

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

05 May 2003

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. 17; Period covered: 28 February – 22 April 2003

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 65.3%; Please refer to the list of contributions for this appeal available on the Federation's website.

Related Appeals: Southern Africa 2003 Annual Regional Appeal (no. 01.24/2002)

Outstanding needs: CHF 30,998,476

Summary: The partnership meeting held in Nyon (Switzerland) in March provided an opportunity for Federation representatives and partners of the food security operations as well as seven Southern African National Societies to address critical operational issues. The explosive combination of acute food shortages and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa requires the continuation of the food security operations beyond July 2003. The Federation, in close collaboration with all the operating and participating national societies of the Southern Africa Food Security operations, has been working plans to extend the emergency food aid interventions up to the end of the year. The revised plan and document are expected to be ready for review in May. Based on the ongoing food aid activities and lessons learnt, the operation is planned to integrate with the existing programmes and operational capacities of the national societies while addressing the ongoing needs of the vulnerable communities.

This Operations Update is designed to give an overview of all the activities in the Southern Africa Food Security Operation on a monthly basis, focusing on the most recent developments. The Operations Update is intended to show what has been accomplished against each objective in the appeal as well as objectives that have been added to the operations during later stages.

Due to the complexity and size of the operation, the Operations Update cannot provide all the details for every activity, and for a more precise summary and overall statistics, readers are referred to the Operations Fact Sheet which is complementary to the Operations Update, updated on a monthly basis, and reflects in chart format the activities implemented against the objectives of the operations. The operations update and fact sheet are both available on Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Operational Developments w

The overall Southern Africa Food Security Operations are progressing with most of the appeal objectives being met in all the countries of operations. The relief activities are gradually making an impact on the most vulnerable and the feedback received so far from the beneficiaries have been very positive. During the reporting period, however, some food distributions were interrupted by delays of supplies and floods in some targeted areas due to heavy rains in the first quarter of the year. Malaria transmission has thus been fueled in the region. Meanwhile considerable progress has been made in strengthening the capacity of the national societies. The water and sanitation activities have also started and are now in full swing in the selected areas in Malawi and Zambia where food distributions are going on. A number of facilities have been rehabilitated or constructed. Communities are also being sensitized with the management and maintenance of the completed facilities and trained on basic hygiene knowledge.

A number of other activities under the appeal have also been added or revised to reflect the evolving situation. Relief activities are being reinforced to integrate the food security activities with the regional programmes particularly on HIV/AIDS and organizational development.

With the food security operation in its second phase of implementation, flexibility in reallocating the funds has become crucial to maximize the impact of the food security operation. This has been made possible with unearmarked funding from the Red Cross /Red Crescent Societies with particular thanks to the British, Canadian, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Irish, Japanese, Kuwait, Luxembourg and Netherlands Red Cross Societies. In the meantime, operational budgets are being revised to reflect the current financial standing.

In March, a partnership meeting was held in Nyon in which partners of the food security operations as well as seven Southern African National Societies attended along with the Federation representatives. Critical operational issues addressed in the options assessment conducted early in the year were discussed. The explosive combination of acute food shortages and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa has called for the continuation of the food security operations beyond July 2003.

The Federation, in close collaboration with all the operating and participating national societies of the Southern Africa Food Security operations, has been working on emergency appeals to extend the current food aid interventions up to the end of the year. The document is expected to be ready for final scrutiny by the operating national societies in May. Based on the ongoing food aid activities and lessons learnt, the operation is planned to integrate with the existing programmes and capacity reality of the NS while addressing the ongoing needs of the vulnerable communities.

The long term effects of drought and HIV/AIDS

Following periods of improved rainfall in large parts of Southern Africa, harvest forecasts for the year 2003 are significantly better than earlier during this growth season. While a FAO/WFP crop assessment is going on in the region to evaluate the needs for food aid, WFP will subsequently halve its aid in May and June in areas with sufficient harvest. Some regions however will continue to suffer dry spells. The situation, as compounded by the severe HIV/AIDS pandemic, other health and social-economic factors, is still alarming and will need further intervention after the end of the operation. Large sections of the most productive generations are sick or have already died, leaving their families headed by children and elderly who are unable to earn their living. While nutritious food is the first line of defense for people living with AIDS, the burden of taking care of dying family members also demands large resources in terms of time, food, and medicine. The food security situation of Southern African region therefore needs to be addressed along with the HIV/AIDS issue in order to provide the needed support to the most vulnerable and to stop the disease from spreading further.

Home-based Care (HBC) programmes as an effective means of reaching the most vulnerable

The Federation and national societies in Southern Africa have developed an extensive network of home based care programmes, which provide basic care and assistance to people living with AIDS and their families. Through the Home Based Care programmes and local Red Cross clinics, the Federation and the national societies have been

able to channel supplementary food rations to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The initiatives have proved particularly effective in Zimbabwe where the magnitude of food crisis and the magnet of food aid have brought to light many HIV infected and affected people who were earlier obscured by stigma in the communities. There has been dramatic increase in both the number of home based care clients and orphans. This has stretched the capacity of the existing Red Cross HBC programmes, and indicates a need for more resources to support the programmes.

Need for Medium and Long term Donor Support

A humanitarian crisis which draws much attention from the media and international community enables the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement to respond effectively to the humanitarian situation, as funding from governments and other donors becomes more readily available. But it could at the same time draw away attention and potential funding for ongoing humanitarian assistance in other parts of the world where the situation may be as serious or even worse. While it is important to address other emerging humanitarian needs in the world as in the Middle East, donors are urged for their medium and long term commitment to the Southern Africa region where over 14 million people have been facing starvation and the food crisis will continue in many areas.

LESOTHO

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WFP food w

As a part of the Southern Africa Food Security Operation, the Federation originally aimed at providing WFP food to 103,000 beneficiaries in Thaba Tseka and Mokhotlong districts in Lesotho through general food distributions in the country. The project has been revised and down sized according to the evolving situation and to avoid duplication with WFP. Beneficiaries are selected by the Lesotho Red Cross in cooperation with the local authorities according to WFP criteria, and the food is distributed by the Lesotho Red Cross. Each family receives a monthly ration consisting of 50 kg of maize, 5 kg of beans and 2 litres of vegetable oil.

During the first months of the operations, the distribution was confronted with various obstacles caused by late arrival of funds. The first distribution round of WFP food in Lesotho started at the beginning of October. A total of six distribution rounds of the same ration have been completed up to early April. The number of beneficiaries has reached 36,790 in the last distribution round. Please see below for the latest distribution statistics.

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Households	Maize (MT)	Beans (MT)	Oil (MT)	Total (MT)
1	Oct	27,899	7,597	379.8	34.4	11.7	426
2	Nov	38,512	8,871	443.5	38.0	17.6	499
3	Dec – 12 Jan	35,145	9,266	463.3	46.3	18.5	528.1
4	Jan	35,777	9,166	458.3	45.8	18.3	522.4
5	Feb – 2 Mar	31,338	7,710	385.5	38.5	15.4	439.4
6	12 Mar – 1 Apr	36,790	9,744	250.2	48.7	19.4	318.4

The seventh distribution round has started in April. As of 21 April, the Lesotho Red Cross has distributed 387 MT maize, 38 MT beans and 15 MT oil to 30,205 beneficiaries from 7,667 households in Mokhotlong district.

Food distributions in Berea w

Distributions of Federation-resourced food to 3,000 HIV/AIDS affected households in Berea have been added to the appeal target. A ration of 50 kg maize meal, 5 kg beans and 2 litres of vegetable oil is to be distributed on a monthly basis for five months starting in February 2003. As the HIV/AIDS situation is severe in Berea and the district is not part of the area that is targeted with distributions of WFP food, it has been included in the distributions of food from the Federation. The German government through the German Red Cross funded the purchase of food rations containing oil and beans for 3,000 households for five months and maize for three months. DFID through the British Red Cross contributed funds for the purchase of the remaining three months

rations of maize needed for the food operation in Berea. First distribution round took place between 27 January and 26 February and 2,006 households benefited from the distribution. The second distribution was made during 4 Mar – 1 April covering a total of 2,994 households. The third distribution started on 8 April and was scheduled to complete by 29 April.

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To provide nutritious food supplement to 5,000 under-fives in vulnerable households of targeted communities.

Nutritious food supplements and nutritional education

Nutritious food supplements will be provided to 5,000 children under five years of age, belonging to vulnerable households. The distribution will be combined with nutritional education aimed at improving the nutritional status of the targeted children. These activities are currently put on hold.

WATER AND SANITATION

To improve the availability of safe water and sanitation to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of food distribution.

Included in the appeal targets for Lesotho is the rehabilitation of reticulated systems, construction of 17 springs, latrines for 1,000 families and schools, training of 160 volunteers and vector control. These activities are presently on hold, and the LRCS is currently implementing an EU funded water and sanitation project in Qacha'ek district.

CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen the operational capacity of the LRCS to respond to the food insecurity situation.

The appeal aims at providing the Lesotho Red Cross with a number of resources necessary to ensure the capacity of the national society in the food security operation. A number of important activities have already been fully implemented. The LRCS HQ has received in early April the last Toyota pickup truck out of the four budgeted. The Berea branch has also been equipped with one to facilitate effective food distributions. The Mokhotlong branch has already received two Nissan pickup trucks which are now in use for monitoring and other activities related to the food security operation. The Mokhotlong branch was also equipped in March with some office mattress and electric heater as the winter is drawing near. In addition fifty blankets were procured for use by the volunteers at the distribution points. A logistics coordinator has been recruited in March.

On 15 January a re-training course was conducted for 47 volunteers in Berea district. A one-day workshop on blanket distribution was conducted on 13 April in Mokhotlong for 28 volunteers. In January five mobile phones and three desk top computers were purchased for the Lesotho Red Cross logistics staff at headquarters. The Society is now under new leadership elected during the annual general meeting held in early April. In March, the Federation telecom delegate assisted the Society in maintaining several communications equipment. The Society's HF base station was inspected and a renewed application for a HF/VHF license is now underway. Training of staff from the Society on radio operation was also initiated.

NON-FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In response to the needs of severely impoverished farmers in Lesotho, distribution of agricultural starter packs to nearly 9,000 vulnerable families was included in the operation. During October and November, 9,039 vulnerable farmer households received a ration of 15 kg of maize seeds through the Federation in Mokhotlong and Butha Buthe districts. A total of 135 MT of maize was distributed to the two districts. Out of the 5,013 families in Mokhotlong who received maize seeds, 4,500 also received a hoe and a spade each. The LRC is also planning to distribute blankets to 8,637 families in Mokhotlong during 5-31 May targeting orphans, child headed households, elderly, disabled and chronically sick people. Each family will receive two blankets.

From the end of November until the beginning of January, 10,000 families in Berea and Leribe districts each received a ration of 20 kg of maize seeds and 50 kg of fertilizer. The same families also received hoes in February. The distribution of starter packs in Berea and Leribe districts was conducted through bilateral co-operation

between the German Red Cross and the Lesotho Red Cross.

MALAWI

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

General food distribution of food donated by USAID and WFP started in Malawi in July, targeting the districts of Rumphi, Karonga, Chitipa, Nkhonkhotakota and Ntchisi. Maize was distributed during the three distribution rounds from July to September. Distributions are based on households with an average size of 5.5 people. Since the distribution started, new beneficiaries have gradually been added to distribution lists, thus increasing the beneficiary targets.

Starting October, the distribution has continued with basic WFP food rations of 50 kg maize, 5 kg pulses and 5 kg CSB (corn soy blend) per family per month. Since February, 2 litres of vegetable oil has been added to the food baskets, initially in Rumphi, Nkhonkhotakota and Ntchisi districts and same ration distributed in all five districts in March. The food was donated by WFP. The table below indicates the latest distribution statistics:

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Households	Maize (MT)	Beans/pulses (MT)	CSB (MT)	Oil (MT)	Total (MT)
1	July	43,038		368.6				368.6
2	Aug	43,038		358.6				358.6
3	Sept	102,324		852.6				852.6
4	Oct	128,102	23,017	1,143.8	112.5	108.2		1,365
5	Nov	150,186	25,031	1,251.5	103.7	84.0		1,439.2
6	Dec	125,706	20,951	1,076.0	169.1	32.7		1,277.8
7	Jan	147,984	24,664	1,076.0	169.1	202.2		1,447.3
8	Feb	159,070	28,940	1,456.7	145.6	145.6	40.1	1,788
9	Mar	223,574	40,651	1,886.2	188.5	75.4	188.5	2,338.3

The general food distribution in Malawi included in this appeal is carried out by the Malawi Red Cross through co-operation with the American Red Cross.

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION / SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING

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.

Starting in March, approximately 5,000 orphans and people living with HIV/AIDS received Federation resourced supplementary food rations to improve their nutritional situation. The monthly ration for each beneficiary consists of 10 kg of maize flour, 2 kg beans, 3 kg corn soy blend (likuni phala), 500 ml vegetable oil, 1 kg sugar and 500 g salt. The distributions are conducted through the home-based care programme in the districts of Mwanza, Balaka and Lilongwe and are expected to continue for five months. The persistent heavy rains in March postponed the distribution plan in one of the two distribution centres in Lilongwe to early April. The actual number of beneficiaries for the first distributions will be reported in the next operations update. The second round of distribution has started on 23 April targeting the same beneficiaries.

In February, a total of 11,000 beneficiaries in the districts of Mzimba, Kasungu, Lilongwe, Mchinji, Zomba, and Blantyre received the first distribution round of supplementary rations containing 2 kg beans, 1 kg likuni phala and 1 kg sugar per person. Through this supplementary feeding programme, which is funded by ECHO through cooperation with the Spanish Red Cross, the MRCS distributed in total 22 MT of beans, 11 MT likuni phala, 11 MT sugar and 11 MT vegetable oil. The second round of distribution continued in March and the same population benefited from the distribution.

WATER AND SANITATION

To improve the availability of safe water and sanitation to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of food provision

A number of water and sanitation activities in Malawi have been added or revised after the launch of the appeal. The water and sanitation activities which have commenced in April, will continue until July including rehabilitation of 15 handpumps with a total of 7,500 users in Nkhotakota. In addition, 45 members of the benefiting community will be trained in community based maintenance and management of their handpumps. Hygiene promotion will be performed by volunteers in the villages where the handpumps are rehabilitated.

CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen operational and response capacity of the MRCS to carry out the operation.

Proposals are being prepared concerning the rehabilitation of one warehouse and two MRCS branch offices in Lilongwe and Zomba. Drawings of the two office buildings have been prepared. Dates for start of construction have not been finalized. Funding for four motorcycles and eight bicycles was provided in February by the Federation to the society. This is to assist MRCS district branches to improve operations related transportation for staff and volunteers such as facilitating monitoring and on site administration of distributions. Two Toyota Hi-lux 4x4 pickup vehicles were provided to the Malawi Red Cross HQ and the vehicles are now in use for the food security operations. A programme assistant for the Malawi operation funded by the Federation was hired on a six-month contract. She started working on 1 December.

NON FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of seeds and agricultural tools to improve the 2002-2003 harvest season to 150,000 beneficiaries in targeted areas of Chikwawa, Mchinji and Nkhotakota for the 2002-2003 harvest season.

Through bilateral co-operation between the Malawi Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, agricultural starter packs were distributed in November to 45,000 families in Chikwawa and Mchinji districts. Each starter pack contained 10 kg of maize seeds, 10 kg of fertilizers, and one hoe or spade.

The MRC, in bilateral cooperation with German Red Cross, also distributed 20 MT of seeds and fertilizers to another 41,585 families in Lilongwe, Ntcheu, Phalombe and Mwanza between 1 November and 15 December. Proposals for providing 210 irrigation treadle pumps to poor farmers in Muzuzu, Salima and Machinga districts in Malawi have been prepared. The irrigation programme has been re-designed to reflect long term development objectives. The pumps are funded by the Federation and the selection of beneficiaries is being prepared. Distribution is expected to start in July.

SWAZILAND

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

In August 19,963 people in the districts of Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselveni received a monthly ration of 12 kg of maize, 1.8 kg beans and 0.75 litres of oil per person. In the second distribution round that took place between September and October in the same districts, the same rations of maize and oil were distributed except beans which were not available. The food ration was regulated during the subsequent distribution rounds. A new district, Nkwene, was added in December to the operation. The number of beneficiaries reached 55,753 in the fourth distribution round exceeding the appeal target of 45,000. Monthly distribution was interrupted in February due to shortage of maize but was resumed in the March distribution in which the beneficiaries also received corn soy bean. The food was donated by the WFP and distributed by the Swaziland Red Cross. Please see table below for distribution details:

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Households	Maize (MT)	Beans/pulses (MT)	Oil (litre)	CSB (MT)	
1	Aug	19,963	2,224	239.5	23.4	14,972	-	
2	10 Sep-15 Oct	19,453	2,323	233.4	-	14,590	-	
3	20 Oct-18 Nov	24,422	3,738	293	44	18,317		
4	10 Dec-7 Jan	55,753	8,988	635.5	100.3	41,815		
5	13-30 Jan	55,015	9,482	663.1	25.8	40 MT		
	Feb	Distribution stopped due to lack of maize						
6	10-13 Mar	42,186	8,038	498.5	65.3	31,640	53.4	

Meanwhile, a new assessment was conducted in areas not covered by the WFP donated food. First distribution of basic food ration to 26,531 new beneficiaries (4,278 households) was carried out by the Swaziland Red Cross between 1 and 19 March in the districts of Manzini, Hhohhoo and Shiselweni. A total of 386 MT of food aid including some 318 MT maize, 20 MT beans and 48 MT oil was distributed. Approximately 27,000 beneficiaries are receiving on monthly basis 12 kg maize, 1.8 kg beans and 0.75 litre vegetable oil per person. The ECHO-resourced distribution will continue up to the end of June. In March, the Swaziland Red Cross also distributed in March 360 MT maize grain donated by the Swaziland government to approximately 30,000 people in northern Hhohhoo.

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To provide nutritious food supplements to the under-fives and to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Starting November, under a bilateral project between the Swaziland Red Cross and the German Red Cross, 1,270 malnourished children and 1,880 school children have been identified through weight monitoring in Red Cross clinics in the districts of Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni. The children received monthly ration of 9 kg corn soy blend per person. The project lasted for three months.

Also through bilateral co-operation between the same partners is the distribution of food baskets to 1,500 people living with HIV/AIDS. First distribution started in November 2002 in Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni through the Red Cross clinics in these areas, and finished in February 2003. A total of 1,500 beneficiaries, who are clients of the HIV/AIDS home based care programme, received three monthly rations each consisting of 12.5 kg maize meal, 5 kg beans, 3 kg sugar, 0.5 kg tea, 2 litres oil, 0.5 kg salt as well as basic hygiene items such as soap and toothpaste. Continuation of the project is being considered with the support from the Federation.

NON FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Disaster rehabilitation of subsistence farmers by the provision of seeds and fertilizers and basic drug availability in clinics in Red Cross operation areas.

Through bilateral co-operation between the Swaziland Red Cross and the German Red Cross, distribution of basic drugs to 20,000 HIV/AIDS affected people is being conducted through the home based care programme and Red Cross clinics in the country. The drugs, funded by the German Red Cross, consist of 45 medical kits containing basic drugs according to WHO standards. The kits were delivered by the end of August to the three Red Cross clinics in the districts of Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni.

Through co-operation between the Federation and the Swaziland Red Cross, the distribution of agricultural starter packs for drought affected farmer households took place between 20 January and 11 February with a small quantity distributed in March. Each of the selected 5,556 drought-affected farmer households in Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni received 10 kg beans seeds, 5 kg cow pea seeds, and 50 kg fertilizers.

In response to the outbreak of cholera in Shiselweni, the Swaziland Red Cross undertook a need assessment in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and subsequently distributed during February and March 1,400 ORS packets, 700 water canisters and 350 water purification packs to 350 households in the affected areas. The Society also trained 139 community members to have better understanding of cholera and HIV/AIDS.

CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to increase the capacity of the national society to deal with the increased work load combined with the Southern Africa Food Security Operation, one Nissan 9-ton truck was purchased and delivered in December for the Swaziland Red Cross. A number of newly recruited staff were also in place in the NHQ funded by the Federation starting November including one reporting and monitoring assistant, one logistics officer (started in January), one finance and administration manager (started in February). Two site officers were also recruited for the Shiwelweni and Hhohho branches. Recruitment of one finance assistant and one disaster preparedness (and OD) manager at NHQ is underway. Training on logistics, finance and distribution has been going on since February. During 12 to 16 March, a training course on monitoring and food security was conducted for 13 staff from Manzii and Hhohhoo branches. A team building workshop for 15 NS management and field coordinators was also implemented during 15-18 March in Manzini. One laptop, one printer, one photocopier and two fax machines were purchased and delivered to the Society. The fax machines were allocated to the warehouse and Shiselweni division.

ZAMBIA

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

General food assistance in Zambia in the original appeal targeted 21,200 beneficiaries of government and WFP donated maize in Zambezi and Chavuma districts of whom 11,800 people received 178 MT maize in November. Each person received a basic WFP food ration of 10.5 kg of maize per month. Starting December, WFP revised the basic ration to 12 kg of maize per person per month. At the same time, general food distributions were later expanded in the same districts and extended to four additional districts (Kasempa, Kabompo, Mufumbwe and Mwinilunga). The number of beneficiaries has thus been greatly increased. Due to delay of supplies and flooding, Mwinilunga district was not covered in the March distribution. As a result of scaling down, it is planned that only 21,000 people in Zambezi and Chavuma districts will receive the WFP donated food in April. The table below shows the latest distribution figures of WFP donated food:

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Maize (MT)	Beans/pulses (MT)	Total (MT)	Districts
1	Jan	57,965	693.9	-	693.9	Chavuma, Zambezi
2	Feb	59,628	707.9	-	707.9	Chavuma, Zambezi, Kasempa, Kabompo, Mufumbwe, Mwinilunga
3	Mar-early Apr	71,536	874.9	-	874.9	Chavuma, Zambezi, Kasempa, Kabompo, Mufumbwe

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

The total appeal target for the targeted food distribution in Zambia has been revised to 112,000 beneficiaries. The food assistance targets HIV/AIDS infected and affected people and malnourished children under five years with a monthly ration of 3.6 kg beans and 12 kg maize per month. The maize was added to the target from December and the basic ration was revised from 10.5 kg starting April along with 1 litre of vegetable oil.

Federation-resourced food

Following the revision of operations targets, 60,000 beneficiaries (HIV/AIDS affected people, elderly, orphans, home based care clients and their families) in the districts of Kapiri Mposhi, Maamba (in Sinazongwe), Livingstone and Choma will receive food supplements purchased directly by Federation. Distributions are carried

out by the **Zambian Red Cross** with support from the Federation.

The first distributions which started in November contained only beans as the maize component was not added until December. Beneficiary numbers continued to rise throughout the distribution rounds of Federation food with 55,237 beneficiaries receiving totally 686 MT of supplementary food rations in March.

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Maize (MT)	Beans/pulses (MT)	Oil (MT)	Total (MT)	Districts
1	Nov	8,563	-	41.5	-	41.5	Kapiri Mphoshi, Sinsongwe, Livingstone
2	Dec	25,881	265	96.9	-	361.9	Kapiri Mphoshi, Sinsongwe, Livingstone
3	Jan	40,700	439.4	154.5	-	593.9	Kapiri Mphoshi, Sinsongwe, Livingstone, Choma
4	Feb	53,219	566.2	182.3	-	748.5	Kapiri Mphoshi, Sinsongwe, Livingstone, Choma
5	Mar	55,237	574	112	-	686	Kapiri Mphoshi, Sinsongwe, Livingstone, Choma
6	Apr (planned)	66,500	510	153	42.5	705.5	Kapiri Mphoshi, Sinsongwe, Livingstone, Choma

The sixth distribution of targeted Federation food in April is planned to cover some 66,500 beneficiaries in Choma, Maamba (Sinazongwe district), Livingstone and Kapiri Mphoshi. One litre of oil per person was added to the food rations in April.

ECHO funded food through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross, together with Belgian Red Cross (Flanders Section)

The total targeted food distribution through the Southern Africa Food Security Operation is planned to cover in all 112,000 beneficiaries in Zambia. Out of these, 20,000 HIV/AIDS affected people and malnourished children less than five years old in Choma, Maamba (in Sinazongwe), Kalomo, Kazungula and Livingstone will receive basic WFP monthly ration up to the end of June funded by ECHO through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross, together with Belgian Red Cross (Flanders Section). The first distribution round started in February. A total of 1,260 MT maize meal, 432 MT beans and 87 MT oil will be distributed up to the end of June. Each beneficiary receives 3.6 kg of beans and 10.5 kg (up from 10.5 kg in April) of maize each month.

Food funded by the Belgian government and the province of Vlaams Brabant through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross, together with Belgian Red Cross (Flanders Section)

Also included in the targeted food distributions to a total of 112,000 beneficiaries in Zambia is the distribution of Belgian government funded food through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross, together with Belgian Red Cross (Flanders Section). The assistance funded by the Belgian government started in February in the same districts and food rations as the ECHO funded distribution. 10,000 people are benefiting from the monthly targeted food distributions. Distributions (of total quantity of 572 MT maize meal, 190 MT beans and 43 MT oil) are estimated to continue until June.

Food assistance through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the German Red Cross

Some 19,200 beneficiaries in the districts of Choma and Kapiri Mphoshi received 201 MT maize and 56 MT beans through bilateral co-operation between the **Zambian Red Cross** and the German Red Cross. The first distributions started on 17 February, delivering the same basic food ration as other targeted distributions in Zambia. Each beneficiary received a monthly ration of 10.5 kg maize and 3.6 kg beans. In March, double rations including that of April were distributed to some 20,000 beneficiaries. The subsequent distributions will continue with the support of the Federation.

WATER AND SANITATION

To improve the availability of safe water and sanitation to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of food

provision.

Following revision of original appeal targets, 250 new water points and 150 irrigation dams (previously 15 each) will be constructed in Choma district through bilateral co-operation between the Netherlands Red Cross and the Zambian Red Cross, utilizing funds from ECHO. The project started in January and 90 dams have been rehabilitated.

A number of Federation funded water and sanitation activities serving a total of 50,000 people in the district of Choma have been added to the operations in Zambia. These activities include the rehabilitation of 75 hand pumps benefiting 37,500 people, and the drilling of 25 boreholes, combined with installations of hand pumps or wind pumps to serve 12,500 beneficiaries. Procurement process and recruitment of necessary staff for these activities was completed in March. So far, 48 handpumps have been rehabilitated, 15 boreholes installed and two latrines constructed. The training of volunteers in on management and maintenance of hand pumps and hygiene promotion to 5,000 people started.

CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen the operational response capacity of the ZRCS to carry out the operation.

Improving the transport pool and the communications systems of the Zambian Red Cross

The Federation has provided two 4x4 pickup vehicles, one landcruiser (for wat-san project) and three motorcycles (one for water-sanitation project) to the Zambian Red Cross. Five motorcycles have also been repaired. One vehicle was allocated to the NHQ in Lusaka and the other to the Livingstone branch. Through bilateral co-operation with the Netherlands Red Cross, the ZRCS received additional two motorcycles (already delivered to Kalomo and Maamba branches) and 65 bicycles for the volunteers. With funds from WFP, the Society has also bought six computers, four motorcycles and one Toyota pickup.

Training for volunteers in distribution techniques

Training of volunteers in distribution techniques and procedures in seven districts has been ongoing since the beginning of the programme and is gradually expanding. Volunteer training has been conducted in the districts where food distributions are ongoing.

Strengthening of human and material resources at the Zambian Red Cross

Six food security coordinators were hired and trained by the Zambian Red Cross at the beginning of the programme to coordinate food security related activities at branch level in the districts of Kapiri Mposhi, Livingstone, Maamba (in Sinazongwe), Zambezi, Choma and Kalomo. Two district food security coordinators (Livingstone and Maamba) have been replaced.

In response to the urgent need for office expansion at branch level, six office containers (four 20 ft and two 40 ft) have been purchased and arrived in Lusaka in February. Some grounding and power, telephone and computer connection works have been made. An office building will also be constructed for the Choma branch. The drawing has been prepared and land granted by the local authorities. Tendering has been completed in April and contractor will be selected shortly.

NON FOOD DISTRIBUTION

To ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) have access to hygiene supplies

Some 8,000 home based care clients are planned to receive blankets and towels from the Federation though distribution by the Zambian Red Cross. With the exception of blankets (which have not arrived), the distribution of towels, monthly ration of 500 g laundry soap and 100 g Vaseline is expected to start in April to some 2,500 home based care clients in Sinazongwe, Livingstone and Kapiri Mposhi.

In addition, 60,000 (downsized from 135,400 for nine months) elderly, orphans, HIV/AIDS affected people and their families are targeted to receive a monthly ration of 250 g of toilet soap. The distribution will be carried out by

the Zambian Red Cross in combination with the targeted food distributions to the same beneficiaries in the districts of Kapiri Mposhi, Choma, Sinazongwe and Livingstone. Due to delay of supplies, the first distributions only started in March. Some 55,237 beneficiaries received a total of 14.3 MT toilet soap. Beneficiary number is expected to reach 66,500 in April.

Through bilateral cooperation with the German Red Cross, the Zambian Red Cross has also distributed 4 MT of toilet soap to 15,393 people in Choma.

ZIMBABWE

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

Due to increased vulnerability among the urban population of Zimbabwe, 2,060 home based care clients in urban areas and members of affected households received food assistance consisting of maize, corn soy blend, beans and oil during November and December 2002. In the second round of distribution, more beneficiaries were selected in the same districts and more rural districts were added to the distribution sites. A total of 75,978 beneficiaries including HBC care facilitators, HBC core clients, and their family members, registered orphans and other HBC and support groups. In the fourth distribution round in March, sugar was added to the food rations but beans were not distributed to some beneficiaries due to delay of supplies. Distribution ration consisting of 50 kg maize, 11.2 kg beans, 14 kg CSB, 3.9 kg oil and 1 kg sugar is now made for each HBC household per month including the enhanced ration for the HBC client. As more beneficiaries in the same districts were identified and new districts added in the subsequent distributions, the numbers of both HBC clients and orphans have increased dramatically over the past six months. In April, it is estimated that a total of 105,034 people have received receive maize, CSB, beans, oil and sugar. Distribution will continue in May. See table below for details of this targeted food distribution:

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Maize (MT)	Beans/Pulses (MT)	Oil (MT)	CSB (MT)	Sugar (MT)	Total (MT)
1	Nov-Dec	2,060	20.6	8.6	1.7	4.9	-	35.8
2	6 Jan-8 Feb	75,978	707.2	144.9	45	205.4	-	1,102.5
3	Feb	78,650	840.4	173.5	94.6	211.6	-	1,320.1
4	Mar	93,129	953.7	37.7	62.5	278.6	11.5	1,344.8
5	Apr	105,034	1,031.8	215.2	111.6	299.1	12.5	1,670.3

Utilizing funds from ECHO, procurement of some 633 MT of maize, 135 MT of beans, 180 MT CSB, 46 MT of vegetable oil and 10 MT of sugar has been made. This has secured food distribution of the same food ration to approximately 100,000 vulnerable people in the same districts as above from June up to the end of July.

In addition, the first distributions of cooked food to orphans under five years by the Zimbabwe Red Cross started at the end of November and has since continued on a daily basis. Some 733 orphans (250 were originally targeted) receive the cooked food assistance as a part of the home based care programme.

WATER AND SANITATION

To improve the availability of safe water and sanitation to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of food provision.

A large number of water and sanitation activities have been added to the operations in Zimbabwe. A total number of 17,000 people are planned to benefit from water and sanitation activities in the country covering Beitbridge district of Matabele South province and Zaka district of Masvingo province. Fourteen hand pumps in the two districts will be rehabilitated, providing 7,000 beneficiaries with safe water. An additional 10,000 people will also benefit from the construction of 20 new boreholes. Contracts for the construction of handpumps and installation of

boreholes have been signed and work has started in selected areas. Training for 170 people in the management and operations of hand pumps will be provided in May along with the training of 25 hygiene promoters who will then conduct hygiene promotion activities to 17,000 people. The construction of 400 latrines is also planned to start in May. The water and sanitation activities are funded by the Federation and planned to finish in July.

CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen the ZRCS by increasing its capacity at central and divisional level, particularly in the field of human and logistical resources.

A training course for Zimbabwe Red Cross volunteers on protection of women and children against sexual abuse took place between 19 and 21 October. In total the training and re-training of 1,000 volunteers for distribution, home based care and protection is planned. One national food security officer and eight regional food security officers started working for the Zimbabwe Red Cross on 1 December. One additional logistics staff was recruited in April. In addition, a baseline study was jointly conducted by the Federation and the Zimbabwe Red Cross and the report was submitted to the Zimbabwe Red Cross in November. The studies covered the districts of Chivi and Marondera and provided valuable information about the affected populations and strengthened the capacity within the key staff members to undertake this kind of exercise independently in the future. The Zimbabwe Red Cross received eight motorcycles and one double cab pickup vehicle with the support of the Federation. The vehicles have been allocated to the branches. One computer and one printer were purchased for the Society. Defensive driving course and computer training are being planned for respective staff.

In March, the food security activities were shadowed with the death of the president of Zimbabwe Red Cross. Interim arrangement was made within the governance board. The Society has continued the operations as planned. Most of the food distribution plans and preparation has now been taken over by the Society with minimal technical support from the Federation. Further efforts will be made throughout April on monitoring and reporting of food distribution. A half day session, facilitated by the Zimbabwe Red Cross and the Federation, will take place in May, for food aid professionals from other agencies relating to HIV/AIDS and food aid response.

NON-FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Ensure that the HIV/AIDS affected beneficiaries have access to basic drugs, winter weather protection and means for income generation for a more dignified lifestyle.

During the first week of November distribution of agricultural starter packs took place in Mudzimurema, Zvimba and Shurugwi districts. 1,086 HIV/AIDS affected families in the existing home based care programme received each a ration of 15 kg maize seeds, 1 kg cow pea seeds, 1 package vegetable seeds and 150 kg fertilizer. Some 2,094 HIV/AIDS affected households in Buhera, Beitbridge, Gwanda, Chivi and Zvishavane also received agricultural starter packs during the first week of November. The composition of the starter packs was different from Mudzimurema, Zvimba and Shurugwi, containing 4 kg maize seeds, 2.5 kg sorghum seeds, 1 kg cow pea seeds, and 1 package of vegetable seeds.

Distribution of blankets and towels to 8,141 HIV/AIDS clients (6,861 were originally targeted) in 19 districts took place in December. The relief items were delivered to provincial branches for onward distribution. The beneficiaries also received laundry soap, washing soap, and petroleum jelly.

SOUTH AFRICA

PREPARATION

The South African Red Cross has secured office premises in Messina as a part of their activities related to the monitoring of the border with Zimbabwe. Staff and equipment are being put in place and the office is expected to be fully functional under the supervision of the Mokopane branch by the end of April. A vehicle has been purchased to facilitate logistics between the Mokopane branch and Messina office. Volunteers are now monitoring the border situation in collaboration with the local Joint Operations Committee (for possible cross border

population movement). The current situation at the border is normal, although it is feared that the steadily deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe may possibly result in increased cross border migration into South Africa.

In preparation for the possible arrival of large numbers of refugees into South Africa, the South African Red Cross has recruited volunteers in Messina to respond to the humanitarian needs that may arise. The training of 40 volunteers in first aid is planned to start at the end of April.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

The implementation of a contingency plan for the possible mass movement of people across the border from Zimbabwe and refugee camp preparedness for an initial period of three months.

Included in appeal targets is also camp management training for 80 volunteers. Training in camp management for key staff members of the South African Red Cross took place in February. The four staff members undertook field trips to refugee camps in Malawi and Zambia in order to gain experience in camp management. In addition the Federation regional delegation in Harare facilitated a disaster management and camp management training workshop in Johannesburg from 31 March to 4 April for South African Red Cross staff and volunteers. The Society has been officially appointed to take care of camp management for the identified camp site near Messina.

FEDERATION SUPPORT AND CO-ORDINATION

To support and contribute to the Federation Appeal by supporting the components of the operation based in South Africa.

In the original appeal the South African Red Cross was planned to set up a regional office at the Federation's OMCC premises in Johannesburg. Due to concerns of sustaining the planned regional office when the food operation comes to an end, it was decided to strengthen instead the existing SARCS regional office premises in Germiston. The regional office is procuring some office equipment and a vehicle to improve logistical and communications capacity to cover four provinces of Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West.

TRANSPORT SUPPORT PACKAGE (TSP) FOR WFP

As the WFP continues to transport food assistance to beneficiaries in remote villages in Southern Africa, the importance of this co-operation initiative between the Federation and The WFP becomes more evident. Without this effective transportation of the food aid, thousands of people who now are receiving food transported with these powerful all-terrain vehicles would remain without food. The TSP M6 trucks now ensure the successful delivery of food aid to many remote areas that are not accessible by conventional vehicles due to difficult road conditions, while increased experience and streamlining of pipelines and distributions contributes to steady improvements in the efficiency of the fleet.

There were initial difficulties in bringing the TSP vehicles to the countries of operations, but the whole fleet of M6 trucks and long haul trucks is now in their areas of operations in Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Tonnage figures are expected to rise as pipelines are constantly improving, and experience makes it possible to steadily improve the efficiency of the operations. The total tonnage transported through the transport support package from the beginning of the operations until 20 March amounted to around 27,100 MT. The tonnage transported in April will be reported in the next operations update.

Lesotho

TSP activities are ongoing in Lesotho, and currently 17 trucks out of 24 TSP M6 trucks located in the country are in full operation distributing food assistance for the WFP. The trucks are operating in the southern districts of Mafeteng, Mofale's Hoek, Mokhotlong, and Thaba Tseka. The 24 trucks are divided into two clusters, centered around Mafeteng and Thaba Tseka. The TSP M6 trucks transported 452 MT of WFP food in Lesotho between 21 January and 20 February, and 683 MT between 21 February -20 March. The total WFP food transported in Lesotho until 20 March amounted to 1,926 MT.

Malawi

58 TSP M6 trucks and 1 fuel tanker are operating in Malawi. One truck was badly damaged and had to be written off. The trucks are divided into three clusters: 10 in the north, 10 in the central, and 39 in the south cluster. Deliveries of food for the WFP are ongoing. The TSP M6 trucks transported 2,102 MT of WFP food in Malawi between 21 January and 20 February, and 4193.2 MT between 21 February -20 March. The total WFP food transported in Malawi until 20 March amounted to 11,152 MT.

Zambia

116 TSP M6 trucks, 1 M6 fuel tanker, and 1 M6 recovery truck are stationed in five clusters that have been established in Zambia. The last eight of the trucks that are stationed in Lusaka were registered during the last week of February. The whole fleet of trucks in Zambia is operational and delivering food for the WFP to the final distribution points.

In Zambia long periods of constraints in the transportation, import and registration of the trucks has delayed the utilization of many of the vehicles included in the transport support package. The last M6 trucks belonging to the large fleet in the country are finally entering operations in this year after bureaucratic obstacles hindered their timely registration. The TSP M6 trucks transported 4,272 MT of WFP food in Zambia between 21 February and 20 March. The total WFP food transported in Zambia until 20 March amounted to 10,626 MT.

Zimbabwe (long haul trucks)

Eight long haul trucks that are based in Zimbabwe are now operating in Malawi and Zambia, of which one is being repaired after an accident. One truck and one trailer have been written off earlier due to the high cost of repairing them. The long haul trucks are used as backup for the WFP when local transportation is unavailable. Local trucking companies are usually unwilling to transport food on bad roads and then the TSP long trucks provide vital backup. The trucks delivered spare parts, rubb halls, oil, lubricants and forklifts to destinations in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia in November, before meeting in Lilongwe in Malawi for final programming and preparation of communication equipment. During the month of December they took part in transport of food commodities from Mbeya in Tanzania to Malawi. During the first quarter of 2003, the long haul trucks have been transporting food for the WFP between Zambia and Malawi often where road conditions were very bad. The total food aid transported by the long haul trucks based in Zimbabwe until 20 March amounted to 3,396 MT.

Local transportation and the transport support package

It has not been possible to hire commercial trucks to carry out transportation on the most difficult roads, as it carries great risks for less equipped vehicles, and limited chances of actually being able to transport the food to the final destinations. In some areas, such as certain locations in Malawi, the WFP has not been able to hire conventional trucks from local transportation companies, even on good roads. This has made it necessary to use the M6 trucks even on tarmac roads, which is not the ideal use of the vehicles.

The running cost of TSP M6 trucks is considerably higher than when commercial vehicles can be hired. This is justified by the fact that no commercial vehicles available in the countries of operation would be able or willing to operate in the regions where the TSP M6 trucks are being used. Rain remains one of the biggest obstacles to the transportation of food in the region of food distributions in Southern Africa. The M6 trucks are therefore playing a vital role in delivering food to beneficiaries.

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT**The Operational Management & Coordination Centre (OMCC) in Johannesburg, South Africa w**

As the activities of the Southern Africa Food Security Operations continue, most initial challenges are being effectively overcome. Operations are now running smoothly in all countries included in the appeal, and the number of beneficiaries receiving assistance is steadily rising. The OMCC has proved its efficiency in co-coordinating and administering this large and uniquely complex operation, and its location in Johannesburg has been an invaluable asset to its successful implementation. The operational budgets are being revised to reflect the current financial

availability. Following the decision to integrate OMCC with the regional delegation in Harare on 1 June, several meetings were held between OMCC and the regional delegation to streamline approaches for the remaining food operation. Discussions were also made during the reporting period involving the operating national societies and the PNS representatives on the possible extension of the food security operations until the end of the year.

Outstanding needs and the response to date w

The response to the appeal has been good, and activities are now well under way. Crop forecasts have improved and the harvest is expected to increase from last year in most regions of Southern Africa. There will, however, still be millions of vulnerable people who will not be able to feed themselves in the medium and long term. The still worsening HIV/AIDS pandemic remains one of the main contributors to food insecurity and the worst affected households will need continued assistance after the end of the present appeal period.

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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.southernafrica.ifrc.org>