

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Malawi: Floods and Cholera

DREF operation n° MDRMW004
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000007-MW1
EP-2009-000015-MW1
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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 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 71,022 (USD 63,566 or EUR 48,111) was allocated 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 some 3,725 families displaced by floods, and to assist the government in responding to the simultaneous cholera outbreak.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 37,130 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments, and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>



MRCS secretary-general providing cholera supplies to the district health officer in Nsanje

Heavy rains from December 2008 to April 2009 led to flash floods in Malawi, affecting approximately 8,500 households. In the same period, a cholera outbreak recorded the country that recorded 5,198 cases and 113 deaths, as reported by the Ministry of Health (MoH). MRCS assisted the families displaced by the floods with temporary shelter facilities through the distribution of shelter kits. For those with field crops destroyed by the flooded water, they received agricultural inputs in order to restore their productive capacity. The National Society also provided critically needed cholera kits and supplies to MoH, which enhanced the government's capacity in responding to the outbreak. Water-borne disease are common during rainy and flood season, and in the case of Malawi, the outbreak was exacerbated by the flooded unprotected water sources and deplorable sanitation facilities.

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The situation

The heavy rains, in some instances with strong winds, experienced between December 2008 and April 2009 rains led to flash floods in Nsanje, Phalombe, Nkhotakota, Mchinji, Karonga and Salima districts affecting 8,443 households. The floods either completely or partially destroyed houses and damages some infrastructure. According to the government of Malawi Human Update issue no 07/08-09 dated 23 April 2009, approximately 3,500 hectares of crops were damaged countrywide. The loss of economic power negatively impacted the families that lost their tobacco crop, thus left them without saleable products for the tobacco auction floors. Like other countries in Southern Africa, Malawi was affected by cholera, with the first cholera case reported and confirmed in Blantyre on 15 November 2008.

Nsanje district: A total of 2,250 households were affected by flash floods; 130 houses collapsed while the rest had their household belongings destroyed by water. Approximately 500 hectares of crops were damaged.

Phalombe District: A total of 870 households were affected, of which 348 households lost the roofs of their houses from heavy winds. Approximately 170 hectares of various crops were either washed away or submerged and did not recover when the water subsided.

Salima District: Salima reported incidences of flooding in Traditional Authority (T/A) Kachase on 20 January and the second week of February 2009, and severe flooding in T/A Maganga. The two T/As reported 316 households affected by the flooding and 246 cholera cases.

Karonga District: Karonga, in the northern region of Malawi, reported that 1,791 households were affected by floods, 63 houses collapsed and 363 hectares of crops had been affected.

Nkhotakota District: Nkhotakota reported flooding on 2 April 2009, especially in T/As Mphonde and Kanyenda. The heavy rains persisted for eight hours, resulting in the flooding of the Kaombe River in T/A Mphonde and the Bua and Liwaladzi rivers in T/A Kanyenda, which affected 12 villages. Of the 2,962 households affected, 256 were forced to abandon their houses after the houses collapsed. The floods also damaged 500 hectares of crops, especially maize and cassava, which were nearing harvest.

Mchinji District: The heavy hailstorms eventually destroyed 95 hectares of crops, especially maize and tobacco, and 22 houses. T/As Kapondo and Dambe reported 214 households affected, most of which had also lost household items such as kitchen utensils, maize flour and radios.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

MRCS responded to the floods and cholera outbreaks initially by conducting rapid assessments in the most affected districts in collaboration with district assemblies, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The affected areas were immediately assisted with relief items, shelter kits and cholera supplies from the National Society's resources and IFRC assistance.

The government led the coordination of response activities through its district systems and the department of Disaster Management Affairs and MoH at a central level. MRCS and UN agencies were called upon to technically assist the government as well as help with relief items for the affected families. The Government of Malawi's 2008/09 Contingency Plan, which clearly stipulated the roles of the various agencies in disaster response, ensured that response activities were not haphazard, increased the impact of the various agencies, reduced duplication of work and resulted in a well-coordinated response.

The table below shows a summary of affected households

DISTRICT	Households Affected by Floods	Reported Cases of Cholera	Damage Caused	MRCS response
Nsanje	2,250	305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 hectares of crops washed away. 3 deaths as a result of cholera 	<i>Distributed:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,250 tarpaulins, 500kg of sorghum seed Various cholera supplies for cholera management, e.g. chlorine, Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) 10 tents
Phalombe	870	No cases reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 170 hectares of field crops washed away 	
Salima	316	246	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 100 hectares of crops submerged 2 deaths as a result of cholera 	
Karonga	1,791	No cases reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 363 hectares of crops washed away 	
Nkhotakota	2,962	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 hectares of crops washed away 256 households without homes 	<i>Distributed:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 512 tarpaulins (5m x 4m each) 100 mosquito nets 256 tool kits
Mchinji	214	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95 hectares of crops such as tobacco and maize were damaged 193 households lost household items such as maize flour and kitchen utensils A cholera death recorded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed: 428 tarpaulins (5m x 4m each) 214 Kitchen sets 428 pieces of blankets
Other districts	40	4,654	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 107 cholera deaths recorded 	-
Totals	8,443	5,219	-	-

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To restore the capacity of the affected population to meet their short-term food security and nutrition needs through provision of agricultural inputs.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid and detailed assessments after flooding using regional disaster response team (RDRT)-trained staff, volunteers and agricultural extension staff.
- Conduct registration of beneficiaries using agreed criteria that fits with government standards.
- Procure cassava cuttings and/or sweet potato vines.
- Demonstrate better husbandry practises of the distributed seeds using agricultural extension staff.
- Distribute cassava cuttings and/or sweet potato vines

Achievements

Planned Activity	Target	Achieved	Remarks
Conduct rapid assessments	Three affected districts (Nsanje, Phalombe and Salima)	Five districts reached (Nsanje, Phalombe, Nkhotakota, Mchinji and Salima)	Close collaboration meant that Nkhotakota and Mchinji were reached through the verification exercise following the government assessments.
Conduct beneficiary registrations	Six affected districts (Nsanje, Phalombe, Nkhotakota, Mchinji, Karonga and Salima)	8,403 households were registered in the six districts.	MRCS and the district assemblies carried out most of the registrations.

Procure and distribute agricultural inputs	Two districts (Nsanje and Phalombe)	Two districts	Phalombe received 1,200 bundles of cassava cuttings and 3,200 50kg bags of sweet potato vines. The agricultural inputs benefited over 870 farmers from the Khulambe Extension Planning Area. Nsanje district received 500kgs of sorghum seed and this assisted over 1000 farmers.
Demonstrations on better husbandry practises of the distributed seeds	One district (Phalombe)	One district	Before distribution of the seeds, agricultural extension staff provided on-farm demonstrations of seed planting and crop care.

Impact:

The affected families that benefited from agricultural inputs are in a better position to bridge the food insecurity gap that the floods created. Farmers began harvesting sweet potatoes as of end of June 2009.

Emergency shelter

Objective: To protect displaced households and provide basic survival measures through the provision of temporary shelter and basic kitchen utensils.

Activities planned:

- Verify beneficiaries using shelter needs criteria.
- Purchase locally sourced shelter relief materials e.g. plastic sheets.
- Train communities in constructing shelter kits, roofing partly damaged houses and pitching tents.
- Distribute kitchen utensils.

Achievements

Planned Activity	Target	Achieved	Remarks
Train communities in constructing shelter kits, roofing partly damaged houses and pitching tents	Affected communities	A brief demonstration was made after every distribution of tarpaulins and tool kits.	This was done by volunteers who were trained on how to build a temporary shelter.
Procure and distribute shelter materials and kitchen utensils	Four districts (470 households)	Two districts, Mchinji and Nkhotakota, received shelter materials	5,190 (in all six districts) pieces of tarpaulin, 428 blankets, 214 kitchen sets, 214 tool kits and 100 mosquito nets were distributed. Ten tents were provided to MoH on loan and were used as shelters in the isolation centres for cholera management.

Impact:

The provision of shelter protected the beneficiaries from wild animals while reconstruction materials added strength to the roofs of damaged houses, and kitchen utensils eased household chores.

Emergency health (Cholera)

Objective: To enhance the capacity of the Malawi government to treat cholera cases through the provision of critical cholera supplies.

Activities planned:

- Conduct awareness on water treatment, sanitation, and hygiene promotion using health staff.
- Procure critical cholera supplies like chlorine, disposable aprons and gumboots.

Achievements

Planned Activity	Target	Achieved	Remarks
Conduct awareness on water treatment, sanitation, and hygiene promotion using health staff	Four affected districts (Lilongwe, Nsanje, Chikwawa and Salima)	Four affected districts reached (Lilongwe, Nsanje, Chikwawa and Salima)	A team of volunteers led by health surveillance assistants conducted awareness activities within the affected communities.
Procurement and distribution of critical cholera supplies	Four affected districts (Nsanje, Chikwawa, Salima and Phalombe)	Four targeted districts received cholera supplies	See the detailed distribution plan in the table below. A total of 1,062 beneficiaries were helped in the 4 districts.

The table below indicates the distribution plan of cholera supplies per district:

Item	Nsanje	Chikwawa	Salima	Phalombe
Chlorine (50kg drums)	8	2	5	0
Lingers lactate (cartons)	100	50	50	0
ORS (packets)	20	10	10	0
Disposable Gloves (boxes)	100	50	50	0
Disposable Aprons (boxes)	150	75	75	0
Water makers (sachets)	200,000	180,000	180,000	180,000
Tarpaulins (pieces)	200	100	350	0

Constraints

- The lack of an internal response fund affected the rate of response to the affected victims in the initial stages of the floods.
- Lack of funding caused MRCS to limit its assistance in the face of the prolonged nature of the disaster.

Conclusion

The successful operation provided flood-affected households with agricultural inputs and shelter kits, enabling them to meet their short-term food security needs and construct temporary shelter. The distribution of roofing materials in the form of tarpaulins helped communities reconstruct their homes on higher ground following the government's recommendations. The success of the operation was attributed to the coordinated efforts of MRCS, IFRC, the government of Malawi, UN agencies and other NGOs involved.

Principles and Initiatives

MRCS remained neutral and vigilant in the distribution of relief, ensuring that targeted beneficiaries met the criteria for assistance. Being auxiliary to the government, MRCS promoted Red Cross values in working with government and the United Nation's agencies.

Lessons Learnt

- Coordination is vital during disaster response, and has led to a successful operation, among other factors.
- Planning ahead (contingency planning) of disasters is essential for timely response.
- Action teams and prepositioning of stocks contributes to timely response.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Malawi: Malawi Red Cross Society:** Lawson Kasamale, Secretary General, Email mrcs@eomw.net; Phone: Tel 265.1.775.290; Fax: 265.1.775.590
- **In IFRC Southern Africa Zone: Disaster Management Unit:** Farid Aiywar, Disaster Management Coordinator; Email farid.aiywar@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Mobile: +27.83.440.0564; Fax: +27.11.884.3809, +27.11.884.0230
- **In IFRC Southern Africa Zone:** Françoise Le Goff, Head of Zone Office, Johannesburg; Email francoise.legoff@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9711; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

For Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) enquiries:

- **In IFRC Southern Africa Zone:** Theresa Takavarasha; PMER Manager, Johannesburg; Email terrie.takavarasha@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Mobile: +27.83.413.3061; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

[<final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMW004 - Malawi - Floods and Cholera

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/01-2009/07
Budget Timeframe	2009/01-2009/07
Appeal	MDRMW004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	71,050					71,050
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	71,022					71,022
C5. Other Income	71,022					71,022
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	71,022					71,022
D. Total Funding = B + C	71,022					71,022
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	71,022					71,022
E. Expenditure	-69,960					-69,960
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	1,062					1,062

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		71,050					71,050	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	3,225						3,225	
Clothing & textiles	8,000						8,000	
Seeds,Plants		30,618				30,618	-30,618	
Medical & First Aid		8,536				8,536	-8,536	
Other Supplies & Services	26,405						26,405	
Total Supplies	37,630	39,155				39,155	-1,525	
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring		1,477				1,477	-1,477	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	11,690	7,618				7,618	4,072	
Total Transport & Storage	11,690	9,095				9,095	2,595	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	12,376	18,802				18,802	-6,426	
Total Personnel	12,376	18,802				18,802	-6,426	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,512						1,512	
Total Workshops & Training	1,512						1,512	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation	3,225						3,225	
Communications		1,030				1,030	-1,030	
Financial Charges		-2,663				-2,663	2,663	
Other General Expenses		-6				-6	6	
Total General Expenditure	3,225	-1,639				-1,639	4,864	
Programme Support								
Program Support	4,618	4,547				4,547	71	
Total Programme Support	4,618	4,547				4,547	71	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	71,050	69,960				69,960	1,091	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,091				1,091		