

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Africa: Urban Disturbance

DREF operation n° MDRZA002
Update n° 2
8 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 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.

Period covered by this update:
30 May to 6 June 2008

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

The humanitarian crisis in South Africa has moved from an immediate emergency phase to one which now needs to deal with the more long-term effects for a displaced population. National and provincial authorities, after announcing an emergency phase in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces, continue to consult the international community on how to provide relief and some sense of normalcy for the affected population,

while a more long-term solution is sought.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement components, i.e. the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the International Federation) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), have been seen as focal points in the planning and provision of emergency relief, and are invited to participate in coordination meetings and forums at local, provincial and national levels with other stakeholders such as United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The technical and operational support being provided to SARCS by the International Federation, as part of this DREF operation, is planned to continue for two more months.



South African Red Cross Society has, with assistance from the Federation Zone Office in Southern Africa developed a distribution system using ration cards. Pictured above are a father and daughter, waiting to receive some relief items distributed at the Rand Airport temporary shelter. Photo: Nooshin Erfani, International Federation Zone Office in Southern Africa

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The situation

Violent incidents, xenophobic in nature and characterized by elements of criminality were reported from 11 May, 2008 in Gauteng Province and escalated in other settlement areas in South Africa. The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) mobilized hundreds of volunteers and staff, from 35 local branches throughout the country, to continue to provide emergency relief to those that have been affected and displaced by the violence. According to the UN-OCHA Situation Report of 3 June 2008, there are now approximately 28,000 displaced people in the country. Media reports give the latest death toll as 62, with hundreds having been injured.

The two most-affected provinces, Gauteng and Western Cape, continue to deal with the humanitarian crisis. Both the Gauteng and Western Cape Provincial Government has declared a State of Emergency, enabling the authorities to access funds for the response. This declaration has also enabled international community and organizations to provide expertise and assistance to the thousands of people affected and displaced by the violence.

Temporary shelter sites have now been consolidated into far fewer locations, chosen by the provincial disaster management teams in close cooperation with local authorities at the municipality level. These sites have been planned to only function for two more months, while a long-term solution is sought by Government.

Voluntary repatriation continues, with hundreds of Malawian, Mozambique and Zimbabwean nationals returning to their countries. Red Cross societies in all these countries are assisting their governments in providing humanitarian assistance for the returnees.

- According to our sources, an estimated 1,900 people from Malawi have already returned at the interim shelter, the Kwacha Conference Centre, in Blantyre. The High Commission is expecting 300 voluntary repatriations every three days.
- Mozambique has received a total of 36,000 returnees from South Africa and they are currently sheltered at a temporary transit camp at Beluluane centre.
- According to International Office for Migration (IOM), 123 Zimbabwean returnees have crossed through the boarder post at Beitbridge.

The SARCS national appeal for R7 million has already been met through donations from South African companies and the public and for the time being, SARCS does not envision appealing internationally for further assistance.

The international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement components, i.e. the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross have continued to provide technical and operational assistance to SARCS, particularly in procurement and logistics, relief distributions, donor liaison and management, communications and media liaison and reporting. However, the National Society continues to be the lead agency in this operation. So far, the National Society has distributed more than 80,000 food and non-food items.

Coordination and partnerships

Support from the South African public, local companies and organisations has meant that the SARCS emergency appeal has already been met and that large-scale procurement of items can be sustained. Some of the major donations so far are from Standard Bank, MTN, CitiBank, ABB Holding, First National Bank, Pick n Pay, Development Bank of South Africa, Eskom Development Foundation, Grandwest Casino and Entertainment World, Investec, Mondi Corporate and the Lee Trust. These donations have been used to procure food and non-food items, including gel stoves, blankets, hygiene and baby kits. A major in-kind donation has come from the South African Revenue Service (SARS) in terms of 2nd hand clothing, partition for tents and furniture.

UN agencies, including OCHA, UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR have assisted through provision of tents, coordination expertise, repatriation services and health service related assessments. The

South African Government is responsible for the over-all management for all sites, and coordinates with local and international organisations. The affected municipalities provide clean water and emergency services. OXFAM has established sanitation facilities at some of the sites and is a major partner in that sector.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) donated 13,000 blankets and 2,000 tarpaulins to SARCS. These were distributed to displaced population at the Midrand temporary shelter on 5 June 2008. ICRC continues to provide refresher training to SARCS volunteers on restoring family links and tracing service as well as on safe access for improved safety and security of staff and volunteers. Some posters are being developed to disseminate the tracing service in every temporary shelter.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



The outpouring of donations, from both the South African public and companies, has meant that SARCS has been able to continue to distribute food and non-food items (such as maize meal and kitchen sets, as pictured above). Photo: Nooshin Erfani, Federation Zone Office in Southern Africa

Based on the request of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), a shelter expert from the International Federation visited South Africa for one week, finishing her mission on 6 June. She provided technical assistance to SARCS, the Federation office and South African authorities. The Africa Operations Coordinator of the International Federation was also in the country, and visited sites in both Gauteng and Western Cape. During his field visit, he joined meetings with UN, ICRC and authorities, and also had an opportunity to assess the situation on the ground by joining SARCS and Federation teams on sites.

The Federation Zone office, through the country representative coordination, continues to support the National Society by providing the following services:

- Management support for the relief operation and participation in both internal and external urban violence meetings with SARCS and other stakeholders through the country representative and the branch development / volunteer management;
- Advocacy, communications, media and donor management: this includes assistance in the writing of five press releases in South Africa, one press release and five stories for the IFRC public web site, as well as liaison with international, national and local media and donor community. A communications strategy has been conceived, in which the need for SARCS to remain visible and for the amount and use of donations it receives to remain transparent. This will aim to keep the high regard the Society has earned, through its years of operation, intact. The Society has enjoyed high publicity on their good work during the operation and has raised locally over R10 million in cash. The monetary value of the in-kind donations is yet to be calculated at the end of the operation.
- Recruitment of support staff (a project communications and media liaison officer has so far been recruited and the reporting and donor liaison officers are yet to be recruited.)
- Relief, logistics/procurement through two delegates deployed to work with the National Society. The Federation support staff will mainly train SARCS staff for improved service delivery and

monitor, coach and mentor SARCS staff and volunteers. SARCS is in the process to recruit a national logistics coordinator for this operation as part of the DREF budget.

Given the fact that the government has now declared an emergency in two provinces in Gauteng and Western Cape, this phase will now last a 3-month period with possible extension. There is a need now to recruit an operations manager to assist the country representative to manager the urban disturbances operation for the next three months and another one to support the operations management at the national society level for a same period of time. This will allow the country representative and the branch development / volunteer management delegate to concentrate again for their normal duties on top of the overall support to the operation. Due to the nature and sensitivities around the operation, the International Federation will revise the DREF operation budget and will request the partner national societies and other interested parties to contribute to the DREF in stead of launching an international appeal.

Progress towards objectives

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 over 80,000 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.

Progress

The Federation's relief delegate has been working daily with SARCS in developing systems to register beneficiaries for relief distribution. This has included the design and production of ration cards as well as the training of staff and volunteers. Technical support has also been provided for the correct assessment and reporting of beneficiary and distribution figures.

SARCS has been proactive in ensuring efficiency in relief distribution, as evidenced by the packs of food parcels prepared at the branch office prior to distribution at the sites. Priority has been given to pregnant and lactating women and mothers with children under 5-years. So far, SARCS has distributed more than 80,000 food and non-food items: Blankets, sanitary towels, toilet paper rolls, hygiene packs, baby kits, clothing, and food items such as maize meal, rice, samp, canned foods, chicken, bread, jam, peanut butter, dairy products etc.

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 include 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.

Progress

All volunteers active at the sites have received training on the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values, enabling them to better cope with the conditions under which they are asked to serve.

Several consultations have taken place with various Partner National Societies on the possible content of an anti-discrimination campaign. It has been the general consensus that in order to maintain the important facet of neutrality for SARCS, it would be more beneficial to start the campaign at a later period. The desk-top study on the subject is continuing and the existing material from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has been collected around the world.

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.

Progress

The International Federation’s involvement in logistics, at the request of the National Society, has been limited to support in areas of warehousing and procurement. This has included sourcing alternative backup storage space and providing the forms and systems for the SARCS warehouse in Johannesburg. In procurement, various supply bases as well as standard templates were made available and the contents of the various standard relief items – food parcels, hygiene and baby parcels provided and discussed.

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.

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