

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Africa: Urban Disturbance

DREF operation n° MDRZA002
28 May, 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 and 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.

CHF 302,378 (USD 290,748 or EUR 148,225) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the South African Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 30,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The International Federation has provided additional funding support to South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) to support the operation initiated to assist people displaced during the recent urban violence in South Africa. As of 27 May, 2008, approximately 50,000 people have been displaced and SARCS is currently targeting 30,000 people.



South African Red Cross volunteers distributing food, blankets, hygiene and baby kits and kitchen sets to displaced foreign nationals in Johannesburg, South Africa

The incidents, xenophobic in nature and characterised by elements of criminality were reported from 11 May, 2008 in Gauteng Province and escalated in other settlement areas in South Africa. SARCS immediately responded to the needs of the affected by engaging into a local resource mobilisation campaign. To date, the National Society has provided first aid and basic counselling, as well as distributing food and non-food items (blankets, sanitary towels, toilet rolls, hygiene packs, baby kits, clothing and food) to over 20,000 people mainly in Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal Provinces.

This DREF will be used to support activities on strengthening logistics, relief management, administration, human resource management, volunteer mobilisation and coordination at both the Federation Zone Office and National Society levels. In addition, SARCS will also produce some education, information and communication (IEC) material on anti-discrimination campaigns (Together for Humanity) aimed at sensitising and educating the host communities on the humanitarian consequences of the violence. The third component of this operation is on establishing joint warehousing facilities for pre-positioning of relief stocks for the Federation Zone office and SARCS. This operation is expected to be implemented for two months and will therefore be completed by August 2008. A Final Report will be made available by September 2008.

[<click for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Since the advent of its democratic dispensation in 1994, South Africa has become a primary destination and point of transit for people from across the African continent and beyond. On one hand, there is a mix of people who come to South Africa seeking protection, prosperity, or passage, while on the other, a small but important number of this population are migrants who have been forced to flee their respective countries for various reasons and seek safety in South Africa. These people come from different parts of Africa with largest numbers from the Democratic Republic of Congo; Somalia; Ethiopia; Angola; Burundi; Rwanda; and more recently, Zimbabwe. While the number of Zimbabwean migrants has increased substantially in the last five years, it remains small in comparison to some other African countries such as Tanzania; Uganda; and Kenya.

According to the government sources, the wave of attacks on foreign nationals began on 11 May 2008 in Alexandra Township (Johannesburg metropolitan areas). The attacks were extremely violent, with mobs burning the shacks (temporal homes in the informal settlements) and beating and chasing the foreigners. It was reported that a person was burnt alive in the same township. According to the UN Office of the Resident Coordinator in South Africa situation report (24 May 2008), the attacks have occurred mostly at night and have targeted foreign migrants from Bangladesh, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Zimbabwe and other countries, as well as non-Zulu speaking South Africans. The attacks have spread to other areas of Gauteng and incidences have been reported in the East Rand townships of Tembisa, Thokoza and Primrose, and by 18 May had reached the centre of Johannesburg. By 21 May, the violence had also spread to other provinces of South Africa with most incidences reported in Limpopo, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Cape Town in Western Cape.

The South African Government's Minister of Safety and Security confirmed that 25,000 people have been displaced during a briefing for the diplomatic community held on 23 May 2008, in Pretoria. The number of affected is however reported to be increasing on daily basis. According to media reports, the total number of displaced persons is now over 51,000 around the country and there are 56 related deaths, over 1,000 people injured and more than 600 people have been arrested in relation to the attacks. According to the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), over 25,000 of the affected are in Gauteng province, 20,000 in Western Cape, 2,500 in KwaZulu Natal, 800 in Mpumalanga and 80 in Limpopo. The displaced people have been sheltered at 48 locations in Gauteng Province, including open grounds near police stations, health facilities and empty community buildings. Security is provided by the South Africa Police Services (SAPS). The President of South Africa approved the deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to area hit by violence to complement the role of the SAPS.

The IOM reported that the violence attacks have pushed many migrants to return to their home countries. According to Mozambique Red Cross, over 32,000 nationals have crossed into the country. In general the situation has resulted in fear and anxiety throughout South Africa and concerns remain that the violence may continue and spread. The humanitarian agencies on the ground have since provided food and non-food items and the government is considering the establishment of 'centres of safe shelter' to assist and protect the displaced if the current level of displacements is sustained; according to the UN situation report. All stakeholders are waiting for a decision from the Cabinet Ministers that will meet on 28 May on this issue.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation office in Southern, SARCS and ICRC are working closely with IOM, OXFAM, MSF, UN agencies (namely UN-OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, WFP), Action Aid International and the South African Authorities (at national, provincial and local levels). To be more precise, UNHCR are monitoring the prevailing situation in locations where the displaced foreigners are sheltered. UNICEF has delivered emergency supplies to SARCS and the City of Johannesburg

Migration Desk. In the health and care, the WHO is looking at the requirements in preventative and curative health, including addressing issues around the prevention of HIV. IOM in collaboration with SARCS are providing non-food items (NFI) distributed at all centres with internally displaced persons (IDPs).

SARCS, Federation Zone Office and the ICRC are part of the integrated Joint Operational Committee (JOC) convened by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) both at the national and provincial levels. This committee is being relied upon by the authorities and other agencies for operational expertise and situational assessment and reports. The NMDC and the JOC are currently overseeing the response coordination and activities of humanitarian actors.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

SARCS acting in its auxiliary mandate mobilised the Red Cross volunteers and immediately took the lead role in the distribution of essential and available non-food relief goods, first aid and providing psychological support to the affected families. Over 150 dedicated Red Cross volunteers and staff are deployed in over 25 sites in the temporary IDP shelters across the country.

SARCS has conducted the following activities among other;

- Registration of beneficiaries for emergency relief needs in IDP centres;
- Emergency and first aid services, referrals to the clinics and hospitals;
- Food and non-food items distributions in cooperation with other stakeholders (blankets, sanitary towels, toilet rolls, hygiene packs, baby kits, rice, maize sump, canned food, chicken pieces, bread, clothing and other assorted food stuffs);
- Resource mobilization (material, human and finance);
- Volunteer management and coordination;
- Media liaison and communication;
- Tracing service for missing people in collaboration with ICRC;
- Promoting partnerships and collaborating with other stakeholders such as government, international and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) faith-based organisations and local private companies.
- Promoting community participation, capacity building and involvement of community leaders of foreign nationals in decision making and service delivery when possible (e.g. cooking, cleaning the premises and facilities, health promotion in their own language).



South African Red Cross volunteers at the distribution point after training on relief distribution.

SARCS has mobilised volunteers and staff from the headquarters, five provincial offices, 35 branches and 100 local committees throughout the country for the operation, being coordinated from its provincial office in Germiston, Gauteng. The National Society operations team comprises of social workers, psychologists, nurses, disaster relief officers and home-based care officers. The

volunteers have been deployed to the temporary shelters and are helping with distribution of relief items and psychological support to the affected people.

The International Federation Country representative and Zone office through its technical departments has been supporting the initiatives of the National Society; the technical support will continue in the next two months. The Federation Zone has seconded two delegates (relief and logistics) to support SARCS on a more regular basis. This support covers disaster response planning, logistics and procurement as well as reporting, communications and media relations.

The Federation Zone office is also working closely with SARCS in promoting visibility of the Red Cross and mobilising resources for the operation. So far two media releases on activities, needs of the SARCS have been released and one press conference held. (South Africa: Red Cross mobilisation in response to continued urban violence throughout the country - <http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/News/08/08052602/index.asp>; South Africa: Red Cross provides emergency assistance to people affected by recent urban violence <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/08/08052102/>)

On 16 May, SARCS launched a National Appeal “*Together for Humanity*” for ZAR 1 million for the provision of emergency relief to those affected by the violence, which was then revised to ZAR 7.2 million. The National Society has received almost ZAR 5 million cash donations. In addition local companies and general public have donated food and non-food items against the appeal and is being distributed according to the needs.

The needs

Registration for relief assistance: There are variances in figure of IDPs as many of the beneficiaries do not want to be registered for fear of forcible repatriation or exposure. SARCS plans to conduct a re-registration exercise to determine numbers and definite needs through use of appropriate standards and procedures.



Some beneficiaries sharing some food with South African Red Cross volunteers in Gauteng Province

Food aid: The IDPs are housed near police stations, church premises and public places, which are not suitable for the conventional way of cooking and preparing food. SARCS is assessing all centres to determine modalities of how to supply pre-cooked meals as well distributing complementary food parcels, or to use the voucher system.

Non-food relief items: The unprecedented attack on foreigners forced many out of their houses unprepared, thus leaving behind household materials. Therefore there is a demand for essential non-food relief such as blankets, kitchen sets, clothes, tarpaulins as most people are living in makeshift

shelters. Many of the affected population are sleeping on the ground thus exposing them to the cold and other health hazards; therefore there is an urgent need to provide sleeping mats.

Warehousing: The National Society continues to receive assorted relief material from philanthropic individual and companies. These materials are currently stored at SARCS offices converted into storage rooms, some in the open and others directly transported to the sites without proper records. Therefore, warehousing of stockpiles of emergency relief items is another urgent need, since SARCS does not have such facilities. The Federation has responded to this situation by seconding a relief specialist and a logistician to develop proper system and procedures for the operation. There are arrangements to establish a 1,000 square metre warehouse in Johannesburg to be utilised by SARCS and Federation Zone office.

Anti-discrimination campaign: In order to sensitise and educate the population on anti-stigmatization, SARCS will launch a campaign a later stage targeting host communities. SARCS therefore needs resources to produce and distribute IEC material and to conduct social mobilisation within the urban suburbs. The campaign content will be based on previous exercises and existing materials, developed by the International Federation and some National Societies.

Psycho-social support: Some of the affected people have witnessed incidents and some being the victims of burns houses, beaten-up, raped among horrendous incidents. In addition, the majority of the displaced population has lived in South Africa for a number of years, a couple of them for their entire lives. Therefore, some can neither return to their countries of origin as they have no connections nor can they reintegrate into the South African society at the moment in time for absolute reasons. Giving the circumstance behind these events, there is a need to provide psycho-social support to the very traumatised IDPs.

Relief management, coordination and reporting: In addition to the two delegates deployed to support SARCS operations, a team of national staff will be recruited notably, media/communication officer, logistics officer, reporting officer and management relationship assistant for a period extended to two months. The National Society has also requested for more human resource support from less affected branches to complement the already active 40 volunteers.

The Proposed Operation

The DREF is mainly covering expenses on coordination, human resources, distribution costs and 'ant-discrimination campaign. Most activities of the operation will be covered by funds received from the National Appeal "*Together for Humanity*" launched by SARCS in May. The National Society has developed a plan of action that predominantly aims at identifying the needs of the vulnerable groups, ensures that necessary operational systems are in place, and facilitates accountability, transparency and efficiency in monitoring systems and quality control, and proper record keeping on movement of relief goods.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To distributed food and non-food relief items to a target population of 30,000 people of the most vulnerable in selected IDPs temporary relocation centres across the country.

Expected results	Activities planned
Food and non-food items are distributed to 30,000 people amongst selected temporary IDP relocation centres for two months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting further assessments to determine the actual numbers and location of beneficiaries, as number fluctuates on daily basis. • Distributing relief items using proper standard and systems • Designing systems to facilitate smooth distribution to the most vulnerable beneficiaries. • Establishing centres for relief administration by the National Society.

Anti-discrimination campaign

Objective: To improve the spirit of tolerance and co-existence particularly among the host communities in South Africa.

Expected results	Activities planned
Peaceful co-existence between host communities and migrants through advocacy, sensitisation and educative campaign by SARCS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapting the materials (which includes brochures and booklets, TV and radio spots in all official languages) for local contexts, Supporting IEC subsequent production and distribution via print and electronic mediums. Conducting community-based sensitization and educational meetings and group discussions.

Logistics and Warehousing

Objective: To develop logistic procedures, establishing a central warehouse and arranging for appropriate transportation to distribution points.

Expected results	Activities planned
The National Society builds logistics capacity training, and providing delegates to support the logistics function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Establishing a central warehouse for storage for the relief items Distributing relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. Monitoring and evaluating the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

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:

- In South Africa: Seija Tyrninoksa, Federation Country Representative for South Africa, Phone: Mobile: +27.82.450.3984; Tel:+27.11.303.9726; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230 E-mail: seija.tyrninoksa@ifrc.org
- In Operational Zone for Southern Africa: Françoise Le Goff, Head of Zone Office, Johannesburg; Email 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 Geneva: John Roche, Operations Coordinator, Email: john.roche@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4400, Fax: +41.22.733.03.95