

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Southern Africa: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDR63001
GLIDE n° FL-2008-00004-
LSO/MOZ/MWI/NMB/SWZ/ZMB/
Operations update n° 01
4 February, 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 19 to 31 January, 2008;

Appeal target (current): CHF 8,064,000 (USD 7.3m EUR 5m);

Appeal coverage: the response to this appeal has been limited; the updated donor response reflecting support to date will be made available shortly.

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis) on 18 January, 2008 for CHF 8,084,000 (USD 7.3m or EUR 5m) for six months to assist 150,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 1,191,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond. (CHF1,084,00 of DREF for the region, CHF107,000 previously allocated for Zimbabwe)



Flooded road in Zimbabwe, Muzabani area
(Photo: Mark South, IFRC, January 2008)

Summary: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies issued this preliminary Emergency Appeal (n° MDR63001) following widespread flooding in southern Africa. CHF 107,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DEF) to the Zimbabwe Red Cross to

respond to the floods recorded in Mashonaland Central province in early December 2007. Following the continued heavy rains and subsequent flooding in the region, an additional CHF 1,084,000 was allocated from DREF to start the relief operations and to support need assessments for the Red Cross National Societies of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, and Zambia. The International Federation Zone Office in Southern Africa is coordinating the relief operation, supported by a Federation Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT). The Federation alerted the FACT system and deployed a team on 27 January 2008 to provide support to the operation. The initial task of the FACT is to support field assessments in the affected countries, and to facilitate the development of a plan of action upon which the revised Appeal will be based. Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT's) have been mobilized and are providing assistance according to the needs of the affected National Societies. This operation is expected to be implemented initially for six months (until 31 July 2008).

The situation

Southern Africa has recorded heavy rains and storms since December 2007. This is earlier than normal for the region. The heavy rains have caused severe and widespread flooding in Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe, and destructive storms in Lesotho and Swaziland. The water levels reportedly continue to rise in Namibia's northern Caprivi region. According to the United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian

Affairs (UNOCHA)¹, an estimated 194,000 people have been affected in southern Africa. The incessant heavy rains and violent storms have destroyed houses (made from local material such as wooden poles, mud and grass), infrastructure such as bridges, uprooted trees, swept away crops and livestock and in a few cases injured some people. Vast farm land has been destroyed and it is feared that there will be food insecurity in the long term.

The affected countries are better prepared than for the 2000-2001 floods. Although the rains have been as heavy as during the past flooding disasters, there have been fewer fatalities. This can be linked to the disaster preparedness activities and early warning systems put in place after the 2000 floods experience. However, the long-term effects of the floods and storms may be worse than in 2000-2001.

At present, water levels in some areas have stabilized, but continuous monitoring is required. According to the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC) in Pretoria, heavy rain is still expected in southern Africa, particularly over northern Namibia and northern Botswana, the extreme eastern part of Zimbabwe, southern and eastern Zambia as well as over northern Mozambique and the northern tip of Madagascar. Heavy rain is also expected over eastern Angola, most of Zambia and over the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Congo. Consequently, flooding could potentially worsen affecting more people particularly Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, a warning has been issued on cyclones moving close to Mozambique and Madagascar. If the flooding does not worsen in some areas, recovery and rehabilitation work remains to be carried out in the affected areas as well as ensuring that further health hazards do not worsen due to poor water and sanitation conditions.

Botswana

The Botswana Red Cross has warned of heavy rains and potential flooding in the country, and is in working to pre-position relief stocks in the flood prone areas. Shelter items are the immediate needs, as well as food and other non-food items. It is estimated that the Botswana Red Cross will target 1,000 beneficiaries.

Lesotho

The Disaster Management Authority (DMA) jointly with Lesotho Red Cross has conducted field assessments in the affected areas in Mafeteng, Maseru, Mphahlele, Quthing and Bere districts. An estimated 4,000 people were affected by the storms and heavy rains. After the launch of the preliminary emergency appeal, Lesotho Red Cross initiated local resource mobilization through a local appeal on national radio and television. Some items have been donated locally and are being distributed to affected people.

Malawi

According to the Government of Malawi's Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) 12,199 households have been affected by the strong winds and heavy rains between October 2007 and January 2008. Of these, 4,089 households have been damaged. Farming land (2,798 hectares) has been destroyed, crops damaged, and people have been relocated. The government jointly with international humanitarian agencies has started distributing food and non-food items. Due to the large amounts of flooded water in certain areas, cholera is spreading it is reported that 586 cases and seven deaths have been recorded so far. With the ongoing threat of more rain to come, people are being urged to move to safer areas, away from the areas vulnerable to flooding.

Mozambique

According to the latest figures², more than 95,200 people have been affected by the floods and have been moved to 89 resettlement centres. Evacuations are continuing along the river valleys of the Zambezi, Pungwe, Buzi and Save. A total of seven deaths due to the floods have been confirmed by the authorities and one person is reported missing. Farming land has been destroyed; there is an increase in incidences of malaria and diarrhoea and the immediate priorities have been confirmed to be of shelter, clean drinking water, food and sanitation. The Mozambique Red Cross (CVM) is heavily involved in evacuation of displaced people to higher grounds, supplying shelter and non-food items. Concerns remain due to the cyclone alert and the fact that the rain is still heavy and more is forecast.

Namibia

Heavy rains are continuing in Namibia and people have been displaced in the Osakati and Caprivi areas. An estimated 20,000 people have been affected and are in need of shelter and other relief items. Localised flooding

¹ UNOCHA Situation Report 5: Southern Africa Floods: <http://www.reliefweb.int>

² Mozambique Red Cross Society shared figure with Mozambique government, 31 January 2008

has occurred in the crop fields of Linyanti and Kongola in the Caprivi region. Monitoring of the water levels of the Zambezi River is taking place in order to be prepared for more flooding in certain areas. Stocks are being mobilized from the Federation warehouse in Zimbabwe to support the Namibian Red Cross in its relief operations.

Swaziland

It is estimated that more than 2,500 people have been affected by the recent strong storms and needed immediate assistance with shelter, food and non-food items. In collaboration with the national authorities, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross has assisted by providing shelter relief items.

Zambia

It is estimated that 20,000 people have been affected by the heavy rainfall, which has displaced people, destroyed homes, crops and livestock as well as infrastructure. Estimates in the Southern Province indicated that up to 40-50% of crops as being destroyed. Many areas are still inaccessible and flooded and it is too early to determine the extent of the damage to crops. There are some food reserves, but after the harvest it is anticipated that problems may arise due to the impact of the floods. Food aid is being distributed by the government and aid agencies. Forecasts indicate heavy rainfalls in the coming week for the southern part of the country.

Zimbabwe

It is estimated that 15,000 people have been affected by the heavy rains and flooding. The worst affected area in Muzarabani is located 90 kilometres from Muzarabani Business Centre where 1,000 households have been affected with 600 households losing all their belongings. While the Zimbabwe Red Cross jointly with the Civil Protection Unit (CPU) were responding to the situation in Muzarabani, floods were reported in Sabi Valley, Chipinge. Incessant rains in the Save River catchments area caused the floods, which led to the displacement of refugees in Tongogara Refugee Camp and villagers in some parts of Chibuwe Ward. According to a district CPU assessment report, at least 1,000 households were affected by the floods in the Save River catchments area. A flood alert has been issued for the Muzarabani and Dande communal lands in expectation of new flooding in the Zambezi Valley, caused by the backflow of water from the Cahora Bassa Dam. Zimbabwe Red Cross has utilised the DREF funds to provide relief assistance on shelter, food and clean water to the displaced families.

Coordination and partnerships

At the country level, the Red Cross Societies are represented in the national disaster management coordination bodies³. The Red Cross Societies are also actively participating in the coordination meetings of the UNOCHA and have so far jointly conducted assessments in the affected areas.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross has worked closely with other stakeholders from the onset of the floods and coordinated with relevant government line ministries. The National Society was seconded by the CPU to coordinate the distribution of all non-food relief materials in Muzarabani in order to prevent double allocations. As other international organisations started to get more involved, the Zimbabwe Red Cross has also been collaborating with humanitarian agencies including the UNOCHA, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), World Vision, World Food Programme (WFP), Christian Care and the Institute of Sustainable Livelihoods. In Lesotho, the DMA established an operational centre, to coordinate the relief operations. The office of the Prime Minister is rehabilitating some damaged houses with new roofing and Red Cross volunteers have been active in the exercise. In Mozambique, the Red Cross has played a vital role in evacuating up to 5,400 families from flood affected areas to reception centres by means of river-rescue boats in collaboration with the navy.

Local fundraising activities are also taking place to raise money for the affected National Society's relief operations. Malawi Red Cross has also participated in joint assessment missions to the field with the DoDMA, World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Food Aid Organisation (FAO), and continues to work closely with the partners involved to complement the coverage of needs. Namibia Red Cross is currently participating in a rapid assessment with the Namibian authorities on the heavy rains and consequent displacement of people in the affected areas. In Zambia, local fundraising activities have managed to raise USD 100,000 from a local bank to support the National Society's relief operation.

³ (Disaster Management Mitigation Unit (DMMU) in Zambia; Civil Protection Unit (CPU) in Zimbabwe; Emergency Management Unit (EMU) in Namibia; Disaster Management Authority (DMA) in Lesotho; National Disaster Management Authority/Department of Disaster Management Affairs (NDMA/DoDMA) in Malawi; and National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) in Mozambique).

At the Federation's Zone task force-level the disaster management department is coordinating with the disaster management departments of the National Societies as well as UNOCHA regional office, sharing information and jointly mobilising resources. The Federation disaster management coordinator (DMC) attends the interagency meetings to share information with all partners on the ground. The task force meeting in Zimbabwe (International Federation office) has been attended by resident partner national societies (PNS) and some have provided relief materials and technical support for the operation focusing on immediate needs for the affected households. As the Federation is in a transitional period, moving from Zimbabwe to South Africa, the meetings will start to be held in South Africa.

The FACT was working under the auspices of the Federation's Zone office to complement and support the emergency operation work of the Zone staff. Two FACT sub-teams have moved to the field to assist national societies in further assessments of the situation in Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia. The FACT operations manager and reporting delegate remained in the Federation's office for the time being. RDRTs have been deployed to work alongside the FACT components, and further RDRT assets are available if needed.

The Red Cross being a community-based organization enjoys the trust of other stakeholders especially on voluntarism. The Red Cross volunteers have been mobilised and are assisting with relief distribution, hygiene promotion and moving affected people to safer places.

National Society Capacity Building: In light of the evolving situation and at the request of the National Societies, the Federation provided a FACT (consisting of (relief, health, water and sanitation, shelter, logistics, information and communication) in order to:

- Reinforce the work of the affected National Societies in conducting field assessments and relief operation activities.
- Provide support to develop a plan of action upon which a revised Emergency Appeal would be based, incorporating emergency and recovery and detailing the short, mid and long-term objectives of the operation.
- Ensure coordination with National Disaster Management Bodies and other international humanitarian agencies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The affected Red Cross National Societies have activated internal disaster management taskforces, linking with the Federation country representatives where present, and with the Federation office on operational issues. The DREF allocated for this operation is being used for procurement, transport, and the distribution of relief stocks.

In general, the Red Cross presence at local provincial levels has ensured the timely delivery of relief to the affected and vulnerable people. Local assessment teams have been assigned to continuously monitor the situation. Red Cross volunteers are on the ground assisting in evacuations and providing relief assistance to the affected families. The interventions carried out so far have a far-reaching impact in alleviating the plight of the affected communities. Most of the displaced families have been provided with temporary shelter and other basic necessities such as blankets, clothes and access to safe drinking water. This is in line with the Federation Global Agenda to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters and increasing local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. Some of the most vulnerable people are those living with HIV and AIDS, on the antiretroviral therapy (ART) programme, orphans and other vulnerable children (OVCs). In Zambia, at least 60 people on ART have been identified as being cut-off and stranded in flooded areas. There might also be a need for post-disaster awareness campaigns for malaria as well as cholera campaigns and other communicable diseases

Given the predictions of more rainfall, there are concerns that more households will be affected by further floods. Furthermore, the long-term effects will include issues of food insecurity, spreading of health diseases and rehabilitating people to safe areas.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The specific quantities and quality of relief items distributed to the beneficiaries are appropriate; distributions are carried out according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups, and are based on careful registration and a

system/process that controls and monitors, and record the movement of such goods.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Relief items are distributed to the following households: 800 in Lesotho, 3,000 in Malawi, 9,000 in Mozambique, 2,400 in Namibia, 1,300 in Zambia and 3,000 in Zimbabwe for a period of six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting joint rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. • Distributing tarpaulins and plastic sheeting, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans • Providing technical and financial support in logistics, warehousing, and distribution and controlling supply movements. • Monitoring and evaluating the relief activities and providing reporting on relief distributions

Progress: Assessments have been carried out in cooperation with other agencies and governments in all countries and the situation is being continuously monitored. The Federation's FACT is assisting by conducting further field assessments, and supporting the distribution and pre-positioning of relief items at strategic areas. Specific information on initial distributions is still being gathered at country level as National Societies are busy with the distribution work on the ground. A distribution table will be provided in the next Operations Update. The available information on relief distribution activities by the Red Cross Societies include:

- Zimbabwe Red Cross: distribution of relief items including blankets (3,450), kitchen sets (490), clothes (53), mosquito nets (54) and water purification tablets (17,000) and water purification sachets (6,000) have been provided.
- Lesotho Red Cross: received in-kind donations of clothing from local non-governmental organisations, blankets and hygiene kits from a faith-based organisation. Items have not yet been distributed. A field assessment has been conducted in Mafeteng District and information on other districts is being provided by the Disaster Management Authority. The Federation relief support team will visit the affected areas in the coming days to assist the Lesotho Red Cross in making further assessments and identifying needs and priorities.
- Zambia Red Cross: distributed relief items including mosquito nets (280), blankets (700), jerry cans (100), kitchen sets (100), chlorine (300 x 250ml), soap (400 pieces), food (500kg sardines, 453 litres cooking oil, 2,050kg beans), sprayers (3), toilet paper (400 rolls). The Federation's relief support team will assist in making further assessments.
- Mozambique Red Cross: distributed so far blankets (30), buckets (800), life jackets (200), mosquito nets (2,044), first aid kits (8) for first aid stations and boats (9) have been used for evacuation.
- Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross: some blankets as well as shelter items have been distributed to affected communities of the storms
- Namibia Red Cross: Stocks are being repositioned from Zimbabwe to Namibia to assist in the Namibia Red Cross operation. This includes kitchen sets (500), blankets (1000) and jerry cans (1,000), tarpaulins (500), water purification sachets (350,000).

Challenges: Some of the affected areas are inaccessible or very difficult to reach making it difficult to conduct assessments and distribute supplies to those affected. Continuing rains in many areas may cut off more areas and continue to impair attempts to provide shelter and proper sanitation. Health problems are a considerable concern. It is very difficult to get the information on distributions from remote areas to National Society headquarters, particularly in Mozambique.

Emergency shelter	
Objective: 20,000 most vulnerable flood-affected families in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are living in a safe and healthy environment within six months of the beginning of the project.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The targeted 20,000 displaced households are provided with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting joint rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments in Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and

shelter material and are living with dignity within six months	<p>Zimbabwe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing tarpaulins and plastic sheeting, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and jerry cans. • Providing technical and financial support in logistics, warehousing, and distribution and controlling supply movements. Monitoring and evaluating the relief activities and providing reporting on relief distributions.
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Progress: Distributions of tarpaulins, plastic sheeting and tents, have taken place in most of the flood affected areas. Tarpaulins have been distributed in Zimbabwe (770), Malawi (500), Zambia (750) and Swaziland. Tents have been provided in Zimbabwe (11) and Swaziland. Plastic sheeting has also been provided in some areas for shelter (Zimbabwe two rolls) and four cooking shelters have been provided in Zambia as well. Namibia will receive 500 tarpaulins and five rolls of plastic sheeting from the Federation warehouse in Zimbabwe. In Mozambique, the National Society has assisted in the evacuation of families by means of water transport. They have provided 406 tarpaulins, 800 tents and six rolls of plastic sheeting for shelter to the flood affected people.

A technical advisor from the Federation's Shelter Department provided technical (shelter kit) support to the operation in Malawi and Zambia for Red Cross staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. All participants of the training were very enthusiastic and grateful for the training. Shelter kits are in the process of being procured for the region.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to the following household 800 in Lesotho, in 3,000 in Malawi, 9,000 in Mozambique, 500 in Swaziland, 1,300 in Zambia and 3,000 in Zimbabwe for six months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Safe water is provided to 20,000 families displaced by floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing water purification powder. • In some cases treating and distributing water. • Distributing household level water storage (i.e. jerry cans) to 20,000 households. • Purchasing materials and equipment (indicating numbers and types).
Appropriate sanitation, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage, is provided to 20,000 families for six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing 5,000 sanitation platforms to the displaced families. • Assisting with construction of temporary latrines. • Assisting with vector control and prevention measures. • Assisting in waste disposal measures. • Assisting in drainage measures. • Purchasing materials and equipment (indicating numbers and types).
The health status of the population is improved through hygiene promotion activities and behaviour change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training 100 community-based volunteers on PHAST/IFRC WatSan software. • Conducting hygiene and health promotion campaign within the affected population focusing on behaviour change and targeting a total of 50,000 in the affected countries. • Providing information, education and communication (IEC) material on hygiene promotion (printed materials (posters, flyers, etc), manuals, educational materials, etc).

Progress: Distribution of water purification kits and jerry cans has taken place in most of the flood affected areas as planned. In Zambia and Mozambique, construction of latrines (12 and 130 latrine slabs provided respectively) and bathing shelters (8) is taking place. Zambia Red Cross has trained eight hygiene promoters at evacuation camps. Mozambique Red Cross has conducted training for volunteers in first aid, community mobilisation and water and sanitation activities.

Logistics

Objective: To support the relief operations, delivering arrange of relief items in line with the operational priorities.	
Expected results	Activities planned

<p>The operation has coordinated mobilization of relief goods; reception of all incoming goods; warehousing, centralized provision of standard vehicles as required; and coordinated and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procuring and distributing relief supplies and controlling supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Monitoring and evaluating relief activities and reporting on relief distributions. • Liaising and coordinating actions with all appropriate key logistics actors to ensure that the Federation logistics operation uses all information and resources as efficiently and effectively as possible. • Establishing appropriate warehouses and arranging transportation to distribution points. • Supporting and building logistics capacity through training, workshops, and providing delegates to support the logistics function.
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Progress: Some relief stocks have been pre-positioned and some are being procured and distributed to the Red Cross National Societies from the Federation's Zone stock. This has enabled immediate response by the affected Red Cross National Societies reaching out to the vulnerable in an effective and timely manner. In general, the region has learnt much from past experience, especially from the floods in 2000 – both at national government level as well as at community level and in aid agencies. However, stocks are being depleted, and supplies are still needed in certain areas. It is vital that the stocks are replenished in order to prepare for the possible continuation of the heavy rains and future disasters. Without immediate action, the long term hazards of food insecurity, health problems and water and sanitation issues are potentially increased.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Federation office, through the Head of Zone and the Relationship Management Coordinator, has provided a number of interviews to local and international media, including two one-hour television interviews with the South African Broadcast Corporation (SABC), Africa/African Views and for One Gospel Africa. A media briefing on floods was held at the Federation office in Johannesburg on 24 January and ten national and international media professionals participated in the briefing. Furthermore, two communication delegates have been travelling in the region (Mozambique and Zimbabwe) conducting interviews with the households affected by the floods, local government institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Red Cross National Societies, including the volunteers. The deputy head of zone and the disaster management coordinate had interviews with Voice of America in English and Shona (vernacular in Zimbabwe) on the flooding situation in Zimbabwe. Over 12 news articles and interviews are posted on the Federation website⁴ in relation to the southern Africa floods and storms. National coverage is adequate in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique and Lesotho.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

- Global Agenda Goals:**
- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
 - Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
 - Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
 - Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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⁴ www.ifrc.org

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