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## Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Zambia: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRZM008**  
**GLIDE n° [FL-2013-000023-ZMB](#)**  
**26 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 84,691 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Zambia Red Cross National Society (ZRCNS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 300 families (1,800 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Heavy rain has caused flooding in Zambia from 17 January to 13 of February 2013, with Mumbwa district in the central province being the worst hit. The flooding has caused the displacement of hundreds of families and destruction of houses, infrastructure and crops. A total of 300 families have been identified as the most affected and are in need of emergency assistance. There is concern of increased risk of waterborne diseases, including cholera among the affected population.



Government officials visited the affected households in Mumbwa.  
Photo: ZRCNS

ZRCNS together with the government of Zambia and district disaster management committee (DDMC) undertook a rapid situation and needs assessment to determine the impact of the flooding and needs among those affected.

Based on the needs assessment, this DREF operation intends to respond to the emergency needs of 300 families, through the provision of food assistance for one month, basic household items, clean water and hygiene promotion to the situation, decrease vulnerability and reduce risks for diseases. Additionally, this operation will contribute to strengthen the ability of the ZRCNS staff and volunteers to respond to emergencies.

This operation is expected to be implemented over a period of three months, and will therefore be completed by 30 May 2013. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by end of August 2013.

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

## The situation

Since 17 January 2013, Zambia has experienced flooding due to heavy rainfall, which has affected the most parts of the country, with Mumbwa district in the Central province being the worst affected. The district has been experiencing above average rainfall, and reports for the past two years show that the water table has risen as a result of this. According to the local media, the district commissioner reported that up to 1,600 families were affected by the floods.

The National Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), ZRCS, local authorities and community representatives conducted a rapid needs assessment in Nangoma and Mumbwa constituencies on 12 and 13 February. A total of 35 villages with approximately 15 households in each village were visited at this time. The objective of the assessment was to establish the scale, extent and impact of floods in Mumbwa district and establish the needs of the affected families. Access to the affected area was difficult due to that roads have been flooded from the heavy rainfall.

The main findings from the assessment concluded that the intensity of the flooding was severe compared to the past two years as most houses, roads and sanitation facilities in the affected areas were either partially or completely damaged. Houses collapsed due to the heavy rains or sustained exposure to flood waters, and at least two persons have died after their houses collapsed and the roof fell in. Two other people were rushed to Nangoma mission hospital and their condition (at the time of rapid assessment) was stable. Maize fields in almost all of the affected wards were submerged in water.

The assessment also found that the drinking water has been contaminated by flood waters and destroyed pit latrines. With the lack of sanitation facilities, the affected communities now use the bushes as latrines, which contribute to worsening the sanitation and hygiene situation in the area. Furthermore, with stagnant waters still present, the areas are also experiencing an increase in mosquito breeding sites.

The assessment team also visited Nangoma mission hospital and the Lungobe rural health centre. Local reports from these two health centres indicate that the disease prevalence (including malaria and diarrhoea) are the highest in the last five years (no official figures are available at this stage).

The rapid assessment identified four key sectors that were adversely affected by the floods:

Settlement and shelter: 300 families are left homeless after their houses completely collapsed in the two constituencies. Most houses in these two areas are made of mud, poles and thatched roofs, resulting in their vulnerability to heavy rain and extended exposure to flood waters. The food storage buildings of the families have been destroyed. Meanwhile, houses left standing have damp floors and this, coupled with poor ventilation, poses a threat of respiratory diseases.

Water and sanitation: The majority of the population in the affected Mumbwa district (around 75-100%) use unprotected water sources such as scoop holes. With a lot of runoff water, and the current rise in the underground water table, contamination of the water sources is certainly guaranteed. Though the contamination of these water sources could not be ascertained due to lack of testing laboratories in the two affected constituencies there is a 50% increase as compared to past two years in diarrhoea cases which indicates that the water is contaminated.

Livelihoods: Significant hectares of the main staples of maize and cassava have also been inundated with flood water. In some cases, maize has become stunted and is not tussling. The cassava is rotting due to long spells of water logging in the fields. The water logging of the grazing land has led to fears of possible disease outbreaks as the animals have to graze in water logged areas and are concentrated in reduced size of grazing lands. Feared disease outbreaks include contagious bovine pleural pneumonia (CBPP) and hemorrhagic septicaemia.



Inundated crops as a result of the floods. Photo: ZRCS

Education: The pit latrines at most schools have flooded, causing faecal matter to overflow and pose as a health hazard. This has subsequently resulted in the closure of two basic schools as a way of safeguarding the health of the children. Kabulwebulwe Basic School has 950 pupils while Kasalu Basic School has 1,600 pupils, meaning a total of 2,550 affected pupils have had their education disrupted due to the floods. Two other basic schools (Mubula - 1300 pupils and Naluvwa – 1,210 pupils) are likely to be closed after it was established that sanitation in the schools have also been compromised.

Meanwhile, the road infrastructure is damaged and impassable; the bridges have collapsed making it difficult for the people to carry out their day to day activities. Children whose schools are not closed have not been attending school due to impassable roads

Up to now, the government has provided the following assistance to the affected areas:

- Initial 175 tents were taken the site as of 15 February 2013, with more expected in the coming days.
- Distributed 3,710 boxes of chlorine liquid
- Distributed 350 mosquito nets leaving a gap of 550 nets (taking into account national policy and WHO recommendations of one mosquito net for every two persons)

The government is taking the lead in providing shelter and sanitation facilities to the affected communities. This includes the delivery of mobile toilets to the affected four schools help to decrease the risk for diseases.

## Coordination and partnerships

ZRCS is cooperating with government ministries and departments, including the DMMU and the Ministry of Health (MoH) in responding to the needs of the 300 households. The DMMU are coordinating the emergency response activities for the flood situation. At district level, the ZRCS will coordinate with the district disaster management committees (DDMC) in the respective constituencies.

The DDMCs have mobilized health personnel for response and prevention activities to manage the escalating caseload of malaria and diarrhoea diseases and these will work with the ZRCS volunteers in door to door hygiene promotion campaigns.

The local branch structures will be involved in coordinating the implementation of the operation. Up to 50 ZRCS volunteers will work with satellite disaster management committees to implement activities, as per agreements with the government and local communities. The National Society will continue attending and participating in the coordination meetings organized by the government at various levels.

At this stage, the DMMU, ZRCS and the local communities are the only actors on the ground responding to the needs of the affected households in Mumbwa. Through regular updates compiled by the disaster management department, various partners (including DMMU, MoH and DDMC) are informed about the situation and progress of the situation and implementation of activities. This will contribute not only to communication and advocacy efforts but also to coordinate activities between actors.

The government is taking the lead in providing shelter and sanitation facilities to the affected communities. This includes the delivery of mobile toilets to the affected four schools help to decrease the risk for diseases.

ZRCS's planned interventions have been shared and agreed with authorities to avoid any duplication and make sure all urgent needs are met.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A joint rapid assessment was undertaken by the ZRCS and the government on 12 and 13 February 2013. ZRCS had mobilized 50 new volunteers in the affected district at the time of reporting and will continue to participate in partnership meetings organized by the DMMU as well as provide complementary support to government actions where possible. For this operation, ZRCS will provide regular updates to the IFRC regional office on the flooding situation in the country.

IFRC has provided technical support in the planning of the operation, and will assign an operation manager to closely monitor and provide support to the implementation of the operation, based in Zambia on a part time basis. A local disaster management officer will be hired during the implementation of the operation in order to ensure close support and monitoring of the implementation, which will also provide logistical support and perform the local procurement. IFRC will also be involved in evaluating the operation.

ZRCS integrates restoring family links (RFL) activities into its emergency response, and will initiate this activity in case any needs are identified during implementation.

There are no partner national societies (PNS) present in the country. ZRCS is implementing a programme for orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) in partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross.

## The needs

According to the Mumbwa district commissioner and local media reports, up to 1,600 families were affected by the floods. Out of these, 300 families (1,800 persons/ an average of six members per family) in Mumbwa district have been identified as the most vulnerable after the loss of their houses, belongings, food stocks as well as livelihoods.

The rapid assessment performed by the government and ZRCS identified the urgent needs of the affected families to include basic food, temporary shelter needs, basic household items, clean water, and sanitation facilities. The results of the assessment and actions taken to date are as follows:

Emergency Need	Food	WASH	Shelter
# of families affected	300	300	300
# of individuals affected	1,800	1,800	1,800

- A total of 300 households require shelter after they homes collapsed due to flooding in two constituencies
- Liquid chlorine will be needed as the 300 households are drinking water from unprotected water sources. As a complementary action, hygiene promotion activities are required to accompany the distribution of liquid chlorine

- A balance of 550 mosquito nets are required as a top-up to the 350 mosquito nets provided by the government to date
- Provision of one month one-off food ration to the 1,800 beneficiaries at a ration per person of 10kg maize meal, 0.6kg oil and 1.8kgs of pulses

Beneficiary selection:

With the assistance of the village committees, village leaders/headmen, and the DDMC, 300 displaced households (1,800 persons) due to the floods were identified during the rapid assessment exercise. These families come from Mumbwa district, the worst affected district from the floods, and have lost their houses, belongings, food stock and livelihood. These families are currently considered the most vulnerable, and criteria and selection has been agreed with authorities and the affected communities.

## The proposed operation

ZRCS has selected sectors that are a priority to the promotion of life with dignity and prevention of outbreak of diseases among the affected population. In view of this, ZRCS will focus on food distribution, hygiene promotion, and the provision of clean and safe water. These interventions will include all of the 300 families identified through the joint assessment.

The proposed DREF operation will include following main components:

- Food relief: 300 flood affected families will receive a one month food support package that include per family 60 kg maize meal, 3.6kg oil, 1.8 kg of beans.
- Non-food relief: 300 most vulnerable families will receive blankets and mosquito nets, three per household of approximately six persons. The government has already provided 350 mosquito nets, and ZRCS will respond to the gap of the remaining 550 mosquito nets.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene: Chlorine for water treatment will be provided for 300 families, combined with trainings on how to treat household water. Jerry cans for water storage will also be provided for the households (three per family). ZRCS will also provide 3 bars of soap per family per month as a complementary action to the health education focusing on water related diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, malaria, etc. which will be provided to the affected families, as well as general hygiene promotion.

A total of 50 volunteers will be mobilized, trained and equipped with necessary protective materials (gum boots, raincoats). The training will include food distribution, water treatment, health education with focus on water related diseases, hygiene promotion, and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology. The community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) manual will also be consulted for the health education component.

ZRCS has a focus on restoring family links, and will initiate this activity in case any needs are identified during implementation.

Food and non-food items
<b>Outcome: Reduce the vulnerability of 300 flood affected households in Mumbwa district through food relief for one month, and provision of basic household items.</b>
<b>Outputs (expected results): 300 flood affected households provided with appropriate food rations for one month, and basic household items that meet the sphere standards.</b>
<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train 50 volunteers in food and relief distribution techniques</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance</li> <li>• Local procurement of 18 metric tonnes of maize meal, 1,080 kg of cooking oil and 3,240 kg of beans.</li> </ul>

- Distribute a one-month, one-off food ration to the 1,800 beneficiaries at a ration per person of 10kg maize meal, 0.6kg oil, and 1.8kgs of beans.
- Distribute and control movement of relief supplies from point of dispatch to end user.
- Purchase and distribute 550 mosquito nets, combined with a demonstration for the families in how to use the nets.
- Purchase 900 blankets and distribute to 300 families (3 blankets per households).
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on activities conducted.
- Develop and implement an exit strategy.

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome:** The risk of water-borne and water-related diseases is reduced through the provision of chlorine, soap and complementary hygiene promotion to 300 families (1,800 people) affected by floods.

**Outputs (expected results):** 300 affected families have access to clean water, soap and knowledge on hygiene.

### Activities planned:

- Orient 50 volunteers in water treatment, health education (including cholera prevention) and hygiene promotion, and PHAST methodology.
- Distribute to each of the 300 families with 2,000 x 250 ml liquid chlorine for water treatment
- Affected families got information on correct use of liquid chlorine for water treatment.
- Procure 900 jerry cans and distribute to the 300 families (3 jerry-cans per family)
- Procure 2,700 bars of 250g soaps and distribute to the 300 families (three bars per family per month)
- Carry out health education, including cholera prevention, and hygiene promotion for 300 families using PHAST methodology.
- Monitor and evaluate the water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

## Logistics

**Outcome:** Appropriate and suitable relief food and items are made available in a timely and effective manner for the emergency operation

**Outputs:** Relief food and items in adequate quantities are bought (mobilised) delivered, properly stored and distributed.

### Activities planned:

- Procurement of food and non-food items locally in line with national procurement guidelines.
- Transportations of the food and non-food (quantities as above) items from Lusaka to Mumbwa
- Monitoring and distribution reports

## Monitoring and evaluation

The ZRCS will have the overview and management the implementation of this operation, working closely with its branch structure. The national society will compile regular operation reports which will be submitted to the IFRC Southern Africa regional office.

The IFRC Southern Africa regional office will assign an operation manager to closely follow up the implementation of the DREF in the country. The operation manager will be based in the country on a part time basis. A local disaster management officer will be hired during the implementation of the operation in order to ensure close support and monitoring. IFRC will facilitate an end of operation review and lessons learnt workshop. This review aims to analyze how the operation was designed and implemented, aiming to build capacity for future operations.

## Contact information

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

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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.



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.

# DREF OPERATION

26-02-13

MDRZM008

ZAMBIA FLOODS DREF OPERATION

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Clothing & Textiles	9,345
Food	18,905
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	2,876
Teaching Materials	3,413
Ustensils & Tools	3,510
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>38,048</b>
Storage, Warehousing	975
Dsitribution & Monitoring	2,340
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,290
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>7,605</b>
National Society Staff	5,733
Volunteers	10,633
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>16,366</b>
Workshops & Training	7,040
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>7,040</b>
Travel	8,000
Information & Public Relations	683
Communications	780
Financial Charges	1,000
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>10,463</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	5,169
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>5,169</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>84,691</b>



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