

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Malawi: Earthquake

DREF operation n° MDRMW005
GLIDE n° EQ-2009-00257-MWI
Update n° 1
4 January 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 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: 14 December to 30 December 2009.

Summary: CHF 306,365 (USD 295,891, or EUR 202,502) was allocated on 14 December 2009, from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), to support the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 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 for the disaster operation following the second earthquake that hit the country 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 assessments. [<click here to view the revised DREF budget>](#)



MRCS volunteers distributing shelter materials after the December 2009 earthquakes.

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
- Netherlands Government – CHF 23,759

Two days of sizable earth tremors were experienced from the evening of 6 December, 2009 resulting in an earthquake in the Karonga district of northern Malawi. The earthquake, with a magnitude of 5.8 on the Richter scale, affected approximately 3,000 households and patients at the Karonga district hospital. The earthquake damaged 1,929 houses rendering them completely uninhabitable. A total of 15 people were injured, nine of whom were hospitalised and one death was confirmed. Early in the morning of 20 December, 2009, the northern Malawian district of Karonga was hit by a second earthquake which

registered a magnitude of 6.2 on the Richter scale. The second earthquake killed three people, injuring 171, of whom 81 were seriously injured and admitted to the Karonga district hospital. In total, over 300 injuries were reported and the number of deaths has since risen to four, three adults and one child.

The main objective of this operation is to provide temporary shelter and basic non-food items to the affected households. With support from the IFRC, the MRCS has been able to provide immediate assistance to some of those affected by the recent earthquakes, including the distribution of shelter materials (tents, tarpaulins, shelter kits, etc) as well as other non-food items. At the request of the National Society (NS) a shelter specialist from the British Red Cross was dispatched to Malawi on 27 December, 2009. Training on shelter construction was also provided to the affected communities by MRCS volunteers and 5,000 vita meal sachets donated by Feed the Nation, a local organisation, were distributed to the affected households.

On 21 December the government of Malawi declared the earthquake a National Disaster after the second earthquake. The MRCS also revised its plan for the operation focussing on additional shelter and relief needs of the affected households following the second earthquake.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and completed by 31 March, 2010. A Final Report will be made available by 30 June, 2009; (90 days after the end of the operation).

The situation

Karonga district with a population of 270,960 is situated in the northern region of Malawi. Karonga has been experiencing a sequence of earthquakes ranging from 5.4 to 6.0 on the Richter scale, between 6 and 20 December, 2009. Seismological activity continues and is taking the form of an earthquake swarm. There is no certainty about when this is expected to halt. The Government of Malawi formally declared a national emergency on 21 December 2009.

On 11 December the first assessments indicated that 2,752 families had been affected. This figure rose after the second earthquake and the latest official Government figures indicate a total of 5,126 families affected, with 1,557 houses reported to have completely collapsed. In total over 300 people have been reported as injured and four deaths have been confirmed. Following the second earthquake, people were advised to sleep outside regardless of whether their houses has been affected or not and this has rendered about 26,000 households homeless. These households require immediate temporary shelter.

After the first earthquake, about 600 families (or 3,000 people) were evacuated from the affected villages to a transitional camp established at Mulinda. This was a temporary measure while the Government was making a decision on a new site to relocate the affected households.

The district has so far received assistance from a number of organisations in the form of food and non-food items such as tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, and cooking utensils.

The government and other authorities, including the Malawi Red Cross Society, identified shelter as a primary need. In addition, expertise in terms of camp management was needed given the large numbers of people suddenly displaced from their homes. 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 of affected households. The shelter expert is currently working with the National Society in Karonga district.

Coordination and partnerships

The MRCS is closely working with the Malawi government and other partners. According to the National Contingency Plan, each partner has a well defined role to avoid unnecessary duplication. The MRCS has been mandated to take a leading role in shelter and camp management while other partners like UNICEF take the lead on water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion.

For this operation, Karonga district has been divided into six zones in order to ease operational logistics. The zones have been allocated to different organisations including MRCS with the aim of trying to avoid duplication of efforts especially in the distribution of non-food items channeled through the government as well as the organisations themselves.

These zones have been distributed as follows: Lupaso – MRCS; Ipyana – Karonga District Assembly; Nkhando – World Vision International; Mwenitete – Catholic Development Commission (CADECOM); Lusubilo, Igembe and Chiwondo – Lutheran Evangelical.

The MRCS is mandated to operate in all the six zones on all issues relating to shelter.

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 national agreed standards and agreed criteria and verifying 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: So far the following items have been distributed by MRCS to over 700 households:

- 1,275 tarpaulins.
- 500 shelter kits.
- 200 jerry cans.
- 9 tents.
- over 2,000 poles for the construction of temporary shelters.

The MRCS has distributed 5,000 sachets of fortified porridge that was donated by a local Malawian organisation (Feed the Nation), and has conducted 15 hands-on trainings on shelter construction to the affected communities with the help of some trained volunteers. These took place at Mulinde, where people were relocated after the first earthquake and at the new site where the Government has provided land (plots of 15 x 7.5m per household) for the people to settle. The MRCS volunteers have been helping in disseminating awareness messages especially on advising people not to sleep in their houses following the second earthquake on the 20th of December 2009.

For those who have managed to receive the shelter materials, they have in the short term been relieved of their shelter problems. The shelter situation especially for those who have not received shelter materials, is expected to be worsened by the rains that have started to fall. The MRCS continues to assess the impact of the earthquake and participate in joint assessments with other organisations.

Challenges: The main challenge is that the number of households in need of shelter has greatly increased following the second earthquake on 20 December 2009. The estimated figure of affected households now stands at 26,000 households. People in the district have been advised to sleep outside regardless of whether their houses have been affected or not for fear of a recurrence of the earthquake. This has therefore rendered 26,000 households homeless. These households require immediate temporary shelter and this has created pressure on the National Society to ensure that every affected household is assisted.

The slow progress in the compilation of consolidated assessment data has also affected daily planning of the operation.

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:

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

NORTHERN MALAWI EARTHQUAKE 2009

Annex 1
MDRMW005

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
500 Shelter	301,754		0
505 Construction Materials	0		0
510 Clothing & Textiles	21,450		0
520 Food	0		0
523 Seeds & Plants	0		0
530 Water & Sanitation	0		0
540 Medical & First Aid	0		0
550 Teaching Materials	0		0
560 Utensils & Tools	99,000		0
570 Other Supplies & Services	2,122		0
571 Emergency Response Units (ERUs)	0		0
Total Relief Needs	424,326	0	0
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
580 Land & Buildings	0		0
581 Vehicles Purchase	0		0
582 Computers & Telecom Equipment	0		0
584 Office/Household Furniture & Equip.			0
587 Medical Equipment	0		0
589 Other Machinery & Equipment	0		0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
590 Storage - Warehouse	0		0
592 Distribution & Monitoring	71,060		0
593 Transport & Vehicles Costs	12,080		0
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
600 International Staff	0		0
640 Regionally Deployed Staff	3,200		0
661 National Staff	5,600		0
662 National Society Staff	0		0
670 Consultants	3,000		0
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
680 Workshops & Training	0		0
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
700 Travel	22,613		0
710 Information & Public Relations	4,800		0
730 Office running costs	1,600		0
740 Communication Costs	2,550		0
750 Professional Fees	0		0
760 Financial Charges	2,400		0
790 Other General Expenses	0		0
798 Depreciation	0		0
799 Shared Services			0
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
599 Programme Support - PSR	38,460	0	0
<u>SERVICES & RECOVERIES</u>			
59 Services & Recoveries			0
Total Operational Needs	167,363	0	0
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	591,689	0	0
Available Ressources			
Net Request	591,689	0	