

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Africa: Urban Disturbance

DREF operation n° MDRZA002
Update n° 1
30 May, 2008

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.

Period covered by this update:
12 to 30 May, 2008

CHF 302,378 (USD 290,748 or EUR 148,225) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the South African Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 30,000 beneficiaries.

Although the number of attacks has recently lessened, the thousands displaced need continue to require relief and humanitarian assistance. South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) is at the forefront of the relief operations and is providing relief assistance to those at the temporary shelters sites. SARCS has so far assisted an estimated 20,000 people around country sheltered near police stations, healthy facilities, churches and empty community buildings.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continues to provide technical and field assistance to the SARCS branches throughout South Africa. SARCS continue to receive financial and in-kind donations towards is ZAR 7 million national appeal. It is anticipated that the operation will continues for the next two months.

[<click here to view contact details>](#)



South African Red Cross Society has been providing emergency relief to people displaced due to urban disturbances, which started on 11 May in Alexandra Township in Johannesburg.
Photo: South African Red Cross

The situation

Violent incidents, xenophobic in nature and characterised by elements of criminality were reported from 11 May, 2008 in Gauteng Province and escalated in other settlement areas in South Africa. According to the briefing given by the Minister of Safety and Security to the diplomatic community in Pretoria on Friday 23 May, there have been over 4,661 incidents and 519 people have been arrested. More than 55 people have lost their lives and over 550 people have been injured. The latest UN-OCHA figures (28 May 2008) estimate that more than 38,700 foreigners are displaced and sheltered at 95 sites in Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Western Cape provinces.

According to latest reports, thousands of foreign nationals have gone back to their home countries:

- The Malawian High Commission estimates that 1,000 people have already returned, and that a further 900 are expected to arrive by 1st June 2008 at the interim shelter, the Kwacha Conference Centre, in Blantyre. The High Commission is expecting 300 voluntary repatriations every three days.
- Mozambique has received a total of 32,000 returnees from South Africa and are currently sheltered at a temporary transit camp at Beluluane centre.
- According to International Office for Migration (IOM), 123 Zimbabwean returnees have crossed through the boarder post at Beitbridge.



A woman and her child displaced by the violence. Some people have found shelter in police stations or community centres, but others are housed in tents. Often, the tents are communal and people have to sleep on the ground, in near freezing temperatures.

Photo: South African Red Cross

The two hardest-hit provinces of Gauteng and Western Cape are declaring states of emergency, enabling the Disaster Management Act (and resultant contingency plans) to be enacted. It is expected that the number of sites will be consolidated, so that the delivery of emergency aid to the displaced can be rationalized.

SARCS revised its national appeal (launched on 16 May 2008) from R1 million to R7 million, given the rapid increase in the number of affected people. For the time being, SARCS does not envision appealing internationally for further assistance, due to the outpouring of support from South Africans and local businesses. The National Society has also mobilized hundreds of volunteers and staff, from its 35 local branches throughout the country, to continue to provide emergency relief.

The International Federation's Country and Southern Africa Zone offices are working very closely on a daily basis with ICRC and SARCS, providing technical assistance in relief distributions, media and donor relations, communication, reporting and logistics. A recent assessment has shown, however, that this technical assistance will need to continue for the next two months.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation Zone office in Southern, SARCS and ICRC are working closely with IOM, OXFAM, MSF, UN agencies (namely UN-OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, WFP), Action Aid International and the South African Authorities (at national, provincial and local levels).

SARCS, Federation Zone Office and the ICRC are part of the integrated Joint Operational Committee (JOC) convened by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) both at the national and provincial levels.

Through the national appeals, Standard Bank donated ZAR 3 million, which will be used to locally procure blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene packs, baby kits, bars of soap and gel stoves. The procurement process has already started. SARCS have also received ZAR 1.5 million from MTN towards as well as 20 cell phones and airtime for a total value of ZAR 2.1 million. The South African Revenue Services (SARS) is currently offering SARCS all clothing confiscated in customs to be distributed to the beneficiaries. SARS also provided partitions for tents and funds for furnishing some work areas at the National Society headquarters (boardroom and 30 workstations). The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has also provided ZAR 1 million to SARCS. ABB Holdings donated ZAR 20,000. Large amounts of in-kind contributions have also been donated and distributions are on-going.

The ICRC is working very closely with the SARCS and has also supplied some essential household items. This includes 15,000 blankets and tarpaulins for shelter. In addition, the ICRC is coordinating activities on tracing and re-establishment of contact between separated family members. ICRC is also expanding the capacity of National Society by training volunteers in restoring family links and safer access. Resident partner national societies have also been actively involved with the operation with some helping with relief distribution. At one of the sites in Gauteng province, the American Red Cross was actively assisting with registration for relief distribution and general site management.

At the same site, the local community members including members of a faith-based organisation were working together with Red Cross volunteers. The community helped with cooking food, receipt and storage of food and non-food items donated by companies and individuals.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Federation Zone office is supporting the National Society through the following services;

- Management support for the relief operation and participation in both internal and external urban violence meetings with SARCS;
- Advocacy, communications and media management;
- Relief, logistics/procurement through two delegates deployed to work with the National Society. The Federation support staff will mainly train the National Society staff for improved service delivery and monitor, coach and mentor SARCS staff and volunteers.

In addition, the National Society still requires technical support in;

- Warehouse facility, logistics and procurement systems;
- Resource mobilization and donor relations and management ;
- Media relations, communications with media and other stakeholders;
- Reporting and record keeping on incoming donations, distribution and updating beneficiary records.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To distributed food and non-food relief items to a target population of 30,000 people of the most vulnerable in selected IDPs temporary relocation centres across the country.

Expected results	Activities planned
Food and non-food items are distributed to 30,000 people amongst selected temporary IDP relocation centres for two months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting further assessments to determine the actual numbers and location of beneficiaries, as number fluctuates on daily basis. • Distributing relief items using proper standard and systems • Designing systems to facilitate smooth distribution to the most vulnerable beneficiaries. • Establishing centres for relief administration by the National Society.

Progress

The Federation's relief delegate has been working from the National society branch in Gauteng province coaching the volunteers and providing guidance in developing standards procedures in relief operation. The National Society volunteers have improved their capacity in assessments and registration of beneficiaries for relief assistance. The national society has also become more efficient in receiving and recording donations, as well as distributing to the most affected families. The volunteers are now using ration cards to management the relief distributions. Reports from the field visits conducted by Federation Zone, senior managements particularly in Gauteng, revealed that the people are being assisted with dignity and have managed to get decent meals, clean water and sanitation facilities.

The International Federation Secretariat has seconded a shelter expert to complement Zone staff efforts in assisting the National Society in that sector. This is in respond to the request of the South African National Disaster Management team. The shelter expert arrived in South Africa on 30 May 2008, and was immediately briefed by the Southern African Zone office and SARCS management.

Anti-discrimination campaign

Objective: To improve the spirit of tolerance and co-existence particularly among the host communities in South Africa.

Expected results	Activities planned
Peaceful co-existence between host communities and migrants through advocacy, sensitisation and educative campaign by SARCS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adapting the materials (which includes brochures and booklets, TV and radio spots in all official languages) for local contexts,Supporting IEC subsequent production and distribution via print and electronic mediums.Conducting community-based sensitization and educational meetings and group discussions.

Progress

Another component of the DREF operation is on Anti-Discrimination Campaign '*Together for Humanity*', which aims to sensitise and educate citizens on humanitarian issues, based on the Movement's Fundamental Principles. Various partners within the Red Cross Movement have been approached to provide relevant documentation on anti-discrimination campaign to be adopted by the National Society. Some partners and the Federation Secretariat have already responded with copies of their publications, and offers of assistance. A focal person at the Federation Zone office in Southern Africa has been nominated, and a desk-top study on the subject has commenced.

Logistics and Warehousing

Objective: To develop logistic procedures, establishing a central warehouse and arranging for appropriate transportation to distribution points.

Expected results	Activities planned
The National Society builds logistics capacity training, and providing delegates to support the logistics function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.Establishing a central warehouse for storage for the relief itemsDistributing 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.

Progress

Due to the high response with in-kind donations, the SARCS warehouse are over whelmed and the situation now demand extensive support in logistics and warehousing. The challenge is on storage, recording and distribution from the warehouse facilities. The Federation Zone office has, therefore deployed a logistics delegate to help establish a logistic and warehouse system and procedures to be used for the operations. Work is in progress in identifying bigger and convenient warehouses including efficient transportation of relief items to the operational sites.



A volunteer receiving donations and taking them for storage at the branch office
Photo: South African Red Cross

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:

- In South Africa: Seija Tyrninoksa, Federation Country Representative for South Africa, Phone: Mobile: +27.82.450.3984; Tel: +27.11.303.9726; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
E-mail: seija.tyrninoksa@ifrc.org
- In Operational Zone for Southern Africa: Françoise Le Goff, Head of Zone Office, Johannesburg; Email francoise.legoff@ifrc.org; Phone: Mobile: +27.83.556.6565 Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9711;
Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- In Geneva: John Roche, Operations Coordinator, Email: john.roche@ifrc.org;
Phone: +41.22.730.4400, Fax: +41.22.733.03.95

[<click here to return to the title page>](#)