

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTHERN AFRICA: FOOD INSECURITY

6 March 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA023; Operations Update no. 6; Period covered: 11 February to 22 February 2006; Appeal coverage: 21.6%; [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 18 October 2005- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA023.pdf for CHF 39,360,753 (USD 30,193,299 or EUR 25,301,687) for 9 months to assist up to for 1.5 million beneficiaries.
- Operations Update no. 1- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02301.pdf was posted on 7 November 2005.
- Operations Update no. 2- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02302.pdf was posted on 21 November 2005. This update focused on Malawi and the impact of DREF.
- Operations Update no. 3- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02303.pdf was posted on 4 January 2006.
- Operations Update no. 4- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02304.pdf was posted on 25 January 2006.
- Operations Update no. 5- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02305.pdf was posted on 17 February 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 1,160,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 30,868,921 (USD 23,800,560 or EUR 19,782,868).

Related Annual Appeal: Southern Africa Regional Programmes and National Society Capacity Building: Appeal 2006-2007 (MAA63001). Refer to- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA63001.pdf

Operational Summary: In Southern Africa, February is a notoriously challenging month for the more food-insecure households, with 2006's peak in the hunger season really taking hold, as an estimated 12 million people are in need of humanitarian food support. Against this dramatic external environment, less than a quarter of the funds have been incoming for this Emergency Appeal, resulting in an incredibly challenging situation, as many of the national societies' planned interventions to help the most vulnerable households are currently on hold.

Nonetheless, the seven Red Cross national societies in the region made good progress over the first two-months of the year. The Malawi Red Cross Society started its second double food ration distribution, targeting 17,000 households (over 100,000 people), whilst also procuring food to enable it to reach four additional districts in the coming months. The Zambia Red Cross Society's food procurement process for 32,000 vulnerable beneficiaries in Sinazongwe and Secheke Districts was also well underway. All seven national societies also had/were developing bilateral agreements with the World Food Programme (WFP), their respective government and/or donor national societies (outside of this appeal process) to distribute food to the most needy during this acute hunger period.

Agricultural starter packs were distributed in five of the affected countries (Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho and Zimbabwe), bringing good harvest prospects and a degree of self-sufficiency to some 40,000 households. Distributions in Mozambique will take place at the end of February 2006 to households situated in lowland areas, near to river beds for irrigation and in Zambia during the winter months of April/May.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

This Emergency Appeal was launched in October 2005 as a result of food insecurity affecting an estimated 12 million people at the end of 2005 and the first half of 2006. The worst affected countries in the region are Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with the other three countries being closely monitored, particularly in the more vulnerable areas where the last harvest was insufficient to meet even the basic needs or totally non-existent. As highlighted in the appeal for this operation, food insecurity is not only a result of the erratic rainfall patterns in 2004/5 resulting in low yields from crops, but also the chronic burden of HIV/AIDS and weakened government capacity. This 'triple threat' is destroying already weakened and vulnerable families, with even the most basic coping mechanisms now being eroded.

However, Southern Africa has recently benefited from good rainfall, particularly in the central area of the region. According to Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), many countries are generally expecting relatively high yields at the end of the season, unless the rains end prematurely or flooding prevails. Indeed, over much of the region maize is reported to be in good to fair condition. Unfortunately, isolated areas in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe have experienced crop losses as a result of pest and disease infestation (army worm), excessive rains leading to the leaching of soils and flood damage. In Zimbabwe, despite good rains, the poor availability and high cost of agricultural inputs has severely affected both small-scale and commercial farmers, reducing the potential yield expected.

The overall food security situation remains mixed across the region, with Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe being closely monitored as all four countries face acute food shortages. However, reports suggest that the situation may soon stabilize in some areas where the rainfall has been favorable and inputs were available. It is reported that some communities are already benefiting from early seasonal food crops such as sweet potatoes, pumpkin and wild fruit.

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Interventions of WFP and the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE) have been planned to peak over the period of January to March 2006, with most food pipelines generally well resourced, although fears of traffic congestion on the South African and Mozambican routes and the destruction of roads due to flooding could materialize. The two countries to have shortfalls in food from WFP/C-SAFE pipeline are Malawi in March (lack of cereals) and Zimbabwe in March and April.

Focus on Swaziland

The Red Cross conducted a Rapid Food Security Assessment from 17 to 20 February 2006 in four districts of Swaziland. The 2004/5 growing season was adversely affected by a variation in rainfall which resulted in the production of maize at the national level being insufficient for needs, leaving the Swazi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) to estimate that 226,640 people would be in need of food support for four to seven months in 2005/6.

One of the focus points was Ndlinilembi area of Manzini District, where maize crop of the last season was destroyed by a drought followed by a dramatic hail storm. The findings of the assessment noted that food was scarce, with people having to walk 25 to 40 km to buy maize. The price of maize was also almost double the average standard price. Survival coping mechanisms included children taken out of school- as the fees were prohibitive, living on one-meal per day, eating wild fruits and selling of livestock. The recommendations in the report state that the most vulnerable in Ndlinilembi area should be considered for food support between February and June 2006. It was also noted that though most of the affected households in all surveyed areas were receiving food support, targeting/monitoring needs to be improved, the criteria should be disseminated more widely, WatSan intervention needs to be a priority while crop and diet diversification needs attention by the community as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing support. The Lowveld crop is also known to be poor this season, it was therefore suggested that this area needs continual monitoring, to ensure that the humanitarian sector is aware of the potential need of additional support.

Over the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society was also still focused on floods in Nsanje District (Southern Zambia), which destroyed 25,000 hectares of cropped land, with the national society distributing relief items for 1,794 households. Over the past month, the Zambia Red Cross Society also focused on responding to a cholera outbreak, working hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Health on the delivery of prevention messages at community level.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress and impact

Overall goal: To assist some 1,483,900 vulnerable beneficiaries in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe with food security, water and sanitation projects and to reinforce coping mechanisms (promoting livelihoods).

Food Assistance

Objective: To meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable individuals in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe until the next harvest in 2006.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

As noted in the introduction, the appeal has received less than quarter of the required financial resources. Consequently, all national societies' plans for food assistance funded from this appeal have been put on hold for the time-being, with the exception of Malawi and Zambia. At the 3 March 2006 food security technical team meeting to take place in Johannesburg, food needs will be discussed further and an up-date on the current and potential funding situation will also be given by the Secretariat's senior food security advisor.

It should, however, be noted that every national society involved in the food security operation already has a partnership agreement with WFP or is in the process of negotiating with WFP, with several national societies also have arrangements with partner national societies (PNS) and/or directly with their respective governments to distribute food to the most vulnerable.

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For example, in Lesotho, the Lesotho Red Cross Society is providing food to some 8,000 beneficiaries in one district through WFP and in two additional districts through the German Red Cross, focussing on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) support within the broader home-based care (HBC) programme. The Malawi Red Cross Society is implementing an emergency food relief programme funded by the government and the Department for International Development (DFID) in six districts (Kalongs, Chitipa, Rumphu, Nkhhotakota, Kasungu and Salima) targeting 74,000 beneficiaries on a monthly basis. The national society is also implementing a WFP programme in Salima, distributing food to 350 TB patients, 500 chronically ill people and 1,150 orphans on a monthly basis, with the total households being 2,000 households (over 11,000 beneficiaries).

In addition to PNS agreements, the Mozambique Red Cross Society has just entered into partnership with WFP to distribute food to just under 25,000 food insecure beneficiaries in Chokwe District, Manjacaze District (Gaza Province) and Govuro District (Inhambane Province). Of these beneficiaries, 1,500 households will receive the Federation-funded agricultural starter packs. The Namibia Red Cross is also engaging in discussions with WFP to provide food from April in Caprivi region, with the details of the operation not yet finalized.

Since last year, the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society has been distributing food for WFP and the government's National Disaster Task Force for over 13,000 vulnerable beneficiaries at clinics and in schools, with partnership agreements expected to conclude in March 2006. Additionally, the national society, with support of the Finnish Red Cross, is distributing food to 6,000 vulnerable beneficiaries in nine communities in Northern Hhohho Division, with food support expected to conclude in April 2006. A Red Cross rapid food security assessment was conducted between 17 and 20 February in six areas.

Zambia Red Cross Society is distributing food on behalf of the government/WFP in the north western area of the country. Zimbabwe Red Cross Society also has an agreement with WFP, resulting in it providing food for 80,000 HBC and OVC vulnerable beneficiaries across the country on a monthly basis, with food support also previously being provided for HBC and OVC in three provinces through the Danish Red Cross, with ECHO funds. Furthermore, DFID funds provided agricultural starter packs to just under 22,000 households, with this operation being coordinated with the Federation-funded starter packs.

Malawi

In correspondence with the high humanitarian needs, the Malawi Red Cross Society is implementing the largest food security programme within this Emergency Appeal, with the Federation funded projects complimenting WFP and the government/DFID food relief work. Two delegates (logistics and relief) are reinforcing the national society's newly recruited team for this operation, providing technical support and guidance.

Over the reporting period, a third procurement cycle was being implemented by the Finnish Red Cross, with a full analysis of the quotations completed. The latest procurement was as follows: Maize (552 MT), beans (110 MT), cooking oil (56,136 litres) CSB (164 MT), with the chart outlined below representing the total amount procured/incoming since the beginning of the operation.

Table 1: Finnish Red Cross-procured/incoming items

	Maize (MT)	Pulses (MT)	Oil (litres)	CSB (MT)	Notes
Procured	3003	655	300,240	901	Pulses = mix of beans & cow peas
Spoilt	0	7.2	0	0	7.2 MT beans were spoilt.
Incoming	2451	483.8	182,492	590	

* Incoming items outlined in chart are tentative figures only.

The other additional food items will be used for the third food distribution, with the aim of targeting a greater number of districts, as outlined in the appeal, with the team hoping that an additional four districts can be reached in the central and northern part of the country.

The first round of distributions, (for December/January) commenced on 29 December 2005 and concluded during the second week of February 2006, starting in Mwanza District and continuing in the other Zomba, Balaka, Chiradzulu and Blantyre districts. Each of the five districts has five staff and 15 distribution points. Monitoring was conducted at each of the distribution points, with household monitoring being followed-up two weeks after the distributions.

Table 2: First round of food distribution in Malawi for December/January

District	House holds	Maize (MT)	Pulses (MT)	Oil (litres)	CSB (MT)
Chiradzulu	4,808	240.4	17.2	24,040	72.12
Mwanza	1,831	91.55	18.28	9,155	27.465
Zomba	3,153	157.65	31.5	15,765	47.295
Balaka	4,787	239.35	47.87	23,935	71.805
Blantyre	2,168	108.4	0	10,840	32.52
Total	16,747	837.35	114.85	83,735	251.205

The food packs were designed to meet the needs of each household for two months, and consisted of: 50 kg maize, 10 kg beans, 15 kg CSB and 5 litres of vegetable oil.

As noted previously, the two-month rations were provided in all commodities apart from pulses, which were short in Chiradzulu District, with less than half the households receiving beans/peas and no households receiving pulses in Blantyre District at all. Those households will receive double-rations in the next distributions.

The second two-month distributions, again with a double ration, commenced on 18 February 2006 in Mwanza District and are due to conclude in the first week of March 2006.

Table 3: Second round of food distribution in Malawi for February/March in first district – Mwanza

District	Households	Maize (MT)	Pulses (MT)	Oil (litres)	CSB (MT)
Mwanza	1,831	91.55	18.31	9155	27,465

Malawi Red Cross Society's food –for-work programme

The Norwegian Red Cross has a partnership agreement with the Malawi Red Cross Society, whereby they provide building materials for the construction of health posts, with the local community responsible for building the health posts. Under this Appeal, 246 MT of maize will be procured (from a Netherlands Red Cross - pledge), with the beneficiaries being identified in the Kasungu and Dowa Districts in central Malawi, where a total of six health posts are being constructed. Beneficiaries should receive their first ration of maize in the second week of March, when they have completed a proportion of the construction work.

Zambia

Good progress was made over the reporting period, with the Zambia Red Cross Society's newly recruited food security relief coordinator taking up his post on 20 February 2006 and joining the Federation's relief coordinator. The other newly recruited food security staff, 3 food security district coordinators and food security logistics assistants, were expected to take up their posts on 1 March 2006.

Based on the national society's plans to provide supplementary food rations to 32,000 beneficiaries in Sinazongwe and Secheke districts, on 10 February 2006 contracts were signed for the Maize and CSB. A re-tendering process for the cooking oil and beans took place between 12 – 16 February 2006, which resulted in suppliers being selected by the Purchase Committee and the tendering documents being dispatched to Geneva during the week starting 20 February 2006.

Table 4: Zambia Red Cross Society's food procurement

Commodity	Maize (MT)	CSB(MT)	Beans (MT)	Cooking oil (litres)
Amount procured	346	96	58	29,000

The Zambia Red Cross Society's new food security officer and the disaster management coordinator planned a field trip from 19-26 February 2006 to the operational areas. The objective of the field trip is to: introduce the new Zambia Red Cross Society food security officer to all the stakeholders and ensure full coordination is achieved; discuss detailed operational implementation details with district staff/volunteers and gain a greater understanding of the food needs. Indeed, currently the Zambia Red Cross Society and the Federation are working towards providing

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food until May, with the lead-time in the two districts between the actual harvest to household food consumption being approximately six weeks (especially if the rain continues as it has been).

As outlined in the Appeal, food vouchers/cash transfers are being explored as a pilot project, with technical support being provided from the Federation's regional delegation's disaster management team. It has been suggested that a consultant be recruited to implement a ten-day feasibility study, with cooperation being sought from Oxfam GB based in Lusaka, with this organization already implementing a pilot cash voucher project in Zambia.

Reinforcing self-reliance and coping mechanisms (livelihoods)

Objective: To re-enforce or rebuild self-reliance and to restore their positive coping mechanisms through food-for-work/food-for-assets (income generating opportunities), cash transfers, targeted agricultural support, and the provision of vegetable garden drip kits.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Table 5: Status of pipeline for items in agricultural starter packs

Country	HH*	Cereals O/A	Pulses O/A	Cassava O/A	Vegetable seeds O/A	Fertilizer Top O/A	Fertilizer Basal O/A
		(MT)	(MT)	Pieces	Kg	(MT)	(MT)
Lesotho	5,000	20/20			250/250	50/49.1	50/50
Malawi	16,747		66.98/all	1674400/ 1674599	164.47/all	167.47/all	167.47/all
Mozambique	1,500	6.4/0			80/0	16/0	
Namibia	2,000	8/all			75/100	20/all	20/all
Swaziland	1,938	8/all			100/0	20/all	20/all
Zambia	3,000				120/0		
Zimbabwe	7,565	76/all			950/all	190/0	190/0

* Households

O/A- ordered/arrived

Notes

- **Zambia:** Locally procuring vegetables only (tomato, cabbage, onion, rape 10 g of each in a pack) for distribution at the end of April/May.
- **Lesotho:** Wheat replaced maize seed, having a longer planting season. Incoming figures tentative.
- **Malawi:** A mixture of peas and beans were procured as pulses, replacing maize which was cancelled. Incoming figures tentative.
- **Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe:** Delays were encountered with the suppliers/waiting for import papers, with a similar situation occurring in Swaziland regarding the Vegetable Seeds and Zimbabwe regarding fertilizers.

Lesotho

A beneficiary distribution plan targeting 5,000 households (some 30,000 beneficiaries) was developed, with a verification exercise supervised by the Lesotho Red Cross Society district programme managers using the Red Cross care facilitators and local chiefs/headmen implemented over the reporting period.

Following a competitive bid analysis, the Federation team supported the national society in commissioning a transport company to deliver the items to the distribution points, with the distribution team of volunteers and district programme managers on stand-by waiting for the vegetable seed and fertilizer to arrive. Distributions were expected to commence on 21 February 2006.

Table 6: Agricultural starter pack distribution plan for Lesotho

District	Mafeteng	Leribe	Maseru	Mokhotlong	Thaba Tseka	Quthing	Berea	Burtha-Buthe	Total
Households	737	701	761	701	320	350	689	741	5,000



An OVC beneficiary, who has 7 siblings, benefiting from the HBC programme in Mafeteng District, Lesotho. The beneficiaries received agricultural starter packs a week later.



OVC beneficiaries on the HBC programme in Mokhotlong District of the Highlands. Beneficiary households here will also receive agricultural starter packs.

The cereal aspect of the pack will consist of wheat, rather than maize which is a winter crop usually planted in Lesotho during March and harvested around June, so there is less of a time-constraint for the NS to distribute the packs.

- The Lesotho agricultural starter packs, per household, consist of 4 kg wheat, 50g vegetable seeds (20g green beans, 10g cabbage, 10g tomato and 10g carrot), 10 kg basil fertilizer and 10 kg of top fertilizer.

The food security delegate arrived in Harare on 19 February 2006 for briefings at the regional delegation, prior to proceeding onto Lesotho on 22 February 2006. In the meantime, the regional delegation's senior disaster management officer and the roaming logistics delegate were providing support for the national society, with the latter planning on returning to the regional delegation once the new delegate was briefed. On 15 February 2006, a Lesotho Red Cross Society food security relief officer also joined the team.

Various operational and capacity building exercises were conducted, with a task force meeting being held on 14 February and a meeting between headquarters programme managers and district project officers held on 17 February 2006 to further discuss beneficiary selection, verification, distribution plans and monitoring. It was agreed that the most vulnerable families would also be assisted with draught power. Furthermore, several of the districts were advocating the use of communal land, to ensure that those households without land would also have the opportunity to grow their own food and become more self-sufficient. On 15-16 February 2006, all volunteers were trained in distribution management.

Malawi

The food security team (including two delegates) distributed the starter packs through 15 distribution points in five districts, targeting 16,747 households. The distributions commenced on 9 January 2006 and were completed on 1 February 2006, with beneficiaries at several of the sites receiving the commodities at different times, as and when stocks were available. A full analysis of the distributions will be outlined when all the field level reports are fully analysed by the Malawi Red Cross Society/Federation.

- Malawi agricultural starter packs, per household: 4 kg pulses (beans and peas), 10 g vegetable seeds, 100 pieces cassava cuttings, 10 kg basil fertilizer and 10 kg top fertilizer.

Table 7: Agricultural starter pack distributions in Malawi

District	Chiradzulu	Mwanza	Zomba	Balaka	Blantyre	Total
No. of households	4,808	1,831	3,153	4,787	2,168	16,747

Mozambique

Following the Mozambique Red Cross Society's food security task force meeting, great progress has been made with the plan of action being rolled-out. As noted in the previous report, one Supervisor and 25 volunteers were recruited to work from each of the three districts for a period of three months. Three warehouses were also rented, along with three store-keepers and guards.

As of 17 February 2006, the seed supplier for the agricultural starter packs was waiting for the official export documentation from the South African authorities prior to deliveries, with the fertilizer supplier responsible for delivering the items directly to the three districts. It was hoped that distributions would take place over the last week of February, coinciding with the completion of the beneficiary selection process.

Beneficiaries in Gaza Province (Chokwe and Manjacaze Districts) and Inhambane Province will be targeted as a result of the findings from the Mozambican Vulnerability Group's assessment. The 25 Red Cross volunteers in Inhambane were trained during the week starting 13 February and the 50 volunteers in Gaza, during the week starting 20 February 2006. The volunteers are carrying out surveys to verify the beneficiary lists, working with *Comites de Alimentos* or Food Community Committees. The Mozambique Red Cross Society is working in partnership with WFP to distribute food to just under 25,000 beneficiaries, with those beneficiaries receiving the agricultural Seed Packs being identified and verified at the same time. As all the districts are drought ridden, the targeted households will be those living in lowland areas, close to river beds or with the possibility of irrigating their crops, with 1,500 households being targeted for the agricultural support.

Namibia

The regional delegation's logistics officer continued to provide support to the national society over the reporting period, being deployed since 5 February and expected to return to Harare on 25 February 2006. His role is focused on providing technical logistical support, such as warehousing, transport, receiving/verifying items and invoicing, as well as the actual relief distributions. He has been working with the six national staff- allocated specifically to the food security operation- and 200 volunteers in the three regions, who were supervised by their respective regional managers.

The national society produced a beneficiary distribution plan, targeting 2,000 households in the following three regions:

- **Kavango Region:** Plunge, Ndiyona and Mashare distribution points – 450 households
- **Caprivi Region:** Katima Rural, Katima Urban, Sibinda, Linyati, Kabe, Kongola – 850 households
- **Tsumkwe Region:** (no distribution points outlined yet) – 700 households.

All the seed commodities, amounting to 48.5 MT were incoming/custom cleared on 9 February 2006, with distributions taking place from 11 - 22 February 2006. The fertilizers and vegetable seeds were transported by a 40 MT truck, and then transhipped to a 20 MT truck at Grootfontain to Tsumkwe. Fortunately items were protected from the heavy rains by tarpaulins. Warehousing costs were kept to a minimum, with items stored at the Kavango Region Red Cross office, with a government warehouse used in Caprivi. Volunteers were effective in loading/off-loading items and notifying the beneficiaries of the forthcoming distributions.

- Malawi agricultural starter packs, per household: 4 kg maize, 50 g vegetable seeds (pumpkin, cabbage and tomato), 10 kg basil fertilizer and 10 kg top fertilizer.

A full relief report will follow, once analysed by the Namibia Red Cross/Federation.

Swaziland

Over the reporting period the food security delegate worked with the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society's staff reassigned to the food security operation, one food security relief officer at the national headquarters and one food security coordinator in each of the five divisions working on this programme.

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- The starter packs, per household, in Swaziland contain 4 kg maize, 50 g vegetable seeds (20 g green beans, 10 g cabbage, 10g tomato and 10g carrot), 10 kg basil fertilizer and 10 kg top fertilizer.

As outlined in Operations Update no. 5, a total of 1,938 households received the maize seed and two of the five regions also received the top dressing fertilizer component of the agricultural starter packs. Indeed, as the top dressing fertilizer is not used on the seeds until six weeks after they are planted, three of the divisions decided to retain the fertilizer at the local Red Cross warehouses over January/February (N Hhohho, S Hhohho and Shiselweni).

Table 8: Swaziland Agricultural Starter pack distributions

Regions	Manzini	Lubombo	N Hhohho	S Hhohho	Shiselweni	Total
Households	243	530	275	295	595	1938 HH
Maize kg	972	2120	550	1180	2380	7752 kg
Fertilizer (top dressing) kg	2430	5300	0*	0*	0*	7730 kg

* The top dressing fertilizer was distributed, and will be reported on when records from the 3 regions have been analysed.

Fortunately, after a delay at the border, the basal fertilizer was delivered to Manzini Division on 14 February and then directly transported by Red Cross trucks and pick-ups to the five divisions, which avoided unnecessary warehousing costs. Distributions to beneficiaries immediately started in Nhlanguano/Shiselweni Division and were ongoing at the time of writing this report. The distributions will be complete when the vegetable seeds are incoming, however there is no pressure to distribute them, as they grow well in the colder months of the year.

Zambia

During the reporting period discussions took place between the Zambia Red Cross Society/Federation disaster management team and the respective branches regarding the optimum time to distribute the vegetable seeds. It was agreed that the seeds will be distributed to the 3,000 households in Sinazongwe and Sesheke districts at the end of April/beginning of May 2006. This is for the following reasons:

- Rain fed crops will be harvested by the end of April, which will result in a shift of focus towards other crops.
- The colder season starts during that period, which is the idea time for growing vegetables (no leaching/less chance of crop infestation) in the Sinazongwe and Secheke districts of Zambia.

The Zambia Red Cross Society vegetable packs, per household will consist of: 10 g tomato, 10 g cabbage, 10 g onion and 10 g rape. The vegetable packs will be procured at the beginning of April in-country by the Zambia Red Cross Society, with the four vegetable types all being available and competitively priced from local suppliers. Additionally, no import permits will be required, thereby reducing administrative arrangements.

Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's livelihood programme combines Federation and DFID funds for seeds, with the Federation providing agricultural starter packs for over 7,000 households and DFID for just under 22,000 households.

Difficulties securing import permits were encountered over the operating period with the Federation's two types of fertilizer for the maize, with the Ministry of Agriculture analysing samples. The supplier stressed to the national society/Federation that the fertilizer would be incoming by 24 February 2006, to be distributed during the first week of March, along with the vegetable seeds which were all incoming on 10 February 2006.

- Zimbabwe's agricultural starter packs, per household: 10 kg maize, 50 g vegetable seeds (20 g okra seeds, 20 g tomato, 10 g carrot, 10 kg basil fertilizer and 10 kg top fertilizer.

Regardless of difficulties with the fertilizers, the Federation's food security delegate worked with her national society counterparts to distribute the maize to districts in Manicaland and Mashonaland provinces, with distributions being implemented as planned for 7,565 households in January. A full relief chart will be provided once the fertilizer and vegetable seeds have also been distributed.

Table 9: Maize seeds distribution plan

Province/district	No of distribution points	HH*	Planned Maize	Dates
Buhera (Manicaland Province)	7	3,625	36,250	26.1.06 to 1.2.06
Chipinde (Manicaland Province)	5	2,343	23,430	26.1.06 to 31.1.06
Zvimba (Mash West Province)	11	1,597	15,970	16.1.06 to 31.1.06
Total	23	7,565	75,650	16.1.06 to 1.2.06

* households

Water and Sanitation

Objective: Ensure access to safe and adequate drinking water, borehole rehabilitation, sanitation, small-scale irrigation, latrine construction, and hygiene education by vulnerable individuals.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Over the first three months of this operation, the majority of water and sanitation (WatSan) plans were on hold as a result of the low level of funding. However, since the beginning of 2006 progress has been made, as several financial pledges were being discussed and confirmed. It was thought that WatSan focus be placed as an initial priority for Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, but potential activities in all countries would be discussed at the Johannesburg Coordination meeting at the beginning of March 2006. To date, Mozambique and Zimbabwe have the most concrete plans, as follows.

Mozambique

The Mozambique Red Cross Society is at the advanced planning stage of its intervention in Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane Provinces. The regional delegate has advised the national society to improve on ground level water tanks, rather than underground water tanks, with the following agreed to date:

- Training of 30 water point maintenance committees/volunteers;
- Construction of 12 ground level water tanks;
- Construction of 7 boreholes aprons;
- Construction of 500 family latrines;
- Rehabilitation of 21 water boreholes.

Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society plans to target over 8,000 beneficiaries in Chikomba district – Mashonaland East. It also plans to reach over 1,800 household with hygiene education, with the targeted district having a cholera outbreak this year. During the reporting period, discussions were underway between the national society and the regional delegation's WatSan department to ensure that plans could be realistically implemented within the appeal time-frame/budget, with the delegation suggesting that a Zimbabwe Red Cross Society field based WatSan Technician be employed for the duration of the project. Discussions also focussed on the number of water wells and latrines to be constructed and the type of well, with family wells not being promoted.

Reinforcing capacities in assessing livelihoods, and food security monitoring and reporting

Objective: To ensure that national society staff is well versed in livelihood and food security interventions.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

At the regional delegation level in Harare, the following delegate/national staff positions were filled to support this intervention:

- Food security operations coordinator; food security roaming logistics; food security reporting; food security finance officer. Disaster management as well as finance and administration were also working with the food security team to ensure the operation was implemented smoothly.
- It was agreed that the logistics delegate currently based in Malawi would hand-over the operation to the relief delegate and return to Harare to focus on regional logistical matters. The roaming logistics delegate would then visit Malawi as and when required.

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At country level, the following had been achieved by the seven national societies with support of the Federation's regional delegation to support this intervention:

Lesotho

- A food security delegate arrived in Harare on 19 February for briefings and planned to travel to Lesotho on 22 February.
- The food security roaming logistics delegate and the DM officer were assigned to Lesotho for several weeks, with the logistics delegate planning to return to Harare on 23/2.
- 1 Lesotho Red Cross Society's food security relief officer was recruited for the operation, commencing work on 15/2.
- 80 national society volunteers mobilized from the eight districts to be involved with the beneficiary identification process and actual distributions of the agricultural starter packs. All volunteers attended a distribution management workshop on 15-16 February 2006.
- On 14 February, the task force meeting was held regarding beneficiary selection, verification.
- On 17 February, the Lesotho Red Cross Society held a meeting for all national headquarters programme managers and district project officers regarding distribution plans and monitoring forms.

Malawi

- A food security logistics delegate and a food security relief delegate have been in-country since November 2005 and January 2006, respectively.
- 1 coordinator; 1 logistician, 1 monitoring and evaluation officer, 2 food monitors were allocated/recruited in each of the 5 districts, bringing the total to 25. Four warehouse staff were also put in place for the food security operation.
- A review workshop was held in Blantyre on 16 February for food security staff from Lilongwe, with the 2 country delegates, the food security operations coordinator as well as all relevant Malawi Red Cross Society's food security staff present. Distribution up-dates were given, constraints highlighted and solutions sought. Distribution duplication in one area was noted, with a follow-up meeting held with the NGO in question, to ensure coordination/cooperation over beneficiary lists.
- The food security operation coordinator visited the NS on 16-17 February, meeting with delegates and national society staff.

Mozambique

- A food security delegate arrived in Harare on 19 February for briefings.
- A total of 75 Mozambique Red Cross Society volunteers were employed from mid-February for two-months to work as district supervisors for the food security programme.
- All the 75 volunteers were going to attend a three-day training session at the end of February on food security.

Swaziland

- The food security delegate has been based in-country since January 2006.
- A Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society HQ coordinator was assigned from a division and five divisional coordinators were allocated to the food security operation.
- The regional DM coordinator and food security operations coordinator visited the national society in February, attending a food security task force meeting, discussing in particular livelihood projects such as backyard gardens, vegetable nurseries, appropriateness of fencing, etc.
- The Malawi Red Cross Society DM coordinator conducted a rapid food assessment from 17-20 February in 6 Inkhundlas in four districts (report available upon request).

Namibia

- No food security delegate was identified for Namibia, but the Regional food security roaming logistics delegate and regional logistics officer visited the Namibia Red Cross in February.
- The logistics officer was planning on running some vehicle and warehousing capacity-building exercises towards the end of February, prior to his departure from Namibia, expected on 25 February.
- The national society had reallocated six staff to work on the food security programme specifically.
- A total of 200 Red Cross volunteers had also been mobilized.

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Zambia

- A relief coordination delegate has been in place since January 2006.
- 1 Zambia Red Cross Society food security coordinator started work on 20 February.
- 3 district coordinators, 3 logistics assistants and two drivers will start on 1 March 2006.
- A food security induction and refresher workshop was being prepared for the new/exiting staff.
- A national society disaster management coordinator and newly appointed NS food security relief coordinator were planning a field trip to operational areas from 19-26 February for capacity building and coordination efforts.

Zimbabwe

- The food security delegate assigned for Zimbabwe arrived in December 2005.
- All Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's programme managers and provincial food security officers attended a two-day food security workshop on 13-14 February, with the Federation's regional delegation monitoring and evaluation officer, disaster management officer and food security delegate giving presentations/training.
- The regional finance development delegate and the regional WatSan delegate attended separate capacity-building meetings with the operating national societies over the reporting period.

Impact

'To meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable individuals in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe until the next harvest in 2006' is the first objective of this operation. Whilst all of the national societies have/are developing partnership agreements with WFP, DFID and PNS which include a component of food, due to limited financial resources, this Appeal is currently focusing on food interventions in Malawi and Zambia.

Measuring the impact of the food component of the Malawi Red Cross Society's operation was one of the priorities for the regional monitoring and evaluating (M&E) officer, who visited the NS in February and worked closely with his newly appointed M&E counterparts at the national society, with each of the five districts having an officer. Monitoring is conducted at the distribution points and follow-up household M&E tools have been introduced and are analysed on a monthly basis. M&E tools from the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's food and HIV and AIDS programme were also examined to ascertain whether they would be suitable for sharing with the other national societies. The analysis of the monitoring work should provide data on impact. Furthermore, a final evaluation will focus on impact.

The impact of the livelihood objective *'To re-enforce or rebuild self-reliance and to restore their positive coping mechanisms through food-for-work/food-for-assets (income generating opportunities), cash transfers, targeted agricultural support, and the provision of vegetable garden drip kit'* again can only be measured on implemented projects. Within agricultural support, a full agricultural starter pack was being distributed by six national societies, with the Zambia Red Cross Society's pack consisting of vegetable seeds. The regional delegation's food security programme officer designed a post-planting survey with the aim of assessing the impact of this intervention. National society staff and volunteers implementing their standard monitoring exercises, will fill-in the questionnaires from mid-February through to the end of March. Data collected includes: number and type of crops planted; area planted by crop type; fertilizer applied; crop production and size of the household. Results from this questionnaire should include the impact of this component and will be shared with all counterpart organisations. Several national societies are also using their own monitoring systems, with, for example, five of the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society volunteers per division conducting random follow-up household monitoring in March.

The objective of the Water and Sanitation component of the programme *'Ensure access to safe and adequate drinking water, borehole rehabilitation, sanitation, small-scale irrigation, latrine construction, and hygiene education by vulnerable individuals'* will be evaluated for impact using beneficiary baseline surveys before and after each intervention. The Final Evaluation will also measure impact.

The impact of the final objective, *'Reinforcing capacities in assessing livelihoods, and food security monitoring and reporting'* will in part be measured by the real time evaluation exercise to follow in March, with a terms of reference (ToR) being developed over the reporting period. Additionally, a final evaluation of the entire operation will fully explore all impact issues.

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Constraints

- Insufficient funding for the appeal has resulted in a proportion of the planned appeal intervention being put on hold, with the delegation/national societies in the region hoping additional resources will be incoming in February/March. New initiatives were being explored though, with the Johannesburg food security coordination meeting to be held at the beginning of March mapping out outstanding needs and the way forward, with the assumption that further funds will become available.
- The procurement of agricultural starter pack items commenced late in the season, consequently seeds/fertilizers were slow to arrive. The whole situation was exacerbated during the long Christmas/New Year break with many of the suppliers and components of the Red Cross closed during the period. Additional importation/inspection problems occurred, especially in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland. The post-planting survey should demonstrate what impact the agricultural seed packs have had on beneficiary households though.
- The Namibia Red Cross staff noted that some households preferred a different type of vegetable seed to that provided to them. Again, this issue will be highlighted by the post-planting survey and the Red Cross will be able to ascertain how widespread this problem has been.
- Delegates/national staff recruitment was initially slow, but by mid-February all delegate and most national staff posts were filled, which enhanced the smooth planning and implementation of this programme.
- Extreme weather conditions hampered some of the relief efforts, with for example, the Namibia Red Cross having to access three districts via Zambia and Botswana due to flooding. In the same country, the long distances between regions also caused constraints.
- Effective monitoring resulted in the Malawi Red Cross Society discovering that beneficiaries in one district were also receiving food from another NGO, with the society quickly organizing a meeting to share beneficiary lists which resulted in the problem being resolved.
- A shortage of vehicles, computers and telephones were also experienced. Additional vehicles (as outlined in the Appeal) were in the procurement process with computers/telephones expected from the Secretariat in mid-February.

Federation Coordination

Planning was underway for a second food security workshop to be held in Johannesburg on 3 March 2006, bringing together food security delegates/NS relief, programme and water/sanitation coordinators, RD food security delegates/officers and the senior food security advisor from the Secretariat. In addition to general programme coordination, operational updates and strategic planning, the meeting will focus on the proposed post planting agricultural survey, monitoring and reporting, the real-time evaluation, water/sanitation and budgets.

The Federation Food Security Task Force also met over the reporting period on 21 February 2006 to ensure coordination was maintained. Topics discussed included a pledge update, an operational country up-date, delegate movements, forthcoming field-trips and meetings, various evaluations (Swaziland Rapid Food Security Assessment, food security real-time evaluation and post-planting agricultural survey), the Johannesburg task force meeting planned for 3 March 2006. Minutes of the meeting are available for all those involved in the operation. Additionally, the disaster management department organized a strategic planning session on 16 February 2006 to discuss the development of the regional food security strategy paper with key members of the delegation.

At country level, each NS also holds Task Force Coordination meetings on a weekly or fortnightly basis with key NS staff, the PNS in country and the Federation. The minutes are being shared by all those involved in the operation.

On an external basis, the relevant regional delegate representative attends the Regional Interagency Coordination Standing Office and head of agency meeting, UNICEF/Ministry of Health WatSan Working Group meetings and various other coordination meetings. At the country level, WFP Food Security Coordination meetings, National Disaster Management Unit Meetings as well as HIV and AIDS meetings, among others, are attended by national society key staff and delegates on a regular basis.

Indeed, the Mozambique Red Cross Society attends the weekly WFP meetings as well as the weekly external disaster management meetings. The Zambia Red Cross Society's newly appointed food security relief coordinator and disaster management coordinator conducted a field visit to ensure that all district commissions and NGOs in the operational areas were aware of the national society's plans and that activities were coordinated.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Namibia

The Namibia Red Cross organized a media tour in the northern part of the country focusing on the agricultural seed package distributions targeting the San communities, which as a marginalized group. Four journalists from [The Namibian Newspaper](#), [New Era](#), [Die Republikein](#) and [Big Issue](#) media organizations accompanied the Red Cross to a seed distribution point. *The Republikein* and *The Namibian Newspaper* covered the story in more detail, using the Red Cross' name in their headlines with hard news stories and features published. The *New Era's* article focused on the national societies' agricultural work, quoting senior Namibia Red Cross officials with all newspapers providing pictures taken at the seed distributions. Following the trip, the Namibia Red Cross submitted two stories (with different angles) focusing on the seed distribution, with the regional delegation working on the stories, prior to being posted externally.

Swaziland story

A story on the launch of the seed distribution in Swaziland was posted on [Reuter's Alert Net](#) and circulated to the international media through the Foreign Correspondents Association based in South Africa.

Food security photographs for the region

A planned visit by a British Red Cross photographer was postponed at the time of writing this report, but liaison between the regional delegation and the national society was ongoing. The delegate was also liaison with Geneva's Media Services which might fund photographic work in the region, with a photographer being identified for Lesotho.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

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ANNEX 1

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PLEDGES RECEIVED

21/03/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					TOTAL COVERAGE	
					39,360,753	25.1%
AMERICAN - RC		1,000,000	USD	1,321,000	06.02.06	LESOTHO, MALAWI, ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA
AUSTRALIAN - RC		39,173	AUD	38,194	27.02.06	MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE
BRITISH - RC		100,000	GBP	225,900	01.12.05	MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/HAPS		990,000	CAD	1,077,318	07.11.05	
DANISH - RC				67,394	14.02.06	
FINNISH - RC		100,000	EUR	155,700	25.10.05	MALAWI
FINNISH - GOVT		14,625	EUR	22,771	25.10.05	MALAWI
IRISH - RC		66,668	EUR	103,169	20.12.05	MOZAMBIQUE WATSAN
IRISH - RC		100,000	EUR	155,650	23.01.06	MALAWI
JAPANESE - RC		30,000,000	JPY	332,400	02.11.05	
MONACO - RC		20,000	EUR	31,140	25.10.05	
NETHERLANDS - RC		106,952	EUR	165,294	23.11.05	FOOD-FOR-WORK 30'000 PEOPLE IN MALAWI
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		10,326,000	NOK	2,007,374	15.11.05	INCL. 2 RELIEF DELEGATES
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				567	22.12.05	
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				1,477	26.01.06	
SWEDISH - RC		5,000,000	SEK	810,000	11.11.05	
SWEDISH - RC		3,000,000	SEK	486,000	18.11.05	
SWEDISH - GOVT		14,250,000	SEK	2,315,625	16.12.05	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR				1,000	07.11.05	
USA - PRIVATE DONOR				63	13.01.06	MALAWI
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				9,318,036	CHF	23.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINNISH - GOVT		270,000	EUR	420,390	25.10.05	MALAWI: 540 MT MAIZE, 150 MT CSB, 90 MT BEANS, 50'000 L. VEGETABLE OIL
ICELAND	DELEGATES			38,600		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			37,600		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATES			36,400		
AMCROSS	DELEGATES			30,400		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				563,390	CHF	1.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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Southern Africa - food insecurity

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA023

PLEDGES RECEIVED

21/03/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	