



Flooding in Gaborone

Appeal: MDRBW008	Country: Botswana	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 488,646	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: -	People Targeted: 9,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 11-03-2025	Operation Timeframe: 5 months	Operation End Date: 31-08-2025	DREF Published: 14-03-2025

Targeted Areas: **GABORONE, South-East, Kgatleng, Ghanzi**

Description of the Event

Date of event

21-03-2025



Map for Botswana

What happened, where and when?

From February 19 to 21, 2025, heavy rains led to widespread flash flooding in Boteti, Gaborone, Ghanzi, South-East, Kweneng, Kgagaladi, Mogoditshane, and Kgatleng districts. Rainfall peaked at 235mm in Kokotsha (Kgagaladi) and 160mm in Mogoditshane, with over 50mm recorded for more than 24 hours in several districts. This caused flooded homes, submerged roads, and disrupted transport networks, contaminated water and sanitation.

Based on Assessment conducted from 21-24 by the NS as of February 21, 2025, many people were affected, including children, pregnant women, the elderly, and migrants, especially the ones leaving in low lying areas across 14 districts. The floods conducted to the temporarily closure of schools from February 20 to 24 February due to transport disruptions. However, Kgatleng District schools only opened on 4th March 2025 as the situation was worse, with the exception of Linchwe II Junior Secondary School only opens on 17th February 2025 as it was severely affected by the flooding. The floods damaged homes, household items, and food supplies, forcing some residents into evacuation centers. 2,318 people were evacuated and other thousands displaced as at 26 February 2025.

As at 02.03. 2025, 402 persons are still in evacuation centre and the rest released to return home. Several major roads were closed, further restricting access.

The above events followed the Botswana Government warning issued on of 19, February 2025 projecting a continued rainfall that will be above average. The Botswana Government warning indicated that persistent downpours were expected to continue, potentially worsening the situation in already affected areas. From climate projections, the flooding are worsened by La Niña conditions and broader regional weather patterns.

The Government of Botswana, through the various affected districts has been requesting Botswana Red Cross Society to complement the



Government efforts in supporting affected communities. The severe effects of the storms and floods in the country from late 2024 have been weakening the response capacity in country, urging for additional resources to cover for this new events. A national disaster taskforce has been formed where The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) has a role to plan. Through this DREF allocation, NS is targeting 9,000 individuals (3,167 households) in Ghanzi, Kgatleng, Tlokweng, and Gaborone.



House collapse following floods in Tlokweng



A house submerged in flood water - Kgatleng

Scope and Scale

As of February 21, 2025, widespread flooding has directly impacted multiple districts, affecting vulnerable groups, including children, pregnant women, the elderly, and migrants.

The current impact of the floods from February 19 to 21, 2025, includes:

- Casualties: Nine fatalities have been recorded, including two elderly male adults—one drowned, while the other died due to a collapsed mud house wall. Additionally, seven children lost their lives after being swept away by floodwaters.
- Displacement: As of February 26, 2025, 1,489 families had been evacuated from flooded areas. By March 2, 2025, 402 households remained in evacuation centers, while others had either returned to partially damaged or flooded homes, sought shelter with relatives or friends, or relocated to hotels/guesthouses. Some families chose to stay in their homes despite the risks.
- Housing and Infrastructure Damage: Many houses were flooded, with mud structures collapsing. Roads, bridges, and transport networks suffered extensive damage, disrupting mobility.
- Impact on Schools: Schools were temporarily closed from February 20 to 24 due to impassable roads. In Gaborone, major commercial centers such as Molapo Mall and Riverwalk Mall sustained substantial damage.
- Agricultural Losses: Farms were significantly affected, resulting in potential food security concerns.

The situation remains critical as eight out of nine rivers are overflowing, leading to further flooding. Additionally, several dams have exceeded their capacity, including Bokaa Dam (119%), Gaborone Dam (105%), and Shashe Dam (125%), increasing the risk of further inundation.

Other severe impacts across affected districts include:

- Widespread property and livelihood destruction, with personal belongings, household items, and food stocks damaged.
- Structural failures, such as collapsed mud walls and blown-off roofs, forcing families to seek alternative shelter.
- Disruptions to daily life and economic activities due to displacement and crop destruction during the ploughing season.
- Power outages affecting essential services.
- Vehicles submerged or damaged by floodwaters.
- Transportation challenges due to damaged roads and bridges, including the temporary closure of the Limpopo River border post.
- Delayed school reopening in some districts due to flooded premises.

Regional and Climatic Context:

The SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) issued a heavy rainfall advisory warning of potential flooding across Southern Africa, including Botswana, from February 25 to March 3, 2025. Additionally, the Department of Meteorological Services forecasts persistent La Niña conditions until April 2025, bringing strong winds and above-average rainfall, further exacerbating flood risks. Twelve districts have been identified as high-risk areas, necessitating evacuations.

Humanitarian Challenges and Response:

The current crisis adds to the humanitarian strain caused by previous disasters. In November and December 2024, severe storms in Francistown and Tumasera damaged roofs, uprooted trees—disrupting power and telecommunications—and blocked key roads. The

destruction extended to small businesses, particularly vendors reliant on temporary structures.

By January 2025, flooding in Mogoditshane and Gaborone worsened the situation, leaving 440 households in need of shelter as strong winds and heavy rains damaged homes. The storm, which initially affected northern Botswana, progressed southward, stretching already limited resources.

Key vulnerabilities emerging from the crisis include:

-Urgent need for house repairs and support for rebuilding.

-Cash assistance to restore livelihoods:

-Immediate relief, including blankets, mattresses, food, and toiletries—especially for those in evacuation centers who left with minimal belongings.

Broader Humanitarian Landscape:

Botswana's humanitarian conditions in 2024 were shaped by both drought and flooding, exacerbating vulnerabilities. The El Niño-induced drought led to food insecurity, agricultural losses, and economic hardships. Subsequently, flooding from December 2024 onwards caused further destruction, including loss of life, property damage, and disruptions to essential services.

In response, the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) launched a DREF (Disaster Relief Emergency Fund) operation, which concluded on February 28, 2025. BRCS has played a critical role in immediate relief efforts, providing shelter, food, and psychosocial support.

The ongoing crisis underscores the urgent need for stronger disaster preparedness and climate adaptation strategies to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Mmegi Newspaper	https://www.mmegi.bw/news/roads-closed-as-heavy-rains-flood-gaborone/news
2. Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsijGxyiP6c
3. Reuters, online	https://www.reuters.com/video/watch/idRW286019022025RP1/
4. BBC, Online	https://www.bbc.com/weather/articles/cn7vyvr2l76o
5. Facebook	https://fb.watch/xUDakk7uLQ/

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:



The NS learned that it is essential to strengthen stakeholder and community engagement. To improve in this area, the NS has been consistently engaging with stakeholders and communities through mass media, social media, in-person community dialogues, and focus group discussions to solicit feedback from communities. This engagement has also increased the public's awareness of Red Cross services.

The NS also learned about the importance of proactive supplier engagement to ensure suppliers understand the urgency of relief projects. The NS now communicates with suppliers early and places orders in a timely manner, which has helped ensure the efficient delivery and distribution of relief items.

The Botswana Red Cross Society should refine training programs to address time constraints and scheduling conflicts by incorporating shorter, more frequent training modules that can be completed in phases, allowing volunteers to balance their personal commitments with emergency response readiness and emergency response to affected beneficiaries.

Current National Society Actions

<p>Multi Purpose Cash</p>	<p>Based on assessments showing the vulnerability of affected communities, the National Society is implementing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) through unconditional cash grants to enable the purchase of basic food needs and building materials for property repairs. While the Botswana Government food basket costs BWP 1,500 (CHF 99), the current operation will allocate CHF 65 per household due to funding constraints and drought-related food inflation. As part of the DREF Storm Surge response, 660 households are receiving unrestricted cash to purchase essential items like food, medicine, transportation, and replacements for lost identification documents and school uniforms in the four affected districts. This cash-based approach offers a more dignified form of assistance, empowering individuals to prioritize their needs and reducing reliance on harmful coping mechanisms, while also ensuring collaboration and coordination with cash partners.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>NS continue to monitor the health situation and potential for outbreaks to arise. The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) collaborates with the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to deliver psychosocial support (PSS) to families impacted by floods, offering referrals to relevant organizations and government departments for additional assistance. Since February 2025, 133 individuals have received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Trained officers and volunteers provide psychological first aid to vulnerable individuals affected by the floods, especially those who have experienced mental distress, loss of property, or loss of livelihood.</p> <p>In addition to psychosocial support, BRCS utilizes its experience in health promotion and risk communication to disseminate hygiene messages and promote measures to prevent vector-borne diseases in flood-affected areas. The National Society disseminates hygiene promotion messages and promotes ways to mitigate mosquito breeding in flood-affected areas to prevent vector-borne diseases like diarrhea and malaria. This support helps distressed families cope with the impacts of the storm. Leveraging its extensive experience in risk communication and community engagement, the BRCS has been disseminating messages on health-related impacts of floods.</p>
<p>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</p>	<p>Currently the National Society is conducting risk communication initiatives to prevent the spread of water and vector borne diseases such as diarrhea and malaria. The hygiene messages will focus on educating communities on proper sanitation, hand washing, safe water and food handling as well as personal hygiene.</p>
<p>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</p>	<p>In 2024, The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) actively implemented prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) through projects and collaborations. Key achievements include engaging 33 community and traditional leaders and civil society members. BRCS distributed visibility materials, trained 30 staff and government officials on PGI and PFA, and trained 60 volunteers on SGBV and PFA. Social and behavior change communication reached 126,721 people via social media, with 23,909 engaged in persons. A referral network mapping workshop involved 148 stakeholders was conducted. A study on SGBV's root causes engaged 1,100 participants</p>



	<p>through various methods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This year, under the same programs, SGBV prevention activities continued with trainings, and commemorations. - During the flood response, the National Society has been engaging the PGI trained staff and volunteers during assessments to align support with the vulnerabilities of the affected communities. - Through the collaboration with Government, the affected persons, particularly women and girls, were given priority in ensuring that they are evacuated to places that are secure, well-lit and have security to avoid potential breaking. There have also been some guidelines such as limiting movement in and out of the evacuation centres after 19:30 pm to reduce safety risks. - The assessment conducted also considered the PGI parameters, especially the safeguarding. Gaps identified include referral mechanism and volunteers knowledge of the minimum standards for PGI .
Coordination	<p>The severe flooding triggered the activation of the Presidential Task Force, the National Emergency Operating Centre (NEOC), and the District Disaster Management Committee, with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) coordinating response efforts. Botswana Red Cross Society sits these various committees.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>BRCS's current response following the recent floods includes supporting assessments, evacuations and shelters by providing essential items such as food, dignity packs mobilized.</p>
Assessment	<p>Through a joint assessment coordinated by the National Emergency Operating District Disaster Task Force, comprising the Botswana Red Cross team of staff and volunteers, it was identified that many households require support, particularly with food and cash interventions in Gaborone, Ghanzi, Kgatleng, and South East (Tlokweng) Districts. There is also a need to extend assistance to more households, especially in high-density areas with vulnerable populations, including migrants, who are not excluded from government relief efforts. The assessments were conducted from 20-24 February 2025.</p>
Other	<p>From the beginning of the storms and floods season, The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) has been actively responding since December 2024. NS is currently implementing a response intervention to assist the communities affected by storm and floods that happened before the current events of mid-February, focusing on districts severely affected by the heavy rains. Key areas of intervention include the Boteti, Francistown, Kweneng Central, and Northwest districts, where BRCS has mobilized resources through the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), amounting to CHF 484,782 under the appeal code MDRBW007. The response efforts have prioritized areas based on flood severity and inaccessibility, ensuring that aid reaches the most vulnerable communities. That operation aims to support 660 families severely affected by the storm in Central (134HHs), Francistown(460HHs), Kweneng (133HHs) and North-West districts (133HHs) among the communities affected between November 2024 to Early February 2025. The relief support planned included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essential non-food items (NFIs) and Unconditional cash to support access to basic needs for 660 HH: (460 in Francistown and 200) in the other districts. - Cash for reconstruction will target 167HH: (50 HH from Francistown, 39 in Central, 39 North West and 39) in Kweneng Districts. - Kitchen sets, tarps and tents for shelter resettlement are for 30 families that have their houses completely destroyed. - WASH activities included distribution of hygiene packs and clean up campaigns. <p>This support has enabled the provision of emergency relief items, cash assistance, and psychological first aid to over 1,000 households. The assistance in ongoing. NFI and first cash assistance has been delivered. Sanitation, awareness and community engagement activities are ongoing. Since January 2025, 800 households have been supported with hygiene packs. Clean up campaigns have also started in Kweneng.</p> <p>The ongoing and does not include the communities affected and targeted under this new intervention.</p>



IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through its Pretoria Cluster Office, has been actively providing technical support and facilitating coordination efforts to assist the National Society. This support includes guidance on planning and implementation of emergency response activities, capacity building, resource mobilization, and ensuring alignment with global humanitarian standards and practices.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>Netherlands Red Cross Red Cross Society is implementing DRR community-based training and supporting with the implementation of eVCA (Enhanced Vulnerability Assessment) for different interventions in different locations (Bobirwa and Letlhakeng).</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC actions which include the procurement of communication has not yet commenced. This will enhance communication of all emergencies and operations implemented by the NS. It was planned prior to address communication gaps for the National Society.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	<p>Yes</p>
National authorities	<p>The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has joined forces with the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) to mobilize additional support from various stakeholders to enhance disaster response efforts for affected communities. The government supported and implemented a range of actions to address the immediate and ongoing needs of those impacted in area. These actions include facilitating safe evacuations for affected individuals and families, supplying essential groceries and cooking gas to support basic needs, and distributing vouchers to help with the purchase of food and toiletries.</p> <p>The Government of Botswana has deployed Rapid Response Teams across the country to conduct assessments, search and rescue operations, and evacuations in collaboration with the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) and local authorities. As part of the disaster emergency response, the National Society (NS) has provided transportation to access isolated areas, relief supplies, personnel, and food assistance. Overall, the government remains actively engaged in providing shelter assistance to affected families.</p> <p>Local authorities have called upon the NS to support various districts by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Food assistance. -Shelter solutions, including tents, tarpaulins, and clothing. -Household essentials, such as mattresses, blankets, and cooking equipment, as well as support for replacing lost critical property. - Clean drinking water and WASH education. - Psychosocial support services. <p>Additionally, cleanup operations have been conducted to restore affected areas to safe and habitable conditions. Efforts to repair and rehabilitate damaged infrastructure are underway to facilitate a swift return to normalcy for affected communities. This collaborative approach highlights the critical role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in ensuring an effective disaster response and recovery process.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>None</p>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Government established the main coordination platforms and lead the interventions at National and district level.

- The scale of the emergency triggered the activation of the Presidential Task Force which is the National Emergency Operating Centre (NEOC).



- The District Disaster Management Committee, with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) coordinating response efforts. The NEOC is responsible for ensuring a swift, organized, and efficient flood response to minimize loss of life, property damage, and disruption. The NEOC achieves this through Coordination & Command, directing emergency efforts; Situation Monitoring, gathering real-time data; Resource Allocation, deploying necessary supplies and personnel; Public Communication, issuing warnings and updates; and Recovery Planning, assessing damage and facilitating post-flood recovery.

Botswana Red Cross Society is part of the multisectoral National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and provide support to the priorities defined in the task force as per their mandate. Coming as to support Government efforts.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Floodwaters have destroyed furniture and electrical appliances, leaving many households in need of replacement items and essential support. Additionally, temporary building repairs are required, including walls, doors, window glass, door frames, and minor roof repairs, to restore damaged homes.

There are reported flooded houses with some collapsed houses, blown-off roofs, and damaged household items. Among the people in host communities and in camps, 2318 people were evacuated and the other thousands relocated to alternative accommodation as of 26 February 2025. Others also reached the sites by their own means. In total, 402 households are still in evacuation centers as at 07.03.2025, while some returned home.

Some of the families not assisted are in their homes accommodated at tented structures (tents) some families were not willing to move; some sought accommodation from relatives / friends and some in hotel / guest houses. Others families are left homeless following the collapse of their mud houses.

Critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, culverts, and drainage systems has been flooded or destroyed, severely hindering rescue and relief operations and access to essential services. Severe roofing damage has also led to the loss of essential household items, including blankets, clothing, and food supplies.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Hygiene items, beds, and food supplies were destroyed by heavy rains and floods Assessments identified a critical need for food and hygiene supplies in Gaborone, Ghanzi, Kgatleng, and Tlokweng Districts. Children also need a special basket to cater for all nutritional needs. Floodwaters contaminated or destroyed all food stocks in affected households. Additionally, the rains disrupted some families' livelihoods further exacerbating their vulnerability.



Health

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) collaborates with the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to provide psychosocial support (PSS) to flood-affected families, referring them to relevant organizations and government departments for further assistance. Since February 2025, 124 individuals have received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Trained officers and volunteers offer psychological first aid to vulnerable individuals impacted by the floods, particularly those who have experienced mental distress, loss of property, or loss of livelihood.

In addition to psychosocial support, BRCS leverages its experience in health promotion and risk communication to disseminate hygiene messages and promote measures to prevent vector-borne diseases in flood-affected areas.

The recent floods have posed significant health challenges, including the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and hepatitis A, as well as vector-borne diseases like malaria and bilharzia.

Arising from flood, BRCS identified pressing needs on mental health and psychosocial support for affected individuals, prevention and management of vector-borne diseases, and the provision of first aid to address injuries while building the capacity of local responders. Currently there are no outbreaks reported. Hospitals are not affected by the floods.

BRCS is undertaking several initiatives:

Distributing hygiene kits to 700 households to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.



Conducting health campaigns to reach 3,000 individuals, focusing on disease prevention and management.

Training 20 first responders in basic first aid and distributing 20 first aid bags to enhance emergency response capabilities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Flooding in Kgatleng, Tlokweng, Gaborone, and Ghanzi has highlighted significant Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) challenges. These issues increase the risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, bilharzia, and cholera. The WASH needs resulting from the floods are identified in Gaborone, Ghanzi, Tlokweng, and Kgatleng. In Gaborone and surrounding areas where the floods have devastated communities, damaging infrastructure and increasing the risk of water contamination. Kgatleng presents the most pressing needs for WASH activities, likely due to a combination of damaged infrastructure and spilling of septic tanks. Across all these locations, there is a critical need for hygiene promotion, focusing on educating communities about proper sanitation, hand washing, safe water and food handling, and personal hygiene practices.

There is a huge need for intensive cleaning campaigns to remove stagnant water and debris from public spaces, which is critical for reducing the risk of malaria and mold buildup. Rigorous risk communication and community engagement strategies are also needed to ensure adequate and rapid education sessions are implemented within the communities about associated health risks and promote safe water and food handling practices. Additionally, hygiene and dignity packs will be distributed to 700 household to support personal hygiene.

To enhance community awareness and capacity, hygiene, sanitation, and health sensitization sessions will be conducted. Key messages promoting good hygiene practices and disease prevention will be developed and disseminated. Furthermore, training will be provided for 50 volunteers and 10 staff members on health and hygiene promotion to support community outreach efforts.

By addressing these WASH challenges through infrastructure improvements and community engagement, this proposal aims to enhance public health and contribute to the resilience of these communities against future flood events.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Flooding events have intensified over the recent seasons in Botswana due to climate change and regional weather patterns, such as La Niña. The recent floods, triggered by severe storms between November 2024 and January 2025, have caused widespread devastation across 14 districts. These events and the trends faced have highlighted the urgent need for a shift from reactive measures to proactive and anticipatory action. The BRCS is now focusing on disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and community resilience to better prepare for and mitigate the impacts of future disasters. This includes investing in infrastructure resilience, enhancing early warning systems, and promoting climate-smart agriculture to reduce the economic toll of floods.

Drawing from its experience in responding to the recent emergencies, BRCS has recognized the limitations of its current resources. The organization has been actively supporting affected communities with emergency relief, including shelter materials, hygiene packs, and cash grants. However, the scale of these disasters has stretched its capacity, leaving significant gaps in humanitarian assistance but also an important gaps on early actions to save lives ahead of the projected impact.

Rivers are full and some were spilling. . Population leaving in low lying areas in Botswana are also very at risk. Based on historical and the current floods data, vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income households remain disproportionately affected. To address these challenges and establish long-term resilience and joint prioritization between emergency response and disaster risk reduction activities are essential. This needs is for health and WASH interventions, but also the early actions to prevent losses and ensure protection. By integrating climate-smart practices and empowering communities through education and preparedness initiatives, BRCS could significantly reduce the impact of future floods while building a more resilient Botswana. The Anticipatory action approach seems necessary for the long term strategy to the increasing effects of floods.

The most recent floods in February occurred in multiple districts across the country and affected daily operations such as opening of schools which has now escalated the need for targeted interventions as the vulnerabilities are more spread out across different vulnerable groups. The need to conduct awareness campaigns for children's safety in flood-prone areas. For example, there is need for training for school children on safety during disasters to prevent or reduce the occurrence of drowning deaths as was experienced during the current floods. These campaigns will educate children and communities on flood risks, safety measures, and evacuation procedures, thereby reducing the risk of accidents like drowning. By integrating these activities with the anticipated needs during flooding, BRCS can effectively prepare communities to respond to floods, enhance safety, and reduce vulnerability.

The elderly groups have shown food insecurity as a vulnerability that was exacerbated by the flood water especially beneficiaries in rural settings. That need of enhancing risk reduction has been critical outcome of the assessment to mitigate the increasing effects of floods on



medium to long term food security. It is also an urgent need considering the increasing effect of riverine floods risk. The team also required to be equipped with skills for risk reduction and early warning in the communities. The combination of trained responders and informed communities will significantly improve the overall resilience of communities facing flood risks.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

BRCS has played a pivotal role in mitigating the crisis by supporting Government in evacuating families, providing food and non-food relief items, and offering psychological first aid to flood victims. However, gaps remain in meeting the immediate needs for many households, particularly in Gaborone, Ghanzi, Kgatleng, and South East (Tlokweng), where vulnerable populations, including migrants and pregnant women, require urgent assistance. The Government of Botswana has activated a Presidential Task Force and deployed Rapid Response Teams, yet additional resources are essential to support fuel provisions for transportation, relief supplies, and human resources for continued disaster response efforts. Given the severity of the crisis, BRCS requests additional funding through a new DREF application to scale up operations in the hardest-hit districts: Gaborone, Ghanzi, Tlokweng, and Kgatleng. A total of 9000 beneficiaries are targeted in this operation.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The objective of this operation is to provide recovery support to 9,000 individuals (3,167 households) in Gaborone, Ghanzi, Kgatleng and South East (Tlokweng) districts, prioritizing cash and relief distributions essential to support restoring minimum living condition and dignity while ensuring early warning is scaled-up to prevent further losses and fatalities. Through this operation, the NS will reach communities whose livelihoods were disrupted by heavy rains, devastating flooding and properties were destroyed. The National Society (NS) envisions this intervention to cover the next 5 months. The delivery of this intervention and learning to be collected from that and the recent response to same hazards will inform the potential for anticipatory action plan development for the floods.

Operation strategy rationale

Following heavy rainfall from February 19–21, 2025, BRCS is co-leading relief efforts, supporting evacuations, distributing aid, and providing psycho social assistance. However, gaps remain in meeting the needs of around 3,500 households, particularly in Gaborone, Ghanzi, Kgatleng, and South-East (Tlokweng), where vulnerable groups (migrants, pregnant women, elderly, and children) require urgent intervention. The IFRC-DREF allocation will ensure intervention to cover the below critical response pillars:

1) Cash assistance for the basic needs and for the repairs:

NS intend to provide cash Assistance to ensure access to food and basic needs for 700 HHs and another one-off to contribute to the shelter construction.

- Direct support for 700 households facing food insecurity and financial hardship due to displacement and livelihood disruption, with 175 households targeted in each district will receive two installments of CHF 65 (BWP 1000) unconditional cash grants that is meant to enable /contribute to the purchase of basic food and materials for the various areas of needs identified during the assessment. This cash-based approach offers a more dignified form of assistance, empowering individuals to prioritize their needs and reducing reliance on harmful coping mechanisms, while also ensuring collaboration and coordination with cash partners. The NS has 2 financial service providers, Botswana Post and Orange Botswana. The support specifically focuses on the most vulnerable families, including elderly households, child-headed households, and households with people with disabilities whose homes are totally destroyed. While the Botswana Government food basket costs BWP 1,500 (CHF 99), the current amount of CHF 65 per household is aligned with previous BRCS MPC assistance proposed due to funding constraints. However, it remains agreed with the CWG and will be complemented by in-kind distributions to address specific vulnerabilities of some of the most affected groups.

- The project aims to support 200 such households with one-time restricted cash grants of CHF 163 (BWP 2500), which are specifically targeting the families with pre-assessed repair and rehabilitation needs for their living residences/homes. The target at the moment is 50 HH per districts. BRCS through the volunteers will identify potential hardware suppliers who would support the intended voucher system for the distribution of this restricted cash. PDM will be conducted post the repairs.

2) EHI to contribute on restoring living conditions of 700 HHs

To complement the support to shelter and restoring minimum dignity for the life of people affected, NS will provide emergency Shelter material and basic sleeping equipment to families not assisted yet. BRCS will ensure distribution of tarpaulins, blankets, and tents to families with destroyed homes and the reinforcement of evacuation centers. These distributions will be focused on the most socio-economical vulnerable families among the one hardly impacted, aiming at complementing the MPC which does not cover all sectoral needs.

3) Assistance to livelihood to prioritize the food distribution to meet the nutritional needs of the families with 1+ children under 5 that



also meet the vulnerability criteria detailed under the targeting.

The intervention prioritize the Food support for Children as a complement to the food assistance provided by Government to 10,000 individuals. BRCS will complement those efforts with the assistance to 300 children affected by floods. Contents of the food basket: Super Maize meal 5kg; White bread flour 5kg; Pakmaya Yeast 10gm; White Sugar 2.5kg; Sorghum meal 10kg; Excella Cooking oil 2Ltr; Fine salt 1kg; Long life milk 500ml * 20's; Canned beef. 300gm x 2; Sugar beans 1kg; Tomato per pack 1kg; Onion per pack 1kg; Peanut butter 450g; Tsabotlhe 5kg; Eggs 18's. From the previous storms and floods impact, it was noticed a medium to long term food insecurity impact for the families that have seen severe losses, especially for groups facing higher challenges coping with the situation by their own means. For instance the families with multiple children under; families with head of households being pregnant and lactation women, children or elderly head of households.

3) Health and Sanitation: Preventing potential outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as Cholera, Malaria, and Bilharzia by ensuring clean water supply and hygiene kits for affected families. 40% of the targeted population is in Ghanzi.

The WASH will serve the health prevention by ensuring sanitation and hygiene are scaled-up in the evacuation sites in targeted districts but also where communities have decided to stay. The proposal includes intensive cleaning campaigns to remove stagnant water and debris from public spaces, which is critical for reducing the risk of malaria and mold buildup. Rigorous risk communication and community engagement strategies will be implemented to educate communities about associated health risks and promote safe water and food handling practices. Additionally, hygiene and dignity packs will be distributed to 700 household to support personal hygiene.

4) PGI

Map existing SGBV services by engaging local entities and survivors to create a comprehensive referral directory. Simultaneously, focus groups and surveys with vulnerable populations pinpoint specific risks, barriers to reporting, and community-led solutions.

Health intervention focused essentially on the mental health and disease prevention. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: Counseling and first aid services for flood victims experiencing trauma and distress, with particular attention to children, pregnant women, and the elderly.

5) CEA

To enhance response effectiveness and inclusivity, staff, volunteers, and community gatekeepers receive training in CEA. 50 persons are targeted for the training. Community leaders are playing a significant role in community engagements and accountability and BRCS works with the leaders. Botswana Red Cross Society prioritizes Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) key in humanitarian responses, particularly during drought and flood response interventions. These interventions prioritize community-driven approaches through needs assessments and feedback mechanisms. Same approach will be implemented under this DREF.

6) BRCS will conduct awareness campaigns for children's safety in flood-prone areas. This action aimed at reducing risk for the rest of the season, especially reducing occurrence of drowning deaths as was experienced during the current floods. These campaigns will educate children and communities on flood risks, safety measures, and evacuation procedures, thereby reducing enhancing safety, and reducing vulnerability.

7) The National Society (NS) is in the process of developing an Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Floods to enhance preparedness and response efforts. As part of this initiative, the NS has commenced engagement sessions with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and relevant government departments. These discussions aim to align strategies, strengthen collaboration, and ensure a coordinated approach to early action and disaster risk reduction. In addition to the EAP, the National Society (NS) is committed to strengthening its disaster preparedness and climate resilience efforts by integrating budget allocations for flood disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies into its Unified Plans. This approach ensures that necessary resources are allocated for proactive measures such as early warning systems, community training, and infrastructure improvements.

Furthermore, the NS will actively collaborate with the government to develop and implement strategies aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change. Through this partnership, the NS seeks to enhance community resilience, improve response coordination, and support sustainable adaptation initiatives to reduce vulnerabilities associated with extreme weather events.

Targeting Strategy

[Targeting Strategy Supporting Document](#)

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) aims to support 9,000 individuals (3,167 households). The project targets households in Gaborone, Ghanzi, and Kgatleng South East (Tlokwen) districts among the worst affected and where NS received request for support from local authorities. This target is for the relief distribution and humanitarian services to be provided as per the above strategy. The breakdown below:



- 700 families severely affected by the storm across Gaborone, Ghanzi, Tlokweng, and Kgatleng districts, with 175 households targeted in each district (175HHs in Gaborone, 175HH Ghanzi, 175HHs in Kgatleng, 175 HHs in Tlokweng. This target specifically focuses on the most vulnerable families, including elderly households, child-headed households, and households with people with disabilities whose homes are totally destroyed. BRCS to these families will include essential non-food items (NFIs) and unconditional cash transfers to all 700 households to address their basic needs.
- Additionally, cash grants for reconstruction will be provided to 200 households of the most vulnerable identified. NS target at the moment an average of 50 households per district, focusing on those whose homes were completely destroyed; have not been assisted by Government, and are leaving in the evacuation sites ((among the 402 identified as of 07.03.2025). This may include some families from the 700HHs above which match these criteria. This district division is subject to change based on damage assessment and identification of houses that will be conducted by NS.
- For the food assistance to children under 5, it will target 300 HH with 1+ children under 5. Priority to Elderly, Children, pregnant and lactation women head of households that have lost their livelihood. This intervention considers the cyclique effect of floods on the malnutrition & food insecurity in such families' structure following a crisis supported with food (100 in Gantsi, 66 in Gaborone, 66 in Tlokweng and 67 in Kgatleng).
- They will continue to engage on evacuations, early warning but also health and WASH awareness and sanitation that will aim at reaching at least the 9,000 individuals mentioned as the total targeted.

To ensure that assistance reaches the most severely affected families, beneficiaries undergo a thorough process of identification, registration, and verification. This process is validated in collaboration with traditional leaders, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees, and volunteers. The project also includes a comprehensive monitoring plan to verify that repairs are being made as reported and to validate improvements. This plan involves on-site inspections, photo documentation, receipt collection, and community feedback.

In addition to providing direct financial assistance, the project fosters transparent communication and feedback from affected communities through its Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) component. This ensures that affected communities have a voice in the response and can provide feedback on the assistance being delivered. The project also incorporates a Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approach to ensure a sensitive response to the diverse needs of the affected populations. This includes training and focus group discussions to leverage local knowledge and ensure that the operation is equitable and inclusive.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selected affected groups are as follows:

The National Society's (NS) intervention and targeting are guided by assessments and requests from local authorities to ensure a complementary response. The targeting approach prioritizes vulnerable groups, including:

Elderly individuals

Children under five

Child-headed or elderly-headed households

The goal is to ensure that those most severely affected receive the necessary support to mitigate further risks, particularly food insecurity.

Relief distribution will be determined based on the extent of impact and damage, taking into account pre-existing vulnerabilities such as economic status, family size, marginalized groups, and livelihood disruptions.

The NS beneficiary identification process will involve a cross-evaluation of damages, loss of personal belongings, homes, and livelihoods to ensure targeted and effective assistance.

Total Targeted Population

Women	2,900	Rural	60%
Girls (under 18)	2,500	Urban	40%
Men	1,500	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Boys (under 18)	2,100		
Total targeted population	9,000		



Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Emergence of needs in different regions than the selected regions of implementation.	Ongoing needs assessments and intensified resource mobilization to ensure that all affected communities are responded to.
Logical access challenges for unbanked beneficiaries in hard to reach villages without Financial Service Provider.	NS will keep a close monitoring on the cash process and post-disbursement. For any challenges, the NS will consider alternative payment channels- for example cash-in-transit service to villages without Financial Service Provider.
Accessibility issues due to damage on the roads caused by the storms.	Engage volunteers to assess the situation on the ground and advise on alternative routes.
Increased risk of water and vector borne diseases due to stagnant and contaminated water sources.	Intensify prevention interventions through public health education and WASH.
Emergence of concurrent disasters such as a health pandemic	Ongoing surveillance of potential health pandemics especially water borne diseases and mitigation guided by existing contingency plans to manage potential hazards.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

None

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 100,762

Targeted Persons: 4,600

Indicators

Title	Target
# of blankets provided to the affected families	700
# of mattresses provided to the affected families # of households that receive tarpaulins	120
# of HHs that receive kitchen sets	50
# of households that receive tents	50
# of mattress provided to the affected families	700

Priority Actions

- Verification and registration of beneficiaries.
- Procurement of NFIs.
- Distribution of the NFIs.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 100,427

Targeted Persons: 1,600

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people who receive once off restricted cash transfers (voucher)	700
# of PDMs conducted	2
# of HHs that receive restricted Cash grants for structural repairs	700

Priority Actions

- Verify, assess and register beneficiaries
- Supplier contract and procurement of Vouchers for Cash grants for structural repairs
- Distribute vouchers (once off)
- Distribute unrestricted cash through FSP
- Conduct PDM



Health

Budget: CHF 55,050

Targeted Persons: 9,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached with psychosocial support	4,300
# of volunteers trained on MHPSS	60
# of people trained on Basic First Aid	20
# of First Aid Kits Distributed	20

Priority Actions

- Conduct regular PSS briefings and engagements
- Training of volunteers on PFA
- First Aid Training for First Line Responders
- Conduct risk communication and community engagements
- procure and distribute food to under 5s



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 50,079

Targeted Persons: 20,000

Indicators

Title	Target
#of people reached through Public awareness and public health education (WASH)	20,000
# of hygiene and dignity packs distributed	700
# of hygiene and sanitation campaigns conducted	12
# of volunteers trained volunteers on WASH	60
# of people reached with WASH(cleaning) equipment's	2,000

Priority Actions

- Assess, verify and register beneficiaries for hygiene packs
- Conduct public awareness and public health education on WASH
- Conduct clean up campaigns
- Develop and print key messages
- Conduct a PDM



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 20,626

Targeted Persons: 9,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers trained on PGI consideration	65
# of briefing conducted on minimum standards for PGI in emergencies for staff and volunteers	4
# PGI analysis to better understand the risks, immediate needs and capacities of the affected populations to better inform the response.	3
# of trainings / meetings to Strengthen SGBV reporting mechanisms including conducting a mapping exercise to identify service providers	2

Priority Actions

- Conduct volunteers trainings on PGI consideration
- Conduct brief minimum standards for PGI in emergencies for staff and volunteers
- Strengthen SGBV reporting mechanisms including conducting a mapping exercise to identify service providers
- Conduct a PGI analysis to better understand the risks, immediate needs and capacities of the affected populations to better inform the response.





Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 10,452

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of awareness raising campaigns for children in schools on safety during floods.	6

Priority Actions

- Conduct early warning campaigns for children in schools on safety during rainy season. Other public spaces might be include too.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 11,498

Targeted Persons: 9,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached with alert messages	10,000
# of volunteers trained on CEA - sharing accurate information and gather real time feedback	60
# of community representatives engaged in monitoring aid distribution.	60

Priority Actions

- Engage local radio station, messages to share early warning, response update.
- Conduct community meetings where affected people can voice their needs and concerns.
- Train 60 volunteers on CEA - sharing accurate information and gather real time feedback.
- Involve community representatives in monitoring aid distribution.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 33,448

Targeted Persons: 78

Indicators

Title	Target
#of units engaged in the regular monitoring (finance, PMER, Operation, logistic)	4
#of support and monitoring visits conducted	8
# of kick-off meeting organized	2



# of Lessons learnt workshop reported	1
# of monitoring calls (bi-monthly)	10

Priority Actions

- Organize kick-off meeting with IFRC units and NS involved for smooth implementation.
- Ensure detailed workplan for branches is in place
- Volunteers Insurance
- Support efforts to strengthen the PMER system of the NS at National and branch level.
- Support the regular visits to address the gaps for financial and operational management, monitoring and reporting. Coordinate with NS for the joint monitoring.
- Support NS on stakeholders mapping and engagement for the communication, resource mobilization and technical cooperation for long term planning.
- Ensure lesson learnt workshop takes place.
- For the entire operation, IFRC will keep continues track of context evolution and progress of the intervention.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 106,305

Targeted Persons: 70

Indicators

Title	Target
# of Volunteers & staff with Protection and visibility equipments	70
# coordination meetings	5
# of Monitoring from HQ for technical support and results	5

Priority Actions

- Ensure adequate visibility and protection through the branding for Staff and Volunteers
- Ensure duty of care for volunteers
- Conduct briefings on risk of intervention and activities reporting for each sectoral teams
- Mobilised and support the PMER, Finance and DM dedicated to the quality of the intervention. They will work to ensure proper monitoring and reporting is done in a timely manner.
- A communication focal point of the NS will dedicated quality time ensure NS response profile is done and all the resources, document, record from the NS actions is transform into communication materials for active partners engagement.
- Coordination will be instrumental for the proposed response and to contribute to the long term solutions needed for the exit strategy of this DREF intervention.
- Thorough the operation, NS will lead the monitoring of context and progress of the intervention. Monthly updates will be provided to IFRC delegation.

About Support Services

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

A total of 60 volunteers from Gaborone, Ghanzi, South- East (Tlokweng), and Kgatleng districts will be mobilized for the operation. These volunteers, who are well-acquainted with the local context, will undergo Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Psychological First Aid (PFA) training to strengthen their capacity for effective storm response. With these skills, they will conduct household assessments, beneficiary verification, hygiene promotion, disaster relief distribution, and monitoring and reporting activities.



Branch capacity building will be prioritized in the first week of the intervention, ensuring all 60 volunteers receive training, protective clothing, transport allowances, and essential disaster response skills.

Additionally, 10 staff members will play a key role in stakeholder engagement, volunteer training and supervision, data collection tool guidance, and monitoring visits before, during, and after distributions. To enhance implementation and oversight, the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) will ensure these staff are fully dedicated to the intervention. Given the staffing constraints within the National Society, the initiative includes provisions to support key personnel salaries, including two Disaster Management Officers, a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, a Public Relations Officer, a Field Officer, and a Health and Care Coordinator.

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

The National Society will handle procurement at the national level in accordance with established standards, national laws, and government regulations. Cash support will be provided via mobile money, and the National Society already has a valid contract in place with a Financial Service Provider (FSP). The procurement will be routed through the IFRC and essentially done by the National Society.

The NS has active contracts with 2 financial service providers being Botswana Postal Services and Orange Money. This will serve for the MPC distribution while the voucher require identification of suppliers. Team is mobilized for that process and contracting will be speed-up to support that restricted cash process for shelter items.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) has a dedicated Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) unit responsible for overseeing and documenting its operations. The Disaster Management (DM) unit ensures effective project implementation while maintaining accountability to stakeholders and donors. This is achieved through comprehensive project planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms.

A monitoring framework with defined timeframes will be developed in collaboration with the IFRC to provide technical support, track progress, identify challenges, and mitigate risks that could delay implementation. This framework will enable timely corrective actions throughout the project. Additionally, IFRC will conduct monitoring visits to offer technical guidance and support to the National Society.

To enhance activity and impact monitoring, Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercises will be conducted every two months by the National Society. The findings from these exercises will inform a lesson learned workshop, helping to refine and improve future response efforts.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS), in collaboration with the IFRC communication focal point, will implement a comprehensive communication strategy to enhance visibility and engagement during the drought response initiative. This strategy will include the following components:

Documentation of Operations: All operational activities will be documented to provide a clear record of progress and challenges faced during the response.

Project introduction will be done to key stakeholders, community leaders, and media representatives to generate interest and support for the program.

Social Media Awareness: BRCS will leverage various social media platforms to disseminate real-time updates about the interventions, and success stories. Engaging posts, infographics, and videos will be used to reach a wider audience and raise awareness about the impacts of drought on vulnerable communities.

Public and Private Media Engagement: The communication team will actively engage with both public and private media outlets to ensure comprehensive coverage of the intervention. Press releases, interviews, and feature stories will highlight the importance of the initiative and encourage community involvement.

Success Stories: Success stories showcasing the positive impacts of interventions on community resilience will be gathered and shared across all communication channels.

Community Involvement: Regular community engagement sessions will be held to gather feedback, address concerns, and involve community members in decision-making processes.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRBW008 - BOTSWANA RED CROSS SOCIETY BOTSWANA FLOODS

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	348,893
Shelter and Basic Household Items	100,762
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	100,427
Health	55,050
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	50,079
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	20,626
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	10,452
Community Engagement and Accountability	11,498
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	139,753
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	33,448
National Society Strengthening	106,305
TOTAL BUDGET	488,646

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

