DREF operation update

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Madagascar: Tropical Cyclones

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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 sodeties to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 6 February to 14 April, 2009.

Summary: CHF 244,043 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 2 February, 2009 to support the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) in delivering assistance to some 5,000 families and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

Two tropical cyclones (Eric and Fanele) hit Madagascar between 19 and 24 January 2009, causing 9 deaths, severe injuries, damage to properties and destroying livelihoods. More than 50,000 people were affected and more than 4,000 were left homeless. The Malagasy Red Cross Society, working with in-country partners made a request for this DREF to finance detailed assessments and to conduct relief distribution.

Working in partnership with other actors, volunteers of the Malagasy Red Cross Society have been able to distribute food items to displaced persons in shelters. Source: MRCS

Soon after cyclone Fanele, Madagascar was plunged into political unrest. The violence caused many deaths and injuries, destruction to property and curbed economic and social activities. This has severely restricted the capacity of MRCS and other humanitarian agencies to mobilize an effective relief operation. Many activities have had to be postponed but the National Society is confident that activities will be carried out within the time frame. The MRCS has mobilized its volunteers for the internally displaced persons (IDP) camp management, relief distribution and in depth assessments. Although the political situation in Madagascar remains volatile, the National Society continues to conduct relief operations. It has started new evaluations Tropical storm Jade which made a land fall on the north east coast of Madagascar on 6 April 2009.

The situation

Tropical storm "Eric" hit the east coast of the country on 18 January 2008, resulting in heavy rains and winds of up to 95km/h, which affected eight districts. Although the storm itself only caused limited damage,

subsequent flooding has affected several areas, particularly in Mandritsira District in Sofia Province. Tropical Cyclone Fanele followed two days later, hitting the west coast of Madagascar with winds of up to 210km/h and crossing six regions right across the island. The worst affected region was Menabe (West coast) with considerable wind and flood damage in the town of Morondova.

The National Society has taken the lead in the shelter cluster, representing the International Federation in the coordinated response led by the National Office for Management of Risks and Disasters (BNGRC[1]) and is responsible for the management of IDP camps. MRCS volunteers have been trained in camp management and are responsible for the distribution of food and non-food items (NFIs), as well as monitoring the general health of the IDPs. The National Society registered 2,128 affected people (disaggregated by vulnerability group) in shelters in the Sofia and Morondova regions. After one month, some of the affected populations were able to repair their houses and return to their homes. During the reporting period, the number of IDPs in shelter camps was 1,466 people.

Preliminary assessments by the Government of Madagascar showed that overall, there were 9 deaths, 33 injuries and over 54,802 people affected and 4,102 without shelter across three regions of Menabe, Sofia and Analanjirofo. Preliminary assessments by the Malagasy Red Cross Society indicate that 80 per cent of Morondova Town was flooded and 50 per cent of the houses damaged. In Manja District, 20 per cent of the houses were damaged with an estimated 774 families displaced. Subsequent detailed assessments conducted in the two regions by the National Society revealed that 11,932 families had been affected by tropical cyclones Eric and Fanele. A total of 5,000 beneficiaries were identified based on the Federation's selection criteria; Children aged under five years, pregnant women or breast feeding mothers, the elderly and the people with disabilities. Their immediate needs have been identified as follows:

Table 1: Needs

Identified Vulnerability	Response	Actions taken
Need for emergency shelters	Shelter, NFIs, wood for cooking	Tents donated by MRCS. Wood purchased by MRCS and distributed by volunteers. Volunteers managing 15 camps.
Possible Malaria epidemic	Distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) and hygiene kits	Procurement and transport being finalized.
Destroyed wells	Rehabilitation of wells	Immediate action needed. Planned mobilization of engineers, volunteers and equipment.
School kits	Distribute school kits	Procurement and transport being finalized.
Kitchen sets	Distribute kitchen sets	Mobilize pre positioned stock. Transport being finalized.

On 24 January 2009, political instability in the country caused protests and unrest in the capital of Antananarivo and other major cities. Shops and property were looted, including the Malagasy Red Cross Society warehouse in Antsohihy. MRCS branches in the capital and other cities have been assisting people affected by the violence which left over 130 people dead.

Political unrest in the country has led to some major donors to freeze their aid. The political instability also prevented the distribution of NFIs as per planned response time. However, a lull in the political tension is opening a window for the purchase and distribution of these NFIs. It cannot be clearly stated that political violence will not affect the country again in the near future.

Coordination and partnerships

Recent political turbulence, which resulted in many representatives of the authorities being released from their functions, has severely reduced the capacity of the BNGRC to coordinate the response to Eric and Fanele. However, the MRCS's Disaster Management Coordinator continues to play an active role in the disaster response committee. Clusters for coordination of the international response were established and the MRCS is actively participating in a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster as well as leading the shelter cluster on behalf of the International Federation.

[1] **In French:** Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes (BNGRC)

The Federation is working closely with the French Red Cross through the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI[2]) to ensure a coordinated support to the MRCS. PIROI maintains stocks in Madagascar consisting of two 'Kit 5', each designed to assist 5,000 people. The Federation's sub-Zone office for Indian Ocean Island is in regular contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) during the escalation of political violence and instability and with the MRCS, following the passage of tropical storm Jade.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

MRCS volunteers have been trained in camp management and are currently responsible for the management of 15 camps accommodating 1,466 persons. They have also been trained in registration of beneficiaries, meal distributions, water and sanitation (WatSan) and general health, psycho-social support, participation and gender issues.

The MRCS Disaster Management Coordinator coordinated the detailed assessments. Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) trained personnel from the MRCS were deployed to train volunteers and lead the detailed assessments in Morondava and Mandritsara. A total of 340 volunteers were mobilized in 6 Districts within 2 regions to allow detailed assessments of the affected population, including their immediate needs and beneficiary identification.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Essential non-food items are distributed to 5,000 target families in Mandritsara, Manja, Morondava, Port-Berger and Mampikony districts following assessment and targeting focusing on the most vulnerable in each area.

Activities planned:

- Mobilize, train and deploy volunteers to conduct assessment in five districts.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Train and mobilize volunteers for distribution of food and NFIs.
- Procure (or mobilize) and distribute ITNs, 5,000 kitchen sets, 5,000 hygiene kits, 5,000 school kits and 5,000 construction tool kits for the rehabilitation of houses.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Expected result: Affected households can construct temporary shelter and have means to prepare food and collect water

Progress

Trained RDRT members from the MRCS were deployed to train and mobilize volunteers in detailed assessments and beneficiary identification. Detailed assessments were conducted following the approval of this DREF and the following beneficiary numbers per district were identified and registered for NFI distributions:

Table 2: Target population per district

District	Target Population
Mandritsara	898
Mampikony	101
Port Bergé	115
Morondava	3,386
Manja	500
TOTAL	**5,000**

The procurement process for the purchase of 10,000 school kits (two kits per family) and 5,000 ITNs is being finalized. The tender process for the transport of these procured NFIs, as well as 5,000 prepositioned kitchen sets and 5,000 prepositioned hygiene kits has been finalized. Transport and distribution arrangements for the NFIs have also been scheduled.

[2] **In French:** Plate-forme d'Intervention Regionale pour l'Ocean Indien

Challenges
The political violence which hit Madagascar resulted in the looting of a warehouse where NFIs were prepositioned. The remaining prepositioned kitchen kits and hygiene kits will be distributed in the coming weeks and will need to be replaced.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: Contribute to the provision of safe water and reduction of disease through the establishment of emergency water supplies and rehabilitation of existing wells in critical locations of Morondava and Mandritsara districts.

Activities planned
- Assess the existing coverage and identify critical gaps in water supply.
- Mobilize PIROI water supply equipment to provide safe water in critical areas (IDP camps).
- Clean and disinfect affected wells in two districts.
- Carry out hygiene and sanitation awareness campaign to reduce risk of water and vector borne diseases.
- Distribute ITNs to displaced families.

Expected result: Disease transmission is prevented during the initial stages of the emergency.

Progress
Although critical gaps were identified as regards access to clean water, political violence meant that detailed assessments which were needed before the cleaning of wells, as well as the distribution of clean water to the affected population through the mobilization of the PIROI water supply equipment had to be postponed. Over two months have passed since Fanele and Eric affected Madagascar. The distribution of clean water and the disinfection of wells is no longer a priority. The NS has decided to re deploy its resources for the rehabilitation of 11 damaged communal wells, and the strengthening of existing ones within the affected regions. This will decrease the risks of communal wells being contaminated by debris or flooding during the next tropical storms and heavy rains.

Challenges
Awareness campaigns, which were attached to WatSan activities, have not been carried out due to the political crises. The promotion of hygiene and sanitation to reduce water and vector borne diseases is a critical factor in Madagascar during tropical storms.

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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