

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Mozambique Flood

DREF operation n° MDRMZ006
GLIDE n° FL-200-000055-MOZ
Update n° 1
5 June, 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:
16 March to 01 June, 2010.

Summary: CHF 282,067 (USD 266,497 or EUR 193,583) was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 12 March, 2010 to support Mozambique Red Cross Society¹ (CVM) in delivering immediate assistance to 10,000 people affected by floods in Mozambique and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks of the National Society.



One of the flooded roads in Chinde district. Photo by CVM

After the heavy rains experienced since February 2010 affecting close to 17,000 people, CVM supported the government initially by mobilizing the affected

population to move to safe areas, in the designated relocation camps. The IFRC Southern Africa Regional Representation office provided technical support in all aspects of the relief operation, which focussed on emergency shelter, distribution of non-food items (NFI), sanitation and clean and safe water supply to the targeted 2,000 families. CVM volunteers carried out hygiene and health education to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases.

The Government of Canada has contributed CHF 55,225 (EUR 38,378 or USD 52,198), while the Netherlands Government through the Netherlands Red Cross has contributed CHF 57,562 (EUR 40,000 or USD 54,406) towards the replenishment of the DREF allocation made to this operation.

Details of all donors can be found on

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>
<click here to view contact details>

¹ In Portuguese: Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique

The situation

On 9 March 2010, the Government of Mozambique declared a red alert for the flood situation, paving way for the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) to start using the disaster contingency plan. The heavy rains compelled the local authorities to release water from the major dams in order to protect the economic infrastructure, which aggravated the flood situation in the surrounding areas. The Cabora Bassa Dam, for example, was releasing 4,700 cubic meters of water per second since the 10 March 2010, causing flooding in Mutarara, Chemba, Caia, Murrumbala, Mopeia, Marromeu, Chinde and Buzi districts. It was estimated that 17,000 people were affected, whilst 130,000 were at risk. The floods also disrupted community services such as road networks, where the road linking Beira to Chimoio was cut between Tica and Mutua, in Dondo district. Media reports indicated that five people lost their lives in Buzi district trying to cross the flooded roads.

The water levels of Zambézia, Púngue and Buzi rivers rose at an alarming rate, affecting Buzi, Nhamatanda and Chemba districts in Sofala Province, Mutarara, Cabora Bassa districts and Tete City in Tete Province, Mopeia and Morrumbala districts in Zambézia Province and Sussundenga and Tambara districts in Manica Province. Initial assessments showed that vast agricultural fields were flooded leaving approximately 26,000 households at risk of food insecurity. There were fears that access to clean water would be limited for the population in the Zambézia and Púngue River valleys as the water sources were polluted by the floods. Most of the affected areas had poor sanitation and this presented a risk of an outbreak of water-borne diseases. Morrumbala, Caia and Marromeu reported cases of diarrhoeal disease.

The areas affected by the flooding had also been affected by floods in 2001, 2007 and 2008. People had then been given plots of land and helped to build solid houses in the resettlement areas, but due to the lack of rain, most of people went back to the flood prone areas where they could continue with subsistence farming.

In response to the floods, CVM established an operational centre in Caia to coordinate immediate relief assistance to the most vulnerable through emergency field assessment, relief distributions, water and sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. By 23 March, the red alert changed to orange as the water levels in the Zambezi, Búzi and Púngue River returned to normal as a result of a reduction of upstream flows and decreasing rainfall in the country. In addition most of the affected people had plots on high higher ground whilst others sought shelter with their neighbours.

Due to information provided by the National Water Affairs Directorate and National Meteorological Institute the emergency alert was downgraded to yellow alert level and the remaining emergency activities were carried out as normal activities of the CVM branches.

Through the emergency operation, CVM constructed latrines for the affected communities and distributed shelter kits to communities in Chinde, Mopeia, and Mutarara Districts. Assessments revealed problems with accessing water and sanitation facilities particularly in areas where water wells built in previous emergencies were no longer functioning or where communities were not using the temporary latrines that had been built for them. As a result of this assessment a decision was made to repair dysfunctional water wells and to prioritise community sensitization through the hygiene promotion in order to avoid an outbreak of water borne disease.

Coordination and partnerships

CVM has been complementing the efforts of the local authorities in the relief operation, by working closely with the INGC. The INGC has been facilitating coordination meetings on a regular basis attended by all stakeholders including government departments, non-governmental organizations and CVM since the beginning of the rainy season. Information on the current situation is shared with the various government departments and other partners through the recently reactivated National Centre for Emergency Operations (CENOE).

At provincial level, CVM collaborates with the Provincial Centres for Emergency Operations (COE) in Sofala, Manica, Tete and Zambézia Provinces. Internally, the CVM branches formed task forces that meet regularly to plan and review progress on the relief actions. Meanwhile, CVM has established an emergency

operation group² comprising of staff members from disaster management, health, water and sanitation departments and the senior management at the headquarters. The regular meetings chaired by the Secretary General and with participation of the representatives of the Partner National Societies based in Mozambique are for sharing information and/or for decision-making purposes.

The main coordination mechanism at all levels has been through the Technical Council of Disaster Management (CTGC). Other coordination efforts are made through CVM's Emergency Operational Task Force (GODE), which is the main coordination mechanism at CVM and it also exists at provincial level, and the participation of the disaster management team at the shelter cluster meetings.

The flood assessments were conducted in a multi – sectorial manner involving members from different organization and institutions (Government, NGOs and Civil Society organizations) and staff from CVM. Prior to the approval of the DREF, the distribution of relief items was carried out with support from the Government and various UN agencies. The training of trainers on hygiene promotion was carried out in partnership with UNICEF.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CVM opened a regional disaster operational centre in Caia District to facilitate assessments and coordination of the relief activities. Caia District is strategically located for easy access to all affected districts. The National Society also appointed one of the national staff members to manage the regional disaster operation centre, with technical support remotely provided from the headquarters programme units.

More than 250 CVM volunteers were deployed to the affected districts and six of the volunteers facilitated the transportation of people and goods, whilst another 12 were involved in the setting up of accommodation centres in Buzi and Nhamatanda districts, and the rest were involved in social mobilisation, erecting tents at the accommodation centres, hygiene promotion and water chlorination.

Through the operational centre in Caia, CVM has distributed 480 shelter kits and constructed 1,267 latrines for affected communities. The National Society has also conducted community mobilisation campaigns and hygiene promotion activities that have benefitted 8,930 people. In addition, approximately 140,380 litres of water was chlorinated benefiting up to 2,372 families.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 10,000 (2,000 families) flood-affected persons are provided with emergency assistance for a period of one month with on-going evaluation to determine further assistance required.

Activities planned:

- Conduct assessments in the areas where relocation camps have been set up by INGC or other humanitarian agencies (Mutarara, Tambara, Murrumbala, Mopeia, Chemba, Caia, Marromeu, Buzi, Dondo and Nhamatanda districts).
- Set up the regional emergence operative centre in Caia and supply it with office working materials.
- Distribute non food items (NFI) to 10,000 affected people, the equivalent to 2,000 families.

² This is the so-called GODE which is an existing entity within the National Society and it is reactivated whenever there is an emergency in the country

Progress and impact:

A regional operating centre for coordination of relief activities was set up in Caia. Through the centre, NFI in the form of shelter kits were distributed to 480 families. An emergency field assessment that was conducted revealed that it was not necessary to distribute blankets and kitchen sets as people had been evacuated to relocation camps with their belongings.

The intervention of CVM particularly on the remote and isolated district of Chinde with distributions of shelter kits improved the lives and conditions of affected communities who had been without any form of support during the entire duration of the floods.

Challenges:

The main constraint was the inaccessibility of some of the affected areas due to damaged roads particularly in the isolated Chinde Island where the demand for relief assistance was highest.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of water-borne and water-related diseases is reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion to 10,000 people (2,000 families) displaced or relocated to accommodation centres.

Activities planned:

- Assist with the construction of 200 temporary latrines (1 latrine for 50 people).
- Treat 150,000 litres per day of water and distribute to affected communities for 90 days (three months).
- Provide two jerry cans per family, thus 4,000 jerry cans.
- Train target population on safe and proper use of household water treatment chemicals (chlorine).
- Conduct hygiene promotion campaigns within the affected population, focusing on behaviour change.
- Disinfect the contaminated water points.
- Provide information, education and communication (IEC) materials on hygiene promotion (printed posters, flyers, manuals, educational materials).

Progress and impact:

So far the National Society has been concentrating on the provision of clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion. A total of 140,400 litres of water were treated with chlorine, however the target of providing affected families with 150,000 litres per day of chlorine treated water was not reached as the needs were revised downwards during assessments.

About 1,300 latrines were built exceeding the target for the operation as a result of partnerships created between CVM, government and other NGOs. CVM partnered with UNICEF in conducting hygiene promotion activities at community level, which benefitted about 9,000 people. Community members were also trained on proper use of household water treatment chemicals (chlorine). CVM developed health promotion IEC materials in local languages distributed by the volunteers.

The field assessment identified some water wells that were in need of rehabilitation prompting community members to fetch water from contaminated rivers, which presented a risk of the spread of water-borne diseases. Consequently a decision was made to repair all the damaged to improve the safe water supply of affected communities.

Challenges:

The main challenge was the use of contaminated river water for drinking, which presents an opportunity for the spread of water-borne diseases. The situation prompted a need for rehabilitation of more water wells and increased need for community hygiene promotion campaigns.

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 Mozambique: Americo Jose Ubisse, Secretary General, Email: <mailto:americo.ubisse@redcross.org.mz>; Phone: Tel Office: phone:+258.21.49.7721; Fax:+258.21.49.0943
- In IFRC Southern Africa Zone: Ken Odur, Southern Africa Regional Office, Johannesburg; Email ken.odur@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9727; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In IFRC Southern Africa Region:** Disaster Management Unit: Farid Aiywar; Disaster Management Coordinator; Email: farid.aiywar@ifrc.org; Phone: Mobile: +27.83.440.0564, Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Coordinator for Southern Africa region; phone: Tel +41.22.730.4529; fax: +41.22.730.0395; email: Christine.South@ifrc.org

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

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

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