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# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Botswana: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRBW002**  
**GLIDE n° FL-2013-000013-BWA**  
**20 February, 2013**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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 184,249 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,459 beneficiaries (591 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Between 16 and 23 January 2013, heavy rain caused extensive flooding in the Central Province of Botswana. The flood water damaged houses and public buildings such as schools. It also destroyed infrastructure including roads, flooded crops and swept away livestock. Around 842 families (4,210 persons) have been affected including 300 displaced families and 125 refugee families.



**Volunteers assist a grandmother and her granddaughter erect a tent in Senete village: Photo BRCS**

In response to the recent floods, Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) immediately mobilized its volunteers and undertook situation and needs assessments, distributed tents, provided temporary shelter, and non food items (NFIs) to the 291 most vulnerable flood-affected families (1,455 persons).

The Botswana Meteorological Service has been forecasting heavy rains which are expected to lead to more flooding in the communities along the rivers of Okavango and Zambezi putting hundreds of families at risk. The United Nations (UN) Office of the Resident Coordinator report has highlighted the need for urgent replenishment of stock in preparedness for impending rains, and meetings have been undertaken between UN, government and BRCS to address the issue of supply shortfall.

This DREF intends to replenish the relief stock distributed as part of the BRCS emergency response in January, which reached 291 families in the worst affected Sub Districts of Tutume and Tonota. Furthermore, due to expected further flooding in Ngamiland and Chobe Districts located along the Okavango and Zambezi rivers, this DREF aims to pre-position stock for 300 families to enable rapid emergency response.

This DREF operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by mid May, 2013. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by mid June 2013).

[<click here for the DREF budget; contact details; map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

Between 16 and 23 January 2013, heavy rains caused extensive flooding in the Central Province of Botswana. The week-long heavy rain triggered floods in Tutume Sub District (Dukwi, Leph Ashe, Zoroga, Tsokootshaa, Nata, Tutume, Senete, Ditladi, Masunga, Marapong, Gweta, Ditladi and Sowa) and Tonota Sub District (Natale, Mmandunyane and Borolong). At least 842 families (4,210 persons) have been affected in these districts, including 300 families that were displaced and 125 refugee families. The torrential rains destroyed homes, roads, flooded dams, fields and destroyed livestock and livelihoods.

People were left homeless after their houses were destroyed and damaged. In these areas, the houses are built from sandy soil, which is easily washed away, compared with the South, where mud houses are more robust. Schools were disrupted and used as evacuation centres. Excessive flooding on roads made access to the more remote areas difficult for the response teams. Some communities were completely isolated due to the flooding. Four casualties were reported in Zoroga village, including three people seriously injured as their house collapsed while they were sleeping. Many affected families stayed with neighbours where it was possible. If neighbours were not able to accommodate the affected families, the village chief consented to accommodate people temporarily in the community hall.

BRCS initiated a rapid assessment on the 16 to 23 January 2013. The assessment enabled the identification of 291 most vulnerable families - out of those affected - in urgent need of assistance. In immediate response to the identification of vulnerable households BRCS carried out relief distributions (temporary shelter, tents, and non food items (NFIs)) to the 291 families most in need.

Food supplies and stock was destroyed by flooding, thus families were in need of food support. Three days from the disaster the government started to distribute food to the affected and most vulnerable 291 families, including mealie-mealie (maize flour), porridge, maize, cooking oil, sugar, tea, meat, milk in small quantities of 2.5kg). The food basket was a one-off distribution and didn't take into account the above average family size of 7 -10 family members. Therefore, the President of Botswana donated additional food support to all affected areas. UNHCR, as per their mandate, provided food rations to refugees in Dukwi camp. There are still concerns for the longer term recovery of food subsistence of the families as it will take time for the crops to recover since the fields were submerged in water, and the next planting season is in September.

Some affected areas were waterlogged, which made the ground swampy and therefore difficult to erect tents. In other areas people didn't want to be evacuated, fearing that they would lose their property. In Dukwi refugee camp, 126 refugees were evacuated to schools, where health risks were monitored because of crowding and fear of disease outbreak. The government have been allocating land to displaced families however the area identified for new housing has no water and lacks sanitation. As a result, some families have returned to their old homes. The government intends to build new structures in the new location though this is expected to take time.

The flood waters have started to recede and people have gone back to their homes, however many are still living in tents while they rebuild their traditional mud houses.

During the last 30 days, above normal rainfall have been experienced in Eastern and Northern Botswana, including in the catchments of the Zambezi River, leading to the developments of high floods. Today's level of the Zambezi River is the highest for February since 1968.<sup>1</sup> The Botswana Meteorological Service is forecasting continued rains which are expected to lead to more flooding in the communities along the rivers of Okavango and Zambezi, which are highly vulnerable to flooding. The United Nations (UN) Office of the Resident Coordinator report No. 1 from 31 January 2013 is highlighting the need for urgent replenishment of stock in preparedness for impending rains, and meetings have been undertaken between UN, government and BRCS to address the issue of supply shortfall.

The last flood major floods in the area were in 2010, however, two storms in two districts (Kweneng and Kgalagadi) last October (2012) saw BRCS distribute tents, tarps, shelter tool kits, mosquito nets, blankets,

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<sup>1</sup> African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD): Weekly monitoring and forecasts of heavy rains 18-25 February 2013; Hydrological Services Namibia: Daily Flood Bulletin 17 Feb 2013

kitchen sets, jerry cans and food items to assist affected communities. This distributed relief stock was never replenished.

## Coordination and partnerships

The overall coordination of the flood response rests with the Government's Office of the President, through the National Disaster Management office and the National Disaster Management Committee. The BRCS is a member of the National Disaster Management Committee, and attends the Committee meetings.

In the affected districts, the District Commissioners coordinated the response at the local level. The District Commissioner convened the local District Disaster Management Committee, of which BRCS is also taking part. These meetings facilitated the coordination and information flow between the various stakeholders.

United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have a presence in the Dukwi Refugee Camp (with a population of 3,400 people), and provided flood affected communities with food, mattresses, mosquito nets, blankets, however there was a shortage of stock and they could not manage to cover all the affected families.

The Government provided food and tents to affected families, across all the affected areas. Beneficiary feedback indicated a lack of quality of the tents distributed (many were old and had missing parts). Thus people abandoned the government tents and went to community shelters. The government has a policy that tents have to be returned after three months, which led to tension between communities. BRCS tents do not have to be returned.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) did not provide any assistance to BRCS for the disaster response operation. There are no Partner National Societies (PNS) based in country. The Norwegian Red Cross supports the finance department of the BRCS, while IFRC supports the orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) programme. The Government of Botswana provides annual block funding for BRCS.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

BRCS immediately undertook a joint assessment in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Committee to get an understanding of the situation and needs. The information was collected through interviews with affected families, house to house visits, direct observation, and consulting with traditional village leaders. Through the assessment, the BRCS identified 291 families in urgent need of assistance.

BRCS mobilized 90 volunteers and distributed tents, provided temporary shelter, and basic household items to the 291 most vulnerable flood-affected families. The items included family tents, tarpaulins, shelter tool kits, blankets, and kitchen sets.

Distributions to the most vulnerable families are found in the table below:

### **FLOODS UPDATE FOR CENTRAL DISTRICT**

Village	Household	Family Members	Materials Distributed
<b>Tutume Sub District</b>			
Dukwi	12	62	12 family tents, 5 shelter tool kits
Dukwi Refugee Camp	34	169	Evacuated in a vocational school. New plots will be allocated to the displaced refugees, 100 Mosquito nets, 100 pieces of soap
Lephashe	11	55	11 Family tents
Zoroga	71	335	30 Tents, 40 kitchen sets, 25 sheets of tarpaulins, 25 shelter tool kits
Tsokootshaa	22	110	22 family tents, 22 kitchen sets, 15 shelter tool kits
Nata	15	85	20 Family tents, 100 mosquito nets, 100 pieces of soap
Tutume	9	30	20 family tents, 20 kitchen sets
Sowa	20	75	20 family tents, 20 kitchen sets, 5 tarpaulins, 20 blankets and 10 shelter tool kits

Senete	4	26	4 Family tents
Ditladi	20	85	20 family tents
Gweta	34	169	34 family tents,
Masunga	20	85	20 family tents
Marapong	6	30	6 family tents
<b>Tonota Sub District</b>			
Natale	6	15	6 family tents, 5 blankets and 3 shelter tool kits
Mmandunyane	5	10	5 Family tents, 5 shelter tool kit, 5 kitchen sets
Borolong	2	18	3 Family tents, 3 shelter tool kits, 3 Kitchen sets and 3 sheets of tarpaulins.
		<b>Total</b>	33 tarpaulins, 233 family tents, 200 bars of soaps, 110 kitchen sets, 66 shelter tool kits, eight bags of mixed clothes, 25 blankets, and 200 mosquito nets.

Source: BRCS

The BRCS volunteers registered the beneficiaries (capturing details such as household name, family members, elderly, young people and issues of diversity). This information was sent to the BRCS DM officer, who verified details together with the area's social worker and the list of needs were shared with the government supply officer. The volunteers distributed relief items according to a distribution list, after the beneficiaries provided identification number and signed for the assistance. After the distribution, volunteers assisted in pitching tents for elderly and vulnerable families.

Distributions were based on needs, highlighted through the findings of the assessments.

Non food items were distributed according to following selection criteria:

- Families whose houses were completely destroyed and the families had nowhere to go.
- Tarpaulins were used to cover leaking roofs of partially damaged houses.
- Elderly, ill/HIV/AIDS affected persons without the support of family members were prioritized for being provided with tents.
- Blankets and kitchen sets were given to families whose belongings were damaged or destroyed.
- Mosquito nets were distributed through health centres to pregnant women and families with children under five (as per Ministry of Health direction) in Dukwi Refugee Camp and Nata.
- Soap was also distributed through health centres and given to families with small children, and ill family members (as per Ministry of Health direction) in Dukwi Refugee Camp and Nata.

With its role in disaster response, BRCS provided shelter to the homeless and reinforced houses that were at risk of falling apart. The BRCS response team distributed 33 tarpaulins, 233 family tents, 200 bars of soaps, 110 kitchen sets, 66 shelter tool kits, eight bags of mixed clothes, 25 blankets, and 200 mosquito nets. This was all the relief items that BRCS had available in stock. This stock was moved from Gaborone's central warehouse into the district government warehouses and from there it was distributed to the affected villages.

Distribution of mosquito nets and soap was done by the Ministry of Health in Dukwi Refugee camp and Nata - two high risk villages (approximately 40 km distance from each other). Mosquito nets were distributed to pregnant women and families with children under five, through the health clinics, when they came for vaccinations. UNHCR distributed mosquito nets in Dukwi, but since there were not enough nets to cover the whole community, BRCS was requested to provide targeted support for vulnerable groups. Soap was given to families with small children and sick family members.

As part of BRCS on-going work, field officers and volunteers advised high risk communities on how to reduce risks through constructing houses from sturdy materials. However, poor families would not be able to afford to buy stronger, sturdier materials.

Botswana Red Cross response teams were visible on the ground with District Disaster Management Committee. Some villages, such as Zoroga, had no government representation, therefore BRCS led the response.

In Dukwi refugee camp, toilets were overflowing posing health hazard of diarrhoeal diseases. Unfortunately neither the government nor BRCS had water purification tablets in stock to guard against cases of diarrhoeal diseases. Hygiene promotion and health talks were conducted by Red Cross volunteers across the whole camp. During assessment, the local clinic in the refugee camp was tasked to monitor the situation of spikes

in diseases outbreaks. Health and hygiene promotion were carried in Leph Ashe, where the boreholes were flooded. Water quality was monitored by the Water Utilities Corporation in all the affected districts.

The BRCS is currently following up on the forecasted information in regards to further rainstorms that have been predicted to cause flooding in vulnerable communities along the rivers of Zambezi and Okavango. With the DREF support, BRCS intends to strategically pre-position stocks to be able to rapidly respond to the needs of estimated 300 families when the floods occur. 200 temporary shelters (tents and tarpaulins) and NFI kits for 300 families will be pre-positioned to allow for a rapid initial response. BRCS is currently alerting the communities on the risks and looking into the disaster response structures in place.

The IFRC will support the operation with planning, monitoring, procurement of stocks, as well as support evaluation of the response.

## The needs

An estimated 1,455 people were affected by the floods in the Sub Districts of Tutume (Dukwi, Leph Ashe, Zoroga, Tsokootshaa, Nata, Tutume, Senete, Ditladi, Masunga, Marapong, Gweta, Ditladi and Sowa) and Tonota (Natale, Mmandunyane and Borolong). Out of these, 291 families were identified as the most vulnerable, having lost their houses and belongings, and having many children, ill persons, and elderly in the households.

The flood affected families had an urgent need for food support, shelter and basic household items. Also overcrowding, sanitation and hygiene remained a concern, increasing the health risks for the population.

The government covered the food needs of the affected population, and some of the shelter and NFI needs.

A refugee community was affected; however most needs were covered by UNHCR. BRCS provided additional soap and mosquito nets in the refugee camp, as directed by the Ministry of Health.

Currently, around 300 vulnerable families are at risk for being displaced and affected by forthcoming floods, due to forecasted further rains in areas with communities that are vulnerable to flooding from Zambezi and Okavango rivers.

### **Beneficiary selection:**

The target beneficiaries for this operation are 291 of the most vulnerable flood affected displaced families in two affected sub districts of Tutume and Tonota. The beneficiaries have been provided with emergency relief assistance and were selected based on the needs by a joint team of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) and BRCS staff and volunteers. While understanding and respecting SPHERE standards as much as possible, distributions were made based upon amount of stock available and the number of affected families.

Non food items were distributed according to following selection criteria:

- Families whose houses were completely destroyed and the families had nowhere to go.
- Tarpaulins were used to cover leaking roofs of partially damaged houses.
- Elderly, ill/HIV/AIDS affected persons without the support of family members were prioritized for being provided with tents.
- Blankets and kitchen sets were given to families whose belongings were damaged or destroyed.
- Mosquito nets were distributed through health centres to pregnant women and families with children under five (as per Ministry of Health direction) in Dukwi Refugee Camp and Nata.
- Soap was also distributed through health centres and given to families with small children, and ill family members (as per Ministry of Health direction) in Dukwi Refugee Camp and Nata.

Furthermore, the operation will pre-position emergency stock to respond to the shelter needs of around 200 families and NFI stock for around 300 families, should the forecasted flooding occur as predicted.

The standard family size in Botswana is five people per family; however during assessment and distribution BRCS found that the average family size was in fact usually 7 – 10 family members. This resulted in distribution of more items to larger families (for example, one family had 11 family members, so BRCS distributed 2 family tents).

Many families in the flood affected sub districts were profiled as low income, single headed families, with above average number children many of whom were not in school. Most families did not receive any assistance from the Government and relied on external support.

The assessment found a number of old people, some without identification documents, having been abandoned by their families. These people were prioritized to receive BRCS tents. HIV/AIDS is an issue for these families, particularly in Dukwai refugee camp. The government does not provide ARV support to the refugees (since they are not citizens of Botswana). BRCS has an ARV programme in the camp that reaches out to vulnerable refugees. The programme includes 287 people who are currently on treatment, while 74 people are waiting to access ARVs.

## The proposed operation

The DREF operation aims to replenish stock that has already been distributed to 291 flood affected families in Tutume and Tonota Sub Districts, as part of the recent flood response. Furthermore, this DREF intends to pre-position stock for around 300 families, given that further rains are anticipated in the near future with the rainy season predicted to continue.

NFIs for 291 affected families will be replenished in the sub districts where the stock was distributed, and stock for an additional 300 families will be prepositioned in Ngamiland District and the Chobe Districts, which have rivers that are forecasted for flooding (the Okavango River and the Zambezi River respectively).

It is planned to strategically pre-position 200 temporary shelters (100 tents and 100 tarpaulins with poles and rafters) and NFIs for 300 families will be purchased and strategically located. NFIs will include kitchen sets, jerry cans, blankets, mosquito nets, soap, and aquatabs. This pre-positioning will allow a rapid initial disaster response.

The affected areas are tourist areas, and local communities are not allowed to cut trees, therefore tents have been included in the planned stock, while the tarpaulins that are being purchased are provided with poles and rafters.

30 volunteers (15 from Chobe and 15 from Ngamiland District) will be trained in First Aid, health education and hygiene promotion, cholera prevention, water treatment, and the correct use of mosquito nets, as a way to prepare them for responding to the flooding disaster that has been forecasted.

<b>Shelter, Settlements and Non Food Items</b>	
<b>Outcome:</b> BRCS stock is replenished after distribution to 291 flood affected families in Tutume Sub District and Tonota Sub District, and further stock is prepositioned for an additional 300 families in anticipation for further flooding	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency shelter assistance for disaster-affected families is replenished and prepositioned</li> <li>• Essential household items/NFIs for disaster-affected families is replenished and prepositioned</li> </ul>	<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure and replenish 233 family tents, 66 shelter tool kits, 33 tarpaulins</li> <li>• Procure and preposition 100 family tents, 100 shelter tool kits (one per three families), 100 tarpaulins, 600 poles for erecting tarpaulins, 600 rafters</li> <li>• Procure and replenishment of relief supplies for 291 households, including 25 blankets, 110 kitchen sets and 200 mosquito nets</li> <li>• Procure and preposition relief supplies for 300 families, including 600 blankets, 300 kitchen sets and 600 mosquito nets, 600 jerry cans</li> <li>• Procure and preposition for 300 families aqua tabs and soap</li> </ul>

## Emergency health

**Outcome: The risks of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases due to floods reduced among 300 households in the high risk communities in Ngamiland and Chobe districts, through the provision of disaster preparedness measures at community level.**

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
First Aid, health education and hygiene promotion training provided to 30 volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify and train 30 volunteers (15 from Chobe and 15 from Ngamiland District) in First Aid, health education and hygiene promotion, including the correct use of mosquito nets</li></ul>
The risk of contracting cholera and other waterborne related diseases is reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify and train 30 volunteers at community level for the being prepared to perform prevention of cholera, water treatment and other diarrhoea diseases</li></ul>

## Logistics

**Outcome: Relief operation is supported and delivers a range of relief items in line with the operational priorities in a cost effective and timely manner.**

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The operation has coordinated mobilization of relief items and efficient and timely dispatch of goods to the BRCS central warehouse in Gaborone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Procure relief items and other materials needed for the operation as specified above.</li><li>Establish the best sourcing strategy for relief materials so that cost efficient and timely delivery of relief is ensured</li><li>Stock is registered on an inventory and stored in the central warehouse in Gaborone</li><li>Preposition stocks in strategic areas</li></ul>

Some of the NFIs required are available through local markets. These include poles and rafters for erecting tarpaulins, blankets, and soap, which will be procured locally. Local procurement for tents is expensive and are lacking in quality. (The government buys the tents locally and of substandard quality. The tents often are weak, have no ground sheets, and are prone to leaking.) Therefore, tents will be procured regionally with support from IFRC. All local procurement will adhere to the national society procurement procedures, while regional procurement will follow IFRC procurement procedures.

The remaining NFIs will be procured through IFRC, and include shelter tool kits, kitchen sets, jerry cans, aqua tabs and mosquito nets. Clothes are donated locally, thus BRCS is not seeking replenishment through this DREF for the clothing support. BRCS will source quotes from East Africa for these items and procurement will be done according to IFRC standards.

Procurement falls under the BRCS DM officer, who has previous experience in clearing customs, requesting rebates, etc. The BRCS DM Officer has been trained in SPHERE standards and is an RDRT member.

Goods will transit through a central warehouse in Gaborone, while onward transport to the target districts is arranged. BRCS headquarters will mobilize 15 volunteers in Gaborone to assist in offloading the stock. BRCS have a full time warehouse manager who will be responsible for making the stock inventory. These inventories are kept centrally and reconciled based on distribution lists (produced in the field in the case of a disaster). The stock for prepositioning will be transported to the Ngamiland and Chobe districts. The stock will be warehoused in the in-kind storage provided by the respective District Commissioners. Field officers will mobilize 15 volunteers in each district to come and offload the stock and position in safe storage.

## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring will be based on the goods received note for stock arriving at the warehouse and revised when stock is distributed. The BRCS Disaster Management Officer will be responsible for overseeing this DREF operation, ensuring that due compliance is observed and the financial and narrative reports are produced on time.

The IFRC regional office will monitor the operation, and support in evaluating the intervention. A Final financial and narrative report will be posted based on the final reports submitted from the National society.

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## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067277; email: [robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org](mailto:robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org)

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## 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 (NGOs) 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.
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# DREF OPERATION

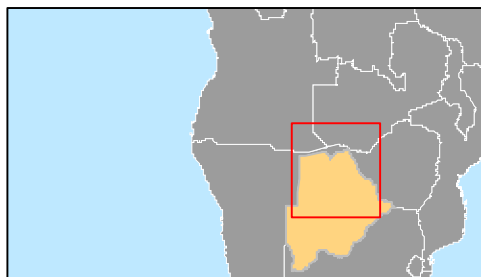
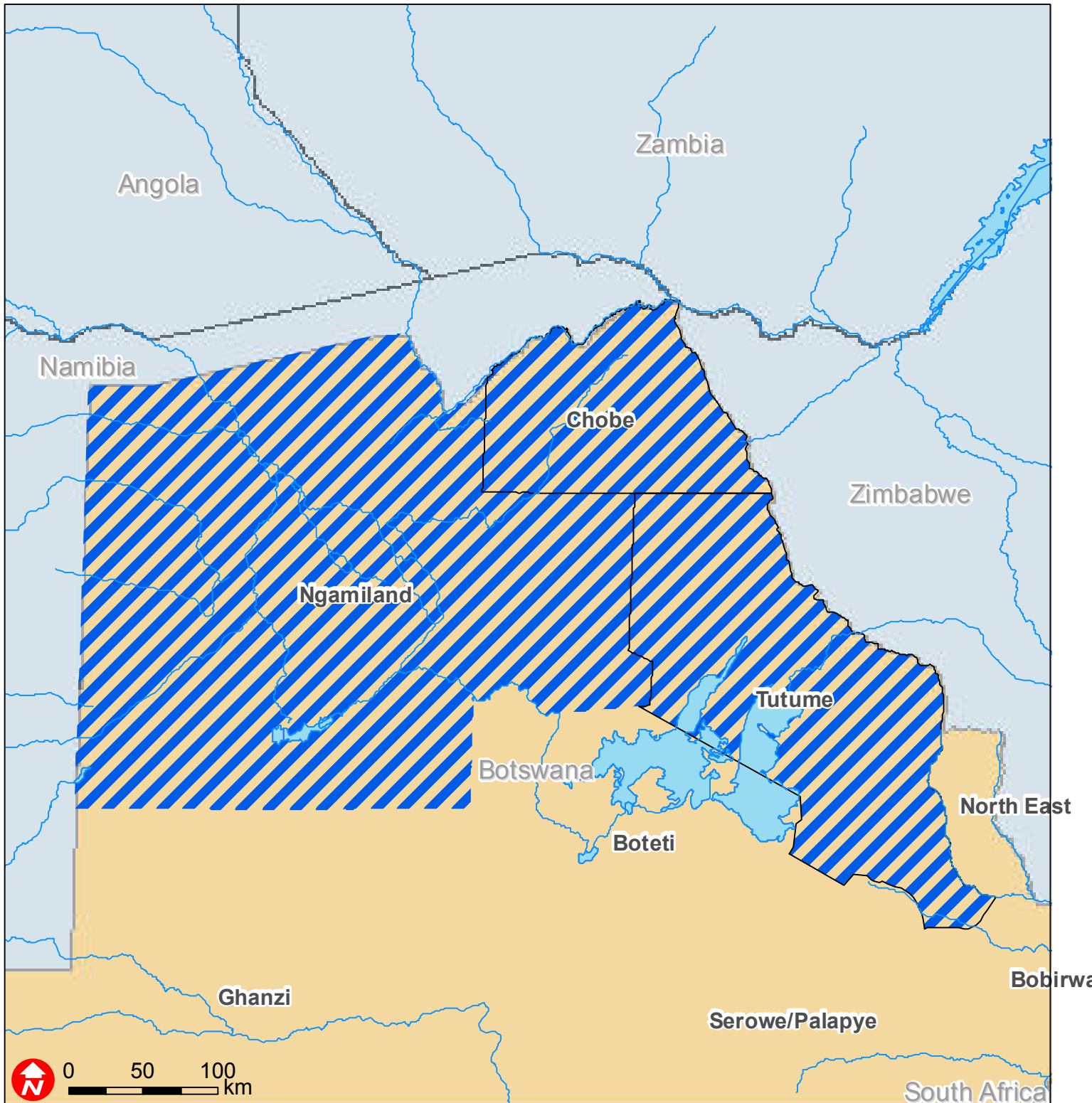
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

## MDRBW002 - Botswana Flood Budget

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	110,737
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	9,010
Clothing & Textiles	24,004
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	566
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	11,200
Other Supplies & Services	5,797
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>161,314</b>
International Staff	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	349
Volunteers	881
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>1,230</b>
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	6,073
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>6,073</b>
Travel	2,328
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	0
Communications	58
Financial Charges	2,000
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>4,386</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,245
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>11,245</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>184,249</b>



# Botswana: Floods



-  Lakes
-  Affected areas