furthermore, cash generated from vegetable sales and provided through cash distribution scheme enabled beneficiaries to meet other household demands such as buying of school uniforms and paying for school and medical fees. The livestock support improved and consolidated livelihood sources for beneficiaries.

### **Constraints**

Training workshop on reporting, monitoring and evaluation planned for Mozambique Red Cross was not conducted due to late disbursement of earmarked funding. Malawi Red Cross Society experienced communication problems with regards to the allocation of administration cost for July and August. This delayed the cash transfer from the Federation RD and consequently resulted in delays in drilling and rehabilitating boreholes.

Baphalali Mozambique Red Cross Society also experienced problems with tendering/procurement related to warehousing, costing and logistics gaps. The NS experienced increased transport cost per unit of fuel given that the project areas are a minimum distance of between 300 and 500 kilometres from the headquarters.

The operation started 18 October and it took five weeks for programmes departments and their counterparts in NS to come up with the variety of seeds which had to be procured. All requisitions were priced by roaming logistics delegate during part of the festive season, and deliveries came in within 4-6 working weeks, which was realistic.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives**

Emergency situations usually present serious challenges on stigma and discrimination especially among those affected by HIV and AIDS. In an effort to deal with this, the NS implementing food security initiatives integrated the dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values during food and relief distributions. In countries such as Malawi, the involvement of chiefs (community leaders) has helped in reducing stigma and discrimination among the food insecure and the HIV infected and affected households. It is envisaged that this practice will continue with other long-term programmes such as the home-based care (HBC) as the food security programme comes to an end.

The operation addressed the Red Cross Fundamental Principles to a larger extent by targeting the most vulnerable, without considering their social, religious, or political affiliation. The participation of volunteers during distributions demonstrated a spirit of volunteerism. It is therefore imperative to say that the project has helped to advance the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and protecting human dignity.

**National society capacity building**

Since October 2005, NS held workshops in livelihoods, food security, assessments, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. During the extended period a logistic workshop was held in Malawi, Namibia and Zambia. Reporting, monitoring and evaluation workshops were held in Malawi (finance and narrative reporting) and Mozambique. PHAST, hygiene promotion and water-point (boreholes) maintenance committee training were conducted in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Further assessment, livelihoods/food security training were also conducted in Lesotho (micro-irrigation/winter soil preparation project); Zambia (cash transfer, livestock farming and agricultures); Malawi (food-for-work) and Zimbabwe (OVC skill developments/basic agriculture. NS exchange visit were conducted between Malawi and Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland, Malawi and Swaziland to share experiences and good practice in livelihood approaches.

Logistics support was provided in Malawi during the pilot project specifically in selecting warehouses, inspecting tenders and processing imports permits. Logistic roaming delegated visited Namibia, Lesotho and Zimbabwe to view distribution locations, assisted the NS in designing the distribution plan and warehouse stocktaking. In Lesotho, logistic support was also provided in tendering and in organising dispatches. The Logistics team tendered for the purchase of seed, food and irrigation schemes (including drip kits) for all countries except Malawi and Zambia which were supported through the Federation Secretariat in Geneva.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

A final evaluation was conducted in September 2006 aimed at ascertaining the impact of the food security operation on the vulnerable communities. The evaluation report complements the operational review and impact-based reporting of this report.

Regional food security coordinator, WatSan delegate, NS food security staff conducted monitoring visits to the food security project areas. The NS programme coordinator, finance staff and other senior management reported on the progress and also highlighted the challenges.

**Lessons learned**

- Need for continued monitoring and backstopping of implemented livelihoods activities to ensure maximum utilization of programme deliverables and documentation of impact, benefits and lessons learnt.
- Work towards further integration of food security interventions within long-term projects, especially in the area of health and disaster risk reduction. Similar activities under different departments could be jointly coordinated, as this will enhance project impact and pooling of resources.
- Evaluate the pilot cash transfer scheme and document impact and lessons learnt for possible future continuation and/or replication in the region.
- Increase coordination with organisations focused on food security in the each country including UN agencies, by ensuring attendance at coordination meetings at all levels.
- Maintain and strengthen where possible the capacity that has been built at national, district and branch level to ensure sustainability of programme activities.
- Streamline and strengthen the support given to the field programmes, in order to achieve smooth implementation of the actual activities.
- Integration of the volunteer structure into project planning, monitoring and implementation must be made.
- Coordination with other partners implementing similar programmes is necessary to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Monthly coordination meetings are vital for information sharing hence smooth implementation of the program.
- Addressing peoples' real needs encourages the communities/beneficiaries to contribute generously towards the success of the project; hence the communities supported the project throughout its life span.
- When communities have owned the facilities provided by the project, they always care for them as is the case with the facilities provided by the WatSan project in the three districts.
- To involve logistics from the beginning for budget and planning purposes (time, personnel, funds)
- For food security in Southern Africa, requisitions have to be given latest by September.
- Capture knowledge which was gained now and process it for future operations.

## Southern Africa: Food security; Appeal no. 05EA023; Interim Final Report

- In countries with high inflation like Zimbabwe, a way has to be found to reevaluate contracts by following inflation and at same time punishing delays from supplier or we will face same problems with irrigation schemes.

**Special note:** This Interim Final Report is being issued without an interim financial report. A Final Report, comprising of the final financial report and this narrative, will be issued in due course.

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