

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Malawi: Earthquake

DREF operation n° MDRMW005
GLIDE n° EQ-2009-00257-MWI
23 August, 2010

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 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.

Summary: CHF 306,365 (USD295, 891 or EUR 202,502) was allocated on 14 December 2009, from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)'s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), to support the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 1,930 households (9,650 beneficiaries) affected by the earthquake that hit the country on 6 December 2009. The DREF allocation was increased to a total of CHF 591,689 (USD 570,033, or EUR 397,721) on 23 December 2009 to enable the MRCS to implement its revised plan of action following the second earthquake on 20 December 2009. While the DREF bulletin dated 14 December 2009 indicated assistance targeted to 3,000 households (about 15,000 beneficiaries), MRCS revised the target to 6,000 households (about 30,000 beneficiaries) based on the Malawi Government's assessment results.



Earthquake affected families arriving at a relocation camp in Karonga

The main objective of the operation was to provide temporary shelter and basic non-food items (NFI) to the families affected by the earthquake. With the DREF from IFRC, the National Society complimented its government's efforts in assisting 2,867 families through the provision of temporary shelter materials (tents, tarpaulins and shelter kits), jerry cans, laundry soap and mosquito nets.

After the second earthquake on 20 December 2009, the Government of Malawi formally declared a national emergency on 21st December 2009, prompting MRCS to revise its plan for the operation, to focus providing additional shelter and relief needs to displaced families. MRCS immediately requested a shelter specialist to increase capacity on related activities. On 27 December 2009, British Red Cross Society responded by deploying a shelter specialist to Malawi. Assisted by the shelter specialist, MRCS volunteers provide training on shelter construction to the families whose properties were damaged by the earthquake. A local organisation, Feed the Nation also responded by donating 5,000 sachets of fortified meal for distribution to the affected households.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments, and ECHO. The Canadian, Italian and Netherlands Governments have made the following contributions to replenish the DREF: Canadian Government – CHF 49,170; Italian Government – CHF 103,949 and Netherlands Government – CHF 23,759. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Karonga district with a population of 270,960 and situated in the northern region of Malawi experienced a sequence of tremors ranging from 5.4 to 6.0 on the Richter scale, between 6 and 20 December, 2009. Seismological activity continued and took the form of an earthquake swarm. It was not certain when the tremors would end resulting in the Government of Malawi formally declaring a national emergency on 21 December 2009. Promptly the humanitarian agencies including MRCS jointly started response operation activities.

MRCS mobilised resources to respond to the needs of the families affected by the earthquake. Through its network of volunteers and the use of pre-positioned relief items from the two MRCS warehouses in Blantyre and Lilongwe, the National Society's response was timely. The relief items including shelter materials were promptly distributed in order to ensure safety and security of the displaced families.

The National Society also conducted assessments to ascertain the extent of the damage caused by the earthquakes. The initial assessment indicated that 2,752 families had been affected. This figure was revised after the second earthquake and official government figures revealed that 5,126 families had been affected with 1,557 houses reported to have been completely destroyed. A total of 300 people were reported injured and four deaths, one child and three adults were confirmed. The final assessments revealed that the earthquake had caused extensive damage and destruction to houses and other institutional building affecting more than 24,000 households. In terms of institutional buildings, the earthquake caused damage to 97 school blocks, 17 business places, seven churches, two mosques, four water points, one prison and 102 houses belonging to the police, schools and the agricultural ministry.

The government and other humanitarian players, including MRCS, identified shelter as a primary need and consequently established a relocation camp at Mwaulambo where about 3,000 people were relocated. The relocated households required immediate assistance were in need of clean water and sanitation facilities, hygiene education and food, which created a lot of pressure on the part of the Government and other stakeholders particularly MRCS, which was the lead agency on shelter provision and camp management. Following this, the MRCS, with support from the British Red Cross, received a shelter specialist on 27 December, 2009 to assist the National Society in evaluating the short and long-term shelter needs.

Coordination and Partnerships

The MRCS worked closely with the Government of Malawi, NGOs, UN agencies and other partners during response activities and assessments. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, each stakeholder was allocated a specialist area to focus on. For instance, while MRCS took a lead role on shelter, UNICEF was the leading player on activities related to water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. In its lead role on shelter and camp management, MRCS coordinated all the related activities in the six zones specifically created in Karonga District, which ensured smooth implementation of the relief operation.

MRCS also coordinate a special task force on shelter, which was mandated to spearhead the formulation of standards for safer building guidelines for the country. Other participants in the task force included the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, UN Habitat and the department of Physical Planning. The task force developed building guidelines, which were endorsed by the Minister of Housing and Urban Development.

The Government through the department of Disaster Management and the Ministry of Health played a central role of updating other stakeholders on the effects of the earthquakes. The MRCS and the UN team were called upon to help in providing technical support to the Government and material support to the affected communities.

Through the implementation of the Malawi Government disaster contingency plan of 2009, the response to the emergency was well coordinated with all stakeholders including MRCS receiving regular updates on the situation and the needs on the ground.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective: 6,000 earthquake families provided with temporary shelter and appropriate non-food relief items.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Temporary shelter and non-food relief items distributed to 6,000 families in Karonga district for a period of three months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and detailed capacity assessments using Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT), trained staff, volunteers and government extension staff. • Conduct registration of beneficiaries using government standards and agreed criteria. • Verify beneficiaries using shelter needs criteria. • Purchase shelter relief materials sourced within the country, e.g. poles. • Train communities in constructing temporary shelters and in roofing partly damaged houses, using trained volunteers. • Distribute kitchen utensils where necessary. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

Joint assessments were carried out by the MRCS, Government, NGOs and UN agencies to establish the extent of the damage and identify the needs of the affected communities. In addition, the National Society carried out several monitoring and supervisory visits to the affected areas to ensure that the operation was progressing according to plan and complying with Red Cross and Malawi Government standards for relief operations.

MRCS distributed the following relief items to 2,867 households: 5,935 tarpaulins, 2,386 shelter kits, 1,573 family tents, 215 jerry cans, 11,870 bars of laundry soap, 5,835 mosquito nets and 8,900 poles for construction of temporary shelters. In addition, 70 large tents were distributed to schools and hospitals for use as classrooms, wards or accommodation for school and hospital staff. MRCS also distributed 213 family tents for use by staff from other institutions whose houses had been destroyed by the earthquakes.

With support from a shelter expert, the National Society capacity on provision of emergency shelter was enhanced. One of the major achievements of the collaboration with the British Red Cross deployed shelter expert was the support given to MRCS to develop a recovery plan for permanent shelter, which focussed on the construction and renovation of 650 houses for displaced families. The plan was proposed to DFID and successfully received funding.

MRCS carried out registrations of the affected households in order to ensure coordinated and equitable distribution of relief items. The National Society remained neutral in all the distributions and ensured that only those households that were eligible for assistance received the appropriate relief items.

Challenges:

- The main challenge was the limited and erratic supply of fuel (diesel) in Karonga district, which affected timely implementation of response activities.
- All shelter materials donated by various stakeholders had to be distributed through MRCS as the only organisation mandated to lead shelter construction and camp management, which exerted immense pressure on the National Society.
- The recurrent tremors, which continued well after the earthquakes increased the demand for shelter thus creating a gap as the needs for shelter exceeded the planned.

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

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMW005 - Malawi - Earthquake

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2010/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/12-2010/03
Appeal	MDRMW005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	558,799					558,799
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	461,720					461,720
C6. Other Income	461,720					461,720
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	461,720					461,720
D. Total Funding = B + C	461,720					461,720
Appeal Coverage	83%					83%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	461,720					461,720
E. Expenditure	-461,720					-461,720
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		558,799					558,799	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	282,352	234,764					234,764	47,588
Construction Materials		12,970					12,970	-12,970
Clothing & textiles	21,450	17,215					17,215	4,235
Utensils & Tools	99,000	39,703					39,703	59,297
Other Supplies & Services	2,122	1,824					1,824	298
Total Supplies	404,924	306,477					306,477	98,447
Transport & Storage								
Storage		2,026					2,026	-2,026
Distribution & Monitoring	71,060	34,268					34,268	36,792
Transport & Vehicle Costs	12,080	38,125					38,125	-26,045
Total Transport & Storage	83,140	74,419					74,419	8,721
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,200							3,200
National Staff	5,600	35					35	5,565
National Society Staff		30,743					30,743	-30,743
Consultants	3,000							3,000
Total Personnel	11,800	30,778					30,778	-18,978
General Expenditure								
Travel	22,613	1,726					1,726	20,887
Information & Public Relation		21					21	-21
Office Costs		436					436	-436
Communications		1,247					1,247	-1,247
Financial Charges		154					154	-154
Total General Expenditure	22,613	3,584					3,584	19,029
Programme Support								
Program Support	36,322	28,706					28,706	7,616
Total Programme Support	36,322	28,706					28,706	7,616
Services								
Services & Recoveries		17,756					17,756	-17,756
Total Services		17,756					17,756	-17,756
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	558,799	461,720					461,720	97,079
VARIANCE (C - D)		97,079					97,079	