

DREF final report Malawi: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRMW007 GLIDE n° FL-2012-000017-MWI 22 November, 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.

Summary: CHF 275,993 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 14 February, 2012 to support Malawi Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to some 6,159 beneficiaries.

Towards the end of 2011, heavy rains were experienced across Malawi leading to flash floods that caused destruction of houses, schools and other infrastructures. The rains affected the central, northern and southern regions of the country with Nsanje district in the southern region being among the worst affected.

A DREF was launched to assist those affected with emergency shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs) as well as water treatment supplies and hygiene promotion. The support enabled Malawi Red Cross (MRC) scale up its initial response which had commenced in December 2011 and to further support beneficiaries in addressing their needs. The response operation was planned to be implemented over a period of 3 months and completed by 9 June, 2012. However, to allow for the relocation of communities at risk to safer areas so that they could access relief assistance, the operation was extended for an additional 1 month through an operation update 1 of 18 May, 2012.

In response to the needs of the affected persons, MRC trained 8 members of staff and 45 volunteers in shelter construction and relief distribution. Emergency shelter assistance and essential household items and non food items was provided to 1,182 households. In addition, emergency school shelter was provided to 3 communities with a total of 2,364 tarpaulins, 2,364 blankets, 2,364 mosquito nets, 1,182 kitchen sets, 1,182 collapsible jerry cans and 1,182 shelter kits distributed.

To ensure a smooth distribution of these items, Red Cross officials carried out beneficiary registration in close collaboration with district assemblies ensuring that only those beneficiaries whose houses had been destroyed were enlisted for assistance. In addition, local leaders (division chairpersons, district council officials and Village Headmen) conducted sensitizations on the beneficiary selection criterion, beneficiary lists for each village, items they would receive, as well as a caution not to sell the relief items but instead use them for what they were intended. A post distribution monitoring was conducted and documented for future references.

Throughout the operation, MRC worked closely with the government of Malawi through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. Other partners



Displaced persons waiting to be assisted/Photo: Malawi Red Cross

included UNICEF and GOAL Malawi. UNICEF provided tents that were used as temporary classrooms since some affected people were staying in the classrooms. The tents managed to accommodate three out of eight classes. MRC also worked with the Malawi Defense Force (MDF) and Department of Housing in evacuating people to higher and safer ground as well as erecting the shelters, toilets and bathrooms for the affected persons. The team coordinated the setting up of Osiyana transitional camp, moving people to ADMARC hall and Nsanje District Council rest house in Bangula.

The response operation made positive impact in the lives of vulnerable communities of Mlolo and Ngabu through addressing their immediate shelter, water and sanitation needs. Shelter kits distributed assisted evacuated and resettled communities in constructing new dwelling structures in the Sankhulani uplands.

A total of CHF 85,716 that was unspent at the close of the operation has been returned to DREF. This under-expenditure was due to the fact that the National Society used prepositioned regional stocks to support those affected by the flooding at the initial stages of the operation. Therefore no expenditure was needed on shelter, utensils and tools budget lines. Moreover, the decision was made not to replenish those stocks as part of closing the Harare warehouse.

Additional variance between budgeted and actual expenditure arose in responding to changing programme circumstances. A relocation of population required a new water source and CHF 5,965 was spent on construction materials for a new borehole and less spent on the rehabilitation of existing boreholes. Other variances were recorded on the logistics, distribution and storage budget lines and were as a result of the fact that relief items were unavailable locally and were purchased and transported from Zimbabwe and South Africa thus increasing the costs. In addition, difficulties accessing the operation area due to its remoteness also increased the transport costs. Other variances on planned expenditures were brought about by a more than 50% devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha which led to increase in food prices in country. Consequently, this led to adjustment of MRC staff salaries and per diems upwards. A logistics officer was deployed from IFRC country office in Zimbabwe to assist the National Society in the operation which explains the expenditure on the national staff salaries that was not budgeted.

The Canadian and Belgian Red Cross Societies and Governments contributed to replenishment of the DREF allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom 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, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Details of DREF contributions are found on: http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2012.pdf

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

The situation

Heavy rainfall accompanied by storms in many parts of the country since late December 2011 brought about flash floods that caused destruction of infrastructures including houses and schools as well agricultural fields. Five schools were closed and others forced to close since displaced persons were temporarily evacuated and sheltered in the school buildings. According to the Government Department of Disaster Management Affairs an estimated 5,270 households had been affected by the floods by mid January 2012.

The Nsanje floods called for immense response effort due to the huge impact on communities, many of whom required evacuation to safer grounds. In response to this, Malawi Red Cross already had began responding to the needs of those affected by the flooding by late December 2011. These included Karonga, Lilongwe, Phalombe, Chikhwawa and Nsanje districts through provision of temporary shelter items such as tarpaulins prepositioned in the NS warehouse.

In February 2012, MRC requested additional support from IFRC to increase its response capacity. This was granted through the allocation of a DREF in mid February which enabled the National Society scale up assistance to up to 6,159 beneficiaries (1,235 households).

A rapid needs assessment conducted to determine areas in need of further assistance indicated that there was dire need for water purification tables and other WASH related items, additional tents, plastic sheets and tarpaulins. These shelter items would be used for reconstruction of houses to accommodate displaced families whose houses had collapsed under the flood waters as well as persons who had been evacuated from the island. At the same time, Nsanje District Hospital reported 48 confirmed cases of cholera giving rise to the concern that water contamination had occurred and that sanitation was poor. In February 2012, 143 new cases of cholera and 3 deaths were reported and in March 2012, the number had increased to 146 new cases and 2 deaths. As a result of the intervention, there was a decrease in the number of cholera cases with 89 new cases and 2 deaths reported in April, 41 cases and 1 death registered in May and no new cases or cholera related deaths reported in June.

Coordination and partnerships

Throughout the operation, MRC worked closely with the government of Malawi through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development through the office of the District Commissioner. Other partners included UNICEF and GOAL Malawi.

UNICEF provided tents that were used as temporary classrooms since some affected people were staying in the classrooms. The tents managed to accommodate three out of eight classes.

MRC provided shelter materials and other relief items and through its trained volunteers were in charge of camp management. The National Society also provided water, sanitation and hygiene services through provision of a borehole, water treatment tablets, and provision of cholera kits and dissemination of good hygiene practices. Other support included transport, logistics and communication services.

MRC coordinated with the Malawi Defense Force (MDF) and Department of Housing in evacuating people to higher and safer ground as well as erecting the shelters, toilets and bathrooms for the affected persons. The team coordinated the setting up of Osiyana transitional camp, moving people to ADMARC hall and Nsanje District Council rest house in Bangula.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A rapid needs assessment conducted indicated that the persons affected by the floods required additional assistance in the form of tents, plastic sheets and tarpaulins for reconstruction of houses destroyed by flood waters, water purification tables and other WASH related items to cater for water, hygiene and sanitation needs of the displaced persons. In the second week of March 2012, a verification exercise was conducted to validate the lists of beneficiaries produced during the rapid assessments and also assist in beneficiary registration.

To respond to these needs, IFRC Southern Africa Regional Representation Office (SARRO) supported MRC with Non Food Items (NFI) from its regional warehouse in Harare. These included; 2,470 blankets, 1,235 mosquito nets, 1,235 kitchens sets, 4 cholera kits (treatment modules), 2 volunteer cholera kits, 5 pre-fabricated shelter tents and 2,500 tarpaulins (from Johannesburg). This was additional support to the initial assistance offered by Malawi Red Cross at the start of the flooding in December 2011 through provision of temporary shelter (tarpaulins) prepositioned at their warehouse.

The SARRO is in the process of realigning its emergency preparedness strategy to ensure its cost effectiveness. Hence, arrangements are being made to have pre-signed contracts with suppliers instead of holding NFIs and incurring huge warehouse rentals which are unsustainable.

Progress towards outcomes

Emergency shelter and non-food items

Outcome: The immediate shelter needs of 1,235 displaced households in T/A Mlolo are met

Outputs:

- Emergency shelter assistance is provided to the target population
- Essential household items/NFI are provided to the target population
- Emergency school shelter is provided to the target communities

Activities planned:

- Detailed assessment on house damage and report on shelter options.
- Refresher training for the staff members and participating volunteers on shelter and relief distributions.

- Conduct registration of beneficiaries using agreed criteria that fits with government standards.
- Verification of beneficiaries using shelter needs criteria.
- Purchase shelter and household items that can be sourced within the country.
- Emergency Shelter construction training to affected communities as part of relief distributions.
- Distribution of relief items.
- Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) using the PDM tools.
- Monitor relief activities and report on relief distributions.
- Conduct a lesson learned workshop and develop an exit strategy.

Impacts: A detailed assessment conducted indicated that 1,426 houses had collapsed under the weight of the flood waters and over 3,000 houses washed away. In response, MRC trained 8 members of staff and 45 volunteers in shelter construction and relief distribution. Beneficiary registration was done in close collaboration with district assemblies to ensure that a proper beneficiary identification was done targeting only those beneficiaries whose houses had collapsed.

Emergency shelter assistance and essential household items and non food items was provided to 1,182 households by MRC and the remaining beneficiaries identified in the needs assessment were assisted by other actors including government and UNICEF. In addition, emergency school shelter was provided to 3 communities during their evacuation with a total of 2,364 tarpaulins, 2,364 blankets, 2,364 mosquito nets, 1,182 kitchen sets, 1,182 collapsible jerry cans and 1,182 shelter kits distributed. To ensure a smooth distribution of these items, Red Cross officials and local leaders (division chairpersons, district council officials and Village Headmen) conducted sensitizations on the beneficiary selection criterion; beneficiary lists for each village, items they would receive and how to use them. A post distribution monitoring was conducted and documented for future references.



A beneficiary receives relief items during the response operation / Photo: Malawi Red Cross

In support of those evacuated from the flood hit areas, MRC provided 1,730 pieces of tarpaulins and 300 shelter kits to assist in the construction of temporary shelters at Osiyana camp. The National Society through its trained staff and volunteers coordinated tent pitching at the schools used as temporary shelter areas as well as construction of shelters at the camp. This proved to be very effective as coordination ensured that there was no duplication of efforts.



Facilitation at the Lessons learned workshop in Nsanje / Photo: IFRC

Lessons learned workshop was conducted in order to provide a learning and experience sharing platform that would inform future emergency and relief operations planning and implementation. This also provided an opportunity for review and appraise all processes used in the operation implementation with a view of learning how these could be replicated in future interventions of the same nature. The lessons learned workshop targeted MRC staff and volunteers, government officers working in disaster management and related programmes as well as other humanitarian partners implementing emergency and relief operations. Donor representatives also participated and they were able to talk to the beneficiaries, local leaders and community members through the civil protection committees.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Reduce the occurrence of water and sanitation related diseases among 1,235 displaced households through water treatment, supplies and hygiene promotion campaigns in Traditional Authority Mlolo for 3 months.

Outputs

- Volunteers and government counterparts are prepared for water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.
- Displaced families are made aware of good sanitation and hygiene practices.
- Health staff are better equipped to prevent a cholera outbreak.
- Access to safe water is improved.

Activities planned:

- Conduct hygiene orientation sessions for 100 volunteers and 20 government staff
- Awareness campaigns on use of water treatment drugs to reach 6,159 people
- Procurement of critical diarrhea/cholera kits (including chlorine, disposable aprons and gum boots)
- Repair and maintenance of broken boreholes
- Promotion of hygiene and sanitation messages through volunteers and government health workers
- Conduct training/information programmes for 100 Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries and 15 Government Health Staff in hygiene promotion and the safe use of Water Treatment Products (e.g. chlorination tablets).
- Assess the existing coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply and sanitation facilities.

Impacts: MRC reached an estimated 1,300 families through awareness campaigns around water treatment, disease control and hygiene promotion which significantly contributed to reduced chances of outbreak of water and sanitation related diseases. Additionally, hygiene orientation sessions for 30 volunteers, 10 government staff and 120 beneficiaries were conducted and focussed on epidemics with an emphasis on cholera prevention, case identification, management and control. The trained volunteers conducted water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and awareness campaigns in the villages with support from the government health surveillance assistants (HAS) and 7,130 individuals were reached with water treatment drug use messages and uptake of use of latrines with 250 households constructing traditional latrines in Sankhulani uplands. They also distributed water purification tablets and chlorine. Together with government health staff, volunteers conducted daily hygiene promotion sessions at the health facilities in Makhanga, Bangula Sojini and Ndamera.

Two cholera kits each comprising of 2 treatment modules and 1 volunteer module were purchased and handed over to Nsanje and Chikhwawa district assemblies. These kits greatly contributed to curbing further spread of cholera.

The National Society in its initial response plan was to rehabilitate 8 boreholes. However, with resettlement of persons evacuated from the flood hit areas, there was need to drill and construct new boreholes for improved water supply. MRC in this regard drilled and constructed 1 borehole that serves more than 125 families who in the past were drawing water from unprotected sources of Ruo River. This was one of the major causes of cholera outbreaks. The life span of the water pump is however likely to be reduced as it is under pressure from the number of families relying on the water source.

Lessons Learned: Through the DREF operation positive difference was made in the lives of vulnerable communities of Mlolo and Ngabu through addressing their immediate shelter, water and sanitation needs. Shelter kits distributed assisted evacuated and resettled communities in constructing new dwelling structures in the Sankhulani uplands.

The operation strengthened work relations between MRC staff and volunteers with local district authorities, Department for Disaster Management Affairs, civil society organisations and other stakeholders in Nsanje. The operation also strengthened the response capacity and ability of MRC to manage similar operations in future through the lessons learned.

Through the lessons learned workshop, it was noted that Nsanje branch as is with other MRC branches has a weak emergency response capacity and thus the need to continually strengthen the branches disaster preparedness and response capacities.

Challenges: MRC lacked in trained Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) and there was a poor community disaster response structure thus slowing the response to the disaster. There lacks a consistent policy enforcement at the district level that would ensure people moved from disaster prone areas. This was further compounded by high levels of poverty and low education levels within those affected. To counter these challenges the National Society conducted awareness campaigns and closely worked with local authorities to educate the community members on disaster preparedness. To follow up on this, MRC plans to train a district response team in Nsanje and other disaster prone districts as soon as funding is secured. Communities will also be introduced to better agricultural farming methods including use of irrigation and improved seed

varieties in order to improve their food production thus reducing their exposure to food insecurity. Fewer workshops and trainings were conducted than planned for due to demands in the field.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.
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MDRMW007 - Malawi - Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 09 feb 12

Appeal Timeframe: 09 feb 12 to 09 jun 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/2-2012/11
Budget Timeframe	2012/2-2012/6
Appeal	MDRMW007
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	275,994					275,994	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	190,277					190,277	
C4. Other Income	190,277					190,277	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	190,277					190,277	
D. Total Funding = B +C	190,277					190,277	
Coverage = D/A	69%					69%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	190,277					190,277	
E. Expenditure	-190,277					-190,277	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/2-2012/11
Budget Timeframe	2012/2-2012/6
Appeal	MDRMW007
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. 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)		275,994					275,994	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	57,660						57,660	
Construction Materials		5,965				5,965	-5,965	
Clothing & Textiles	60,341	42,343				42,343	17,998	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	15,000	7,682				7,682	7,318	
Medical & First Aid	9,263	4,321				4,321	4,942	
Utensils & Tools	27,170						27,170	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	169,434	60,311				60,311	109,123	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	469	3,513				3,513	-3,044	
Distribution & Monitoring	1,938	10,450				10,450	-8,512	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	31,040	47,326				47,326	-16,286	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	33,447	61,289				61,289	-27,842	
Personnel								
National Staff		5,072				5,072	-5,072	
National Society Staff	13,124	25,026				25,026	-11,902	
Volunteers	2,700	1,240				1,240	1,460	
Total Personnel	15,824	31,338				31,338	-15,514	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	16,125	1,973				1,973	14,152	
Total Workshops & Training	16,125	1,973				1,973	14,152	
General Expenditure								
Travel	5,000	4,607				4,607	393	
Information & Public Relations	13,500	15,080				15,080	-1,580	
Office Costs	1,950	2,644				2,644	-694	
Communications	3,119	678				678	2,441	
Financial Charges	750	744				744	6	
Other General Expenses		-0				-0	0	
Total General Expenditure	24,319	23,754				23,754	565	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	16,845	11,613				11,613	5,232	
Total Indirect Costs	16,845	11,613				11,613	5,232	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	275,994	190,277				190,277	85,716	
VARIANCE (C - D)		85,716				85,716		