

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Africa: Rift Valley Fever

DREF operation n° MDRZA003
GLIDE n° EP-2010-00080-ZAF
27 April 2010

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 41,159 (EUR 28,671 or USD 38,360) has been allocated from the International Federation of The Red Cross and Red Crescent's (IFRC's) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support South Africa Red Cross Society (SARCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 15,000 people affected by the Rift Valley Fever (RVF).



The Department of Health's representatives from the national, provincial and district offices as well as a South Africa Red Cross staff members interview the farmer and farm workers on the recent outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever at one of the affected farms

Summary: South Africa has experienced a RVF outbreak since 1999. The Free State and Northern Cape Provinces have been the most affected by the recent outbreak of RVF disease. SARCS is targeting an estimated 3,000 farm workers in the two provinces, with helping them to mitigate the impact of the disease. A total of 92 human cases and 6 deaths have been reported as at 6 April, 2010¹. Over 50,000 animals are estimated to have been infected with over 1,500 reported to have died from RVF.

¹ Source: National Institute for Communicable Diseases

The National Society has requested for support from the IFRC to enable its Branches to effectively initiate response actions through the following activities:

- Deployment of national headquarters staff members to the affected provinces to conduct rapid assessment of the disaster.
- Procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) for 3,000 farmer workers and SARCS volunteers. PPE include, gloves, masks and apron
- Training of 50 volunteers on hygiene promotion and health education using the CBHFA methodology.

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>

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and be completed by June 2010. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (i.e. September, 2010).

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

The situation

RVF was first recorded in South Africa in 1950 and very severe outbreaks occurred in 1955 and between 1974 and 1976. After an absence of outbreaks in the 1990's and early 2000's, small and localised outbreaks recurred in 2008, in Mpumalanga, Gauteng and North West Provinces. In 2009, localised outbreaks were reported in Kwa- Zulu Natal, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces.

In February 2010, RVF disease was reported in the Bultfontein area of the Free State Province. Since then outbreaks have been detected in a number of areas in five other provinces:

- Middelburg and Cradock in Eastern Cape Province;
- Van Wyksvlei, Britstown and Colesberg in Northern Cape Province;
- Babsfontein in Gauteng;
- Potchefstroom in North West Province; and
- Balfour in Mpumalanga Province.

At the planning of the DREF operation, seven of the nine provinces in South Africa had been affected and had recorded loss of livestock. The most affected is the Free State Province, which lost over 1,000 livestock. To date, over 50,000 animals are estimated to have been infected with over 1,500 dead. A total of 92 human cases and six deaths have also been recorded. The number of cases is expected to increase as registration and assessments are still on-going. The table below shows the magnitude of the outbreak as at 14, April 2010.

Province	Susceptible	Number of Animals Dead				Number of human cases
		Sheep	Goats	Cattle	Game	
Eastern Cape Province	15,752	177	1	1	0	7
Free State Province	16,748	968	0	15	33	68
Gauteng Province	498	4	0	1	0	2
Mpumalanga Province	1,060	27	0	0	0	3
Northern Cape Province	14,846	265	0	5	1	11
North West Province	1,097	5	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	50,001	1,446	1	21	34	92

An initial assessment carried out by SARCS in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and WHO has identified the immediate needs of the affected communities. The National Society has started mobilizing trained volunteers in the reception centres that have been established to coordinate the disaster response. Assessments continue to be carried in the camps to acquire information that will enhance the response.

Coordination and partnerships

SARCS is part of the Multi-sectoral National Outbreak Response Team (MNORT), which coordinates response actions. As auxiliary to government, SARCS has volunteered their services to assist the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct community education in the areas affected by the RVF. In the Free State and Northern Cape Provinces, SARCS officials are also part of the Provincial Outbreak Response Team (PORT) and the District Outbreak Response Team (DORT).

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has made an impact assessment of the outbreak on the farming community in South Africa. The Department of Health has re-defined the RVF case definition to assist the local clinics and hospitals with better case detection. The National Institute for Communicable Diseases are providing regular updates on all cases in all the nine provinces to assist the MNORT and their PORT and DORT teams to adequately respond the disaster. SARCS will assist the DOH with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), printing of pamphlets and volunteers to carry out community awareness and education activities amongst the vulnerable communities. The WHO is providing technical support to the MNORT on how to respond to the outbreak, and was part of the group from that carried out the initial assessment in the Free State Province.

SARCS is a permanent member of the national, provincial and district response teams. This is essential for the close working relationship with the various entities in these governmental coordinating committees.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

SARCS has responded swiftly and effectively, to the disaster through the mobilization of resources (people, money and other assets) and used its branch network in responding to the health needs of the farming community.

The National Society has participated in the planning of the response to the RVF disease outbreak at both national and provincial levels. On 14 April 2010, SARCS National Health and Care Coordinator and Provincial Health and Care Officer attended a DROT meeting in Ghariep District in the Free State province. A field visit to the affected areas highlighted the need for outreach and education as well as provision of protective clothing for the farm workers.

In the Northern Cape Province, SARCS has started training its staff and volunteers on the symptoms of RVF in animals and humans. In conjunction with the Provincial Department of Health and its District Office, SARCS volunteer teams are preparing to visit affected and neighbouring farms to carry out education campaigns amongst the farmers and farm workers. The Northern Cape Provincial and District Health Officers were not prepared to tackle the RVF outbreak, as they were engaged with the measles and polio campaigns. SARCS has however started training its volunteers in all the five affected districts of the Northern Cape. Planning meetings to respond to the disease outbreak have been scheduled in the Province.

The proposed operation

Emergency Health

Objective: To reduce health risks, morbidity and mortality as a result of the emergency on the affected population and livestock through the provision of health promotion, preventive, community-level services (health education) to farm workers in affected regions for three months

Expected Results:

- The number of cases of RVF in humans and animals is significantly reduced.

Activities planned:

- Distribute and promote the use of personal protective equipment (gloves, masks and apron) amongst 3,000 farm workers and residents in neighbouring informal settlements.
- Conduct hygiene promotion campaigns within the affected population, focusing on behaviour change.
- Provide 3,000 copies of information, education and communication (IEC) materials on Rift Valley Fever, hygiene promotion (printed materials, posters, flyers, etc).

Expected Results:

- The capacity and quality of SARCS health and care services are improved.

Activities planned:

- Train 50 volunteers in community-based health and First Aid (CBHFA).
- Equip 50 community-based volunteers with protective clothing (gloves, masks, apron, etc.).
- Provide 50 volunteers with logistical support to carry out awareness activities (e.g. fuel, transport, stipend, communication).

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 African Red Cross Society:** Mandisa Kalako-Williams, Secretary General; Email: mandisak@redcross.org.za; phone: + 27.12.431.2000/02/04/05; fax: + 27.12.431.2006
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For performance and accountability enquiries:

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

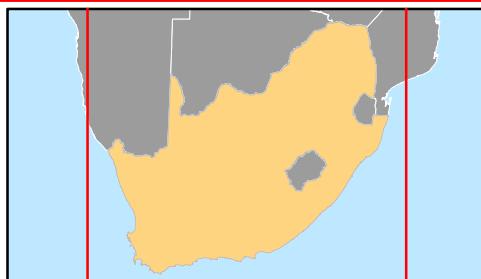
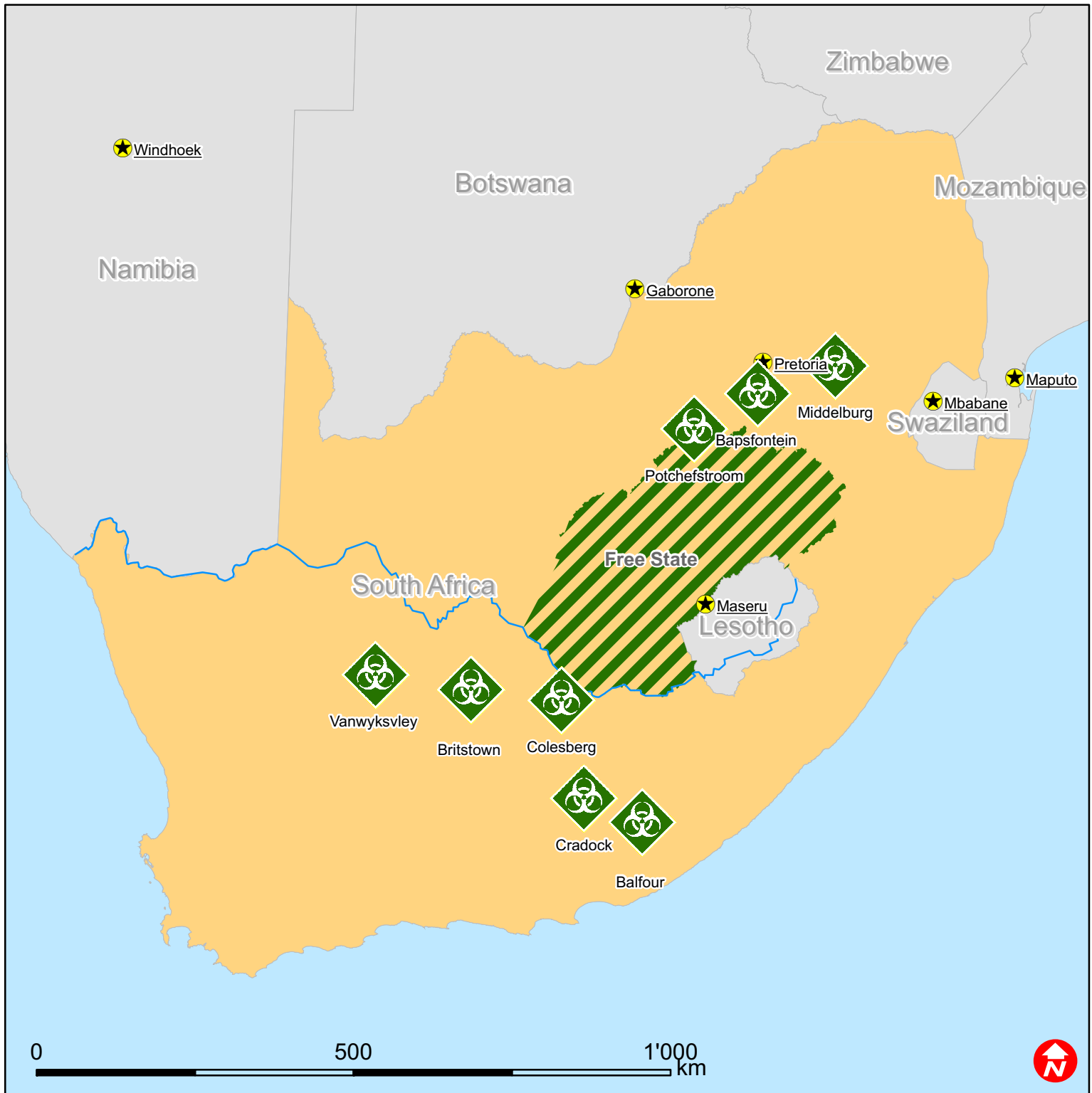
Budget Summary

MDRZA003:

	ORIGINAL
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>	
Shelter	0
Clothing & Textiles	6,100
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water & Sanitation	10
Medical & First Aid	67
Teaching Materials	6,120
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	470
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Total Relief Needs	12,767
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computers & Telecom Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>	
Storage - Warehouse	2,500
Transport & Vehicles Costs	9,500
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
International Staff	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	8,330
Consultants	0
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>	
Workshops & Training	100
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>	
Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	1,700
Office running costs	1,000
Communication Costs	2,000
Professional Fees	0
Core cost & sundry	750
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme Support - PSR	2,512
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Total Operational Needs	28,392
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Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	41,159



South Africa: Rift valley fever



Affected area



Affected province