

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Africa: Civil Unrest

DREF operation n° MDRZA004
22 July 2010

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 213,905 (USD 185,028 or EUR 146,012) has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's (IFRC's) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) to respond to urban violence by strengthening its disaster response capacity to deliver assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries displaced by threat of violence against foreign nationals. Unearmarked funds to replenish the DREF are encouraged.



South African Red Cross Volunteers help prepare food for the families displaced by the civil unrest in the Western Cape Province. Photo by South African Red Cross

Summary: Prior to and throughout the 2010 Soccer World Cup, there have been rumours and reports suggesting an increase in civil unrest and urban violence immediately following the end of the World Cup. SARCS and its partners, the IFRC and ICRC continue to assess and monitor the situation. Recent reports suggest that civil unrest is more suggestive of criminal intent rather than xenophobic causes. The threats of violence in three identified 'hot spot' have prompted a migration of some foreigners to their home countries or safe places to avert a recurrence of the situation experienced in 2008 xenophobic attacks. Activity at the border crossing between South Africa and Zimbabwe has increased significantly.

Several meetings have taken place between the Red Cross partners to discuss and prepare contingency plans to respond to the threat of the violence. SARCS through its network of volunteers has responded by providing blankets and food to the affected communities as well as the restoration of family links. With funding support from the ICRC through DREF Operation, SARCS has collaborated with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) in conducting social mobilisation campaigns and the restoration of family links between displaced communities and their families.

The concern over urban violence has prompted the South African Government to form an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) specifically to monitor and respond to the threat of violence. The Provincial Governments are conducting meetings with various stakeholders including human rights groups, UN agencies, IOM and NGOs to find ways to reduce the tension coordinate response and prevent civil unrest.

This DREF will be used to support SARCS to strengthen its disaster response capacity in First Aid, health education, restoration of family links and anti-discrimination campaigns aimed at sensitising and educating host and migrant communities on the humanitarian consequences of the violence.

The ICRC has contributed CHF 40,000 towards the DREF. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments, and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

The operation is expected to be implemented over a period of three months and will therefore be completed by mid-October 2010. A Final Report will be made available by end of December 2010.

[*<click here for the DREF budget summary, here for contact details>*](#)

The situation

Since the advent of its democratic dispensation in 1994, South Africa has become a primary destination and point of transit for people from across the African continent and beyond. In addition, there is a mix of people who come to South Africa seeking protection, prosperity, or passage, whilst a small but important number of this population are migrants who have been forced to flee their respective countries for various reasons and seek safety in South Africa. These people come from different parts of Africa with the largest numbers originating from Zimbabwe, Somalia, Mozambique as well as the Democratic Republic of Congo; Ethiopia; Angola; Burundi; and Rwanda. The advent of the World Cup in South Africa, the ongoing turmoil in Somalia, the political situation in Zimbabwe and worsening economic or political situation in many African countries has made travel and settling in South Africa more attractive to those seeking economic security and safety.

Various informed sources predicted a likelihood of civil unrest following the end of the World Cup. Isolated cases of harassment, intimidation and threats some resulting in injury have been reported throughout the World Cup period. As predicted, violence towards foreign nationals began immediately after the end of the World Cup on 12 July and was initially confined to the informal settlements of Western Cape Province and later spread to some areas in Gauteng Province. The rumours and reports have been self-fulfilling with two associated deaths reported thus far, as well as the burning and destruction of a small number of shacks (temporary homes in informal settlements). As a result, a number of displaced persons sought safety in safe shelter centres set up by the Western Cape Provincial Government. As of 20 July, the number of persons within these centres had risen to 177. SARCS continues to provide assistance in the form of cooked meals, hygiene kits, blankets as well as the provision of first aid and referrals as required, within the centres.

Isolated cases of attacks against foreign nationals, some involving injury continue to be regularly reported in the media. Police and army units have been deployed to some volatile hot-spot and have been actively involved in managing reported cases of disturbances. Sporadic incidences of violence continue to occur in Gauteng with five people reported injured as of 19 July 2010. A SARCS team from the Soweto Branch is currently assessing the situation. A high presence and intervention of police and security teams within the affected areas is reported to have prevented much higher casualties.

In Musina, there are reports of a heavy presence of displaced Zimbabweans at the Beitbridge border post crossing from South Africa into Zimbabwe. There are also reports of increased passage of returning Zimbabweans at Plumtree, which borders Zimbabwe and Botswana. The Zimbabwean Civil Protection Unit is reported to have set up some large tents with provisions for 10,000 blankets, 20 boxes of laundry soap and 1,000 buckets of water for returnees.

Based on this and the experience from the previous 'xenophobic' attacks that occurred in 2008, the SARCS with support from the IFRC and ICRC are actively responding to current needs and preparing themselves in case of a recurrence of similar or even greater violence to that of 2008. The events in 2008 left 62 people dead, several hundreds injured and thousands displaced amongst South African nationals and foreign nationals from other African countries.

Coordination and partnerships

The SARCS is working closely with the Partner National Societies (PNS), IFRC, ICRC, and the UN agencies through the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Support Office (RIACSO) and the national, provincial and local government authorities of the South African Government. The Movement components (SARCS, IFRC and ICRC) are part of the Movement disaster management coordination taskforce. SARCS as a member of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) both at the national and provincial levels is more and more being relied upon by the authorities and other agencies for operational expertise and situational assessment and reports.

The South African Government has established an IMC (inter-ministerial committee) specifically to respond to the threat of violence against foreign nationals. Recommendations from various organisations and community representatives to address this issue have been made to the IMC. The South African Police Service (SAPS) and South African National Defence Force have already been deployed into volatile areas to prevent and respond to outbreaks of violence. Security structures and systems set up as part of the 2010 World Cup are being maintained and oriented towards responding to the urban violence.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A planning meeting to discuss strategies to address the urban violence, xenophobia and population movement was held in Zimbabwe from 3 to 5 March, 2010 as a preparedness action. The meeting brought together Secretaries General and disaster management technical staff from Zimbabwe and South Africa Red Cross Societies, IFRC Africa Zone head of operations, IFRC regional disaster management coordinator, representatives from the Danish and the Finnish Red Cross. This meeting resulted in the establishment of the Ubuntu (Humanity) Initiative, a project aimed at promoting social integration and reducing violence in line with the new Federation policy on migration

On 12 July, the SARCS Secretary General sent a message to all the SARCS Regional Offices to put on high alert in preparation for any outbreak of violence. Reports of violence especially in Wellington and Paarl (Mbekweni Township) in the Western Cape Province affected a total of 177 people who were forced by to abandon their homes or shops. Since the 14 July, SARCS has distributed 177 blankets to the affected people and has been providing them with food in the form of two meals per day. Hygiene education commenced on 19 July 2010 targeting displaced foreigners based at Franchhoek and Antoniesvlei camps.

In Gauteng Province, civil unrest was reported on 19 July in Kya Sands in Kagiso in Johannesburg. The number of people affected will be confirmed once the SARCS volunteers finalize their initial assessments. Assessments have also been carried out by SARCS field teams in Ryger Park, Gauteng, which is one of the hot spots of the 2008 of urban violence. Police and army units have been deployed to the area.

The SARCS disaster management coordinator and tracing officer visited the Musina/Beitbridge border areas from 5 to 9 July. Observations from this visit revealed the relative readiness of municipalities in the area respond to the situation. Officials from SARCS and Zimbabwe Red Cross met in Musina to discuss key areas of cooperation and support as well as updating each other on the situation regarding movement of foreign nationals from South Africa into Zimbabwe. The meeting also revealed an urgent need to revive and strengthen the SARCS presence (office, staffing, volunteer training and visibility) in the Musina area, especially in the light of the critical stakeholder relationships, where organizations like the UN, MSF, IOM etc, are represented at relatively high levels.

SARCS volunteers are conducting a social mobilisation campaign carrying anti-discrimination messages. The campaign were initiated by the SAPS and aims at promoting respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion between host and migrant communities

The proposed operation

This DREF request is mainly focusing on strengthening the capacity of SARCS to be able to respond to the current and possible full blown violence against foreign nationals living in South Africa.

The SARCS will also carry out anti-discrimination campaigns targeting host communities. The campaigns will use existing and new materials developed by IFRC and SARCS to promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Objective: SARCS has effective Disaster Preparedness and Response mechanism for efficient delivery of emergency response and recovery assistance.

Activities planned:

- Training 100 volunteers on integrated disaster management training in Gauteng, Western Cape and Limpopo Provinces.
- Developing a national and three provincial contingency plans for Gauteng, Western Cape and Limpopo Provinces.
- Conducting three training sessions on Safer Access in Gauteng, Western Cape and Limpopo Provinces.
- Pre-positioning 100 volunteer kits in prone provinces.
- Pre-positioning relief stocks for 2,500 families in Gauteng, Western Cape and Limpopo Provinces.
- Procurement and pre-positioning of 45 tracing kits in nine regional offices.
- Developing and disseminating tracing guidelines to nine regional offices.

Principle and Values

Objective: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Activities planned:

- Conducting ten training sessions on Red Cross Principles, Humanitarian Values and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for 100 SARCS staff and volunteers.
- Dissemination of Red Cross Principles, Humanitarian Values and IHL to eight provinces targeting local administration and leaders.
- Printing and distribution of 10,000 pamphlets on anti-discrimination.

Emergency health

Objective: The Capacity of SARCS volunteers, staff and community members is increased, in order to provide community-based First Aid (CBFA) services.

Activities planned:

- Training of 300 volunteers on CBHFA in Gauteng, Western Cape and Limpopo Provinces.
- Procurement and pre-positioning of 100 hundred First Aid kits in Gauteng, Western Cape and Limpopo Provinces.
- One training in each province to sensitise volunteers on psychosocial programming (PSP) interventions and referral systems.

Communication

Objective: SARCS develop a comprehensive communication strategy.

Activities planned:

- Developing a national communication strategy.
- Developing and publication of an anti-discrimination campaign DVD.

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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Budget Summary South Africa Civil Unrest (MDRZA004)

Budget Group	Quantity	Unit Price	TOTAL (CHF)
Shelter - Prefabricated Shelters tents	100	310	31,000.00
Total Shelter			31,000.00
Clothing & Textiles - Blankets	5000	5	25,000.00
Clothing & Textiles - Jackets	100	20	2,000.00
Total Clothing & Textiles			27,000.00
Food - Food Parcels	500	40	20,000.00
Total Food			20,000.00
Water Purification Tablets & Powder	125,000	0.03	3,750.00
Total Water & Sanitation			3,750.00
First Aid Kit	150	40	6,000.00
Total Medical & First Aid			6,000.00
Drums, Barrels, Jerry cans	5000	4	20,000.00
Total Utensils & Tools			20,000.00
Hygiene Supply/Hygiene Parcels	500	25	12,500.00
Soap & Detergent	5000	0.51	2,550.00
Total Other Supplies			15,050.00
Freight Costs (Transport costs)	3000	1	3,000.00
D & M - Road/Trail Transport Costs	4000	1	4,000.00
Total Distribution and Monitoring			7,000.00
Vehicle Costs - Fuel	3	1000	3,000.00
Vehicle Costs - Maintenance	3	500	1,500.00
Total Transport & Vehicle			4,500.00
Delegate Hotel Accommodation (in-country)	10	100	1,000.00
Total Personnel - International			1,000.00
Regionally Deployed Staff - MSA & Per Diem	10	55	550.00
Regionally Deployed Staff - Accommodation	5	100	500.00
Regionally Deployed Staff - ticket	2	700	1,400.00
Regionally Deployed Staff - Luggage Allowance			-
Total Regional Deployed Staff			2,450.00
Volunteers - Incentives	1,000	10	10,000.00
National Society Staff Hotel Accommodation	20	100	2,000.00
National Society Staff - Per Diem	20	55	1,100.00
Total National Staff			13,100.00
Training - Federation Organised	300	70	21,000.00
Total Workshop & Training			21,000.00

Publishing & Printing - Printing	10,000	1	10,000.00
Publishing & Printing - CD & DVD Production	1	10,000	10,000.00
Total Information			20,000.00
Admin - Stationery	3	500	1,500.00
Admin - Photocopying	3	500	1,500.00
Total Other General Expenses			3,000.00
Communications - Postage	3	500	1,500.00
Communications - Courier Charges	3	500	1,500.00
Communications - Telephone	3	500	1,500.00
Communications - Computer / Internet	3	500	1,500.00
Total Communications			6,000.00
Grand Total in CHF			200,850.00
PSR			13,055.25
Grand Total in CHF			213,905.25