

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRLS007 - Lesotho - Storm Surge

Operating Timeframe: 17 Jan 2024 to 31 May 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	*	Operation	MDRLS007
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 12/May/2025
All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	71,435
DREF Response Pillar	71,435
Expenditure	-66,870
Closing Balance	4,565

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction		3	-3
AOF2 - Shelter	17,063	10,928	6,135
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	32,564	29,202	3,363
AOF4 - Health	2,068	6,881	-4,812
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,844	8,372	-5,528
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	776		776
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	55,315	55,385	-70
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	12,501	10,892	1,609
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management			0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	3,619	593	3,027
Strategy for implementation Total	16,120	11,485	4,635
Grand Total	71,435	66,870	4,565

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III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	48,540		48,540
Shelter - Relief	2,913		2,913
Clothing & Textiles	13,109		13,109
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,942		1,942
Cash Disbursement	30,577		30,577
Logistics, Transport & Storage	2,428		2,428
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,428		2,428
Personnel	3,641		3,641
National Society Staff	971		971
Volunteers	2,670		2,670
Workshops & Training	3,835		3,835
Workshops & Training	3,835		3,835
General Expenditure	8,631	560	8,071
Travel	3,399	540	2,858
Office Costs	486		486
Communications	146		146
Financial Charges	73	20	53
Other General Expenses	4,528		4,528
Contributions & Transfers		62,229	-62,229
National Society Expenses		62,229	-62,229
Indirect Costs	4,360	4,081	279
Programme & Services Support Recover	4,360	4,081	279
Grand Total	71,435	66,870	4,565

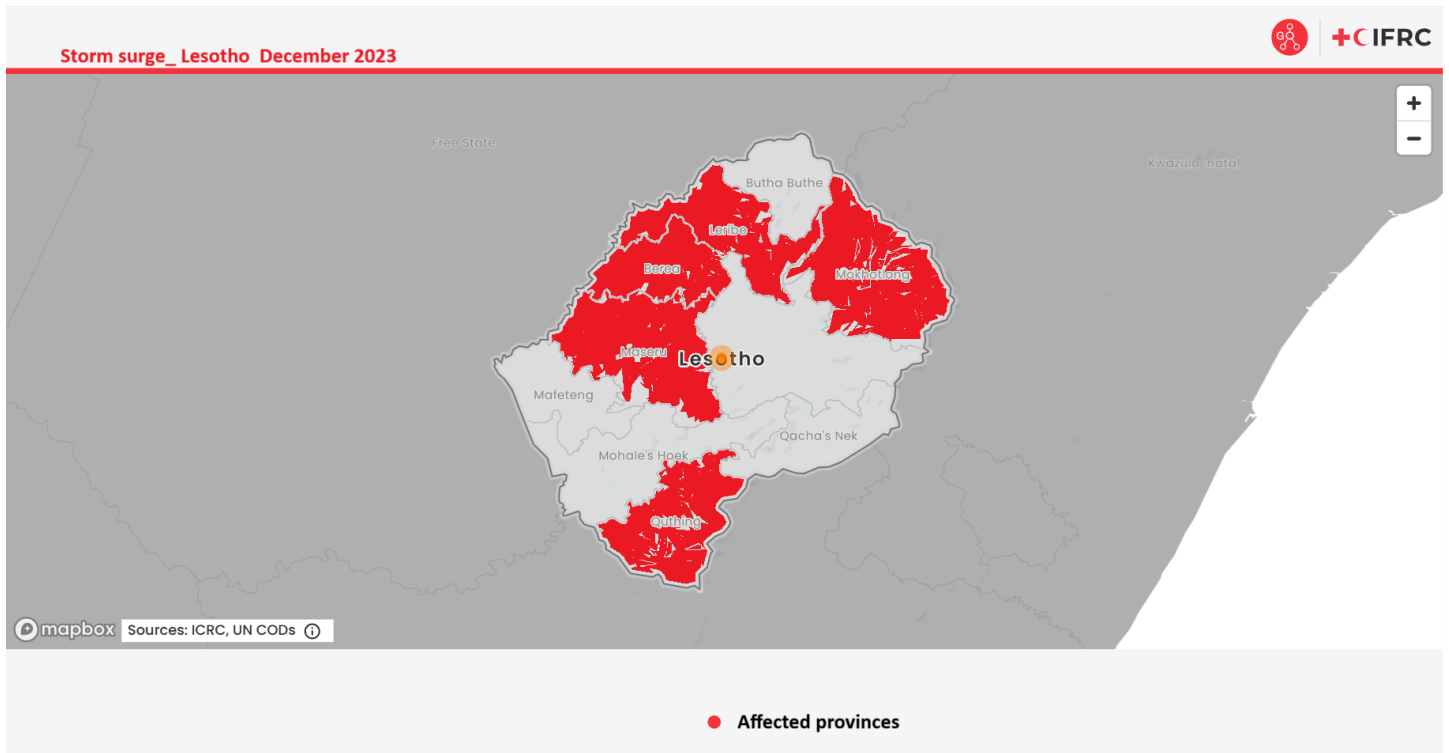


NFI distribution Quthing

Appeal: MDRLS007	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 71,435	Crisis Category: -	Hazard: Storm Surge
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 968 people	People Targeted: 770 people	People Assisted: 1,231 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 17-01-2024	Operational End Date: 31-05-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 4 months
Targeted Regions: Berea, Leribe, Maseru, Mokhotlong, Quthing, Thaba Tseka			

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



Date of event

22-12-2023

What happened, where and when?

Between December 22nd and December 28th, 2023, a significant weather event impacted various regions of Lesotho. Heavy rainfall, accompanied by strong winds, resulted in severe damage that affected 190 households, totalling 968 individuals. The most severe impacts were felt in the Maseru rural and Quthing districts, while the damage was comparatively lower in Berea, Mokhotlong, and Thaba Tseka. The storm destroyed essential services and infrastructure such as on local businesses and transport infrastructure, hindering access to essential services such as markets, health facilities, and places of worship. The situation was further worsened in January when the country received additional rainfall.

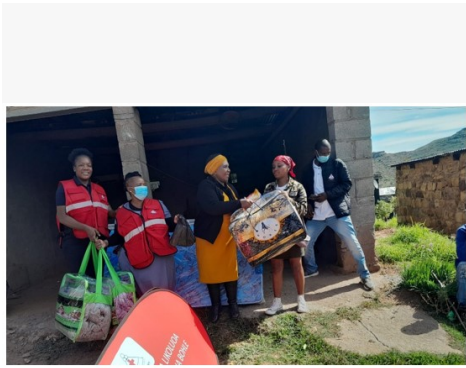
Between December 22nd and December 28th, 2023, a severe weather event affected multiple regions in Lesotho. Heavy rainfall and strong winds caused extensive damage, impacting 190 households and a total of 968 individuals. The most affected areas were Maseru rural and Quthing districts, while Berea, Mokhotlong, and Thaba Tseka experienced relatively less damage. The storm severely disrupted essential services and infrastructure, including local businesses and transport networks, limiting access to markets, healthcare facilities, and places of worship. The situation deteriorated further in January as the country experienced additional rainfall.

The extreme weather led to widespread displacement, with many families losing their homes and food supplies to the storms. Small businesses in the affected districts also suffered significant losses. Many displaced families sought temporary shelter with neighbors and relatives. In Leribe's Matukeng village, flash floods damaged public roads and bridges, with some homes remaining submerged for over two days. This not only caused infrastructure damage but also restricted access to essential services, adversely affecting residents' well-being.

On January 9th, as access to the affected areas improved, local authorities provided an update on the situation and requested support from the Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) to assist the impacted communities. The LRCS was tasked with disaster management efforts in preparation for the upcoming summer season. Given the ongoing challenges from previous floods and storms, local authorities faced increasing pressure on their resources. In response, the LRCS actively engaged in pre-positioning relief supplies, distributing cash transfers to meet food and basic needs, and supporting house maintenance and re-roofing for 154 households.



The roof of the House was flown away in Quthing (22-28 December 2023) ; sources DMA



LRCS response in Moyeni, Quthing



Quthing_23_October24_ first cash DMA CEO, LRCS president

Scope and Scale

The people affected by the storm surge that occurred from the 22nd-28th of December 2023 were as follows:

District	Affected people	Affected HH	Destroyed houses	Deaths	Other
Quthing	600	120	120	0	17 Businesses
Maseru	170	34	08	02	01 Church
Berea	51	10	10	0	01 Health Center
Mokhotlong	32	08	08	0	None
Thaba Tseka	115	18	18	0	None
Total	968	190	164	02	19 public services

The impact assessment was delayed due to continuous rainfall, which continued until December 28, 2023, rendering some areas inaccessible. Preliminary reports from the Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) were consistent with the government's request for assistance received on January 9, 2024. The assessments revealed that Quthing District was the hardest hit followed by Maseru as illustrated in the table above. In total, 164 houses were severely damaged leaving many families displaced.

In Quthing District, the storm destroyed the roofs of 17 businesses, resulting in significant stock losses and property damage, disrupting daily operations. The joint assessments by LRCS and the government identified 170 people in Maseru District urgently needing humanitarian aid.

The LRCS Health Center in Kolojane, Berea District which serves over 7,000 people from nearby villages. suffered damage to its warehouse and equipment as a result of the storm and this left the community with significant gaps in the Health service delivery.

Lesotho's temperate climate typically features hot summers from October to March, with January being the hottest month and the peak of the rainy season. The summer season was marked by severe weather, including strong winds, lightning, thunderstorms, flash floods, and extreme temperatures. Contrary to the Lesotho Meteorological Services' forecast of below-normal to normal rainfall for October-December, the country experienced heavy rainfall and strong winds.

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	In response to the situation, LRCS distributed 4 hygiene kits, 4 blankets and 8mattress to 4 households in Mokhotlong, The NS did not have enough capacity to respond to the storm that occurred in December as most of the prepositioned materials were used in previous storm surge events that happened in August and October 2023. Since August, the collected income from the donation box was used to fuel vehicles that distributed relief materials to the affected areas. Soon after the disaster, income was also used to fuel a vehicle that transported relief materials to affected families in Mokhotlong which is 300km away from the NS Headquarters. After a request from DMA to support more



affected households, LRCS mobilized resources from the public through radio stations and other donors. Businesses around Maseru were also approached to provide any form of assistance either through cash or in-kind.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC through Pretoria Cluster Office, offered continuous technical and coordination support to the National Society throughout the project's design and implementation phases. Two monitoring and supervision meetings were held during this period to ensure that LRCS implements the response efficiently, following IFRC guidelines and adhering to established standards and protocols. These coordination meetings aimed to uphold the quality and effectiveness of the project's execution, thereby better meeting the needs of the affected communities.
Participating National Societies	The British Red Cross's Safeguarding project and the Netherlands Red Cross's I-CISK Living Lab have both made notable contributions in their areas. The British Red Cross focused on enhancing mental and psychosocial support services to better address emotional and psychological needs during the disaster. In contrast, the Netherlands Red Cross used the I-CISK Living Lab to improve the dissemination of early warning messages, helping communities stay informed and prepared for potential risks. Together, these efforts highlight a coordinated approach to boosting community resilience by addressing mental health needs and improving early warning systems to reduce the impact of disasters and loss of life.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Although the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) did not have a physical presence in the country at the time of implementation, their office remained available and ready to provide support if the need arose.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	<p>Following the disaster, the office of the Prime Minister and other government ministers visited the affected areas to assess the situation. The district disaster risk reduction teams also conducted rapid assessments to gauge the extent and severity of the storm surge's impacts. The results of the assessments indicated that, a total of 10 vulnerable households received food packages containing beans and maize from the government.</p> <p>Throughout the project implementation, the Disaster Management Authority (DMA), Ministry of Local Government, and Department of Social Development maintained close collaboration with LRCS to identify and verify eligible households in urgent need of support. This collaborative effort extended to the distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs), facilitated by District Disaster Management teams and supported by local leaders. LRCS volunteers played a pivotal role in spearheading these operations, ensuring that assistance reached the most affected communities effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>On the 9th of July 2024, the government of Lesotho committed to the reconstruction and re-roofing of 142 severely damaged houses across the 6 districts impacted by the storms.</p>
UN or other actors	In January 2024, the government of Lesotho initiated the reconstruction of 120 houses across Thaba Tseka and Maseru. Additionally, they began distributing food packages to households affected by the disaster in Quthing. This multi-faceted response aimed not only to rebuild homes but also to address immediate food needs, supporting the



affected communities in their recovery efforts. The reconstruction efforts in Thaba Tseka and Maseru focused on restoring damaged infrastructure, while the food distribution in Quthing sought to alleviate the hardship faced by families due to the recent events.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Disaster Management Authority (DMA) is tasked by the government with overseeing and coordinating all Anticipatory Action and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans through the National Disaster Risk Reduction Team (NDRT) and district disaster management teams (DDMTs). This structure is responsible for managing and supervising all response efforts and ensuring that existing interventions are mapped out to prevent duplication of resources and efforts.

The Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) is actively involved in all DRR structures within the DMA. These structures are charged with the ongoing monitoring of disaster situations. Currently, LRCS is collaborating closely with the Department of Local Government and Chieftainship, as well as the DMA, to identify the most vulnerable households. Additionally, in partnership with Vodacom Lesotho, LRCS has facilitated mobile cash transfers via eMpesa to 154 households for food and roof repairs.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education, through schools such as Tele Primary in Quthing and Abele Primary in Maseru, partnered with LRCS to conduct WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) campaigns. The Department of Social Development and the District Disaster Management Teams also supported initiatives to enhance child protection and provide mental health and psychosocial support.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

According to the initial rapid assessment report released by the Disaster Management Authority on 15th January 2024, over 100 houses were destroyed by strong winds, with many others sustaining partial damage. As a result, affected families sought refuge with nearby relatives and neighbors. In addition to losing their homes, some households also reported the loss of other personal property. An earlier government rapid assessment, dated 15th January 2023, documented that 164 houses were severely damaged, displacing numerous families. During the assessment process, displaced individuals expressed a preference for repairing their homes while temporarily residing with relatives. The assessment also identified immediate shelter needs, including tarpaulins, roofing materials, and essential household items.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The recent storms in Lesotho caused widespread damage to infrastructure and significantly disrupted household economic stability. In addition to the destruction of homes and physical assets, many business owners and informal workers lost their sources of daily income. Families also lost essential household items and property, while food reserves were destroyed under debris—deepening the hardship for communities already grappling with food insecurity.

The agricultural sector was particularly hard-hit. Farmers in the middle of the summer cropping season saw their fields waterlogged due to excessive rainfall, threatening their livelihoods. The loss of crops and damage to food reserves further compounded existing vulnerabilities.

Even before the storms, an estimated 325,000 people in Lesotho were food insecure. This situation is projected to worsen through March 2024 due to poor agricultural production driven by El Niño effects and delayed rainfall. The December storms further exacerbated these challenges, damaging already fragile food systems and worsening the cumulative impact of earlier extreme weather events in August and October 2023, which had already weakened infrastructure and depleted household resources.

The National Society's response capacity was strained, having already utilized pre-positioned stocks to address previous emergencies. This limited their ability to scale up assistance in December, despite the growing needs and worsening food insecurity across the country.



Health

- During shocks, households experienced the emotional trauma and stress. The storm shock resulted in loss of lives, livelihoods and property hence psychosocial and mental health support was crucial.



- Water sources were disrupted and living conditions threatened as communities were prone to various diseases. More hygiene campaigns were required to reduce the occurrences of waterborne diseases.
- Lastly, the disruption of roads and bridges also hindered access to health services in affected areas as most people had to cross rivers to access such services.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The impact of heavy rains disrupted access to clean water, especially in areas that relied on water from wells and springs. In some areas, water supply networks were destroyed resulting in limited access to clean water. This required hygiene promotion campaigns aimed at encouraging safe practices to avoid any potential water-borne diseases. To maintain women's and girls dignity and well-being there was a need for the provision of dignity kits.

Hence, LRCS with the support of District Disaster Management Teams (DDMTs) and volunteers conducted the targeting and registration exercise to identify individuals eligible to receive dignity kits. During this process, more people were found to be vulnerable and in need of aid than initially expected. These individuals came from a range of at-risk groups whose needs were identified through community engagement and assessment activities. Furthermore, the procurement and distribution of dignity kits done with the support of the LRCS safeguarding and storm surge financial support allowed the program to expand its impact, reaching a wider portion of the population. This included children, who received the kits as part of initiatives aimed at promoting hygiene, dignity, and well-being in educational environments.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

While specific Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) needs were not explicitly identified during the assessments and field observations, PGI remained a central consideration in ensuring community well-being and managing risks throughout this DREF operation. Crises and emergencies tend to exacerbate the vulnerabilities of certain groups—particularly women, girls, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities—who often face heightened risks. Women and girls were particularly exposed to threats such as sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, while persons with disabilities and the elderly encountered barriers in accessing timely and accurate information. These groups often have limited access to resources, increasing their susceptibility to various forms of abuse and neglect. In response, the operation prioritized the needs of these vulnerable groups, placing a strong emphasis on raising community awareness around their specific challenges and integrating inclusive approaches into the overall response.

In addition, LRCS identified two child-headed households during the selection process. These affected group were lacking identification documents, which is another consideration learnt to be assessed in advance to ensure proper inclusion of these groups while maintaining the compliance to the cash process/requirements.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Alongside the implementation of all activities, communities received weather-related early warning messages to allow them to act ahead of disasters. Working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, beneficiaries were trained on climate-smart Agriculture.



Community Engagement And Accountability

To ensure accountability to communities throughout the intervention, LRCS used CEA tools in identifying the needs and during the targeting exercise. Public gatherings under the supervision of local authorities were held to identify vulnerable people using the pre-agreed selection criteria. To allow two-way communication and community feedback, suggestion box and help desk were established during any interaction with the communities.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

LRCS objective was to provide emergency assistance to 154 HHs (770 targeted people) affected by the storm in Quthing and Maseru, addressing humanitarian priorities on shelter, livelihoods but also mitigating immediate health risk induced by the living conditions after



the storms.

Operation strategy rationale

This DREF operation provided resources to LRCS to assist 770 people in two highly affected districts following the impact of the storm and heavy rains that occurred on the late 22-28 December 2023. The prioritized needs included WASH, shelter, food parcels and other essential households' items. The strategy was to provide cash interventions and in-kind distributions for a holistic approach to mitigate the negative impacts of the disaster and ensure the affected families are able to restore their well being by covering their emergency needs. Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) were mainstreamed in all the interventions. For instance, CEA approaches used included suggestion boxes, the already existing toll-free number and community help desks.

The distribution targeted 154 affected families from Quthing and Maseru districts. Personal hygiene kits packages were distributed, WASH and health promotion campaigns were conducted to raise awareness and disseminate information against water borne diseases especially in the areas that rely in unprotected water sources in both Maseru and Quthing districts.

Summary of intervention:

1) Multipurpose Cash transfers

Through this DREF operation, each family received in total LSL 3,700. This multi-purpose cash was a once-off installment to efficiently cover the multi-sectoral needs of the affected families, including provision of shelter (repairing and reroofing the damaged houses), to cover the food basket and/or basic needs of each family.

The installment was calculated to purchase average minimum food basket. This amount was determined by the Lesotho Disaster Management Authority as the survival deficit during emergencies.

- The money distributed through mobile cash transfers (Vodacom and Econet Lesotho) addressed shelter needs such as roofing and repairing other damages, this ultimately helped the affected families to return to their households.

This approach gave flexibility to the families to priorities their different family needs including shelter and other household items. For example, purchasing food, furniture, medication, uniforms or address other family basic needs and access to services. Cash transfers were provided to vulnerable households, enabling beneficiaries to purchase essential building materials promptly from their respective local markets. This did not only facilitate timely shelter recovery efforts but also contributed to stimulating local economies by boosting sales and profits for small businesses within those communities.

3) Shelter, housing, and settlements

LRCS supported the affected families with the distribution of tarpaulins to 154 households (770pp) in Quthing and Maseru districts to protect them from various weather elements. To complement the distribution of tarpaulins, the multi-purpose cash transfers served to buy the additional material for repairs/construction work. It is of importance to note that the full IFRC emergency shelter kits were not procured as the affected families moved in with relatives and neighbors.

During the assessments and community engagements, beneficiaries expressed that they were comfortable to be housed by their relatives as they repaired their houses, hence the distribution of tarpaulins is prioritized to cover the damaged houses and properties.

NS also provided mattresses, blankets and kitchen sets to give the beneficiaries a start when they get back to their repaired houses.

4) Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and Health:

The NS conducted two hygiene promotion campaigns to ensure safe practices within communities. In addition, 154 dignity/hygiene kits were distributed to the affected families.

The LRCS conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring exercise after distribution of in kind and cash transfers. The PDM and lessons learnt workshop allowed beneficiaries to express their gratitude of the support received and LRCS in attending to their immediate needs. The government stakeholders also expressed their joy of coordinating and collaborating with the NS in the districts affected. Although, timely support was provided, beneficiaries also highlighted that the value of the shelter cash transfer was low, particularly for households whose homes had sustained severe damage as funds were insufficient to cover the full cost of reconstruction or adequate repair, highlighting a gap between the level of support provided and the actual needs on the ground.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

This DREF operation targeted Quthing and Maseru district because of the severity of the event in these areas. LRCS focused on the most vulnerable households and special child-headed households, elderly, women and people with disabilities who did not receive any form of assistance from the government, NGOs and UN agencies. In this regard, 120 HHs (600 pp) were targeted and reached in Quthing District while 34 HHs (170pp) in Maseru respectively.



With the DREF allocation LRCS managed to reach the 770 people among the most impacted with relief assistance and 945 people with overall humanitarian services delivered.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) used a community-based approach to identify eligible beneficiaries. The community-based approach enabled local communities to actively participate in confirming the eligibility of targeted beneficiaries. This process took place during public gatherings organized by local leaders, who invited community members to take part. The initiative was led by the District Disaster Management Teams, ensuring that each affected community was prioritized and given the opportunity to identify members eligible for shelter and WASH support. While WASH campaigns were designed to benefit the entire affected population, the distribution of dignity kits specifically targeted the most vulnerable households and children.

The targeted households were provided with tarpaulins, hygiene kits, and cash for food and roofing materials. The selection criteria was collaboratively developed and agreed upon with the communities and local authorities to ensure fair and effective assistance.

Total Targeted Population

Women	326	Rural	70%
Girls (under 18)	120	Urban	30%
Men	212	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Boys (under 18)	112		
Total targeted population	770		

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?	No

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Beneficiary safety during the cash process and other distribution	Cash transfers were done through mobile cash transfers using Mpesa and Ecocash to allow recipients to receive and withdraw cash at their own convenience. Reducing the opportunity of crowd that could increase small criminality. The distribution process was also well organized with the participation of the communities that understand the context. Even though no significant security incident was forecasted and happened.

Gender Based Violence & Child Protection issue	LRCS integrated that risk thorough the operation, ensuring the messages on safeguarding are disseminated to the response team and the communities. LRCS conducted community campaigns on child protection and gender-based violence.
Beneficiary selection inclusion and exclusion risk that could led to dissatisfaction or claims	Community Engagement Accountability tools was in place to allow two-way communication between LRCS and beneficiaries. Community-based targeting and verification with local authorities was done to avoid duplication and corruption-related targeting.
<p>Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:</p> <p>LRCS has zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, therefore all beneficiaries were empowered on the subject matter and advised to follow safe reporting channels. To avoid family conflicts at household level, during the assessment and registration, beneficiaries were given an opportunity to indicate the preferred person to receive cash and in-kind on behalf of the family.</p>	
Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No

Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 17,063

Targeted Persons: 770

Assisted Persons: 770

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of blankets distributed to the affected households	300	300
# of mattresses distributed to the affected households	300	300
# of households who received temporary shelter (tarpaulins).	154	154

Narrative description of achievements

- LRCS provided essential relief items to 154 households, (770 individuals) in Quthing and Maseru districts by distributing 154 tarpaulins to address immediate shelter needs and cash transfers at the value of 1200LSL to help in re-roofing and minor maintenance of their damaged houses.
- 300 blankets and 300 mattresses were distributed whilst 154 HH received tarpaulins. The aim was to support and facilitate the return of affected families to their homes. Furthermore, each of these households also received hygiene kits composed of washing soap and basic toiletries.

This comprehensive assistance aimed to alleviate immediate suffering while also supporting the recovery process of the affected households.

Lessons Learnt

- As revealed during the lessons learned workshop, communities and stakeholders emphasized the importance of aligning the shelter transfer value with the government's public work transfer value. This alignment ensures that the allocated amount is adequate for the essential tasks of re-roofing and maintaining houses. Participants stressed that such coordination is crucial to effectively meet the needs and expectations of affected households in future response efforts.

Furthermore, communities emphasized the importance of incorporating transportation costs for non-food items (NFIs) or considering voucher assistance as an alternative to cash transfers. They underscored that including transport costs directly into the assistance or providing vouchers could enhance accessibility and ensure that beneficiaries can obtain essential items more efficiently.

Challenges

The delay in initiating the process in Quthing due to inaccessibility to travel to some affected communities necessitated LRCS to accelerate operations to ensure compliance with the deadline. As a result of this expedited effort, LRCS implemented measures to swiftly address the situation and meet the urgent timeline.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 32,564

Targeted Persons: 770

Assisted Persons: 770

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households who received cash transfers to repair and reroof the damaged HH	154	154
# of beneficiaries targeted	770	770
# of PDMs conducted	1	1
# of households who received cash transfers to purchase food parcels	154	154

Narrative description of achievements

Multipurpose Cash transfers: LRCS offered a one-month unconditional transfer of 1,200 LSL via e-Mpesa, aligned with the current LVAC survival deficit value, to assist 154 households (770 people) in meeting their basic food needs and 2,500 aimed to address shelter needs such as roofing and repairing of other damages. Working closely with key stakeholders such as DDMT and DMA, LRCS facilitated the identification, verification, and registration of beneficiaries to ensure that the assistance reached eligible households.

LRCS conducted PDM to gather insights from communities that can inform and shape future programming decisions. This proactive approach ensured that community perspectives and feedback are incorporated into ongoing and future initiatives, enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of LRCS's humanitarian interventions.

Lessons Learnt

The PDMs highlighted that beneficiaries liked the idea of their redeeming their money with Vodacom or M-Pesa which made it easier for them, however, some suggested having Vodacom and M-Pesa money agents at distribution centers so that people can redeem their cash there and not have to travel to town to redeem. In overall, the beneficiaries were very happy with the support they received because the money they received was enough to repair most of the damages caused by the storm. The mobile service transfer process necessitated beneficiaries to possess official government documents, such as IDs, to register for e-Mpesa. However, a challenge arose as some individuals lacked these necessary documents, resulting in delays and complications. LRCS responded by collaborating closely with Vodacom to explore alternative mechanisms that could accommodate individuals without official IDs, thereby ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries accessed the assistance efficiently.

Challenges

As a lesson learned, LRCS identified two child-headed households. According to Lesotho citizenship policy, minors are not issued IDs, which was a requirement for registering with e-Mpesa. Moving forward, it is crucial to identify such households early on and explore



alternative registration methods so that they can receive their cash funds concurrently with other beneficiaries.



Budget: CHF 2,068

Targeted Persons: 770

Assisted Persons: 945

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with psychosocial support	770	945

Narrative description of achievements

• During the DREF storm surge response, LRCS organized a comprehensive two-day child protection campaign in Tosing Community Council, Quthing District. This initiative was conducted in close collaboration with the District Child Protection Team, Department of Social Development, and the Child and Gender Protection Unit, receiving invaluable support from local stakeholders including the radio station, teachers, community councilor, local chief, and Head chief. The event commenced with a peaceful march aimed at raising awareness and advocating for child safeguarding, emphasizing the importance of promoting children's mental health during and after disasters. Interactive sessions covered essential life skills topics such as Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Decision Making, and detailed Focus Group Discussions addressing the children's mental health and psychological well-being in the aftermath of the traumatic events they experienced.

Furthermore, the campaign incorporated engaging mind games for children, including scrabble, puzzle-building, and the stack-up game. These activities were designed to enhance critical thinking skills, expand vocabulary, and help children learn to thrive under pressure. A key component of the campaign was educating children about reporting mechanisms available to them, facilitated by LRCS and other stakeholders. Discussions also informed them about the services offered by the Department of Social Development and the Child and Gender Protection Unit, ensuring they were aware of available support resources.

The campaign was such a success that it ended up reaching more people (945 people instead of 770) than the initial target. The campaign not only aimed to protect and support children in the immediate aftermath of the storm surge but also sought to empower them with essential skills and knowledge to navigate challenges and contribute positively to their communities' recovery and resilience.

Lessons Learnt

• LRCS collaborated with relevant ministries to establish effective referral pathways, particularly tailored for households impacted by the crisis. These pathways were designed to streamline and facilitate access to essential services and support for affected individuals and families. The collaborative effort aimed to ensure that those in need could efficiently navigate and benefit from the various assistance programs and resources available through governmental and humanitarian channels.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges worth reporting.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 2,844

Targeted Persons: 770

Assisted Persons: 1,231

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
-------	--------	--------



# of households received hygiene kits	154	154
# Number of people reached through WASH campaigns	770	1,231

Narrative description of achievements

The National Society (NS) organized two hygiene promotion campaigns to promote safe practices within communities reaching 1231 people. These campaigns were well attended seeing a 60% increase to what was initially targeted. Additionally, the NS distributed dignity hygiene kits to 154 families in the affected districts to enhance their wellbeing.

Before procuring and distributing these kits, consultations were held with women and adolescent girls to gather their preferences regarding the contents of the dignity kits. Consequently, the procured hygiene kits included essential items such as washing soap and basic toiletries, ensuring that they met the specific needs and preferences of the beneficiaries.

Lessons Learnt

In future programming, the National Society (NS) should incorporate school-based response activities to ensure comprehensive coverage of children while addressing poor hygiene practices commonly observed in schools that are exacerbated by the high number of students present at school setting. This strategic approach aims to directly impact and educate children on essential hygiene practices within the school environment, fostering healthier habits early on. Most importantly, integrating school-based initiatives into programming, NS can effectively promote better hygiene behaviors among students, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes across communities.

Challenges

The hygiene promotion campaigns coincided with the school opening season, posing challenges in gaining access to schools due to lengthy procedures required by the Ministry of Education for permissions. Consequently, the campaigns were restricted to adults only, excluding school children, which deviated from the initial plan to engage all members of the community, including students.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 776

Targeted Persons: 770

Assisted Persons: 1,231

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# people reached through PGI campaigns	770	1,231

Narrative description of achievements

During crises and emergencies, vulnerable groups such as women, girls, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities face heightened vulnerabilities. As a result, LRCS conducted PGI and gender-based violence awareness campaigns in the two districts to empower communities. These campaigns attracted significant participation, exceeding the initial target of 770 individuals by an additional 461 participants. The NS collaborated with relevant stakeholders and integrated initiatives with other LRCS projects, such as safeguarding, to conduct protection campaigns in affected communities. Special attention was given to establishing help desks as community feedback mechanisms where women and girls were prioritized in accessing assistance and speaking with representatives. These efforts were crucial in ensuring that vulnerable individuals received the support and protection they needed during challenging times, fostering a safer and more inclusive environment within the affected areas.

Lessons Learnt

- The NS will ensure stronger community feedback mechanisms are incorporated in all operations because the help desks and the toll free lines were highly appreciated by the communities.

Challenges

• It is always a challenge to bring people together for a campaign when they could be working or doing something for income generation or livelihood upkeep.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 3,619

Targeted Persons: 770

Assisted Persons: 1,231

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of monitoring and supervision visits done	2	2

Narrative description of achievements

• The IFRC Cluster Delegation gave the NS unwavering technical support both virtually and in person. The Disaster Management, Logistics, Finance and PMER Departments gave the necessary guidance to ensure smooth implementation of the interventions. The DM and the finance department visited the NS to monitor the implementation of the intervention and they also visited the implementation sites to appreciate the good work done by the NS and to further support which in return resulted in good implementation and overall success of the operation.

Lessons Learnt

It is always important to ensure there is a good relationship between the NS and IFRC to ensure support is efficiently rendered. The Federation was very timeous in offering support.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges worth reporting.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 12,501

Targeted Persons: 770

Assisted Persons: 1,231

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Narrative description of achievements

As part of ensuring compliance and accountability within the National Society, LRCS organized a lesson learned workshop. The workshop's primary objective was to gather feedback and recommendations from stakeholders to enhance future programming efforts. Additionally, LRCS conducted training sessions for 15 volunteers focused on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). These initiatives were designed to equip LRCS and its volunteers with the necessary skills and readiness to effectively respond to similar events in the future.



Lessons Learnt

Volunteers play a crucial role in enhancing the National Society (NS) and ensuring that LRCS maintains the capacity to sustain ongoing projects. Their contribution is instrumental in bolstering the organization's resilience and ability to effectively execute similar initiatives in the future. These dedicated individuals not only provide essential support but also bring valuable skills, commitment, and local knowledge to the table. Their involvement strengthens community engagement, expands outreach efforts, and enhances the overall impact of LRCS's humanitarian endeavors. By nurturing and leveraging the power of volunteers, LRCS fortifies its foundation and remains poised to meet the challenges and demands of future projects and emergencies.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges worth reporting.



Financial Report

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DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRLS007 - Lesotho - Storm Surge

Operating Timeframe: 17 Jan 2024 to 31 May 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	*	Operation	MDRLS007
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 12/May/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	71,435
DREF Response Pillar	71,435
Expenditure	-66,870
Closing Balance	4,565

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction		3	-3
AOF2 - Shelter	17,063	10,928	6,135
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	32,564	29,202	3,363
AOF4 - Health	2,068	6,881	-4,812
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,844	8,372	-5,528
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	776		776
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	55,315	55,385	-70
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	12,501	10,892	1,609
SF12 - Effective international disaster management			0
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC	3,619	593	3,027
Strategy for implementation Total	16,120	11,485	4,635
Grand Total	71,435	66,870	4,565

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Please explain variances (if any)

IFRC DREF allocation to LRCS response to storms was CHF 71,435 of which 66,670 was spent in to deliver the above assistance. With the closure of this operation, the un-used balance of CHF 4,565 will be returned to the DREF pot. The variance explanations are described below:

-6% variance on Shelter is because the NS was supplementing some Red Cross relief materials for the storage.

-23% variance on Health is because Mental health and psychological support services (MHPSS) were primarily provided in group settings. However a limited number of cases required individual interventions due to their specific needs and vulnerability. This special cases often necessitated multiple follow-up sessions which accounts for the observed variance in service service delivery method for cases involving



child beneficiaries and individual MHPSS support and follow-up activities we conducted collaboratively with the ministry of social development and the district child protection team to ensure a comprehensive child centred approach hence the cost increases more people were engaged.

-194% variance in WASH is because During the targeting and registration a greater number of individuals were identified as vulnerable and in need of assistance than initially anticipated. This included people from various risk groups was made became evident through community engagement and assessment activities. Additionally, the procurement and distribution of dignity Kits enabled the program to extend its reach providing essential support to the broad segment of the population. This included school aged children who received the kits as part of efforts to promote hygiene dignity and well-being within educational settings.

100% variance in PGI is because there was a Safeguarding Project that had a strong PGI component and it financed all the PGI activities because it was in the same location.

-12% variance in Strengthening NSs was because supporting district level for initiatives particularly in Maseru district including hard to reach areas such as Ha Abele and Semonkong proved to be more costly than initially projected the geographical remoteness and limited accessibility of this locations post logistical challenges often necessitating overnight stays for staff and additional transportation arrangements, this factors contributed to increase operational expenses in the delivery of services.

83% variance in Ensure a strong IFRC is because there were several missions to Lesotho done during project cycle, from targeting, launching and implementation, but there were mistakes because this was during the transition from manual to ERP hence an error in booking the costs.

Contact Information

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

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