

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 INSECURITY

7 November
2005

FOCUS ON MALAWI: THE IMPACT OF DREF AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA023; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 18 October -7 November 2005; Appeal coverage: 2.4%; (*click on the following link to go directly to the list of contributions* http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/1-2-3%20-%2005EA023.pdf).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 18 October 2005 for CHF 39,360,753(USD 30,193,299 OR EUR 25,301,687) for 9 months to assist up to 1.5 million beneficiaries. Final Report is due on August, 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 1,160,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 38,398,352 (USD 29 million or EUR 24 million)

Summary: all parts of the Federation are involved in an operation intended to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable based on an integrated food security approach that brings together water and sanitation, household and community capacity building, and HIV and AIDS aspects. This Update focuses on action in Malawi, where food distributions are due to begin by mid –November. The Federation is concerned by the lack of an adequate and timely donor response to this operation, including in the vital area of human resources. In addition to the considerable support received from the Finnish Red Cross, the Japanese and Monaco Red Cross have also contributed.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

The southern Africa region is currently experiencing a serious drought very similar to the one that provoked the 2002-2003 food insecurity crises. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that close to twelve million people are currently in need of food assistance in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (the three worst affected countries), followed by Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia and Mozambique. Recent reports paint a particularly grim picture in Malawi. In the worst affected areas the rains failed at a crucial stage for the crops, leading to a total crop failure. Consequently, the Federation Regional Delegation in Harare has been closely monitoring the situation since the spring when the first indications of a looming food security crisis became apparent. In August, the Federation conducted a regional food security assessment to map the ongoing and planned response to be implemented by Red Cross national societies in the region. This survey largely confirmed the picture which emerged from the assessments conducted by the Vulnerability Assessment Committees (VAC) in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Responding to this situation and at the request of the respective national societies, the International Federation launched Emergency Appeal for Food Insecurity and livelihoods (no, 05EA023) to support 1.5 million beneficiaries in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. CHF 1,160,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to provide immediate support to this operation

Red Cross and Red Crescent action – progress and impact

Operations management and human resources

The Federation has organized a “strategic thinking” meeting to take place at the Secretariat in Geneva on Monday, 7 November, to review and advance operational alliances in the southern Africa region, and to explore and develop effective operational frameworks. A proposed operational structure and organigramme is being finalized and will be made available at the meeting. In addition to a lack of timely donor support, the current management concern is the lack of human resources to be deployed to the region, in particular the seven relief coordinators to be placed in each country to support national societies in the emergency intervention phase.

Food Procurement and Distribution

The Finnish Red Cross have confirmed a contribution of food support to Malawi valued at some CHF 420,390, consisting of 450 mt of maize, 6,000 kgs of sugar, 50,000 litres of vegetable oil, and 90 mt of beans (pulses). Distributions are planned to begin in mid-November. This covers slightly less than 2% of the total food needs for this appeal.

ECHO Funding

Based on discussions that took place on Monday 24 October, ECHO will launch an emergency decision for an amount of 6 MEUROS for 6 months, and has indicated agreement to support complementary food distribution intended to sustain actions already underway in the southern provinces of Malawi. With this support the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), with the support of the Federation and partner national societies already present in Malawi (the Spanish, Netherlands and Danish Red Cross) and coordinated by the Regional Delegation will complete the proposal to ECHO. The proposed ECHO support will be implemented in three districts of the Southern Region of Malawi (Balaka, Blantyre and Mwanza). The operational area within the district will be located where the MRCS Home Based Care programme is being carried out (please refer to the map below).

According to the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment and Capacity (MVAC) reports, the Southern Region of the country has been the worst hit in terms of drought and the consequent food shortage. The three Districts selected for the intervention have been categorized in the MVAC as some of the worst hit. Beneficiaries are already working with the Malawi Red Cross as HBC and OVC clients. Chronically ill clients are admitted into the programme because they have been chronically ill for three months or more. OVC's admission criteria are those children who have lost one or both parents as well as other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS pandemic. In all these categories, the underlying factor is households that are food insecure, those with nothing to eat.

Monitoring and supervision									
Procurement & storage of agricultural starter packs									
Distribution of agricultural starter packs									
Monitoring and supervision									
Final audit									

[Contributions list available on the website at
 http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/1-2-3%20-%2005EA023.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/1-2-3%20-%2005EA023.pdf)
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