

DREF operation update



South Africa: Urban Disturbance

DREF operation n° MDRZA002
Update n° 3
18 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: 6 - 13 June 2008

CHF373,567.19 (USD355,778.28 or EUR229,604.91) 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 over a three-month period.

The provision of emergency relief, care and support to the tens of thousands of displaced people taking shelter at temporary sites in Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal provinces continues. All three 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 and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), continue to work together tirelessly to alleviate human suffering, to promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Values, and to advocate for humanitarian action in response to the recent urban violence.

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 through a slightly revised budget.

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The South African Red Cross Society is grateful for the continued assistance and support pledged for them for the ongoing operation: Thank You South Africa and all partners!

Photo: David Chancellor, International Federation

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, especially in the Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal. These violent attacks have resulted in a reported 62 deaths, and hundreds of people being injured and tens of thousands displaced from their homes. The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) mobilized hundreds of volunteers and staff, from five provinces and 35 local branches throughout the country to provide emergency relief to those that have been affected and displaced by the violence.

Both the Gauteng and Western Cape provinces declared states of emergencies, on 30 May and 2 June respectively. The Gauteng Provincial Disaster Management team prepared six Centres of Safe Shelter (CoSS) to which it moved the approximately 8,000 people taking shelter at 28 different sites around the province. In the Western Cape, according to the latest UN-OCHA report of 8 June 2008, there are an estimated 70 sites housing 15,477 displaced people. There are six "mega sites", some of which have 3,000 residents. The Western Cape Provincial Government is coordinating these sites and has allocated specific organizations to each of the sites. SARCS has been allocated to provide services in eight of the sites. Although not as serious as in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces, there are still a number of displaced people in Kwa-Zulu Natal: approximately 2,000 people are taking shelter in almost 30 smaller sites around the province. SARCS is active in all three provinces and continues to provide first aid, tracing services and to distribute food and non-food items.

Some displaced people have voluntarily returned to their home countries. It is estimated that 1,312 Malawians have been voluntarily repatriated, with the potential of a further 15,000 following suit. Over 36'000 Mozambicans have reportedly returned to their home country and the repatriation continues. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent has provided a total of CHF 195,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) to assist in the management of the transitional shelters and enhance the welfare of the returnees through Mozambique and Malawi Red Cross Societies.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent through the Southern Africa Zone office continue to provide technical and operational support to SARCS. This has included assistance in resource mobilization, communications and media management, reporting, relief distributions and logistics. A recently-published NGO Watch report places the Red Cross at the top of its list of NGO media coverage in May 2008, largely due to reports on the response to the South African situation.

Coordination and partnerships



South African Red Cross volunteers, in addition to assisting in the distribution of emergency relief items, often provide care and support to the affected people.

Photo: David Chancellor, International Federation

SARCS has recently revised its operational budget, for the three-month period of the state of emergency, to ZAR 19.5 million. As a result of a national appeal, there have already been donations and soft pledges of over ZAR 10 million. Donations have been received from companies such as Standard Bank, MTN, Development Bank of South Africa and Pick n Pay. Many individual South Africans have also donated, either directly or through a very successful campaign run by The Independent News and Media Group called "Operation Reach Out". The media house pledged 50% of the proceeds of this campaign to SARCS and ZAR 1.5 million has already been transferred.

In a press release dated 6 June 2008, UN-OCHA describes the responses from the various UN agencies to the crisis as; UNICEF, WHO and IOM have all provided various forms of assistance through SARCS, including the distribution of hygiene kits, nappies and other non-food items. This demonstrates trust and SARCS ability to work with multiple partners in an emergency situation.

All three Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Partners (SARCS, Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have continued to take part in coordination and planning meetings at local, provincial and national levels, by government and international agencies, and by the international community. The secretary general of the Mozambique Red Cross and the regional disaster management coordinator of the Southern Africa Zone participated on 10 June in Maputo at a high level meeting to discuss the regional impact of the violence. Representatives of all three Movement Partners were invited by His Excellency, The Ambassadors of France to meet on 13 June 2008 with a delegation of European Union ambassadors, to give a brief on the situation, and to discuss possible solutions to the crisis.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

SARCS continues to play an active role in providing emergency relief to the affected and displaced people throughout the country, and specifically in the Gauteng, Western Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces. In Gauteng, the needs assessment and registration of the displaced people for emergency assistance at the temporary shelters by SARCS continues. The latest statistics (as of 10 June 2008) are as follows:

Table 1: Latest statistics on people affected in Gauteng Province

Nationality	No. of Males	No. of Females	No. of Children	Total
Rand Airport Site	1,111	484	204	1,799
Wadeville Site	591	277	72	940
Nurfield Site	185	79	29	293
Raffle Range Site	1,572	1,122	450	3,144
Midrand Site	139	51	71	261
Collet Drive Site	288	-	-	288
Mamelodi	30	10	14	54
Akasia	656	191	217	1,064
Malus- Pretoria	45	25	15	85
Azardville	24	26	30	80
Total	4,641	2,265	1,102	8,008

SARCS has been conducting assessments in the Western Cape Province to determine the immediate needs of the displaced people. This recent assessment was conducted within all the temporary shelters that were established including the new sites.

Table 2: Activities of SARCS in the Western Cape Province

Areas of Operation	No. of beneficiaries	No. of meals provided	SARCS Services
Richwood	200	400	Assessment, cooking and serving meals
Train Lodge	250	500	Assessment, cooking and serving meals
Lotus River	30	60	Assessment, cooking and serving meals
Lighthouse Parow	300	600	Assessment, cooking and serving meals
Silverstream	240	720	Assessment, cooking and serving meals
Masibambane	50	100	Assessment, cooking and serving meals
Chrysalis Academy	199	400	Assessment, cooking and serving meals
Soetwater	3,000	-	Assessments

In KwaZulu Natal province, SARCS in collaboration with Faith Based Organisation (FBO) are providing services and relief items at most of the sites. The main challenge has been the lack of transport to take the children to nearby schools.

Table 3: Shelter centres in KwaZulu Natal Province

Area	Temporary Shelter	Number of People
Inanda	Mjhebheni Police Station, a hall near South Africa Police Service (SAPS)	29
Inanda	Amouti Community Hall	33
Inanda	Vela Police Station	16
Isipingo	Isipingo Police Station	55
Kwamakhutha	Kwamakhutha Police Station	9
Verulam	Verulam Police Station	100
Durban Central	St Emmanuel Cathedral	260
	Salvation Army, Moore road	57
	Methodist Church, Greyville	70
	Durban Central Methodist	20
	St Marys Church, Greyville	9
	St Aidans Church	36
	Methodist Church, Manning Road	30
	St Pauls Church, Next to the Post Office	26
	West Street Mosque	40
	St Thomas Church, Musgrave	75
	Steel Rd Family Worship Centre, In Stamford Road area	21
	Glenwood Community Church	120
	Durban North	Methodist Church
Durban North	Greenwood Park Methodist	15
Pinetown	Methodist Church	10
Pinetown	NGK Church	40
Westville	Methodist Church	14
Westville	Westville Baptist Church	25
Chatsworth	Chatsworth Police Station	22
Inchanga	Police Station	70
Pietermaritzburg	Shelter along Railway Street	200
	Shelter along Piet Maritz Street Between West and Pine street	100
	Shelter in Havelock Street	150

The Federation Zone office, through the country representative coordination, continues to support the National Society in close cooperation with ICRC. Developments within the reporting period include:

- The appointment of a communications consultant to support SARCS in meeting its increasing communication and media liaison needs. There continues to be a very intense interest from the media on the situation, and as one of the more visible actors, SARCS has to have a professional and transparent strategy to guide its public relations.
- An American Red Cross bilateral delegate has been seconded to SARCS for four to six weeks to assist in setting-up appropriate donor management database system to deal with the numerous and various donors. The delegate arrived in South Africa on 12 June 2008, and will be working directly with the donor management team of SARCS at their satellite office in Cape Town and will be reporting to SARCS new secretary general, based in SARCS new national office in Pretoria.
- The relief delegate appointed to assist this operation has been re-assigned to the Myanmar operation. A replacement delegate is being sought by ICRC for relief and logistics.
- Due to the continued and extremely time-consuming nature of the current emergency response, as well as the foreseen continued support for the displaced, it has been decided to recruit an operations manager for two months to support the country representative in management of the operation. The job was advertised in the Federation website in JobNet during the reporting period and the recruitment process will be completed as soon as possible.

- A regionally recruited operations advisor for SARCS for one month has been identified as part of South African country team and will commence duties on 2nd of July, focusing on SARCS reporting and statistics.
- Both new country office staff members will be based at SARCS new national office in Pretoria for practical reasons and direct support to the SARCS secretary general and the team.
- The DREF allocation was slightly revised upwards from (CHF 302,378 to CHF 373,567) to support the operation for three months, and allocate more funds for warehousing and documentation of the operation.

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.

SARCS secretary general conducted a national coordination meeting on 7 June with representatives of SARCS structures from all affected provinces and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement components. The progress made so far on the operation was analysed and the next steps forward decided. All SARCS volunteers in the Gauteng region received training on capturing information and statistics at the CoSS. The volunteers were also trained on the ration card system devised by the relief delegate and the system is now fully utilised in Gauteng during distributions. The same training will take place in Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal provinces.

Each site in Gauteng has a station (tent) for SARCS personnel and the National Society has been requested to act as a deputy site manager in most of the sites. The government has taken an overall responsibility to manage the sites but is contracting private companies for the purpose in most cases. This is problematic in many cases due to a rotation and high turn over of site managers and therefore the continuity suffers.

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.

At a recent meeting of the Interagency Team (which included representation from SARCS) and the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre, areas of need for training and support were identified, which included: the capacity to support the process of reintegration should be enhanced from humanitarian partners, particularly on public information concerning settlement options, community sensitization, conflict mediation, the repair and reconstruction of damaged property and resolving land tenure issues.

All three Movement components are in consultation on how best to meet these and other relevant needs, as requested. The Western Cape Province inter-agency meeting identified also a need for training in Sphere standards, International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values and the Red Cross Code of Conduct for relief operations. Material for anti-discrimination campaign has been received from many Sister Societies and can be adapted to the South African situation and for the campaign planned for August.

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.

The rented warehouse is fully utilized in Gauteng and SARCS personnel have been assigned to manage it. Some five rented containers at the Germiston provincial office serve as an effective purpose for a temporary storage space for a short period of time when donations are being received and before they are being distributed to the beneficiaries. In many cases the suppliers deliver the relief items directly to the sites where SARCS teams distribute to the beneficiaries.

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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