

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Zimbabwe: Muzarabani Floods

DREF operation n° MDRZW002
GLIDE n° FL-2007-000227-ZWE
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The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 107,281 (USD 92,903 or EUR 64,594) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,000 families (some 5,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Flooding has caused excessive damage to houses, infrastructure and crops in Muzarabani area of Mashonaland Central Province affecting approximately 1,000 families. After a rapid needs assessment, the affected families are in need of immediate food, shelter, clean water and sanitation facilities. Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) is seeking assistance to support the 1,000 affected families through a relief operation for a period of three months.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 31 March, 2007. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 June, 2007).

[<click here for contact details,](#)
[or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Heavy rains accompanied by violent storms from 2 to 13 December 2007 have caused flooding in the Muzarabani area in Centenary district of Mashonaland Central Province. Muzarabani experiences perennial flooding, but normally from January to the end of the rain season in March. The timing of the current floods is a new experience. The heavy rains uprooted trees and destroyed houses, infrastructure and household property and swept away hectares of crops and livestock. Three people are reported to have died due to the disaster, although the police reports from the district attribute only one death to the floods, whilst the others are from natural causes. Displaced families are temporarily housed at schools situated on higher ground.

The worst affected area is in Chadereka ward situated 60 kilometres from Muzarabani Business Centre which has a population of 6,657 households. A total of 1,000 households are affected with 400 of them losing almost all of their belongings. Most of the destroyed houses were constructed using mud instead of cement, which made them susceptible to collapsing.

The metrological department is predicting more rainfall in the next couple of days and there is potential of the vulnerability increasing. The floods have been declared a national disaster by the government, which is calling for national response.

Coordination and partnerships

The CPU has been coordinating the response efforts and relief items are beginning to reach the affected families. The CPU has also dispatched a team to assist the affected families and assess damage caused by the floods. There has been a series of coordination meetings at national, provincial and district levels at which the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) has been represented. A provincial stakeholder field assessment was conducted and the ZRCS Mashonaland Central provincial manager was part of the team.

The ZRCS has its own internal coordination mechanism within the operations unit comprising programme officers conducting on-going meetings to analyze the intervention and providing contributions to the success of the response. A task force comprising all sectors has been put in place to direct the response operations. Red Cross Red Crescent partners in the country, Federation Southern Africa Zone and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have coordination on regular basis.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The ZRCS was among the first humanitarian agencies providing assistance in collaboration with the provincial CPU and other relevant government line ministries. The Federation Southern Africa Zone has pledged USD 1,000 (CHF 1,018) to facilitate a rapid assessment on the damage and needs. The ICRC has dispatched 2,000 blankets and 300 tarpaulins and the Federation Southern Africa Zone provided 50 family tents, 100 blankets, 380 jerry cans, 50 tarpaulins, 53 bars of soap, five cartons aqua tabs (5,000 units) and 12 rolls plastic sheeting. ZRCS volunteers have been mobilized to offer assistance and support to the affected families, mainly by distributing the relief items.

The needs

The affected families are in immediate need of food, shelter, clothing and clean water. The ZRCS is proposing to assist 1,000 affected households with non-food items to relieve the impact of the floods for a period of three months. The number of those affected is based on estimates due to inaccessibility of the affected areas, following damaged roads and bridges. The government has offered Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) helicopters to conduct aerial view assessment of the affected areas and airlift emergency stocks to inaccessible areas.

The ZRCS intervention will focus on immediate needs for the households currently affected and is in need of the following relief stocks:

- 2,000 blankets.
- 500 shelter kits.
- 1,000 tarpaulins.
- 2,000 mosquito nets.
- 2,000 jerry cans.
- 1,000 kitchen sets.
- 4,000 pieces of soap.
- 10,000 water purifier sachets.
- 20 rolls of plastic sheeting.
- 2,000 litres of diesel.
- 1,500 litres of petrol.
- 50 rain coats.
- 1,000 health and hygiene promotion material (posters/flyers).

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To distribute relief items to 1,000 households most affected by the floods.

Activities planned:

- Conducting rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Distributing relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitoring and evaluating the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To provide water purifying sachets to 1,000 households most affected by the floods.

Activities planned:

- Mobilizing volunteers to undertake the relief operation activities, conducting health education on the use of safe drinking water and undertaking community disaster awareness sessions.
- Providing water purifying sachets to 1,000 families in Muzarabani.

Emergency health

Objective: To build the capacity of the community in disaster awareness.

Activities planned:

- Distributing information, education and communication (IEC) material.
- Conducting community sensitization on early warning systems.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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