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# Emergency appeal operation update

## Lesotho: Food Insecurity



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Emergency appeal n° MDRLS003**  
**GLIDE n° OT-2012-000155-LSO**  
**6-month summary update**  
**31 May 2013**

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 10 December 2012 to 30 April 2013. This update represents a six-month summary of the operation.

**Appeal target (current):** CHF 1,119,000 [<click here to view the interim financial report >](#)

**Appeal coverage:** 32% [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

#### Appeal history:

- This **Emergency Appeal** was initially launched on 15 October, 2012 for CHF 1,119,000 for 9 months to assist 8000 beneficiaries.
- In December 2012, funds amounting to CHF 100,000 was contributed by the IFRC's **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)**
- **Operations Update no. 1** was issued on 31 October 2012 and **Operations Update no. 2** on 27 November 2012.



Community members after food distribution. Photo: LRCS

**Summary:** Lesotho has been facing a food security crisis which has affected 725,215 people to date. Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) launched an appeal in November 2012 to address the prevailing situation in the five districts of the country. In early December, activities were started to assist 1,600 households comprising of 8,000 beneficiaries in all five districts of Quthing, Mafeteng, Kena, Thaba-Tseka and Mokhotlong. Activities included both field and garden crops. The intended food aid commodities of pulses, beans, maize and oil had not been procured at the time due to limited funding

In December 2012, LRCS was able to procure the much needed food aid commodities. LRCS and IFRC through the Disaster Management Office agreed on a food aid modality which aimed to avoid a free handout (that is, distribution of food for free), instead the communities should decide on the community works which will benefit from food for work initiatives. These include for example, a soil conservation project was a priority targeting Mafeteng district due massive significant land degradation.

Registration extended to include households where the members are vulnerable but cannot do physical work; including households that are food insecure and further disadvantaged as they cannot carry out food for work activities due to their health status.

To date, seeds have been distributed and training given to food insecure households in coordination with relevant government stakeholders. Severe weather conditions, however, threaten to hamper progress made under this Emergency Appeal. Food distribution is in progress in the Mokhotlong district for general food distribution, food for work and nutrition.

On behalf of Lesotho Red Cross (LRCS), IFRC would like to thank all partners contributing to this appeal including British Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco, Swiss Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross who contributed to this operation so far.

## The situation

Lesotho received normal to above normal rains over the Easter vacation. This allowed for winter ploughing for garden crops; such as spinach and mustard as well as field crops; such as peas and wheat. While some good progress has been made, environmental conditions are continuing to hamper progress. During the week of 1 to 5 April, 2013 the highland regions of the country were covered with snow and some crops mostly maize and beans started to die. Continuous operation monitoring in all five districts by volunteers, officers and headquarters is an important, ongoing activity.

Beneficiaries nominated for the cash for work initiative, such as conservation activities, have already identified verified and registered. The registration extended to the households where the members are vulnerable but cannot do physical work.

## Coordination and partnerships

In Lesotho, the Government leads the overall disaster response coordination through its Disaster Management Authority (DMA). LRCS is part of the DMA at both national and district levels and is an active member of their district management teams in the five affected districts. It is also active in the food security working group and coordinates closely with other relevant stakeholders in the same field, such as World Food Programme (WFP), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), World Vision and Care International, who are leading support in other districts. LRCS divisions, branches and volunteers are partnering with these other organizations at the district level to ensure activities are coordinated at community level and avoid duplication.

LRCS on regular basis coordinated meetings with relevant stakeholders such as the Disaster Management Authority (DMA), Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation, World Vision International the Ministry of Health's Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office (FNCO) and World Food Programme (WFP). Local authorities, including chiefs and councillors, were involved.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

At the district level, project officers worked closely with community leaders, lead gardeners, care facilitators and community distribution points. LRCS shared reports and plans with the local government authorities in each district.

Distribution lists were prepared in collaboration with communities and local authorities. A system of distribution was agreed at the local level to have community distribution points comprising local authorities, volunteers, and beneficiaries in each distribution point.

The communities will manage the distribution through problems solving/conflicts management, reporting to the project officer in charge, and will update the distribution information after every distribution in consultation with the project officer.

### Progress towards outcomes

Agricultural inputs have been procured; training has been conducted on farming practices, food preservation, community-based disaster preparedness and Climate Change Adaptation.

Seeds and training in agriculture techniques have been provided in conjunction with relevant government authorities. This included garden starter packs and ongoing education on agriculture techniques.

Food insecure communities continue to have their capacity built in preparation for future disasters through various trainings and community based plans.

Local procurement of food and seeds was initiated with logistical planning and distributions commenced.

The logframe below gives more information on this progress.

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>	
<b>Outcome:</b> <b>1,600 food insecure families in the five regions are provided with emergency assistance for a period of three months with on-going evaluation to determine if further assistance is required</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<b>1600 households (8000 people) are provided with appropriate food assistance and distributed.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide initial support for assessment and planning through the Africa Zone Food Security coordinator and the HES delegate from British Red Cross;</li> <li>• Deploy HES delegate to assist LRCS in training and conducting a detailed emergency needs and capacity assessments in Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Maseru, Mafeteng and Quthing to start up the operation;</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance;</li> <li>• Procure food for food distribution through local sources (regional if there are pricing issues);</li> <li>• Deliver food distributions to beneficiaries in coordination with other actors (13.5kg maize meal, 1.8kg pulses, 0.9 gms vegetable oil, 0.45 gms salt per person per month);</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>

Progress:

- Beneficiaries selected, verified and registered.
- Food for work activities started
- Continuous monitoring visits are conducted in both field and headquarters levels

In February 2013, LRCS in collaboration with IFRC identified an approach to offering the food aid in a sound manner that will leave sustainable community assets. It was agreed to avoid a free handout (that is, distribution of food for free) and instead communities should decide on the community assets to be developed under a cash for work scheme. The local stakeholders were approached with the idea of building community assets and an agreement was reached. Mafeteng district was given first priority due to significant land degradation.

The concerned stakeholders included Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation (MoFLR), Disaster Management Authority (DMA), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Nutrition Coordination Office (FNCO), the office of District Administrator (DA) and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS). A joint meeting was convened to review a national targeting assessment, and six villages were identified for food for asset activities as a result of these villages being omitted during the national targeting. The list of beneficiaries was reviewed and verified. A total of 414 households were identified, with a further 186 households yet to be verified and registered (total 600 households). Household size ranges from one to five.

Meetings between the stakeholders and the communities agreed upon the following activities;

1. Construction of stone lines to reinforce gullies or dongas (swamps) and terraces
2. Construction of diversion furrows
3. Planting trees and grasses to further strengthen all the structures

The meeting further agreed on 15 working days of six hours per day starting from 08:00 hours to 14:00 hours.

The food commodities were decided for the activities, maize meal, pulses: whole beans or peas and oil. The ration size was also considered for each household member and the agreed size are as follows;

1. Maize meal 12.5kg per person per month (1200 beneficiaries x 12.5kg x 4 months = 60mt)

2. Pulses (beans, peas) 2kg per person per month (1200 beneficiaries x 2kg x 4 months = 9.6mt)
3. Vegetable oil = 0.9Ltr per person per month (1200 beneficiaries x 0.9Ltr x 4 months = 4,4mt)

The ration sizes are in line with SPHERE and WFP standards which is the key food providing organization in country.

LRCS developed requests for tender which were authorized by both the logistics officer and Secretary General on 27 March 2013.

Food distribution is in progress in the Mokhotlong district for general food distribution, food for work and nutrition.

#### **Challenges or constraints:**

A hail storm was experienced in Thaba-Tseka, the damage is yet to be established. This makes it difficult for the crop growth and some areas become inaccessible, though there are sufficient volunteers to implement all LRCs interventions.

Early snow was experienced and some crops including maize, beans and potatoes were badly affected. This was one of the hazards that hampered access to most of the areas of operation. It becomes difficult to access many of the communities; with some days passing without undertaking food for work activities.

The official national figure of 725,515 people in need of food still stands. Different agencies in the country are engaged in the food distribution to food insecure people. The food prices, especially maize meal, continue to soar and undermine the resources of poor families.

<b>Food Security, nutrition and livelihoods</b>		
<b>Outcome: Food security of 1,600 affected vulnerable families in five regions is met by the end of response intervention</b>		
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,600 households (8,000 beneficiaries) are provided with food security starter packs (1,600 with garden packs and field crop packs);</li> <li>• Households are provided with appropriate extension services and agricultural inputs and livelihoods restored.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with Government agriculture extension service and other actors to provide training on basic drought tolerant seeds and agricultural techniques to 50 volunteers (10 per districts) and to 161 lead farmers/gardeners;</li> <li>• Distribute garden starter packs (vegetables, spinach, rape, beetroot, mustard seeds) for 1,600 families;</li> <li>• Distribute additional field crops as food security starter packs (maize, beans, and potatoes) for 1600 affected households;</li> <li>• Provide training to the communities on the growing and preservation of vegetables and on relevant farming techniques;</li> <li>• Provide ongoing monitoring and educational support to target communities on agricultural techniques to sustain impact.</li> </ul>	

Progress:

- 300 households are identified for food work and for the winter cropping.
- Farming techniques and food preservation trainings undertaken

The food for work activities were undertaken in the same areas where long-term LRCS's food security project is implemented, reflecting the capacity LRCS has in the operational area. The food security officer and the volunteers monitored the activities. Since the work started in April, the beneficiaries' satisfaction exercise will not give a real picture thus that will be conducted after the food distribution, where monitoring questionnaire will be administered.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Swiss support was signed between IFRC and LRCS on the 30 April 2013. Following the signing of this MoU, and with possibility of funds being transferred, LRCS developed two requests for tender and shared with LRCS management. The Swiss Red Cross have indicated support for food for work in Mafeteng. Some 300 households have been identified for food work and for the winter cropping. The support will extend to shade nets to protect the crops against pests. The pledge has been confirmed, however the funds are yet to be transferred.

The questionnaire for economic and market analysis has been developed but is yet to be completed in all five districts where the Appeal is being implemented. Fifty households will be visited. The success stories will be compiled to form case studies, which will be shared with both national and international partners. The exercise is in progress in all five districts and will be completed in May 2013.

A few training sessions have been undertaken on food and farming techniques and these are listed below:

### Farming techniques.

LGs =Lead Gardeners. CFs= Care Facilitators

District	No Trained LG'S	No of CF's	No Volunteers	Total Participants
Mafeteng	10	4	5	19
Mokhotlong	10	6	4	20
Quthing	10	4	6	20
Kena	9	5	5	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>78</b>

### Food preparation and preservation

Village	No of participants	Volunteers	LGs, CFs and community members	Male	Female
Mafeteng	56	6	50	10	46
Maseru (Kena)	52	10	42	23	29
Quthing	51	5	46	24	27
Mokhotlong	50	10	40	19	31
Thaba-Tseka	55	20	35	18	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>170</b>

As mentioned, the soil erosion is quite significant. The Ministry of Forestry and Land continuously monitor degradation with surveying exercises to further accommodate other areas for future consideration.

### Disaster Risk Reduction

<b>Outcome: The target community's resilience to disasters is protected and restored</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food insecurity affected communities are better prepared, respond and recover to weather induced emergencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building of community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) for the Disaster Management Task Force or committees;</li> <li>Train staff and local leaders on climate change adaptation techniques,</li> <li>Development contingency plans and community based early warning systems.</li> </ul>

### Progress:

#### Training held:

Community-based Disaster Management Preparedness for Village Disaster Management Teams (VDMT) and Climate Change Adaptation training have taken place.

District	No (VDMTs)	No of trained volunteers	No of trained community members	No of trained care facilitators	No of trained care lead gardeners
Mafeteng	10	5	2	2	3
Mokhotlong	5	1	5	5	5
Thaba- Tseka	7	3	3	5	5
Quthing	7	2	5	5	5
Kena	10	3	2	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>

<b>Logistics</b>	
<b>Outcome: The relief operation is supported in delivering a range of relief items in line with the operational priorities in a cost effective and timely manner.</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
LRCS, with support from the Africa Zone, has coordinated the procurement, storage, transport and distribution of relief items, ensuring efficient delivery to beneficiaries at final distributed points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient and cost-effective procurement of food and seeds locally (or in the region if prices rise) meeting procurement standards and procedures;</li> <li>• IFRC logistics delegate to support the tender and selection process for seeds and food purchases along with national society counterpart</li> <li>• Provision of logistics support to LRCS branches to deliver the appropriate assistance (vehicles for transportation of goods and monitoring, warehouse rental/storage etc);</li> <li>• Control of the efficient movement of goods to the end user;</li> <li>• Provide logistics technical capacity through short-term delegate and/or RDRT support.</li> </ul>

Progress:

- Procurement process followed and facilitated
- Seed procured in December distributed to the beneficiaries (1600 households) and subsequently planted
- Food Management Unit provided storage for the food commodities
- Transport available from warehouse to the field
- RDRT member deployed in March to strengthen LRCS staff capacity in undertaking response activities

On 28 and 29 March, the requests for tender were distributed to potential traders ranging from supermarkets, cash and carries, pre-packers and millers. The last date for receiving tenders from the companies was 8 April 2013.

On the 11 April the tenders for the food commodities under Emergency Appeal support were opened, and the order was issued to the supplier on the 19 April 2013 who started the first delivery on the 26 throughout to 28 April 2013. The local stakeholders (especially Health) inspected food items on the 29 April 2013. The first food distribution started on the 30 April to the 5 May 2013. For this first group a total of 305 people were engaged in food for work.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

LRCS through its Communications Manager and with technical support from the IFRC's Southern Africa Regional Office (SARO) will conduct awareness and publicity activities including field trips to sensitise the public and the media on the situation on the ground and the humanitarian response provided by the National Society.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

The volunteers, divisional secretaries and the food security office are always engaged in national studies - Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Capacity and form part of Committee (LVAC).

LRCS is operating in ten districts of the country with each district having a divisional office based in the township. The disaster management teams are trained and carryout post disaster rapid assessments in collaboration with other stakeholders mentioned above.

Most of the response and preparedness operations have improved since the divisions, in collaboration with local stakeholders, are able to set up response strategies at the district level, as mentioned conduct rapid assessments and to verify and register the appropriate beneficiaries.

The community members, local leaders and other stakeholders were involved in the whole exercise.

The element of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities which include among the few, Climate Change adaptation (CCA) and Community-based Disaster Preparedness need to be further strengthened. Most of the arable land in the country is prone to soil erosion, thus this calls for a massive effort to curb the situation.

### **Capacity of the IFRC**

The Disaster Management Unit in the IFRC regional office for southern Africa (SARO) has extensive experience in food security interventions, and have supported the Lesotho Red Cross in the implementation

of this operation. IFRC plans to recruit an Operations Manager for the duration of the appeal to provide technical assistance to the national societies.

In addition to managing the appeal, the IFRC will provide technical support to Lesotho Red Cross to strengthen their work in the areas of relief, food security and nutrition, livelihoods and logistics, as well as supporting them in communications, finance, monitoring and evaluation and reporting.

The IFRC will also coordinate technical support to the national society when needed, included in logistics and is facilitating a Household Economic Security (HES) expert to assist the national society with the upcoming detailed needs assessment and related training (with support from the British Red Cross). This food security / livelihoods expert will also help the Regional Office develop its regional strategy for the food security situation and will provide technical support and capacity building for other NSs affected by the crisis as appropriate.

SARO provides regional support to all ongoing food insecurity emergency operations in the region, and will consolidate progress and learning from across the region to support national society learning and technical capacity and to advocate for resources and for integrated, holistic and sustained solutions to the chronic occurrence of food insecurity.

## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

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

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067277; email: [robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org](mailto:robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org)

## 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 (NGOs) 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.

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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.

**Disaster Response Financial Report**

MDRLS003 - Lesotho - Food Security

Timeframe: 12 Oct 12 to 31 Jul 13

Appeal Launch Date: 12 Oct 12

Interim Report

**Selected Parameters**

Reporting Timeframe	2012/10-2013 Programme	MDRLS003
Budget Timeframe	2012/10-2013 Budget	APPROVED
	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Funding**

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>A. Budget</b>		1,119,001				1,119,001	
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0	
<b>Income</b>							
<u>Cash contributions</u>							
<i>British Red Cross</i>		69,000				69,000	
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>		36,900				36,900	
<i>Red Cross of Monaco</i>		6,202				6,202	
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>		130,000				130,000	
<i>The Netherlands Red Cross</i>		120,846				120,846	
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>		<b>362,948</b>				<b>362,948</b>	
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>		<b>362,948</b>				<b>362,948</b>	
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		<b>362,948</b>				<b>362,948</b>	

**II. Movement of Funds**

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0	
<b>C. Income</b>		362,948				362,948	
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-217,117				-217,117	
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		145,831				145,831	

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		Project	*

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### III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>			<b>1,119,001</b>			<b>1,119,001</b>		
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>								
Food	639,425		66,777			66,777	572,648	
Seeds & Plants	69,500		-15,000			-15,000	84,500	
Other Supplies & Services	5,000						5,000	
<b>Total Relief items, Construction, Sup</b>	<b>713,925</b>		<b>51,777</b>			<b>51,777</b>	<b>662,148</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Computers & Telecom	3,990						3,990	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>3,990</b>						<b>3,990</b>	
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	11,916						11,916	
Distribution & Monitoring	2,250						2,250	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	36,718		2,053			2,053	34,665	
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>50,884</b>		<b>2,053</b>			<b>2,053</b>	<b>48,831</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	90,000						90,000	
National Society Staff	55,125		856			856	54,269	
Volunteers	11,350		2,698			2,698	8,652	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>156,475</b>		<b>3,554</b>			<b>3,554</b>	<b>152,921</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	20,580		18,528			18,528	2,052	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>20,580</b>		<b>18,528</b>			<b>18,528</b>	<b>2,052</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	40,000		4,729			4,729	35,271	
Information & Public Relations	10,000		47			47	9,953	
Office Costs	45,491						45,491	
Communications	3,235		413			413	2,822	
Financial Charges			327			327	-327	
Other General Expenses	6,125						6,125	
Shared Office and Services Costs			13,776			13,776	-13,776	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>104,851</b>		<b>19,291</b>			<b>19,291</b>	<b>85,560</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions			108,114			108,114	-108,114	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>			<b>108,114</b>			<b>108,114</b>	<b>-108,114</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Services Support Recove	68,296		13,216			13,216	55,080	
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>68,296</b>		<b>13,216</b>			<b>13,216</b>	<b>55,080</b>	
<b>Pledge Specific Costs</b>								
Pledge Earmarking Fee			584			584	-584	
<b>Total Pledge Specific Costs</b>			<b>584</b>			<b>584</b>	<b>-584</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>1,119,001</b>		<b>217,117</b>			<b>217,117</b>	<b>901,884</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>901,884</b>			<b>901,884</b>		

**Disaster Response Financial Report**

MDRLS003 - Lesotho - Food Security

Timeframe: 12 Oct 12 to 31 Jul 13

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		Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**IV. Breakdown by subsector**

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
<b>BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people</b>							
Disaster response	1,119,001	0	362,948	362,948	217,117	145,831	
Subtotal BL2	1,119,001	0	362,948	362,948	217,117	145,831	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,119,001</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>362,948</b>	<b>362,948</b>	<b>217,117</b>	<b>145,831</b>	