

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

DREF Operation Update

Lesotho: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRLS002

GLIDE n°

Update No 1

21 May, 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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 by this update: 8 February to 3 May 2012

Summary: CHF 196,831 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 800 families (4,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Prolonged periods of drought followed by excessive rains resulted in food insecurity in Lesotho due to significant crop losses during the 2011 cropping season. Based on its own independent assessment, the Lesotho Red Cross initially identified nine districts that have been most affected: Quthing, Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru, Berea, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, and Thaba-Tseka.



Communities preparing their fields/ Lesotho Red Cross

Following detailed assessments conducted in February 2012, DREF resources was prioritised to support the four districts of Mokholong (1,230 beneficiaries), Kena (733 beneficiaries), Mafeteng (1,181 beneficiaries), and Quthing (856 beneficiaries), which had strong National Society branch structures. Beneficiary identification, selection and verification was conducted during March and April 2012, and distribution of food rations will continue until the end of June 2012.

The operation was initially planned to be implemented over four months, 8 February to 8 June 2012. A one month extension, up to 8 July 2012, is being requested to complete relief distributions that started late following delays in procurement, testing and analysis of the relief commodities.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the U.S.A., as well as DG-ECHO, the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, thanks all for their generous contributions.

Details of 2011 contributions to DREF are found at:
www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2011.pdf.

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation:

During the 2010/11 agricultural season in Lesotho, water logging and damage to crops caused by flooding resulted in food insecurity due to significant crop losses.

The Disaster Management Authority, United Nations and the Red Cross conducted a rapid assessment in March/April 2011 to determine the extent of flooding and damage. In addition to the rapid assessment, the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) assessment was conducted in June 2011 and the report estimated that 514,000 people will need humanitarian assistance during the 2011/2012 consumption year (July 2011 to June 2012) due to failed crop production prospects from the 2010/2011 agricultural season. The Lesotho Bureau of Statistics (BoS) estimates that production of main cereal crops has been reduced by between 60 and 80 percent.

The Lesotho Red Cross carried out an independent assessment during mid November and early December 2011 to ascertain the extent of food insecurity and the performance of the 2011/12 crops. Based on this assessment, the Lesotho Red Cross identified the following nine districts that were most affected: Quthing, Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru, Berea, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, and Thaba-Tseka. The assessment results show a significant decline in food availability, with more 50% of the households visited not being able to meet their daily food requirements. Most vulnerable groups are the people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), the elderly, orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), and pregnant/ lactating mothers.

Following detailed assessments conducted in February 2012, DREF resources was prioritised to support the four districts of Mokholong (1,230 beneficiaries), Kena (733 beneficiaries), Mafeteng (1,181 beneficiaries), and Quthing (856 beneficiaries), which had strong National Society branch structures. Beneficiary identification, selection and verification were conducted during March and April 2012, and distribution of food rations will continue until the end of June 2012.

The operation was initially planned to be implemented over four months, 8 February to 8 June 2012. However a one month extension, up to 8 July 2012, is being requested to complete relief distributions that were started late following delays in procurement, testing and analysis of the relief commodities.

Coordination and partnerships

At the regional level, the International Federation is coordinating with regional bodies including WFP, UN OCHA and FAO to monitoring the food insecurity situation in Lesotho. The Lesotho Red Cross Disaster Management Coordinator attends coordination meetings organised by the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) and also collects situation reports from National Society disaster management teams at the district level.

The community authorities were kept informed on the operation and were helpful in beneficiary selection. Volunteers throughout the country assisted in conducting community gatherings to introduce the operation and facilitate beneficiary selection, verification and registration.

At national level, the National Society is updating the Disaster Management Authority on the situation as it evolves.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Lesotho Red Cross carried out an independent assessment during mid November and early December 2011 to ascertain the extent of food insecurity and the performance of the 2011/12 crops. Based on this assessment, the Lesotho Red Cross identified the following nine districts that were most affected: Quthing, Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru, Berea, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, and Thaba-Tseka. The assessment results show a significant decline in food availability, with more 50% of the households visited not being able to meet their daily food requirements. Most vulnerable groups are the people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), the elderly, orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), and pregnant/ lactating mothers.

Round 13 of the Community and Household Surveillance (CHS), a biannual survey conducted during the post-harvest and the lean season, was concurrently conducted in October/ November 2011. The survey

which aims at monitoring the short and long term effects of food assistance interventions, covered 50 World Food Programme (WFP) sites country wide with 927 households interviewed.

Following detailed assessments conducted in February 2012, DREF resources were prioritised to support the four districts of Mokholong (1,230 beneficiaries), Kena (733 beneficiaries), Mafeteng (1,181 beneficiaries), and Quthing (856 beneficiaries), which had strong National Society branch structures. Beneficiary identification, selection and verification were conducted during March and April 2012, and distribution of food rations will continue until the end of June 2012.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food items)	
Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods	
Outcome: Immediate food needs of the 4,000 disaster affected population are met.	
Output 1: Appropriate food rations are distributed for five months to vulnerable households.	
Activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct needs and capacity assessments in Quthing, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Maseru, Berea, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka Kena districts • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Quthing, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Maseru, Berea, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka Kena districts • Distribute food items to 4,000 affected people, equivalent to 800 households. Quthing, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Maseru, Berea, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka Kena districts 	
Output 2: Essential inputs which support the production of food are distributed to vulnerable households.	
Activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of beneficiaries • Carry out detailed needs assessment • Community mobilization and training on community projects and selection process • Distribute vegetable seeds to 800 affected families comprising 4,000 beneficiaries • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions 	

Progress

- A detailed assessment was conducted during 17 – 27 February 2012 to prioritise geographical areas most at risk and develop beneficiary selection criteria using community participatory approaches. This exercise was led by a member of the RDRT deployed by the IFRC regional office
- The following four districts were identified: Mokhotlong, Kena, Mafeteng and Quthing
- The breakdown of 4000 beneficiaries to be assisted in the four districts was as follows:

○ Mokholong	1,230
○ Kena	733
○ Mafeteng	1,181
○ Quthing	856
- Beneficiary selection and registration tools were developed and tested, and volunteers trained
- Beneficiary identification, selection and verification exercises were conducted during the months of March and April 2012
- Two suppliers were contracted from the six bids received, in response to the closed tender
- An inspection company from South Africa was contracted to carry out testing and analysis of relief commodities
- 200 metric tonnes of food and seeds (assorted) were procured
- Distributions are on going and scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2012

Challenges

The difficult terrain and topography of Lesotho proved harder to find suppliers willing to transport the commodities to the distribution points - particularly the remote parts of the country. This combined with a lengthy process of testing and analysing the relief commodities, and beneficiary identification and selection

led to delays in commencing distributions. Hence Lesotho Red Cross is seeking an extension of up to 8 July 2012 to complete the distributions.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Outcome: Regular credible and reliable information to the public is provided
Output: A steady flow of timely and accurate information between field and other stakeholders is maintained.
Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct awareness campaigns through print and electronic media• Support field staff in producing regular updates for sharing with stakeholders• Ensure the visibility of the Red Cross in response operations• Collaborate and support other NS programmes to produce IEC material and develop social mobilisation campaigns• Collect visual materials of the operation and case studies• Organise at least one media tour to the operation area• Advocate for development of risk reduction policies and legal framework to ensure community resilience

Progress

Lesotho Red Cross through the disaster management coordination forum are working other humanitarians actors to raise awareness of the plight of close 500,000 people (LVAC report) that need immediate assistance so as to optimise coverage and impact. Only 40,000 people are receiving assistance. They are also working in partnership with WFP on an ongoing nutrition programme in Mokhotlong and a long term programme strategy (2013–2017, WFP Country Strategy) to address food insecurity focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Food for Asset (FFA).

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Lesotho Red Cross:** Prof. Teboho Kitleli, Secretary General; phone: +22323631 (Direct Line), +22313911 (Office Line); email: tkitleli@redcross.org
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Michael Charles, Acting Regional Representative; phone: +267 713 95339; email: michael.charles@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone:** Daniel Bolanos, Disaster Management Coordinator, Africa; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyaara Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone +971 50 4584872, Fax +971.4.883.22.12, email: ari.mantyaara@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Loïc de Bastier, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; phone: +251-93-003 4013; fax: +251-11-557 0799; email: loic.debastier@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate, Africa phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

↘

Click here

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

How we work

All IFRC 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 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.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



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.
-