



SOUTHERN AFRICA: FOOD INSECURITY

(Appeal no. 05EA023)

Fact Sheet No. 1- 24 March 2006

1. Food Assistance

Incoming appeal funds have been channeled towards much needed food assistance for the Malawian and Zambian operations, with the chart below representing food items procured by the Federation and Finnish Red Cross. The Malawian procurement process for the supplementary feeding programme is in its third cycle and Food-for-Work (using local suppliers) in its first. In Zambia, the first food items are expected to be coming in towards the end of March 2006.

Table 1: Status of food items procured by the Federation/Finnish Red Cross

Country	Operation	Status	Maize MT	Pulses MT	Oil - L	CSB MT	Notes
Malawi	Supplementary	Ordered	3003	601	300,304	901	Procured by Finnish RC
Malawi		Incoming	1,634	483.8	210,620	597	Continual pipeline
Malawi	Food for Work	Ordered	281.5	28.15			All incoming end March
Zambia	Supplementary	Ordered	805.6	135	72,200	224	Incoming from end March

Note: Malawi Red Cross Society Maize/Oil supplier withdraw 'incoming' items available for distribution from their warehouse (MRCS now sourcing its own FS warehouse), therefore incoming items are reported as less in this Fact Sheet, when compared to Operations Update no. 6.

Malawi Red Cross Society supplementary feeding programme

This project is targeting orphans, the chronically ill and other vulnerable children affected or infected by HIV and AIDS. The first and second round of distributions targeted over 16,000 households in the following districts: Mwanza, Zomba, Balaka, Chiradzulu and Blantyre in the Southern region. The third round of distributions (April/May) will target an additional 10,370 households, in four districts (Karonga in the northern region and Kasungu, Dowa and Ntchisi in the central region), with this expansion of the operation only being possible as a result of additional incoming funds from donors.

Table 2: Summary of food relief distributions in Malawi

Distribution period	Distribution dates	Districts	H/holds	Maize MT	Pulses MT	Oil - L	CSB MT
1 st (Dec/Jan)	29 Dec-10 Feb	5	16,747	837.35	114.85	83,735	251.205
2 nd (Feb/March)	18 Feb-18 March	5	15,947	797.35	211.78	79,735	239.21
3 rd (April/May)	April	9	26,317				

Malawi Red Cross Society food-for-work programme

Additional funds allocated to Malawi have resulted in an expansion of this operation into a third district with 11 health clinics now being constructed in Kasungu, Dowa and Ntchisi Districts through the Netherlands/Malawi Red Cross Partnership agreement. A total of 5,630 households and 28,150 beneficiaries will receive a food ration of 10 kg maize and 1 kg pulses at the end of March 2006, when the community-based construction volunteers have completed a proportion of the building work.

Food relief partnership agreements (outside the Red Cross/Red Crescent operation)

Due to funding constraints, the national societies' plans for food assistance funded from this appeal are currently on hold, with the above reported exceptions of Malawi and Zambia. However, all the national societies involved in the food security operation have made partnership agreements with the World Food Programme (WFP), governments, Department for International Development (DFID) and Partner National Society's (PNS) to distribute food to the most vulnerable in their respective countries, with an additional 310,000 beneficiaries receiving a monthly food ration as follows:

- **Lesotho Red Cross Society:** WFP/government – 16,800 beneficiaries (HBC, HIV and AIDS, TB and OVCs, Mother and child health) in Quthing division until December 2007. German Red Cross - 11,000 beneficiaries (HBC and chronically ill) in Berea division, until May 2006. German Red Cross - 1,400 beneficiaries (OVCs) in Butha-Butha division until 31 March 2006.
- **Malawi Red Cross Society:** DFID/government - 74,000 beneficiaries in six districts (Karonga, Chitipa, Rumphi, Nkhotakota, Kasungu and Salima). WFP – 11,000 beneficiaries (TB patients, chronically ill and OVCs) in Salima.
- **Mozambique Red Cross Society:** WFP/government – 24,693 food insecure beneficiaries in three districts (Chokwe and Manjacaze district in Gaza province and Govuro district in Inhambane Province) for four months.
- **Namibia Red Cross Society:** WFP/government – 30,000 OVC beneficiaries (in Ohangwena and Caprivi regions) from April 2006 for 24 months.
- **Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society:** WFP/government – 31,552 beneficiaries (households headed by orphaned children, terminally ill, disabled, widows with no income, elderly) in Nhlangano, Manzini and Nhlangano Divisions until March 2006. Finnish Red Cross - 6,000 beneficiaries (same criteria as above) in 9 communities in Piggs Peak, Northern Hhohho division until April 2006.
- **Zambia Red Cross Society:** WFP/government – 23,796 vulnerable beneficiaries in the North Western Province (Zambezi and Chavuma district) until March 2006.
- **Zimbabwe Red Cross Society:** WFP/government - 80,000 beneficiaries (HIV and AIDS HBC and OVC) nationwide.

2. Reinforcing self-reliance and coping mechanisms (livelihoods)



Beneficiaries queue in the remote mountainous area of Ndinilembi, Manzini region of Swaziland for their maize seed and top dressing fertilizer.

The Southern Africa Emergency Appeal has fortunately received sufficient funds to provide agricultural starter packs in all countries and will also examine the possibility of a cash transfer/voucher project in Zambia. The other planned activities only implemented if additional funds are incoming. Just under 40,000 vulnerable households/some 240,000 people (HBC beneficiaries, chronically ill, people with disabilities, people who are older, OVC, CHHs) have/will receive the agricultural starter packs, thereby enhancing households' capacity for self-reliance.

A post-planting survey is being implemented in March and April 2006 to determine the expected crop yields.

Table 3: Status of agricultural starter pack distributions

Country	No of households	Cereals/Pulses	Vegetable seeds	Fertilizers
Lesotho	5,000	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Malawi	16,747	Completed	Completed	Completed
Mozambique	1,500	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Namibia	2,000	Completed	Completed	Completed
Swaziland	1,938	Completed	End March	Completed
Zambia	3,000	N/A	In May	N/A
Zimbabwe	7,565	Completed	Completed	Ongoing

3. Water and Sanitation (WatSan)

Due to funding constraints, only some of the planned WatSan activities will be implemented. During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society was assessing eight sites for rehabilitating boreholes and 10 sites for borehole

drilling in Mwambo, Zomba district; the targeted communities were sensitized and the district assembly approached. The Mozambique Red Cross Society had started operating in Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane provinces, with the construction of 12 ground level water tanks, 7 borehole aprons, 21 borehole rehabilitations and the training of water point maintenance committees/volunteers. The Zambia Red Cross Society plans to implement projects in Sinazongwe and Seckeke districts rehabilitating boreholes, constructing latrines and promoting hygiene education. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society plans to provide safe water/improved hygiene standards to over 8,000 beneficiaries in Chikomba district (where there was a recent cholera outbreak) through the rehabilitation of boreholes, whilst also constructing latrines and reaching some 1,800 household with hygiene education.

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

Each national society has recruited additional staff/volunteers for the Food Security operation with the exception of Namibia. All outstanding delegate needs have now been met, resulting in delegates located in each country.

Below is a summary of support provided by the Secretariat/regional delegation staff/delegates visiting national societies and a list of training workshops held in March 2006.

NS/RD	Delegates	Support visits/workshops
Lesotho	1 FS delegate	17/3 Relief lessons learnt workshop with project officers/divisional coordinators and the Federation.
Malawi	1 Logistics/1 FS delegate	Secretariat senior FS officer and FS operations manager visited.
Mozambique	1 FS Delegate	Relief and monitoring volunteers identified, awaiting training. Monitoring support provided from Harare. Annual planning meeting also held, including FS topics.
Namibia	1 temporary Delegation staff	On 24/2 16 NS staff attended the Federation logistics training workshop. Regional delegation staff member now left.
Swaziland	1 FS delegate	25 volunteers/coordinators attended 1-day monitoring workshop. Rapid assessment completed in 4 regions, with support from Malawian Red Cross DM coordinator.
Zambia	1 FS delegate	2 FS field based workshops held for 57 staff/volunteers and BEC members. 75 New Volunteers and 9 FS staff recruited. Special 6-day field trip made by new NS FS officer and DMC to operational areas.
Zimbabwe	1 FS delegate	2-day FS workshop held for key headquarters/provincial staff. WatSan coordinator and FS operations manager visited the NS.
Regional Delegation	1 Operations Manager/1 Logistician/1 Reporting	1-day FS regional operations coordination meeting in Johannesburg for NS/delegates held on 3/3. Further meeting planned for 5/4/06

For more details and news stories as well as photos and updates related to the Southern Africa food security operation visit: <http://www.ifrc.org/news/southernafrica/index.asp>