

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

6 September, 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 22 July 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. 7; Period covered: 26 August - 2 September 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 19.5%

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

Outstanding needs: CHF 71,826,651

Summary: The Belgian, British, Danish, Finnish, German, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, under the umbrella of the Federation's Appeal no. 12/2002 for food aid and humanitarian assistance, have filed applications seeking EUR 6.6 million in assistance from the European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO) for appeal related activities in Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, the American and Danish Red Cross Societies have submitted proposals to other sources of funding for support of activities in Malawi.

Operational Developments w

Vehicles are being transported to Lesotho and Malawi via rail and are expected to arrive within the next seven to ten days, and the Federation is procuring food items for distribution by the Zambia and Zimbabwe Red Cross Societies.

On 28 August the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued a statement in Johannesburg urging Southern African countries to accept genetically modified (GM) food assistance. Concern from some of the region's governments, such as in Zambia and Zimbabwe, regarding the consumption and use of GM foods has affected the rate and capacity for food distributions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

• MALAWI

OBJECTIVE 1: TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure secure transportation of food from main warehouse to distribution points, and to ensure the timely and fair distribution to targeted households, namely child-headed and female-headed households, as well as the elderly and people living with HIV/AIDS.

During the months of July and August, the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) in cooperation with the American Red Cross (ARC) has conducted regular distributions of approximately 400 MT of US AID/WFP donated food in five districts. MRCS conducts distributions around every two days to the distribution points on the Society's rotation in the districts of Rumphi, Nkhatakota, Ntchisi, Chitipa and Karonga.. At the moment beneficiaries of MRCS distributions receive 50 kg unmilled WFP/USAID yellow maize and 5 kg beans. Five kilogrammes of corn soy blend (CSB), a source of protein, will be added to the Society's food basket beginning this month. Food basket contents have varied so far based on the availability of resources. The MRCS food distributions are linked to the Society's ongoing HIV/AIDS activities which were developed over the past few years with input from an ARC and Federation HIV/AIDS delegate. MRCS has targeted the most vulnerable households for distributions namely: the elderly, disabled, orphans, and infirm (often due to HIV/AIDS), and is planning to increase their distribution coverage over the coming months.

Since the project began in June the MRCS has gradually assumed ownership and responsibility for coordinating relief activities.

Although the American Red Cross provided the MRCS with the necessary material input to initiate food distribution activities, the MRCS has had to look to creative ways to supplement the Society's material needs in order to conduct distributions such as the leasing of vehicles. The planned relief distributions come at a great expense to the Southern African National Societies responsible for carrying them out. Although arrangements were made between the National Societies and the World Food Programme (WFP) for the WFP to provide financial support for running costs, in addition to food items, the national societies are still having to cover a significant amount of the costs. In order to effectively distribute relief goods, especially on such a large scale, the National Societies in the operating countries are requiring a greater amount of equipment such as computers, telephones and vehicles than they normally operate with. The Federation is supporting the MRCS by purchasing additional vehicles to be used by the Society for distributions. The Federation's logistics coordinator will be going to Malawi to meet with the MRCS on 3 September, and the Federation's country manager for the operation will be arriving in the coming week. In addition to partnerships with the ARC and the Federation the MRCS has been working with the Spanish Red Cross since July.

During September the MRCS with support from ARC will continue to regularly distribute food items at around 25 distribution points in the five districts.

- **SWAZILAND**

OBJECTIVE 1: GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure continuous support to approximately 45,000 beneficiaries for a period of four months with basic food items.

The Baphali Swaziland Red Cross Society (BSRCS) completed its first round of distributions of WFP donated food.

The German Red Cross (GRC) is in the procurement stage for the next round of distributions scheduled for ten days from now. The BSRCS will conduct its relief programme in partnership with the GRC. The BSRCS will also receive support from the Finnish Red Cross who will be working through the Federation.

- **ZAMBIA**

OBJECTIVE 1: GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure secure transportation of food from main warehouse to designated distribution points and ensure the timely and fair distribution to targeted households.

Tendering for food items by the Federation for Zambia will take place on Wednesday 4 September. The food is intended for distribution by ZamCross in the southern provinces.

A Zambia Red Cross (ZamCross) team is in the southern provinces to begin preparing beneficiary lists for supplementary food distributions. Due to the shortage of resources and the urgent need for food, the country manager and the Federation's relief coordinator have decided to focus on the food component of the

programme. Distributions of items such as blankets, towels, soap and Vaseline will happen at a later stage if the resources become available.

The general food distributions of WFP donated food in the north west are still on hold due to questions from the Zambian government concerning genetically modified (GM) food.

The WFP is structured in such a way that the organisation's decisions and coordination occurs independently in each of the operating countries. There has been a fairly dramatic shortfall of food items for Zambia for the month of September where only 60% of September's needs are being met. Thus WFP food will be given to the aid agencies with larger teams who are working in the most severely affected areas of the country. The areas being covered by ZamCross are not considered the worst affected and therefore ZamCross will not be receiving food from WFP for the month of September. The situation in the country continues to deteriorate as the mortality rate continues to increase and more people are reporting that they only have access to one meal per day.

- **ZIMBABWE**

OBJECTIVE 1: TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure that HIV/AIDS infected and affected people and malnourished children under 5 years have access to nutritious food supplements.

Tendering for food commodities for Zimbabwe Red Cross (ZimCross) distributions took place on 21 August at the Federation's Operational Management and Coordination Centre in Johannesburg. Commodities and vendors were initially identified based on standards outlined in the Federation's catalogue of standard commodities. Invitations to tender were then sent out by the Federation's procurement delegate to 15 South Africa based suppliers. Vendors were then selected based on a comparative bid analysis and according to price, ability to deliver and package goods, and the quality of the product. In addition, samples of the items were provided to the Federation for inspection by the procurement delegate. Results of the tendering were reviewed by the Federation's local committee on contracts prior to selecting the vendors.

Items to be purchased, with funding from the British Red Cross Society include:

- 74.5 MT fortified white maize meal;
- 51.40 ltr edible refined vegetable oil;
- 31 MT edible beans;
- 13.77 corn soya blend (CSB);
- 5.6 1 MT brown sugar.

Purchase of these commodities, however, has been temporarily put on hold. The reason for this is that Zimbabwe's regulations for importing food items vary from the Federation's regulations and standard international practice. The Federation's regional logistics delegate is working to arrive at a means of importing the items that abides with the Federation's regulations while at the same time respecting the local regulations.

The Federation's regional logistic delegate in Harare has been working closely with the Federation's procurement delegate and ZimCross to arrange for the warehousing of the items in Zimbabwe. In addition, ZimCross, the Federation's country manager and the regional logistic delegate continue to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the WFP which will increase the amount of food available to ZimCross for distribution.

- **TRANSPORT SUPPORT PACKAGE (TSP) FOR WFP**

Preparation of TSP for deployment w

The Operational Partnership Agreement with WFP was executed by the Federation's Head of Operations and WFP's Regional director on 30 August at the WFP offices in Johannesburg.

TSP technical delegates have spent the past week working long hours to sort and load vehicles onto railway cars for deployment to Malawi and Lesotho. At the same time, the TSP telecommunications team has been ensuring that vehicles and workshops are appropriately equipped for communications.

The TSP technical delegates are in the process of loading the trucks onto trains. Forty eight of the M6 trucks were loaded during the final week of August and are being sent to Malawi via Zambia. The trains will be departing on Saturday 31 August and the transport company estimates that delivery to Lusaka will take seven to ten days. The trucks will then be driven to Malawi from Zambia.

The WFP will also transport five M6 trucks to Malawi by road on flatbed trailers.

Long-haul truck-trailers are travelling by road to Zimbabwe. The “Long-hauls” are first being used to transport the rubble and other TSP equipment to the respective countries and will then return to Zimbabwe where they will be based.

Two quotes have been received from agencies supplying drivers and the Federation’s human resources coordinator is waiting for the third quote.

The capacity of the loading facility in Durban has been disappointing making it difficult to get the vehicles on to the railroad cars. Nevertheless the team has persevered and loading is going according to schedule. TSP technical delegates will be leaving Durban to receive vehicles arriving in the respective countries during the first week of September.

The Federation’s Transport Manager, logistics coordinator and WFP liaison have worked closely with representatives of the WFP in Johannesburg and in Durban on planning for the distribution of the vehicles and finalising the Operational Partnership Agreement. The WFP and Federation information teams have worked together on publicising recent TSP activities.

Programme Coordination and Management w

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

New arrivals over the reporting period to the OMCC include: the Federation finance delegate (Johannesburg); health coordinator (based in Harare); relief delegates (Lesotho and Zambia); and an administrative assistant (national staff Johannesburg). A telecommunications delegate is expected shortly in Johannesburg and a position is being opened for a relief delegate to work with the country manager based in Harare.

Meetings were held between the Federation’s president, the Federation’s head of regional delegation, operations coordinator and logistics coordinator during the president’s visit to Johannesburg. The head of regional delegation will be travelling to Lesotho to meet with the Lesotho Red Cross Society’s President at the end of this week, and the SA operation’s coordinator will also visit the country.

Country managers in Zimbabwe and Zambia are preparing budgets and making the local offices more operational. The radio/telecom delegate visited both countries to review the telecommunications systems.

Outstanding needs and the response to date w

National Societies are responding to Appeal 1202 by actively seeking funding. A significant donation from the Finnish government through the Finnish Red Cross has improved the percentage of the Appeal’s coverage. Despite these efforts, however, funding is urgently needed to carry out planned activities. Meanwhile, the response to the WFP’s appeal has been slower than the organization had hoped for and still remains at around 25%. The Federation and the Southern African National Societies will therefore have to be prepared to fill in the gaps when necessary in carrying out planned distributions. One major concern is that no funding has been earmarked for Lesotho. As pointed out above, relief operations come at a great expense to the national societies charged with carrying them out. The Lesotho Red Cross Society needs funding to increase its technical capacity to carry out the planned activities.

The Belgian, British, Danish, Finnish, German, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies (“EU Red Cross Societies”), under the umbrella of the Federation’s Appeal 1202 for food aid and humanitarian assistance, have filed applications seeking EUR 6.6 million in assistance from the European Commission’s Humanitarian Office (ECHO) for appeal related activities in Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Should the ECHO funding be granted, the seven EU Red Cross Societies will appoint field representatives (delegates) either bilaterally or in cooperation with the Federation, who will work with the respective national societies in Southern Africa to monitor, plan and coordinate ECHO funded activities. Delegates appointed by the EU Red Cross Societies will be responsible for ECHO contract reporting. The Federation will support the EU Red Cross Societies initiative by establishing a joint and coordinated information programme promoting ECHO supported activities to the general public.

In addition to donations received to date outlined in the attached annex, additional fund raising activities include: the Danish Red Cross has submitted an application to Danida and the American Red Cross has submitted proposals in coordination with the NGO consortium in Malawi to other sources of funding in support of MRCS activities, and the Norwegian Red Cross is planning to launch a fund raising campaign during September.

Finally, in order for donors to better understand how unearmarked funds are being used, the Federation's finance delegate in Johannesburg will prepare an outline of how unearmarked funds will be allocated.

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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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Martin Zak
Head of Operations
Disaster Management and
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Southern Africa - food aid and humanitarian assistance						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 12/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			04.09.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				89'285'274		TOTAL COVERAGE 19.5%
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	
CANADIAN - RC		495'000	CAD	475'200	22.08.2002	
CYPRUS - RC				5'014	22.05.2002	MALAWI RC SUPPORTING STARVING POPULATION
FINNISH - GOV/RC		1'000'000	EUR	1'464'600	27.08.2002	OF WHICH 100'000 EUR FOR TELECOM EQUIPMENT
GERMAN - RC		250'000	EUR	366'150	26.06.2002	BILATERAL
GERMAN - RC		450'000	EUR	659'070	26.06.2002	RELIEF DELEGATE, LOCAL STAFF, VOLUNTEERS
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	
NORWEGIAN - RC				220'000	24.07.2002	
PRIVATE DONORS				1'963	05.08.2002	
PRIVATE DONORS		6'503	EUR	9'558	22.08.2002	
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				6'171'665	CHF	6.9%
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				10'984'036	24.07.2002	TRUCKS
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			30'061		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			33'511		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			30'883		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			62'094		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			45'010		
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			9'363		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				11'259'958	CHF	12.6%