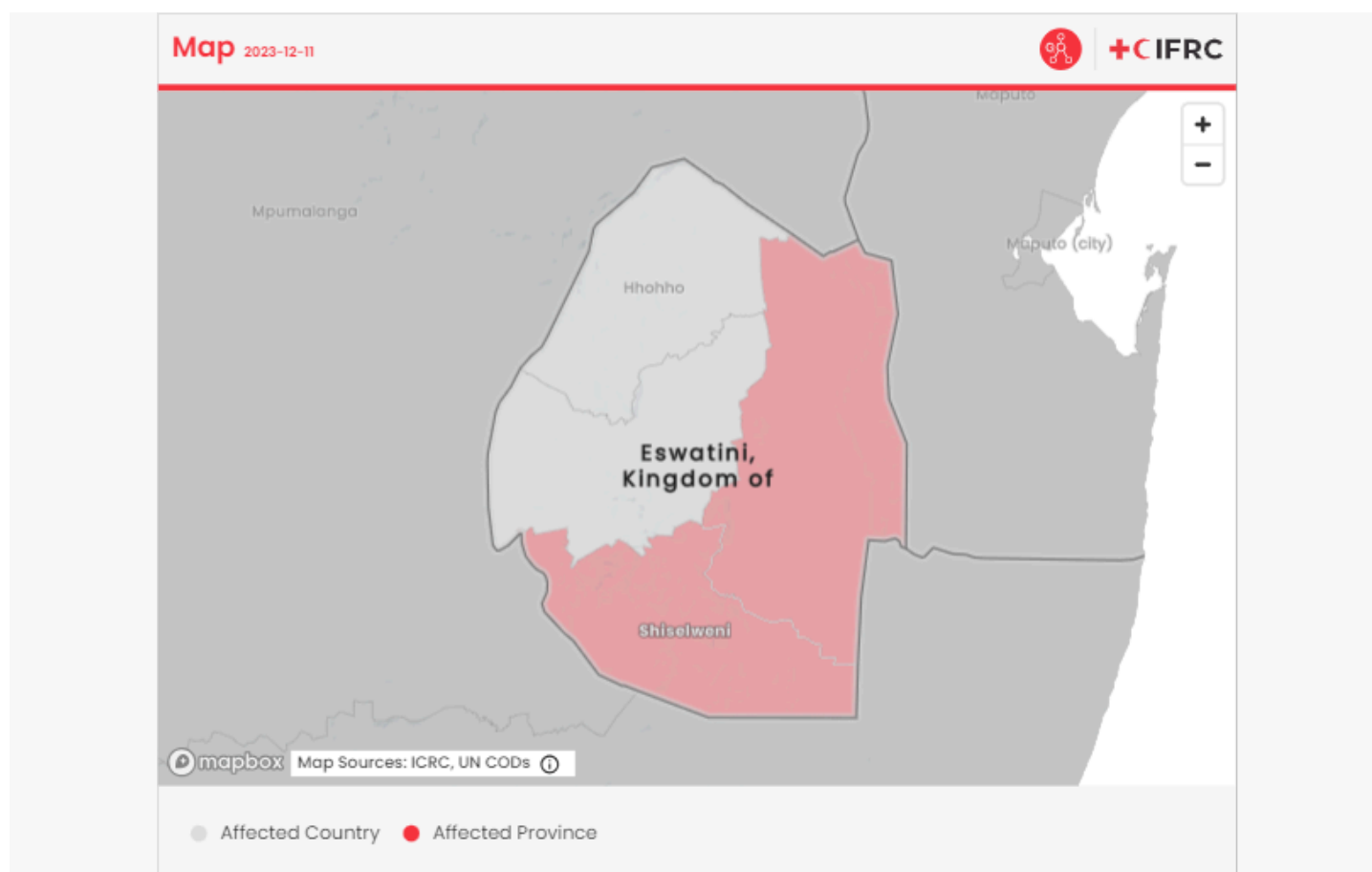




Fenced water point supported by the project at Stilo, Matsanjeni

|                                                      |                                              |                                                    |                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Appeal:<br><b>MDRSZ004</b>                           | Total DREF Allocation:<br><b>CHF 899,821</b> | Crisis Category:<br><b>Orange</b>                  | Hazard:<br><b>Drought</b>                      |
| Glide Number:<br><b>-</b>                            | People Affected:<br><b>270,000 people</b>    | People Targeted:<br><b>40,000 people</b>           |                                                |
| Event Onset:<br><b>Slow</b>                          | Operation Start Date:<br><b>21-12-2023</b>   | New Operational End Date:<br><b>30-09-2025</b>     | Total Operating Timeframe:<br><b>21 months</b> |
| Reporting Timeframe Start Date:<br><b>01-10-2025</b> |                                              | Reporting Timeframe End Date:<br><b>31-12-2025</b> |                                                |
| Additional Allocation Requested:<br><b>-</b>         |                                              | Targeted Regions:<br><b>Lubombo, Shiselweni</b>    |                                                |

# Description of the Event



Map high affected provinces from GO\_Alert

## Date when the trigger was met

30-06-2024

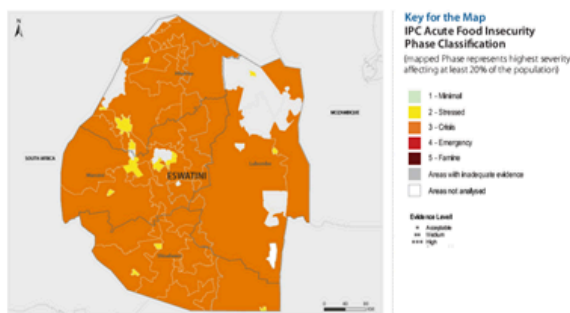
## What happened, where and when?

The Kingdom of Eswatini is persistently experiencing dry spells that further exacerbate the country's existing challenges of food insecurity. For successive years, Eswatini was battling with prolonged drought, whose effect on agriculture was further exacerbated by socio-economic cumulative challenges that the country did not overcome. ACAPS classification of the food insecurity in Eswatini on 30th November was high. 25% of the population was concerned by the food insecurity vulnerabilities, with challenges accessing food needs and water insecurity, with many households still reliant on welfare and social safety nets.

Before the launch of this operation, the Integrated- Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report published in August 2023 estimated that approximately 238,500 people (20%) of the population were estimated to be facing acute food insecurity and requiring urgent humanitarian assistance in September 2023. From October 2023 to March 2024, it was projected that approximately 268,000 people were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), and nearly 14,700 were in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). On average, 25% were facing acute food insecurity in the predicted period. The regions with the highest prevalence of food insecurity were Lubombo and Shiselweni, the areas most affected by the drought. However, new developments highlighted that in the 2024 VAA report 243,000 people (20 percent of the population) were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse during the period June to September 2024 and for the projected period (October 2024 to March 2025), an estimated 270,000 people were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), and 34,000 people were in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). This showed an increase in the number of people who needed assistance.

In addition, an assessment was conducted in June 2024 to gain community insights on the impacts of the drought and to understand the food security needs amongst the targeted population. The assessment showed that there was a 33% gap (about 4675 people from the targeted number) in the already targeted constituencies. Therefore, the Government of Eswatini, through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), once again requested the Eswatini humanitarian actors and the Eswatini National Food Security Consortium partners for intervention, as currently the Government had no sufficient funds to respond to the humanitarian/food insecurity needs.

### PROJECTED IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (OCTOBER 2024 - MARCH 2025)



Projected Population Table October 2024 – March 2025

| Zone                      | Total population analysed <sup>1</sup> | Phase 1        |           | Phase 2        |           | Phase 3        |           | Phase 4       |          | Phase 5  |          | Area Phase | Phase 3+       |           |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------------|-----------|
|                           |                                        | People         | %         | People         | %         | People         | %         | People        | %        | People   | %        |            | People         | %         |
| Dry middleveld            | 146,158                                | 51,155         | 35        | 51,355         | 35        | 36,540         | 25        | 1,388         | 1        | 0        | 0        | 1          | 43,848         | 30        |
| Hhohho Urban              | 81,625                                 | 36,731         | 45        | 32,650         | 40        | 12,244         | 15        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2          | 12,244         | 15        |
| Highveld Cattle and Maize | 157,064                                | 62,826         | 40        | 62,826         | 40        | 31,413         | 20        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 3          | 31,413         | 20        |
| Lowveld Cattle and Maize  | 238,495                                | 59,624         | 25        | 95,398         | 40        | 71,549         | 30        | 11,925        | 5        | 0        | 0        | 1          | 83,474         | 35        |
| Lubombo Plateau           | 46,559                                 | 16,296         | 35        | 16,296         | 35        | 5,680          | 12        | 538           | 1        | 0        | 0        | 1          | 13,968         | 30        |
| Lubombo Urban             | 54,300                                 | 27,150         | 50        | 19,005         | 35        | 5,480          | 10        | 2,715         | 5        | 0        | 0        | 2          | 8,145          | 15        |
| Manzini Urban             | 90,990                                 | 45,495         | 50        | 31,847         | 35        | 5,969          | 7         | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2          | 13,649         | 15        |
| Meti Middleveld           | 141,791                                | 49,627         | 35        | 56,716         | 40        | 35,448         | 25        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1          | 35,448         | 25        |
| Pezi Urban                | 105,891                                | 37,062         | 35        | 42,356         | 40        | 21,178         | 20        | 5,295         | 5        | 0        | 0        | 1          | 26,473         | 25        |
| Shiselweni Urban          | 50,152                                 | 22,568         | 45        | 20,041         | 40        | 2,523          | 5         | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2          | 7,523          | 15        |
| Timber Highlands          | 91,810                                 | 32,134         | 35        | 32,134         | 35        | 5,083          | 5         | 459           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1          | 27,544         | 30        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>1,204,835</b>                       | <b>440,667</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>465,443</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>268,544</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>34,161</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b>   | <b>303,725</b> | <b>25</b> |

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of a snapshot of evidence, and thus, they may be in need of immediate action. Household considerations that respond to the overall percentages of households and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

### PROJECTED FOOD INSECURITY MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (OCTOBER 2024 - MARCH 2025)

## Scope and Scale

The targeted constituencies by this operation lay in the Lowveld Maize and Cattle livelihood zones and some parts of the Dry Middleveld. The 2024 IPC report indicated that the Dry Middleveld and the Lowveld Cattle and Maize regions have the highest proportion of the population classified in IPC Phase 3 or worse, indicative of high food insecurity levels in these zones. The 2024 Vulnerability Assessment Analysis (VAA) mentioned that the Lowveld Cattle and Maize (LCM) livelihood zones were classified under IPC Phase 3. In the 2023 VAA 68, 342 people in the Lowveld Cattle and Maize (LCM) livelihood zone fell under IPC 3, yet the 2024 VAA showed that 71,549 people in the LCM livelihood zone fell into IPC Phase 3, indicative of a 4.7% increase from the previous year.

The overall phase classification for the Lowveld Cattle and Maize zone was influenced by recent climatic conditions, including dry spells and early-season hailstorms, which have posed significant challenges, leading to reduced production and labour opportunities for households dependent on agricultural labour. An increase in inflation rates triggered a substantial rise in food prices, adversely affecting a large segment of the population, particularly those in rural areas who rely on markets. Limited land accessibility was a common issue in the LCM zone, with approximately 38 percent having no access to arable land. The reduction in cultivated land was also notable, primarily due to limited access, which posed a significant concern as it restricts agricultural productivity. The dry conditions have negatively impacted food availability during the current season, leading to reduced crop production. Food stock duration statistics revealed varying degrees of food security, with only 21 percent of households having sufficient stocks to last beyond 6 months as of June 2024. While food utilization was not a major issue in the region, less than 3 percent of households adhere to proper handwashing practices before food preparation and consumption, raising hygiene concerns.

During the projected period (June – Mar 2025), these zones saw a 5 percent increase in the population in IPC Phase 3 or worse: DMV (Dry Middleveld) increased from 36,540 to 43,848 people, and LCM (Lowveld Cattle and Maize) increased from 71,549 to 83,474 people with more people moving from IPC Phase 1 and 2. Notably, LCM had the highest number of people in IPC Phase 3 or worse during both the current and projected periods. The high food insecurity levels in the country were attributed to the continued increase in food and non-food commodity prices due to inflation and supply chain disruptions in international markets. Prolonged dry spells are also significant drivers of food insecurity in Eswatini. Reduced income and employment constitute major shocks faced by households during the reporting period under analysis. The analysis period (June to September 2024) worsened compared to the IPC findings from the June–September 2023 period in the previous analysis.

Source Information

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

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 National Society (NS) successfully concluded the implementation phase of the DREF project in September 2024. Following the closure, the NS prioritized consolidating all project documentation, including financial records, activity reports, and field data. These efforts ensured that all required reports would submitted to the donor’s deadline of December 31, 2024, in line with contractual obligations and internal accountability standards.

This update provides the achievement completed by the NS as of September and inform the stakeholders on the timeframe extension of 11-months for the Eswatini Drought DREF (MDRSZ004). This implies that the said operation which initially covers 09 months from 21 December 2023 to 30 September 2024 will be extended to 20 months, from 21 December 2023 until 30 September 2025. While the timing deviates from DREF rules, there was extraordinary circumstances faced by the National Society (NS) following serious allegations of fraud and mismanagement that emerged only during the reporting phase. Indeed, an article was published in an online local newspaper in January 2025, alleging that NS had breached procurement procedures when enrolling the WASH service provider for repairing the water points. These allegations prompted immediate concern of the NS Board to initiate a comprehensive set of actions to ensure completion of the committed rehabilitations; safeguard the integrity of the organization and reassure stakeholders by commissioning a forensic investigation.

This extension will align the DREF eligibility period with the corrective actions undertaken since October 2024 and planned to be completed for September 2025, ensuring that all related activities and expenditures for resuming work will fall within the operational timeline. This include all the activities and expenses linked to the effective completion of rehabilitation, the service delivery, the required due diligence and paper works (monitoring, quality check, community engagement) are completed and remains within the eligibility period. All these activities being carried out in direct response to instructions from the NS Board, ensuring accountability and integrity against the communities. In addition, ensuring completion of these WASH activities aligned with needs on the projected drought from 2024 to march 2025, serving water access for the communities and for the various agricultural activities.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

|             |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Secretariat | The IFRC provided technical and financial guidance for the ECHO PPP project under CVA, Pillar 4, which covered the six constituencies of the most affected Lubombo and |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|





|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                  | Shiselweni Regions. The funding covered 1,500 most food-insecure households with 4 rounds of multi-purpose cash grants and 4,000 households receiving one-off support. IFRC also provided technical support for Japanese Government-funded general food distributions supporting 6000 households at Mhlangatane constituency, as assessed by the VAA report.                                                                        |
| Participating National Societies | <p>The NS worked with the Finnish Red Cross and Belgian Red Cross on the current ECHO PPP project, providing overall technical support and First Aid, respectively.</p> <p>British Red Cross also supported NS on Livelihoods, targeting four chiefdoms around Silele Clinic, and has made contributions towards the NSD till December 2023. FRC and BRC still support the NS on livelihoods and health projects, respectively.</p> |

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC supported the NS on the dissemination of IHL to security forces, the IHL Committee, and Parliamentarians. The ICRC further supported the NS on capacity building for staff and volunteers on restoring family links (RFL).

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Government has requested international assistance | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| National authorities                              | Under the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) coordination, a meeting was held in October 2023, and the food security consortium response was that there were currently no food security interventions among all of them. The Government, through NDMA, reported expecting rice donation in January 2025 with no supplementary items and thus requested the NS to explore funding possibilities to cover the gaps. |
| UN or other actors                                | A bilateral engagement of WFP also reaped no fruit, as they had no means for response since they focused on supporting children with meals at Neighborhood care points, having no plans for household support in the food insecurity crisis.                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Are there major coordination mechanism in place?**

The NDMA, through the cluster mechanism, coordinated all DRR and FS entities, especially the implementation of such at communities. This structure helped in the allocation of partners in different areas in the country, consolidation of resources, and avoiding duplication of efforts. The NS is the support organization in the DRR cluster.

As for the food security consortium for Civic organizations, NS has the chairmanship for the next cycle, where all food security organizations meet to discuss food insecurity matters. No actions were active except the NS operations until January 2025.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



**Livelihoods And Basic Needs**

Since the launch of this operation, the drought season was severely affecting communities in the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions. Geographically, these regions fell in the dry middle-veld and lowveld characterized by erratic rainfalls, high temperatures, and prevalence of drought, which, coupled with other chronic issues such as poor sanitation and hygiene, food insecurity, poverty, and high unemployment rate, pushed more people to a vulnerable state. In the development of this DREF application, the 2023 VAA had projected an estimate of 282800 people (IPC3+) to be facing food insecurity and requiring immediate humanitarian assistance. However, the 2024 VAA results showed an increase of 20925 to put the number of people experiencing food insecurity at 303725. This highlighted an increase in people with livelihood and basic needs. The completed pre-harvest or crop assessment report showed deficits in maize production based on low hectares plowed and planted.

The assessments done revealed that the targeted communities practiced rain-fed agriculture for crops and livestock. Therefore, due to



the dry spells and drought, they suffer the most. There was a need to make available means of irrigating their gardens and providing farm inputs because they are subsistence farmers with no backup for agricultural inputs or means for improved production. The VAA report (2024) also highlighted an increase in the scale of this drought, negatively affecting food security and leading to a decline in water levels for human and animal consumption. It is for this reason that the number of people affected by food insecurity has increased.

There was an increasing gap in people requiring support with fencing, livestock medication, seeds for vegetables and fruit trees to promote a diversified and inclusive livelihood, especially for persons with disabilities. There was a growing need for cash for livelihood programming to ensure sustainable food production even during the most food-insecure months. The drought assessment conducted concluded that there was a need to increase vegetable and fruit production. This was informed by the lowest weighted average in the consumption of vegetables and fruits after oil and sugar in the calculation of the food consumption score. There was also a need to provide livestock medication to small stock farmers to increase livestock production holds which held an immense potential in bolstering food security, propelling economic growth, and improving livelihoods in Eswatini.

The agricultural production had decreased through the influence of this drought. A substantial gap in maize production was evident across all regions and at the national level in Eswatini, posing significant challenges to food security. With a total planted area of 68,081 hectares and an estimated production of 74,946.55 MT for the 2023/24 season, the nation further faced considerable shortfalls. At the national level, the gap was even more significant, standing at 65,996.61 MT. The maize requirement for the entire country was 140,943.16 MT, while the estimated maize production is 74,946.55 MT. For the Hhohho region, the maize requirement stood at 41,691 MT, while the estimated maize production was 28,880.70 MT, resulting in a substantial gap of 12,810.30 MT. Similarly, the Manzini region faced a gap of 16,012.54 MT, with a maize requirement of 30,526.95 MT and an estimated maize production of 30,526.95 MT. The Shiselweni region mirrored the Hhohho region with a gap of 12,515.93 MT, as the maize requirement of 24,876.43 MT exceeded the estimated maize production of 12,360.50 MT. Lastly, the Lubombo region experienced the most significant gap of 24,657.84 MT. The region had a maize requirement of 27,836.24 MT but an estimated production of only 3,178.40 MT. This data highlights that all regions, as well as the nation as a whole, are producing less maize than was required for consumption, showing a need for urgent humanitarian assistance to support farmers.



## Multi purpose cash grants

When this operation was launched, the population under IPC3+ was 238 500 increased to 243000 people, showing a growing need for emergency grants for the most food-insecure households to meet their immediate food security needs. The IPC numbers of about 304,000 people faced with acute food insecurity suggested that the targeted number for multipurpose cash interventions was far below the need. The initially targeted 1559 households for this intervention needed to increase in number to meet the needs of more people. This was also mentioned during the surveys in between the implementation that there were still more people in some constituencies who felt they should have been part of this programme but were left out due to the strict targeted numbers. Through the assessment findings, there was a reported improvement in the nutritional status of the participants who were part of the cash program. However, the participants expressed their wish that the cash disbursement program would last more than the four rounds because it really improved their food security situation. There was a need for more rounds of cash disbursements and for increasing the number of targets under this operation.



## Health

After deploying volunteers for measuring malnutrition in the targeted communities, it was gathered that malnutrition cases have decreased ever since the DREF operation began. This was also contributed to by the multipurpose cash interventions. However, since there are still some malnutrition cases that were identified, there was a need to procure Plumpy Nuts to address some of the identified acute malnutrition cases. After distributing the plumpy nuts, the plan is to then go back to the field and deploy volunteers to re-do the MUAC tape measurements to quantify the impact of the plumpy nuts distribution. Additional funding was therefore required to procure the Plumpy Nuts to address the identified acute malnutrition cases.

Also worth acknowledging was the role played by Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) in alleviating malnutrition amongst children at the community level. Therefore, the assessment recommended that supporting these NCPs can play a huge part in reducing malnutrition cases, especially amongst children. On this note, there is a need for food supply to enhance the nutrition of children and to make it sustainable, a well-fenced garden with other farm inputs needed to be availed at targeted NCPs. This initiative was recommended to run concurrently with the malnutrition screening of children under five years, as well as pregnant and lactating mothers.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

From the start of the operation, there was an observed increase in competition for water sources between animals and humans for drinking. This was increased by the drying up of water sources, leading to their competitive uses and increased demand. From the start of the DREF operation, the targeted water points to be rehabilitated were five (5) based on the need, but more than 10 water points required rehabilitation due to the drying up of the water table as the drought conditions intensified. Discussions with key community members during the focus group discussions highlighted some cases of waterborne diseases like cholera, as the community shared most water sources with animals. Therefore, there was an urgent need to educate on means of ensuring that safe water is consumed at the household level to reduce the cases. There was also a need to procure treatment packs to ensure water was made safe for drinking before consuming. This showed a need to disseminate more messages on sanitation and hygiene to prevent opportunistic diseases. The drought assessment also revealed that some school-going children from vulnerable households would end up not going to school due to the lack of sanitary pads and other toiletries, because the households cannot afford such. This was part of the social impacts of the drought in the most vulnerable households, and in this light, there is a need to provide hygiene packs to the school-going children from the vulnerable households.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

The Impact of community engagement and accountability activities had been key to ensuring that first-hand information about emerging community needs is received on time and assessing community acceptance and the preliminary impacts of the interventions. Therefore, there was a need for more community engagements to understand when to implement certain interventions, who to involve, and how to implement them based on the communities' needs and profile, and seasonal calendar. Community engagement not only ended with the participants of the program but also with the volunteers we work with, since they are also from the targeted communities. There was a need for regular meetings with the volunteers to help in understanding their challenges and made the National Society accountable to both the community they serve as well as the volunteers they work with.

### Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The timeframe of the assessment was short to include more participants for a fair representation of the findings. In most communities, the most present were the participants of the cash programme and not the key informants to guide to the direction of the planned interventions. The youth was not most represented in the exercise leading to having their voice not fully articulated in the compilation of the findings. There were also a few people living with disabilities involved in the assessment in some few communities. The assessment did not cover much on the farming calendar even though there were discussions around agreeing that there is a noticed shift in the weather patterns when comparing from the previous years.

## Operational Strategy

### Overall objective of the operation

The extended objective of this DREF allocation was to support the most vulnerable people (40,000), including those living with disabilities, who were affected by food insecurity, water shortages, and disrupted livelihoods. This was to be achieved through the provision of sustainable solutions, such as clean water, crop production, and multipurpose cash, in the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions.

The whole approach aimed to increase the resilience of the communities and contribute to early recovery through a flexible cash approach, support to income-generating activities, and local market influencers. The selected approach also boosted the food availability for targeted families and local communities while helping to maintain a community practice and behavioral changes that prevent nutrition and health challenges. Furthermore, the assessment planned in September provided elements to better define the exit strategy and strengthen the efficient early recovery solutions that echo the voice of communities. That assessment coincided with the EAP trigger period (OND), which was monitored to evaluate whether or not. Through the coordination structure, the Government of Eswatini indicated the availability of food for distribution from October to December in the areas covered by the operation, thus no longer necessitating an operations update to be submitted in that period.

Initially, this operation was to cover 21.12.2023 to 30 September 2024. Within that period, the NS completed 90%+ of the planned activities, pending the completion of borehole rehabilitation that resumed on April/may 2025 and associated monitoring, and due diligence. The new time frame of 20 months, is extending the end date up to 30.09.2025 to complete the rehabilitation work already committed and paid and ensure quality follow-up of the intervention as informed by the investigation report recommendations as implemented by the NS Board and Management.



## Operation strategy rationale

As per the initial plan, this DREF operation continued to address emerging humanitarian needs caused by the existing food insecurity and drought conditions for the population in IPC3+. The 76% gap from the initial NS actions before this operation launched was covered. This operation had already targeted participants to reduce the scarcity of livelihood and increase food availability for the coming lean season peak. Communities have already been trained on climate-smart and resilient techniques for farmers and communities that fit their socio-economic context. The NS also contributed to improving access to water in the most needed communities through the water point rehabilitation, of which 4 were completed and 1 is yet to be finalized.

The multi-purpose cash intervention supported 1559 families with four rounds of cash, mostly categorized under IPC3+. A gap of 1000HH had been identified, and this brought the total of the targeted people to 2559HH, which equated to 14005 people with an average of 5 people per household. The cash assistance was provided with community sensitization on the use of e-cash and combined with nutrition messages and guidance. Beneficiary registration, verification, and monitoring were conducted with the support of volunteers. The NS has a contract with a financial service provider (mobile money) that will be used in this intervention. A post-distribution survey of the emergency food assistance was held at the end of each distribution cycle.

The livelihoods that introduced new community practices targeted at smallholder farmers, in addition to the cash for livelihoods that the National Society has distributed. This intervention supported farmers in increasing their food production and livelihood creation by providing support to farmers or farmer associations in accessing the inputs for their production system. This contributed as well to local farmers creating livelihood diversity through farmer support in the rural areas. This involved supporting farmers with that included poultry support (once-off payment of E1,500 (5 chickens and chicken feed), small livestock goat medication (E1,200, procurement of medication), and seeds for a resistant variety of fruit tree production (E800, suitable fruit trees). A skills development on harvest and post-harvest adaptive techniques that fit the context was provided. Support from a Ministry of Agriculture specialist was sought to deliver these trainings. There were also awareness-raising sessions on addressing the impact of droughts and coping with seasonal changes on the agricultural calendar. This was supplemented with group discussions engaging farmers and groups that are Agri-pastoral dependent.

The WASH interventions involved the rehabilitation of 5 water points as initially targeted. After the assessment that was done in June 2024, there were findings that there was a need to rehabilitate more water points in the targeted constituencies that were not functioning. This activity was prioritized because there are already available water points/sources in the affected communities, which required fencing, some digging, and/or earthworks and maintenance. In this regard, the team capitalized on the results of the assessment to determine the status of the actual needs to rehabilitate the identified waterpoints and piped water system.

Rehabilitation of the water systems enabled people to access clean water for their households and reduced the risk of health issues that worsen nutrition and food security. The people were further provided with information on the importance of using clean and safe water. Relevant WASH-related messages were developed and disseminated to the affected communities on water management. The WASH messages were integrated into the cash messages so that people receive information on different aspects of the issues they face.

Health interventions focused on upscaling the screening of malnutrition to reach more people with the screening and refer severe cases of malnutrition to nearby clinics with prior agreements with the clinics' matrons. Messages on nutrition and health were shared to reach more people, to strengthen the food support, and establish a path of changes in practices and behaviors that led to the nutrition crisis. The NS approach tackled specific groups for each key message for more efficiency, while disease prevention and control were promoted in all the affected areas and scaled up through radio.

The plan also prioritized breastfeeding women and malnourished children. In addition, epidemic control prevention was promoted in the communities to reduce the risk of epidemics that usually increase the nutrition challenges.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

The target for this operation was residents of the 6 constituencies affected by food insecurity IPC3+ and most vulnerable to the impacts of drought, prioritizing households that live with disabilities. This operation also addressed the needs of the communities that were severely affected by the hunger crisis.

Majority to be targeted in such cases are women, children, youth, elderly, chronically ill individuals, and persons with disabilities. The high poverty rates and unemployment directly affected the youth and women since they are less privileged when it comes to employment opportunities. The chronically ill normally miss or default on their medication schedule as they have no means for taking medication.





The NS triangulated with the existing 2024 VAA report completed at the national level to determine the most vulnerable groups and target additional numbers in each of the interventions.

Specifically, the project cumulatively seek to support the following interventions;

- WASH interventions will target 40,000 people
- Crop production targeted 12,805 people
- Multi-purpose cash grants targeted 14,005 people
- Community engagement and accountability activities targeted 40,000 people
- Health activities targeted 40,000 people

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Firstly, the location of the individuals was under the 6 constituencies for this operation, enabling one to be selected. The selection criteria for this operation were designed from the national selection criteria, which cover household heads with the following vulnerabilities: child-headed, chronically ill, persons with disabilities, just to mention a few. Those households with multiple conditions of vulnerability will be given priority to participate in the project. On top of these socio-vulnerabilities, other critical areas such as food consumption score, coping strategy, number of meals per day for households, and income level were looked at closely to inform the selection of households.

## Total Targeted Population

|                           |        |                                      |      |
|---------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Women                     | 22,800 | Rural                                | 100% |
| Girls (under 18)          | 0      | Urban                                | -    |
| Men                       | 17,200 | People with disabilities (estimated) | 20%  |
| Boys (under 18)           | 0      |                                      |      |
| Total targeted population | 40,000 |                                      |      |

## Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

|                                                                                                         |                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?                                       | Yes                                                           |
| Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?                     | Yes                                                           |
| Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?                             | Yes                                                           |
| Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?                                        | Yes                                                           |
| Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?                                          | Yes                                                           |
| Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions. |                                                               |
| <b>Risk</b>                                                                                             | <b>Mitigation action</b>                                      |
| Delayed completion of rehabilitations                                                                   | Kept a constant communication with the service provider       |
| Fraudulent actions                                                                                      | NS engaged their policies and procedures to govern processes. |



|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Delayed and/or inadequate funding leading to delayed implementation of the activities affecting trust and burn rate. | The coordination and planning for this DREF involved all departments from both IFRC and NS following the launch - including finance and operations, but also PMER.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Weather and non-weather related additional disaster such as hailstorm, epidemic in the course of the operation.      | NS kept monitoring the situation and adjust the plan if require depending on the evolution.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Exclusion and inclusion errors                                                                                       | Through the volunteers and community leaders a verification a process was conducted to minimize such issues. The selection criteria was followed.<br><br>There was the need to prioritize the activities, more engagements with the communities to inform them on what is happening and also continue with fund raising to obtain more funds. |
| Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?                                                  | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Planned Intervention



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 168,112

**Targeted Persons:** 12,805

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

| Title                                                  | Target | Actual |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| # of people reached with livelihood trainings          | 12,805 | 12,805 |
| # of farmers who used 80% of the cash for intended use | 1,800  | 1,800  |

### Progress Towards Outcome

The National Society (NS) implemented a rigorous and participatory process for beneficiary targeting, registration, and verification. This process was supported by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), which provided an initial list of potential beneficiaries. The NS then worked closely with community leaders to validate the list, followed by detailed registration and verification exercises led by trained volunteers to confirm the accuracy of beneficiary information. This transparent and inclusive approach was well understood and positively received by the community.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the NS facilitated training for 9,330 community members. These sessions covered key topics including livestock management, crop production, and tree planting. The objective was to equip community members with adequate knowledge to make informed decisions when purchasing agricultural inputs, thereby contributing to long-term resilience building.

Before the cash distributions, the NS engaged various vendors to participate in the Farmer Fair events. On the day of the livelihoods cash distribution, beneficiaries accessed funds through MTN mobile money vendors and purchased items aligned with their registered interventions—such as fruit trees, poultry, and seeds. Volunteers were stationed at distribution points to conduct exit surveys and collect

purchase receipts, ensuring that the funds were used for their intended purpose. This monitoring approach proved highly effective, with 1,800 farmers confirmed to have redeemed their funds for agricultural inputs, aligning with the NS's objectives for the intervention.





## Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 462,995

**Targeted Persons:** 14,005

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

| Title                                                                                  | Target | Actual |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| # of people received multipurpose cash.                                                | 14,005 | 9,330  |
| % of people with improved food consumption score                                       | 90     | 90     |
| % of people with improved number of meals per day                                      | 85     | 70     |
| % of people able to use cash for other needs (farming, health, education for fees etc) | 50     | 30     |
| # of PDMs conducted (reports)                                                          | 2      | 4      |

### Progress Towards Outcome

- 1560 households were targeted, registered and verified
- Four round of multi-Purpose cash completed for 1560 HH
- Exit Surveys were conducted along each round of cash distribution
- Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) were conducted along each round of cash distribution. The PDMs report revealed that the use of cash played a huge role in terms of covering household basic needs. The main usage of the cash was buying food for the household. Other needs covered with cash in the household were health needs (paying for hospital bills and buying medication), others used it to top up for school fees as well as paying off their loans that they made while they waited for the cash distribution.

On the quality review of the cash assistance and PDM, the main feedback collected included:

- There were no major challenges identified with the financial service provider (FSP) as majority of the community said it was compatible and cheaper to manage compared to other FSPs like the bank.
- Going forward the community pointed out that they would love to continue with the cash modality as it covers various needs and its convenient compared to in-kind intervention.
- However, there was a concern from the community that the number of people who were selected was very small compared to the number of people in need in the community. They recommended that the number of people selected must increase and if possible, the money received by individual households or number of distribution rounds must increase too as the situation worsens when the intervention has ended.
- The community also stressed out that usually January to March is the time when there's serious poverty and need for assistance in the community since children are usually beginning school and there's no harvest from farm produce around that time.



## Health

**Budget:** CHF 18,568

**Targeted Persons:** 30,000

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -



## Indicators

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

## Progress Towards Outcome

- CAP messages were developed and yet to be disseminated
- Two assessments have been conducted at the household level to determine the status of nutrition in the community. One assessment was looking into food consumption in terms of availability, access, and nutrition, and the other assessment was monitoring the nutrition of children under five years, pregnant, and lactating mothers.
- From these assessments, it can be concluded that there was a huge need for a second allocation of resources to support these communities with food/nutrition, water, and health services. The community also testified that the help of the Red Cross played a huge role in making their living better, as most of them do not have any source of income. They were worried that the food insecurity situation would become dire if the Red Cross left the intervention.
- The first assessment findings revealed that there was a shortage of food in the communities since the soil is not fertile enough for crop production. Those who take the risk of crop production usually harvest little to nothing because of the prolonged dry spells that burn their produce.
- Mostly, the communities in Lubombo and Shiselweni depend on livestock rearing. However, some highlighted that they do not have enough water in the community, and they usually share their water sources with the livestock which is a health concern to community members.
- The second assessment (MUAC) conducted revealed only a few cases of moderate malnutrition in the six constituencies. In Hosea there was only 1% of cases identified, 8% in Lubulini, 3% in Matsanjeni, 1 % in Nkilongo, 2 % in Somntongo and none at Sigwe. There were no cases of severe malnutrition identified during the MUAC assessment. Plumpy nuts will be procured and provided to the individuals with malnutrition through the support of the NS clinics in these regions.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 73,073

**Targeted Persons:** 40,000

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

## Indicators

| Title                                         | Target | Actual |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| % of people reached with WASH messages        | 90     | 90     |
| # of waterpoints rehabilitated                | 5      | 4      |
| # of volunteers in WASH message dissemination | 60     | 30     |

## Progress Towards Outcome

Mapping of water sources was conducted during the community and household assessment.

- Targeting of five water points was done from the assessed communities within six constituencies: Maplotini, Stilo, Gcekeni, Silele, and Kwaluseni
- Messages are under development and yet to be disseminated
- The assessment had been completed, and the findings showed that there is a need for more resources to support communities with clean and safe water availability. Informed by the assessment, the available DREF funds will only be able to rehabilitate the five water points, but a huge gap in terms of water unavailability and there's a need for more funds to support communities in this sector.





- A service provider by the name of Living Waters Drilling was engaged to do the rehabilitation works. The service provider covered the costs of all materials and labor.

By the end of September 2024, the work on all sites had commenced, and 2 sites were fully done. On 2 other sites, work was in progress.

- -Stilo – solar panels installed and with fencing done
- Maplotini – solar panels, tank stand, and pending actions included fencing and piping to the community (tank with standpipe).
- Kwaluseni – all rehabilitation work done.
- Silele: 6 solar panels, earmarked for boosting an existing water scheme supplying the clinic and community. Unfortunately, the current water pump has a bigger capacity, requiring more than 6 solar panels for conversion. Thus, a proposition for the new site by Management.
- New site: Nsimba, under Kwaluseni chieftdom. It has a hand pump which services a communal garden with 24 members, a neighbourhood care point (NCP) with around 60 children being fed there, and 60households from the village. NS will provide the 6 solar panels to be connected to a community-bought solar pump with Constituency support for the piping and tank.

- The assessment has been completed and the findings showed that there is a need for more resources to support communities with clean and safe water availability. Currently, the available DREF fund will only be able to rehabilitate five water points in the six constituencies, but there's a huge gap in terms of water unavailability, and there's a need for more funds to support communities in this sector.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 6,333

**Targeted Persons:** 40,000

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

| Title                                                                | Target | Actual |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| # of volunteer meetings conducted                                    | 5      | 2      |
| % of community members participating in the meetings (sensitization) | 80     | 80     |
| # of focus group discussions conducted                               | 4      | 2      |

### Progress Towards Outcome

- Community sensitization with community leaders has been conducted
- Monthly Volunteer meetings are ongoing
- Cash Focus Group Discussions have been conducted
- The community has been engaged during assessments, meetings, and at the household level during assessments



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 22,650

**Targeted Persons:** 100

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

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



|                                                |   |   |
|------------------------------------------------|---|---|
| # of monitoring mission undertook or supported | 3 | 2 |
|------------------------------------------------|---|---|

## Progress Towards Outcome

- BERCS management supported the project with a vehicle for ease of transportation, and IFRC has provided technical support
- The PRO officer was supporting with development of key messages
- PMEAL supported with the analysis of data, monitoring, and reporting of key findings



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 148,090

**Targeted Persons:** 200

**Targeted Male:** 67,811

**Targeted Female:** -

## Indicators

| Title                                                                                                                          | Target | Actual |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| # monitoring mission undertook                                                                                                 | 3      | 1      |
| # of staff and volunteers involved in this intervention that are properly trained on PGI- CEA- WASH- Health and FSL techniques | 100    | 100    |
| # of kick-off meeting with all involved departments                                                                            | 1      | 1      |
| # of monthly reporting on the operation                                                                                        | 9      | 6      |
| # of official update shared with partners and stakeholders                                                                     | 2      | 1      |
| # of assessment conducted                                                                                                      | 3      | 2      |

## Progress Towards Outcome

- Staff and seventy-six volunteers were mobilized, and they supported ongoing interventions.
  - Staff and volunteers have been trained on Health, and were also trained on the other sectors.
- The new requested time frame is from 01 October 2024 to 30 September 2025, as informed by the investigation report recommendations as implemented by the NS Board and Management

## About Support Services

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

For this operation, 3 NS HQ staff were involved in field activities and office work. The 76 volunteers already engaged for the ECHO were given priority since they have been trained on CEA, PGI, CVA, and signed the Code of Conduct. New volunteers involved will complement up to 90 volunteers engaged. And if new, they will receive the relevant training planned.

On a rotational basis/schedule they were supporting the different project activities. Key areas of engagement include beneficiary targeting, registration and verification, data collection (exit survey and PDM), and livelihood monitoring.



## **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?**

A good mix of gender and diversity among the volunteers was balanced.

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

NS has mainstreamed cash as a response option for their interventions where even the livelihoods are done through CVA. The NS has an existing contract with FSP for mobile money transfers, MTN valid for 3 years (signed May 2022). Thus intervention will not have any procurements except for the rehabilitation worked. Ideally, a supplier will be hire for the whole work and delivery to be upon quality consideration. and minimum guarantee as per applicable procedures.

## **How will this operation be monitored?**

Branch officers province level will undertake the biggest part of daily monitoring and ensure weekly update are provided to the HQ by sectors.

Tracking will be made on the intervention key output and reports will be timely submitted. A two way communication will be put in place between HQ and branches and consolidated reports will be shared bi-monthly to the secretariat.

For FSL activities, a specialist will ensure the due diligence and and undertake the monitoring visits frequently to cover the launch of those activities, briefing on harvest techniques/post harvest and ensure implementation all through.

NS has the methodology established with relevant government department for technical WASH and FSL activities. The Ministry local representation usually respond to the demand from NS to support the technical monitoring of agriculture related activities and technical evaluation and work on WASH.

Finish Red Cross support is also coming as an asset to the technical and operational efficiency of this intervention. Information sharing and monitoring will be combined and coordinated with them. In coordination with Finish Red Cross, the team capacity built. under the ECHO PP project will benefit this DREF operation as well as the upcoming EAP. The team at provincial branches and HQ already have skills that will be used in the coordination of the planned intervention.

IFRC will be allowed to monitor this operation at different levels. Missions to project site, interviews with target population and monthly/quarterly and end of operation reports will be sent to IFRC.

## **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation**

In liaison with the NS PRO, IFRC will provide technical support towards the communication of this operation. The NS comms person will cover the operation through social media presence in different platforms, interviews and target population stories. The coordination platform will also be use for frequent communication internally and externally with partners involved.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRSZ004 - Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society Drought

#### Operating Budget

| Planned Operations                              | 506,442 |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Shelter and Basic Household Items               | 0       |
| Livelihoods                                     | 141,795 |
| Multi-purpose Cash                              | 308,663 |
| Health                                          | 10,610  |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene                     | 41,756  |
| Protection, Gender and Inclusion                | 0       |
| Education                                       | 0       |
| Migration                                       | 0       |
| Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery | 0       |
| Community Engagement and Accountability         | 3,619   |
| Environmental Sustainability                    | 0       |
| Enabling Approaches                             | 93,090  |
| Coordination and Partnerships                   | 0       |
| Secretariat Services                            | 12,812  |
| National Society Strengthening                  | 80,279  |
| TOTAL BUDGET                                    | 599,533 |

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



# Contact Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**National Society Hotline:** 7802 4651

[Click here for the reference](#)

