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Emergency appeal operation update

Tanzania: Drought and Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRTZ012
GLIDE n° DR-2011-000145-TZA
Operation update n°1
28 October 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 23 September to 18 October 2011

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,352,126;

Appeal coverage: 10% (not including DREF funds received); [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 28 September 2011 for CHF 1,352,126 for 12 months to assist 20,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 250,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the Tanzania Red Cross National Society to respond.
- This Operations Update highlights the start up activities related to the drought operation.

Summary: In August 2011, the Tanzanian Red Cross National Society (TRCNS), reacting to the Government of Tanzania's announcement that approximately one million people in 56 districts in 16 regions of Tanzania were affected by the drought, requested support to start a response operation. Since the launch of the Emergency Appeal on 28 September 2011, the National Society has so far commenced the procurement process for emergency food. The planning process for a 21-day needs assessment has also begun. Discussions on the feasibility of launching a pilot cash distribution programme for most-vulnerable households are also planned for the week of 24 October 2011. Plans are also underway to build National Society operational capacities and to improve their financial systems, through technical assistance by the IFRC EA Region's Disaster Management Coordinator and Finance Officer.

The situation

Over one million people are food insecure in the country. According to information from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, a total of 56 administrative districts in 16 regions countrywide are experiencing acute food scarcity. The North Eastern areas of Tanzania are most affected by the drought. Pastoralists have been forced to send their livestock toward the south hoping to find better pasture and water while lowland farmers experienced major production losses of maize and beans. Given the well known dependence on rain-fed production, this drought seriously affected household food security, generating an immediate need for food assistance.

It is anticipated that food insecurity will intensify towards the next rainy seasons, November to December for short rains and March to May for long rains. The already scarce maize and beans stocks will be depleted and, as usual in the lean season, maize prices will rise to even higher levels than the current prices. Casual labour will also be more difficult to find. The situation will be especially troublesome for villages with poor road access. The result will be greater food insecurity in both extent and severity. If assistance is not provided soon, the situation is likely to get worse. As cultivation season approaches, many affected farmers will divert their attention to finding food and income. It was observed that the community has had a shortage of seed stocks due to previous poor

harvest. Normally, the community keeps part of the harvest for seeds. Consequently, affected farmers do not have the time, energy or resources to plant the next harvest. If the problem is not addressed, the negative impacts of the drought will extend well into 2012.

So far, the Appeal has coverage of 10% (approximately CHF 138,000). This funding, together with the DREF funding that the National Society received during the week of 10 October 2011, has enabled them to begin the procurement process for emergency food supplies which will be distributed during the last week of October 2011.

Coordination and partnerships

The government has put into force a ban on all cereal exports particularly to neighbouring countries as one of the measures aimed at controlling the situation. The government also has mobilized food from the national strategic grain reserve to the worst hit districts for distribution/sale at subsidized prices. TRCNS is working closely with the Government's Disaster Management Department as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives to provide relief assistance to the most vulnerable. The TRCNS is a permanent member of the Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (CFSNA) Team.

Spanish Red Cross, a PNS based in-country and in partnership with TRCNS, are currently implementing a one year project in Simanjiro District in Manyara Region with the objective of improving the food security situation of approximately 800 worst hit households (4,000 people) in the targeted communities. The National Society coordinated closely with French Red Cross who provided technical and financial support in carrying out the initial need assessment. The Japanese Red Cross also contributed financially.

Several UN Agencies are present in Tanzania, including UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, WHO and UNHCR. The World Food Programme (WFP) is undertaking school feeding programmes in targeted areas. UNICEF in Tanzania is in close contact with TRCNS and it is ready for nutrition interventions through TRCNS by way of a standby contingency Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) for emergency WASH, Nutrition and Health. Apart from these and government interventions (distributing subsidized/free food to some selected communities), to date there are no other partners known to be responding to the situation.

National Society Capacity Building: The Tanzania Red Cross National Society is auxiliary to the public authorities and has been providing emergency support to affected people during disasters. Four branch offices in the operation areas will be supported with computers, motorcycles and furniture. The operation will strengthen the branch's ability to coordinate operations as well as in becoming more prepared for future disasters.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

Necessary preparations have been made for relief distributions, detailed assessments as well as programme and financial support to the National Society.

Progress towards outcomes

| Relief distributions (food items) | |
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| Outcome: Immediate food needs of 2,760 households (13,800 beneficiaries) from Ngorongoro, Simanjiro, Rombo, Same and Mwanga districts are met for 2 months | |
| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned |
| Appropriate food rations are distributed to 2,760 of the most vulnerable in Ngorongoro, Simanjiro, Rombo, Same and Mwanga districts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop beneficiary identification and targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Local procurement, storage, transport, and distribution of 331.2MT of maize and 99.36MT of beans (13,800 beneficiaries for 2 months). Monitor distribution of food relief supplies to 2,760 households and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. |

Progress

The procurement process for emergency food supplies is underway and actual distribution will be conducted during the last week of October 2011.

| Recovery | |
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| Outcome: Reduced food insecurity among 4,000 affected households | |
| Agricultural inputs (Farming tools, Seeds and Fertilizer) | |
| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned |
| 4,000 households receive seeds and fertilizers in pre-determined quality and quantities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of earmarked households for agricultural inputs support Procurement and transportation of the seeds and fertilizer Community sensitization meetings and training on best agricultural practices Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Development of modal farms in selected communities Actual distribution of seeds and fertilizers |
| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned |
| 4,000 households receive farming tools in predetermined quality and quantities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of earmarked households for agricultural inputs support Procurement and transportation of the seeds and fertilizer Community sensitization meetings Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Actual distribution of farming tools |
| Community Capacity Building (Dry land farming technique trainings) | |
| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned |
| 1,000 community members from targeted districts are trained on dry land farming techniques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of training participants Preparation of training materials Conducting training sessions on best agricultural practices, 3 trainings in each districts Development of modal farms in selected communities |
| Cash Distribution | |
| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned |
| Cash transfers are provided to 1,000 of the most vulnerable households in three districts of Kilimanjaro (Rombo, Same and Mwanza districts) receive cash disbursement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop beneficiary identification and targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Engage relevant stakeholders including banks to facilitate cash transfers Disburse funds to 1,000 most vulnerable households (female-headed households, child headed households, isolated individuals and elderly people). Each households will receive CHF 221 for the 2 months Community sensitization meeting on proper utilization of disbursed cash Monitor and evaluate the disbursement |

Progress

Discussions through meetings on feasibility of cash transfers are planned for the week of 24 October 2011. These meetings will discuss the rationale of effecting cash distributions with a view of the current funding levels (10%). Thus, the discussions will be centered on beneficiary identification and targeting strategy, since the distribution might have to be conducted in phases as funding becomes available. The outcome of this discussion and modalities of cash transfers will be described in subsequent updates.

Logistics

| Outcome: Planned activities are implemented following the IFRC procedures to source, procure, store and transport the requested relief items in an efficient, transparent and timely manner for the success of the operation. | |
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| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well coordinated sourcing and procurement of the requested relief items; Coordinated delivery to the operational areas, ensuring proper transport and storage of relief items; Provision of necessary vehicles for the operation and effective fleet management; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of timely and cost-efficient sourcing options for the requested relief items. Ensuring that local, regional and international procurement of goods and services are carried out following IFRC procurement procedures. Leasing of 2 vehicles through the Federation vehicle rental programme (VRP). Local procurement of 4 motorcycles, 20 bicycles. Setting up of necessary fleet management capacities to support the operation. Maintaining a minimum number of vehicles to support movement of staff/volunteers, food items and non food items during the operation. Local procurement, storage and transport of 331.2MT of maize and 99.36MT of beans (13,800 beneficiaries for 2 months). Local procurement, storage and transport of seeds (40,000 kg of Maize , 16,000 kg of beans, 4,000 kg of simsim, 5,200 kg of sorghum) Local procurement, storage and transport of 50,000 kg of UREA fertilizer and farming tools including 8,000 pcs of hoes, 4,000 pcs of pangas, 4,000 pcs of axes and 4,000 pcs of shovels. |

Progress

The logistics department has been involved in the procurement process for emergency food supplies. Since this is an emergency, tendering process will not be conducted but items will be purchased directly from credible suppliers. This means that the procurement process will take a shorter time; food supplies will reach the target population by the last week of October.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

| Outcome: The profile and position of the host National Society and the IFRC are enhanced, leading to increased availability of funds and other resources to support this and future emergency operations. | |
|--|---|
| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned |
| Communications products are made available to communities, media and relevant stakeholders. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and production of IEC materials for community awareness creation on dry land farming techniques Documentation of programme activities Production/printing of visibility materials for volunteers and programme staff; T-shirts, reflector bibs, stickers and RC flags |

Progress

No progress to report at this time

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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The IFRC'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.

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The IFRC'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.
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