

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Malawi: Floods and Cholera

DREF operation n° MDRMW004
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000007-MW1
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The International Federation's 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 response to emergencies. 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.

CHF 71,022 (USD 63,566 or EUR 48,111) has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)'s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,276 families displaced by floods; and assisting the government in responding to the cholera outbreak. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Heavy rains accompanied by winds since December 2008 have led to flash floods, and among the most affected districts are Nsanje and Phalombe in the south and Mzimba in the northern region. According to the government department of disaster management, 3,276 families have been displaced and are in need of relief assistance.



**Some of the families displaced by floods being assisted to construct temporary shelters by Malawi Red Cross:
Photo: Malawi Red Cross**

Since November 2008, a cholera outbreak has been reported in two districts (Lilongwe and in Central Malawi). As at 4 January 2009 the cumulative figure of suspected cholera cases is 370 and 13 deaths.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 30 April, 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 July, 2009).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Malawi has been receiving heavy rains since early December 2008, which has led to flash floods in the central and southern parts of the country. Among the districts affected so far are Nsanje and Phalombe in the Southern Province and Mzimba in north. The total number of households affected according to the Government's disaster department is 3,276 (either houses are completely destroyed, partially damaged, or field crops completely damaged). The latest heavy rains were experienced during the night of 31 December 2008 where initially 2,280 households were affected and the number is likely to increase in the next four to six weeks.

In Nsanje district, 2,406 households have been affected, 130 houses have collapsed whilst others were soaked in flooded water destroying all household effects. Approximately 430 hectares of crops have been damaged. The area is still receiving rains and the situation is likely to worsen. The Traditional Areas (T/As) that have been affected are Nazombe, Kaduya, Jenala and Nkhulambe sub T/A in Phalombe and Mlolo in Nsanje districts.

In Phalombe district, 870 households have been displaced out of which 348 had their roofs blown-off by heavy winds. Approximately 170 hectares of various crops have either been washed away or submerged in flooded water. The crops are completely destroyed and will not recover even after the water subsides.

Following a cholera outbreak in southern Africa region, which affected Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Malawi recorded the first cholera case on 15 November 2008 in Blantyre in the southern region. Since then, new cholera cases have been reported in Lilongwe and Central Malawi, the only two of the country's 28 districts. As at 4 January 2009, the cumulative cholera cases are 370 (369 in Lilongwe district and one in Blantyre district), with the 13 deaths all in Lilongwe district.

The families displaced by the floods have so far received assistance from the Government of Malawi in the form of food aid, shelter and water storage material (176 households in Nsanje and 192 in Phalombe). On cholera, the WHO Country Office and other partners, including UNICEF, GTZ (German technical assistance agency for humanitarian aid), Life Line and MRCS responded to the request made by Ministry of Health on 12 December 2008 for support in responding to the outbreak. Despite efforts in prevention and treatment, there are some gaps in the areas of health education, hygiene promotion and medical material.

Coordination and partnerships

MRCS is closely working with the Malawi government in collaboration with other humanitarian agencies. According to the National Contingency Plan, each stakeholder has a well defined role which avoids duplication of effort. For instance, MRCS has been mandated to take a lead role in temporary shelter and camp management (although the activities are not limited to this only), whilst UNICEF is leading on water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

When responding to the needs of the people displaced by floods, MRCS is working closely with the Government department of disaster management and the Ministry of Agriculture. The National Society partners with the Ministry of Health, and collaborates with WHO, UNICEF, GTZ and Line in responding to cholera. The IFRC Southern Africa Zone Office provides technical support throughout the DREF operation through its disaster management and health departments.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

At the request of the MRCS, the IFRC released CHF 71,022 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 16 January 2009 to assist the National Society respond to the needs of 3,276 households affected by floods and also to cover costs incurred under the cholera response operation. Part of the DREF funding will cater for shelter needs and agricultural inputs in the form of cassava cuttings and/or sweet potato vines to be distributed to the affected population. MRCS has already pre-positioned some relief items such as tarpaulins at the local Red Cross branch office, closer to the districts affected by floods. In response to cholera, MRCS erected five tents at the two isolated treatment centres which were set by the government in Likuni and Kawale.

The needs

Floods: The households displaced by the flooding are still in need of relief assistance. The materials required include plastic sheets, jerry cans, cooking utensils, seeds, fertilizer, tarpaulins and water purifiers. According to the Government's assessment, agricultural inputs including fertiliser, maize seeds, cassava cuttings and sweet potato vines are needed for replanting since the crops were completely destroyed.

Cholera: There is a critical need for chlorine, bedding, protective clothing (disposable aprons and gumboots) at the cholera treatment camps. At community level, hygiene promotion activities should be intensified and rolled-out to all cholera prone districts. Additional information, education and communication (IEC) material is required, preferably in vernacular.

The proposed operation

MRCS DREF operation is focused on firstly, to provide temporary shelter to families displaced by the flash floods. The activities includes the provision of shelter kit materials, basic household cooking utensils and roofing materials to the households with only roofs blown off. In addition, MRCS to provide agricultural inputs as recovery from the damage of field crops.

Secondly, MRCS will complement the capacity and efforts of the government in responding to the cholera outbreak, through the provision of some of the essential materials for treatment and prevention. MRCS will continue mobilising and training its volunteers on hygiene promotion and effective distribution of IEC materials.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To restore and strengthen the capacity of the affected farmers to meet their needs in terms of food security and nutrition through provision of agricultural inputs.

Activities planned:

- MRCS' Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) trained staff members and volunteers in collaboration with Agricultural Extension workers conduct rapid assessments in the floods affected districts.
- Registering beneficiaries according to agreed criteria based on the government standards.
- Procure and distribute agricultural inputs (cassava cuttings and/or sweet potato vines).
- Coach the beneficiaries on better cropping in collaboration with Agricultural Extension workers.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reports on all distributions.

Emergency shelter

Objective: To protect displaced households and provide basic survival measures through provision of temporary shelter and basic kitchen utensils.

Activities planned:

- Verification of beneficiaries using shelter needs criteria.
- Procure and distribute shelter relief materials sourced locally such as plastic sheets.
- Trained volunteers assist the beneficiaries in constructing shelter kits, roofing of partly damaged houses and pitching tents, according to the needs.
- Distributing kitchen utensils to households displaced by the flash floods.
- Develop an exit strategy.

Emergency health

Objective: To complement the Ministry of Health in treatment of cholera cases through provision of some of the treatment and protective materials.

Activities planned:

- Conduct awareness campaign on water treatment, sanitation, and hygiene promotion in collaboration with Ministry of Health local level staff.
- Procure and distribute chlorine, disposable aprons and gum boots.

Budget Summary

ITEMS	Quantity	COST in CHF	TOTAL (CHF)
Plastic sheeting (100M)	100	32.25	3,224.92
Fuel	Lump sum	4,434.27	4,400.00
Perdiems during relief distribution	5	620.80	3,103.99
Accommodation for staff during relief distribution	5	1,128.72	5,643.61
Transport hire to distribution centres	Lump sum	7,256.07	7,256.07
Volunteer incentives	Lump sum	3,628.04	3,628.04
Visibility	Lump sum	3,224.92	3,224.92
Disaster assessment	5	302.34	1,511.68
Procurement of cassava cuttings/sweet potato vines (bundles of 50 cuttings each)	3,276	8.06	26,412.11
Procurement of materials for cholera response(e.g. gum boots, disposable aprons, chlorine)	Lump sum	-	8,000.00
SUB TOTAL			66,405.35
Programme Support Recovery (PSR) 6.5%			4,616.41
GRAND TOTAL			71,021.76

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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