

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Malawi: Population Movement

DREF operation n° MDRMW0003
23 March, 2009

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 86,007 was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), in order to support Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to Malawi nationals voluntarily returning home following internal displaced in South Africa as a result of country-wide urban disturbances that were xenophobic in nature.

In May, approximately 15,000 returnees arrived in Malawi from South Africa, which prompted MRCS to start a relief operation at the boarder which began on 24 May 2008 and lasted for a few weeks. MRCS catered for the health and welfare of the returnees, whilst the government provided transportation to their villages and districts of origin.



A relief distribution session at the transit shelter in Blantyre

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The situation

In May 2008, the Gauteng and Western Cape Provinces in South Africa were affected by xenophobic urban disturbances. Following these disturbances where hundred thousand of foreigners were displaced, a few killed and many injured, the Government of Malawi among other neighbouring countries with affected emigrant; assisted with the evacuation and repatriation of its citizens. Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) as auxiliary to government authorities was mandated to look after the health and welfare of returnees at a transitional shelter established in Blantyre, while the Government catered for transportation and provision of food at the transitional shelter. The breakdown of the returnees at the transitional shelter is as indicated in the table on the left however, it was difficult to account for the actual beneficiary figures as the target population was highly mobile, with some coming into the transitional shelter centre whilst others were leaving for their original home villages, at times without registering.

Region of Origin	Number of Returnees per Region
Northern	100
Central	299
Southern	1262
Total	1,661

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

MRCS requested the International Federation Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through its Southern African Zone office for emergency funding support in order to provide relief assistance to the returnees. Funds received from DREF were used to procure blankets, mattresses, improve on lighting, pay for volunteer incentives, and also procure special food for children under five years old. At country level, MRCS mobilised its volunteers to assist with relief distributions, registration, hygiene promotion and referrals to health facilities.

MRCS worked collaboratively with various government ministries including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), the police, the disaster management department, the immigration department. The coordination with the local authorities was effective resulting in an effective and holistic assistance to the returnees.

MRCS was basically responsible for providing food, First Aid, and bedding at the transitional shelter. Consequently, various non-governmental organizations (NGO) donated food and non-food items through MRCS, that was distributed accordingly. The National Society also ensured that the transition centre had basic hygiene and sanitation facilities in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. As a result general good welfare was maintained at the shelter centre.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To improve living conditions at the transitional shelter, by providing essential items and basic commodities.

Activities carried out: The returnees had depleted livelihoods, with some having lost almost all their household effects. Shortages of food was one of the major concerns and MRCS was able to provide food aid mainly in the form of maize meal. The WFP donated beans whilst vegetables were supplied by the Ministry of Health and cooking oil by the Malawi Regulatory Authority.

In order to cover the shelter needs, temporarily, MRCS distributed 200 blankets and 50 mats from its pre-positioned relief stock. Additional non-food items such as sanitary packs consisting of lotion, laundry and toilet soap, face towel, tooth brush and tooth paste were procured with the DREF, which also covered the distribution costs. As a result hygiene and welfare needs of the returnees were adequately met throughout their stay at the transition camps.

Water, Sanitation and hygiene promotion

Objective: To improve the health and hygiene conditions at the shelter, thereby improving the welfare of returnees and reducing the possibility disease outbreaks.

Activities carried out: The transitional shelter site had piped water; thus the toilets and bathrooms had running water and complemented by digging new pit latrines. The Ministry of Health established a health centre near the transition camp that was accessed by the returnees. Trained MRCS volunteers provided traditional First Aid services at the clinic mostly treating wounds and fractures, while complicated health cases were referred to the local hospital in Blantyre. Counselling and psychological support services were provided by the Department of Social Welfare's workers with support with the volunteers.

In terms of shelter, the site had two big hostels and few small rooms. In order to supplement this, MRCS erected four tents, taken from the disaster preparedness stock pre-positioned in Blantyre. The volunteers actively assisted with erecting the tents and managing the environment.

Conclusion

MRCS enhanced the capacity of its branches in the boarder province, on disaster preparedness and response particularly on population movement, water and sanitation and relief distribution. Although the objectives of the operation were achieved, the implementation pace was slow due to that MRCS needed ample time to train and equip its local volunteers in order to manage well the welfare of the returnees, who were characterised by fear, frustration and some with anger. However, the initiative taken by the IFRC Southern African Zone office to pre-position relief stock, proved effective in quickening response to the emergency. MRCS earned respect and credibility from its government and partners for its pro-activeness and reliability throughout the operation.

How we work	
<p>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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Malawi: Mr. Lawson Kasamale, Secretary General Email: sg@eomw.net/mrcs@eomw.net Phone: +265.1.775 508, +265.1.775.136 /775.520 /770.264, fax +265.1.775.590/775.136 • In Southern Africa Zone: Françoise Le Goff, Head of Zone Office, Johannesburg; Email francoise.legoff@ifrc.org; Phone: 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; Email 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 IFRC Secretariat, Geneva: John Roche, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41.22.730.4400; Fax: +41 22 730 0395; email: john.roche@ifrc.org 	

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMW003 - Malawi - Population Movement

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRMW003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	86,007					86,007
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	<i>86,007</i>					<i>86,007</i>
C5. Other Income	86,007					86,007
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	86,007					86,007
D. Total Funding = B + C	86,007					86,007
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	86,007					86,007
E. Expenditure	-85,864					-85,864
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	143					143

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		86,007					86,007	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	33,600	18,019				18,019	15,581	
Food	3,440	32				32	3,408	
Utensils & Tools	2,847	15,431				15,431	-12,584	
Other Supplies & Services	18,200	18,596				18,596	-396	
Total Supplies	58,087	52,078				52,078	6,009	
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,480	5,916				5,916	-1,436	
Total Transport & Storage	4,480	5,916				5,916	-1,436	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	16,000	16,348				16,348	-348	
Total Personnel	16,000	16,348				16,348	-348	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation	1,000						1,000	
Communications	850	359				359	491	
Financial Charges		-4,873				-4,873	4,873	
Other General Expenses		3,380				3,380	-3,380	
Total General Expenditure	1,850	-1,134				-1,134	2,984	
Programme Support								
Program Support	5,590	5,581				5,581	9	
Total Programme Support	5,590	5,581				5,581	9	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		7,075				7,075	-7,075	
Total Operational Provisions		7,075				7,075	-7,075	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	86,007	85,864				85,864	144	
VARIANCE (C - D)		144				144		