



SWAZILAND: HEAVY HAIL STORM

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 51,535 (USD 41,228 or EUR 31,811) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to assist some 500 families. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months and will be completed by 22 May 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached map>](#)

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 current situation

On February 4 and 5 2007, Swaziland experienced heavy rains accompanied by strong winds with hail storms. They caused extensive damage to housing structures, destroyed food and other infrastructure such as telephone and electricity lines which resulted in frequent telecommunication and power black outs. Hectares of crops were also destroyed which indicates the possibility of food insecurity in the coming months. The regions affected are Shiselweni and Lubombo. Approximately, 73 households were affected in both regions by losing shelter, food and having property damaged. The situation is still evolving and the needs will be increasing. Up to 500 households could be affected.

Swaziland experiences wind storms once or twice every month. In August 2006, strong winds averaging 120Km/ in speed caused extensive damage to schools, hospitals and clinic buildings – including Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society (BSRCS) clinic in Sigombeni. Approximately 100 houses were destroyed, 6 people were trapped, several others injured and 3 died. On the 15 August 2006, Lubombo and Manzini regions experienced another storm which lasted 15 minutes, its effect were also devastating as it blew off some roofs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

Following the disaster, the BSRCS deployed its emergency response team to Shiselweni and Lubombo on the 4 and 5 February 2007 to assess the damage. A total of 8 households in Shiselweni and 65 in Lubombo were affected and in need of relief assistance in the form of shelter, food and agricultural inputs. The BSRCS has been assisting the

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displaced households through its volunteers in the affected areas. A total of 438 beneficiaries have been assisted as follows: 48 in Shiselweni with 11 tarpaulins and a tent, in Lubombo; 390 benefited from 40 tarpaulins. The national society also continues with the distribution of relief items donated locally by the public.

The Federation has allocated CHF 51,535 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The funds will be used to procure and replenish relief stock and for transport cost and for volunteers. The national society's emergency stocks are depleted, which greatly challenged the response operation. Therefore, BSRCs engaged in local resource mobilization among the public and corporate/business sector to assist with relief items. The national society would like to assist at least 500 families with temporary shelter.

In response to the August 2006 storm disaster, the BRCS was allocated a DREF of CHF 74,251 for procurement of relief items. The Federation regional delegation in Harare disbursed 100 tents and 400 tarpaulins from its regional disaster preparedness stock. The tents and tarpaulins will be replaced through the DREF allocated for the relief operation.

The needs

The BRSCS response will target a total population of 500 households and will continue responding to the relief needs of the affected population. The required relief items include tents, tarpaulins, blankets, food and seeds.

Coordination

BSRCs is working in collaboration with the government and attending regular coordination meetings with other partners. For this emergency, the government has pledged to provide all the food needs for the affected families. World Food Programme (WFP) has also made a pledge to work with BSRCs whenever there is an emergency requiring provision of food items. A memorandum of understanding is yet to be signed between the two parties.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 Annual Appeal. 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>

[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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