



School focused flood safety awareness campaign

Appeal: MDRBW008	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 488,646	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People at Risk: -	People Targeted: 9,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 11-03-2025	New Operational End Date: 30-09-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 11-03-2025		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 21-08-2025	
Additional Allocation Requested: -		Targeted Regions: GABORONE, South-East, Kgatleng, Ghanzi	

Description of the Event



Map for Botswana

Date of event

21-03-2025

What happened, where and when?

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

Based on assessments conducted by the National Society (NS) from 21 to 24 February 2025, large numbers of people were affected, including children, pregnant women, the elderly, and migrants, particularly those living in low-lying areas across 14 districts. The floods led to the temporary closure of schools from 20 to 24 February 2025 due to transport disruptions. In Kgatleng District, schools reopened only on 4 March 2025, as the situation there was worse. Linchwe II Junior Secondary School remained closed until 17 March 2025 because it was severely affected by the flooding.

The floods damaged homes, household items, and food supplies, forcing residents into evacuation centres. By 26 February 2025, 2,318 people had been evacuated, with thousands more displaced. At the time of reporting, all evacuation centres had been closed, with previously displaced households either returning home or permanently relocating.

These events followed a Government of Botswana warning issued on 19 February 2025, projecting continued above-average rainfall. The warning indicated that persistent downpours could worsen conditions in already affected areas. Climate projections confirmed that the flooding was exacerbated by La Niña conditions and broader regional weather patterns.

The Government of Botswana, through various affected districts, requested the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) to complement government efforts in supporting affected communities. The severe impacts of storms and floods since late 2024 had already weakened

national response capacity, prompting calls for additional resources to cover this new disaster. A National Disaster Taskforce was formed, with BRCS playing a key role in planning and implementation, paving the way for the project's execution through strong government collaboration.

Through this DREF allocation, the NS targeted 9,000 individuals (3,167 households) in Ghanzi, Kgatleng, Tlokweng, and Gaborone districts. The shift in Government ministries has required additional coordination to align planning for some activities.



House collapse following floods in Tlokweng



Volunteers distributing NFIs and Food items in Tlokweng District

Scope and Scale

Between 19–21 February 2025, heavy rains triggered widespread flooding across Botswana, affecting over 190,000 people (30,524 households) and displacing thousands, particularly in Gaborone, Ghanzi, Kgatleng, and South-East (Tlokweng). Vulnerable groups—including migrants, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and children—were disproportionately impacted. The impact overview from NS assessment and various reports consolidated by the NS indicated that:

- 2,318 people evacuated, with 402 still in centres by March 2, 2025.
- 9 deaths (2 elderly men, 7 children).
- Overflow of 8 out of 9 rivers and dam overflows (Bokaa 119%, Gaborone 105%, Shashe 125%) increased the impact and heightened risks.

The floods caused damaged homes, farms, schools, roads, and commercial centers, and left 1,489 families evacuated, with 402 households still in evacuation centres by early March. Infrastructure failures, crop losses, transport disruption, and power outages further worsened the crisis, while overflowing rivers and dams heightened risks of continued flooding.

These floods compounded earlier shocks from storms in late 2024 and January 2025 floods, which had already weakened community resilience and overstretched resources, alongside an ongoing El Niño-induced drought. To respond, the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) launched a DREF operation (April–August 2025) to provide cash, shelter, food, WASH, PGI/CEA, and psychosocial support, complementing government-led relief.

The floods impact were also associated to the overflow of 8 out of 9 rivers and dam overflows (Bokaa 119%, Gaborone 105%, Shashe 125% out of their basin) heightened risks.

For key events and impact recorded from February 19 to 21, 2025, please refer to the initial plan. Link in the source section. Below is the breakdown of the impact by locations.

- Gaborone: 79,567 people (13,261 households) affected. Roads, bridges, and commercial centers (Molapo Mall, Riverwalk Mall) sustained extensive damage. Schools temporarily closed due to flooding. Power outages disrupted services.
- Kgatleng District: 16,450 people (2,742 households) affected. Severe school disruptions; Linchwe II Junior Secondary. School remained closed for weeks. Significant house collapses, infrastructure damage, and families displaced.
- Ghanzi: 6,783 people (1,131 households) affected. 600 people evacuated; many homes damaged or collapsed. Food insecurity concerns due to crop and livestock losses.
- Tlokweng (South-East): 5,038 people (1,439 households) affected. 502 people evacuated to centres. Homes destroyed, with many families seeking refuge with relatives or in temporary shelters.
- Francistown: 36,196 people (6,033 households) affected. 36 people evacuated. Significant damage to homes and livelihoods, worsening

vulnerabilities from 2024 storms.

- Kweneng: 20,215 people (5,778 households) affected. 32 people evacuated. Roads and bridges heavily damaged, cutting off access.
- Boteti: 26,094 people (141 households) affected. Crops and farms inundated, increasing food insecurity.

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=vsjJGxyiP6c
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/

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Are you requesting an additional allocation?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) is informing stakeholder on a no cost timeframe extension of one-month for the Floods DREF operation. The DREF was aimed to be implemented within 5 months from 11 March 2025 to 31 August 2025. With this extension, the timeframe goes from 11.03.2025 to 30.09.2025.

The National Society has experienced delays in implementation of the remaining activities as a result of government restructuring, including the transfer of responsibilities from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, which required adjustments in planning and coordination for this operation. This extension will facilitate the completion of outstanding activities and ensure consistent, high-quality implementation across the Kgatleng, Tlokweng, Gaborone, and Ghanzi districts. It also accommodates recent restructuring within government ministries that affected the project timeline.

As of 21.08.2025, NS has achieved strong progress, include a 91% expenditure rate and the successful delivery of most planned interventions. The operation has reached 677 households out of the 700 targeted, with continuous engagement underway with stakeholders and community representatives to trace and reach the remaining 23 households registered but not yet assisted. Overall, 33,994 people have been reached with the planned humanitarian services, including protection, early warning, vector control, hygiene promotion, and cleaning campaigns.

This extension will give time to finalize the following key activities, which remain critical for strengthening community resilience and ensuring the effectiveness of the response:

- Vector Control Training: Initially scheduled for August but postponed to September by the Ministry of Health. Its completion is vital for equipping local stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to prevent vector-borne disease outbreaks in flood-affected communities, especially in light of shifting institutional roles from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.
- Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) Training (Sept 10–11): This activity ensures that the operation addresses the needs of vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Its timing was adjusted due to changes in stakeholder responsibilities following the relocation of Child Welfare Services.



- Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) stakeholder engagement sessions: These sessions are significant for addressing mental health and psychosocial support needs in affected communities. They will strengthen local capacities to respond to trauma, stress, and long-term recovery needs.
- PGI and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) Training, including PGI analysis (Sept 14–16, Ghanzi): Critical for ensuring inclusive, community-centered programming that builds trust, accountability, and active participation from affected populations.
- WASH-CEA Training for volunteers (Sept 15–18): This training is key to improving hygiene promotion and community ownership of water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, thereby reducing the risk of waterborne diseases in flood-affected areas.
- Second disbursement of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in Ghanzi (Sept 15): Completing this distribution is essential to meet the immediate recovery needs of vulnerable households, enabling them to access food, shelter materials, and other basic items lost to flooding.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	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.
Participating National Societies	Netherlands Red Cross is implementing DRR community-based training and supporting eVCA training and the implementation of eVCA (Enhanced Vulnerability Assessment) and community projects in different locations (Bobirwa and Letlhakeng).

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	Yes
National authorities	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. 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. Local authorities have called upon the NS to support various districts by providing: -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.



	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.
UN or other actors	None

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.

In the implementation timeline, there has been a reallocation of roles and responsibilities of the relevant Ministries critical for the coordination and planning alignment. These included the transfer of certain roles from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, as well as the relocation of Child Welfare Services to the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Floodwaters destroyed furniture and electrical appliances, leaving many households in urgent need of replacement items and essential support. This created an additional need for temporary building repairs, including walls, doors, window glass, door frames, and minor roof repairs, to restore damaged homes.

Reports highlighted widespread damage, including flooded houses, collapsed structures, blown-off roofs, and destroyed household items. As of 26 February 2025, 2,318 people had been evacuated, with thousands more relocating to alternative accommodation by their own means. By 07 March 2025, 402 households were still in evacuation centers; however, all have since left. To date, some families continue to shelter in tents, stay with relatives, or remain homeless following the collapse of mud houses.

Critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, culverts, and drainage systems, was flooded or destroyed and remains weakened, posing a risk of further damage during future storms.

Despite some support, such as cash and voucher assistance enabling families to replace furniture, significant needs persisted:

- Households required replacement of destroyed furniture, electrical appliances, and other essential household items.
- Families left homeless due to collapsed mud houses required permanent shelter solutions.
- Damaged critical infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts, drainage systems) required full restoration to ensure access to essential services.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Though the response phase addressed immediate needs through the distribution of relief items such as hygiene supplies, beds, and food. Needs remain as affected households require continued food and hygiene assistance and support to restore disrupted livelihoods, particularly given pre-existing vulnerabilities such as unemployment and limited income sources. Assessments had identified a critical need for food and hygiene supplies in Gaborone, Ghanzi, Kgatleng, and Tlokweng Districts, with children requiring targeted nutritional support to meet all dietary needs, for floodwaters had contaminated or destroyed household food stocks, while the rains further disrupted livelihoods, deepening vulnerabilities.





Health

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) has collaborated 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 received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Trained officers and volunteers offered psychological first aid to vulnerable individuals impacted by the floods, particularly those who experienced mental distress, loss of property, or loss of livelihood.

In addition to psychosocial support, BRCS leveraged 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 floods 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. Arising from the floods, BRCS identified pressing needs related to mental health and psychosocial support for affected individuals, prevention and management of vector-borne diseases, and the provision of psychological first aid to address injuries while strengthening the capacity of local responders.

Despite these efforts, needs remained:

- Continued mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for individuals affected by distress, loss of property, and loss of livelihood.
- Ongoing prevention and management of vector-borne and waterborne diseases such as malaria, bilharzia, cholera, dysentery, and hepatitis A.
- Expanded first aid services to address flood-related injuries and build the capacity of local responders.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Flooding has intensified WASH challenges in Gaborone, Ghanzi, Tlokweng, and Kgatleng, heightening the risk of waterborne diseases such as malaria, bilharzia, and cholera. Kgatleng presents the most urgent WASH needs due to damaged infrastructure and septic tank overflows. In April - May, there was Malaria outbreak in the country.

There remains a critical need to prioritize:

- Hygiene promotion and risk communication on safe water use, sanitation, handwashing, and food handling practices.
- Cleaning campaigns to remove stagnant water and debris, reducing the risks of malaria and mold buildup.
- Distribution of hygiene and dignity kits to restore personal hygiene for affected families.
- Training and mobilization of community volunteers to deliver hygiene, sanitation, and health education.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The floods and storms between November 2024 and January 2025 highlight the urgent need to shift from reactive response to proactive actions. BRCS is prioritizing disaster risk reduction, climate-smart solutions, and resilience building.

Key focus areas remain:

- Awareness campaigns for children in flood-prone areas, including school-based training on safety and evacuation to reduce drowning risks.
- Addressing food insecurity in rural settings where floods have deepened existing vulnerabilities.

Water sources remain swollen, with the potential for further spilling, placing low-lying populations at continued risk. Vulnerable groups including children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income households remain disproportionately affected. There is a pressing need to equip communities and volunteers with early action and risk reduction skills to strengthen resilience and reduce long-term disaster impacts across the country.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) plays a pivotal role in supporting Government-led response efforts by evacuating families, distributing food and non-food items, and providing psychological first aid to flood victims. With funding secured through the initial DREF allocation, the immediate needs of affected populations were largely met during the response phase. However, verification assessments by BRCS revealed that gaps remained, particularly in the transition to the recovery phase, where vulnerable households continue to face medium- to long-term challenges. Although relief distributions reduced immediate suffering, the following recovery needs persisted:

- Shelter and Household Recovery: Many households remained in need of temporary repairs (walls, roofs, doors, windows) and replacement of destroyed furniture and electrical appliances. Families whose mud houses collapsed continued to require permanent shelter solutions.
- Health and Psychosocial Support: Demand for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) remained high, particularly among



individuals who experienced significant property and livelihood losses. Health campaigns and capacity building for first responders are still required to strengthen community resilience.

- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** Sanitation challenges persisted, hence the ongoing cleaning campaigns, hygiene promotion, and distribution of hygiene and dignity kits are critical to reduce risks of malaria, bilharzia, and cholera.
- **Livelihoods and Basic Needs:** While food distributions alleviated acute hunger, affected households continue to require support to restore livelihoods disrupted by the floods. Children need targeted nutrition interventions, and vulnerable families require recovery assistance to reduce dependency.
- **Critical Infrastructure:** Roads, bridges, culverts, and drainage systems damaged by the floods remain fragile, limiting access for communities and future humanitarian operations.
- **Risk Reduction and Preparedness:** Communities, particularly in flood-prone areas, still require training on early warning, disaster preparedness, and climate-smart practices to mitigate future risks.

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 Southeast (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 6 months operation, the National Society is reaching communities whose livelihoods were disrupted by heavy rains, devastating flooding and properties were destroyed.

Operation strategy rationale

From the onset of the disaster, the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS), in collaboration with the Government, co-led evacuation efforts, distributed relief, and provided psychosocial support. However, assessments revealed significant unmet needs among approximately 3,500 households, prompting a DREF allocation of CHF 488,646 targeting 9,000 people (3,167 households) in the most affected districts. The operational strategy was designed around eight critical pillars:

1) **Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA):** Initially planned for 700 households with two rounds of multipurpose cash (CHF 65 each) and 200 households with restricted cash grants (CHF 163) for shelter repairs. To date, 677 households have received two rounds of unconditional cash, and 200 households have benefitted from repair cash grants, enabling access to food and shelter materials.

2) **Shelter and Relief Items:** Planned distribution of NFIs (tarpaulins, blankets, tents, mattresses, kitchen sets) to 700 families. BRCS distributed mattresses, blankets, tents, tarpaulins, and repair vouchers to the most affected households, complementing cash transfers and strengthening evacuation centres.

3) **Food and Livelihood Support:** Planned for 300 households with children under 5, to complement government food baskets. This was delivered, reaching children with diversified food supplies to reduce malnutrition risks.

4) **Health and WASH:** Planned to reach 9,000 people with PSS, 60 volunteers with MHPSS training, 20 with first aid, 20 first aid kits, and 700 HHs with hygiene kits, alongside 12 sanitation campaigns. To date, 1,753 people have received PSS, 60 volunteers trained, 20 trained in first aid, 677 hygiene kits distributed, and five intensive clean-up campaigns conducted. In total, over 10,841 people were reached with hygiene promotion, while 33,994 benefitted from cleaning equipment.

5) **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI):** Planned training for 65 volunteers, four PGI briefings, PGI analysis, and strengthening of SGBV referral systems. Achievements so far include training 85 volunteers and conducting one briefing, with PGI analysis and SGBV mechanism strengthening pending.

6) **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):** Planned training of 60 volunteers and engagement of 60 community representatives. To date, 25 volunteers trained and 423 community representatives engaged, with further training and PGI-CEA joint sessions pending.

7) Considering the recurrency of the floods and storms and the deadly caseload over the years, NS has integrated in this DREF some floods risk Awareness Campaigns, especially targeting schools. Six school safety campaigns planned. As of 21 August 2025, five have been conducted, raising awareness among children in flood-prone areas.

8) As part of the long term strategy on addressing this type of events, Early Action Protocol (EAP) is planned to be developed for Floods. Engagement sessions with IFRC and government are underway to strengthen preparedness, integrate flood DRR into BRCS plans, and build resilience against climate-related disasters.



Need for Extension: The operation has reached 677HH out of the 700hh direct target and reached overall 33,994 people with the humanitarian services. Strong progress with a 91% burn rate and delivery of most planned interventions. However, delays caused by government restructuring and logistical challenges necessitate a one-month no-cost extension (to 30 September 2025) to complete outstanding activities:

- PGI Training (10–11 September) and PGI analysis/SGBV referral strengthening.
- Psychosocial First Aid stakeholder engagement sessions.
- PGI & CEA joint training/analysis (5–6 September, Ghanzi) and remaining CEA volunteer training.
- Vector Control Training (rescheduled by MoH for September).
- Final CVA disbursement in Ghanzi (15 September) and continuous engagement with stakeholders and community representatives to find ways of contacting the 23HH that were registered but not reached during the relief distributions.
- PDM and learning exercises to be completed too

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) aimed to support 9,000 individuals (3,167 households). The project targeted households in Gaborone, Ghanzi, and Kgatleng South-East (Tlokweng) districts, which were among the worst affected and where the NS received requests for support from local authorities. This target referred to the relief distribution and humanitarian services provided as per the strategy.

The breakdown was as follows:

- 700 families severely affected by the storm across Gaborone, Ghanzi, Tlokweng, and Kgatleng districts, with 175 households targeted in each district (175 HHs in Gaborone, 175 HHs in Ghanzi, 175 HHs in Kgatleng, and 175 HHs in Tlokweng). This target specifically focused on the most vulnerable families, including elderly households, child-headed households, and households with people with disabilities whose homes were totally destroyed. BRCS provided these families with essential non-food items (NFIs) and unconditional cash transfers to address their basic needs.
- Cash grants for reconstruction were provided to 200 households identified as the most vulnerable. The NS targeted an average of 50 households per district, focusing on those whose homes were completely destroyed, had not been assisted by Government, and were staying in evacuation sites (among the 402 identified as of 07.03.2025). This group included some families from the 700 HHs above who matched these criteria. The district division was adjusted based on the damage assessment and identification of houses conducted by the NS.
- Food assistance for children under 5 targeted 300 households with one or more children under 5. Priority was given to elderly-headed households, children, and pregnant or lactating women who had lost their livelihoods. This intervention considered the cyclical effect of floods on malnutrition and food insecurity within such family structures. Food support reached 100 HHs in Ghanzi, 66 in Gaborone, 66 in Tlokweng, and 67 in Kgatleng.
- BRCS also continued to engage in evacuations, early warning, and health and WASH awareness campaigns, aiming to reach at least the 9,000 individuals targeted.

To ensure that assistance reached the most severely affected families, beneficiaries underwent a thorough process of identification, registration, and verification. This process was validated in collaboration with traditional leaders, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees, and volunteers. The project also included a comprehensive monitoring plan to verify that repairs were made as reported and to validate improvements. This plan involved on-site inspections, photo documentation, receipt collection, and community feedback. In addition to providing direct financial assistance, the project fostered transparent communication and feedback from affected communities through its Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) component. This ensured that affected communities had a voice in the response and could provide feedback on the assistance delivered. The project also incorporated a Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approach to ensure a sensitive response to the diverse needs of the affected populations. This included training and focus group discussions to leverage local knowledge and ensure that the operation was equitable and inclusive.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selected affected groups were as follows:

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

- Elderly individuals
- Children under five
- Child-headed or elderly-headed households
- school children at risk of floods
- vulnerable households affected by floods



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

Relief distribution was 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 involved 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 (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?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	No

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Emergence of needs in different regions than the selected regions of implementation.	Through verification the BRCS ensures needs assessments and intensified resource mobilization to ensure that all affected communities are responded to.
Logistical access challenges for unbanked beneficiaries in hard-to-reach villages without Financial Service Provider.	NS continually keeps a close monitoring on the cash process and post-disbursement. For any challenges, the NS will have considered alternative payment channels- for example cash-in-transit service to villages without Financial Service Provider e.g. Ghanzi.
Accessibility issues due to damage on the roads caused by the storms.	Local based volunteers have been engaged 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.	Intensified prevention interventions through public health education and WASH have been employed.
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

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of blankets provided to the affected families	700	677
# of mattresses provided to the affected families # of households that receive tarpaulins	120	677
# of HHs that receive kitchen sets	50	50
# of households that receive tents	50	59
# of mattress provided to the affected families	700	677

Progress Towards Outcome

A total of 177 out of 200 persons (52 males and 125 females) received structural repair vouchers to renovate homes damaged by flooding. Additionally, 677 out of 700 beneficiaries (241 males and 436 females) were provided with mattresses and blankets to address immediate needs, as most household items had been destroyed by floodwaters. Overall, 873 beneficiaries were registered and verified for these project components. A total of nine beneficiary households (17 females and 2 males) were identified seeking temporary shelter with one household receiving two tents. Kitchen sets were not identified as a critical need during the response phase; therefore, they were procured to be pre-positioned as stock for future disaster response. kitchen sets were distributed to 50 beneficiaries in Ghanzi District, where the need was dire. Similarly, 59 tents for temporary shelter support were provided in the affected areas.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 100,427

Targeted Persons: 1,600

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of people who receive once off restricted cash transfers (voucher)	700	677
# of PDMs conducted	2	1
# of HHs that receive restricted Cash grants for structural repairs	200	200

Progress Towards Outcome

700 registered beneficiaries received cash assistance for two months. However, since the project was implemented in an urban setting, a programmatic limitation arose as some affected people had relocated. By the time of the verification assessment, many had already moved from the areas affected by floods.

The remaining households will be supported.

The pending PDM will be conducted after completion of pending activities, which will be 8th September 2025.

For one-off voucher agreements, financial service providers (FSPs) were engaged through Botswana Post and Orange Botswana. The structural repair vouchers agreement was signed between BRCS and cash build.



Budget: CHF 55,050

Targeted Persons: 9,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with psychosocial support	4,300	1,753
# of volunteers trained on MHPSS	60	60
#of people trained on Basic First Aid	20	20
# of First Aid Kits Distributed	20	20
# of Under 5 children reached with nutritional	300	300

Progress Towards Outcome

Only 40.7% (1,753) of persons were reached with psychosocial support in Ghanzi and Kgatleng. One-off nutrition food packages for children under the age of five were distributed to 300 households.



Budget: CHF 50,079

Targeted Persons: 20,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#of people reached through Public awareness and public health education (WASH)	2,000	10,841
# of hygiene and dignity packs distributed	700	677
# of hygiene and sanitation campaigns conducted	12	5
# of volunteers trained volunteers on WASH	60	60
# of people reached with WASH(cleaning) equipment's	2,000	33,994

Progress Towards Outcome

- Hygiene and wash campaigns.
- 5 Campaigns conducted in Lesunyana, Khululwane, Marang, Tsholofelo, Nkoyaphiri and a total of 1,400 were reached in person with WASH messaging. Additionally, 9,441 were reached through online platforms constituting a total of 10,841. The online engagements elicited a total of 999 engagements. The NS distributed 150 industrial Dustbins.
- 33,994 people benefitted from the cleaning equipment's that were distributed. The Equipment's were placed in strategic public areas including schools and clinics.
- Key WASH messages were developed however for environmental friendliness the messages were not printed. They were shared on online platforms including the community groups.
- 677 HHs received hygiene and dignity pack.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 20,626

Targeted Persons: 9,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on PGI consideration	65	60
# of briefing conducted on minimum standards for PGI in emergencies for staff and volunteers	4	1
# PGI analysis to better understand the risks, immediate needs and capacities of the affected populations to better inform the response.	3	0
# of trainings / meetings to Strengthen SGBV reporting mechanisms including conducting a mapping exercise to identify service providers	2	0

Progress Towards Outcome

60 community volunteers were trained on PGI and 1 PGI briefing in Gaborone. The PGI analysis and SGBV referral strengthening will be conducted in September.





Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 10,452

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of awareness raising campaigns for children in schools on safety during floods.	6	5

Progress Towards Outcome

Five (5) schools were reached through early warning campaigns for children. Two (2) schools were selected in Tlokweng and three schools in Mochudi, based on the severity of the impact from the 2024–2025 floods. The floods had severely disrupted school activities, resulted in child fatalities, increased malaria exposure, and highlighted gaps in waste management. As part of the IFRC Flood Response Project, a school-focused awareness campaign was conducted in Mochudi and Tlokweng.

The initiative targeted six (6) flood-affected schools, promoting children's safety, environmental awareness, and climate change adaptation. Each school received a waste bin and ten (10) educational materials as donations to support climate change and risk reduction initiatives. 240 students (158 females and 82 males) have been reached through flood safety awareness campaigns; they were selected to represent their class for them to dissemination what they have been taught to their classmates in school assemblies the BRCS will follow to ensure school club formation and proper reporting. 1000 flood awareness safety booklets have been crafted and wait printing and 1500 branded T-shirts will also be printed to be distributed to members of the BRCS school clubs.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 11,498

Targeted Persons: 9,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with alert messages	10,000	0
# of volunteers trained on CEA - sharing accurate information and gather real time feedback	60	25
# of community representatives engaged in monitoring aid distribution.	60	423

Progress Towards Outcome

423 community representatives were engaged to understand the concerns and needs. These were reached in(Dkar- 60, Kacgae ,18, Kgatleng -116, Tlokweng 113, Gaborone - 116).

Volunteer training on CEA will be continued in September.





Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 33,448

Targeted Persons: 78

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#of units engaged in the regular monitoring (finance, PMER, Operation, logistic)	4	3
#of support and monitoring visits conducted	8	1
# of kick-off meeting organized	2	6
# of Lessons learnt workshop reported	1	1
# of monitoring calls (bi-monthly)	10	0

Progress Towards Outcome

All recruited volunteers are covered with insurance

Kick off meetings, coordination and monitoring meetings are also done to tracked progress of the project activities.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 106,305

Targeted Persons: 70

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Volunteers & staff with Protection and visibility equipments	70	185
# coordination meetings	5	5
# of Monitoring from HQ for technical support and results	5	3

Progress Towards Outcome

Branded merchandise was distributed to 65 BRCS staff members and 120 volunteers. Coordination meetings were held between the Health, Branch Development, and Disaster Management departments to report on progress and monitor project activities. Furthermore, stakeholder meetings were also conducted with district leadership across the implementation districts.



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.

Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

The Botswana Red Cross Society is deeply committed to ensuring that our volunteer team reflects the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the communities we serve. Our volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and demographics, enabling us to provide support that is inclusive, culturally sensitive, and responsive to the specific needs of different groups.

We recognize that diversity strengthens our capacity to deliver effective humanitarian assistance and fosters trust and acceptance within beneficiary communities. While we have made significant progress in achieving balanced representation, we continue to identify and address gaps, particularly among youth and underrepresented cultural groups in certain operational areas.

To bridge these gaps, we actively implement targeted recruitment and outreach strategies, engaging community leaders and collaborating with local organizations to attract volunteers from diverse backgrounds. We also provide ongoing training on cultural competence, gender sensitivity, and inclusive practices to ensure our volunteer team offers appropriate and respectful support.

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

The National Society 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 banks. 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 was developed in collaboration with the IFRC to provide technical support, track progress, identify challenges, and mitigate risks that could delay implementation. This framework has enabled 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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

