

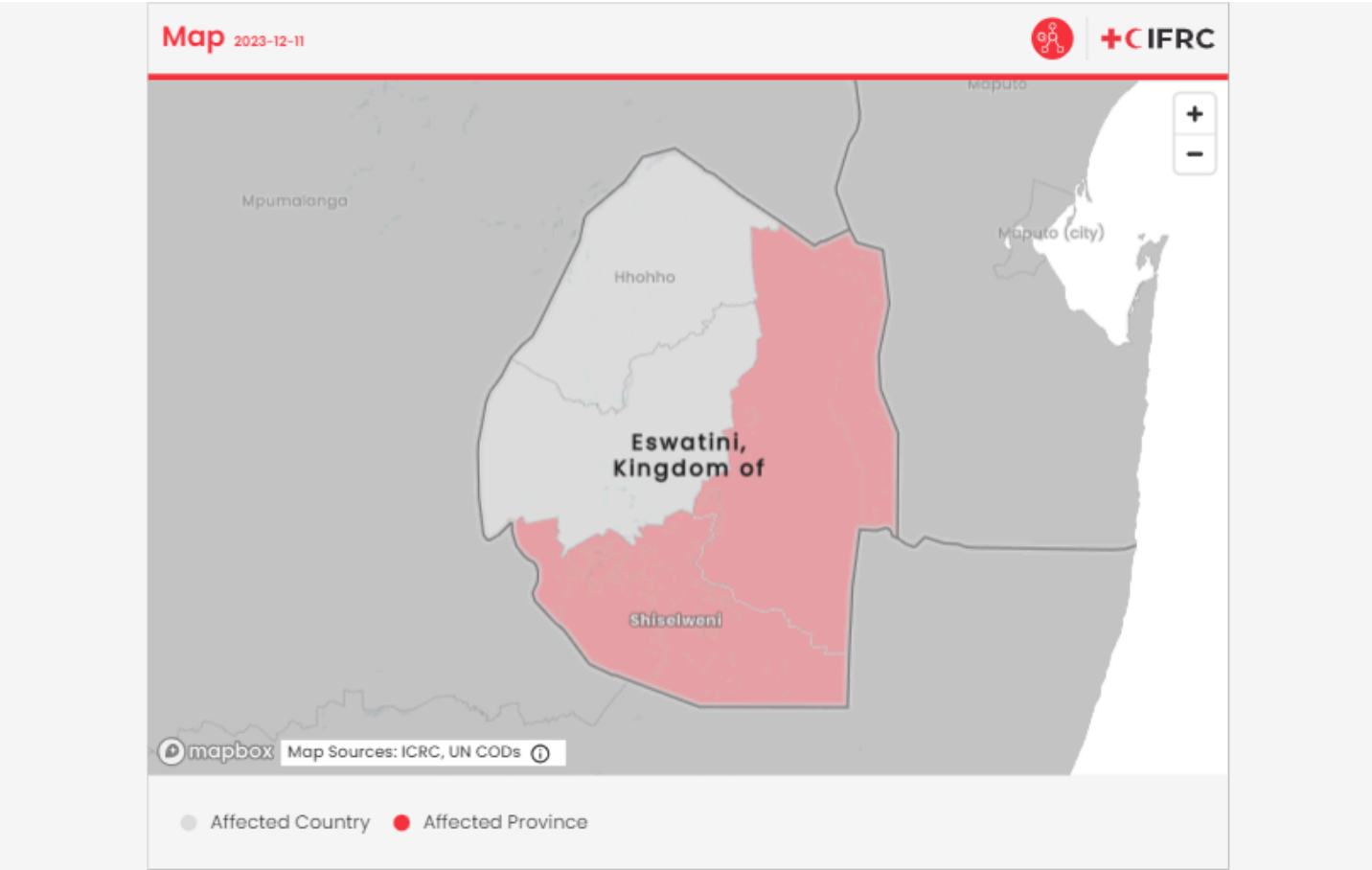


Commissioning of the Kwaluseni water point.

Appeal: MDRSZ004	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 899,821	Crisis Category: Orange	Hazard: Drought
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 270,000 people	People Targeted: 30,000 people	People Assisted: 30,000 people
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 21-12-2023	Operational End Date: 30-09-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 21 months
Targeted Regions: Lubombo, Shiselweni			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Map high affected provinces from GO_Alert

Date when the trigger was met

30-11-2023

What happened, where and when?

The Kingdom of Eswatini persistently experienced dry spells that further exacerbated the country's existing food insecurity challenges. For successive years, Eswatini battled prolonged drought, whose effects on agriculture were further compounded by cumulative socio-economic challenges the country had not overcome. As of 30 November 2023, ACAPS classified food insecurity in Eswatini as high, with 24% of the population (282,800 people) affected by food-insecurity vulnerabilities, facing challenges in accessing food and water, with many households still reliant on welfare and social safety nets.

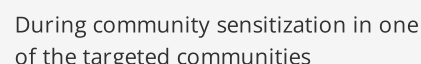
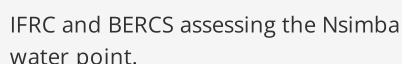
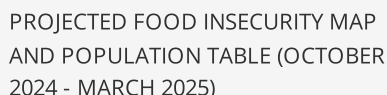
During the operational update in June 2024, food security had declined further, as indicated by the IPC report of 2024/25 (current period: June 2024-September 2024), where 270 000 people were in Crisis (IPC 3+), and while the projected period (October 2024-March 2025) indicated an increase to 304 000 people to be food insecure. Prolonged dry spells and other climatic conditions remained one of the main drivers of food insecurity in the country. The regions with the highest prevalence of food insecurity were the Lubombo and Shiselweni, which are the same areas mostly affected by droughts.

Despite efforts engaged by government and humanitarian actors in the country, the assessment conducted in June 2024 gathered community insights on drought impacts and food security needs, identifying a 33% gap, approximately 4,675 people, within the targeted constituencies. Consequently, the Government of Eswatini, through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), relaunched a call for support from humanitarian actors and National Food Security Consortium partners, citing insufficient funds to address the needs.

However, new developments showed that in the 2024 IPC report, 243,000 people (20% of the population) were estimated to be in IPC



Between June and September 2025, 193,000 people (16 percent of the population) in Eswatini experienced high levels of acute food insecurity and loss of livelihood, classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse). Although food security had improved significantly compared to the same period last year, the situation was expected to deteriorate during the projection period (October 2025 to March 2026).



The overall phase classification for the Lowveld Cattle and Maize zone was influenced by adverse climatic conditions, including recurrent dry spells and early-season hailstorms. These shocks posed significant challenges, resulting in reduced agricultural production and diminished labour opportunities for households dependent on seasonal farm work. Rising inflation triggered substantial increases in food prices, which further strained household purchasing power, particularly in rural areas where communities relied heavily on markets to meet food needs. Limited access to arable land was a persistent issue in the LCM zone; approximately 38% of households had no access to cultivable land. This in turn contributed to reduced cultivated areas and posed a significant threat to agricultural productivity.

The prolonged dry conditions negatively impacted food availability during the season, leading to reduced crop yields. Food-stock duration data showed varying levels of household resilience: only 21% of households had sufficient stocks to last beyond six months as of June 2024. While food utilization was not widely problematic, the region continued to face hygiene challenges, with fewer than 3% of households adhering to proper hand-washing practices before food preparation and consumption.

These specific conditions in Dry Middleveld and Lowveld Cattle and Maize added to other underlying factors that affected the food insecurity at National level. Include continued increases in food and non-food commodity prices, driven by inflation and disruptions in international supply chains largely contributed to worsen the situation as described above. Prolonged dry spells remained a major driver of reduced agricultural productivity and household food deficits. Furthermore, declines in income and employment opportunities constituted key shocks experienced by households during the reporting period.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. IPC 2024	https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157105/
2. FAO Anticipatory Action and Response Plan October 2023– March 2024 Southern Africa section	https://www.fao.org/3/cc8496en/cc8496en.pdf
3. IPC 2023	https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1152805/?iso3=SWZ
4. EMS seasonal forecast 2023/2024 March	https://www.swazimet.gov.sz/index.php?page=seasonal

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
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IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC provided comprehensive technical and operational support to the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS) throughout the implementation of the drought response operation. This support was delivered across multiple functional areas Operations Coordination, Finance, PMER, and Communications to reinforce the National Society’s capacity to deliver timely and accountable assistance to the affected population. The IFRC cluster teams conducted regular monitoring visits to the BERCS headquarters and targeted constituencies. These visits served both supervisory and coaching functions, enabling the IFRC to provide hands-on guidance, assess progress against the implementation plan, verify compliance with operational standards, and identify bottlenecks requiring timely management support. In addition to field-level engagement, the IFRC supported the BERCS in strengthening
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	its operational planning and project management processes. This included guidance in designing and refining implementation plans, aligning activities with approved budgets, and ensuring adherence to the provisions of the project agreement. Through continuous accompaniment, the IFRC helped the National Society manage operations related to procurement, financial management, reporting, and community engagement and accountability. The IFRC also played a pivotal role in donor coordination, particularly in managing challenges that BERCS encountered during the implementation of the DREF. When delays emerged risking the timely completion of project activities, the IFRC provided diplomatic and technical support to help the National Society articulate the reasons for the delays, present revised implementation timelines, and negotiate for an extension. This extension proved essential in enabling BERCS to complete the activities within an adjusted but still compliant timeframe and ensuring continuity of assistance to communities. Across all areas, the IFRC's support was anchored in its mandate to reinforce National Society capacity and ensure principled, accountable, and results-oriented humanitarian action. This holistic support structure contributed significantly to the quality, coherence, and effectiveness of the drought response operation.
Participating National Societies	National Societies (PNSs) continued to play an important role in strengthening the Eswatini Red Cross Society's (ERCS) response capacity during the drought operation. Notably, the Finnish Red Cross and the British Red Cross implemented complementary programmes in the same four targeted chiefdoms, providing additional layers of support that contributed to a more holistic and sustainable response for food-insecure households. The Finnish Red Cross supported ongoing livelihoods and resilience-building initiatives in the chiefdoms, including activities related to climate-smart agriculture, household gardening, and community preparedness. Through these initiatives, households were equipped with improved agricultural practices, drought-resilient crop varieties, and small-scale production tools that enhanced their capacity to cope with the recurring dry spells. The Finnish Red Cross also supported community-based disaster preparedness and training, which helped strengthen early-warning awareness and local response mechanisms as communities faced worsening climatic shocks. In parallel, the British Red Cross had active health and community development programmes in the same operational areas. These included community-based health promotion, hygiene awareness, and support to local health structures. By improving access to basic health information, strengthening disease-prevention practices, and supporting community volunteers, the British Red Cross helped reduce the health risks often associated with food insecurity, particularly in vulnerable households already coping with reduced dietary diversity and weakened coping strategies. The presence of these PNS initiatives in these chiefdoms created meaningful synergies with the drought response operation, allowing communities to benefit from multisectoral assistance. The complementary livelihoods and health interventions delivered by Finnish RC and British RC helped ensure that communities received well-rounded, integrated support. This combination of short-term relief and longer-term resilience programming strengthened households' ability to withstand future shocks and contributed to a more sustainable humanitarian impact in the targeted areas.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC further supported the NS on capacity building for staff and volunteers on restoring family links (RFL).

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Under the coordination of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), a multi-stakeholder food-security coordination meeting was convened in October 2023 to assess the scale of the drought impacts and review ongoing and planned response interventions. During this meeting, the Food Security Consortium reported that there were no sufficient food-security interventions in place among consortium members that could adequately address the growing humanitarian needs at the time. This highlighted a significant response gap, particularly in relation to food availability and complementary assistance to vulnerable households. In subsequent updates, the Government of Eswatini, through the NDMA, indicated that a rice donation was expected, however, the contribution did not include supplementary food or non-food items, limiting its capacity to meet households' broader food-security and nutrition needs. This shortfall created a critical gap in the overall response, particularly for food-insecure communities that required diversified support to sustain basic household consumption. In response to this gap, the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS), in its auxiliary role to public authorities, stepped in through the DREF to complement the Government. The BERCS worked in close collaboration with NDMA, as well as with the Ministry of Health and the Water Department, to ensure the effective and coordinated implementation of the intervention. This inter-institutional collaboration enabled alignment of activities, improved targeting of vulnerable households, and strengthened operational oversight at both national and community levels. Through this coordinated approach, national authorities provided strategic direction, facilitation, and sectoral support, while the National Society leveraged its operational reach and community presence to deliver assistance efficiently. The collaboration enhanced implementation quality, ensured adherence to agreed standards, and reinforced BERCS's auxiliary role, demonstrating effective partnership between government structures and humanitarian actors in addressing food insecurity driven by the prolonged drought.
UN or other actors	A bilateral engagement of WFP also reaped no fruit, as they had no means for response since, they focused on supporting children with meals at neighborhood care points, having no plans for household support in the food insecurity crisis.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), through the cluster coordination mechanism, coordinated all disaster risk reduction (DRR) and food-security actors, particularly at community level. This structure supported partner allocation across affected areas, resource consolidation, and reduced duplication of efforts. Within this framework, the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS) served as a support organization within the DRR cluster, contributing to coordination and implementation.

In parallel, BERCS held the chairmanship of the Food Security Consortium for civil-society organizations, providing a platform for coordination and information sharing on food-insecurity issues. During the reporting period, no other active food-security interventions were implemented by consortium members, and the National Society's operation remained the only active response addressing immediate food-security needs until January 2025.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

By 2023 Vulnerability Assessment Analysis (VAA) projected that 282,800 people in IPC Phase 3 and above would require urgent assistance. The 2024 VAA confirmed a deterioration, with an increase of 20,925 people, bringing the total to 303,725. This reflected widening gaps in livelihoods and basic needs, particularly among rural, agrarian households. Crop assessments further confirmed significant maize production deficits due to reduced planted area. The 2023–2024 drought severely affected Lubombo and Shiselweni regions, located in the Dry Middleveld and Lowveld zones. Erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells, and high temperatures, combined with underlying challenges such as poverty, unemployment, poor sanitation, and chronic food insecurity, significantly increased household vulnerability. The 2024 VAA further highlighted reduced water availability for human and livestock consumption, contributing to increased food insecurity.

Assessments conducted showed that most households depended on rain-fed agriculture, making them highly susceptible to drought impacts. This led to reduced crop yields, livestock stress, and weakened livelihoods, particularly among subsistence farmers with limited access to irrigation and agricultural inputs. Gaps were identified in access to livelihood assets, including seeds, fencing materials, and livestock medication, especially for vulnerable groups. Nationally, agricultural production declined sharply. For the 2023/24 season, maize production reached 74,946.55 MT against a requirement of 140,943.16 MT, resulting in a deficit of 65,996.61 MT. All regions recorded shortfalls, with Lubombo most affected. This confirmed that domestic production could not meet food needs. Highlighting the need for agricultural inputs, small-scale irrigation, livestock support, and cash-based assistance to sustain food production and livelihoods.

In response, the DREF intervention addressed immediate food needs while supporting livelihoods through cash assistance and asset protection, helping households maintain food access and strengthen resilience to future shocks.



Multi purpose cash grants

At the time this operation was launched, the population classified under IPC Phase 3(2023, IPC report) or worse stood at approximately 238,500 people, which later increased to 243,000 people, indicating a worsening food-security situation and a growing need for emergency assistance. Subsequent (2024, IPC report) IPC and assessment findings reported that approximately 304,000 people were facing acute food insecurity nationwide. This scale of need far exceeded the initial targeting parameters of the operation, highlighting that the planned multi-purpose cash (MPC) intervention was insufficient in scale to address the breadth of humanitarian needs.

The operation initially targeted 1,559 households for multi-purpose cash assistance, based on available resources and prioritization criteria for the most vulnerable households. However, as implementation progressed, assessment and monitoring data confirmed that the level of need was significantly higher. Feedback gathered during post-distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys and community consultations indicated that there were additional households within the same constituencies who met vulnerability criteria, but who were not included due to strict targeting ceilings and funding limitations.

Findings from monitoring and evaluation activities demonstrated positive outcomes among households that received cash assistance. Participants reported improvements in food access, dietary diversity, and overall nutritional status, as households were able to prioritise the purchase of staple foods, fresh produce, and other essential items based on their specific needs. The flexible nature of the multi-purpose cash enabled households to restore a degree of dignity and choice, while also addressing immediate food-security gaps during the lean period.

However, beneficiaries consistently expressed the need for longer-term support, noting that the four cash-transfer rounds were insufficient to adequately sustain household food security throughout the prolonged drought period. Many participants recommended extending the duration of cash assistance and increasing the number of transfer cycles, given the continued absence of alternative livelihood options and the ongoing impacts of drought on agricultural production and income generation.

Overall, the implementation experience and assessment evidence highlighted a clear need to expand both the coverage and duration of multi-purpose cash assistance. These findings informed learning for future drought-response programming and reinforced the relevance of cash-based interventions in addressing immediate basic needs in Eswatini's drought-affected communities.





Health

The assessment acknowledged the critical role played by Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) in mitigating malnutrition at community level, particularly among vulnerable children. NCPs served as important platforms for nutrition support and early identification of at-risk children.

Continuous support to the Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) will continue to assist in improving the mitigation of malnutrition prevalence.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

From the onset of the operation, increased competition for water sources between humans and livestock was observed as drought conditions caused several water sources to dry up. This resulted in shared and overused water points, increasing demand and compromising water quality. Initially, 11 water points were assessed for rehabilitation and the DREF supported the full rehabilitation of 4 water points as it was not feasible to rehabilitate all the water points.

Community consultations and focus-group discussions reported concerns on general hygiene, cases of waterborne diseases, including cholera and skin irritations, largely due to the use of unsafe water sources shared with animals and open-source water used for agriculture. This situation highlighted the urgent need for household-level water treatment and safe-water-handling practices. Consequently, water-treatment packs were prioritized, alongside hygiene and sanitation messaging to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

The DREF was able to support in ensuring that targeted communities had safe and accessible sources of water, it further helped the communities with WASH education to ensure they are able to use the available water efficiently. There were some water point committees established to support the communities as a sustainability measure for the communities.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The constituencies targeted by this operation were located in the Lowveld Maize and Cattle livelihood zones and parts of the Dry Middleveld. In the 2023 VAA, 68,342 people in the Lowveld Cattle and Maize (LCM) zone fell under IPC Phase 3; however, the 2024 VAA indicated that 71,549 people in the same zone were in IPC Phase 3. While this was already a 4.7% increase from the previous year, the 2024 VAA clearly showed a worsening of the situation. The 2024 Vulnerability Assessment Analysis (VAA) reported that the Lowveld Cattle and Maize (LCM) livelihood zones were classified under IPC Phase 3. For the 2024 IPC report, the Dry Middleveld and the Lowveld Cattle and Maize regions had the highest proportions of the population classified in IPC Phase 3 or worse, reflecting elevated levels of food insecurity in these zones.



Community Engagement And Accountability

CEA approaches were embedded throughout implementation, extending beyond programme participants to include community leaders and other stakeholders. This supported transparency, expectation management, and trust. Volunteers, who were drawn from the same communities, played a key role in linking the National Society with affected populations. Regular engagements with volunteers helped identify operational challenges and reinforced accountability to both the communities served and the volunteers delivering assistance.

Overall, the needs assessment confirmed that sustained community engagement was essential to ensuring responsive, inclusive, and accountable humanitarian action throughout the operation.

Volunteers' meetings were upscaled. The National Society toll-free line was set up late in the project's life; thus, communities did not fully engage. However, there was a continuous engagement with the communities which assisted in the successful implementation.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The extended objective of this DREF allocation supported 30,000 people, including persons living with disabilities, who were affected by food insecurity and water shortages. It disrupted livelihoods in the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions. The operation addressed immediate humanitarian needs while strengthening household and community resilience through the provision of clean water, support to crop production, and multi-purpose cash assistance.

The overall approach focused on early recovery and resilience building, using flexible cash assistance to enable households to meet priority needs, protect livelihoods, and support income-generating activities through local markets. Complementary livelihood interventions contributed to improved food availability for targeted households and surrounding communities, while reinforcing positive behavioral practices that reduced malnutrition and health-related risks.

Community-informed assessments conducted in September 2024 helped refine early recovery actions and inform an appropriate exit strategy, ensuring that interventions reflected community priorities and evolving seasonal conditions. Through existing coordination mechanisms, the Government of Eswatini confirmed the availability of food assistance for distribution from October to December in the areas covered by the operation, reducing the need for additional operational adjustments during that period.

The operation was initially from 21 December 2023 to 30 September 2024, during which the National Society completed more than 90% of planned activities. Outstanding activities related to borehole rehabilitation were delayed due to initial non-compliant work. They were only able to resume between April and May 2025, including associated monitoring and due-diligence processes. As a result, the operation's timeframe was extended to a total of 18 months, ending on 30 September 2025, to allow completion of committed works and ensure compliant and quality implementation.

Operation strategy rationale

The operation prioritised multi-purpose cash assistance, livelihoods support, access to safe water, and nutrition and health interventions, prior to the projected worsening conditions during the lean season. These priorities were selected to stabilise household food consumption, prevent further erosion of livelihoods, and support early recovery.

Multi-purpose cash assistance was implemented to quickly and flexibly meet basic needs while supporting local markets. Four rounds of cash were provided to 1,559 heads of households (9,727 people), following the identification of additional needs during implementation. This assistance was complemented by nutrition messaging, sensitization, and post-distribution monitoring to ensure effective use and accountability.

Livelihoods interventions were selected to strengthen household resilience and diversify income sources for smallholder farmers. These included climate-smart agriculture training, provision of productive inputs (poultry, livestock medication, and drought-resistant fruit trees), and skills development on climate-adaptive farming practices, delivered with technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture.

WASH interventions focused on rehabilitating existing water points as a cost-effective and timely solution to improve access to safe water. Five water points were rehabilitated, with WASH messaging integrated into cash assistance to reduce health risks that exacerbate malnutrition and food insecurity.

Health and nutrition activities prioritized expanded malnutrition screening, referral of severe cases, and targeted nutrition and disease-prevention messaging. Particular attention was given to children under five and pregnant and lactating women, who were at heightened risk. Following the deployment of trained volunteers to conduct mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening in the targeted communities, findings indicated a reduction in malnutrition cases compared to baseline levels observed at the start of the DREF operation. This positive trend was partly attributed to the multi-purpose cash assistance, which improved household access to food and enabled more diverse and adequate diets.

The strategy was shaped by drought severity, IPC projections, seasonal calendars, and community feedback, as well as functioning local markets and coordination mechanisms. Overall, the operation balanced immediate life-saving assistance with early-recovery and resilience-building actions, enabling affected households to meet urgent needs while strengthening their capacity to cope with future shocks.

The Eswatini Drought DREF 2023 strengthened community coping capacity through rehabilitation and assessment of water points, provision of MUAC tapes to health facilities, and capacity building of staff and volunteers. Communities will continue to benefit from improved access to safe water through functional water sources, reducing vulnerability to future dry spells. Health facilities retain MUAC tapes and trained personnel, enabling continued early detection and referral of malnourished children. In addition, trained volunteers and staff remain available within communities to support preparedness, health promotion, nutrition screening, and early warning activities beyond the DREF period.

All activities are directly funded by the operation on drought response support, such as emergency distributions, temporary operational costs, and field deployments. Activities expected to continue include monitoring and maintenance planning for assessed water points through government and community structures (water committees), nutrition screening using MUAC tapes at clinics, volunteer-led community awareness activities, and ongoing drought preparedness and early warning actions integrated into National Society and



government programmes.

The DREF contributed directly to strengthening readiness for the Eswatini Drought Early Action Protocol (EAP). Assessments conducted on water points generated information that can inform future drought trigger-based interventions and targeting under the EAP. Community engagement, volunteer capacity enhancement, and strengthened coordination mechanisms established during the DREF provide an operational foundation for early action implementation, ensuring that lessons learned and preparedness gains are carried forward into future anticipatory actions.

Following completion of the DREF, drought preparedness and response efforts progressively transitioned to resources mobilized through the Drought EAP and support from partners. The British Red Cross-supported implementation of an enhanced livelihoods project in Shiselweni Region provided an important mechanism for sustaining preparedness investments and early action capacities. The National Society will continue engaging IFRC, Partner National Societies, and other humanitarian donors to mobilize resources for drought preparedness, resilience building, and anticipatory action, while integrating key interventions into existing programs where feasible.

Key gains from DREF were sustained through linkages with existing partnerships and programmes, particularly the ECHO-supported Pilot Programmatic Partnership, which continued to strengthen disaster preparedness, anticipatory action, community resilience, and local response capacities. The PPP provides opportunities to build on community-based approaches, volunteer networks, and preparedness systems established during the DREF while promoting longer-term resilience to drought and climate-related hazards.

Coordination mechanisms established during DREF continues through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)-led national drought coordination structures. The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society will remain actively engaged in government-led coordination platforms, information sharing, assessments, and preparedness planning to ensure continued collaboration with humanitarian partners and alignment with national drought management priorities.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The drought intervention targeted residents of six constituencies (Hosea, Sigwe, Matsanjeni, Somntongo, Lubuli and Nkilongo) experiencing IPC Phase 3+ food insecurity, with priority given to households including persons with disabilities. The response also supported communities severely affected by the hunger crisis. The groups most impacted and therefore prioritized were women, children, youth, the elderly, chronically ill individuals, and persons with disabilities. High poverty and unemployment particularly affected youth and women, while chronically ill people were at risk of missing medication due to lack of food.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Household selection for this operation was based on a vulnerability-driven approach, targeting residents within the six constituencies most affected by drought and classified as IPC Phase 3 or above. Eligibility was limited to households located in these constituencies, ensuring assistance reached populations facing the highest levels of food insecurity.

The criteria were aligned with nationally approved vulnerability standards and prioritised households with heightened socio-economic risks, including child-headed households, households with chronically ill members, and households including persons living with disabilities. Households experiencing multiple vulnerabilities were prioritised, recognising their reduced coping capacity and higher exposure to negative outcomes during the drought.

In addition to demographic vulnerabilities, key food-security indicators were assessed, including food consumption scores, coping strategies, number of meals per day, and household income levels. These indicators helped identify households facing the most severe food-access constraints.

Selection and validation were conducted with support from community volunteers and leaders, strengthening transparency, accountability, and community acceptance of the process. Overall, the criteria ensured impartial, needs-based targeting and effective use of limited resources to reach the most vulnerable households.



Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	13,500	Rural	100%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	4,500	Urban	-
Assisted Men	7,700	People with disabilities (estimated)	20%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	4,300		
Total Assisted Population	30,000		
Total Targeted Population	30,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Exclusion and inclusion errors	Through the volunteers and community leaders a verification a process was conducted to minimize such issues. The selection criteria was followed.
Mobile money scammers	Scammers calling the beneficiaries after distributions, personifying NS staff to solicit MoMo Pins from the affected people. These individuals contacted beneficiaries under false pretences, claiming they were conducting verification exercises related to cash disbursements. Yet, they intended to unlawfully obtain mobile money PINs and steal funds from recipients' accounts.

	Working with MTN and the Eswatini Police, disseminations were done to inform the affected communities of the scammers and how they can protect themselves.
Delayed completion of rehabilitations	NS kept a constant communication with the service provider.
Fraudulent actions	NS engaged their procedures to govern policies and processes: 1. Application of the Prevention of Fraud and Corruption Policy-Commissioned a forensic investigation (findings and recommendations further informed actions taken) 2. Dismissal of involved employees and reprimand of all payment signatories for negligence.
Delayed and/or inadequate funding leading to delayed implementation of the activities affecting trust and burn rate.	The coordination and planning for this DREF involved all departments from both IFRC and NS, following the launch - including finance and operations, but also PMER.
Weather and non-weather related additional disaster such as hailstorm, epidemic in the course of the operation.	NS kept monitoring the situation and adjust the plan if require depending on the evolution.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

During the implementation period, cybercrime incidents increased, particularly targeting mobile-money users. Several cases were reported in which beneficiaries were defrauded of funds stored on their mobile phones, leading to heightened concern and skepticism within some communities regarding the use of mobile money (MoMo) as a cash-transfer modality. Fraudsters posed as legitimate programme representatives, contacting beneficiaries under false pretences and claiming to be conducting verification or follow-up exercises related to cash disbursements. Their intent was to unlawfully obtain beneficiaries' mobile-money PINs or personal information, enabling them to access and steal funds from recipients' accounts. This practice posed a significant protection and accountability risk, particularly for vulnerable beneficiaries with limited digital literacy. But the NS was able to deploy volunteers to support community members and encourage community members to only discuss with Red Cross volunteers they know or visit the Red Cross offices.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	Yes
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Implementation



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 141,795
Targeted Persons: 12,805
Assisted Persons: 10,674
Targeted Male: 4,269
Targeted Female: 6,405

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihood trainings	12,805	1,779



# of farmers who used 80% of the cash for intended use	1,800	1,779
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Narrative description of achievements

The BERCS implemented a structured and participatory livelihoods approach aimed at strengthening household food production and income-generation capacity among drought-affected communities. All planned livelihoods activities were executed in alignment with the operational strategy, national systems, and community priorities.

A rigorous and transparent beneficiary targeting, registration, and verification process was conducted to ensure assistance reached the most vulnerable households. The process was initiated with support from the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), which provided an initial list of potential beneficiaries based on national vulnerability data. The BERCS then worked closely with community leaders and structures to validate the list, ensuring local ownership and accuracy.

Prior to Livelihood cash disbursement, the BERCS engaged local vendors and suppliers through the organization of Farmer Fair events, ensuring the availability of appropriate agricultural inputs within the local market. On cash-distribution days, beneficiaries received livelihood-specific cash transfers through MTN mobile-money services and used the funds to purchase registered livelihood inputs, including fruit trees, poultry, seeds, and related materials.

PDM reached 49 people on Poultry/ drug kits and 74 people who received fruit tree support, totaling 123 people.

- Nearly all recipients knew the reason for the assistance and correctly identified the Red Cross as the provider.
- Most funds were spent on chicken feed, poultry, and vaccines, with smaller amounts on antibiotics, other medication, feeders, and waterers.
- 100% said the assistance was useful.

- 96% rated the earlier agricultural training positively ("learned new things I can apply")

7% of households had been able to multiply and sell livestock to buy food.

90% preferred cash over in-kind alternatives.

Trained volunteers subsequently conducted household-level registration and verification exercises to confirm eligibility and collect relevant beneficiary information. This participatory approach was clearly communicated to communities, widely understood, and positively received, contributing to trust, accountability, and acceptance of the intervention.

The BERCS worked through existing farmer committees and community farming groups, while also supporting the formation and engagement of informal farmer groupings. This approach facilitated peer learning, improved coordination, and strengthened collective planning, particularly in the delivery of training and distribution of agricultural inputs. Engaging farmer structures also supported sustainability, as knowledge and practices could be shared beyond individual beneficiaries.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, through extension officers' training of community members, the BERCS played a critical role, facilitating livelihoods training for 1,779 farmers, which eventually reached 10,674 people through the snowball effect. The training sessions covered key thematic areas, including livestock management, crop production, fruit-tree establishment, and climate-appropriate agricultural practices. Technical specialists from the Ministry provided extension support, ensuring that training content was context-specific and aligned with national agricultural standards. There were also awareness-raising sessions on addressing the impact of droughts and coping with seasonal changes on the agricultural calendar. This was supplemented with group discussions engaging farmers and groups that are Agri-pastoral dependent.

The objective of the training was to build participants' capacity to make informed decisions when purchasing agricultural inputs and to promote sustainable production practices that enhance resilience to drought. These capacity-building efforts directly complemented the livelihoods cash assistance, reinforcing longer-term impact beyond immediate input support.

Lessons Learnt

The intervention successfully reached the intended beneficiaries, demonstrating that the targeting, registration, and verification processes were effective in identifying households most in need of livelihood support. This ensured that assistance was channeled to the right recipients and maximized the impact of limited resources.

The deployment of trained and experienced volunteers contributed significantly to the successful implementation of livelihood activities. Volunteers provided high-quality support throughout the process, including beneficiary verification, monitoring, and exit surveys, which strengthened accountability and service delivery.

The engagement of vendors during Farmer Fair events proved to be an effective approach, enabling beneficiaries to easily redeem their cash assistance and purchase the intended agricultural inputs. This modality improved compliance with livelihoods objectives while supporting local markets. Based on its success, the National Society identified this approach as a best practice to be replicated in future livelihood and cash-based interventions.

Combining livelihoods cash assistance with training and market engagement reinforced productive use of funds and contributed to improved household food production and income-generation capacity.



Challenges

Weather conditions were at times not conducive for the smooth conduct of farmer fairs, as unexpected rainfall disrupted planned activities and affected attendance.

Suppliers occasionally changed and increased the prices of farm inputs during the farmer fairs, which affected procurement plans and limited the purchasing power of beneficiaries.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 308,663

Targeted Persons: 9,330

Assisted Persons: 9,727

Targeted Male: 3,730

Targeted Female: 5,997

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people received multipurpose cash.	14,005	9,727
% of people with improved food consumption score	90	90
% of people with improved number of meals per day	85	76
% of people able to use cash for other needs (farming, health, education for fees etc)	50	30
# of PDMs conducted (reports)	2	4

Narrative description of achievements

The National Society (NS) implemented a robust, transparent, and participatory beneficiary targeting and registration process to identify households eligible for Multipurpose Cash (MPC) assistance. Working closely with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the NS received an initial list of potential beneficiaries, which was subsequently validated in collaboration with community leaders. Trained NS volunteers then conducted household registration and verification to confirm eligibility and ensure the accuracy of beneficiary information. This inclusive approach enhanced transparency, strengthened community ownership, and contributed to broad acceptance of the beneficiary selection process.

MTN was contracted as the Financial Service Provider (FSP) for the cash transfer component. A total of four rounds of multipurpose cash transfers were successfully completed, reaching 1,559 households (9,727 people) with a cumulative disbursement of CHF 308,663. The cash transfer process was implemented without major operational challenges. The MTN payment platform proved reliable, accessible, and user-friendly, enabling beneficiaries to receive and utilize the transfers efficiently.

The initial estimate of 14,005 direct beneficiaries was revised following the detailed household verification and community validation process. The assessment confirmed that 1,559 households, representing 9,727 individuals, met the agreed vulnerability and eligibility criteria and therefore qualified for assistance. This refinement ensured that available resources were directed to the households most in need.

To assess the effectiveness of the intervention, the National Society conducted 4 Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) surveys, one following each cash distribution. The findings confirmed that the cash transfers reached the intended recipients, in the correct amounts, and at a time when households faced significant food security challenges.

The PDM findings further demonstrated the positive impact of the intervention. Approximately 70% of respondents reported an improvement in household meal frequency as a result of being able to purchase food, while 90% of surveyed households achieved an improved Food Consumption Score (FCS), indicating enhanced access to and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods.

Although the operation did not achieve the target of 85% of households reporting an increased number of meals consumed per day, the



results highlighted the diverse priorities faced by vulnerable households. Many beneficiaries used part of the unrestricted cash assistance to address other urgent needs, including healthcare and education expenses. Approximately 30% of respondents reported allocating part of the transfer to medical costs and school fees. While this was below the anticipated 50%, it also indicated that the majority of households prioritized food purchases, consistent with the primary objective of the intervention. Beyond meeting immediate consumption needs, the cash assistance also contributed to strengthening household resilience. More than 90% of respondents reported using a portion of the transfer to purchase seeds for planting. Although this investment did not provide immediate food relief, it represented a positive coping strategy that supported household food production and contributed to improved food security in subsequent months. Overall, the MPC intervention demonstrated that unrestricted cash assistance provided households with the flexibility to prioritize their most pressing needs while simultaneously supporting immediate food consumption and longer-term livelihood recovery, thereby enhancing both household resilience and food security.

Lessons Learnt

Usage of the cash modality was more convenient than in-kind.
With cash, the recipients were able to address several of their household needs on top of purchasing food items.

Challenges

- Recipients return to poor coping mechanisms once the rounds of cash distribution come to an end.
- The transfer value was limited according to the prevailing stakeholder agreed, MEB though a slight increase would go a long way in addressing their household needs.
- MoMo scams were on the rise in the country, with people taking advantage by stealing money from recipients' mobile money accounts. With FSP, measures were in place to mitigate the risk.



Budget: CHF 10,609
Targeted Persons: 30,000
Assisted Persons: 30,000
Targeted Male: 12,000
Targeted Female: 18,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of BERCS staff trained on EPIC, Usage of MUAC and IYCF	30	15
# of Volunteers trained on EPIC, Usage of MUAC and IYCF	130	76

Narrative description of achievements

76 volunteers and 15 staff members, instead of 30 staff members, were trained on EPIC, MUAC, and IYCF because the others were previously trained and did not need retraining; however, they received a recap training, not a full training. The 76 trained volunteers were instrumental in conducting household-level nutrition surveys. With support from the Ministry of Health and various media houses, the NS was able to develop and disseminate Key health messages for airing on the radio to address epidemics during drought, and volunteers were also spreading the messages in the communities to ensure no one was left behind. Through the messages and support of volunteers, the overall operation reached more than 30,000 people.

- The malnutrition screening activity achieved its target of screening 30,000 people, representing 100% of the planned target. Overall, 18,000 females (60%) and 12,000 males (40%) were reached. The higher proportion of women screened reflects programme implementation strategies that prioritized pregnant and lactating women, mothers and female caregivers accompanying children for screening, who constitute the primary target population for community-based nutrition interventions. The constituency-level charts illustrate gender distribution within individual constituencies and should therefore not be interpreted as the overall programme totals. The report has been revised to clearly distinguish constituency-level percentages from the aggregated programme figures.



- There were no Individuals identified with signs of acute malnutrition during community screening; hence, there were no referrals during the nutritional assessment. Furthermore, the Project planned to procure plumpy nuts to respond to acute malnutrition cases, but this procurement was not done since there were no cases of Acute Malnutrition.
- The screening exercise contributed to the early identification of children and vulnerable individuals at risk of malnutrition. The intervention also strengthened community awareness on appropriate infant and young child feeding practices and encouraged caregivers to seek nutrition and health services early, contributing to improved nutrition outcomes in the targeted communities.

Lessons Learnt

- Malnourished children & Pregnant and lactating mothers sometimes lack treatment (Plumpy Nuts) from health facilities, even though they may be diagnosed with acute malnutrition.

Challenges

- A poor transport network caused accessing health care to be costly.
- Lack of Plumpy Nut for malnourished children in the project or health facilities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 41,756

Targeted Persons: 30,000

Assisted Persons: 30,000

Targeted Male: 12,000

Targeted Female: 18,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of people reached with WASH messages	90	100
# of waterpoints rehabilitated	5	5
# of volunteers in WASH message dissemination	60	60

Narrative description of achievements

• Through close collaboration with the Department of Water Affairs and community leaders like Constituency Councilors, the mapping of water sources was done in all six constituencies where the project was implemented. Eleven water points were assessed for possible rehabilitation, and eventually 5 were selected for rehabilitation in three Constituencies (Hosea, Matsanjeni South, and Somntongo). In Hosea Constituency (Site 1), at Kaliba Umphakatsi (Royal Kraal) under the Silele Clinic Water Scheme, the community installed a 500-meter pipeline from the catchment area to the slow sand filter tanks, which have a capacity of 40,000 liters, and it is serving 10,600 people. In Somntongo Constituency, within the Maplotini community (Site 2), the project installed four solar panels on 4-meter-high steel stands, a solar-powered pump (0.75 kW) with accessories feeding a 20,000-liter storage tank that can be filled within 12 hours, and one standpipe. One tank was located at the borehole site, while a second tank was erected 700 meters away to serve households further from the first standpipe; this second tank is also fitted with a standpipe, these 2 water points serve 5,400 people. In Matsanjeni South, under Kwaluseni Umphakatsi (Royal Kraal), at Mdunuse (Site 3) and Gcekeni (Site 4), the project upgraded two boreholes through the installation of six solar panels with accessories (driving a 1.2 kW pump) on 4 metre high steel stands, a solar powered pumping system supplying a 40,000 litre tank that can be filled within 48 hours, and perimeter fencing, while the Gcekeni site received the installation of an electrically driven water pump only. All four water points are functional, serving 16,500 people. A fifth water supply site was initially proposed at Lushini under Hosea Inkhundla, but it proved unfeasible because the required three-phase 1,500 kW booster pump could not be adequately powered; the available solar panels could only support about one-third of its capacity. BERCS therefore selected an alternative site at Nsimba in Matsanjeni South (Kwaluseni Umphakatsi), where a functional hand-pump borehole already existed. After securing approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources (Department of Water Affairs),

BERCS engaged the community, who helped clear the area, and Living Waters assessed the site and installed four solar panels mounted on four-metre steel stands. The Department of Water Affairs further recommended adding four standpipes to improve water access. Still, final installation and commissioning of the solar system remain pending due to technical complexities and the project implementation extension granted to BERCS by IFRC. A total of 32,500 people directly benefited from easy access to clean water, while 30,000 received WASH messaging (inclusive of the 32,500).

WASH awareness messages were produced for airing on the radio to ensure people are knowledgeable about how to use water safely and even reuse water they have used for bathing in their vegetable gardens. With the support of 60 volunteers, this intervention reached over 30,000 people overall, including 100% of the targeted people to be assisted through both water provision and WASH messaging.

Lessons Learnt

- More communities need water sources, and some of the available ones are not well functioning.
- Communities still lack in the practice of sanitation, e.g., disposal of disposable pads.
- An analysis of drilling a new borehole and rehabilitation prior to drilling saves resources such as time and costs.
- Technical capacity for WASH is needed by NS.
- There is a need to have an MoU with the Water Department in the Ministry of Natural Resources for timely collaboration and support to BERCS by the Ministry.
- Recommendations focus on reviewing selection criteria, favoring borehole drilling over rehabilitation, and outsourcing technical assessments.

Challenges

- Fraudulent activities by staff affecting the project.
- Non-cooperative service supplier to ensure the timely completion of works.
- NS needs stringent terms and conditions for suppliers to comply with work and tasks.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 3,619

Targeted Persons: 30,000

Assisted Persons: 30,000

Targeted Male: 12,000

Targeted Female: 18,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteer meetings conducted	5	3
% of community members participating in the meetings (sensitization)	80	80
# of focus group discussions conducted	4	3

Narrative description of achievements

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) activities were integrated throughout the operation's implementation to ensure meaningful participation, transparency, and responsiveness to community needs. From the outset, communities and key stakeholders were engaged through kick-off meetings, enabling them to understand the objectives of the operation, contribute to the implementation strategy, and provide input on priority needs and appropriate intervention approaches.

The National Society (NS) applied a participatory targeting, selection, and verification process, engaging community members and leaders to identify households most affected by food insecurity and drought. Community leaders played a key validation role, approving beneficiary lists generated by community discussions to ensure fairness, accuracy, and acceptance of the targeting outcomes. This approach strengthened ownership and trust while helping ensure that assistance reached the most vulnerable individuals.

Volunteer engagement was a core component of the CEA approach. Three (3) volunteer meetings were conducted during the implementation period to review progress, address operational challenges, and ensure consistent understanding of activities among field teams. These meetings also provided a platform for peer-to-peer learning, information sharing, and joint problem-solving, strengthening volunteer capacity and accountability; however, virtual platforms like WhatsApp were utilized for volunteer engagements, thereby reducing physical meetings from 5 to 3.

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted to gather deeper insights into community perceptions, implementation progress, and emerging challenges. Separate FGDs were held with men, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, alongside key informant interviews involving Neighborhood Care Points (NCPs), health, education, and agriculture representatives, religious leaders, traditional healers, and Rural Health Motivators (RHMs). Although only three FGDs were conducted instead of the planned four due to competing community priorities at the time, the discussions were comprehensive and inclusive, with broad sectoral representation to ensure clear understanding of Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) interventions and related activities.

A multi-sectoral community-based assessment was conducted covering Food Security and Livelihoods, Climate Change, Water and Sanitation, Infrastructure, and Health services. Communities were directly involved in the assessment process, including household interviews and group discussions. In some interviews, over 80% of community members participated, and overall, more than 80% actively engaged in meetings, demonstrating strong community ownership and commitment to the intervention.

Integrated group discussions under the FSL and WASH components enabled communities to jointly analyze needs and propose context-appropriate solutions, which informed sectoral planning and costing. This integrated approach enhanced coordination across sectors, improved relevance of interventions, and ensured that community priorities were reflected in implementation decisions.

Overall, the CEA approach fostered high levels of participation, reaching 30,000 people through meetings and sensitization. Additionally, through this DREF, there was transparency and accountability, which strengthened community trust in the operation and ensured that program decisions were informed by community voices throughout the implementation period.

Lessons Learnt

Volunteers were a critical operational asset because they played a central role in implementation, providing real-time information on community needs, supporting beneficiary verification, and monitoring intervention effectiveness. Their inputs during regular meetings informed adaptive decision-making and strengthened the relevance of activities.

Community feedback mechanisms improved program quality. The engagement through exit surveys, post-distribution monitoring (PDM), and focus group discussions enabled the National Society to gather direct feedback from communities. This facilitated timely identification of gaps, improved accountability, and strengthened community acceptance of the intervention.

Inclusive programming was essential to reaching persons with disabilities. Targeted inclusion strategies ensured that persons with disabilities were not excluded from assistance. When programs were intentionally designed to consider access barriers and specific needs, participation and impact among persons with disabilities improved significantly.

Challenges

Formalized volunteer engagement and feedback systems. Future operations should include structured volunteer feedback mechanisms such as scheduled reflection sessions and written feedback tools to systematically capture grassroots insights and inform rapid programme adjustments.

Institutionalize community feedback loops across all sectors.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 12,811

Targeted Persons: 100

Assisted Persons: 100

Targeted Male: 28

Targeted Female: 72

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of monitoring mission undertook or supported	3	2



Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC DM, PMER, and Communications teams conducted multiple monitoring and support visits to the NS offices and implementation sites. These visits assessed progress, verified implementation quality, and provided hands-on technical support, while also recognizing good practices demonstrated by the BERCS. Field visits allowed IFRC representatives to directly observe implementation challenges and successes, resulting in timely recommendations that enhanced overall operational performance.

The IFRC Pretoria Cluster closely monitored and supported the BERCS during the delayed implementation period, providing strategic oversight, problem-solving support, and guidance on corrective actions. This close engagement helped stabilize operations, resolve internal coordination issues, and safeguard the continuity of service delivery to communities. The Delegation was only able to conduct 2 comprehensive monitoring visits for the drought DREF due to competing priorities as highlighted in the challenges section.

Additionally, IFRC DM and PMER teams conducted a follow-up mission from 29 September to 3 October 2025 to assess progress on the rehabilitation of water points, which were still ongoing at the time. The mission supported quality assurance, verified adherence to technical standards, and provided recommendations for completing the works and associated monitoring in line with IFRC expectations.

Overall, IFRC Secretariat support played a decisive role in overcoming implementation challenges, strengthening BERCS operational capacity, and ensuring that goods and services were delivered effectively and in an accountable manner to the targeted communities. The Secretariat's coordinating support directly reached 100 people, from government to BERCS staff and stakeholders. This close accompaniment contributed to the completion of the operation and reinforced the partnership between the BERCS and IFRC.

Lessons Learnt

Monitoring visits were very important during project implementation to ensure compliance with project requirements. BERCS was able to get support from the IFRC to resolve internal conflict that in the end enabled continued quality service delivery.

Challenges

The Delegation was only able to conduct 2 comprehensive monitoring visits for the drought DREF instead of 3 due to overlapping activities during the first 9 months of the project (January-September 2024), but updates were always shared. The final monitoring was conducted after the reporting on fraudulent activities, including the one done in October 2025



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 80,279

Targeted Persons: 200

Assisted Persons: 176

Targeted Male: 70

Targeted Female: 106

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# monitoring mission undertook	3	1
# of staff and volunteers involved in this intervention that are properly trained on PGI- CEA- WASH- Health and FSL techniques	100	176
# of kick-off meeting with all involved departments	1	1
# of monthly reporting on the operation	9	9
# of official update shared with partners and stakeholders	2	2



# of assessment conducted	3	2
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Narrative description of achievements

The Eswatini drought response demonstrated strong internal coordination, operational capacity, and programme delivery by BERCS. A comprehensive inception process brought together staff and volunteers to align on project objectives, roles, and expected outcomes, enabling smooth implementation from the outset. A total of 100 staff and 76 volunteers were effectively mobilized and deployed according to their expertise, contributing to timely service delivery. Regular monthly volunteer coordination meetings further strengthened communication, allowing teams to raise challenges early and identify practical solutions.

Capacity building was a key achievement. Staff and volunteers were trained on Code of Conduct, PGI, CEA, WASH, Health, and Food Security and Livelihoods, ensuring accountable, inclusive, and high-quality programming. While these trainings enhanced overall competencies, gaps remained as not all personnel received structured training on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), affecting full consistency across teams.

Assessments and monitoring supported evidence-based programming and accountability. Two assessments were conducted, one prior to implementation and another post-cash distribution, to inform targeting, guide implementation, and gather beneficiary feedback. Reporting was systematic, with six constituency-level reports consolidated into a single report, complemented by two operational updates and regular internal briefings. Monitoring and oversight included three headquarters missions and ongoing PMEAL support; however, more frequent visits could have strengthened real-time technical support and problem-solving.

Coordination with government and stakeholders contributed positively to implementation. Key ministries, including the Department of Water Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, provided technical support for WASH and livelihoods activities. Despite this, coordination meetings with government departments, Movement partners, and other agencies were less frequent than planned due to competing priorities, limiting opportunities for joint planning and issue resolution.

Operational efficiency was further supported by the allocation of a dedicated project vehicle, which facilitated field mobility, monitoring, and engagement with communities.

The response demonstrated measurable impact at community level. Assessments showed improvement in nutrition outcomes, with initial findings indicating 25% of surveyed households had malnourished children, while follow-up MUAC screening showed only a few moderate cases across constituencies (1% in Hosea, 8% in Lubulini, 3% in Matsanjeni, 1% in Nkilongo, 2% in Somntongo, and none in Sigwe). Communities and local leaders actively supported implementation, and beneficiaries expressed strong appreciation for the assistance.

Some planned actions were only partially achieved. The development and dissemination of standardized drought-related DRR messages through the DRR Cluster did not progress as expected, leaving a gap in preparedness communication. Monitoring coverage and stakeholder coordination could also be strengthened in future responses.

Key lessons highlighted the importance of layered support to maximize impact and strengthen the Red Cross footprint. The DREF successfully complemented the Drought Early Action Protocol (EAP), enhancing overall response effectiveness and contributing to improved household food security and resilience. Approximately 200 people were directly reached through National Society initiatives.

Lessons Learnt

- Relevant stakeholders should be invited to the Kick-off meetings, and support should be solicited through a formal process, such as framework agreements or MoUs.
- The NS failed to produce official Update reports with partners, and this is something that will be prioritized in future operations because it is good to keep a record of such interventions, but the Red Cross Updates were shared timeously.

Challenges

- A kick-off meeting was conducted with fewer stakeholders due to the unavailability of other relevant people and competing activities but all the internal staff and volunteers had inception meetings.
- Limited meetings were also held with different community leaders to strengthen community engagement and accountability.
- Coordination meetings were not as regular due to people having competing responsibilities, but it did not affect the implementation.
- Only 1 monitoring missions was done by HQ throughout the project cycle due to overlapping activities.



Financial Report

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DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRSZ004 - Eswatini - Drought

Operating Timeframe: 21 Dec 2023 to 30 Sep 2025

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	*	Operation	MDRSZ004
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 12/May/2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	599,533
DREF Response Pillar	599,533
Expenditure	-514,587
Closing Balance	84,946

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods	141,795	112,529	29,266
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	308,663	288,440	20,223
PO04 - Health	10,610	4,517	6,093
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	41,755	24,748	17,007
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery		462	-462
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	3,619	3,619	0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	506,442	434,314	72,129
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	12,812	12,276	535
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	80,279	67,997	12,281
Enabling Approaches Total	93,090	80,274	12,817
Grand Total	599,533	514,587	84,946

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Please explain variances (if any)

The expenditure variances were primarily attributable to operational adjustments and implementation efficiencies across several budget lines.

Under AOF3 (Livelihoods and Basic Needs), expenditure was 10.9% below budget because the National Society was unable to reach several registered households despite reasonable efforts to locate and contact them, resulting in lower cash disbursements than originally planned.



Under AOF4 (Health), expenditure was 57% below budget as fewer staff and volunteers required Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) training, with many having already received similar training through another project.

Expenditure under AOF5 (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) was 40.7% below budget due to the incomplete implementation of the fifth water site, including the postponement of water committee training.

Within SFI1 (Strengthening National Societies), expenditure was 14.6% below budget because some volunteer training sessions and monthly meetings were conducted jointly with the ECHO PPP project, resulting in shared costs, while lower participation at the project kick-off meeting, due to competing activities and the unavailability of some key stakeholders, also contributed to reduced expenditure.

The variance recorded under AOF1 relates solely to Programme and Services Support Recovery (PSSR) charges and does not represent implementation expenditure.

Overall, the variances reflect implementation realities and cost efficiencies rather than significant deviations from the planned objectives of the operation. The balance of CHF 84,945 will be returned to the DREF pot.



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Elliot Jele, Programmes Manager, jele@redcross.org.sz, +26876088546

IFRC Appeal Manager: Mercy Laker, Head of Delegation, Country Cluster Pretoria, mercy.laker@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Bongeka Mpinke, Disaster Management Coordinator, bongeka.mpinke@ifrc.org, +27747920279

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Bongeka Mpinke, Disaster Management Coordinator, bongeka.mpinke@ifrc.org, +27 (0) 74 792 0279

Media Contact: Susan Mbalu, Communications Manager, susan.mbalu@ifrc.org, +254 733 827 654

National Societies' Integrity Focal Point: Charles Jele, Finance and Admin Manager, charlesjele@redcross.org.sz, +26876188816

National Society Hotline: 7802 4651

[Click here for reference](#)



DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRSZ004 - Eswatini - Drought

Operating Timeframe: 21 Dec 2023 to 30 Sep 2025

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	*	Operation	MDRSZ004
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 12/May/2026

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PO04 - Health	10,610	4,517	6,093
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	41,755	24,748	17,007
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery		462	-462
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	3,619	3,619	0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	506,442	434,314	72,129
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DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRSZ004 - Eswatini - Drought

Operating Timeframe: 21 Dec 2023 to 30 Sep 2025

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	*	Operation	MDRSZ004
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 12/May/2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	409,446	207,071	202,376
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	37,141		37,141
Medical & First Aid	1,457		1,457
Cash Disbursement	370,849	207,071	163,779
Logistics, Transport & Storage	2,913	142	2,771
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,913	142	2,771
Personnel	60,047		60,047
National Society Staff	7,331		7,331
Volunteers	52,716		52,716
Consultants & Professional Fees	971		971
Professional Fees	971		971
Workshops & Training	32,470	426	32,044
Workshops & Training	32,470	426	32,044
General Expenditure	57,094	12,220	44,874
Travel	10,196	12,107	-1,912
Information & Public Relations		99	-99
Communications	486		486
Financial Charges	8,359	14	8,345
Other General Expenditure	38,054		38,054
Contributions & Transfers		263,322	-263,322
National Society Expenditure		263,322	-263,322
Indirect Costs	36,591	31,407	5,184
Programme & Services Support Recover	36,591	31,407	5,184
Grand Total	599,533	514,587	84,945