

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Botswana: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBW001
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000120-BWA
14 February 2010

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 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.

Summary: CHF 153,978 (USD 143,061 or EUR 101,837) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 30 June 2009 to support the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) in delivering assistance to some 620 families and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

The relief operation was initially expected to be completed by 30 August 2009; however there were delays in implementation as the relief items had to be procured externally owing to unavailability in the country. The final consignment of tents arrived from Dubai in September 2009. Due to the time taken to be fully operational, BRCS had to conduct a beneficiary verification exercise, which led to the reduction in beneficiary figures, from 3,100 (620 families) to 2,820. BRCS collaborated with the District Disaster Management Committees in providing relief to the families displaced by the localised floods, which improved the living conditions and availability of food, clean water and hygiene material.



BRCS managed to conclude the planned activities by December 2009, and are working on preparedness and risk reduction activities, through the support of the regional [Zambezi River Basin Initiative](#). Botswana is among the seven countries in Southern Africa with vulnerable population living along the Zambezi River. The IFRC Southern Africa Regional office launched the ZRBI project focusing on disaster mitigation and risk reduction, which will be implemented for three years. BRCS is the first National Society to implement the activities, and so far have carried out capacity development actions in the targeted branches.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 53,386 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments, and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Botswana experienced heavy rains in the Central District of Botswana between 7 and 10 June 2009, which caused flooding in seven sub-districts and affected an estimated 620 families. The South African Development Community Regional Remote Sensing Unit confirmed that the Department of Meteorology registered rainfall figures of more than 100mm in 24 hours, whilst the average rainfall in Botswana is normally less than 50mm.

On 5 December, Mahalapye village previously flooded was hit by a hailstorm accompanied by strong wind. The hailstorm caused power cuts in Mahalapye and the surrounding villages, consequently disrupting the water supply system that uses electric power for pumping water from the boreholes. Many household were affected, thus structural disintegration of houses, blown away roofs, window breakages, whilst trees fell on parked vehicles and blocked some roads. The hailstorm recorded 400 new casualties.

The BRCS proactively responded by conducting a rapid assessment of the damage as well as determining the needs of the affected families. With the support of the IFRC DREF, BRCS embarked on a response operation focused on distributing relief items in the seven affected sub-districts. In response to the hailstorm disaster in Mahalapye, which coincided with the delayed arrival of some relief items, BRCS managed to provide 200 tarpaulins, 193 kitchen sets, 434 jerry cans and food items to families which fell vulnerable to the unforeseen circumstances. The remaining relief items have been repositioned in readiness for possible disaster response in the country.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

BRCS was prompt in responding to the floods disaster by appealing for assistance through the IFRC. Due to the scale of the disaster, the IFRC opted to provide a DREF, which would adequately cover the indentified needs. Initially, the BRCS conducted rapid assessment to determine the damage and needs of the affected families, which was carried out by the disaster management committee members. The results were referenced for the detailed relief distribution plan, similarly developed in line with the SPHERE standards. The identified needs included food and non-food relief items, shelter, clean water and hygiene facilities.

The implementation pace was slow due to some logistical shortcomings, though cooperation with other stakeholders such as the National and District Disaster Management Committee/Offices resulted in services eventually reaching intended beneficiaries, albeit a week later. This operation revealed the need for BRCS to strengthen its branch preparedness capacities, so that the same can be cascaded to the community. Prepositioning of stock, identification and development of warehouses were also found to be key to timely disaster response.

Achievements against objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective: Provide 3,100 flood-affected people with appropriate food and non-food relief items in seven districts namely Serowe/Palapye, Kweneng, Tutume, Boteti, North West, Mahalapye, Bobirwa for a period of three months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Assessments and selection criteria to identify actual needs and deserving beneficiaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system. • Mobilise volunteers to support rapid assessments and relief distributions. • Distribute food and non-food relief items. • Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. • Ensure distributions are carried out according to the assessments and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups.

Impact:

BRCS ensured that the basic shelter needs were met and that hygiene promotion activities were fully implemented. This was achieved by distributing relief items in the form of Jerry cans, soap, cooking sets and blankets and foods items. With the DREF support BRCS procured the following non-food items; 1,000 kitchen sets, 2,000 jerry cans, 2,000 laundry soap bars and 150,000 water purification tablets.

Table 1: At the end of the operation the following items were distributed

District	Number of households	Kitchen sets	Blankets	Purification tablets	Bar soap	Jerry cans	Tarpaulins	Food items
Lethakane	64	64	192	0	320	128	0	64 x 5kg's of flour, Samp, sorghum meal and 750ml cooking oil
Palapye	42	42	126	0	210	84	0	42 x 5kg's of flour, Samp, sorghum meal and 750ml cooking oil
Tonota	50	50	150	0	250	100	0	50 x 5kg's of flour, Samp, sorghum meal and 750ml cooking oil
Mahalapye	443	193	129	0	215	434	200	443 x 5kg's of flour, Samp, sorghum meal and 750ml cooking oil
Molepolole (Sojwe)	160	160	423	0	800	322	0	160 x 5kg's of flour, Samp, sorghum meal and 750ml cooking oil
Lethakeng (Leologane)	245	245	735	0	1,225	490	0	245 x 5kg's of flour, Samp, sorghum meal and 750ml cooking oil
Total	1,004*	1,004	1,755	150,000	3,020	1,558	200	

* The total number of houses is inclusive of families affected by the hailstorm in Malahapye sub-district

The National Society regards the interventions successful in terms of improving the conditions of the affected families based on the following variables;

- There have been no reported cases of malnutrition among the affected households;
- There were no reports on exposure to the elements of weather, for both the people and their salvaged household effects.
- There were no disease outbreaks reported or observed.

With the relief assistance, the dignity of the affected families was restored and the level of impact reduced. However, limited haulage capacity, lack of warehouses for storage, a weak volunteer base and a growing culture of dependence among communities threatened to undermine the relief distribution exercise. To deal with the above issues, the BRCS undertakes to increase advocacy on preparedness at district and community levels. Another focus area is on increasing the sensitization and recruitment of volunteers, and training on basic disaster management. The later calls for increasing capacity in project design and implementation in order to build confidence among the branches, at the same time fostering long-term livelihood solutions.

Some of the challenges emanated from the discrepancy in approaches to vulnerability assessment standards used by BRCS, Government and other stakeholders. It resulted in inconsistencies of relief allocation per family and nearly caused animosity amongst relief operators. It also has a potential to divide the community. BRCS will therefore advocate for the use of SPHERE Standards for assessments and relief distribution in the country.

Emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion	
Objective: Reduce the risk of water-borne and water-related diseases through the provision of safe water and adequate sanitation to 3,100 beneficiaries in seven affected districts.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Reduced health issues needing intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute water purification tablets. • Distribute jerry cans to 620 households. • Carry out hygiene promotion activities in affected districts.

Impact:

The consignment of water purification tables was not distributed because the water sources were not contaminated nor polluted in all the seven districts. Therefore, the 150,000 purification tablets have been prepositioned in case of future emergencies.

The National Society carried out hygiene promotion through information dissemination aimed at reducing the risk of water-borne diseases. The 1,558 portable jerry cans were distributed to facilitate safe water storage. The hygiene promotion and clean water supply actions contributed to the eradication of disease outbreaks among the affected population.

Emergency shelter

Objective: A total of 620 most vulnerable flood-affected families in seven districts are living in a safe and healthy environment within three months of the beginning of the operation

Expected results	Activities planned
Shelter needs met and construction of safe and adequate locally appropriate shelter facilitated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess the extent of the shelter needs and preferred solutions.• Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver the intended assistance.• Distribute two tarpaulins per family to facilitate the construction of safe and adequate locally appropriate shelter.• Provide National Society staff, volunteers and each household with technical assistance and guidance in the construction of the agreed shelter design.• Provide households with support on safe sanitation

Impact:

The pre-positioned stock of tents was used to respond to an earlier local flood emergency in Okavango and Chobe district, which occurred in March 2009. In June, the government assisted by providing the initial tents and tarpaulins for temporary shelter, whilst BRCS was still procuring stock. However, BRCS only provided 200 tarpaulins in Mahalapye in response to the hailstorm disaster in December 2009 and the remaining shelter material has also been warehoused. By then, the families in other districts had started reconstructing their houses and did not need the tarpaulins. Nevertheless, it remains difficult for BRCS to ascertain safety and hygiene of the reconstructed houses, since the National Society was not directly involved in the design and reconstruction.

Conclusion

Having been involved in the floods response operation, BRCS has identified areas for capacity development. Volunteer management and motivation is the primary action for the National Society. BRCS should also focus on community empowerment, preparedness and early warning systems.

It is highly recommended to promote local procurement of relief items when available in order to avoid delays. There is need to streamline the procurement procedures and communication with regards to the movement of relief items, in order to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in response operation, and accountability to the needs of the vulnerable people.

The experience of collaborating with other agencies revealed the need for BRCS to strengthen relationships with other stakeholders. In future, it is imperative to conduct regular coordination meetings and joint planning, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, and the subsequent delays in implementation.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Botswana:** Mabel Rammekwa, Secretary General, Gaborone Email: brcs@info.bw; Phone: Tel: +267. 35.24.65; Fax: 267.35.23.52
- **In Southern Africa Region:** Disaster Management Coordinator; Farid Aiywar; Email: farid.aiywar@ifrc.org; Phone: Mobile: +27.83.440.0564 Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

For Performance and Accountability:

- **In Southern Africa Region:** Theresa Takavarasha; Performance and Accountability Manager; Email terrie.takavarasha@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel +27.11.303.9700; Mobile: +27.83.413.3061; Fax: +27.11.884.3809, +27.11.884.0230.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBW001 - Botswana - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MDRBW001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	153,978					153,978
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	153,978					153,978
C5. Other Income	153,978					153,978
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	153,978					153,978
D. Total Funding = B + C	153,978					153,978
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	153,978					153,978
E. Expenditure	-135,301					-135,301
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	18,678					18,678

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		153,978					153,978	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	32,000	31,748					31,748	252
Clothing & textiles	22,000	17,394					17,394	4,606
Food	12,400	8,401					8,401	3,999
Water & Sanitation	12,000	13,512					13,512	-1,512
Utensils & Tools	34,200	30,910					30,910	3,290
Other Supplies & Services	1,100	986					986	114
Total Supplies	113,700	102,951					102,951	10,749
Transport & Storage								
Storage		2,850					2,850	-2,850
Distribution & Monitoring	21,269	10,755					10,755	10,514
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,000	2,203					2,203	2,797
Total Transport & Storage	26,269	15,808					15,808	10,461
Personnel								
National Staff		16					16	-16
National Society Staff	4,000	4,819					4,819	-819
Total Personnel	4,000	4,835					4,835	-835
General Expenditure								
Communications		8					8	-8
Financial Charges		116					116	-116
Total General Expenditure		124					124	-124
Programme Support								
Program Support	10,009	8,601					8,601	1,408
Total Programme Support	10,009	8,601					8,601	1,408
Services								
Services & Recoveries		2,982					2,982	-2,982
Total Services		2,982					2,982	-2,982
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	153,978	135,301					135,301	18,677
VARIANCE (C - D)		18,677					18,677	