

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

SWAZILAND: HEAVY HAIL STORM

DREF operation n° MDRSZ002
24 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 51,535 (USD 41,228 or EUR 31,811) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) in early February 2007 to support Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society (BSRCS) in delivering assistance to some 500 households (or 2,500 beneficiaries) and replenishing relief stocks, following a series of heavy hail and rain storms.

Early and heavy seasonal rains, accompanied by hailstorms affected three of the main regions in Swaziland during the first months of 2007. BSRCS undertook relief distributions of non-food items to the most affected households, as identified following detailed house-to-house damage and needs assessments. A total of 883 households (3,344 beneficiaries) were provided with a combination of tents, tarpaulins, blankets and clothing according to their specific needs. The BSRCS youth volunteers also assisted in the reconstruction of four severely damaged houses.

The National Society was able to respond quickly and more broadly than anticipated, thanks to existing relief stock, supplemented by resource mobilization within the country. DREF funds were used to assist with transport and operational needs, procure additional relief items and replenish stock.

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

The situation

During the first two months of 2007, Swaziland experienced a series of heavy rainstorms, accompanied by strong winds and hail storms, affecting the regions of Nhlanguano and Lubombo. The region of Northern Hhohho was subsequently affected in April 2007.

The storms caused extensive damage to housing and infrastructure, leading to frequent telephone and electricity black-outs. In addition, many hectares of crops were destroyed, raising concerns over possible food insecurity in the months ahead. It was estimated that some 500 households had been affected.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Following the first storms, BSRCS deployed its emergency response team to the affected areas to assess the damage. Staff and volunteers from regional branches with experience in disaster response conducted damage and needs assessments and provided emergency relief assistance.

The National Society staff from the headquarters in Mbabane provided additional technical support to the branches in the affected areas, and closely monitored the situation. BSRCS worked in collaboration with the government and attended regular coordination meetings with other partners.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent provided funding support from DREF. The funds were used to procure and replenish relief stock, and assist with the much needed transport and volunteer support. This enabled the BSRCS to reach as many of the largely dispersed areas as quickly as possible. A total of 883 households were assisted with targeted relief distributions of non-food items or with assistance provided by volunteers in the reconstruction of houses, according to specific needs as identified by the assessments.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: A total of 120 storm-affected households in Swaziland are provided with appropriate non-food items. Distributions are carried out in the immediate and mid-term according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups, and are based on careful registration and a system/process that controls, monitors, and records the movement of such goods.

Activities planned:

- Conduct joint rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments in Swaziland.
- Distribute tarpaulins and plastic sheeting, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and jerry cans.
- Provide technical and financial support in logistics, warehousing, and distribution and control of supply movements.
- Monitor and evaluate relief activities and report on relief distributions.

Progress:

As early as January 2007, BSRCS conducted a detailed damage and needs assessment on a house-to-house basis, in the two regions affected by the first heavy storms of the season. A second smaller-scale assessment was undertaken following the storm in April 2007. On the basis of these assessments, the Red Cross undertook distributions of non-food relief items (consisting primarily of tents, tarpaulins and blankets) in the three affected regions, with relief operations completed by mid-April 2007.

In addition, Red Cross youth volunteers assisted with the reconstruction of four damaged houses in two villages. Clothing was also distributed to 516 beneficiaries, from in-country donations and based on need. In total BSRCS assisted 883 households (3,344 beneficiaries), as per the distribution table below:

Table 1: Number of beneficiaries and non-food items distributed

District and Number of villages	Number of Households	Number of Beneficiaries	Number of tents	Number of tarpaulins	Number of blankets
Nhlangano / 19 villages	728	2,494	92	229	344
Lubombo / 12 villages	127	679	10	81	109
Northern Hhohho / 2 villages	28	171	4 houses reconstructed	-	-
Total	883	3,344	102	310	453

Impact:

With the immediate release of DREF, BSRCS managed to promptly respond to the needs of the families affected by the storm, providing essential non-food items to protect them from the cold, and reduce their vulnerability to illness. BSRCS response operation met the needs of the affected population as it was based on detailed assessments of needs.

Challenges:

- BSRCS had limited transport means, thus did not have a 4x4 vehicles to enable prompt action by emergency response team (ERT) members, given that most roads were inaccessible by car.
- The response was too demanding for the few trained national disaster response team members. Limited technical expertise delayed the implementation because some of the members were learning in the process. As a recommendation, the National Society needs to train additional ERT members in areas of disaster preparedness and response, due to high turn-over of existing trained volunteers.
- The number of active volunteers was also limited and the National Society is to recruit and train volunteers on basic first aid, relief distribution and social mobilization in different parts of the country, with special emphasis on youth.

Conclusion

Overall, the operation was successful, with BSRCS able to reach a greater number of households than originally planned. The existence of pre-positioned stocks also helped in speedy delivery of the relief items. These were complemented by in-country resource mobilization efforts, which saw a considerable amount of in-kind donations coming to the National Society. Relief stocks are being replenished from the DREF allocation, to enable rapid response in future disasters.

Lesson learned

- Need to train a greater number of ERT members in disaster preparedness and response.
- Availability of relief materials in-country ensures prompt response during emergencies.
- Worst hit areas are usually poor rural communities. Need to acquire building skills to assist with reconstruction, particularly for the most vulnerable.

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 specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSZ002 - Swaziland - Heavy Rains

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/2-2008/3
Budget Timeframe	2007/2-2008/3
Appeal	MDRSZ002
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
A. Budget		51,535				51,535
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		48,117				48,117
C5. Other Income		48,117				48,117
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		48,117				48,117
D. Total Funding = B + C		48,117				48,117
Appeal Coverage		93%				93%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		48,117				48,117
E. Expenditure		-48,117				-48,117
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		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
BUDGET (C)		51,535					51,535	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	28,050		31,690				31,690	-3,640
Clothing & textiles	5,000		4,538				4,538	463
Total Supplies	33,050		36,227				36,227	-3,177
Transport & Storage								
Storage			3,848				3,848	-3,848
Distribution & Monitoring	7,000		744				744	6,256
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,010		4,091				4,091	-1,081
Total Transport & Storage	10,010		8,684				8,684	1,326
Personnel								
National Staff	2,830							2,830
National Society Staff			1,655				1,655	-1,655
Total Personnel	2,830		1,655				1,655	1,175
General Expenditure								
Communications			142				142	-142
Financial Charges			-1,718				-1,718	1,718
Other General Expenses	2,295							2,295
Total General Expenditure	2,295		-1,576				-1,576	3,871
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,350		3,128				3,128	222
Total Programme Support	3,350		3,128				3,128	222
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	51,535		48,117				48,117	3,417
VARIANCE (C - D)			3,417				3,417	