

MINOR EMERGENCY



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

TANZANIA: FLOODING IN ZANZIBAR

Minor Emergency no. 05ME025

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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 181 countries.

In Brief

CHF 80,000 (USD 67,500 OR EUR 52,000) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION. UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

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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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's 2005 Annual Appeal, East Africa sub-regional programmes no. 05AA004 (Tanzania is not currently part of this Appeal, but is projected for inclusion during 2005) – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA004.pdf. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

The situation

In April, the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar was affected by the heaviest rains in the last 40 years. A two-day uninterrupted downpour, on 17 April, led to severe flooding in the low lying areas of the island. The Urban West region in the locations (wards) of Mwanakelekwé, Jang'ombe, Sebuleni, Kwahani, Mombasa and Miembeni were particularly by floods. The situation was made worse by the failure of the drainage system to accommodate the flood waters. Most of the drains were blocked by uncollected solid waste and the presence of buildings along the storm water channels.

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One person died in the disaster which saw some 800 houses being submerged by waters. A total of 1,758 families or 10,548 people were directly affected. Many of them are homeless or displaced. Most of the flood victims have been accommodated by relatives and their neighbours. Some 148 individuals are sheltered in two local primary schools buildings (108 in one and 40 in the other). Those living on the school grounds benefit from direct assistance, whereas the majority of those accommodated by neighbours and relatives have not received any form of support.

Few families ventured to move back in their damaged houses and their safety remains a concern because the structural stability of the houses has not been verified and appropriate vector control measures have not been conducted to minimise the likelihood of contracting diseases due to the waste water contamination and solid waste management.

The floods also caused a significant loss to the infrastructure, badly damaging a bridge in the southern locations. The road system was also affected and some parts remained impassable until the flood water subsided.

The water supply services were disrupted by the flooding. The supply system which is reliant on five boreholes suffered damages to the pumping system as well as overhead pollution arising from heavily polluted water.

Two cases of cholera have been reported but no disease outbreaks have been reported by the Health authorities. The health of the population is still at great risk from the heavily polluted waters in residential areas.

The flooding in Zanzibar was initially reported on via Information Bulletin no. 1 dated 22 April 2005 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts05/tz050422.pdf. As DREF has been allocated, this response is considered a Minor Emergency and will be reported on using the Minor Emergency format.

Proposed Plan of Action

Overall Objective: To provide non-food relief items to in flood-affected communities and contribute to reducing morbidity linked to poor sanitation and lack of access to clear water

Objective 1: To provide bed nets, cooking utensils, blankets to 1,000 families (approximately 6,000 beneficiaries).

Activities

- Develop a selection criterion that defines the most vulnerable communities to receive assistance.
- Survey households to identify the exact needs of the 1,000 families/households targeted, with the support of local administrative structures.
- Distribute cooking utensils, bed nets, blankets, etc

Expected Results

1. Compile a census register that reflects the needs of the most vulnerable in the communities targeted for relief assistance.
2. Relief items (blankets, utensils, bed nets, water purification tablets) distributed to 1,000 families.

Objective 2: To prevent morbidity and reduce vulnerability from water-related diseases and poor environmental sanitation.

Activities

- Distribute water treatment tablets (chlorine tabs) to 1,000 families.
- Distribute of ARCHI volunteer toolkits and dissemination of relevant health and hygiene messages.
- Present health and hygiene sensitization meetings with community members on household safe water and sound hygiene practices, in collaboration with the public health authority.
- Support the Ministry of Water personnel to disinfect water wells and boreholes.
- Implement clean-up campaigns with support of Public Health Ministry and Zanzibar Municipality.

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Expected Results

1. Targeted communities have adequate water treatment chemicals at household level for one month.
2. Households are aware of the safe water cycle and are effectively using the supplied water treatment chemicals.
3. Communities are aware of health risks from use of unsafe water and living in a poorly managed environment.
4. There is a relative improvement in health and hygiene practices.
5. Water-borne diseases are contained and minimum water related diseases cases are reported at health centres.

Coordination

All relief activities at the national level are co-ordinated by the Chief Ministers Office, which ensures that efforts are not duplicated. A relief committee has also been set up with members drawn from communication, health, agriculture, and education ministries together with the armed forces. Sector sub committees also exist.

Following the disaster, specific sector/government ministries and bodies were tasked with drawing up of needs. These needs have been consolidated together by the Chief Ministers' Office and sent out as on government appeal.

Concern has been expressed by agencies that the chief Ministers' office needs to stream line its data collection mechanism, especially in determining the exact number of affected people, assistance needed and received. This information needs to be updated on regular basis so that the agencies can focus their support to existing gaps. The capacity of the Chief Ministers' office needs to be strengthened especially in the areas of assessment and information management.

The Red Cross is part of the relief committee and coordinates closely its activities at regional and national level with UN agencies.

Budget outline

The initial timeframe for this response is estimated at three months (until end of July 2005).

The Federation allocated CHF 80,000 from its disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) to support this response; see summary budget below. The situation on the ground points to the need for increased financial support to the Tanzanian Red Cross flood response operation in Zanzibar. To this effect, additional DREF may be requested at a later stage.

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