

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Zambia Floods

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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 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.

Summary: CHF 132,288 or (USD 117,526 or EUR 86,451) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 26 March 2009 to support the Zambian Red Cross Society (ZRCS) in delivering emergency assistance to 1,000 households (approximately 6,000 persons) affected by widespread flooding in Zambia. An additional £25,000 (CHF 40,822.5) was donated by Barclays Bank to supplement the operation.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 53,321 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments, and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>



ZRCS staff and volunteers constructing latrines at Mbeta School in Shangombo district in Zambia's Western Province.

The 2008/9 rain season peaked in January 2009 with all parts of the country receiving normal to above normal rainfall. The heavy precipitation in the country, coupled with similar rainfall in neighbouring Angola, caused flooding along the Zambezi and Kwando Rivers, which displaced over 102,000 households, damaged growing and matured crops, and caused significant threats of waterborne diseases. The five affected provinces were the Western, North-Western, Eastern, Luapula and parts of Northern Provinces. Government, together with stakeholders, undertook rapid assessments in the affected districts, detailing the immediate need of food aid, shelter, clean and safe water, and rehabilitation of infrastructure.

After the floodwaters receded in March 2009, the Zambia vulnerability and assessment committee (ZVAC) undertook an in-depth assessment of the affected areas; 18 districts were covered by the assessment, which detailed the medium to long-term needs. The medium-term needs included food support (food for work), livestock disease control, and the rehabilitation of road and community infrastructure. Long-term needs included women and child protection, rebuilding of school and community infrastructure, seed support, the provision of boreholes and other protected water sources, and the relocation of populations to higher, safer grounds. The in-depth report identified a total of 43,200 households affected in five provinces.

The situation

After the 25 to 30 March 2009 assessment of the damage caused by flooding, ZVAC reported 102,469 families (614,814 people) affected by the floods and 31 related deaths. The intensity of rainfall that began in December 2008 caused the worst flooding in Zambia since 1958. The people in the flooded areas suffered loss of crops and livestock, damage to houses, limited access to schools, markets and health centres and exposure to waterborne diseases. Approximately 34,000 households in nine districts were identified as in need of food aid.

In the assessment of the Western, Northern, Central, Eastern and North-Western Provinces, the livelihood sources of 80 percent of people was found to be crop production, rearing of livestock, fishing, timber felling and selling, bee-keeping and carpentry. These sources of livelihood were negatively impacted by the floods, in addition to damage of water sources, sanitation infrastructure, houses and field crops. The floods partially or totally submerged 40 percent of maize, 35 percent of cassava, 20 percent of millet, and 15 percent of sorghum in the fields. As a result, 12,000 households were in need of agricultural inputs to resituate food production.

In terms of the damage to water and sanitation infrastructure, the ZVAC estimated that over 50 percent of districts found their water sources to be in danger of contamination from faecal matter and other debris due to collapsed sanitation facilities and running floodwaters. These districts had few boreholes and other protected water points, so people relied on shallow wells, open wells and water from rivers and streams for drinking. The most common sanitation facilities were pit latrines, of which 60 percent collapsed due to the floods and 30 percent were flooded and unusable. This situation forced people to defecate in the open, further increasing the risk of water contamination from faecal matter and outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

The ZRCS relief operation started in April 2009 after the receipt of DREF funds, and ended on 30 May 2009. ZRCS utilized the funding support from Barclays Bank to extend assistance to flood affected families in the Chavuma district of North-Western Province. The assistance in Chavuma included food and bedding for a clinic that acted as a referral hospital in the west bank of the Zambezi River, where three other clinics were completely inaccessible due to flooding.

Coordination and partnerships

ZRCS activities were coordinated through the Disaster Management and Consultative Forum and the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). At district level, ZRCS used the branches as an entry point with the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) being the implementing partner. In Chavuma district, the DDMC was instrumental in the provision of transport to ferry relief items to affected communities. Reports of the flood operations were shared with the ZVAC technical committee for inclusion in the stakeholder response. The Chavuma district disaster committee chairperson and health advisor (both government officers), worked together with ZRCS staff, the IFRC Southern Africa Zone office disaster management coordinator and Swedish Red Cross delegate, and helped to identify the referral clinic as in need of assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 1,000 flood-affected families are provided with appropriate food and non-food relief items over two months. Distributions are carried out according to assessments and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups.

Activities planned:

- Develop the beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute 1,400 food packs to 1,000 affected households over two months.
- Distribute 2,000 blankets to the affected households.

Impact

ZRCS began to assist flood-affected people in March 2009, when a team of volunteers and staff were deployed in the Shangombo and Senanga districts of Western Province, which were the first districts to be affected by floods. A total of 400 blankets and 200 kitchen sets were initially distributed from pre-positioned stock to 440 families who had lost almost all their possessions and were identified by the DMMU as the most affected. A total of 20 volunteers supported by four members from the ZRCS national disaster response team (NDRT) distributed the DMMU-procured beans and sardine cans to these families living in temporary shelters, while an additional 360 urban families in need of food aid received food packs. The ZRCS teams distributed further blankets and kitchen sets in Shangombo and Senanga, benefitting 880 households.

In April 2009, the response team carried out another intervention in the Mongu district of Western Province. In consultation with the DDMC, the ZRCS teams provided cereal in the form of rice to 2,432 primary school children who were in temporary learning facilities following their schools being submerged by floods. Although the government had provided maize meal, cooking oil and beans, the children lacked food for breakfast; hence ZRCS provided seven tonnes of rice that was shared among the seven temporary facilities.

With additional assistance from Barclays Bank, ZRCS came to the assistance of 230 flood-affected households and a referral clinic in Chavuma in May 2009. The relief items comprised blankets, kitchen sets and dry food (sardines).

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water-related diseases is reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion to 1,000 families in the temporary shelters for two months.

Activities planned

- Provide water treatment sachets and storage containers to 1,000 households.
- Provide sanitation facilities and hygiene education to 1,000 families in temporary shelters.

Impact

ZRCS' initial assistance in the provision of clean water and sanitation facilities targeted the 440 most affected households in Shangombo and Senanga districts and distributed 95,000 water purification sachets and 400 jerry cans (water storage containers). Further DREF distributions in April and May benefitted 880 people, and 230 flood-affected people in Chavuma received jerry cans and water treatment sachets with assistance from Barclays Bank. Two schools submerged by floodwater received eight constructed latrines, while volunteers carried out hygiene promotion campaigns in other schools.

Emergency Shelter

Objective: 1,000 most vulnerable flood-affected families displaced from the Zambezi river basin and evacuated to higher ground are living in a safer and healthy environment within two months of the operation.

Activities planned

- Distribute shelter kits to 1,000 households evacuated to higher ground from the Zambezi river basin.
- Train beneficiaries to construct SPHERE compliant shelters with tarpaulins and tools in the shelter kit.
- Coordinate with the DDMC to ensure that camps are organized in a manner that promotes interaction, reduces the risk of discrimination and abuse towards women and children, and promotes collective sharing among family members.

Impact

In response to shelter needs, ZRCS initially distributed 200 shelter kits, 400 tarpaulins and 1,000 mosquito nets to the 440 families living in temporary shelters, further supplementing these relief items in April and May to benefit 880 households in the Shangombo and Senanga districts. Later in May 2009, the ZRCS team, with additional assistance from Barclays Bank, extended the distribution of shelter kits to 230 flood victims in Chavuma. The 24 NDRT members assisted the beneficiaries to construct the temporary shelters using the tarpaulins and tools provided by the National Society.

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

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