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Information bulletin

South Africa: Tornado/Strong Winds

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

10 October, 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS), with the support of the International Federation, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

On the 2nd October 2011 at 18h30, two provinces were affected by tornados.

In Gauteng, the Duduza township near Nigel was struck by a tornado. As a result, people were left destitute and without houses.

In the Free state, In Maqheleng in the Ficksburg area, 122 households were affected by a tornado. Houses were destroyed and the injured were rushed to hospital. SARCS volunteers assisted with First Aid to the injured and affected. Following needs assessment conducted by SARCS volunteers and staff, the National Society has distributed relief items in both locations.



The Situation

In **Duduza**, near the town of Nigel in the **Gauteng Province** a tornado struck at about 18h30 causing huge infrastructure damage to houses and loss of one life. The affected areas were Masechaba Ext 1, 2, 3 and an area called Mandebeleni.

- On the day of the disaster about **167 injured people** were transported to two surrounding hospitals.
- In the process **1(one) 8 year old boy died** in hospital due to injuries sustained.
- Follow up assessments within the areas has also revealed that majority about **(+635)** houses were either partially or total destroyed.
- By the 4th of October 2011, there were a total of **37 families** being accommodated at local Multi Purpose Center.
- The initial assessment revealed that a total of **2,606 people were affected**, including men, women and children.

- Due to some affected victims working, it has been difficult to get accurate numbers, because during the day some of them are at work and some people are still hospitalized.

In Maqheleng, **Ficksburg** in the **Free State province**, a tornado destroyed houses, leaving one child dead:

- **122 households** were affected
- **40 people were seriously injured** and transported to hospital
- One **9 year old child died**

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Society in **Duduza, Gauteng**:

- On the day of the disaster volunteers provided First Aid services to the affected and injured.
- Volunteers and staff also helped with conducting needs assessment of the affected families.
- SARCS is working with local government, local churches and NGOs and has been appointed by the Provincial Joint Operation Centre for Disasters to play the leading role.
- Following the assessment conducted by SARCS volunteers and staff, the National Society has distributed the following relief items:
 - 42 food packs
 - 135 blankets
 - 42 hygiene packs that included sanitary towels
 - 70 nappies
 - Hot meals to about 2,606 affected people
- Distributions were ongoing at time of drafting this bulletin.

In **Ficksburg, Free State**:

- SARCS is working with local government, local churches and NGOs. SARCS procured the following relief items for the affected families:
 - 122 Food parcels
 - 122 hygiene packs
 - 244 blankets
 - 122 buckets
- SARCS is receiving many food and non food donations from the local businesses, and together with the local groups, are distributing the items and hot meals to the affected.

IFRC is keeping in touch with SARCS and accompanied them to the field. The IFRC Communications Department is preparing a story from affected communities.

Contact information

For further information please contact:

- **In South Africa:** Winnie Ndebele, Acting Secretary General, Pretoria, phone: +27 83.649.4709, email: wndebele@redcross.org.za
- **In IFRC Southern Africa Region:** Ken Odur, Regional Representative,

Johannesburg, phone: +27.11.303.9700, Fax: + 27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
email: ken.odur@ifrc.org

- **IFRC Zone:** Dr Asha Mohammed, Head of Operations, Johannesburg, phone: +27.11.303.97.00, Fax: + 27.11.884.38.09; +27.11.884.02..30 email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting)

- **In IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek; Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Delegate, Johannesburg; phone: +27.11.303.9744; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.