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Information bulletin

Lesotho: Windstorms



Date of issue	5 November 2014
Date of disaster: 11 October 2014	Point of contact: Hung Ha Nguyen, Disaster Preparedness Delegate Southern Africa Regional Office
Operation start date: 13 October 2014	Expected timeframe:
Host National Society(ies): Lesotho Red Cross Society	
Number of people affected: 2,600	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Lesotho Red Cross Society will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

On 11 October 2014, the country experienced strong winds in several districts throughout the country. Two districts out of ten were severely affected, which are Leribe and Maseru, in which Maseru was the most significantly impacted. The impact of the strong winds resulted in serious disruption of the national economy and the livelihoods of the Basotho people, particularly in Maseru district. Over 500 houses were unroofed leaving an estimation of 2,600 people homeless. The windstorms also blew away or damaged people's belongings, such as blankets, clothing, kitchens sets and food. In addition, the disaster caused serious disruption to society, including electricity blackouts and damages to electronic appliances and tender crops. According to information collected by Lesotho Red Cross Society assessment teams, at least 520 families (2,600 people) were affected. Basic needs include housing materials, food, and household items, such as blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.



Many houses were unroofed in Leribe and Maseru. Photo by Lesotho Red Cross

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) deployed ten action teams to ten districts, one team in each district. The teams comprised of ten members each to carry out an initial assessment. The assessments were technically supported by the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), which consists of divisional secretaries and project officers. The divisional secretaries are permanent staff members based in all ten districts, while the project officers are based in the district for the duration of the livelihood interventions.

In addition to the national society's own initial assessment, Lesotho Red Cross Society took part in the rapid assessment together with the government's disaster management authority in the two most affected districts. The national society divisional offices played a major role in assisting the district disaster teams during the assessment.

In responding to the disaster, LRCS provided temporary shelter to the most vulnerable families amounting to 87 households (435 people) using internal resources but since there are still gaps, LRCS is willing to accept contribution to the actual needs of food aid, shelter, NFIs among others.

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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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.