

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tanzania: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRTZ006

GLIDE no. FL-2006-000164-TZA

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The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered: 23 January to 31 March 2008

Summary: CHF 88, 353 (USD 81,012 or EUR 55,648) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 23 January 2008 to support the Tanzania Red Cross National Society in delivering assistance to some 7,500 beneficiaries who had been affected by the floods.

The affected communities in Rukwa, Kigoma, Ruvuma and Pwani have received relief support and are recovering and returning to their normal livelihood. No outbreak of diseases has been reported so far. The economic and social condition of the communities has to some extent improved through social networking and harvesting of short lived agricultural crops such as legumes and sweet potatoes. This has in turn reduced the impact of the heavy downpours these communities had experienced.

Preparation for training on Community-Based First Aid (CBFA) and promotion of hygiene and malaria education was conducted using the cascade methodology of reaching out to communities. Trained volunteers have been disseminating appropriate messages and skills to other volunteers and community members. With support from National Society Headquarters, respective branches were able to organize the trainings using internal facilitators and other resource persons from Tanzanian Government regional/district health officers.



CBFA training session in Rufiji-Pwani

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The situation

Heavy rains were recently experienced in Rukwa, Kigoma, Ruvuma and Pwani areas of Tanzania. These torrential downpours, which started on 10 January 2008, resulted in the displacement of 90 families (442 people) who were rendered homeless.

These heavy rains also flooded the tanzanite mining pits at Mererani area in Manyara Region. More than 70 people have been reported dead. After rescue efforts of pumping water out, five bodies were recovered and dozen people pulled out alive and taken to hospital. In nearby region – Arusha at Mto wa Mbu area, more than 1,500 people were left homeless after their houses flooded, following a heavy downpour between 28

and 29 March 2008. One death was reported and several houses collapsed. In Dar es Salaam, more than five deaths were reported as a result of drowning in flood water and/or stagnant water.

Low land areas and suburbs with poor drainage system were the most flooded areas. In Singida Region, heavy down pour that caused flooding in some areas was also reported.

The National Society in collaboration with local authorities has been participating in assessments and will provide some basic relief items (blankets and insecticide-treated mosquito nets) from its disaster preparedness stock. A detailed assessment was carried out following recurring volcanic activity at Mount Oldonyo Lengai. This is one of the active volcanic mountains in the world that discharges highly fluid natro-carbonatite lava, which usually contains almost no silicon. There has been volcanic activity from July 2007 to date, the mountain has been pouring lava and black dust and producing heavy smoke rising up to 20 meters. The eruption has destroyed vegetation and polluted water sources, but no human casualties have been reported so far; only cases of livestock and wild animal deaths.

Coordination and partnerships

The Tanzania Disaster Relief Committee (TANDREC) formed a task force that carried out a detailed assessment from 17 to 27 March 2008. The team involved a multi-disciplinary of members from different Ministries; the Prime Ministers Office – Disaster Management and TAMISEMI, Ministry of Home Affairs, Land, Infrastructure, Health and Social Services, Planning, Agriculture, Livestock Development, Water, Natural Resources and Tourism, Energy and Minerals, Education and Social Welfare, Community Development Gender and Children, as well as various international, national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including the Tanzania National Red Cross Society.

The National Society has been working in collaboration with the regional, district government and local authorities as well as Red Cross branches and volunteers in the implementation of the relief activities. The Federation's Eastern Africa Zone office in Nairobi (Kenya) has supported the National Society in the process of accessing DREF funding amounting to CHF 88,353.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During the CBFA trainings, participants were sensitized on the Red Cross Movement, its roles, activities and principles. Volunteers were urged to observe Red Cross Principles in the distribution of information education and communication (IEC) materials and non-food items. The HIV and AIDS related issues were also covered during plenary discussions.

Progress towards objectives

Objective 1: To provide non-food items to cover basic non-food and shelter needs of 1,500 affected households in Rukwa, Kigoma, Rufiji, Pwani and Ruvuma regions.

Expected Results: Improved shelter conditions among the affected households.

Activities planned:

- Identify and set up distribution sites;
- Procure relief items including 750 blankets, 600 water buckets, 750 mosquito nets, 1,500 pieces of laundry soap, 500 bags of cement, 2,500 pieces of timber (12ft) and 1,000kgs of nails;
- Distribute relief and shelter items to the targeted communities.

Progress

The National Society procured relief items to support affected households in targeted locations. The table below gives a breakdown on how the items were distributed.

Table 1: Distribution of non-food items to the flood affected people.

Items	Region					DP stock	Total distributions
	Rukwa	Kigoma	Ruvuma	Pwani	Tabata		
Blankets	180	300	100	22	200	20	850
ITNS	180	300	100	50	200		750
Buckets	150	250	70	50		130	650

Soap	200	1,100	100	100			1,500
Timbers	600	1,400	500	500			3,000
Nails	300	500	100	100			1,000
Cement	100	100		50			250
F/Aid kits	20	20	10	10			100
IEC	2,000	4,000	1,000	1,000			8,000

Objective 2: To safeguard health and promote hygiene awareness among the populations affected by floods.

Expected Result: Reduced vulnerability towards diseases, including malaria and water borne infections.

Activities planned:

- To develop, produce and distribute 8,000 IEC materials/leaflets;
- Conduct community based First Aid (CBFA) training to 100 volunteers;
- Conduct community education on malaria prevention and hygiene promotion campaign to the affected families.

Progress

A total of 100 volunteers have been trained on CBFA including hygiene promotion and prevention of malaria in Rukwa, Kigoma, Ruvuma and Pwani regions. The trainings were facilitated by Red Cross resource persons from branches, supported by National Society Headquarters staff and government regional/district health officers from both regions. The training contents focused on equipping volunteers with knowledge on basic and appropriate first aid measures, diseases transmission especially malaria and diarrhoea as well as treatment and prevention. Volunteers were also trained on proper hygiene practices, use and promotion of insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) and use of key educational messages included in leaflets during community education and awareness campaigns.



Red Cross volunteer exercise on CBFA training.

A total of 8,000 leaflets, carrying hygiene promotion and malaria prevention messages were produced and distributed to affected communities. At the same time, the volunteers conducted community education and awareness campaigns on hygiene promotion and malaria prevention.

As of 25 March 2008, a total of 3,018 leaflets had been distributed in Kigoma, 1,250 in Rukwa and 1,689 in Ruvuma and Pwani. It is anticipated that one leaflet will be read by a minimum of three persons, this means a total of 5,957 distributed leaflets will reach about 18,000 people.

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 (NGO's) 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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