



Johannesburg Fire 30.08.2023

Fire incidents of Kennedy and Johannesburg

Appeal: MDRZA014	Total DREF Allocation CHF 376,327	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Fire
Glide Number:	People Affected: 2,779 people	People Targeted: 2,779 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 2023-07-27	New Operational end date: 2024-01-31	Total operating timeframe: 6 months
Additional Allocation Re- quested 161,908	Targeted Areas:	Eastern Cape, Gauteng	

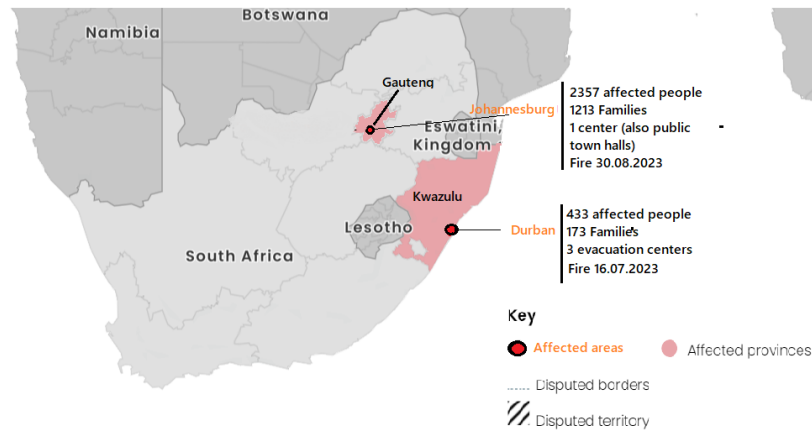
Description of the Event



+C IFRC

ZAF: Fire – 2023 – South Africa

Update fire incidents South Africa 31.08.2023



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities, Data sources: IFRC, OSM contributors, Map box.

Map Sources: ICRC, UN CODs ⓘ

Map of affected areas

What happened, where and when?

In South Africa, unstructured fires are on the rise in the informal settlements especially in this winter season. The fire that blazed one of the five-storey dilapidated buildings in Johannesburg CBD earliest hours on the 31st of August 2023 left about 175 households which were hosting about 422 people in immense plight to meet their basic needs. From BBC information, at least 76 fatalities have been recorded, search and rescue services still continue as some bodies are believed to be still trapped inside the building. The Johannesburg Metro indicated that the building was invaded as it was disregarded of not meeting the standards of safe shelter due to its dilapidated state.

This fire outbreak came after reported fire incidents also in Durban. Indeed, on 16th of July 2023, a fire incident was already reported in the KwaZulu Natal province, specifically on Kennedy Road informal settlement. This caused adverse impact leaving 2,357 people (647 children and 1710 adults) displaced with almost all their belongings swept away by the strong fire. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-66215286>.

Following the report from Disaster Management Centre confirming the incident and rapid assessment conducted by the NS, SARCS has activated response team to assist with KwaZulu Natal province fire response. IFRC supported the scale-up of the SARCS initiated assistance through an allocation of CHF 214,419 allowing to extend their response capacity to the expressed needs in the different evacuation centers. The recent outbreak in Johannesburg requires now to deploy same humanitarian services to the affected communities that are also left without any substantial assistance week after the fire outbreak.



Sources:

SARCS rapid assessments and situation updates

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-66757878>

<https://apnews.com/article/fire-deaths-johannesburg-south-africa-72b243ba43549b3afb3157ca6f39f58d>

<https://www-iol-co-za.webpkgcache.com/doc/-/s/www.iol.co.za/news/politics/joburg-fire-ramaphosa-wants-laws-reviewed-to-fast-track-development-e479d19a-d18e-4e0c-800c-becd33ac2b3a>



Devastation caused by the fires



@SARCS on the ground for situation update on 31 August Johannesburg

Scope and Scale

The two fire outbreaks were respectively reported in different context that influence the response approach and also play a key role on the scope and complexity of each situation. SARCS analysis based on rapid assessments, coordination and monitoring is taking into consideration each scope as follows:

A- First in Kennedy road - Kwazulu Natal in Durban (On the 16th of July 2023).

This was the worst fire incident in recent years in the area with about 2,357 people have been affected and displaced, being 647 children and 1,710 adults. This represents in 1,213 families. The devastating fire, which broke out on that day, resulted in complete destruction to more than 1,101 houses, leaving over a thousand people displaced, 02 fatalities and some reported injuries. SARCS KZN provincial response team rapid assessments of 17 July revealed also that: more than 1,101 households have seen their houses destroyed; 112 houses partially destroyed.

B- Second in Johannesburg city, rural area.

422 people were affected, representing 175 households now homeless. The assessments from both NS and from other sources have shown that 98% of the affected population are undocumented migrants and of these 72% are men. In most cases like these, these men are usually the breadwinners who are financially supporting their families back home and by virtue of them being undocumented it means they have no bank accounts which implies that they keep their money for remittances with them and any other things that they would have bought but due to the fires, they are left with absolutely nothing except the clothes they escaped the fire with.

The few women that are there are equally vulnerable because they would have lost everything as well in the fire and by virtue of them resorting to living in such a dilapidated building it shows that they have very low sources of income so this fire makes them even more vulnerable as they will not have anywhere to go at all after this and might have lost their jobs as well as they are trying to figure out tentative accommodation considering most undocumented migrants are not formally employed.

In both situation, people who were affected by the fire incident were evacuated to centers, commonly local community/public areas whilst waiting for assistance and support. A lot of women, unaccompanied children especially in Johannesburg were affected. This incident brings up the need for food and water immediate and in coming weeks, school uniforms water supply, hygiene packs, mental health support and other Essential household items (EHI) etc.



The stress and the losses recorded justify the level of needs.

These families represent also hundreds of children homeless and facing breakage on their school cursus with the loss recorded and income impact. Immediate WASH interventions are essential to ensure access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene materials, which are critical in preventing the spread of diseases and promoting health in the affected areas.

The trauma and impact of this situation is significant with a scale never experienced, especially in Kwa Zulu even with the fire incidents recorded in the past 3 years. The affected population has never raised to this level. The most significant incidents were in August 2020 with successive fire experienced on 24 August 2020, in Kwa Zulu Natal where informal settlements In Mungeni Local Municipality 255 households were affected and under uMgungundlovu District Municipality and eThekweni Metro Municipality in Durban 267 households (482 people) were affected. On 31 August 2020 in Johannesburg, Gauteng province, untamed fires were experienced in the informal settlements of Booyens and Diepsloot. The fire incident in Diepsloot resulted from a candle that was left unattended in one of the shacks. In Booyens, the fire was the result of arson as two men were fighting, and one suspect sought revenge by burning the shack of the other rival. The fire spread uncontrollably, affecting 34 other shacks.

The successive fire outbreaks have hardly received a lot of support out of NGO which was limited following available resources. As such, the recent fire above has not yet receive government assistance which was expected on shelter early recovery or long-term solutions. There has been reported claims and violent incidents from the previous fire affected communities that needs to be consider. The population is calling for an assistance in chronological order and has shown and expressed the sensitivity related to the planned distribution of authorities in the recent fires while previous still need to be assisted in one way or another.

As of the latest update, relief efforts are ongoing by SARCS on the first fire incident and team is also deployed in Johannesburg to provide aid, hot meal and support to those impacted by the disaster.

In Johannesburg as done during the KwaZulu Natal fire, SARCS deployed a team that continues to collaborate with government disaster management teams to conduct assessments. SARCS will be providing Psychosocial Support (PSS), Restoring of Family Links RFL (services which include (Free phone call services, Tracing and case management. More services which include food, clothing, blankets, mattresses will be provided to affected people.

Summary of changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	Yes
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	Yes
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification

Fire incident have been recently more recurrent in South Africa, with more incident reported in informal settlements in Semi-urban or rural areas. The last fire outbreak was recorded in Kennedy road and SARCS initiated a response complemented by the IFRC support through a DREF allocation. The intervention ongoing, the



Johannesburg fire was reported on 30.08.2023, requiring to extend the assistance to the affected communities following that tragedy.

This update aim to provide details on the assistance that is planned by South Africa Red Cross on the ongoing needs expressed by the affected families following Johannesburg fire incident while giving and update on the assistance provided in Durban after fire broke out in KwaZulu Natal on 16th July. Main highlights of this update are as follow:

- KwaZulu asistance ongoing since 16 july 2023: SARCS has been with the communities affected by all the recent fires from the onsets include the Kennedy fire out of the scope of this DREF. The hot meal distribution started from the early hours following the disaster and continue over the past weeks. Following DREF support, SARCS also mobilized, trained and deploy 30 branches staff and volunteers that are currently ensuring awareness and PFA in the evacuation sites where the communities are still hosted. Relief support to 1,213 HHs as per initial target will be soon released with the procurement yet to be completed.

- On the new fire incident in Johannesburg, SARCS has also deploy the team for rapid provision of hot meals while ensuring rapid assessment and coordination with municipalities on possible actions. Hence, This DREF operation is revised to cover the immediate lifesaving of 175 households affected following the fire outbreak. These changes include:

- Extending for 3 months the intervention timeframe.
- An additional allocation of CHF 161,908 to enable immediate humanitarian assistance as per initial plan to be extended to the 175 HHs affected. This includes the emergency health, nutrition and essential items distribution to benefit 422 people.
- With consideration of the rural areas, sensitivity of the context and expressed multi-sectoral needs, a multipurpose cash is included for the Johannesburg assistance that will contribute to the families to access to their priority needs or cover existing gaps in the course of any additional assistance from stakeholders.

The NS will also continue to work with government departments to ensure that they are also up to date with any information with regards to the affected population especially with the reported incidents/grievance and claims that have characterized the assistance to the previous distributions and tentative (from government) in Durban fire and the others recent fire incidents like Kennedy, Johannesburg.

Current National Society Actions

National Society EOC

Due to the scope and extent of the structured fires SARCS activated its National Response Team (NRT) and Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). The NRT closely coordinates the operation interventions with the Provincial Response Team (PRT) which also ensures that the Branch Response Teams (BRT) are well coordinated and provide timely updates. Internal coordination of logistics, communication and any skill gaps that might be identified are easily addressed through the established coordination system which strengthens SARCS capacity on major response of this nature.

Resource Mobilization

There has been efforts to mobilise resources in country since the event occurred but there has been minimal support from all angles especially with the fact that most affected people are external migrants from countries like Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe to mention but a few. Most resources that have been received has been in kind donations of recycled clothing. SARCS managed to distribute blankets and mattresses, but the stock has depleted as they have been responding to sporadic structure fires especially in informal settlements since the onset of winter.

Due to limited support from in country government, corporates and donors, SARCS is reaching out to Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement part-



	ners for support to assist the affected people through launching of Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).
Migration	Restoring Family Links (RFL) services which include (Free phone call services, Tracing and case management. A total of 180 people has managed to be reached directly with these essential services. Include migrants.
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoring of Family Links (RFL) services which include (Free phone call services, Tracing and case management. - A total of 180 people has managed to be reached directly with these essential services. 98% of the affected people are migrants with different status. - Advocacy for gender consideration continue - Families separation in the hosting settlements are ongoing in Kennedy centers.
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SARCS has been providing hot meals to 2,357 people since 17 July 2023 to date in KwaZulu Natal. - SARCS continues to provide lunch to a total of 203 out of the 422 people in the 3 centers where they are placed.
Community Engagement And Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SARCS continues to facilitate its participatory approach of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) with affected communities. - Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) are integral components of all response interventions, especially following the potential challenges in the migrant situation and the need to have leaders involved and advocating on the same efforts (both at community and local authorities level). - The NS is in constant communication with community leaders of different nationalities to also ensure that communication reaches everyone and that there is no language barrier as the community leaders will be able to translate any communication to their community members. The NS will also continue to engage the government to ensure that advocacy for the undocumented migrants is strengthened because they will really have nowhere to go after they are turned away from the shelters. - There have been special effort as well on NS advocacy for Government shelter support to the communities affected in the different fire incidents but also engagement on the need to strengthen the PGI minimum standards in the hosting centers. This come with initial positive outcomes and messages is passed for gender consideration in each centers and separation is done accordingly for all the established facilities. <p>Community participation and involvement will be prioritized, using existing community structures and engaging key stakeholders like community leaders. Special considerations will be given to individuals with specific needs.</p>
	<p>The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) resumed assessments from onset to identified the needs and scale-up the response plan. Following the two incidents, rapid assessment were conducted and monitoring continues on any update on the situation and partners actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form 16 to 17 th of July 2023 and assessment cover the fire outbreak of Kennedy road . - 31 August 2023 SARCS deployed a team that continues to collaborate with government disaster management teams to conduct assessments.



Assessment	<p>The organization has been conducting joint assessments with government through its local municipality and disaster management center at district level. SARCS will continue to actively participate in Joint Operations Committee (JOC) which are spearheaded by the district municipality Disaster Management Centre (DMC) to ensure well-coordinated response and recovery interventions which minimize duplication of efforts to the same community. Since the devastating incident of the structured fires, South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) mobilized 20 volunteers and 10 staff members in Kennedy road and 20 more in Johannesburg incidents.</p>
Shelter, Housing And Settlements	<p>SARCS deployed a team for initial distribution of 100 mattresses and 100 blankets from NS stock to be replenished under this intervention.</p>
Coordination	<p>SARCS National Response Team (NRT) was activated on the 30th of August 2023 to ensure proper coordination of response interventions internally. The Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) greatly assist in ensuring continues data monitoring and timely updates of information received from the field. Sharing of timely updates with the Head of Operation and technical team to inform decision making on response strategy and mechanisms.</p> <p>SARCS Head quarters, Gauteng Provincial and Johannesburg branch activated a total of 20 staff and 30 volunteers to provide integrated response interventions. So far the NS team managed to provide First Aid, Restoring Family Links (RFL), Psychosocial Support Services, clothes and blankets. The team resumed needs assessments to get more understanding of the plight of survivors.</p> <p>The response teams are responsible for ensuring SARCS participation, coordination and collaboration with government and other stakeholders at all levels. This ensures proper coordination of interventions to avoid duplication. SARCS has been active in the KZN province to respond to current crisis caused by the fires and has activated 20 volunteers and 10 staff members to conduct assessments, provide immediate relief and support services to affected people. So far, SARCS has provided 1,250 people with relief which include hot meals, clothes, blankets, mattress, Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) and Restoring Family links. Additional people are still not covered.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The Pretoria Cluster Delegation continues to provide technical assistance to SARCS through reviewing of DREF application and general support towards the response.</p> <p>A surge will be called-up to complement the delegation and cover the monitoring of activities in respective branches.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>Currently there are no PNS involved who have contributed directly to this response at the moment.</p> <p>Recent supports include Belgian Red Cross support in recent floods response recovery interventions with provision of mobile kitchens for SARCS to be able to provide timely hot meals has greatly assisted during this fire response to ensure that people who are displaced are served with fresh meals.</p>



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The first aid kit refills which ICRC provided early this year as part of readiness interventions for incidents and disasters have been useful for the teams to provide first aid services during these early days of response. The teams collaboratively work with government paramedics to ensure urgent cases are attended to by professionals. ICRC is currently supporting SARCS to intensify its PFL services to the affected people. In addition there has been efforts by Forensic team of ICRC in engaging the South African government to be given permission to assist in facilitating processing that can assist with establishing identification of the deceased whose identity is not yet known.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government so far has ensured that people who are displaced in a community hall and has managed to provide mobile toilet facilities to assist the affected people. - The government through the City of Johannesburg Metro has requested support from non-governmental organizations to assist affected people to meet their basic needs. - Government local authorities is leading the shelter decision and actions.
UN or other actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SARCS has reached out to UN agencies and so far there has not been commitment yet in any of the ongoing response. - Other actors like Meal on the Wheels have been assisting in providing hot meals for dinner to the affected people in Johannesburg. - Gift of the givers provided some blankets to some of the affected people.
Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The provincial, district and local municipalities have been facilitating Joint Operations Coordination (JOC) meetings in which SARCS and other stakeholders are part of. - The partners coordination remains mainly for information sharing on ongoing actions. 	



Needs (Gaps) Identified

Community Engagement And Accountability

Community Engagement and Accountability has been at the core of SARCS response interventions. Most affected people are hesitant to engage with government officials in fear of their status of migrant in irregular situation. However, they have been free to engage with non-governmental organizations like SARCS and share their plight.

The rise of the fire in South Africa informal settlements have to be analyzed to understand the context and the potential factor. The origin of the current fire is not yet official but from the media, it is not a natural fire. The conditions of the affected settlements are then one of the factors to be analyzed for the identification of key actions, messages and sustainable intervention to build a community aware of key preventive and response actions that will contribute to reduce the risk of such event to happen or to have this scale. Indeed, such neighborhoods like the Kennedy settlement are characterized by the absence of clean, safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly energy. Shortage of reliable energy is prevalent in under-resourced communities and is also a key contributor to the problem. This exposes these communities to untamed fires vulnerabilities which are mainly caused by paraffin stoves, heaters, and candle mishap. Sometimes fuels are also burnt in inefficient, leaky and unstable appliances, leading to health losses from pollutant emissions, burns, and conflagrations. Although structured fires have been a hazard to many of the informal settlements, the recent fires that blazed Kennedy Road informal settlement hit the area massively for the first time. This event is ringing the alert on such events, the place of the communities, government agencies and fire agencies in reducing the incidence/impact when this happens or reduce the factors bringing to those situations.

Hence, there is need for intensive stakeholder engagements with regards to risks and vulnerabilities which most informal settlement in urban and peri-urban areas are exposed to. Enforcement of by-laws is necessary to ensure people settle in less risky areas.

There is a need to sensitize people about building and using better materials to construct their homes. It is equally most needed for these communities to have plans and strategies in place that can minimize the risk of fires breaking out and causing total property destruction.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Good hygiene practices are lacking due to limited materials especially among women and girls. There is need for provision of hygiene kits to the affected people.

Safe water is not coming to the priority need. Being in urban areas and relocated not far from the affected settlements, most have access to tap water that was already available before the fire and still be accessible. The hygiene kits will also facilitate water storage.

Affected people are in great need of hygiene packs and adolescents girls, youth and women require urgent supply of sanitary towels.

Shelter Housing And Settlements

- In Johannesburg fire, the 175 families are placed across 3 shelters namely, Impilo (20), Khayaletu (36), and Hofland (147) as some of the people have gone to seek refuge with friends but we remain in communication



with them. Other affected people are hesitant to join the shelters because of their irregular migration status in country and they fear that they will be deported. There is great need for provision of hygiene kits to the affected people.

- Following the fire outbreak of July in KwaZulu Natal, Kennedy Road, the families were relocated in informal settlements and host families around and lack minimum households' items to protect themselves. So far it has been determined that 98% of the affected people are non-citizens whom most of them are not having identification documents and their status in country is . This is causing some of the affected people to be hesitant to go to evacuation centres which have been established as shelters to accommodate the affected people.

In Kennedy Road, and Johannesburg, the affected population and families are in need for essential household items such as blankets, mattresses especially with the current cold experienced in the season.

In the NS plan, the shelter construction is not covered as that need can only be covered through sustainable building which requires government to allocate safe spaces for displaced households currently in evacuation centers. This means that the need for now is for sustainable housing interventions by the government to ensure people's risks to hazards of this nature are minimized. In his auxiliary role, NS will keep engaging government and partners to achieve that. Furthermore, there is a great need for building back better campaigns to ensure that the affected community is aware of safe building requirements and training of staff and volunteers on fire awareness so that they can continue raising awareness in the communities and avoid or reduce the impact of fire disasters should they happen again.

Multi purpose cash grants

Although the affected people have received in kind donations like blankets, recycled clothes and currently hot meals, there is need to provide cash grants for them to be able to prioritize their needs and restore their dignity. It would be very helpful if the affected people could receive food vouchers for them to be able to get food parcels from selected food stores.

In the need analysis and possible intervention analysis, it is important to mention the repetitive fire recorded in recent months and beyond which has significantly impacted partners assistance capacity, including government shelter assistance. Additionally, multiple needs expressed include shelter and other sectors. In a context where the recently affected in Johannesburg are 98% undocumented migrants, there is a level of sensitivity that also need to be considered. There have been some violence incidents on assistance to recent fire affected communities while previous were still waiting for shelter support. A situation that is likely driven by the limited shelter assistance as of now.

With that said, a consideration of the above-mentioned sensitivity and potential inter-community conflict there is at the same time a required neutrality and a need for humanitarian priorities in limited resources to face these recurrent events. Hence, the SARCS will opt for a multipurpose cash to give the communities the possibility to make their priorities without bringing the subject of complaints up.

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

With a disaster of this nature where for example in Johannesburg 12 children have died amongst the 76 people reported and where others are hospitalized, it's important to prioritize child safeguarding to ensure that those children who are separated from their parents are profiled and referred to relevant Departments that can offer



them more support. There is more importance that needs to be emphasized on SGBV prevention and mitigation especially with people being confined in evacuation centers.

Livelihoods And Basic Needs

People's livelihoods have been greatly affected as the affected people have lost all their belongings to the fire blaze. Basic needs like food and clothing are greatly needed by the displaced people.

SARCS has been providing hot meals to 1,500 people at the first days of Kennedy fire and extending it to the overall affected families. Stocks for that meals were limited, hence justifying support from the DREF. People are still in the evacuation centers and informal town hall areas. With limited resources, the stock levels are depleting and there is a risk of the affected people being exposed to more vulnerabilities as they try to fend for themselves. In total 2,357 people are in need of immediate food assistance and NS needs to extend to the overall affected people with the hot meal provision.

All the hot meal distribution engaged by NGO latest fire are limited to that one meal provision. There is great need to provide food to the affected people as they have lost all their belongings. This represent a hot meal provision for these 175 families.

There is a need to complement that provision. In addition, there is a challenge with baby food for infants in these early days. Even if the NS is providing hot meals, these does no cover specific needs for babies and infants.

For the rural area of Kennedy, people seeking solution for their own livelihood and food provision as per initial assessment are still lacking equipment to cook for themselves, neither houses or commodities to be able to cook for themselves at the moment. However, most expressed the need to get the kitchen sets in initial assessment and this remains. This will allow them to cook for themselves in few weeks to make it when they will move out of the evacuation centers.

Health

MHPSS services are vital to address the emotional and psychological trauma experienced by the affected individuals and communities. The devastating loss of homes and belongings, along with the displacement and uncertainty, can have severe and long-lasting effects on mental health.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

In general, support is needed to ensure sustainable shelter interventions that might not be able to be address through this DREF but at least, maximizing advocacy engagements for government to provide safe space for people to rebuild safer structures.

Also, although it is acknowledged that all affected people require assistance, it should be noted that the government has only profiled citizens for potential relief which might come from the government and will not be able to give to undocumented non-citizens who constitute 98% of the affected population in Johannesburg.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF allocation aims to support 2,779 people that lost their homes on the fire incident happen in Kennedy Road informal settlement in KwaZulu Natal and Johannesburg building fire with urgent assistance in livelihoods and basic needs (food, blankets, mattresses, clothes etc.), WASH (hygiene packs and sanitary towels) and shelter support (smoke alarms, kitchen kits etc) as well as fire prevention and advocacy for relevant solution beyond the 6 months of this DREF.

Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy rationale seek to address the needs that have been identified during the Rapid Needs assessment in KwaZULU and Johannesburg following the fire incidents. To address the needs of the affected people this DREF was launched to rolling out immediate response interventions to address shelter, health, WASH, livelihoods and basic needs of the affected people. The Following intervention pillars were set and will be maintain and extended to Johannesburg response following the second fire outbreak on 30.08.2023:

- Detailed assessments in the affected area already conducted and recover through this allocation.
- Immediate relief which includes blankets, mattresses and hot meals.
- Provision of Smoke detectors/alarms.
- Provision of kitchen kits.
- Support access to food in the sites for at least 5 weeks.
- Facilitate PSS.
- Capacity building and sensitization to 20 volunteers on CVA, fire awareness, PGI and CEA.
- Visibility materials and protective clothing for operation response team.
- Strengthen and continue the advocacy among relevant stakeholders on the fire prevention, sustainable solutions and reliable mechanism to reduce these outbreaks.
- Scale-up awareness campaigns on fire incidents and health risk in the evacuation centers and host communities with benefit of trained team and appropriate printing of IEC material to reduce the impact of future fires and mitigate the risk of water related and others diseases.
- Ensure Multi-purpose cash to the people affected in the Johannesburg fire and support with awareness on the use of cash for priority immediate needs. The Cash process will be inclusive of communities and process through a cash-card modality. Secured card will be issued and convert into either cash or items in identified shops. Families that will receive the card will have the flexibility to:
 - Withdrawal of cash and then buy any specific items in any of their preferred markets/shops or process with rental or others priority needs.
 - Exchange the Card into food items, shelter or other items in some identified shops of the NS.

Shops identified will be part of a chain store across Johannesburg and they are already working with the NS. This process has already been successfully used by the NS for others assistance. It is also more sensitive on the ongoing complaints and help mitigate the security/protection issues that are usually faced through mobile money.

SARCS has ensure coordination with local authorities to address the existing complaints. A Workshop on advocacy with partners on shelter and urban fire management and shelter solutions will be organize to have clear actions forward. Dynamic being different and administrations being different, two discussions need to take place with relevant parties to enable right decision making.

Aside from that, SARCS will continue strengthen the community engagement through community discussion, promotion of acceptance and understanding of neutrality of the planned intervention.

- Monitor and advocate on the shelter assistance scale-up in Kennedy.

These being more or less a repetitive incident, the country team will explore how to engage with partners involve in fire incident management in the country, especially in the affected areas to see how to set up mechanism for



preventing and early actions/response to fire that will avoid such impact in the communities. NS is engaged on advocacy with stakeholders and local authorities that aim at scaling-up :

- (i) Engagement with National disaster management agency and civil protection to potentially envisage the creation & training of fire management committee teams that can rapidly prevent & respond to fire outbreak.
- (ii) Advocacy and collaboration on possible innovative ways to prevent fire outbreak (Fire sensors, planning evacuation routes, participatory sessions with the community) to significantly reduce fire incidents. IFRC to contribute through the presence of a surge to bring technical guidance and actions plans - immediate and long term.
- (iii) Engagement with Government and IFRC for respective administrative and technical support to identified and set up under an urban risk reduction program actions to address this risk.
- (iv) The educative sessions are also planned to be conducted in the communities in coordination with Department of social development and fire services for fire risk sensitizations, consequences, prevention, community system and early actions.

The shelter and livelihood assistance are limited for now to the immediate life saving measures with consideration of possible support from Government and others partners for a more sustainable solution. Department of Human settlement following the response process with displaced population, will specify relocation sites before any further assistance planned. NS include under this intervention to continue the coordination and advocacy with regular meetings with Government and DHS for a coordinated long term and safety solution.

It is important to note that this incident is in urban areas in Kwazulu, not far from a main road and lacking for now clear position of local authorities on long term shelter assistance. Hence, the NS will provide the immediate households items to mitigate the risk of diseases and support to enhance the hygiene conditions. However, when the Government will advise on the safe relocation site/place, the NS could revise and include a more complete assistance.

However, in the meantime, SARCS will increase the livability, privacy & protection of the collective halls which are hosting displaced families with improvement of WASH assistance that address also the protection concern. Based on the rapid assessment done on 25th July 2023, NS included some gender segregated and accessible mobile toilets/WASH facilities.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Under DREF SARCS is targeting to reach 2,790 people, 1,388 affected households of which 1,213 are the one affected in Kennedy Road and 175 affected in Johannesburg.

With all the people affected being in the sites, it is crucial to avoid creating conflict as all the affected families are homeless and also with consideration of sensitivity and claims from host communities on the plan of assistance to the migrants affected in Johannesburg. Align with the RCRC humanitarian principle and the scope of the DREF tool, SARCS will then provide equitable assistance to the Johannesburg families through MPC and keep the initial relief assistance planned in Kennedy that is agreed with communities.

People that are staying in shelters are the ones who will receive more support because they are the one identified and registered in the shelters and can be verified. Although the government has profiled citizens for potential relief the situation on the ground is sensitive if specific interventions from non-governmental organizations might segregate between citizens and non-citizens. There is a threat for social unrest and there is need for response interventions to target all affected people.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The operation is currently targeting all the people affected.

As part of CEA approach, SARCS will conduct a verification process which will engage key role players like Department of Social Development (DSD) and traditional/local leadership council to verify the selected households to ensure that the selection criteria are respected and properly followed. In addition, the selection assistance contain will be



shared widely through trusted channels of communication which include community engagement forums which are usually spearheaded by traditional leaders and local authorities to ensure that people understand why and what is delivered by the NS.

The targeting of overall affected is based on needs identified for all the families that lost their houses but also to minimize community tensions.

National Society staff and volunteers will also collect feedback and complaints of targeted households during the selection and throughout the operation, based on the channels identified during the needs assessment as preferred by the affected communities. Feedback will be shared and analyzed at HQ to refine the selection process and criteria if necessary and ensure that complaints regarding the selection of community members are investigated and addressed in a timely manner. This feedback will also be used to adapt the intervention based on community needs, attitudes and perceptions.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	971	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	330		100.00 %
Men:	1,151	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	327	2.00 %	
Total targeted population:	2,779		

Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Social unrest as all affected people to demand benefiting from any intervention	Thorough community engagement with affected people. Mapping response measures with other humanitarian actors.
Cash challenges following losses of documents and mobile	The existing challenges with communities to be assisted through cash include the unavailability of identity document, sim card and phones. Considering this situation, the easiest way to process for cash assistance being then the use of cash cards.
Budget limitation linked to prices hikes and currency re-evaluation	The National Society has anticipated on this by budgeting for most actual prices and in case of any significant variances or prices inflation, a revision of the budget might be submitted.
People become sick due to on going cold front.	Sourcing more resources to provide affected people with warm clothes.
Sensitivity and complaints arise in the communities in the Johannesburg context between host and migrants.	As part of the management of the sensitivity on the explained context, the choice of cash modality also contributes to address the risk of demonstrations or any harm to the migrants first as also 8% of the assisted



families are SA. The card modality will give flexibility to access at any time the items needed or withdraw cash to cover the shelter needs with rents in different areas.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The affected area is an informal settlement and requires careful analysis of response measures to ensure it will not brew social unrest/violence as everyone would want to benefit.



Planned Intervention

	Shelter Housing And Settlements	Budget	
		CHF 112,262	
		Targeted Persons	
		2779	
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of mattresses distributed	1563		
# of blankets distributed	1563		
# of printed IEC materials distributed on fire awareness	2000		
# of volunteers who attended the Fire awareness training	40	20	
# of Fire awareness training	2	1	
# of Fire awareness campaigns for staff and volunteers conducted	2	1	
# of Safe Shelter awareness campaigns conducted	2	1	
# of smoke alarms installed	2779	2357	
# of people supported with kitchen sets	2779	2357	
# of needs assessments conducted	2	2	

Progress Towards Outcome

In Johannesburg, the same shelter intervention planned and ongoing in Kennedy will be conducted. The only changes being the consideration of number of people per households that require adjusting kits as follows:

- Detailed assessment of the needs and vulnerabilities, damages of affected households by volunteers and staff.
- Volunteer training on fire and safety.
- Distribution of blankets (2 per Household).
- Distribution of Mattresses (2 per household).
- Fire awareness campaigns done at evacuation centers which will be coupled with hygiene, WASH and PGI minimum standards awareness to the affected people.

	Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Budget	
		CHF 15,208	
		Targeted Persons	
		2779	



Indicators	Target	Actual
# of people assisted with hot meal	2779	2357
#of weeks for hot meal provision	13	5
#of weeks for hot meal provision in Kennedy	5	5
#of weeks for hot meal provision in JOHANNESBURG	8	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- Hot meal provision is ongoing for 2,357 people /1,213 families. 5 weeks distribution already has been completed.
- Rapid assessment confirmed the need of food and return to regular business could also mitigate that need.
- SARCS plan have some pending actions to be completed for Kennedy incident which include the kitchen set provision that will help the communities to continue cooking for themselves while slowly recovering from the first hardest days supported by SARCS.

Following latest fire, SARCS will extend the hot meal provision in the 3 centers hosting the families for 2 months (8 weeks focused in Johannesburg affected HHs), complementing the 1 meal currently provided by NGO. Through MPC, it is also expected that families will be prioritized among the pressing needs to cover also their immediate food needs after the hot meal distribution. The hot meal distribution for 2 months planned can also be an advantage for faster recovery that will help them prioritize another sector.

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 65,649
		Targeted Persons	46
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of people attending a Lessons Learned workshop	50	30	
# of Lessons Learned workshops conducted	1		
# of volunteers insured	40	30	
# of visibility materials procured and distributed	70	30	
# of staff and volunteers who received Protective clothes for rain	30		
# of coordination and monitoring visits conducted	12	3	
	2		



#of coordination workshop to enhance the shelter and fire management in fire humanitarian response

Progress Towards Outcome

• Field supervision, coordination, and monitoring visits are conducted and will continue. 20 NS volunteers and 10 staff are deployed in Kennedy and same will be deployed to cover the Johannesburg response. Effective reporting from these branches is regularly done that help on decision making for any challenges.

The intervention was affected and delayed by ongoing civil unrest in the Durban area as well as incident on distributions planned by Government on shelter for Durban which were re-prioritized for past affected communities.

• Coordination with fire services and Disaster management agency in KwaZulu and in general has started and regular communication take place to update on ongoing and planned actions.

In the coming months, SARCS will:

- Continue a close monitoring and coordination with relevant partners; engaging discussion with communities on the assistance planned and evolution for a harmonized response.
- Procurement of visibility materials like SARCS branded jelay/bibs, t-shirts and hats for field visibility.
- Provincial team monitoring visits.
- HQ monitoring visits to be strengthen and extended to the new branch involved.
- Conduct a lesson learned workshop.

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 20,430
		Targeted Persons	47
Indicators		Target	Actual
# of monitoring visits conducted by IFRC		3	
#of surge deployed		1	

Progress Towards Outcome

Support to the NS is ongoing.
Monitoring and update is done regularly.
Surge requested will be deployed to enhance Secretariat support to the NS.

	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 14,803
		Targeted Persons	2779
Indicators		Target	Actual
#of people that confirmed they received fire awarness messages		2779	2357



# Advocacy meeting organise on fire incident prevention and response planning	6	2
% of community feedbacks collected and addressed	100	
# of community feedback methods used	4	
# of staff and volunteers who attended the CEA orientation	75	
# of CEA orientations conducted for staff and volunteers	1	

Progress Towards Outcome

- Briefings are completed in Kennedy intervention and volunteers mobilized have the capacity to address the complaints and others feedbacks received from the communities.
- Through DREF SARCS has initiated a plan to assist affected communities to stabilize and raise more awareness and advocate for provision of safe shelter and safe settlements. Throughout the above phases SARCS will promote collaboration and coordination with partners and government agencies to avoid duplication of services by actors. This will strengthen SARCS auxiliary role through complementing government's efforts.
- FGD were conducted to share information and collect feedback in the community.
- A community engagement strategy also include: enhancing the advocacy with community representatives and leaders of the host and migrants as a mitigation measure also to the possible sensitivity on the explain context.
- An open transparent and constant discussion will be maintained, and feedback system put in place for a two-way communication.
- In general, the overall response flexibility and consultation as well as the advocacy with different parties will be ensured through the response.
- The process and the flexibility of the cash modality selected by the NS will allow some privacy on the use of cash that contribute to the protection of the affected migrants.

	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget	CHF 1,014
		Targeted Persons	2779
Indicators		Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers who attended the PGI briefing on Minimum Standards for PGI in Emergencies		45	30
# of PGI briefing on Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies conducted for staff and volunteers in response team		1	

Progress Towards Outcome

- From previous fire incident, the SARCS continued to provide PGI services. Actions are ongoing and also will be completed in Johannesburg in the affected area.
- PGI briefing on Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies (1 day) to staff and volunteers in the response



team.

- Child safeguarding and PGI awareness will be incorporated with the health awareness sessions that will be done during the fire safety awareness campaign at the evacuation centers.
- Promotion of acceptance in the two affected areas, as well as peace message will also be enhanced through the FGD and volunteers' visits.

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget	CHF 78,424
		Targeted Persons	2779
Indicators		Target	Actual
# of volunteers supporting WASH activities		20	30
# of hygiene packs distributed		1388	1213

Progress Towards Outcome

All trainings are done and sensitization on hygiene and importance of safe measures are ongoing. The different distributions are yet to be in place.

Following this extension, 3 months are added to continue the prevention and hygiene activities.

- Provide hygiene packs to affected HHs.
- Provide sensitization to water related disease and hygiene, use of hygiene kits provided.
- SARCS will provided in total 24 mobile 14 in Kennedy and 10 in Johannesburg centers to enhance hygiene. They are gender inclusive in the repartition.

	Health	Budget	CHF 28,490
		Targeted Persons	2779
Indicators		Target	Actual
# of volunteers supporting PFA		20	30
# of people supported with PFA		2779	2357

Progress Towards Outcome

- All trainings were conducted, and first aid provided on the onset of the respective intervention to recover through this allocation.
 - Health prevention and monitoring of suspected diseases done by volunteers.
 - Awareness continues and has been extended as well in both the affected areas in the evacuation centers and direct surrounding communities.
- Feedback has been used to adjust key messages for sensitization and FGDs.
- PSS is being provided to 2,357 people in Kennedy and also extended to 203 people in Johannesburg centers.

Johannesburg intervention will follow the same priority actions conducted under Kennedy fire. This includes:

- Provision of first aid and PFA support to community as needed.



- Identification and referral of people in distress.
- PSS, team building, to volunteer and staff care sessions
- Provision of medical supplies for minor injuries and pain (bandages, sterilizer, wound ointment, muscle strain rubs, pain block).
- Health and hygiene awareness sessions to people in the evacuation centers, will also be incorporated in the child safeguarding and PGI minimum standards briefing that will be done during the fire awareness session.

	Multi-purpose Cash	Budget	CHF 40,048
		Targeted Persons	422
Indicators		Target	Actual
#of families assisted with MPC		175	
#PMD conducted for cash		1	
Progress Towards Outcome			
Planning for cash intervention: Initial discussions have been engaged with shop chain and community representatives.			



About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 40 volunteers, 25 staff.

- Kennedy team: 10 staff and 20 volunteers will be involved.
- Johannesburg team: A total of 15 staff members and 20 volunteers are involved in the operation at all levels.

25 staff are both HQ and province.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

Through this revision, a surge will be deployed. The preferable profile will look into the Disaster management coordination with skills on urban Disaster and shelter component. This profile will contribute to the direct discussions and capacity building of the NS on fire management, provide technical guidance to the NS during operations on specific shelter issues/discussions. The incumbent will guide the Shelter Sector and provide recommendations for DREF operation. Surge will enhance coordination of NS within country Department of Human settlement. The person deployed will give the technical oversights on the shelter/housing/settlements discussions as well as supporting the orientation on the advocacy efforts engaged and upcoming. Liaising the partners initiatives if any, to complement the existing assistance.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Procurement will be for replenishing and also distributing other relief like blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, kitchen kits.

For cash, an agreement will be amended with a distribution chain that will cover this DREF for rapid delivery'.

How will this operation be monitored?

The provincial managers and their teams are responsible to monitor the project continuously and to report weekly to the programme managers at the national office. At the same time financial reports will be prepared by the provincial finance administrators. The provincial managers will have weekly meetings with the project team to discuss challenges and achievements of the project. The provincial managers will also have biweekly meetings with the programme manager and national finance administrator to review budget implementation. The provincial manager will consolidate monthly and final reports on the activities and submit to the National office. The national office staff will provide oversight, technical support and monitoring of project implementation.

IFRC delegates or representatives will also provide technical support to the National Office team and provincial managers. IFRC Disaster management, PMER and Communications representatives will conduct monitoring visits to support the team.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

SARCS has a communications unit, which works closely with different media houses to ensure that SARCS interventions are well published, and communities and stakeholders are aware of SARCS readiness and early action interventions. Updates on the operation will be shared on the National Society social media networks (websites, Facebook, Twitter). The National Society will also collaborate closely with IFRC communication focal person for technical support to ensure sufficient media coverage of the response. Operations teams will utilize visibility clothing and equipment during the operations to ensure easy identification and avoid harm. Both the SARCS and IFRC communications officers will be actively engaged to ensure proximity support to the operation. Since the South African Weather Services has warned that the rains will continue to pour, SARCS provincial and branch managers will convey early warning messages in the communities through loudhailers, group WhatsApp messages and local Radio interviews.



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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