

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTHERN AFRICA: FOOD AID AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

8 August, 2002

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 12/02

Launched on 2 May 2002 for CHF 6,803,000 for 12 months revised to CHF 89,285,274(USD 61.6 m/EUR 60.9m) in cash, kind and services to assist a minimum of 1.3 million beneficiaries for 12 months.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000 (for the field assessment mission)

Operations Update No. 3; Period covered: 29 July- 5 August 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 15.8%

Related Appeals: Southern Africa 2002 Annual Regional Appeal no. 01.16/2002

Outstanding needs: CHF 76,561,845 (USD 51,878,933/EUR 52,639,431)

Summary: Federation delegates are in the process of establishing the operations centre in Johannesburg and are working in close cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) to establish implementing structures. Some 231 trucks, light vehicles, cranes, fuel tankers and mobile repair workshops left Norway on 31 July and are expected to arrive in Durban by 23 August. The vehicles, which were donated by the Norwegian government through the Norwegian Red Cross, will be used by the Federation, WFP, NGO partners for relief distributions.

The operational budgets are still being adjusted and will be issued shortly to reflect revisions in donor support and planned activities.

Operational Developments w

The Federation is in the process of establishing an operations centre in Johannesburg, and country managers for operations in Zimbabwe and Zambia have arrived. Federation logistics delegates and the WFP liaison delegate are working closely with the WFP to finalise details regarding the terms and conditions for the provision of transport, the WFP has been given a draft of the estimated monthly food needs for the planned Federation and regional National Societies relief operations. The Norwegian Red Cross shipped the 231 vehicles for the operation from Drammen, Norway on 31 July. The event received good media coverage in the Norwegian press and was featured on the Federation's website.

Images of this crisis are not that normally associated with food shortages in Africa during the 1990s. Those affected by HIV/AIDS may not always appear to be in a critical condition, however, no one can be exactly sure how much more quickly a person's condition will deteriorate due to improper nutrition, and family members left behind such as young children may not have the ability to carry on the farming to support their families.

What is known is that a balanced diet is essential for healing from any illness and without it the chances of staying productive are greatly reduced. Discussions with ECHO have progressed and details regarding available support for the operation are expected to be confirmed during September.

Coordination w

The WFP is responsible for inter-agency coordination in Johannesburg, and holds bimonthly meetings with partner organisations at their Regional Management Coordination Unit in the city. In addition, the organization has offices in each of the operating countries. Decisions regarding specific details of the operation, such as food allocations etc. are made in the operating countries. A Federation liaison delegate is working with the WFP particularly in regard to logistics coordination between the partners in Johannesburg while Federation country managers and Regional National Society staff will maintain regular communications and coordinate activities with the local WFP offices. WFP is working with several international and local NGO partners in addition to the Federation. Further detail regarding the WFP's operation and the status of the pipeline response is available on www.wfplogs.org. A link has been created to this website and other useful links on the Federation's public website and on the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

Targeted and General Food Distributions w

At the moment there is concern among all of the aid agencies as to the balance of the food basket. To date pledged assistance has been mostly grain. According to the recent summary of WFP pipeline response, while US contributions have strengthened the cereal pipeline the pipeline for non-cereals is lacking.

In addition, governments have raised some questions regarding the distribution of genetically modified food which has been donated to the operation. The WFP is discussing with concerned government leaders means by which the food can be distributed.

The question of accepting modified food is a complex one from an economical, environmental and health perspective. Most European nations have banned GMO products in their countries, based on all these elements as well as the fact that too little is known of the long term affect of these products. Zambia and Zimbabwe are the two countries which have banned the import of GMO crops in the form of grain, but both countries are negotiating with aid agencies and the WFP on how to solve that problem.

The Federation and the National Societies have strong links with communities through ongoing projects as those people carrying out the daily work generally originate from the same communities which they are working in. Ongoing home based care projects in Zambia and Zimbabwe, for example, already have a food component however at this point the food supply is inconsistent and therefore food delivery is subject to availability.

As stated in the Appeal, the Federation's relief distributions and activities will be conducted in a manner to ensure that beneficiaries are treated with dignity and respect. The Delegates and National Society staff and volunteers are aware of the zero tolerance of the abuse of power in the implementation of the programmes.

Transport Support Package For WFP w

During the second two weeks of July, over 300 Norwegian Red Cross volunteers prepared a total of 231 trucks, landcruisers, cranes, fuel tankers and mobile repair workshops for transport to Durban. The fleet which has been cleaned and painted was donated by the Norwegian Defence Forces to the Norwegian Red Cross for use by the Federation, the WFP and WFP partners. The fleet will facilitate the delivery of aid to difficult to reach remote and geographically isolated rural areas where up until now individuals have not received any assistance.

Programme Coordination and Management w

The Federation's Southern Africa: Food Aid and Humanitarian Assistance operation complements identified health needs and National Society programming created, with support from the Federation's Regional delegation in Harare, as part of the regions' annual appeal (Appeal no. 01.16/2002). The capacity of ongoing Home Based Care programmes and programming to assist orphans in the identified countries will be increased

improving the effectiveness of care provided by the Red Cross to existing beneficiaries. The Federation's decision to prioritise food distributions to HIV/AIDS affected beneficiaries is in keeping with the commitment made by the African National Societies in 2002 to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Ouagadougou declaration.

Due to the projected size of the operation, which because of the rapidly evolving nature of the situation could not have been anticipated when the 2002 annual appeal was written, and the addition of a substantial logistics component, the national societies in consultation with the Federation agreed that there was a need for additional technical support from the Federation in regard to this particular operation. In addition to long term programme support to National Societies in Southern Africa currently being provided by the Federation's regional delegation in Harare, specific technical in-country support will be given to each of the National Societies. To date the Red Cross Societies of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Spain have expressed interest in working in country with the African National Societies and the Federation implementing the programmes identified in the revised appeal. In addition, the operation is receiving considerable support from the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

The Operational Management & Coordination Centre (OMCC) in Johannesburg, South Africa

Over the reporting period, the HoRD and the Programme Coordinator met in Harare further developing the HR structure for the operation. Up until now the operation has been run by the Regional National Societies with support from the Regional delegation in Harare. The increased number of beneficiaries and the large distances requires on site support for implementation. The increased workload in the areas of coordination, logistics, reporting and information will be covered by the OMCC. Office space close to the WFP offices has been identified and is expected to be confirmed this week. The office was selected because of its proximity to the WFP and warehouse space. In addition, security is an important factor for choosing office space and delegate housing. The Federation will share the OMCC with the regional branch of the South African Red Cross. National staff for the OMCC will be selected in consultation with the South Africa Red Cross.

Outstanding needs

The operation is in critical need for significant additional funding for the purchase of relief items, maintenance of vehicles, and basic operational costs.

For further details please contact:

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Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Southern Africa - food aid and humanitarian assistance						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 12/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			08.08.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				89'285'274		TOTAL COVERAGE 15.8%
AUSTRIA - RC		50'000	EUR	73'625	12.07.2002	
BRITISH - RC		172'500	GBP	396'077	31.07.2002	ZIMBABWE PROGRAMME
BRITISH - RC		25'000	GBP	57'403	01.08.2002	
BRITISH - RC		325'000	GBP	746'233	06.08.2002	FOOD
BRITISH - RC		50'000	GBP	114'805	01.08.2002	
CANADIAN - RC		100'000	CAD	96'130	31.07.2002	
CYPRUS - RC				5'014	22.05.2002	
IRISH - GOVT		500'000	EUR	738'150	04.07.2002	
KUWAIT - RC		5'000	USD	7'370	29.07.2002	
LIBYAN - RC				5'000	07.06.2002	
SPANISH - PRIVATE DONOR		125	EUR	185	24.07.2002	
SWEDISH - RC		3'000'000	SEK	483'600	16.05.2002	MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE
SWISS - RC				38'190	05.07.2002	
TURKISH - RC		5'000	EUR	7'314	07.06.2002	MALAWI RC SUPPORTING STARVING POPULATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'769'096	CHF	3.1%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWISS - RC				65'000	05.07.2002	10000 BLANKETS, TRANSPORT/ INSURANCE
NORWAY - RC/GVT				11'204'036	24.07.2002	TRANSPORT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			30'061		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			47'310		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				11'346'407	CHF	12.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	

