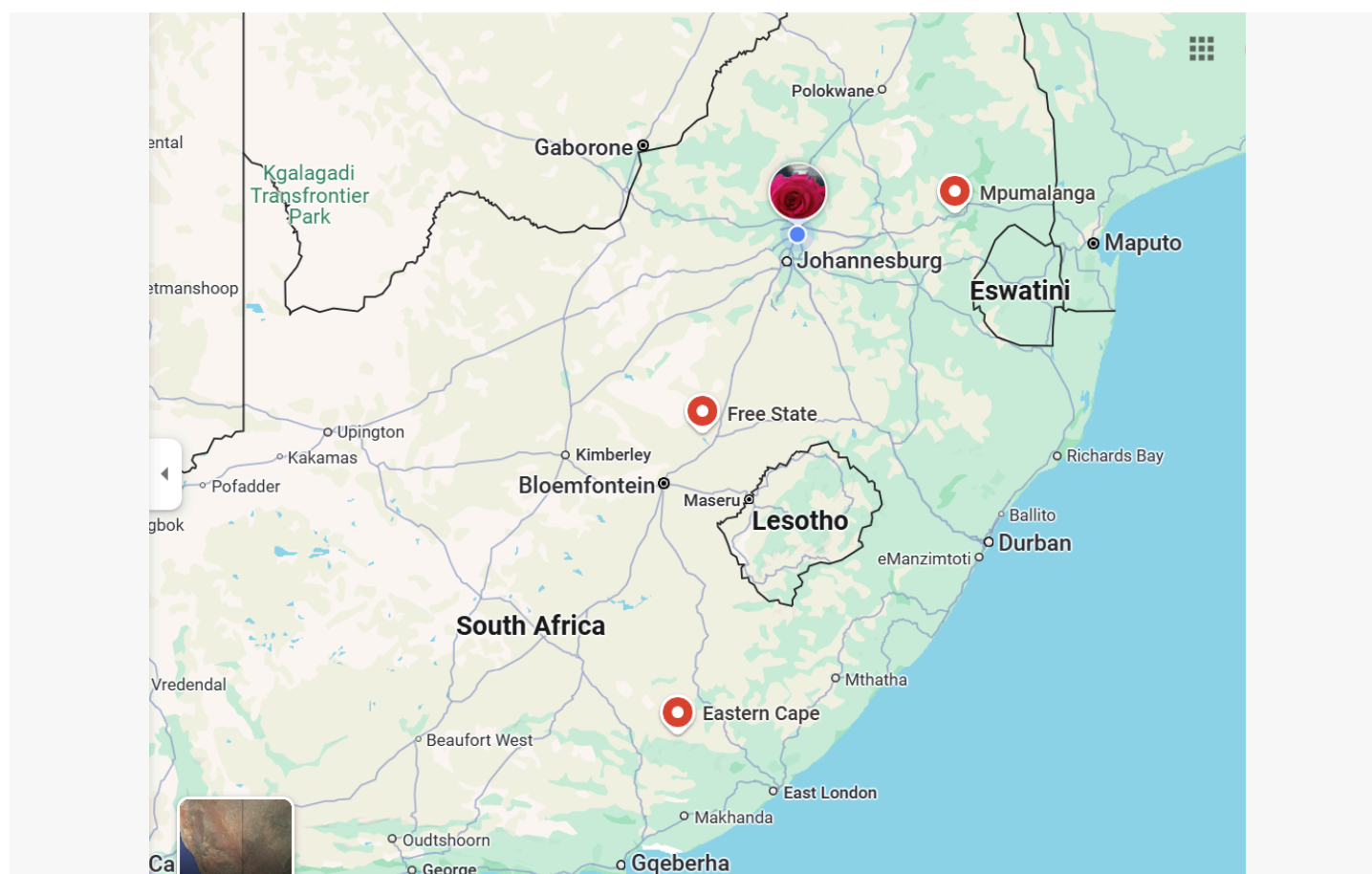




SARCS volunteers conducting Assessment

Appeal: MDRZA020	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 485,115	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Storm Surge
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 38,785 people	People Targeted: 7,500 people	People Assisted: 12,500 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 18-11-2024	Operational End Date: 31-05-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Targeted Regions: Eastern Cape, Free State, Limpopo, Mpumalanga			

Description of the Event



Provinces affected by thunderstorms

Date of event

28-10-2024

What happened, where and when?

On 28 October 2024, four provinces—Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Free State, and Limpopo experienced severe thunderstorms accompanied by intense winds. A total of 7,757 households (38,785 people) had their homes severely or partially damaged across all the affected provinces. In Mpumalanga, the Ehlanzeni Municipality was particularly impacted. The storms affected three local municipalities: Mbombela, Nkomazi, and Bushbuckridge, with Bushbuckridge (specifically wards 1, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, and 30) and Greater Acornhoek being the hardest hit. The aftermath resulted in damage to over 6,206 households (31,030 people) and 39 schools, and four fatalities were reported.

In Limpopo, the storm severely impacted Mopani, Vhembe, Capricorn, Sekhukhune, and Thulamela, with Lepelle-Nkumpi in Capricorn Municipality suffering the most damage. Approximately 224 households (1,120 people) were affected, three individuals received treatment for injuries, and several displaced people were evacuated to the Mashite Community Hall. In both provinces, the thunderstorms brought heavy hail, strong downpours, and high winds, which resulted in widespread destruction: damaged infrastructure, schools, electricity poles, and homes had roofs blown off or walls collapsed, leaving some houses completely destroyed and roads impaired (source 2).

Following these storms, heavy rains and strong winds continued to impact parts of the Eastern Cape and Free State, leading to severe flooding. In the Eastern Cape, thunderstorms caused flooding across several areas, notably in Nelson Mandela Bay, damaging roads, sewer systems, vehicles, buildings, and homes. A bridge along Rockland Road in Kwanobuhle collapsed, school operations were disrupted, and over 400 students were unable to sit for their exams. Evacuations took place, with displaced residents moving to town halls and schools, while widespread power and water outages affected hundreds, leaving thousands vulnerable to the flooding's effects. Approximately 3,394 people were impacted, with 3,000 evacuated to 19 shelters, and one elderly person lost their life due to the storm. Many of these areas had already been affected by flooding just four months prior, which intensified the vulnerability of local communities.

In the Free State, the storm primarily impacted the Mangaung Metro Municipality, Lejweleputswa District (Henneman, Theunissen,

Odendaalsrus, and Welkom), and Thabo Mofutsanyane District (Harrismith, Qwaqwa, and surrounding towns). Approximately 147 households reported structural damage, with one house completely destroyed and 12 others experiencing roof damage. Some homes were flooded, and yards were waterlogged due to inadequate stormwater drainage systems. In Lejweleputswa, over 75 homes suffered significant wind and flood damage. Tragically, a Grade 9 student was killed by lightning in Theunissen, and a Grade 11 student sustained serious injuries. Around 735 individuals were affected by these events, though no evacuation centers had yet been established.



MP Provincial Response Team conducted assessments in Bushbuckridge



The Limpopo Branch Response Team conducted assessments in Sekhukhune

Scope and Scale

The storm surge that struck Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and the Free State in late October 2024 had a devastating impact on communities, severely disrupting livelihoods and exposing vulnerabilities to climate-related hazards.

Despite early warnings from the South African Weather Service (SAWS) issuing an early cautionary alert on October 27, 2024. The warning highlighted a Yellow Level 2 alert for severe thunderstorms, including hail, heavy downpours, and damaging winds across much of South Africa. Many communities were unprepared for the scale of destruction. The storms brought hail, heavy downpours, and strong winds, leading to:

Widespread damage to homes: Over 7,757 households were affected across the provinces, with many homes partially or completely destroyed, leaving families displaced and in urgent need of shelter.

Loss of life and injuries: At least five fatalities were reported, including a Grade 9 learner killed by lightning, and several others sustained serious injuries.

Disruption of education: More than 30 schools were damaged, and in the Eastern Cape, over 400 learners were unable to sit for exams due to collapsed infrastructure and evacuations.

Infrastructure collapse: Roads, bridges (notably in KwaNobuhle), sewer systems, and electricity poles were damaged or destroyed, cutting off access to essential services and isolating communities.

Evacuations and displacement: Thousands of people were evacuated to shelters, with over 3,000 individuals relocated in the Eastern Cape alone.

Economic hardship: The destruction of homes, schools, and public infrastructure, combined with power and water outages, disrupted daily life and economic activities, especially in areas already affected by flooding earlier in the year.

This event highlighted the increasing vulnerability of communities to climate change and extreme weather, especially in regions with

limited preparedness and infrastructure resilience. The compounded effects of repeated flooding and storm damage have placed immense pressure on recovery efforts and community well-being.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. SABC News	https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/four-dead-hundreds-of-homes-damaged-in-mpumalanga-hailstorm/
2. SABC News	https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/938738-2/

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	In this response, the IFRC, through its Pretoria Cluster Office, provided SARCS with technical support as part of its Secretariat responsibilities to the National Society. IFRC offered operational guidance to SARCS teams, such as PMER, Finance, Surge, and Programs, with SARCS joining biweekly calls to exchange information with IFRC technical experts. These calls also functioned as a forum for making essential operational decisions and for providing action points.
Participating National Societies	N/A

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC continued to support the NS on Restoring of Family Links (RFL) as well as the implementation of the Safer Access Framework (SAF) for staff, volunteers, and the affected communities to ensure that they were protected from further harm and enhanced vulnerabilities.
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Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The government, through Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and Disaster Management Centres (DMCs), identified community halls in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo to shelter affected individuals. The Department of Social Development (DSD) also provided psychosocial support (PSS) in several impacted areas and coordinated relief efforts from other humanitarian organizations that assisted those affected. The South African government, through the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and various departments, led humanitarian efforts in response to the impact of the thunderstorms. At the provincial level, SARCS actively participated in Joint Operations Centre (JOC) meetings, worked alongside other humanitarian actors to coordinate support and avoid duplication of efforts. Additionally, Eskom assisted by restoring electricity in the affected regions.



UN or other actors

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) consistently issued weather updates and early warning messages, enabling government bodies and humanitarian organizations like SARCS to enhance communication efforts with communities, particularly those in vulnerable areas.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

Coordination mechanisms were effectively established. Joint Operation Committees (JOCs), activated by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) at national, provincial, district, and local municipal levels, coordinated disaster response efforts. The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) actively participated at each level, reinforcing its auxiliary role. The Department of Social Development (DSD) led the coordination of relief efforts from both the government and other partners, ensuring streamlined assistance and preventing overlap. DSD provided essential psychosocial support (PSS) in affected areas and oversaw contributions from various humanitarian organizations to maintain a well-coordinated, effective response for those impacted. SARCS's commitment to disaster preparedness and response is evident through its comprehensive approach, which includes community education, volunteer training, and the provision of essential services such as first aid, food, and shelter during emergencies. By collaborating closely with government agencies and other humanitarian organizations, SARCS ensures that its interventions are timely, effective, and aligned with national disaster management strategies. In times of crisis, SARCS's unwavering commitment to humanitarian principles and its collaborative approach to disaster management continue to earn and uphold public trust, ensuring that vulnerable communities receive the support they need when they need it most.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The devastating thunderstorms severely impacted shelter in the affected areas, with 7,737 homes completely and partially destroyed with others left without roofs or windows, leaving residents exposed to the elements and heightened risks, including criminal activity. In response, emergency efforts were mobilized to safeguard those affected. Some individuals and families were moved to evacuation centers where they could access temporary shelter, food, and basic services. Others were facilitated to relocate to safer areas through coordinated transport and support mechanisms. Where possible, those with the most urgent needs were referred to housing assistance programmes to help them begin the process of rebuilding their lives with dignity and stability. The situation on the ground highlighted the need for sustained humanitarian engagement, including livelihood restoration, food security programming, and shelter recovery initiatives, to help communities rebuild and regain resilience.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The recent severe thunderstorms had a profound impact on food security and livelihoods across the affected provinces. Numerous households lost essential belongings and food supplies, while agricultural communities suffered the destruction of crops and the loss of livestock, deepening their vulnerability to social instability and economic hardship. These disruptions deprived many individuals of their primary sources of sustenance and income, and while initial relief efforts helped to stabilize the situation, significant needs remain. In response, the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) implemented emergency interventions, including the deployment of mobile kitchen units to strategically affected locations. These units provided freshly prepared hot meals to displaced and food-insecure populations, many of whom lacked access to functional cooking facilities. SARCS also distributed nutritionally balanced emergency food parcels, ensuring that vulnerable households received dietary support during the acute phase of the disaster.

While these efforts played a critical role in mitigating the short-term effects of food insecurity and supporting community stabilization, many households continue to face challenges in rebuilding their livelihoods. The loss of agricultural assets and income-generating opportunities has left communities struggling to recover, and ongoing support is needed to restore food systems, strengthen resilience, and prevent long-term dependency. The situation highlights the importance of sustained livelihood recovery programs and targeted food security interventions to ensure that affected populations can rebuild and thrive.



Health

The impact of the thunderstorms across the affected provinces has resulted in considerable distress and trauma within impacted communities. Many individuals reported heightened levels of anxiety and psychological strain due to the loss of personal assets, homes, and livelihoods. While the Department of Social Development (DSD) provided psychosocial support (PSS), the scale and magnitude of the



disaster overwhelmed available resources, limiting their ability to reach all affected households.

In response to this gap, the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) played a crucial role in complementing the efforts of the Department of Social Development. By leveraging its established infrastructure and capacity for rapid response, SARCS was able to provide critical mental health and psychosocial support services to communities severely impacted by the storm. Through the activation of its disaster response, SARCS deployed trained professionals to offer direct support to individuals and families, mitigating the psychological impact of the disaster and facilitating the recovery process.

Furthermore, SARCS positioned itself as a vital partner in strengthening the overall disaster response framework. In collaboration with local government agencies and other humanitarian actors, SARCS has enhanced the government's capacity to address the mental health needs of affected populations. This contribution remains crucial in rural and underserved areas where access to mental health services is often limited, and furthermore the scale of the disaster exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. Through its efficient coordination and resource mobilization, SARCS expanded the reach of psychosocial services, but continued investment and engagement are necessary to maintain and scale these efforts post-intervention into the recovery phase.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The promotion of good hygiene practices and the provision of clean, safe drinking water were fundamental pillars in preventing disease outbreaks in the immediate aftermath of the recent thunderstorms. However, many communities in the affected provinces continue to face persistent health challenges, including diarrheal diseases and other public health concerns. Despite initial interventions, the need for comprehensive WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiatives remains critical. These efforts are essential not only to mitigate current risks from contaminated water sources and inadequate sanitation but also to support long-term health and resilience through sustainable hygiene practices.

The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) played a vital role in launching WASH initiatives during the emergency phase, including targeted awareness campaigns that empowered individuals to adopt safer hygiene behaviors. These efforts were especially important in areas where infrastructure was compromised. Yet, ongoing support is needed to reinforce these behaviors and ensure continued access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

SARCS' integrated WASH strategy laid the groundwork for long-term community resilience, but further investment and coordination are required to address remaining vulnerabilities. Strengthening community capacity to respond to future health challenges and maintaining momentum in public health education are key to safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable populations. The continued presence of health risks underscores the importance of sustained humanitarian engagement and resource mobilization to support recovery and build resilience.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In the wake of the devastating thunderstorms, the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) took decisive action to integrate Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) principles into its disaster response. While these efforts helped address immediate protection concerns, ongoing needs remain particularly for women, children, and other vulnerable groups, especially those from informal settlements.

SARCS raised awareness of critical issues such as Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Child Safeguarding, recognizing the heightened risks in disrupted environments. Although protective measures such as safe spaces, adequate lighting, and functional sanitation were put in place, many communities continue to face challenges in maintaining safety and dignity, especially where infrastructure remains compromised.

The community feedback mechanism established by SARCS gave voice to those affected, allowing individuals to share their experiences in a confidential and supportive environment. However, continued engagement is needed to ensure these voices are heard and acted upon as recovery progresses.

SARCS also built referral pathways to connect individuals with medical, legal, and psychosocial support. Yet, access to these services remains uneven, and further coordination and resources are required to ensure that all affected individuals can receive the help they need. The situation on the ground underscores the importance of sustained PGI-focused interventions to protect vulnerable populations and support long-term recovery.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The primary objective of the DREF operation was to support 7,500 people (1,500 households) affected by thunderstorms in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Free State provinces over a six-month period. The operation delivered a comprehensive humanitarian response that addressed critical needs across several sectors, including Shelter, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Multi-purpose Cash Assistance, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). This approach managed to alleviate the immediate impacts of the disaster, improve the well-being of the affected populations, and meet their essential needs in a dignified and holistic manner. By addressing these core priorities, the operation contributed to restoring stability and strengthening resilience within the most vulnerable communities.

Operation strategy rationale

The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) launched a multi-sectoral emergency operation targeting 7,500 individuals (1,500 households) affected by severe thunderstorms and flooding across the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Free State. The strategy focused on delivering immediate humanitarian relief while building resilience through integrated interventions in emergency shelter, livelihoods (hot meals), health (mental health and psychosocial support), WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), multi-purpose cash assistance, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).

This approach was informed by community needs assessments, which identified urgent gaps such as loss of shelter, food insecurity, psychological trauma, health vulnerabilities, and lack of access to basic services. Actions such as distributing shelter items, deploying mobile kitchens, providing psychosocial support, supplying hygiene kits, and disbursing cash vouchers addressed these gaps while respecting local contexts and empowering affected communities.

The operation also prioritized capacity-building through surge personnel deployment, volunteer training, and collaboration with key stakeholders including SAWS all in alignment with national disaster risk reduction frameworks. This strategic alignment ensured both immediate impact and a pathway toward long-term recovery and resilience, especially through anticipatory action planning, community-led preparedness, and sustainable livelihood support.

However, despite the achievements of the operation, many of the initial needs remain unresolved. Several communities continue to face challenges in restoring their livelihoods, securing stable shelter, and accessing essential services. The evolving situation on the ground underscores the need for sustained support, long-term recovery programming, and continued collaboration to strengthen resilience against future disasters and ensure a seamless transition from emergency response to sustainable development.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

Through this operation, the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) targeted a total of 1,500 households (approximately 7,500 people) who were directly affected by severe thunderstorms in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Free State provinces. The operation also indirectly reached an additional 12,500 individuals through public awareness campaigns that focused on safe hygiene practices, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Child Safeguarding within the affected communities.

SARCS provided 1,500 households with multi-purpose cash assistance to support temporary housing solutions, emergency home repairs, rental support, and to help cover essential needs such as food and basic household items. In addition, 1,000 households received water purification kits and hygiene kits to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases, while 750 households were supported with essential shelter items, including two blankets and two mattresses per household, aligned with Sphere standards.

The logic behind targeting these specific groups was grounded in detailed vulnerability assessments and real-time mapping, conducted in collaboration with Joint Operations Committees (JOCs) and local municipalities. The criteria for targeting included the extent of damage to households, displacement status, access to previous humanitarian assistance, and socio-economic vulnerability. Particular attention was given to marginalized and high-risk groups such as women-headed households, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and undocumented migrants who often faced barriers to accessing government support.

SARCS ensured inclusivity by using community feedback mechanisms to validate beneficiary lists, promote transparency, and adapt to the evolving needs of affected populations. The operation also integrated past learnings from previous Disaster Relief Emergency Fund



(DREF) responses to optimize targeting strategies and ensure that resources were equitably distributed. Coordination with government entities such as the Department of Social Development (DSD), local NGOs, and community-based organizations helped clarify roles, avoid duplication, and ensure a unified, community-centered response.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria prioritized individuals and families who had lost their homes, livelihoods, or experienced disruptions in essential services due to the severe thunderstorms. The logic behind this targeting was to prioritize those with the greatest humanitarian needs and least access to alternative support mechanisms. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that resources reached the most vulnerable and socially marginalized populations specifically pregnant women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, undocumented migrants, and child-headed households. These groups were targeted due to their heightened risk and reduced coping capacity in times of crisis, with the objective of ensuring their protection, dignity, and access to lifesaving assistance.

SARCS employed a transparent and participatory approach in identifying and selecting beneficiaries. Community meetings and consultations were held with affected populations, local leadership, and Joint Operations Committees (JOCs) to explain the targeting rationale, selection process, and any exclusions that might arise. This inclusive process aimed to prevent misunderstandings, strengthen community trust, and ensure accountability. Vulnerability criteria were developed using data from detailed assessments, community feedback, and real-time mapping, allowing SARCS to adapt quickly to evolving needs and fill gaps in humanitarian response.

To further ensure equity and inclusion, SARCS integrated learnings from previous operations to fine-tune its targeting strategy. Lessons learned—such as the importance of flexible criteria, stronger engagement with underserved groups (e.g., informal settlement dwellers and migrants), and early involvement of local stakeholders such as community leaders, ward committees, government agencies, and local volunteers—helped to improve the accuracy and fairness of the beneficiary selection and verification. These insights contributed to an approach that was culturally sensitive, community driven, and responsive to the diverse needs of affected households across the four provinces.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	5,385	Rural	80%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	2,252	Urban	20%
Assisted Men	2,717	People with disabilities (estimated)	2%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	2,146		
Total Assisted Population	12,500		
Total Targeted Population	7,500		

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
Damaged infrastructure may obstruct information flow and coordination efforts.	- Provided response teams with training on effective communication protocols. - Involved community leaders to aid in sharing essential information.
Women, children, and other vulnerable groups may face risks, including gender-based violence and child protection concerns	Introduced protective measures, such as safe spaces and community networks, to ensure the security of vulnerable groups. - Ran awareness campaigns on protection and prevention of gender-based violence. - Offered specialized services to support survivors of violence.
Damaged roads, as well as key infrastructure and challenging terrain may limit access to remote and isolated areas.	Set up alternative transportation options, where available, with other key stakeholders, such as air or water transport, to reach otherwise inaccessible locations and deliver prepositioned relief supplies, effectively enhancing response times. - Worked with local authorities to prioritize road repairs and clearance efforts.
Limited resources, including funding and personnel, may restrict the scope and impact of the response	Gathered additional resources through strengthened resource mobilisation efforts and donor outreach. - Partnered with other humanitarian organizations to share resources and expertise. Consideration of inter-provincial support for other provinces to assist the affected provinces - Prioritized resource allocation for high-impact interventions to maximize effectiveness. Ensured all staff and volunteers deployed for the intervention were trained and had the necessary capacity

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

Security and safety risks, including potential theft, looting, and civil unrest, posed significant challenges to the safety of response teams and the secured delivery of aid to impacted communities. To address these concerns, SARCS worked closely with local law enforcement and security agencies to provide protection during aid distribution and to create a secure environment for operations. Additional measures, such as collaborating with Community Policing Forums, were put in place to protect distribution sites and prevent disruptions. Ongoing security assessments allowed SARCS to track situational changes and adjust response strategies accordingly, ensuring the safety of personnel and resources throughout the operation.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 55,898

Targeted Persons: 3,750

Assisted Persons: 3,750

Targeted Male: 1,637

Targeted Female: 2,113



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#detailed assessment conducted	4	4
#households reached with blanket distribution	750	750
#households reached with Mattresses distribution	750	750
#people reached with safe shelter awareness on building back better	2,000	2,325

Narrative description of achievements

In response to the thunderstorms that affected four provinces Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, and Free State the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) conducted four detailed needs assessments (one per province) to evaluate the extent of damages, household vulnerabilities, and urgent humanitarian needs. These assessments revealed widespread destruction of homes, loss of essential household items, food insecurity, limited access to clean water, and heightened psychosocial distress among affected populations. The findings also highlighted the disproportionate impact on women-headed households, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and informal settlement dwellers, many of whom lacked access to basic services.

The data collected through these assessments informed the design and targeting of the emergency response. SARCS distributed mattresses and blankets to 750 affected households, reaching a total of 3,750 people (2,113 females and 1,637 males). Each household received two blankets and one mattress to support their immediate comfort and recovery.

In addition, SARCS launched 12 community awareness campaigns to educate residents on the importance of safe shelter practices. These specific Building Back Better campaigns reached 2,325 people (1,302 females and 1,023 males) across 12 communities, with each province targeting three communities. The initiative managed to enhance resilience and preparedness among residents, helping to reduce risks associated with future severe weather events.

Lessons Learnt

Distributing mattresses and blankets to 750 households was a simple but powerful intervention. For many, especially elderly and other vulnerable people, these items were the first signs of recovery. It was a reminder that even basic comfort matters deeply in an emergency, especially when families have lost nearly everything. Serving a similar purpose were the awareness campaigns on safe shelter practices which didn't just teach technical tips they opened up conversations about risk, housing vulnerabilities, and how communities can take action before the next storm. The approach worked well because it was practical, relevant, and delivered face-to-face in familiar settings. Furthermore, by tracking how many men and women were reached (2,113 females and 1,637 males with distributions and 1,302 females and 1023 males in awareness sessions), SARCS was able to see patterns and ensure women, who are often more vulnerable in disaster situations, were not overlooked.

Challenges

Each province managed to conduct one needs assessment, despite varying levels of impact in different districts. This was mainly due to limited time, staff, and transport capacity. Some pockets of affected populations may have been underrepresented in the data. While 12 awareness campaigns were conducted (three per province), the depth of engagement varied. In some cases, poor weather, limited materials, or low turnout reduced the sessions' impact. Volunteers felt they could have reached more people if they had better tools or more time. Further to this, some provinces, especially Free State and Eastern Cape, faced more difficulty mobilising volunteers and logistics quickly. This unevenness in capacity led to delays and slower implementation in those regions compared to Limpopo and Mpumalanga.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 20,366

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 2,552



Targeted Male: 957
Targeted Female: 1,595

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people supported with hot meals	2,000	2,552
# of mobile kitchens procured	4	4

Narrative description of achievements

• The Thunderstorms that hit four provinces had a devastating impact on food security and livelihoods, leaving many of affected households without food supplies or stable income sources. This significantly increased their vulnerability, particularly among households with children and chronically ill members. Communities residing in temporary shelters or hosted by relatives reported critical food shortages, with an urgent need for nutritional support during assessment. In response humanitarian need, the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) provided daily hot meals to 2,552 people in shelters and surrounding communities for 4 weeks across 4 provinces, helping to support both nutrition and medication adherence for vulnerable individuals. Through the procured mobile kitchens SARCS would have wanted to reach more people, however, the prepositioned food stocks were rapidly exhausted, placing immense pressure on SARCS' capacity to meet the growing demand.

Despite collaborative efforts, many partner organizations faced operational constraints, leaving SARCS to shoulder the full responsibility of delivering two meals per day to displaced families. This placed additional strain on the National Society's already limited resources and underscored the urgent need for sustained support to ensure continued food assistance.

Lessons Learnt

- The response highlighted several important lessons that will help strengthen future emergency interventions. Firstly, the need for scalable and diversified food stockpiling emerged as a key priority. In future emergency preparedness plans must include flexible stock mechanisms that can be quickly mobilized to address increased demand during prolonged disasters. Secondly, the experience revealed the importance of strengthening local partnerships. Investing in the capacity of local NGOs, community kitchens, and private sector actors can help distribute the burden of food provision and enhance the sustainability of meal support efforts.
- Another key lesson was the value of establishing pre-negotiated agreements with food suppliers and service providers. Such arrangements would enable faster replenishment of food items and reduce logistical delays. Furthermore, the response demonstrated the need contingency funding. Having access to a dedicated emergency fund for food relief would enable SARCS to maintain service continuity without strain even when external support is limited. Lastly, involving affected communities in meal preparation and distribution was proved effective in improving outreach and fostering trust, as it strengthened local ownership of the response, but also ensured that assistance reached those most in need, including those in remote or informal settings.

Challenges

• During this response SARCS encountered several significant challenges in its effort to provide daily hot meals to displaced households. One of the primary challenges was the depletion of prepositioned food stocks. With over 500 households depending on SARCS for nutritional support, the available supplies were exhausted quickly, exposing gaps in stock planning and emergency preparedness. The pressure intensified when many partner organizations, initially expected to assist, faced their own capacity constraints and were unable to provide consistent or timely support. As a result, SARCS had to assume full responsibility for delivering two meals per day, which placed considerable strain on its already limited financial, human, and logistical resources. Furthermore, storm related infrastructure damage, such as blocked roads and flooded areas, created significant access and distribution difficulties.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 190,902
Targeted Persons: 7,500
Assisted Persons: 7,450
Targeted Male: 2,397



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers provided with CVA refreshers training session	80	100
#household verified successfully received cash vouchers after being identified and processed for support.	1,500	1,490
% of target expressing satisfaction after Cash distribution	90	90

Narrative description of achievements

SARCS ensured that the most vulnerable families with limited or no savings were provided with unconditional multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs. This unrestricted cash transfer allowed families the flexibility to use the money based on their specific needs. The targeted families were provided with a once-off unrestricted multi-purpose cash grant of R2,500. The amount was calculated based on a month's worth of basic food basket and household items.

SARCS distributed 1,500 multipurpose cash voucher grants to 1,500 households, but only 1,490 households successfully redeemed their cash vouchers, benefiting approximately 6,160 people, while 10 households were unable to redeem their vouchers due and our 20 staff and 80 volunteers deployed for this operation supported in tracking them to ensure that they redeem their vouchers to no success. The reason for failure to redeem the vouchers ranged from cellphone numbers registered not available and displacement of the registered people since they were registered right at the beginning of the disaster.

Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Results highlighted:

90% of recipients expressed satisfaction with the cash assistance.

High satisfaction attributed to:

Flexibility in using the cash based on individual household needs.

Relevance of the amount, calculated to cover a month's basic food and household items.

Timeliness of the support during a critical recovery period.

Key operational Insights from the PDM highlighted that:

Effective targeting and delivery mechanisms contributed to positive outcomes.

Challenges in tracking displaced or unreachable beneficiaries highlight the need for:

Improved registration and verification systems eg, using multiple contact methods and verifying data regularly

Contingency planning for mobile populations.

Lessons Learnt

The National Society (NS) recognized the need to strengthen its strategic approach to integrating cash assistance with broader development initiatives in order to provide more sustainable, long-term support to affected communities. While emergency cash distributions addressed immediate needs, they were not consistently linked to livelihoods support, skills development, or local economic initiatives that could have helped beneficiaries move toward self-reliance. For example, pairing cash assistance with vocational training, small business grants, or agricultural inputs could have empowered households to rebuild more resiliently and reduce dependency on continued aid. A more integrated approach would have aligned with national development goals and improved the impact and sustainability of humanitarian interventions.

At the same time, the operational aspect of cash distribution required refinement to accommodate real-world challenges. One of the recurring issues was the reliance on mobile numbers for transferring funds, which became problematic when beneficiaries lost access to their SIM cards, changed their phone numbers, or experienced connectivity issues. To address this, the NS considered offering multiple cash delivery modalities through verified financial service providers. This flexibility was intended to ensure that beneficiaries could still access their entitlements, even if their contact information had changed.

Challenges

The team encountered significant delays in the distribution of cash assistance, primarily due to challenges related to the verification of beneficiaries. Some of the challenges were the displacement of registered heads of households who could not be verified in the community and a major obstacle was the large number of unreachable phone numbers all 268 heads of households, which delayed the

confirmation process and interrupted communication with intended recipients. In several cases, beneficiaries had either changed their phone numbers, lost their SIM cards, or provided contact details that were no longer in use. Compounding the issue, some individuals inadvertently gave incorrect information, while others were affected by data entry errors during registration, leading to mismatches in the system.

These verification challenges impacted the overall efficiency and timeline of the cash distribution process. The team was required to conduct additional field visits and manual follow-ups to locate and confirm eligible recipients, which added pressure to an already resource-constrained operation. In some cases, community leaders and volunteers were engaged to help track down individuals and cross-check information, which proved to be an effective but time-consuming approach.



Budget: CHF 16,429

Targeted Persons: 12,500

Assisted Persons: 12,500

Targeted Male: 4,863

Targeted Female: 7,637

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#people reached with PFA and PSS services	2,500	2,671
#people reached with health promotion awareness messages	12,500	12,500
#people reached with referral of distress	250	326

Narrative description of achievements

During the thunderstorm response, the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) deployed a total of 80 volunteers across the Eastern Cape, Free State, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga provinces to deliver multisectoral assistance, with a strong focus on health interventions. A total of 2,671 people (1,375 females and 1,296 males) were reached through the provision of mental health support and psychosocial first aid (PFA) under the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS). To strengthen the response capacity, SARCS conducted refresher training sessions for both staff and volunteers, focusing on health promotion, psychosocial first aid, and broader psychosocial support services.

Through extensive community engagement and sensitization campaigns on health and WASH promotion in emergencies, SARCS reached 12,500 people (4,863 males and 7,637 females), including those reached through the provision of mental health support and psychosocial first aid (PFA) across the four affected provinces. These efforts were essential in Mental health raising awareness about mental health, hygiene, and other critical health topics during and after the disaster. Moreover, SARCS collaborated closely with key government departments, particularly the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the Department of Health, to establish a clear referral pathway for individuals requiring advanced psychosocial care. As a result, a total of 326 people were referred to specialized services for further support. Follow-up sessions were conducted to monitor the well-being and recovery of people affected by trauma, ensuring continuity of care.

Lessons Learnt

- The health interventions implemented during the thunderstorm's response offered several important lessons. Firstly, the deployment of volunteers and the integration of health promotion with psychosocial support proved highly effective in reaching affected people in a timely and holistic manner. The mobilization of trained volunteers allowed SARCS to respond efficiently to immediate mental health and well-being needs in disaster affected communities. Refresher training provided to staff and volunteers on psychosocial first aid (PFA), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and health promotion played a critical role in equipping responders with the necessary skills and knowledge. This investment not only improved service delivery quality but also enhanced the confidence of volunteers in handling sensitive cases.

Another key lesson was the importance of collaboration with government departments such as the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development. These partnerships were essential in establishing a functioning referral pathway for individuals



requiring advanced mental health care. The collaboration ensured that complex cases were identified and referred to professional service providers in a timely manner. Community sensitization and awareness campaigns on health promotion also proved valuable in increasing public understanding of mental health, hygiene, and coping mechanisms during emergencies. Lastly, the follow-up sessions conducted with affected individuals helped reinforce the recovery process and demonstrated the importance of sustained support during emergencies responses.

Challenges

• Despite the overall success of the health interventions, several challenges emerged during implementation. One of the major challenges was the limited availability of afterhours mental health professionals, especially in remote or rural areas due to being far from the city. This gap made it difficult to provide specialized support to people with severe psychological distress, even after they were referred due to traveling distance to get services. In addition, the high demand for mental health services placed a strain on the capacity of volunteers, resulting in delays in reaching all affected households in some provinces mostly in rural areas. The emotional toll on volunteers was also significant, as many were exposed to highly distressing situations without adequate psychological support structures in place for themselves.

Logistical constraints further hindered the response in certain areas such as lack of transportation, and limited communication infrastructure in rural communities negatively impacted the efficiency of coordination and service delivery. These issues made it difficult to conduct timely follow-ups and maintain regular contact with affected individuals. Moreover, cultural stigma and misconceptions surrounding mental health led to hesitancy in some communities to accept or seek psychosocial support. This reluctance to engage made it challenging to identify and support some people experiencing psychological trauma. These challenges highlighted the need for increased community education on mental health, better volunteer support systems, and improved logistical planning in future responses.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 80,784

Targeted Persons: 2,500

Assisted Persons: 12,500

Targeted Male: 4,863

Targeted Female: 7,637

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#volunteers provided with refresher training on WASH	80	80
#people reached with awareness/sensitization sessions	2,500	12,500
#households reached with household hygiene packs	1,000	1,000
#of HH reached with purification kits	1,000	1,000
# of mobile toilets set up at evacuation centres	4	4

Narrative description of achievements

• With support from IFRC 80 SARCS volunteers went through a Hygiene and Health refresher training and the targeted 6 Hygiene and Health sensitization sessions managed to specifically reach 2,601 people (1,403 females and 1,198 Males) during these sessions. Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion services were ensured, including the distribution of essential hygiene-related materials such as hygiene kits. SARCS provided 1,000 hygiene packs to a total of 1,000 household catering for the needs of women, children, pregnant women, lactating women, the elderly, and people with disability. The hygiene packs comprised of sanitary pads, bleach, toothbrush set, bath soap, body lotions, washing powder, roll on and towels. Furthermore, Safe and clean water was provided to 1,000 affected households through the distribution of 1,000 water purification kits. Also, SARCS provided 4 emergency toilets in consultation with the community for proper waste management. Through extensive community engagement and sensitization campaigns on health and WASH promotion awareness in emergencies, SARCS reached 12 500 people (4863 males and 7637 females).



Lessons Learnt

One of the key lessons from the response was the importance of anticipating and planning for logistical difficulties in reaching remote or flood-affected communities. Distributing hygiene materials in these areas proved more challenging than expected, occasionally leading to delays. Future interventions will benefit from flexible logistics plans that account for tough terrain and disrupted infrastructure. Another insight was the need to match sanitation support with the scale of community needs. Although the deployment of four emergency toilets provided some relief, it quickly became apparent that this was insufficient for the number of people affected. Scalable and adaptable sanitation solutions should be prioritized in future responses. Lastly, while the hygiene kits and water purification support effectively addressed immediate needs, the intervention also highlighted the challenge of sustainability. Without continued access to hygiene supplies and clean water, especially in already vulnerable communities, the long-term impact remains limited. Future planning should include strategies for transitioning from emergency relief to longer-term solutions that support ongoing health and dignity.

Challenges

Despite the positive outcomes of the intervention, several challenges emerged during its implementation. One key issue was the limited availability of real-time data, which made it difficult to accurately assess needs across the different provinces. This sometimes led to uneven distribution of resources, with some areas receiving more support than others. Additionally, language and cultural differences within the targeted communities posed communication barriers during hygiene and health sensitization sessions. Volunteers had to adapt quickly, and in some cases, relied on local leaders to help interpret key messages. Another significant challenge was volunteer fatigue. Although the 80 trained volunteers were highly committed, the scale of the disaster and the emotional toll of working with affected populations led to burnout in some cases, emphasizing the need for better psychosocial support for frontline workers. Finally, the limited involvement of local government structures in certain areas slowed coordination efforts. Stronger partnerships at the municipal level could have improved alignment of resources and reduced duplication of efforts.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 778

Targeted Persons: 2,500

Assisted Persons: 12,500

Targeted Male: 4,863

Targeted Female: 7,637

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#staff and volunteers briefed to implement PGI minimum standards in emergencies	80	100
# of people reached with PGI interventions	2,500	12,500

Narrative description of achievements

SARCS conducted PGI briefings on the minimum standards for Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) in emergencies for all 80 volunteers and 20 staff to equip them with the necessary skills. These briefings ensured coordination with local stakeholders to establish referral pathways for child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and to carry out child protection awareness-raising sessions with community leaders and members to increase male engagement in SGBV prevention and response.

SARCS ensured that PGI was integrated into all programs by providing SGBV, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Child Safeguarding awareness-raising campaigns in evacuation centres and surrounding affected communities. In all community engagements and sensitization campaigns, SARCS remained gender-sensitive, ensuring that all members of the community were represented and their voices were heard.

As a result, SARCS reached 12,500 people (4,863 males and 7,637 females) with PGI interventions, further contributing to the safety of vulnerable groups, especially women and children.



Lessons Learnt

Engaging local leaders and community members especially men opened doors we might not have accessed otherwise. Their active involvement helped shift mindsets around gender-based violence and made the conversations feel more grounded and accepted in the community. When leaders speak up, others follow. Furthermore, PGI can't be treated as a side effort. Integrating it into all activities from setting up evacuation centres to running awareness sessions helped ensure no one was left behind. It became part of how the NS responded, not just a separate checklist.

Challenges

There were moments when community members, particularly older men or traditional leaders, pushed back against discussions around gender roles or SGBV. Cultural norms can be deeply entrenched, and not everyone was ready or willing to have those difficult but honest conversations. Additionally, once the immediate emergency ended, funding and resources quickly scaled down. That made it difficult to continue engagement on SGBV prevention, male involvement, or child protection. Volunteers and staff often expressed frustration at not being able to follow through on community interest and momentum.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 2,066

Targeted Persons: 2,500

Assisted Persons: 12,500

Targeted Male: 4,863

Targeted Female: 7,637

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers provided with refresher training on CEA	80	80
# of people reached directly when collecting community feedback	2,500	1,856

Narrative description of achievements

•The NS conducted 4 CEA sessions regarding CEA Orientation for 80 Volunteers (one in Limpopo, one in Mpumalanga, one in the Free State and one in the Eastern Cape). Media platform awareness messages for 3 months through social media posting, development of digital material on Thunderstorm awareness. 2 methods of feedback mechanisms were established: Key informant (Face to face engagements) by volunteers with affected communities' forming part of community feedback mechanism through collection of data by kobo form survey. In addition, the 121 project which is integrated with CVA was set up to also encompass feedback related to cash interventions. A total of 1,856 people were reached through community feedback, however through extensive community engagement and sensitization campaigns on health and WASH promotion in emergencies, SARCS reached 12,500 people (4,863 males and 7,637 females).

Lessons Learnt

Most lessons learned were derived from the Community Engagements that took place through out the implementation of the DREF. Key findings were that:

The thunderstorm awareness materials posted online and shared in communities were well received, particularly when visuals or local language were used. People appreciated practical, easy to understand information especially when it was timely and clearly linked to their safety.

The use of social media and digital platforms extended the reach of awareness messaging, especially among younger populations. It also allowed the NS to deliver messages quickly, such as weather alerts. But digital needs to be part of a broader mix not a replacement for community presence.

Additionally, Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Results highlighted:

90% of recipients expressed satisfaction with the cash assistance.

High satisfaction attributed to:

Flexibility in using the cash based on individual household needs.



Relevance of the amount, calculated to cover a month's basic food and household items.
 Timeliness of the support during a critical recovery period.
 Key operational Insights from the PDM highlighted that:
 Effective targeting and delivery mechanisms contributed to positive outcomes.
 Challenges in tracking displaced or unreachable beneficiaries highlight the need for:
 Improved registration and verification systems eg, using multiple contact methods and verifying data regularly
 Contingency planning for mobile populations.

Challenges

While communities appreciated being consulted, they sometimes became frustrated when their feedback didn't lead to visible changes or quick responses. This highlighted the importance of closing the feedback loop showing people how their input influenced decisions. More so, Kobo surveys and 121 platform feedback were helpful, but they required trained volunteers and dedicated follow-up. With limited resources and time, scaling these tools across all affected communities proved difficult.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 25,032

Targeted Persons: 1

Assisted Persons: 1

Targeted Male: 1

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#monitoring visits conducted by IFRC	4	4
# of surge personnel deployed	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

In response to the thunderstorm, the IFRC Head of Delegation and the National Society Disaster Manager undertook field visits to the provinces to supervise the implementation of DREF activities. Concurrently, the SARCS programmes team, led by the IFRC Junior Disaster Manager, conducted monitoring visits to Mpumalanga and Limpopo. In total, 4 supervisory visits were carried out to ensure effective implementation and coordination of the response. In addition, Monitoring and updates about the response were carried out via online team meetings biweekly. Furthermore, the Cluster Snr DM Officer collaborates closely with the entire team, both from NS and Cluster, to ensure operation and implementation synchronization. The Cluster and NS PMER collaborate closely in building the operation's monitoring and reporting tools.

With the assistance of the Cluster Snr Finance Officer, the NS Finance team had all the technical support required to guarantee that financial systems for the operation were properly set up and implemented. In addition, 1 Surge operations manager personnel was deployed to enhance coordination and assist the NS in finalizing its Early Action Plan (EAP), in collaboration with the South African Weather Service (SAWS). This element aimed to strengthen anticipatory action capabilities and operational readiness.

Lessons Learnt

The biweekly online meetings were a practical and effective way to stay connected across provinces and teams. They helped keep everyone updated, flag challenges early, and share progress especially when field visits were limited due to time or logistical constraints. Additionally, the deployment of the Surge Operations Manager gave the NS team a real boost, especially in navigating the development of the Early Action Plan (EAP). This collaboration with the South African Weather Service (SAWS) helped the NS move from reactive to more anticipatory action, which is a big step forward in resilience-building.



Challenges

The NS Finance and PMER teams relied heavily on cluster support to navigate systems and reporting tools. While this helped ensure quality in the short term, it also highlighted the need for more internal capacity-building so that the NS can lead independently in future responses. The need for internal capacity building also arose when field teams often felt caught between the need to “do the work” and the pressure to document it. While the reporting tools helped structure the operation, they also added to the workload of teams who were already stretched on the ground.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 92,859

Targeted Persons: 80

Assisted Persons: 12,500

Targeted Male: 4,863

Targeted Female: 7,637

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#Field visits conducted by HQ	4	4
%volunteers and staff reached with visibility materials	100	100
#lessons learnt workshops conducted	4	4

Narrative description of achievements

•SARCS HQ conducted 4 monitoring visits for field supervision and coordination in the 4 provinces. A total of 80 NS volunteers and 20 staff were deployed to support the intervention and they were provided with Visibility materials like SARCS branded gilets/bibs, t-shirts and hats for field visibility. SARCS ensured that Coordination with Disaster management agency across all 4 affected provinces were prioritized. 4 Lessons Learned workshops were conducted in all 4 Provinces which provided an opportunity to learn and evaluate the whole response.

Key findings from the Lessons Learned workshops:

Lessons Learned from the Intervention:

The implementation of the multi-sectoral emergency operation by the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) provided valuable insights into effective disaster response and highlighted areas for improvement in future interventions.

Key outcomes of the Lessons Learned workshop included:

1. Early Coordination Enhances Impact

Timely collaboration with government entities, local municipalities, and humanitarian partners was essential for effective targeting and resource distribution. Strengthening these partnerships early in the response helped avoid duplication and ensured a unified, community-centered approach.

2. Community Engagement Builds Trust and Accountability

The use of community feedback mechanisms and participatory beneficiary selection processes fostered transparency and trust. These approaches helped validate targeting criteria and allowed SARCS to adapt to evolving needs. Continuous engagement throughout the recovery phase remains crucial.

3. Integrated Multi-Sectoral Response Is Critical

Addressing shelter, food security, WASH, health, PGI, and cash assistance in a coordinated manner proved effective in meeting diverse needs. However, the scale of the disaster demonstrated that integrated responses must be backed by sufficient resources and long-term planning to sustain recovery.

4. Psychosocial Support Needs Are Often Underestimated

The demand for mental health and psychosocial support (PSS) far exceeded initial projections. While SARCS successfully deployed trained personnel, the intervention revealed the need for stronger mental health infrastructure and ongoing support, especially in rural and underserved areas.



5. Cash Assistance Offers Flexibility but Requires Strong Safeguards

Multi-purpose cash assistance empowered households to address their most urgent needs. However, the intervention underscored the importance of robust verification systems, financial literacy support, and protection measures to ensure equitable access and prevent misuse.

6. Security Planning Is Essential for Safe Aid Delivery

Security risks such as theft and civil unrest posed challenges during aid distribution. Proactive coordination with law enforcement and community policing forums helped mitigate these risks. Future operations should incorporate security planning from the outset.

7. Vulnerability Mapping Improves Targeting Accuracy

Real-time mapping and vulnerability assessments were instrumental in identifying high-risk groups. Lessons from previous operations helped refine targeting strategies, but continuous data updates and flexible criteria are necessary to respond to shifting conditions.

8. Infrastructure Limitations Hamper Service Delivery

Damage to roads, electricity, and water systems delayed aid delivery and limited access to services. Future interventions should include contingency planning for infrastructure disruptions and invest in community-level resilience.

9. Sustained Recovery Requires Long-Term Investment

While the operation addressed immediate needs, many communities remained vulnerable post-intervention. The experience highlighted the need for long-term recovery programming, including livelihood restoration, housing reconstruction, and disaster preparedness.

To strengthen coordination and partnerships in the response, the NS participated in a total of 20 meetings hosted by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and other relevant external entities, including the government and private sectors. The IFRC Pretoria Cluster office established a platform for biweekly coordination meetings where information was exchanged and updates on the thunderstorm's response progress. Through staff and volunteers, extensive community engagement and interventions under this DREF enabled SARCS to reach 12,500 people (4,863 males and 7,637 females).

Lessons Learnt

Prioritizing coordination with disaster management agencies across all four affected provinces meant that SARCS wasn't working in isolation. Attending 20 coordination meetings and joining the IFRC-hosted biweekly updates created important channels for information-sharing, problem-solving, and building mutual respect with other stakeholders. Additionally, the four monitoring visits to the 4 provinces were not just administrative—they gave volunteers a chance to raise challenges directly and feel supported. Volunteers expressed that being seen and listened to on the ground helped them stay motivated and improved the quality of implementation.

Furthermore, there is a need to engage volunteers in disseminating Early Warning Messages to the communities for any serious warnings issued by SAWS, as a result, the NS is developing an EAP to strengthen and scale up on their Anticipatory Action Interventions.

Challenges

While 20 coordination meetings ensured SARCS had a seat at the table, the volume of meetings especially when combined with biweekly internal updates sometimes stretched the capacity of team members already juggling fieldwork. Balancing action and coordination remain a challenge.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRZA020 - South Africa - Thunderstorm

Operating Timeframe: 18 Nov 2024 to 31 May 2025

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	*	Operation	MDRZA020
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 26/Aug/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	485,115
DREF Response Pillar	485,115
Expenditure	-477,102
Closing Balance	8,013

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	29,608		29,608
AOF2 - Shelter	52,486	55,898	-3,412
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	198,374	211,269	-12,894
AOF4 - Health	15,426	16,429	-1,003
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	75,854	80,784	-4,931
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	730	778	-47
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	372,478	365,157	7,321
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	89,132	94,957	-5,825
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management			0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	23,505	16,988	6,516
Strategy for implementation Total	112,636	111,945	691
Grand Total	485,114	477,102	8,012

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC: had a 27% variance because the IFRC was unable to conduct all planned monitoring visits as per the approved plan as the NS was engaged in responding to the new storm surge and flood incidents that occurred in March, April, and June 2025, respectively.

Disaster Risk Reduction had a 100% variance because PSSR charges were budgeted here. But the actual PSSR costs were charged to the different output codes.



Contact Information

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[Click here for reference](#)



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Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 26/Aug/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Personnel		239	-239
National Staff		239	-239
General Expenditure	23,505	15,712	7,792
Travel	22,364	15,642	6,722
Information & Public Relations	1,141		1,141
Financial Charges		71	-71
Contributions & Transfers	432,002	432,032	-30
National Society Expenses	432,002	432,032	-30
Indirect Costs	29,608	29,119	489
Programme & Services Support Recover	29,608	29,119	489
Grand Total	485,114	477,102	8,012