

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

17 February 2006

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 183 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA023; Operations Update no. 5; Period covered: 21 January to 10 February 2006; Appeal coverage: 21.4%; [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List](#) or [here for the one on the website](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 18 October 2005- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA023.pdf for CHF 39,360,753 (USD 30,193,299 or EUR 25,301,687) for 9 months to assist up to for 1.5 million beneficiaries.
- Operations Update no. 1- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02301.pdf was posted on 7 November 2005.
- Operations Update no. 2- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02302.pdf was posted on 21 November 2005. This update focused on Malawi and the impact of DREF.
- Operations Update no. 3- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02303.pdf was posted on 4 January 2006.
- Operations Update no. 4- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02304.pdf was posted on 25 January 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 1,160,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 30,936,315 (USD 24,065,589 or EUR 19,901,776).

Related Annual Appeal: Southern Africa Regional Programmes and national society Capacity Building: Appeal 2006-2007 (MAA63001). Refer to- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA63001.pdf

Operational Summary: The peak of the hunger season took hold in Southern Africa at the beginning of 2006, with over 12 million people in urgent need of food support. Despite the desperate food shortages, the Federation's emergency appeal remained dramatically under-funded, with many national society plans to help the most vulnerable at their time of need being dashed.

Against this difficult funding climate, excellent progress was made by the Red Cross and Red Crescent actors in the region over the first six weeks of 2006. The Malawi Red Cross Society's first double food distribution for 17,000 households (over 100,000 people)- funded by the appeal- was successfully completed and distributions of the much needed agricultural seed starter packs took place in four of the affected countries (Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho), bringing a glimmer of hope to over 28,000 households. Distributions in Mozambique, Lesotho and Zambia will also be forthcoming in February/March.

In January 2006, the Federation held a two-day food security workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa, which brought together 50 key national society staff from the region and several partner national societies (PNS) to ensure coordination was achieved, to discuss implementation progress and to prioritize on the way forward. Almost all delegate posts at the regional delegation/national societies were secured. This, combined with deployment of national society food security officers and the mobilization of countless volunteers, increased the operational capacity and momentum of this crucial programme.

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Background

Food security across the region is deteriorating and an estimated 12 million people face acute food shortages if relief efforts are not rapidly scaled up. As highlighted in the appeal for this operation, the current food insecurity is not only a result of the erratic rainfall patterns in 2004/5, but also the chronic burden of HIV/AIDS and weakened government capacities. This 'triple threat' is destroying already weakened and vulnerable families, with even the most basic coping mechanisms now being eroded.

The period from December through to March/April in Southern Africa is always a challenge for poorer households, as food stocks from the previous season's harvest have been consumed and the next season's crops are not reaped, creating a gap in food availability at the household level. Food prices always increase at the market. Whilst an annually occurring food shortage among poorer households is to be expected, reports are emerging that this year's period- prior to the harvest- is one of the worst in recent decades. Insufficient commercial grain imports and slow national and international response efforts have resulted in a massive increase in the price of basic food items, multiplying the number of houses unable to afford food in the marketplace.

The situation has become so acute in some pockets of Malawi and Zimbabwe, that cereals are totally unavailable with the cereal gap in Zimbabwe noted as 1.2 metric tonnes (MT) of maize alone. According to Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), the government of Zimbabwe imported more than 762,000 MT of maize last year but chronic fuel shortages continue to constrain maize distribution from government depots. In Malawi, the preliminary results of the National Nutrition Survey conducted in December 2005 revealed worrying increases in the malnutrition levels, with districts in the central and southern regions being the most affected- with global malnutrition rates exceeding 10% in three districts. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that 5 million people need food aid, 2.8 million of whom are children. Mozambique and Zambia and also facing critical food access problems, whilst localized shortages are being experienced in Lesotho and Swaziland.

People are trying to look forward to the next harvest in April/May, with yields partially dependent on weather patterns. Following delays in the start of the rainy season in some parts of the region, normal to above normal rains that started in December 2005 stimulated cautious optimism. Even with ideal weather patterns though, the most vulnerable households in the region had little or no access to the necessary agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and draught power. Additionally, areas of the Zambezi River Basin have been flooded, affecting parts of Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, with Malawi and central Mozambique suffering the worst floods, which caused loss of life, displacement and destroyed thousands of hectares of cropland. Furthermore, army worm invasions have been reported in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe with Malawi's Minister of Agriculture reporting that some 27,500 hectares have been affected and 2,600 hectares of maize destroyed.

Operational developments

Lesotho

The Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) report of 2005 reported that approximately 550,000 people, primarily in the Southern Lowlands and the Senqu River Valley, would face a food deficit through to March 2006. Taking into account commercial imports, the VAC estimated that Lesotho would require some 20,000 MT of food or cash assistance. According to WFP, the country produced 15% more cereal in the last harvest compared to the year before. However, the harvest was 16% less than the five-year average. This was due to widespread soil

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erosion, poor farming techniques, HIV/AIDS rate of nearly 30%, increasing poverty and weather related shocks. Purchasing power is also very low due to reduced labour opportunities, this again exacerbating the food insecurity situation. Food aid distributions and the delivery of 80% of total planned imports by the end of December 2005 have however resulted in short-term improvements in Lesotho. WFP distributed food to over 70,000 people in January. Beneficiaries included people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, women/children on mother and childcare programmes and OVC. Food-for-work and food-for-assets projects were also being implemented through WFP.

Malawi

In December 2005, the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), conducted a countrywide nutritional survey to ascertain current acute malnutrition rates in Malawi. Preliminary results from the survey revealed worrying increases in malnutrition levels, with districts in the central and Southern regions being most affected. The survey found that in three districts global acute malnutrition rates (GAM) exceeded 10 percent, indicating a serious nutrition situation. In 11 districts, GAM rates were between 5 and 9 percent, signalling a poor nutrition situation according to World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. The Southern Africa Humanitarian Crisis Update noted that a lack of transport, blockages of transport corridors due to floods and poor performance of some of the main food suppliers continued to create major challenges in getting food commodities into Malawi during the beginning of February 2006.

Despite agricultural losses due to flooding in the south, crops in the rest of the country are reportedly doing well with good yield expected. However, an outbreak of army worms has been reported in several districts, with 2,600 hectares of maize being destroyed. Floods in the south of the country have also damaged 9,824 hectares of crops in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts, with the government and NGOs providing hybrid maize as well as food and non-food items to some 2,500 households.

The Malawi Red Cross Society conducted an assessment of the two worst affected districts and requested CHF 100,000 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable it to provide temporary shelter as well as water and sanitation (WatSan) services to those affected by floods at the end of January 2006. The national society is also working in partnership with WFP to distribute food to 350 tuberculosis (TB) patients, 500 chronically ill people and 1,150 OVC on a monthly basis. Additionally, through government and the Department for International Development (DFID) funding, the national society is providing emergency food to 73,900 beneficiaries on a monthly basis in Karonga, Chitipa, Rumphi, Nkhotakota, Kasungu and Salima districts.

Mozambique

Whilst the VAC conducted in Mozambique estimated 580,000 people to be requiring food assistance during the hunger months, a monitoring mission conducted by the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) in September and October 2005 put the figure at 801,000 with this number of people requiring 83,000 MT of food assistance until the next harvest. The most food insecure areas are in the Central and Southern provinces, where WFP is targeting 90% of the population in need. WFP reported that households in this area have exhausted their 2004/2005 harvest and food prices in markets have risen to unaffordable levels. The scarcity of water for domestic use and for livestock is also exacerbating food insecurity. Acute malnutrition rates in the drought-affected areas are between 3 and 10%, with the government, in as early as October 2005, requesting international assistance for the most vulnerable households.

Heavy rainfall since mid-December 2005 flooded rivers in central and southern Mozambique killed over 20 people and destroyed thousands of houses in Nampula, Sofala and Inhambane provinces. WFP and its implementing partners are distributing food to 2,000 people who were evacuated from the Zambezi river islands in Sofala province. The Ministry of Health also reported 642 cases of cholera and one death in the province.

However, according to WFP, the risk of continued flooding is decreasing steadily as river levels slowly return to normal in Sofala, Manica, Tete and Gaza provinces. The notable exception is Maputo Province where the Incomati River has reached its alert level in Magude and Moamba districts, interrupting access to some localities.

Namibia

According to the Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment implemented by the Namibia VAC and the Early Warning Unit, Caprivi and Kavango regions of Namibia are particularly food insecure, with Caprivi's cereal harvest

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in 2004/5 dropping to 76% below the five-year average, with many people now having to rely on purchasing food. FEWS NET noted that households without own-produced cereals stocks remaining, or with inadequate income sources, are engaging in distressing coping mechanisms. As of the beginning of January 2006, WFP strengthened its support to 111,000 OVCs who are affected by both chronic food insecurity and the disintegration of family and community life caused by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Swaziland

The June 2005 Swaziland VAC and the joint UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/WFP crop and food supply assessment mission (CFSAM) reports indicate that nearly 227,000 people were food insecure, with the last year's harvest increasing marginally but decreasing overall when compared to the past five year average. Production of the country's staple food- maize- has been in a long-term decline, dropping by 70% over the last five years in some areas. Water shortages, HIV/AIDS prevalence of around 40% and a lack of adequate funding all contributed to this downward trend. WFP is currently feeding 250,000 people, nearly a quarter of Swaziland's population.

Poor rains were received in the first half of the season but whilst January saw a turn around for the better in some areas, several districts had no rain. Indeed, Lubombo district is still totally dry as at mid-February forcing many farmers and households not to plant their seeds at all. The Ministry of Agriculture had advised farmers to plant early-maturing and drought-tolerant varieties of crops- such as legumes- with maize discouraged unless it is of the variety which matures in 90 days. WFP noted that most maize is at the tussling and cobbing stages countrywide. The condition of the early-planted crop in the Low veld shows signs of stunting and is unlikely to produce a healthy yield. Field reports also indicate concerns that maize may be at risk of wilting if the rains continue being inconsistent. Water sources- including rivers, earth dams and streams- in the lower and central low veld have not increased their levels due to erratic and negligible rainfall that has fallen in the region, despite heavy rains in other parts of the country. The status of livestock in the Low veld remains at risk as the growth of pasture fodder has not improved and water levels remain low.

Zambia

The heavy rains in several parts of Zambia are, according to WFP, threatening crop yields. Floods continued in early February in the Zambezi plains in western Zambia resulting in yellowing of crops. Torrential rains and leaching of soils have also been reported in Southern Province, with a cholera outbreak reported due to poor hygiene and drainage, attributed to the excessive rainfall. The Zambia Red Cross Society's disaster management team responded to the cholera outbreak in January 2006, working hand-in-hand with government counterparts to prevent further spread of the disease. Secheke district in Western Province was not only flooded but was also affected by army worms. Despite the difficult logistical problems, WFP is providing food relief to over one million Zambians and 72,000 refugees.

According to WFP, the cost of maize in urban centres across the country increased in January compared to the December prices. In comparison to one year earlier, January 2006 prices were 25% higher. The Ministry of Home Affairs reported an increase in the number of refugees leaving the camps and entering into Zambian villages in search of work or food to meet the household needs, since WFP gave half rations in January.

Zimbabwe

The crop gap in Zimbabwe is estimated at 1.2 million MT of maize. This is attributed to a poor growing season last year with the drought, shortages of key farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizer and draught power, resulting in poor yields. Input shortages are widespread again in the current planting season. Pesticides to control the army worm situation are reportedly in short supply. The weather patterns from mid-December onwards have been favourable but due to shortages of inputs, it is unlikely that Zimbabwe will have a very successful harvest in 2006. A survey conducted by WFP showed that communities were experiencing difficulties in accessing maize through local markets because of unavailability. In January 2006, WFP provided food to 4.4 million people in 37 districts while at the same time reaching 900,000 children in 16 districts through school feeding and home based care activities. WFP is also distributing food to 48,000 people affected by the "operation restore order". New cases of cholera continue to be reported in and around Harare, with the problem worsened by the unavailability of water in city. Discussions are taking place within the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society regarding an appropriate response.

According to FEWS NET, maize prices continued to escalate as the peak of the lean season took hold, with household and market suppliers dwindling and demand increasing. During the period 29 December 2005 to 4

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February 2006, Bulawayo experienced a 117% increase in the price of maize. In some areas where maize had previously been available, new suppliers increased prices by 900% in comparison to those of mid-July 2005.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress and impact

Overall goal: To assist some 1,483,900 vulnerable beneficiaries in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe with food security, water and sanitation projects and to reinforce coping mechanisms (promoting livelihoods).

Food Assistance

Objective: To meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable individuals in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe until the next harvest in 2006.

Progress/Achievements

Due to an inadequate response from donors, all national societies' plans for food assistance funded from this appeal have been put on hold, with the exception of Malawi and Zambia. Fortunately, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with WFP to distribute food to home-based care clients and OVC beneficiaries from September 2005 to June 2006. The Mozambique Red Cross Society is holding discussions with WFP and a good headway was made in Malawi over the reporting period.

Malawi

The Malawi operation was reinforced with the arrival of the food security relief delegate, who joined the in-country food security logistics delegate on 21 January 2006. The Malawi Red Cross Society also assigned a food security logistician and assistant to join the overall team, as well as additional staff for its warehouse.

The Malawi Red Cross Society has been running a food distribution programme since 29 December 2005, with the official launch on 9 January 2006. The pipeline progressed well, with items procured by the Finnish Red Cross. A further top-up procurement process was being discussed during the reporting period, with the regional delegation liaising with the Finnish and Malawi Red Cross teams in looking at the overall funding earmarked for the Malawi operation, with the aim of targeting a greater number of districts, as outlined in the appeal.

Table 1: Finnish Red Cross-procured items (incoming)

	Maize (MT)	Pulses (MT)	Oil (Lts)	CSB (MT)	Notes
Procured	2,451	491	244,104	737	Pulses = beans and cow peas
Spoilt	0	7.2	0	0	7.2 MT peas were spoilt.
Incoming	1,475	334.8	182,492	215	

The first item to arrive, out of the five commodities, was cooking oil on 13 December 2005, with the first lot of pulses arriving between Christmas and New Year. Problems were encountered with 7.2 MT of pigeon peas though, which were spoilt.

Malawi Red Cross Society warehousing needs for this operation were reduced, as the maize and CSB food suppliers agreed to stock the 'incoming' food in their own warehouses until the items are dispatched to the operational areas. The national society also has contracts with Manica Freight (for custom clearance), Strategic Business Solutions (SGS) Audit firm (for inspection of goods) and Littleway Limited Transportation (for the local transport of items to the distribution points). The logistics delegate and his national counterpart visited the food suppliers, the custom clearance firm and the inspection company in Blantyre during the week of 30 January 2006.

Regarding distributions in Malawi, the food packs were designed to meet two-months of need for each household, and consisted of 50 kg of maize, 10 kg beans, 15 kg CSB and 5 litres of vegetable oil. The distributions (for December/January) commenced on 29 December 2005, starting in Mwanza District and continued in the other districts of Zomba, Balaka, Chiradzulu and Blantyre. The distributions were concluded during the first week of

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February 2006. The next two-month distributions have been planned to commence 18 February 2006. On-site monitoring was conducted by the food security relief delegate and the monitoring staff.

Table 2: Food Distribution in Malawi for December 2005/January 2006

District	House holds	Maize MT	Pulses MT	Oil - L	CSB MT
Chiradzulu	4,808	240.4	17.2	24,040	72.12
Mwanza	1,831	91.55	18.28	9,155	27.465
Zomba	3,153	157.65	31.5	15,765	47.295
Balaka	4,787	239.35	47.87	23,935	71.805
Blantyre	2,168	108.4	0	10,840	32.52
Total	16,747	837.35	114.85	83,735	251.205

Two-month rations were provided in all commodities apart from pulses which were short in Chiradzulu district, with less than half the households receiving beans/peas and no household receiving pulses in Blantyre District. Those households will receive double-rations in the next distributions.

Zambia

A food security relief coordinator was assigned to Zambia on 1 January 2006, with the Purchase Committee formally opening the tender documents for food procurement, with support from the regional delegation's roaming logistics delegate, who was visiting Zambia. During the reporting period, the results of the tendering process were being handled by the Federation Secretariat.

Discussions were held with the government's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), WFP and other agencies regarding targeting of beneficiaries so as to ensure that government support for the operation was gained and to avoid any duplication/gaps in beneficiary selection.

It is hoped that 32,000 beneficiaries will be targeted in Sinazongwe and Secheke districts, with the HBC clients and their households being the main focus others included are HIV/AIDS affected families, chronically ill, child headed families, vulnerable female-headed families and vulnerable elderly-headed households.

The standard food ration, per beneficiary on a monthly basis will consist of 10.8 kg maize meal, 1.8 kg beans, CSB and 0.9 litres of cooking oil.

The national society has recruited new staff to work specifically on implementing this programme, they include a relief coordinator; three food security district coordinators, a food security logistics assistants and two drivers.

Reinforcing self-reliance and coping mechanisms (livelihoods)

Objective: To re-enforce or rebuild self-reliance and to restore their positive coping mechanisms through food-for-work/food-for-assets (income generating opportunities), cash transfers, targeted agricultural support, and the provision of vegetable garden drip kits.

Progress/Achievements

Pressure mounted substantially over the reporting period, with only three of the six countries (Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) receiving and distributing agricultural starter packs. Delivery and custom clearance problems were encountered in the other three countries (Lesotho, Namibia and Mozambique). The Zambia Red Cross Society opted to distribute vegetable seeds only, which were planned to be procured locally. Also, Lesotho cancelled the maize order, replacing it with wheat which Malawi distributed pulses instead of cereals. The regional delegation's logistics department and the respective Federation country offices/National Societies are liaising with suppliers on a daily basis to ensure that everything possible is done in order to receive these desperately needed items in time for the planting season.

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Table 3: Status of pipeline for items in Agricultural Starter Packs

	Cereals Ordered/arrived	Pulses Ordered/arrived	Cassava Ordered/arrived	Veg Seed Ordered/arrived	Fertilizer Top Ordered/arrived	Fertilizer Basal Ordered/arrived
Country	MT	MT	Pieces	Kgs	MT	MT
Lesotho	20/20			250/0	50/0	167.47/141.8
Malawi		66.98/28.36	1,674,400/0	164.47/all	167.47/141.8	16/0
Mozambique	6.4/0			80/0	16/0	
Namibia	8/all			100/all	40/all	
Swaziland	8/all			100/0	20/all	20/0
Zambia				120/0		
Zimbabwe	76/all			950/0	190/0	190/0

Notes

- Zambia: Locally procuring vegetables only (tomato, cabbage, onion, rape 10 g of each in a pack) for distribution in March 2006.
- Lesotho: Wheat replaced maize seed as it has a longer planting season. Awaiting import papers for all commodities.
- Malawi: A mixture of peas and beans were procured as pulses, replacing maize.
- Mozambique: Awaiting import papers.

Lesotho

As no food security delegate was available for the Lesotho Red Cross Society during the reporting period, the regional delegations senior disaster management officer temporarily transferred to the national society during the week starting 6 February 2006. The roaming logistics delegate also went to Lesotho to provide logistical support for the operation over the same period. The national society developed a beneficiary distribution plan, targeting 5,000 households (some 30,000 beneficiaries) with a verification exercise supervised by the Lesotho Red Cross Society district programme managers using the Red Cross care facilitators and local chief/headmen.

Table 4: Agricultural Starter Packs Distribution Plan for Lesotho

District	Mafeteng	Leribe	Maseru	Mokhotlong	Thaba Tseka	Hutching	Berea	Burtha-Buthe	Total
No. households	737	701	761	701	320	350	689	741	5,000

The cereal aspect of the pack will consist of wheat, rather than maize which is a winter crop usually planted in Lesotho during March and harvested around June, so there is less of a time-constraint for the national society to distribute the packs.

Lesotho agricultural starter packs, per household: 4 kgs wheat, 50 grammes vegetables (cabbage 10g, tomato 10g, carrot 10g) and 20 grammes green beans, 10 kg basil fertilizer, and 10 kg top fertilizer.

Malawi

During the reporting period the two food security delegates worked hand-in-hand with their national society counterparts to ensure that the agricultural starter packs were distributed to beneficiaries.

The agriculture starter packs, per household: 4 kgs of pulses (beans and peas), 10 grams vegetable seed, 100 pieces cassava cuttings, 10kg basil fertilizer and 10kg of top fertilizer.

The distribution of the starter pack started on 9 January and was completed on 1 February 2006, with fifteen distribution points in five districts taking place to 16,747 households:

Table 5: Agricultural starter pack distributions in Malawi

District	Chiradzulu	Mwanza	Zomba	Balaka	Blantyre
No. of households	4,808	1,831	3,153	4,787	2,168

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Mozambique

The Mozambican Red Cross Society held a food security planning session over the second week of February 2006 in Manjacaze district- attended by the national disaster management coordinator, disaster management officer, Health officer, information officer and WatSan officer. They were joined by the disaster management officers from Gaza and Inhambane provinces. They further developed their plan of action for the operation.

Support for the agricultural seed packages will be targeted in two drought-ridden districts in Gaza Province and one district in Inhambane Province, working with HIV/AIDS infected and affected households and OVC. During the week starting 12 February 2006, the national society planned to conduct a beneficiary screening and selection review, which will result in a beneficiary list for 1,500 households to receive the agricultural starter packs. In addition to the above criteria, households will be selected based on their potential to gain good yields. As all the districts are drought ridden, the targeted households will be those living in lowland areas, close to river beds or with the possibility of irrigating their crops.

Pressure was being placed on the suppliers by the Federation and the national society, as they were late in delivering the items to Mozambique, that they were having problems gaining the correct importation documentation. In the meantime the national society's logistics officer had identified two warehouses in Govuro and Maluvane and was in the process of selecting a local transport company.

Human resources were increased over the period, with a food security delegate due to arrive in Maputo during the second week of February. The national society was also busy identifying 25 of its most active volunteers in each of the three districts, with these volunteers being paid for several months and taking on the roles of food security supervisors who will be coordinated by the three disaster management officers in each district. The 75 supervisors will undergo a three day training session towards the end of February 2006.

Namibia

No delegate was available for deployment to Namibia over the reporting period, consequently the regional delegation provided extra support for the national society, with the food security roaming logistics delegate visiting during the period under review. The regional delegation logistics officer was also deployed on 5 February 2006 to support the national society in the distribution of the agricultural starter packs, with his missions expected to last the duration of February.

Six national staff were also allocated specifically to the food security operation, working with some 200 volunteers in the three regions. The national society coordinated the operation closely with the government, managing to utilise three government warehouses in the regions. The national society also contracted three regionally based transport companies for distributions from the warehouses to the actual beneficiary collection points.

It produced a beneficiary distribution plan, focussed on 2,000 beneficiaries in the following three regions:

- Kavango Region: Mpungu, Ndiyona and Mashare Distribution Points (450 households);
- Caprivi Region: Katima Rural, Katima Urban, Sibinda, Linyati, Kabe, Kongola (850 households);
- Tsumkwe Region: no distribution points outlined yet (700 households).

All the seed commodities were incoming/custom cleared on 9 February, with distributions planned to take place between 10 and 14 February 2006. The Federation's logistician was working closely with national staff and volunteers to set-up the structures required at the distribution points and planned to monitor the distribution process. The national society was also organising a press visit to a distribution point by three different national media companies for 14 February 2006.

Swaziland

The food security delegate arrived in Swaziland following the Johannesburg meetings, having being briefed by the regional delegation in Harare. Staffs at the national society were reassigned to the food security operation, with one food security relief officer at the national headquarters and one food security coordinator in each of the five divisions working on this programme with the delegate.

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Although delays are being encountered with deliveries of the basal fertilizer and vegetable seeds which were the imported items, the first delivery of maize was made on 23 January and top-dressing fertilizer from 26 January 2006. None of the items were stored at the national society's central warehouse, with the maize kept at the supplier's warehouse in Mbabane and transported by the respective Red Cross divisions' own vehicles to the actual distribution points and the fertilizer being delivered directly to the divisions by the supplier.

Swaziland agricultural starter packs, per household consisted of maize (4 kgs), vegetable seeds- 50 gs in total (20g green beans, 10g cabbage, 10g tomato and 10g carrot), basil fertilizer (10 kg) and top fertilizer (10 kg). A total of 1,938 households received the agricultural starter packs.

The beneficiaries were selected by the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society headquarters' food security officer, area field co-ordinators and field officers, who worked closely with 30 volunteers. Externally, the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society worked hand-in-hand with local community leaders and rural health motivators during the actual selection and distribution process. It was noted that in the Nhlanguano division, all beneficiary households had had their entire crops last year destroyed by a terrible storm.



Nobuhle Dlamini, 13 years old, from Manzini region of Swaziland, lives with her grandmother plus five other siblings - receiving maize brought hope to the family.



A Swaziland Red Cross volunteer checking the beneficiary list at Manzini region, with the beneficiaries waiting to collect their seeds.

The actual distributions started in good time on 23 January 2006, with all the maize being distributed. As the top fertilizer is not used on the seeds until six weeks after they are planted, N Hhohho, S Hhohho and Shiselweni divisions decided to retain the fertilizer at the local Red Cross warehouses in January/February, whereas Manzini and Lubombo divisions opted to distribute both items together. Fears were mounting, though, that the yields from the Red Cross maize would not be good due to the lack of rain since planting in some of the regions, such as Lubombo.

Table 6: Swaziland Agricultural Starter pack distributions

Regions	Manzini	Lubombo	N Hhohho	S Hhohho	Shiselweni	Total
Households	243	530	275	295	595	1,938
Maize (kg)	972	2,120	550	1,180	2,380	7,752
Fertilizer- top (kg)	2,430	5,300	0	0	0	7,730

Zambia

The Zambia Red Cross Society food security livelihood project will focus on 3,000 households (18,000 beneficiaries) in Sinazongwe and Sesheke districts within the Southern Province, where the HBC/WatSan project is underway. Indeed, the entry point for beneficiary selection is firstly the HBC clients (households are affected by the drought), OVC and other vulnerable households. The other vulnerable households include HIV/AIDS-affected families, the chronically ill and their families, child-headed households, vulnerable female-headed households as

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well as vulnerable elderly and their households. Families to receive the seeds must also have access to kitchen gardens, water and labour.

The procurement of the vegetable packs will be done locally, with distributions planned to take place in March 2006. The vegetable packs will consist of 10 grammes of tomatoes, cabbages, onions and rape.

Zimbabwe



Nezipho Chiko is a 62 year old grandmother in Chiyemba village, Zvimba District, who is taking care of five HIV/AIDS-orphaned grandchildren. She is one of the beneficiaries who received maize seeds from the Zimbabwe Red Cross/Federation in January and is optimistic that the yield will be good if she also receives fertilizer.

The national society has two donors for agricultural starter packs, combining DFID and Federation funds to ensure a coordinated approach. The Federation-funded maize was all expected in January but vegetable seed packs were not expected until later for distribution until March 2006. However, difficulties securing import permits were encountered with the two types of fertilizer for the maize, with the Ministry of Agriculture analysing samples.

The Zimbabwe's agricultural starter packs, per household consisted of maize 10 kgs, vegetables 50 grammes, (okra and tomato 20 grammes), carrot 10 grammes, basil fertilizer 10kg and top fertilizer 10 kg.

The Federation's food security delegate worked hand-in-hand with her national society counterparts to prepare the distribution plan. Districts in Manicaland and Mashonaland provinces were selected based on the receiving late rain, thereby maximising the likelihood of good yields. Some problems occurred with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society-contracted transport company, which

also distributes the WFP-funded food to some 90,000 HBC clients, as the company had not been paid for several months. Despite this, distributions went ahead to 7,565 households in January 2005, with crop yields hoped to ultimately benefit over 45,000 people.

Table 7: Maize seeds distribution plan

Province/district	No of Distribution Points	Total HH*	Planned Maize	Dates
Manicaland Province				
Buhera	7	3,625	36,250	26.1.06 to 1.2.06
Chipinde	5	2,343	23,430	26.1.06 to 31.1.06
Mash West Province				
Zvimba	11	1,597	15,970	16.1.06 to 31.1.06
Total	23	7,565	75,650	16.1.05 to 1.2.06

* Households

Water and Sanitation (WatSan)

Objective: Ensure access to safe and adequate drinking water, borehole rehabilitation, sanitation, small-scale irrigation, latrine construction, and hygiene education by vulnerable individuals.

Progress/Achievements

The majority of WatSan plans were curtailed as a result of a low level of funding. Despite this situation, it was hoped that two soft pledges would be confirmed for Malawi and Zambia, with initial discussions taking place between the regional delegation and the respective national society to develop WatSan planned activities.

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Discussions were also held regarding WatSan activities in Mozambique, with the national society developing a budget and proposing activities to support 12,600 beneficiaries in Matutuine district (Maputo Province), Chokwe district (Gaza Province) and Govuro district (Inhambane Province). The Red Cross activities would include: Construction of 7 underground water tanks; rehabilitation of 21 water boreholes; training of 30 volunteers and training of 30 water point maintenance committees.

It was also hoped that under-spent funds made available to the Zimbabwean Red Cross Society for drought power could be reallocated to WatSan activities, with the regional water and sanitation delegate, the Zimbabwe food security delegate and the national society's WatSan officer/programme coordinator planning to hold a meeting in mid-February 2006 to discuss WatSan priorities.

Reinforcing capacities in assessing livelihoods, and food security monitoring and reporting

Objective: To ensure that national society staff is well versed in livelihood and food security interventions

Progress/Achievements

At the regional delegate level in Harare, the following delegate/national staff positions were filled to support this intervention: Food security operations coordinator; food security roaming logistics; food security reporting and food security finance officer. Disaster management and finance/administration were also working with the food security team to ensure the operation was implemented smoothly.

At the country level, the following had been achieved by the seven national societies and Federation's regional delegation to support this intervention:

Lesotho

- A food security delegate identified from the American Red Cross and arriving in Southern Africa in February 2006.
- A field visit was made by the regional delegation's food security operations manager in January 2006.
- The food security roaming logistics delegate and the DM officer were assigned to Lesotho for several weeks in February.
- 80 Lesotho Red Cross Society volunteers mobilized from the eight districts to be involved with the beneficiary identification process and actual distributions of the Agricultural Starter Packs.
- All volunteers will attend a Lesotho Red Cross Society distribution management exercise on 15/16 February 2006.

Malawi

- 1 logistics delegate arrived in November 2005 and the food security relief delegate in January 2006.
- The regional delegation monitoring and evaluating officer visited the national society in February 2006.
- 1 coordinator; 1 logistician, 1 monitoring and evaluation officer, 2 food monitors were allocated/recruited in each of the five districts, bringing the total to 25. Four warehouse staff members were also put in place for the food security operation.
- A monitoring and evaluating food security workshop was held for eleven staff, which included district monitoring and evaluating staff.

Mozambique

- Food security delegate assigned for Mozambique was identified.
- The regional DM coordinator visited the national society in February 2006.
- The national society held a food security planning session over the second week of February 2006 in Manjacaze district, attended by the national disaster management coordinator, disaster management officer, health officer, information officer and WatSan officer. They were joined by the disaster manager officers from Gaza and Inhambane Province.
- A total of 75 Mozambique Red Cross Society volunteers were employed from mid-February 2006 for two-months to work as District Supervisors for the food security programme. All the 75 volunteers are going to attend a three-day training session on food security at the end of February 2006

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Swaziland

- The food security delegate arrived in Swaziland at the end of January 2006, having been briefed in Harare first.
- The regional DM coordinator and food security operations coordinator visited the national society in February.
- One Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society headquarters coordinator was assigned from a division and five divisional coordinators were allocated to the food security operation.

Namibia

- No food security delegate was identified for Namibia, but the regional food security roaming logistics delegate and regional logistics officer visited the national society, with the latter supporting the operation in-country for several weeks.
- The national society had reallocated six staff to work on the food security programme specifically.
- A total of 200 Namibia Red Cross volunteers had also been mobilised.
- The logistics officer was planning on running some vehicle and warehousing capacity-building exercises towards the end of February 2006.

Zambia

- A relief coordinator delegate was transferred from another Zambian programme to food security on 1 January 2006.
- The regional roaming logistics delegate and programme coordinator visited the national society.
- A national food security coordinator was recruited to start in mid-February 2006, as well as three district coordinators, three logistics assistants and two drivers.
- A food security workshop meeting was held in January with all section heads/Federation staff attending.

Zimbabwe

- The food security delegate assigned for Zimbabwe arrived in December 2005.
- The regional DM coordinator visited the national society in February 2006.
- A reporting workshop was held at the national society.
- The national society was planning on holding a food security workshop in mid February 2006 for two-days, with the regional monitoring and evaluation officer and the food security delegate both giving presentations.

Impact

Clearly, due to a lack of funds, the impact of the food assistance objective will not be met by this operation except in Malawi. Measuring the impact of the food component of the Malawi Red Cross Society's operation was being fully explored by the regional monitoring and evaluating officer, who visited the national society in February 2006 and worked closely with his newly appointed monitoring and evaluation counterparts at the national society. Distribution point and follow-up household monitoring and evaluation tools have been introduced and are analysed on a monthly basis. The establishment of a monitoring and evaluation regional working group was also discussed.

The impact of the livelihood objective' again can only be measured on implemented projects. A full agricultural starter pack operation is being implemented by six national societies, with the Zambian Red Cross Society's pack consisting of vegetable seeds. The regional delegation's food security programme officer has designed a post-planting survey in order to assess the impact of this intervention. The national society staff and volunteers, implementing their standard monitoring exercises, will fill-in the questionnaires from mid-February through to the end of March 2006. Data to be collected includes: number and type of crops planted, area planted by crop type, fertilizer applied crop production and size of the households.

The objective of the WatSan component of the programme will be evaluated for impact after each intervention is completed and will again be focussed on in the final evaluation.

The impact of the final objective, '*Reinforcing capacities in assessing livelihoods, and food security monitoring and reporting*' will in part be measured by the real time evaluation exercise to follow in March 2006. A terms of reference (ToR) was being developed over the reporting period. Additionally, a final evaluation of the entire operation will fully explore all impact issues.

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Constraints

- Insufficient funding for the appeal has resulted in much of the planned appeal intervention being put on hold, with the delegation/national societies in the region hoping additional resources will be incoming in February 2005.
- The procurement of the agricultural starter pack items commenced late in the season, consequently seeds/fertilizer was slow to arrive. The whole situation was exacerbated during the long Christmas/New Year break with many of the suppliers and components of the Red Cross closed during the period. Additional importation/inspection problems occurred, especially in Zimbabwe and Mozambique.
- Delegates/national staff recruitment was initially slow due to a lack of funds, but two further delegates were in the pipeline (for Mozambique and Lesotho) and regional staff/delegates were dispatched on various short-term support missions. The national society was also busy recruiting teams of food security staff/ as well as mobilizing and training volunteers.
- Poor communication was experienced particular by the Lesotho and Malawi national societies during the reporting period. The hampering effective and fast liaison. These problems out of the Red Cross's control were exacerbated by heavy rains.
- A shortage of vehicles, computers and telephones were also experienced, with further national society and delegation vehicles in the pipeline and the other items being dispatched from the Federation's Secretariat.

Federation Coordination

The Federation Food Security Task Force meet on a regular basis in Harare, with over 20 delegation staff and delegates involved, with the regional programmes coordinator chairing the sessions Delegation and country operational updates are given, challenges discussed and decisions taken. Minutes of the meeting are available for Federation staff delegates and national society staff involved in the operation. Most days the DM coordinator, food security coordinator, logistics, finance and reporting meet informally to ensure coordination is achieved, operational issues are discussed and progress is reviewed.

At the country level, each national society also holds Task Force Coordination meetings on weekly or fortnight been with key national society staff, the partner national societies (PNS) in country and the Federation, and the minutes are shared by all those involved in the operation.

On an external basis, the relevant regional delegate representative attends the Regional Interagency Coordination Standing Office and Head of Agency meeting, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/Ministry of Health WatSan Working Group meetings and various other coordination meetings. At the country level, WFP food security coordination meetings, and National Disaster Management Unit Meetings, HIV/AIDS meetings, among others are attended by national society key staff and delegates on a regular basis.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

National society Capacity Building

The regional delegation organized a food security coordination meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from 20 to 21 January. The meeting was very well attended, with just under 50 participants, who included:

- All seven secretary generals/acting secretary generals involved in the food security programme;
- national society and Federation key food security staff and delegates from the regional and country delegations;
- PNS representatives: British; Danish; Netherlands and Swedish;
- The secretarial desk officer and newly appointed senior food security advisor for Southern Africa.

An overview of the food security operation was given by the regional programmes coordinator, with each national society also giving a detailed up-date on its operation. Challenges, constraints and recommendations were shared and discussed. The group also had presentations/and discussions on the general regional food security strategy, advocacy and resource mobilization. On the second day, the Red Cross was joined by guest speakers from WFP and Oxfam who gave presentations/and held smaller discussion groups regarding WFP/Red Cross cooperation and cash/voucher as an alternative to food distributions.

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Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Food Security Workshop held in Johannesburg on 20 and 21 January 2006 capitalized on the previously held information workshop, providing an opportunity for staff/delegates from the regional delegation to highlight the importance of Information and advocacy work to national societies, with the information officer giving a presentation at the workshop. These two factors increase the production of stories from the field.

The information officer also briefed all delegates arriving into the region for the food security operation, encouraging them to be proactive the food security delegate attached to the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society is already working on a story.

The following was achieved over the reporting period:

- Three stories were submitted to Geneva for publication (two from the Namibia Red Cross and one from the British Red Cross), with one story being published on the Federation's website on Malawi over the period.
- A press release was issued and posted on [Reuter's Alert Net](#) website on the 20 January 2006 expressing the Federation's concern on the slow response to the appeal. It was published on [Aegis](#), [Lesotho Health News](#), [World Hunger News](#), [Manoworld](#), [SurWax Food News](#) and many others.
- The Namibia Red Cross had organised three media companies to report on their agricultural seed starter pack project in mid-February 2006, with the journalists joining national society staff on a distribution exercise.
- The regional information officer conducted an interview with a Swedish radio station regarding the food security situation in the region. The Swedish Red Cross was also setting up interviews with the Swedish logistic delegate based in Malawi.
- The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has run a food crisis theme on both the radio and website segments and it is hoped that stories provided regarding the Federation's work in Southern Africa will be highlighted.
- The British Red Cross organised and funded photographer's trip to the region was postponed in early February due to visa/accreditation complications in Zimbabwe. The national society is now working on identifying another photographer to cover Zambia, Malawi and Lesotho.
- The regional delegation negotiated with several photographers who might be commissioned to take pictures in the other four countries not covered by the British Red Cross photographer, with funding from Secretariat's Media Services being discussed.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Southern Africa - food insecurity

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA023

PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/02/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				39,360,753	TOTAL COVERAGE 21.4%	
BRITISH - RC		100,000	GBP	225,900	01.12.05	MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/HAPS		990,000	CAD	1,077,318	07.11.05	
FINNISH - RC		100,000	EUR	155,700	25.10.05	MALAWI
FINNISH - GOVT		14,625	EUR	22,771	25.10.05	MALAWI
IRISH - RC		66,668	EUR	103,169	20.12.05	MOZAMBIQUE WATSAN
IRISH - RC		100,000	EUR	155,650	16.11.05	MALAWI
JAPANESE - RC		30,000,000	JPY	332,400	02.11.05	
MONACO - RC		20,000	EUR	31,140	25.10.05	
NETHERLANDS - RC		106,952	EUR	165,294	23.11.05	FOOD-FOR-WORK 30'000 PEOPLE IN MALAWI
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		10,326,000	NOK	2,007,374	15.11.05	INCL. 2 RELIEF DELEGATES
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				567	22.12.05	
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				1,477	26.01.06	
SWEDISH - RC		5,000,000	SEK	810,000	11.11.05	
SWEDISH - RC		3,000,000	SEK	486,000	18.11.05	
SWEDISH - GOVT		14,250,000	SEK	2,315,625	16.12.05	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR				1,000	07.11.05	
USA - PRIVATE DONOR				63	13.01.06	MALAWI
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				7,891,448	CHF	20.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINNISH - GOVT		270,000	EUR	420,390	25.10.05	MALAWI: 540 MT MAIZE, 150 MT CSB, 90 MT BEANS, 50'000 L. VEGETABLE OIL
ICELAND	DELEGATES			38,600		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			37,600		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATES			36,400		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				532,990	CHF	1.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	