

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

23 June 2003

Appeal No. 12/02; launched on 2 May 2002 for CHF 6,803,000 for 12 months; revised 22 July 2002 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. Activities incorporated into Appeal 15/03, SOUTHERN AFRICA: FOOD SECURITY AND INTEGRATED COMMUNITY CARE which reflects the Federation's commitment to transform its major relief assistance into longer-term, sustainable programming.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000

Operations Update No. 18; Period covered: 23 April – 13 June 2003

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 65.3%

Related Appeals: Southern Africa 2003 Annual Regional Appeal no. 01.24/2003, Southern Africa: Food Security and Integrated Community Care Appeal no. 15/03

Outstanding needs: while this appeal was not fully covered, donors should turn their attention to Appeal no. 15/2003.

Summary: On 28 May, the Federation launched a new appeal 'Southern Africa: Food Security and Integrated Community Care' (Emergency Appeal 15/03) seeking CHF 13.6 million to support eight national Red Cross societies of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe to better respond to the continuing threat posed by hunger and HIV/AIDS in the Southern Africa region (click [here](#) for Appeal details or visit the Federation website). The new appeal will take over this one-year Southern Africa food security operation due to end in July 2003. It covers a five-month period from August to December 2003 to allow the Federation and the operating national societies to transform short-term emergency relief into integrated medium- and longer-term programme with greater impact upon the root causes of a disaster.

This operations update is designed to give an overview of all 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

Overall cereal harvests for Southern Africa favourable but crisis not over

The outlook for Southern Africa's cereal harvest is generally favourable according to FAO. Concerns however remain for Zimbabwe, where production is expected to fall below requirements for the third consecutive year. Despite an initial delay to the start of the rains, abundant rainfall since mid-February has improved crop conditions. Preliminary indications suggest an aggregate maize output of 14.8 million MT, slightly higher than last year's average level. This leads to an estimated need of aggregate cereal import of 5.3 million MT, some 27 percent below last year. Putting aside commercial imports, the food aid requirement remains around 700,000 MT.

The threat of famine may have seemingly retreated for now but the crisis is only developing. Currently projections put the prevalence of HIV at above 50 percent in some areas where life expectancy could drop below 20 years old by 2020. The workforce could be reduced by half even sooner. The improved harvest has brought little hope of reducing food insecurity for the most destitute people. Deteriorating health care, an accelerated spread of common disease, the appalling condition of water and sanitation, food shortage in urban areas and ineffective agriculture compound the problems.

The FAO/WFP joint crop and food supply assessment, along with another assessment - the WFP/VAC (Vulnerability Assessment Committee) survey - conducted in Southern African countries during the reporting period, was presented at the RIACSO (Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Support Office) stakeholders meeting in Johannesburg on 11-12 June. The two reports, will be released shortly, which will help project a clear picture of the food gap in the region and allow aid agencies to plan for necessary interventions.

The launch of a new appeal and integrated approaches to address food insecurity and HIV/AIDS

Even before the release of the assessment reports described above, the Federation, after wide-ranging consultations, has acknowledged the continuing crisis in the region and the critical need to keep the momentum of the current operations.

On 28 May, the Federation launched a new appeal 'Southern Africa: Food Security and Integrated Community Care' seeking CHF 13.6 million to support eight national Red Cross societies of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe to better respond to the continuing threat posed by hunger and HIV/AIDS in the Southern Africa region (*click [here](#) for Appeal details or visit the Federation website*). The new appeal will take over this one-year Southern Africa food security operation due to end in July 2003. It covers a five-month period from August to December 2003 to allow the Federation and the operating national societies to transform short-term emergency relief into integrated medium- and longer-term programmes with greater impact upon the root causes of a disaster.

The interaction of AIDS, weakened health care, poverty, and food insecurity has created an unprecedented disaster which conventional interventions cannot contain. There is a need to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention into everything the National Societies and the Federation are doing in the region. Future famines cannot be prevented otherwise. The current Southern African food security operations may have averted famine because of drought, but the AIDS pandemic is an even worse threat to food security killing over half a million people each year in these countries at the most productive stage of their lives. They leave behind small children and untilled fields. The appeal will extend operations in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe to support some 347,000 vulnerable people through integrated nutrition, health care, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS prevention and economic self-reliance.

Update on the Southern Africa Food Security Operations

The Southern Africa food security operation is meeting most of its objectives. Some plans have been revised to address the evolving situation. The resources of the operating national societies have been thoroughly stretched due to huge logistical challenges. Activities are nonetheless on target in all the countries of operation. Towards the end of the operation, the numbers of beneficiaries are being scaled down. A retargeting exercise has been undertaken in the project areas to refine the beneficiary registration. Priorities also include the consolidation of finances and activities, and preparation for the next phase of operations. With the launch of the new appeal, the Federation's food security Operation and Management Coordination Centre (OMCC) in Johannesburg will move to Harare by the end of June and be integrated into the Federation's Regional Delegation.

Since the operation began last July, the National Societies with support from the Federation and sister National Societies has helped some 700,000 people to survive the food crisis which afflicted the region last year. Some 114,700 drought stricken farming families were helped with seeds, tools and fertilizers, and 100,000 people with hygienic and medical supplies. More than 33,500 people are benefiting from the improvement of water sources and sanitation facilities.

A meeting was held in Johannesburg on 13 June between the WFP, the Federation and the Norwegian Red Cross to decide on the continuation of the Transport Support Package which is due to finish by the end of July. A consensus was reached between the three parties to extend the package for one year from July 2003 to June 2004. Retaining the same spirit and carrying on the successful partnership, the package will be operated under the strategic management of the WFP, while the Federation will provide international experts seconded to the WFP to ensure the smooth operation and maintenance of the transport fleet resourced through the Norwegian Red Cross. The operational details of the exit strategy of the current agreement and the start-up of the extended cooperation will follow in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition into the new partnership which will come into effect as of 1 July.

LESOTHO

According to the pre-publication presentation of the latest FAO/WFP crop assessment study, overall prospects for the 2003 cereal harvest are favourable in Lesotho, with crops reported in good condition in the northern part of the country where rainfall was adequate. However, general production is said to be 30 percent less than the average food production that is required to sustain the whole country. The food security crisis is likely to continue in parts of Lesotho as long-term food deficits remain, with specific vulnerability to food insecurity being driven by poverty and the effects of HIV/AIDS. A recent report by FAO and the Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) indicated that the combination of food insecurity and HIV/AIDS could derail the land policy reforms which aimed to promote economic growth and reduce poverty, as young people were dying in large numbers, leaving agricultural activities in the hands of the elderly.

It was estimated in 2002 that over 450,000 people in Lesotho require food aid to survive, and some 100,000 of them have received Red Cross/Red Crescent assistance. More than 56,000 people have been assisted with maize, beans and vegetable oil by the Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) in cooperation with the Federation and other partners. Some 19,000 families also received seeds, fertilizers and tools to help themselves become self-reliant.

Large-scale distributions have had a positive impact in stabilizing the overall situation. As the emergency operation is coming to a close at the end of June, the LRCS is finalizing the remaining distribution activities in the targeted districts.

Efforts continue to be made in the field based on lessons learnt to ensure effective targeting and efficient distributions. Weekly meetings are held between the LRCS, the Federation and the bilateral PNS to share information and to discuss issues for better implementation of the programmes. The LRCS has also taken a big leap in May by launching the country's first ever home-based care project in Mafeteng district.

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

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 downsized according to the evolving situation, and to avoid duplication with WFP. Beneficiaries are selected by the LRCS in cooperation with the local authorities according to WFP criteria, and the food is distributed by the LRCS. 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, various obstacles affected distribution activities because of the late arrival of funds. The first distribution of WFP food in Lesotho was in the beginning of October 2002. Eight distribution rounds have been completed up to the end of May, despite sporadic maize meal shortage in the pipeline experienced during the reporting period. Some 39,800 beneficiaries in Mokhotlong benefited from the latest distribution by the LRCS of WFP food. Distribution rounds for June commenced on 9 June. Information regarding future WFP interventions is not yet available. The latest distribution statistics are set forth in the table below.

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Households	Maize (MT)	Beans (MT)	Oil (MT)	Sub-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
7	14 – 29 Apr	36,902	9,451	472.5	47.2	18.9	538
8	12 – 31 May	39,826	10,359	518	51.8	20.7	590.5

Federation-resourced food distributions in Berea

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 Federation-resourced food distributions.

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. The first distribution round took place between January and February and 2,006 households affected by HIV/AIDS and droughts benefited from the distribution. Food assistance was provided to 3,000 households in March and April rounds. 500 families, targeting orphans and other vulnerable groups were added to the distribution lists in May and June to finalize the food operation. The low coverage in the initial distributions has made provisions for this target increase. A total of 3,348 families (16,740 people) received food rations in May. June distributions began in the first week of the month targeting 3,550 households.

According to the latest monitoring exercise at distribution points, the average household size was found to be 6.2 instead of five. All interviewed had marginally survived before the Lesotho Red Cross food intervention. Three proper meals are now made available and the beneficiaries are satisfied with the ration size and components.

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

Nutritious food supplements are planned to be provided to 5,000 children under five years of age, belonging to vulnerable households. The distribution will be combined with information about nutrition aimed at improving the

nutritional status of the targeted children. These activities are currently on hold due to overstretched capacity of the LRCS.

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 suspended as the LRCS is currently implementing an EU funded water and sanitation project in Qacha's Nek district.

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 operations. During October and November 2002, 9,039 vulnerable farming households in Mokhotlong and Butha Buthe districts received a ration of 15 kg of maize seeds through the Federation. A total of 135 MT of maize was distributed to the two districts. Out of these families, 4,500 in Mokhotlong also received a hoe and a spade each. During 15-30 May, along with the food distributions in Mokhotlong, the LRCS also provided blankets, funded by DEC, to 8,609 families targeting orphans, child-headed households, elderly, disabled and chronically ill. Each family was given two blankets. A total of 17,218 blankets were distributed. The assistance was regarded as timely and appropriate for people in the highland where the winter left the region covered with snow.

Between November 2002 and January 2003, the LRCS provided 10,000 families in Berea and Leribe districts each with a ration of 20 kg of maize seeds and 50 kg of fertilizer. The same families also received hoes in February. Both initiatives were implemented by the LRCS in bilateral cooperation with the German Red Cross.

CAPACITY BUILDING

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

The appeal aims at providing the LRCS with a number of resources necessary to ensure the capacity of the national society to carry out the food security operation. A number of important activities have already been fully implemented. Four Toyota pickup trucks were provided to the LRCS headquarters, and one was allocated to the Berea branch to facilitate food distributions. Two Nissan pickup trucks are now in use in Mokhotlong branch for monitoring and other food security activities. The branch was equipped with some office mattresses, an electric heater and 50 blankets for the winter. 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. A refresher course was also held at in May to strengthen the reporting capacity of the volunteers.

The logistics coordinator and accounting assistant were replaced in March and April. A senior accountant has been employed and will report for duty in June. An additional driver has been recruited for the relief department. Meanwhile, seven mobile phones have been provided to the logistics staff at headquarters. During the reporting period, the LRCS headquarters was equipped with proper office furniture. Networking has been installed into the office with 13 computers. Computer training started in May and ACCPAC accounting software will be installed in June in the finance department. A photocopier was also allocated to the Mokhotlong branch.

MALAWI

According to the FEWS NET¹ release in May, the food security outlook of Malawi is much better than last year. At national level, the country may not experience the same level of production-related food security problems as it had in the past two years. National food reserves have improved due to grain imports by the government, NGOs and private imports, and a free seed and inputs campaign. The situation has improved greatly at household level where harvesting has started. Official production forecasts for Malawi point to a maize crop of 1.9 million MT, higher than last year's harvest of 1.55 million MT.

In February 2002, the food shortages in Malawi led the government to declare a national disaster and make an urgent appeal for food aid. Seventy percent of the country's 10 million people were at risk of starvation in the worst food shortage in 50 years. Crop failures and food shortages increased child malnutrition and school dropout rates, families were split up as partners migrated to find work to buy food at inflated prices, and over 800 people in the poorest communities died of cholera because their immune systems were too weak to fight the illness.

Wide-scale food aid will not be required for this year but the emergency is not yet over. Food shortages still exist in parts of the southern and northern regions, where there have been prolonged dry spells. The main problem the country now faces is chronic food insecurity resulting from a combination of factors including a HIV/AIDS pandemic, declining productivity and deepening poverty. Poverty remains a recurring emergency as 60 to 65 percent of the people in Malawi are living in poverty.

The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), with the support of the Federation and partners, has provided food assistance to some 224,000 people. Nutritional intake of 16,000 orphans and people living with HIV/AIDS has improved through monthly supplementary rations incorporated with the home-based care programmes. In addition, nearly 87,000 farming families were given agricultural starter packs to improve their agricultural production. Water and sanitation activities also started in May in Nkhotakota district. The scale of the existing food distributions will be considerably reduced at the end of June 2003 as more integrated approaches are used to carefully target vulnerable and destitute households. Regular coordination meetings on the implementation of the food security operation in Malawi continue to take place among MRCS, the Federation and bilateral PNS (Participating National Society).

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

General food distribution of food donated by USAID and WFP started in Malawi in July 2002, targeting the districts of Rumphi, Karonga, Chitipa, Nkhotakota and Ntchisi. Maize was distributed during the three distribution rounds from July to September 2002. Distributions are based on households with an average size of 5.5 people. Since the distribution started, new beneficiaries were gradually added to the distribution lists, increasing the beneficiary numbers.

Beginning in October 2002, the distribution has continued with the basic WFP food rations of 50 kg maize, 5 kg pulses and 5 kg CSB (corn soy blend) per family per month. Since February 2003, 2 litres of vegetable oil have been added to the food baskets, initially in Rumphi, Nkhotakota and Ntchisi districts and the same ration distributed in all five districts in March. The general food distribution in Malawi included in this appeal is carried out by the Malawi Red Cross through bilateral co-operation with the American Red Cross. The food is donated by the WFP. The table below indicates the latest distribution statistics:

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Households	Maize (MT)	Beans/pulses (MT)	CSB (MT)	Oil (MT)	Sub-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

¹ FEWS NET (Famine Early Warning Systems Network) is a USAID-funded activity that collaborates with international, national, and regional partners to provide timely and rigorous early warning and vulnerability information on emerging or evolving food security issues.

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
10	Apr	223,574	40,651	617	123	308	0	1,048
11	May	223,670	40,651	605.5	121	302.2	0.05	1,028.8

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 2003 postponed the first distribution plan in one of the two distribution centres in Lilongwe to first week of April. Subsequent distribution rounds were implemented smoothly during 23-30 April and 14-28 May targeting the same beneficiaries. During April, 900 kg of maize flour, 5,141 kg of sugar, 20 kg of salt and 2,141 litres of oil were found missing in the warehouse. The MRCS management is taking up the matter with the warehouse owner to secure the June distributions.

Under a bilateral cooperation project with the Spanish Red Cross which is funded by ECHO, since February 2003 MRCS has also been providing monthly supplementary rations to a total of 11,000 beneficiaries targeting the chronically ill and orphans in the districts of Mzimbe, Kasungu, Lilongwe, Mchinji, Zomba, Chiradzulu and Blantyre. Each beneficiary receives per ration per month 2 kg beans, 1 kg likuni phala and 1 kg sugar.

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. With funding secured by the Irish Red Cross, the water and sanitation project commenced in May. Assessment for rehabilitation of 15 handpumps in Nkhotakota has been completed. Construction works will start in June along with the community training activities. It is planned that 150 people from the benefiting communities will be trained in the management, operation and maintenance of the handpumps, 45 in pump mechanics and 7,500 handpump users in hygiene promotion.

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.

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. Another 41,585 farming families in Lilongwe, Ntcheu, Phalombe and Mwanza also received a total of 20 MT of seeds and fertilizers between November and December from MRCS in bilateral cooperation with the German Red Cross.

The MRCS has bought 400 irrigation treadle pumps with support from the Federation. A training workshop took

place in early June for potential beneficiary group leaders. The pumps will be distributed to selected farmers in Muzuzu, Salima and Machinga districts.

CAPACITY BUILDING

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

The MRCS is working on the plans to rehabilitate two MRCS branch offices in Lilongwe and Zomba. Drawings of the buildings have been prepared and government approval was received for the office in Zomba. All construction is now awaiting government approval and consolidated budget to start. The work is expected to finish in August. The rehabilitation plan of the warehouse in Lilongwe has been suspended. Four motorcycles and eight bicycles were purchased with funding from the Federation in February. 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 Hilux 4x4 pickup vehicles were provided to the Malawi Red Cross HQ and the vehicles are now used for the food security operations. The programme assistant who had been hired since December 2002 was replaced at the end of May. A workshop on 'characteristics of a well-functioning society' and 'counterpart relationship' took place on 22 and 23 May for MRCS and delegates of the Federation and bilateral PNS. Evaluation from the participants was positive and the MRCS management promised to undertake follow-up implementation activities in their branches.

SWAZILAND

A FAO/WFP joint crop and food supply assessment was conducted early May which indicated that harvest prospects are favourable in the highveld (mountainous area) and satisfactory in the middleveld but very poor in the lowveld and plateau (region worst hit by food shortages) where severe dry weather and high temperatures early in the season destroyed the maize crop on a large scale. Food assistance will be necessary in marketing year 2003/2004 (April/March) for farming families in this region. The mission has also warned that the drought effects are made worse because of AIDS. Adult HIV infection rate in Swaziland is estimated to be 38.6 percent. Presently, about one-third of the population, mostly in the drought-prone lowveld and Lubombo plateau, relies on food aid to stay alive.

In April, the WFP and the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society (BSRCS) conducted retargeting of beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries was reduced from 55,000 to 30,000. Since the start of the food security operations, the BSRCS has provided general food distributions to 113,000 people in Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni districts in partnership with the WFP, the Federation and the government. Through the home-based care (HBC) programmes, the Red Cross clinics and schools, some 3,400 undernourished children were provided with enriched food, and 1,500 people living with HIV/AIDS received food baskets and hygiene items. Basic drugs for 20,000 HIV/AIDS clients were provided to the Red Cross clinics. In addition, 5,500 drought affected farming families in these districts were also helped with agricultural starter packs.

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

In partnership with the WFP, BSRCS started general distributions of WFP donated food in August 2002 in the regions of Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni. Some 20,000 people received monthly ration each consisting of 12 kg of maize, 1.8 kg beans and 0.75 litres of oil. The same rations were distributed in the subsequent distributions except beans in the September/October distribution due to shortage. A total of 55,753 people were assisted in the food distributions in December 2002, exceeding the appeal target of 45,000. Food assistance 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. A new district, Nkwene, was also added in the March distributions. Because of the retargeting exercise, distributions stopped in April. WFP was experiencing pipeline problems with maize and vegetable oil in Swaziland and consequently most implementing partners were not able to supply full food basket in May. The fortified food component, corn soy blend which is good for children and people who are ill, remained in the distributions. The table below shows the latest distribution details:

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Households	Maize (MT)	Beans/ (MT)	Oil (MT)	CSB (MT)	Sub-total (MT)
1	Aug '02	19,963	2,224	239.5	23.4	13.8	-	276.7
2	10 Sep-15 Oct '02	19,453	2,323	233.4	-	13.4	-	246.8
3	20 Oct-18 Nov '02	24,422	3,738	293	44	16.8		353.8
4	10 Dec '02-7 Jan '03	55,753	8,988	635.5	100.3	38.5		774.3
5	13-30 Jan '03	55,015	9,482	663.1	25.8	40		728.9
	Feb	Distribution stopped due to lack of maize						
6	10-13 Mar	42,186	8,038	498.5	65.3	29.1	53.4	646.3
	Apr	Distribution stopped due to retargeting exercise and lack of maize and oil						
7	6-23 May	29,714	-	356.6	33.1	9.2	42.4	441.3

BSRCS will carry out the last food distributions in June as implementing partner to WFP to a reduced target size. From July, WFP will concentrate for the next 12 months, in cooperation with the government and three implementing NGOs, on the southern lowveld which is the worst drought affected and has the highest concentration of destitute individuals.

Following a new assessment, in March the BSRCS started distributions of basic food rations to 26,531 people in the areas not covered by WFP in the Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni regions. Each ration contains 12 kg maize, 1.8 kg beans and 0.75 litre vegetable oil. The number of beneficiaries has increased steadily and in May, nearly 30,000 people received a basic food basket. The distributions were funded by ECHO and will continue up to the end of June. In addition, the BSRCS distributed 360 MT maize grain donated by the Swaziland government to 30,000 people in northern Hhohho in March, and 124 MT to 10,300 people in Shiselweni in April in view of the worsened food crisis. The Federation supported the distribution costs.

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

Starting November 2002, under a bilateral project between the BSRCS 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 Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni. The children received a monthly ration of 9 kg corn soy blend per person for three months. A school feeding programme was also started by the BSRCS and the German Red Cross in May with the training of cooks. The distribution of food supplements, corn soy blend, and sugar started in the first week of June to approximately 37,000 pupils in primary and high schools. The programme is scheduled to last until July.

The BSRCS and German Red Cross provided 1,500 people living with HIV/AIDS in the three regions with three monthly rations of food and hygiene parcels between November 2002 and February 2003 through the Red Cross clinics in these areas. Each monthly ration consisted 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. The Federation has, to some extent, taken over the project and on 28 May started distributing food and hygiene parcels to 1,850 targeted beneficiaries in the catchment areas of the three Red Cross clinics. Beneficiaries were selected by 182 HBC care facilitators under the supervision of three HBC nurses, which include HBC clients, orphans and child-head households, elderly destitute and handicapped. A total of 3,750 parcels will be distributed each containing 12 kg maize, 4 kg beans, 3 kg sugar, 2 litres oil, 0.5 kg salt, 10 candles, 6 match boxes, body lotion/Vaseline and other hygiene items such as toothpaste, brush, washing soap and toilet soap. The Federation relief delegate provided technical advice to BSRCS during the distributions.

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 BSRCS 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 consist of 45 medical kits containing basic drugs according to WHO standards. The kits were delivered by the end of August 2002 to three Red Cross clinics in Hhohho, Manzini and Shiselweni. Tendering process for Federation-resourced procurement of drugs for the three clinics has also been completed. A basic medical logistics training, facilitated by the Federation health coordinator, was provided to the head nurse and clerks of three clinics. The feedback from the participants has been positive.

With assistance of the Federation, the BSRCS distributed agricultural starter packs for drought affected farmer households between January and 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

One Nissan 9-ton truck was purchased and delivered in December to BSRCS to strengthen their transport pool for the increased work load combined with the Southern Africa Food Security Operation. A Toyota Hilux 4x4 pickup was supplied to the BSRCS disaster management department for use in the food security operation. During 28-30 April, a food security assessment workshop was conducted for 26 BSRCS staff and volunteers. The course was a follow-up session on the targeting workshop in March and was facilitated by the Federation food security adviser and regional disaster preparedness officer. The newly acquired skills will be put into practice in the retargeting exercise for a downsized operation in the extended appeal, once the key assessments reports become available. A management team building workshop was conducted on 12-13 May with the Federation support.

ZAMBIA

The overall food security outlook for Zambia appears to be better than last year with early estimates predicting a 33 percent increase on last year's production (FEWS NET). Maize availability on the market is improving and prices are declining in most provincial centres. It is however expected that there will still be pockets of need due to crop failures. An assessment conducted by the government, FAO and NGOs suggested pockets of crop failure mainly in the south and in isolated parts of the west and north region. More than 40 percent of rural households in the Southern province are facing total crop failure including Sinazongwe. The satisfactory February rains caused flooding along the banks of the Zambezi River washing away the planted crops and displacing over 139,000 people in the southern and western parts of the country.

Due to vastly improved harvests, the government decided to stop distribution of relief food in certain areas and has recently banned also maize imports to protect local prices. However, it will continue to assist vulnerable people in the southern districts which experienced drought and late rains.

The WFP, with the implementing partners, have extended its emergency operation providing assistance until the end of June to the most vulnerable in the southern districts. The overall target population in Zambia has been scaled down drastically to about 500,000 people. Drought conditions and poor harvests for the second consecutive year have led to severe food shortages directly affecting about 2.9 million Zambians. In cooperation with its partners,

the Zambian Red Cross Society (ZRCS) has provided general and targeted food assistance to some 200,000 people, of which 111,000 belong to the most vulnerable segment of the society including people living with HIV/AIDS, terminally ill, elderly, orphan and female-headed households. More than 70,000 HIV/AIDS affected people were assisted with hygiene items and 30,000 people have benefited from improved water and sanitation facilities.

The ZRCS/Federation food security operation has also scaled down the targeted supplementary food distributions in the three districts. Starting June 2003, only eligible and targeted HBC clients and their households will benefit from food and non-food assistance. Food security monitoring at distribution points and household levels affirmed the improvement of service delivery and satisfactory components of the assistance as the Red Cross staff and volunteers have gained more experience and skills in relief distributions. Consultations on programme implementation and information sharing continue through regular consultative and coordination meetings with other agencies and ZRCS bilateral partners.

During the reporting period, the ZRCS secretary-general resigned and was replaced by an acting secretary-general. The change has nevertheless brought a positive impact on the implementation of the food security programme. Assisted by the Federation and the Netherlands Red Cross, the ZRCS is undertaking an assessment of longer-term needs of the home-based care households. This will help develop appropriate future interventions.

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

The Zambian Red Cross started general food distribution of government and WFP donated food in November 2002. A total of 178 MT of maize were distributed to 11,800 people in the southern districts of Zambezi and Chavuma districts. Each person received a basic WFP food ration of 10.5 kg of maize. The basic ration was increased by WFP to 12 kg in December. Starting January 2003, the ZRCS distributed WFP donated food to nearly 58,000 people in the two districts. Four districts of Kasempa, Kabompo, Mufumbwe and Mwinilunga were added in February distributions benefiting some 59,600 people. The flooding, delay of supplies and transport constraints impeded the March relief distributions which were stretched into April and May in some areas in Kasempa, Kabompo, Mufumbwe and Mwinilunga districts which were cut off by floods. Low beneficiary coverage was also experienced in April in Chavuma and Zambezi due to interruption of road communications caused by floods. In April, a total of 67,666 beneficiaries were assisted in the six north western districts. Retargeting exercise started following WFP decision to scale down the distributions for only 21,000 people in Zambezi and Chavuma districts towards the end of the emergency operation. Transport along with the lack of commodities however has remained a major constraint during the reporting period. The table below shows the latest distribution figures of WFP donated food:

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Maize (MT)	Beans/pulses (MT)	Sub-Total (MT)
1	Jan	57,965	693.9	-	693.9
2	Feb	59,628	707.9	-	707.9
3	Mar-early Apr	71,536	874.9	-	874.9
4	April	67,666	731	52.7	783.7

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 110,000 beneficiaries. The food assistance targets HIV/AIDS infected and affected people 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 to 12 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), and Livingstone will receive food supplements purchased directly by Federation. The ZRCS undertook the first distributions resourced from the Federation in November 2002 for 8,562 people, mainly HBC clients and families, in the districts of Kapiri Mposhi, Maamba of Sinazongwe and Livingstone. Choma district has been included since January 2003. Increased numbers of beneficiaries have been targeted through the ZRCS home-based care programmes in the subsequent distributions, reaching 60,269 in April. Distributions in May were implemented successfully except in Livingstone where the food assistance was delayed by the authorities due to high content of alcohol acidity in the maize meal. The problem was solved and distribution started on 30 May. Around 80,000 beneficiaries including 20,000 in Choma district taken over from the German Red Cross would have benefited from the May distributions. Actual figures are being collected. In June and July, much smaller-scale distributions will continue for approximately 12,000 people (HBC patients and their household members).

Round	Date	Beneficiaries	Maize (MT) <i>Added in Dec</i>	Beans/pulses (MT)	Oil (MT) <i>Added in April</i>	Sub-total(MT)
1	Nov '02	8,563	-	41.5	-	41.5
2	Dec '02	25,881	265	96.9	-	361.9
3	Jan	40,700	439.4	154.5	-	593.9
4	Feb	53,219	566.2	182.3	-	748.5
5	Mar	55,237	574	112	-	686
6	Apr	60,269	714	230	56	1,000

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

Contributing to the total target of 110,000 beneficiaries with supplementary food assistance in Zambia, some 30,000 HIV/AIDS affected people in Choma, Maamba (in Sinazongwe), Kalomo, Kazungula and Livingstone have been receiving basic WFP monthly ration since February. This targeted food distributions are funded by ECHO and Belgian government through bilateral co-operation between ZRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross, together with Belgian Red Cross (Flanders Section). Starting April, the number of beneficiaries has reached nearly 35,000. The same beneficiaries will benefit from the food aid until July. The distribution in Livingstone is currently being implemented without maize meal due to high alcohol acidity content.

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

Some 19,200 beneficiaries in the districts of Choma and Kapiri Mposhi 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 Federation has included this beneficiary group in the May distributions.

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 were completed in March. To date, 50 handpumps have been rehabilitated, 25 boreholes installed and 200 latrines constructed for vulnerable households. Sixty people were also trained on the operation, management and maintenance of the handpumps. The ZRCS has also constructed 45 latrines for the schools and health centres. The focus of the project in June is hygiene promotion in the same communities.

NON FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

With assistance from the Federation, in April the ZRCS began providing hygiene items to the HBC clients in Sinazongwe, Livingstone and Kapiri Mposhi districts. The HBC clients receive a monthly ration of 500 g laundry soap and one jar of Vaseline (100g). Distributions were made by the home-based care facilitators during their home visits. A total of 8,000 towels are being distributed to the HBC households, from two to six pieces per family, depending on the household size. Due to delays in delivery and limited distribution capacity of the HBC structure, a small amount of distributions will continue beyond the appeal period. Subsequent distributions will be implemented through the food security structure for better efficiency. Blankets which were procured early in the year for the HBC clients have finally arrived in the country. Because of a shortage of diesel in the country, the distribution is scheduled in June.

Along with the targeted food distribution in the districts of Choma, Kapiri Mposhi, Sinazongwe and Livingstone, 60,000 beneficiaries (HBC clients and their household members, and other HIV/AIDS affected people including elderly and orphans) were to receive a monthly ration of 250 g of body soap for five months. Due to delay of supplies, the first distributions took place only in March. 70,630 rations (of which 15,393 distributed under a ZRCS/German Red Cross bilateral project in Choma) were distributed in March, and 60,269 rations in April. Estimated 80,000 people would have benefited from the assistance in May. A refresher training for the home-based care facilitators on hygiene issues was held in early May.

CAPACITY BUILDING

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

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 (ZRCS). Five motorcycles have also been repaired and allocated to the areas of operation. One vehicle was allocated to the National Headquarters in Lusaka and the other will be allocated to the Livingstone branch in due term. Through bilateral co-operation with the Netherlands Red Cross, the ZRCS received an additional two motorcycles (delivered to Kalomo and Maamba branches), and 65 bicycles for the volunteers. With funds from WFP, the Society also bought six computers, four motorcycles and one Toyota pickup. HF and VHF radios were installed in the ZRCS lease vehicles with the assistance from the Federation telecom delegate. A HF base station was installed in Maamba (Sinazongwe). The HF radios in Zambezi and Chavuma districts have been repaired or upgraded.

Training of volunteers in distribution techniques and procedures has been ongoing since the beginning of the programme in the districts where food distributions are ongoing. More than 280 volunteers were trained. A team of 23 ZRCS volunteers is responsible to monitor food assistance at distribution points and household levels. Six food security coordinators were hired and trained by the ZRCS 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) were replaced during the operation period. A logistics team has also been in place in Lusaka, Choma, Livingstone and Maamba.

In response to the urgent need for office expansion at branch level, six office containers (four 20 ft and two 40 ft) were purchased and established in Lusaka in February. Power, telephone and a computer network were connected to these office containers. The plan to construct a new branch office in Choma is cancelled due to delays in getting construction permit and land allocation. To facilitate the implementation of the food security operation, the

Federation has financially contributed to the overhead costs of the ZRCS headquarters since January including the senior management costs starting April. All branch offices running food security operations will have received furniture and equipment by the end of the operation.

ZIMBABWE

In Zimbabwe, inflation has rocketed to new heights with the annual inflation of April reaching 269 percent. The price of food and commodities has increased to record levels, accounting for around 80 percent of the inflation increase following recent revision of price controls by the government. The market price of bread – a price-controlled item, for example, has doubled the gazetted price which has itself been recently increased. At the end of May, Zimbabwe experienced an acute shortage of bank notes - the latest scarcity to hit Zimbabwe, were basic consumer goods. Fuel, electricity and foreign currency are all in short supply. The cash crisis was worsened by people stocking up ahead of the week-long anti-government protest campaign at the beginning of June. Most businesses remained closed in the capital after the protests.

Red Cross food security operations have also been disrupted by the situation during the reporting period along with pipeline problems of the commodities. Loans were arranged from WFP and other aid agencies to cover the gap in the pipeline and contingency plans are being put in place to secure supply of fuel for the transport of relief material. Consequently, May distributions were stretched into June and delays to June distributions are already expected.

During May, two assessments were conducted in Zimbabwe. The first was the ZimVAC (Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee) which was an interagency assessment in which WFP, NGOs including Red Cross, government and SADC (Southern African Development Community) participated. The second was a WFP and FAO joint crop and food supply assessment. The two assessment reports, now expected to be published in the middle of June, will help project a clear picture of the food gap and allow aid agencies to prepare for necessary interventions. Early indications are that overall production will be lower than last year. The latest FEWS NET report said cereals like maize, wheat, millet and sorghum remained in critically short supply in the major markets for much of April 2003. There is consensus amongst agencies that despite the harvest a large proportion of Zimbabwe's vulnerable people will continue to need food aid through this agricultural year.

More than half of the country's 11.6 million people require food aid to survive due to poor harvests brought on by drought, HIV/AIDS and the impact of the government's fast-track land reform programme on agricultural production. The national demand for wheat is currently put at around 400,000 tonnes a year. Unemployment is reported at somewhere between 75 and 80 percent in the country. Around 75 percent of Zimbabweans are now classified as poor, and more than 30 percent of the adult population and some 12 percent of all children are HIV positive. Cases of malnutrition are on the rise in some rural areas according to health officials. The report of the national nutrition survey, which was completed in March, is however yet to be published.

WFP and other aid agencies have scaled down their assistance to varying degrees during the harvest months. As of May, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) and the Federation have also slimmed down the number of beneficiaries following a tightening of entrance criteria within the HBC programme. The re-targeting exercise was completed in May for HBC following refinement of the socio-economic and medical selection criteria. Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) who should be eligible for food aid were also prioritized in the distribution lists according to refined socio-economic criteria. A decision on selectively reducing the ration to a supplementary level in some areas is deferred until the VAC data is released.

Under this food security appeal, ZRCS with support from the Federation has provided nutritious food supplements to over 105,000 HIV/AIDS infected and affected people through the ZRCS home-based care programmes (HBC) across the country. Daily cooked food is provided to 733 orphans and some 3,200 families received agricultural starter packs. Blankets, towels and hygiene items were distributed to over 8,000 HBC clients. In addition, some 3,500 people have benefited from improved water and sanitation facilities.

Approach to focus on HIV/AIDS infected and affected population has proved to be appropriate. In some HBC areas, clients who were bed-ridden early in the year report an improvement in their general health and thus reduced burden on their families. Death rate due to TB has reportedly decreased due to improved food intake and the default rate of those taking TB medicine is also reduced. It is essential to maintain the momentum of the food security operations and integration of various programming for more demonstrable impact and longer-term food security policy.

TARGETED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

The first distribution supported by the Federation took place between November and December 2002 and targeted the HBC clients in non-rural settings. Some 2,060 home-based care clients in urban and peri-urban areas and members of affected households received food assistance consisting of maize, corn soy blend, beans and oil. In the second round of distribution, the programme expanded to include the households of the HBC clients, orphans registered under the HBC programme, and care facilitators, and further into the rural HBC project sites. A total of 75,978 received food rations in the January distributions. The household ration, including the enhanced ration for the HBC clients, consists of 50 kg maize, 11.2 kg beans, 14 kg CSB (corn soy blend), 3.9 kg oil and 1 kg sugar.

Over the period of the operation, the HBC programme has expanded with the start of new HBC projects and increased numbers of clients in the existing programmes. It appears that the food components have at least overcome partially the stigma associated with the programme. In the April distributions, more than 105,000 people across 23 project areas in eight provinces received food rations. Some distributions were however made without oil and CSB due to pipeline problems. Distribution activities in May are expected to be completed in the second week of June due to delay in the April distributions and the re-registration exercise. Efforts are being made to catch up the backlog but the stay-aways in early June along with the combined economic crises will set back the progress made. The food assistance will continue up to the end of July in the same districts, although beneficiary numbers may drop due to a refinement in the selection criteria, and the slightly improved harvest which will meet the food needs of some families for some time. ECHO-funded food procurement was completed following inspection approval obtained from Zimbabwean government official.

The table below indicates the latest details of targeted food distribution:

Round	Distribution Dates	Beneficiaries	Maize (MT)	Beans (MT)	Oil (MT)	CSB (MT)	Sugar (MT)	Sub-Total (MT)
1	Nov-Dec '02	2,060	20.6	8.6	1.7	4.9	-	35.8
2	6 Jan-8 Feb	75,978	707.2	114.9	45	205.4	-	1,072.5
3	Feb	84,040	840.4	173.5	94.6	211.6	-	1,320.1
4	Mar	95,370	953.7	37.7	62.6	278.6	11.6	1,344.2
5	Apr-May	105,034	1,186.4	234.1	320.4	143.9	13.7	1,898.5
6	May-June	105,034	475.2	101.9	172.4	68.4	6.2	824

In addition, the programme supported Zimbabwe Red Cross to continue the provision of cooked food to orphans under five in the districts of Buhera, Bindura, Masvingo, Dete and Beitbridge. Since November, some 733 orphans have been receiving cooked food assistance on a daily basis as 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 planned within 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. Since the project started in February, three hand pumps have been rehabilitated for 1,500 users and four boreholes installed for 2,000 people. In addition, 40 latrines have been constructed with vulnerable households. Some 8,000 people have benefited from hygiene promotion by 85 trained hygiene promoters. Training for 170 people in the management and operations of hand pumps will begin in June. The high inflation ahead of changes in the exchange rate in Zimbabwe may cause reduction of some of the planned activities. The water and sanitation activities are funded by the Federation and are planned for completion in July.

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.

Distribution of Federation resourced agricultural starter packs took place during the first week of November 2002 in Mudzimurema, Zvimba and Shurugwi districts. A total of 1,086 HIV/AIDS affected families in the existing home-based care programme received from Zimbabwe Red Cross each a ration of 10 kg maize seeds, 1 kg cow pea seeds, 1 package vegetable seeds and 150 kg fertilizer. Another 2,094 HIV/AIDS affected households in Buhera, Beitbridge, Gwanda, Chivi and Zvishavane districts also received agricultural starter packs which contained 4 kg maize seeds, 2.5 kg sorghum seeds, 1 kg cow pea seeds, and 1 package of vegetable seeds.

No formal evaluation of the agriculture inputs has been undertaken, but the harvest was limited in the majority of HBC project sites as a result of poor rainfall. It is likely that the sorghum crop, which is more drought resistant, fared rather better.

In December 2002, blankets and towels along with other hygiene items were also provided to 8,141 HBC clients in 19 districts. A total of 8,430 blankets, 8,800 towels, 4.9 MT laundry soap, 2 MT bath soap and 8,496 jars of Vaseline were distributed.

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 number of initiatives to strengthen the capacity of ZRCS have been carried out with the support of the Federation. A baseline study was jointly conducted in October 2002 by the Federation and the Zimbabwe Red Cross. 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.

In addition, the transport pool of the ZRCS has been upgraded with a twin cab pick-up for the national food security officer and a motorbike for each of the eight provincial food security officers to support the monitoring activities. Computers have been bought for the food security office and the logistics office. Additional staff has been recruited for the food security operations. At provincial level, eight food security officers have been recruited whereas a food security and a logistics officer have been recruited at national level, supported by a programme assistant. In-service training has been arranged for all these new staff, as well as for the existing provincial staff in food distributions, monitoring procedures, reporting, sexual abuse and liaison with other agencies. Some of this training has been rolled out to HBC project volunteers and other volunteers involved in distributions. New volunteers have been recruited (or existing volunteers re-vitalized) and trained for the actual distributions in recognition that the HBC care facilitators are already overloaded.

The ZRCS staff has developed skills and knowledge that will support future programming. Involvement of ZRCS in their own household economy baseline studies has been complemented by becoming involved in the Zimbabwe VAC (Vulnerability Assessment Committee) and in national nutrition surveys. Huge experience has been gained in organizing and running distributions. This has been captured in a manual which has been widely distributed. At institutional level, the operation is being used as a vehicle for implementing the performance management

programme, and will also provide a platform to bring in new management tools such as a fleet management system. The timely creation of an internal audit department within ZRCS has also bolstered the impact of the institutional learning.

SOUTH AFRICA

PREPARATION

The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) 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 will be under the supervision of the Mokopane branch. 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 SARCS has recruited volunteers in Messina to respond to the humanitarian needs that may arise. Forty volunteers have been trained in first aid and home-based care. A SARCS youth HIV/AIDS peer education project will also be implemented in this area.

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 SARCS 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 26 SARCS staff and volunteers. The Society has been officially appointed to take care of camp management for the identified camp site near Messina. An action plan to roll out the training needs is being developed following a SARCS disaster management which took place in East London on 13-14 May.

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 has acquired a minibus to support communication capacity in the region covering four provinces of Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West.

TRANSPORT SUPPORT PACKAGE (TSP) FOR WFP

Alongside the relief activities, the Federation has run one of the largest Red Cross truck fleets ever assembled, in partnership with the WFP, to transport food assistance to beneficiaries in remote villages in Southern Africa. The Transport Support Package (TSP) faced initial logistical problems and some pipeline problems during the course of the operation. However, the 200-strong fleet of powerful all-terrain vehicles, provided by the Norwegian government through the Norwegian Red Cross, is gaining momentum with acquired experience and improved efficiency. They have managed to deliver over 49,300 tonnes of food by late May in Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, mostly in remote areas that are not accessible by conventional vehicles due to difficult road conditions.

Tonnage of food transported by TSP

	Lesotho (MT)	Malawi (MT)	Zambia (MT)	Zimbabwe (MT)	Sub-total (MT)
Nov '02 – 20 Jan	1,018.7	2,951	3,177.6	2,377.2	9,524.5
21 Jan – 20 Feb	452	4,007.7	3,394	873.4	8,727.1
21 Feb – 20 Mar	683	4,193.2	4,272	416	9,564.2
21 Mar – 20 Apr	788.5	4,252.9	6,253.5	1,622.1	12,917
21 Apr- 20 May	675.9	2,549	3,807	1,552	8,583.9
Total	3,618.1	17,953.8	20,904.1	6,840.7	49,316.7

The operational partnership with WFP has shown the importance of humanitarian agencies developing new strategies to collaborate and coordinate given the massive needs of Southern Africa. The TSP operation allows the Red Cross, WFP and its implementing partners handling final distribution, to maximize use of available resources. Currently, 24 TSP trucks are located in Lesotho (two clusters around Mafeteng and Thaba Tseka), 58 in Malawi (three clusters in the north, the central and the south), and 116 in Zambia (five clusters). In Malawi and Zambia they are supported by fuel tankers and eight long-haul trucks normally based in Zimbabwe. The long-haul trucks are used as backup for the WFP when local transportation is unavailable. The trucks initially delivered spare parts, rubbish, oil, lubricants and forklifts to destinations in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia but have since December been involved in food transport.

During May, a comprehensive evaluation of the TSP was undertaken. One encouraging finding is that the package has been operated at a lower cost than expected given the complex operational context. Seven recommendations were also presented by the evaluation team regarding the future direction of TSP. The package will be completed by the end of June according to the WFP/Federation partnership agreement under the current food security appeal. Country-specific solutions are considered the best option for the time being. One-year use of M6 trucks is likely in Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia. The long-haul trucks will be disposed in July once they are released from food distributions in Malawi.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been ongoing discussions between the stakeholders of TSP at various levels. A meeting was held in Johannesburg on 13 June between the WFP, the Federation and Norwegian Red Cross to decide on the continuation of the Transport Support Package which is due to complete by the end of July. Consensus has been reached between the three parties to extend the package for one year from July 2003 to June 2004. The package will be operated in Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and possibly Mozambique under the strategic management of WFP. The Federation will provide fully-funded transport manager and workshop manager for each country of operation, to be seconded to WFP country offices to support the operation and maintenance of the transport fleet. The operational details will be developed in the coming week to ensure smooth transition into the new partnership which will come into effect as of 1 July.

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

One of the key achievements of OMCC during the reporting period was coordinating the compilation of and the launching of the new appeal. The planned programmes in the appeal reflect concerted input and pooled resources from operating and partner Red Cross societies in the region to maximize the impact of integrated and longer-term programming. It is also in this endeavour that the Federation decided to incorporate OMCC into the regional structure. A series of meetings between the Federation Regional Delegation and OMCC have finalized the integration plan. As of 1 July, the operation coordination of the Southern Africa food security operations will be officially undertaken by the Regional Delegation in Harare. OMCC will be closed by the end of June but logistics service will remain in Johannesburg to support the remaining procurements and those under the new appeal. The Federation continues to coordinate its activities through the UN RIACSO (Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Support Office) and other regional and country coordination mechanisms.

As the current food security operations are coming close to the end, another focus of OMCC has been on consolidating finances and activities in coordination with the operating national societies and the Federation delegates in the countries of operation. Coordination meetings were held during the reporting period to review the financial and operational progress and to ensure the fulfillment of donor requirements by the end of the operation, while at the same time adhering closely to the latest food security situations in the Southern Africa region.

Outstanding needs and the response to date

The appeal has been well covered. Early support from the donors to the new appeal is critical to maintain the already established momentum and capacity to prevent the most vulnerable segments from sliding into destitution caused by the continuing drought and worsened HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Contributions

See attached List of Contributions.

For further details please contact:

- *Alasan Senghore, Head of Regional Delegation, Harare, Phone: 263 4 705 166; Fax: 263 4 708 784; email: ifrczw02@ifrc.org*
- *Richard Hunlédé, Desk Officer/Nat'l Society Liaison, Phone: 41 22 730 43 14; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: richard.hunlede@ifrc.org*

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>.

Southern Africa - food aid and humanitarian assistance

ANNEX 1

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DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				89'285'274	TOTAL COVERAGE 65.2%	
AMERICAN - RC		25'000	USD	37'150	15.10.2002	LESOTHO
AUSTRIA - RC		50'000	EUR	73'625	12.07.2002	
BRITISH - RC		25'000	GBP	57'403	01.08.2002	
BRITISH - RC		50'000	GBP	114'805	01.08.2002	
BRITISH - RC/DEC		497'500	GBP	1'160'518	01.10.2002	ZIMBABWE
BRITISH - RC		400'000	GBP	922'880	01.11.2002	MALAWI
BRITISH - RC/DFID		1'000'000	GBP	2'307'200	01.11.2002	ZAMBIA
BRITISH - RC/DFID		400'000	GBP	922'880	01.11.2002	SWAZILAND
BRITISH - RC		400'000	GBP	922'880	01.11.2002	LESOTHO
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		100'000	GBP	230'830	02.12.2002	CONTINGENCY PLANNING
BRITISH - RC/DFID		147'544	GBP	340'576	20.12.2002	
BRITISH - GOVT/DEC		615'000	GBP	1'321'020	28.01.2003	PURCHASE OF MAIZE & BEANS IN ZAMBIA, GENERAL OMCC BUDGET, HYGIENE ITEMS & BLANKETS FOR ZAMBIA, BLANKETS FOR LESOTHO
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		245'098	GBP	526'471	25.02.03	ZIMBABWE
CANADIAN - RC		100'000	CAD	96'130	31.07.2002	
CANADIAN - GOVT		495'000	CAD	475'200	22.08.2002	
CANADIAN - RC		100'000	CAD	88'800	07.02.2003	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		198'000	CAD	183'744	07.04.03	ZIMBABWE HOME CARE PROGRAMS
CANADIAN - RC		168'957	CAD	156'792	22.04.03	
CYPRUS - RC				5'014	22.05.2002	MALAWI RC
DANISH - GOVT		2'450'000	DKK	484'365	08.10.2002	MALAWI
DANISH - RC		925'000	DKK	182'595	05.12.2002	
ECHO (16009)		1'698'811	EUR	2'472'619	20.12.2002	ZIMBABWE
ECHO (NETHERLANDS RC)		1'650'000	EUR	2'401'575	27.12.2002	ZAMBIA BILATERAL
ECHO (16031)		640'992	EUR	975'910	20.12.02	SWAZILAND
FINNISH - GOV/RC		932'700	EUR	1'366'032	13.09.2002	TELECOM, FS/WATSAN ZIMBABWE & MALAWI, FOOD/NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE, NS CAPACITY BUILD. & OPERATIONAL COSTS ZIMBABWE, MALAWI, ZAMBIA, LESOTHO, SWAZILAND
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
GERMAN - GOVT		398'090	EUR	583'043	10.09.2002	LESOTHO
GERMAN - GOVT		500'000	EUR	732'300	17.09.2002	MALAWI BILATERAL/SEEDS & FERTILISER, 2 DELEGATES 4 MONTHS
CHINA - HONG-KONG - RC				2'319	28.10.2002	
ICELANDIC - RC		30'000'000	ISK	518'790	15.10.2002	
IRANIAN - RC		738	USD	1'104	09.10.2002	
IRISH - RC				31'950	18.04.03	WATER/SANITATION

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IRISH - RC				146'350	12.11.2002	FOOD AID & HUMANITARIAN ASSIST.
IRISH - GOVT		500'000	EUR	738'150	04.07.2002	
JAPANESE - RC		139'900	USD	206'213	14.08.2002	
JAPANESE - RC		498'253	USD	676'378	13.02.03	ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA, LESOTHO
KUWAIT - RC		5'000	USD	7'370	29.07.2002	
LIBYAN - RC				5'000	07.06.2002	
LUXEMBOURG - RC		15'000	EUR	22'009	20.02.03	
MEDICOR FOUNDATION				330'000	18.02.03	
NETHERLANDS -RC		53'476	EUR	78'262	14.03.03	
NEW ZEALAND RC		2'323	NZD	1'697	03.12.2002	SOUTHERN AFRICA
NEW ZEALAND RC		2'254	NZD	1'699	30.04.03	
NORWEGIAN - RC				769'202	24.07.2002	+ PROGRAMME MGT.
NORWEGIAN - RC				100'000	19.09.2002	IN COUNTRY COST FOR TSP DELEGATES
PRIVATE DONORS				6'389	05.08.2002	
PRIVATE DONORS				33'107	22.08.2002	
PRIVATE DONOR - MIRC		32'160	USD	48'118	03.10.2002	
PRIVATE DONORS				6'389	15.05.03	
PRIVATE DONOR		2'000	EUR	2'935	03.02.03	
PRIVATE DONOR		12	USD	18	31.10.02	
SLOVENIAN - RC				1'662	27.09.2002	
SPANISH - RC				125'000	28.02.03	BILATERAL FOR MALAWI
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		3'000'000	SEK	483'600	16.05.2002	MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE
SWEDISH - PRIVATE DONOR		400'000	SEK	63'600	25.09.2002	ZAMBIA
SWISS - RC				38'190	05.07.2002	ZIMBABWE
SWISS - RC				31'000	08.10.2002	RELIEF DELEGATE
SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS				3'236	22.08.2002	
SWISS - RC				585'430	11.12.2002	ZAMBIA RC, CAPACITY BUILDING
TURKISH - RC		5'000	EUR	7'314	07.06.2002	MALAWI RC
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5'000	USD	6'800	02.03.03	
WFP				11'828'426	30.08.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				37'075'284	CHF	41.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

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DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - RC		217'200	USD	324'974	11.09.2002	BILATERAL MALAWI: PURCHASE OF 1 VEHICLE, 5 MOTORCYCLES, LEASE 2 VEHICLES, PURCHASE OF 4 BICYCLES, RELIEF DELEGATE 15 MONTHS, OFF. OPERATIONS & EQUIPMENT
IRANIAN - RC		14'750	USD	22'069	09.10.2002	SOAP, SUGAR, EDIBLE OIL
NORWAY - RC/GOVT				10'984'036	24.07.2002	TRUCKS
SPANISH - RC/ECHO		792'000	EUR	1'162'062	12.09.2002	IN KIND TO MALAWI RC
SWISS - RC				65'000	05.07.2002	ZIMBABWE: 10'000 BLANKETS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
WFP				7'315'149	31.03.03	MAIZE, BEANS, VEG. OIL, BLENDED FOOD
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			60'944		
AUSTRIA	DELEGATE(S)			17'413		
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			9'856		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			91'827		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			104'640		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			42'710		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			70'308		
JAPAN	DELEGATE(S)			40'575		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			196'960		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			87'884		
NEW ZEALAND	DELEGATE(S)			26'612		
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			385'377		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			17'248		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE			106'283		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				21'131'927	CHF	23.7%