

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Malawi: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRMW002  
GLIDE n° FL-2007-000018-MW  
16 June, 2008

The International Federation's 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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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 88,704 (USD 70,963 or EUR 54,755) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 30 January 2007 to support Malawi Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to the flood-affected population, and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed in the context of this operation.

The Malawi Red Cross Society provided emergency shelter, through its pre-positioned tents, which were set up thanks to trained action teams. In addition, tarpaulins and plastic sheeting were distributed to flood-affected people who had lost their houses, for purposes of roofing material. DREF funds were also used to replenish relief stocks, and to cover some operational costs.

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Distribution of roofing materials to families affected by the floods in Salima District  
Photo: Malawi Red Cross

## The situation

In early January 2007, heavy rains in southern Malawi caused flooding in the lower Shire region, severely affecting the districts of Chikwaka, Nsanje and Mangochi, as well as nine additional districts to a lesser extent. The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) participated in a government-led inter-agency assessment to ascertain the extent of the damage and determine the most immediate needs. The main findings from this assessment are summarized in table no. 1 below:

**Table 1: Statistics on the effects of the floods**

District	Households affected	Houses collapsed	Farmland affected (hectares)	Livestock lost (number of animals)
Chikwawa	20,016	917	7,666	78
Nsanje	1,351	475	1,804	105
Mangochi	2,143	503	82	654
Other nine districts	1,890	438	No crop damage	No livestock lost
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,400</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>9,552</b>	<b>837</b>

In total, some 25,400 households were affected, with many houses damaged – of which 2,333 had collapsed. In addition, over 9,000 hectares of farmland were flooded and approximately 800 essential livestock lost.

Many of the affected families had to seek shelter in churches, schools or with relatives. Most latrines in the flood-affected areas collapsed, leading to health concerns regarding the potential outbreak of waterborne diseases and cholera (Malawi had previously experienced an outbreak of cholera in mid-2006, and nine cases were reported at the time of the flooding). A possible rise in the prevalence of malaria was also of concern, given that Mangochi district is generally prone to malaria and was considered to be at additional risk due to the stagnant post-flood waters.

The primary needs of the flood-affected population were determined to be in the areas of shelter, basic food and non-food relief, health care, and water and sanitation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As per the newly-formulated United Nations (UN)/MRCS contingency plan for 2006/2007, the National Society focused its intervention on the provision of shelter. MRCS had already pre-positioned large tents in flood-prone districts across the country, and sensitized its action teams on their role with regards to shelter provision.

In the immediate aftermath of the floods, the MRCS action teams conducted rapid assessments jointly with the UN and the government. Assessment reports were then verified by a team from National Society headquarters, and distribution of tarpaulins for use as roofing material carried out accordingly. Red Cross volunteers assisted in pitching tents in all areas where houses had been destroyed. Once the rainy season had ended and affected households began rebuilding, the tents were re-assembled for storage and future use.

MRCS also participated in relief distribution of food and non-food items, in association with Movement partners and UN agencies. The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent provided in-kind support to MRCS, which enabled distribution of food parcels to flood-affected households in Mangochi, as well the donation of medical supplies and blankets to the district hospital. Tents were also provided and have been stocked for use in future emergencies. In addition, a memorandum of understanding was signed between MRCS and UNICEF for the provision of survival kits, which were distributed in the districts of Salima and Karonga.

The funds allocated from the DREF were specifically used for the procurement of 2,500 tarpaulins, three large tents (13.7 x 6m), 400 metres of plastic sheeting, as well as to cover some of the operational costs. Remaining funds were used to replenish relief stocks, distributed as part of the national society's immediate response to the emergency.

## Progress towards objectives

**Main Objective: To provide adequate shelter to people displaced by the floods.**

MRCS volunteers pitched tents from the pre-positioned stock in all areas where houses had been destroyed and people had had to seek refuge in churches and schools. Following assessment and verification of the damage to houses, tarpaulins and plastic sheeting were distributed to households in greatest need, for use as roofing material.

The table below provides an overview of shelter assistance provided to the flood-affected households

**Table 2: Shelter material distributed**

District	Number of tents pitched	Size of tents	Roofing Material Number of tarpaulins provided / Other
Nsanje	4	50mX70 m	1,794
Chikwawa	4	50mX70 m	1,206
Mangochi	3	50mX70 m	298
Ntheu	2	Family size	-
Salima	3	Family size	350
Karonga	0	-	- /10 rolls of plastic sheeting

The capacity of the MRCS was also enhanced through training provided to the action teams on the ground. A total of seven action teams (of 30 members each, for a total of 210 volunteers) were trained in the various flood-prone districts. The training concentrated on how to conduct a shelter assessment in times of flooding. A total of 210 volunteers were trained.

**Impact:**

- Through the pre-positioned supplies, MRCS was able to respond effectively to immediate shelter needs – providing the affected population with protection from the elements (including wild animals), as well as with reconstruction material for purposes of reinforcing roofing.
- The ability to mobilize and deploy action teams in the affected areas enabled MRCS to respond in a timely manner, working directly with the most affected communities in the immediate aftermath of the flooding.

**Constraints:**

- Lack of action teams in some of the affected areas.
- Difficult access for assessment and relief distribution to some of the affected areas.

**Conclusion**

**Lessons learned:**

- Contingency planning was a key factor in the successful implementation of this emergency operation. Furthermore, the cluster approach provided direction and focus to the implementing agencies, enabling a coherent, coordinated and complementary response - avoiding duplication, and maximising both financial and logistical resources (e.g. transportation).
- Joint assessment and reporting ensured that there was one reliable source of information concerning the disaster.
- There is need for an in-country equivalent to the DREF, to allow for immediate National Society response.
- Action teams need to be trained throughout the country, and not only in disaster-prone areas – given that flooding occurred in districts which had not been previously regarded as such.

## How we work

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

## Contact information

### *For further information please contact:*

- **In Malawi: Malawi Red Cross Society:** Lawson Kasamale, Secretary General, Email [mracs@eomw.net](mailto:mracs@eomw.net); Phone: Tel 265.1.775.290; Fax: 265.1.775.590
- **In Southern Africa Zone:** Françoise Le Goff, Head of Zone Office, Johannesburg; Email [francoise.legoff@ifrc.org](mailto:francoise.legoff@ifrc.org); Phone: Mobile: +27.83.556.6565 Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9711; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In Southern Africa Zone: Disaster Management Department:** Farid Aiywar; Johannesburg; Email [farid.aiywar@ifrc.org](mailto:farid.aiywar@ifrc.org); Phone: Mobile: +27.83.440.0564 Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In Geneva:** John Roche, Operations Coordinator, Email: [john.roche@ifrc.org](mailto:john.roche@ifrc.org); Phone: +41.22.730.4400, Fax: +41.22.733.03.95

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# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMW002 - Malawi - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2008/4
Appeal	MDRMW002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>		88,704				88,704
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		78,497				78,497
<b>C5. Other Income</b>		78,497				78,497
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>		78,497				78,497
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		78,497				78,497
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>		88%				88%

## II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		78,497				78,497
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-78,497				-78,497
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

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**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>88,704</b>					<b>88,704</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	51,400		42,336				42,336	9,064
Clothing & textiles			1,697				1,697	-1,697
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>51,400</b>		<b>44,033</b>				<b>44,033</b>	<b>7,367</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage			3,145				3,145	-3,145
Distribution & Monitoring	11,304		3,710				3,710	7,594
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,000		6,217				6,217	-1,217
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>16,304</b>		<b>13,072</b>				<b>13,072</b>	<b>3,232</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Staff	9,284							9,284
National Society Staff			7,228				7,228	-7,228
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>9,284</b>		<b>7,228</b>				<b>7,228</b>	<b>2,056</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Information & Public Relation	2,000		576				576	1,424
Office Costs			16				16	-16
Financial Charges			180				180	-180
Other General Expenses	3,950		8,291				8,291	-4,341
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>5,950</b>		<b>9,062</b>				<b>9,062</b>	<b>-3,112</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	5,766		5,102				5,102	663
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>5,766</b>		<b>5,102</b>				<b>5,102</b>	<b>663</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>88,704</b>		<b>78,497</b>				<b>78,497</b>	<b>10,206</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>10,206</b>				<b>10,206</b>	