

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

21 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

Operations Update No. 5; Period covered: 12 - 19 August 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 16%

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

Outstanding needs: CHF 75,168,783 (USD 50,255,642 or EUR 51,374,516)

Summary: The Baphali Swaziland Red Cross Society (BSRCS) completed the first round of distributions of World Food Programme (WFP) donated food to some 2,000 families in Manzini and Hhohho.

The Federation is in the process of procuring food supplies.

Ericsson, the Swedish telecommunications company, has donated 140 cellular phones to be used during the operation. The telephones were shipped from Sweden earlier this month and are expected to arrive shortly.

The vehicles donated by the Norwegian Red Cross will arrive in Durban on Friday 23 August. Some 20 delegates from the Norwegian Red Cross will join the Federation's fleet, transport and logistics coordinators in Durban to receive the vehicles and prepare them for use.

Operational Developments w

The large population of people with HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa require above average amounts of protein and energy to fight the virus and remain active and productive. Maintaining a proper diet, however, is becoming increasingly challenging as access to food in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland is becoming more difficult. Barriers to obtaining food are coming from all directions. First, unemployment in some areas is as high as 70% which means that many people cannot afford food. This problem is then compounded by the fact that food prices have increased due to two years of poor harvests and changes within parts of Southern Africa's farming industry. Second, there is a large increase in the number of child headed households where there are no adults to bring in income and children. According to a joint report issued in July 2002 by UNAIDS, UNICEF and USAID, some 15.2 to 17.6% of the children in the operating countries are

orphans. In Zimbabwe, for example, there are more than one million orphans. Children who are left to fend for themselves, simply are unable to support themselves. The increased need for food combined with the incapacity to obtain it has left Southern Africa at a point where in the coming weeks the health of the general population will steadily decline.

Coverage of the impending food crisis throughout Southern Africa has been fairly good in the African press. Massive flooding in Europe and Asia and events in the Middle East, however, are making it increasingly difficult to sustain strong international media coverage. Hopefully, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which begins this week, will provide a good opportunity to increase the public's awareness of the situation.

Coordination w

The WFP hosted the INGO coordination meeting on 15 August. The meeting featured a presentation from representatives of UNICEF and Save The Children UK on protecting children and women from sexual exploitation and abuse. Agency representatives, in attendance, verbally confirmed their commitment to ensuring that distributions are carried out with the highest standard of integrity and that all those participating in the operation are fully informed about the issue and how to manage it. The Federation, as a member of the IASC task force in Geneva, supports this initiative and is in the process of recruiting a delegate who will monitor these and other protection issues.

The WFP publishes a newsletter with contributions from partner agencies for distribution to all of WFP's partners. The next meeting will be held the first week of September following the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The WFP continues to work with operating countries addressing outstanding concerns regarding food distributions.

The Federation's Operational Partnership agreement with the WFP is close to being finalised.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

Baphali Swaziland Red Cross Society (BSRCS)w

The BSRCS is part of a consortium of nine aid organisations in Swaziland which are distributing WFP donated maize, oil and beans throughout the country. BSRCS distributions of a monthly per person ration of 12 kg of yellow maize, .75 kg of oil and 1.8 kg beans commenced on 30 July. Distributions to some 2,000 families (over 15,000 individuals) in Manzini Province (central Swaziland) and Hhohho in the north were completed on 10 August. Distributions in the south in Shiselweni are continuing. Once completed the BSRCS will have provided assistance to some 19,000 beneficiaries. The second round of BSRCS food distributions is scheduled to begin during the second week of September.

Beneficiaries were selected by the BSRCS based on assessments conducted with support from the Federation's Regional Delegation. During the assessments the BSRCS classified individuals as among the most vulnerable if they did not own any livestock, ate less than two times per day, or were unemployed. Surveyed communities had a high incidence of HIV/AIDS. Preference was given to child headed households and female headed households. During the assessments the BSRCS estimated that there were some 37,000 people in need of assistance, however due to the availability of resources the Society targeted 20,000 individuals.

Rations were distributed to a representative of each household who was issued a ration card. As many of the beneficiaries are more accustomed to using white maize, BSRCS volunteers explained to beneficiaries the nutritional value of yellow maize and how best to use it. The distributions were monitored by representatives of the WFP who commended BSRCS on the manner which distributions were conducted and the Society's warehouse management.

The BSRCS worked closely with a delegate from the German Red Cross (GRC) while planning for the first distribution, and the Society will continue working with the GRC throughout the operation. Medical supplies for the operation will be arriving during the third week of August and BSRCS in cooperation with GRC is in the process of procuring corn-soy blend, food baskets and medical supplies. Representatives from the GRC are scheduled to arrive in Swaziland during the first week of September.

Buffer Stock w

As stated in the revised appeal, a one month rotating supply of food will be procured and stored for resupply to the individual countries should there be a pipeline disruption or delay. The Federation's procurement delegate has identified eligible suppliers and will commence the tendering process during the third week of August.

Transport Support Package for WFP w

The Transport Support Package (TSP) for WFP will arrive in Durban on Friday 23 August. The vehicles are being transported to Durban free of charge by the shipping company Leif Høegh & Co.ASA. The Federation's transport, fleet and logistics coordinators will meet around 20 technical delegates from the Norwegian Red Cross Society to finish preparations of the trucks. It is estimated that it will take two weeks to prepare the trucks. Tarpaulins for the trucks will arrive at the end of August in a separate consignment. Off loading of vehicles is scheduled in the week to come. Free parking space and space to move the vehicles off has been made available for the vehicles for three days in coordination with the WFP. The vehicles will require some maintenance upon arrival and tools and equipment will have to be distributed accordingly. The Federation's information delegate has arranged for press coverage of the event.

Sister Societies, such as the Finnish Red Cross Society, are supplementing the TSP by providing personnel and radios. As of now, plans are to establish workshops and mobile maintenance units for the fleet in Lesotho, Zambia and Malawi.

Programme Coordination and Management w***The Operational Management & Coordination Centre (OMCC) in Johannesburg, South Africa w***

The OMCC continues to take shape with the arrival of the Federation's finance, relief, human resources (HR), fleet and transport coordinators. Core positions are being covered or have been filled and the HR coordinator will commence recruitment of national staff shortly. Two vehicles for the operation have been provided by the Federation's Regional delegation in Harare and two more vehicles are expected for operational use from the Federation's delegation in Mozambique. The newly appointed Head of Operation's for Africa from the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva visited the affected areas.

A Federation telecommunication's consultant will work with a representative from Ericsson over the coming weeks to assess the extent of coverage throughout the operational areas. The team will also identify how the phones will be used i.e. in urban based offices or use in the field to support distributions etc. Ericsson has donated 140 cellular phones; 80 heavy duty and 60 standard. The telephones will be distributed accordingly in consultation with the Federation's logistics coordinator following the completion of the assessment.

Zambia w

The Federation's country manager met with representatives of the Zambia Red Cross Society (ZamCross). In addition, the Society's coordinator for the operation was appointed. The ZamCross Secretary General has been working on the programme's plan of action with the Federation's country manager. Details regarding the programme stated in the appeal still require some adjustments, and discussions on the programme contents were held with the Federation Secretariat's food security specialist. Beneficiary selection and means for conducting an impact assessment were among the issues addressed during these discussions.

Coordination activities in Zambia have included meetings with WFP, UNICEF and with the DMMU (Disaster Management Mitigation Unit). Requests were submitted for one logistics delegate and two relief delegates in Zambia. The potential candidates for relief delegates are African.

Zimbabwe w

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, with support from the Federation's country manager, is currently negotiating with WFP the possibility of and the terms and conditions of an in country partnership for food distribution.

Outstanding needs w

Additional funding is needed to sustain the operation.

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 Southern-Africa, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org> and the regional website at <http://www.southern-africa.ifrc.org>.

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Southern Africa - food aid and humanitarian assistance						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 12/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			19.08.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				89'285'274		TOTAL COVERAGE 16.0%
AUSTRIA - RC		50'000	EUR	73'625	12.07.2002	
BRITISH - RC		172'500	GBP	396'077	31.07.2002	FOOD FOR ZIMBABWE
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	MALAWI RC SUPPORTING STARVING POPULATION
IRISH - GOVT		500'000	EUR	738'150	04.07.2002	
JAPANESE - RC		139'900	USD	206'213	14.08.2002	
KUWAIT - RC		5'000	USD	7'370	29.07.2002	
LIBYAN - RC				5'000	07.06.2002	
PRIVATE DONORS				1'963	05.08.2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT/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				2'977'087	CHF	3.3%
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	