

DREF operation update



South Africa: Urban Disturbance

DREF operation n° MDRZA002
Update n° 4
18 July 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: 23 June – 15 July, 2008

Summary: CHF 373,567.19 (USD 355,778.28 or EUR 229,604.91) 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 3 month period.

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 comprising, the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has assumed a central role in the planning and provision of emergency relief. Representatives from the Movement 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 six more weeks.



South African Red Cross Society volunteers continue to provide registration and tracing services to the thousands of displaced people throughout the country.

Photo: David Chancellor, International Federation

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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. They spread to other provinces particularly to the Western Cape. The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) mobilized hundreds of volunteers and staff, from 35 local branches throughout the country, to provide emergency relief to those affected and displaced by the violence. According to the UN-OCHA Situation Report of 10 July 2008, there are now approximately 13,135 displaced people in 84 sites nationwide.

Gauteng and Western Cape Provinces remain the worst affected with the majority of displaced people in need of on-going assistance. In Kwa-Zulu Natal, the number of affected people has decreased to several hundreds. The e-Thekwini municipality in Durban, is no longer willing to host the displaced, whilst the displaced (most with refugee status) are unwilling to go back into their communities for fear of further disturbances.

In all three provinces, temporary shelter sites have now been consolidated into 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 a maximum of six more weeks, while a long-term solution is being looked into by the Government. In line with this, the provincial government of Gauteng has taken a position to stop services to the Centres of Safe Shelter (CoSS) and dismantle tents provided for shelter in August bringing an end to the two-month plan to provide temporary shelter for those displaced in the Province.

Provincial authorities are developing a reintegration strategy in the Gauteng and Western Cape provinces, encouraging people to reintegrate back into the communities. This strategy is targeting those displaced persons who are not willing to return to their home countries. The Department of Home Affairs intends to issue temporary identification documents to displaced residing in the CoSS and the ad hoc shelters. The documents will be valid from 6 July 2008 to November 2008.

Voluntary repatriation still continues, although at a slower pace than before. A total of 43,800 Malawian, Mozambique and Zimbabwean nationals have returned to their countries since the beginning of the urban disturbances. Red Cross Societies in all these countries are assisting their governments in providing humanitarian assistance for the returnees.

The Instituto Nacional de Gestão de Calamidades (INGC) in Mozambique continues to report returns of nationals from South Africa following the xenophobic incidents. As of 23 June 2008, the INGC reported that a total of 40,528 nationals had returned to Mozambique from South Africa. Out of these, 4,463 people were assisted directly by the Government of Mozambique, while the rest returned using their own means. The IOM office in Maputo reports that the majority of returnees have been reintegrated into their original communities.

The SARCS revised appeal for ZAR 7 million has been met fully through donations from South African companies and the public. SARCS does not envision appealing internationally for further assistance. SARCS has received in addition a substantial amount of in-kind donations (food and non-food) items donated for use in the urban violence programme.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has 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. The National Society continues to be the lead agency in this operation.

Coordination and partnerships



In addition to the distribution of food and non-food items, SARCS volunteers take time to meet and talk to the residents of the Centres of Safe Shelter, such as the one at Wadeville in Gauteng, pictured above.

Photo: Matthew Cochrane, International Federation

In response to the national appeal, SARCS has received support from the South African public, local companies and organisations, with over ZAR 10 million received so far in donations and pledges. The support has ensured continuity in the relief activities and procurement of items, even with a slight decline in donations over the past few weeks. Major cash donations in recent weeks, came from Investec, First National Bank, Independent Newspaper, Development Bank of South Africa, Eskom Development Foundation, Ernst and Young and the French Embassy.

Following a request from the Western Cape authorities, an inter-agency team of the Red Cross Movement, UN agencies and NGOs facilitated SPHERE training in Cape Town on 19 and 20 June 2008. All provincial and city departments involved in the current xenophobic crisis attended the course.

All three Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners (SARCS, the IFRC and the ICRC) have continued to participate in coordination and planning meetings at local, provincial and national levels.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

SARCS continues to play an active role in providing relief to the affected and displaced people throughout the country, and specifically in the Gauteng, Western Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces. The main items provided are food parcels, blankets, hygiene packs, baby kits and basic utensils. First aid, tracing and psycho-social support are also provided in Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces. Recently SARCS volunteers have started to include social work, and (prevention) peer education and community sensitization activities as part of the support services provided to the people in the camps. The latest statistics (as of 11 July 2008) are as follows:

Table 1: Latest statistics on people affected in Gauteng Province

GAUTENG Sites	# people assisted	Service provided
Rand Airport	1,906	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Boksburg	940	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Nurfield	293	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Raffle Range	3,144	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Midrand	236	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Collet Drive	288	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Mamelodi	45	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Akasia	1,500	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Malus-Pretoria	92	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Rigerpark	53	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
Heidelberg	24	Registration, distribution of food & non-food items, social work
TOTAL	8,521	

SARCS volunteers have continued to provide cooked meals to the displaced in Western Cape Province. At present they are cooking meals, and providing non-food items to 740 people in seven sites in the province. In addition, non-food items and other support services such as tracing, first aid and social work have been provided. The number of displaced people has decreased since the last update. This is a result of the process of re-integrating affected people back into their communities.

Table 2: Latest statistics on people affected in Western Cape Province

WESTERN CAPE Sites	# people assisted	Service provided
Richwood	170	Registration and provision of cooked meals and non-food items
Blue Sky Lodge	140	Registration and provision of cooked meals and non-food items
Methodist Church	20	Registration and provision of cooked meals and non-food items
Silverstream	150	Registration and provision of cooked meals and non-food items
Masibambane	90	Registration and provision of cooked meals and non-food items
Chryssalis Academy	150	Registration and provision of cooked meals and non-food items
Church of God	20	-
TOTAL	740	

In Kwa-Zulu Natal, SARCS, in collaboration with faith-based organizations is providing support services and relief items to the affected people at most of the shelters. The main challenge at present is the specific context of the relief work. The municipality in Durban is no longer willing to host the displaced people, whilst the displaced people (most with refugee status) are unwilling to re-integrate into their communities.

Table 3: Latest statistics on people affected in Kwa-Zulu Natal Province

KWA-ZULU NATAL Shelters	# people assisted	Service provided
Durban Central	35	Registration and distribution of food and non-food items
Manning Road	51	Registration and distribution of food and non-food items
SPCA	41	Registration and distribution of food and non-food items
Durban	27	Registration and distribution of food and non-food items
Durban	50	Registration and distribution of food and non-food items
Durban	35	Registration and distribution of food and non-food items
Venture Africa	165	Registration and distribution of food and non-food items
TOTAL	404	

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

- § The appointment of an operations manager at the end of June 2008, for a two-month period, to support the country representative in the support to SARCS and management of the programme.
- § The appointment of a regionally recruited advisor for SARCS at the beginning of July 2008, for a one-month period, to provide support on reporting and statistics.
- § The secondment of a logistics delegate from ICRC for a three-week period to assess and advise the National Society on its warehousing situation in the three provinces of Western Cape, Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal.
- § The training of SARCS personnel on warehousing procedures..

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To distribute food and non-food relief items to a target population of 30,000 people of the most vulnerable in selected IDP 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 the number fluctuates on a daily basis. • Distributing over 80,000 relief items using proper standards and systems. • Designing systems to facilitate smooth distribution to the most vulnerable beneficiaries. • Establishing centres for relief administration by the National Society.

Progress

SARCS is continuously assessing the actual number of displaced per site through established procedures of data collection and registration. SARCS volunteers received training on the procedures in early June 2008. The distribution of relief items, using the ration card system introduced earlier in the operation is ongoing. As a result, food parcels have been distributed regularly in Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces, whilst Western Cape has continued to provide cooked meals to the affected people. Non-food items, such as blankets, hygiene packs, baby kits and basic utensils, have also been distributed where required.

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 via production and distribution in print and electronic mediums. • Conducting community-based sensitization and educational meetings and group discussions.

Progress

The planning for adaptation of anti-discrimination and community sensitization sessions to the South African situation is still on-going. SARCS volunteers are currently, in collaboration with Save the Children, following up on unaccompanied minors in Gauteng. The volunteers are also providing accommodation and tracing services.

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 of 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 registration system, using ration cards and beneficiary registers, introduced in early June 2008, has been managed successfully by trained SARCS volunteers. The warehousing situation of SARCS has been assessed in the three provinces, with the support of ICRC. Recommendations have been made for setting up a warehouse, receiving, storing and despatch of goods, stock taking and disposal of goods. Trained SARCS warehousing personnel have started utilizing the recommended systems.

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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