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## DREF operation update Malawi: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRMW007**  
**GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000017-MWI](#)**  
**Update n° 1 - 18 May 2012**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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 under by this update:** 9 February 2012 to 4 May 2012.

**Summary:** CHF 275'993 was officially allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 9 February 2012 to support the Malawi Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 6,159 beneficiaries. Un earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

The operation was initially planned to be implemented over three months, 9 February to 9 May 2012. However Malawi Red Cross is seeking an extension for an additional month (until 9 June 2012) to allow for relocation of communities at risk to relocate to safer areas, away from flood prone areas, where relief assistance will be provided.



**Handing of relief items to volunteers**  
Photo: Malawi Red Cross Society

The heavy rains that were experienced in Traditional Authority Mlolo in Nsanje District from 22 January 2012 resulted in floods where an initial estimated 6,159 people (about 1,235 households) were affected. The floods affected educational, agricultural and religious institutions as well. The MRCS applied for a DREF allocation following the Nsanje floods amounting to CHF275,993. This request was approved on 9 February 2012 for a three month period. While the initial flood situation normalised, further rains in the same area during 23 and 25 March 2012 caused flooding and affected an additional 151 households. A verification exercise was conducted to ascertain this additional number of households that have been affected.

The people that were at Bangula camp have now returned to their homes in GVH Kalonga, Mchacha, James and Sambani.

The cholera situation has been contained in Chikhwawa and Nsanje districts considering that number of cases have dropped. However the story is different in other districts like Blantyre, Thyolo and Chiradzulu where cases have increased and a new case confirmed in Chiradzulu

This DREF operation is expected to be implemented over 4 months, and will therefore be completed by 9 June 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 9 September 2012).

The Belgian and Canadian Red Cross Societies and Governments contributed to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark,

Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the U.S.A., as well as DG-ECHO, the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, thanks all for their generous contributions. Details of 2011 contributions to DREF are found at: [http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2011.pdf)

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## The situation

A survey of the area where people are to relocate (Sankhulani hills in Moto and Chapomoka villages) has been carried out to determine required social amenities for affected communities (i.e. water facilities) by the Government of Malawi in collaboration with its partners. Discussions among the Government, key stakeholders and the affected communities to ensure their needs are fully taken into consideration are ongoing. This process is taking longer than initially expected, and has accordingly prolonged the DREF operation. It has and is being affected by this and therefore there is need to extend the DREF operation period to 9 June 2012. An extension will facilitate the relocation process by ensuring that the affected population has decent temporary shelter before they finally build their own permanent houses.

While the number of cholera cases has reduced in Chikhwawa and Nsanje districts the story is different in other districts such as Blantyre, Thyolo and Chiradzulu, where cases have increased – including a new confirmed case in Chiradzulu. MRCS has provided cholera kits within Nsanje and Chikhwawa districts and launched the Nsanje Floods emergency operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 4 months, and will therefore be completed by 9 June 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 9 September 2012).

The cholera treatment and volunteer modules which were distributed by the MRCS in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts are being used.

## Coordination and partnerships

The MRCS continues working closely with the Government of Malawi through the Department of Lands, Housing and Urban development, Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), UN agencies like UNICEF and other stakeholders like GOAL- Malawi.

At local level the District Officials with the support of the District Commissioners office, the Nsanje Red Cross Division worked closely to ensure that actions agreed with at the district assembly were implemented timely.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards outcomes

#### Emergency shelter

<b>Outcome: The immediate sheltering needs of 1,386 displaced households in T/A Mlolo are met</b>
<b>Outputs (expected results):</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Emergency shelter assistance is provided to the target population</li><li>2. Essential household items/NFI are provided to the target population</li></ol>

### **3. Emergency school shelter are provided to the target communities**

#### **Planned activities**

- Detailed assessment on house damage and report on shelter options
- Refresher training for the staff members and participating volunteers on shelter construction and relief distributions.
- Conduct legislation of beneficiaries using an agreed criterion that fits with government standards.
- Verification of beneficiaries using shelter needs criteria
- Purchase shelter and household items that can be sourced within the country, e.g. plastic sheets. Emergency Shelter construction training to affected communities as part of relief distributions.
- Distribution of relief items like tarpaulins.
- Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) using the PDM tools.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Conduct a lesson learnt workshop and develop an exit strategy.

### **Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion**

#### **Outcome:**

**Reduce the occurrence of water and sanitation related diseases among 1,386 through water treatment, supplies and hygiene promotion campaigns in Traditional Authority Mlolo for 4 months**

#### **Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:**

- Conduct hygiene orientation sessions for 100 volunteers and 20 government staff
- Awareness campaigns on use of water treatment drugs to reach **6,912** people.
- Procurement of critical diarrhoea/cholera kit (treatment supplies like chlorine, disposable aprons and gum boots)
- Repair and maintenance of broken boreholes
- Promotion hygiene and sanitation activities through volunteers and government health workers.
- Conduct training/information programmes for 100 Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries and 15 Government Health Staff in hygiene promotion and the safe use of Water Treatment Products (e.g. chlorination tablets).
- Assess the existing coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply and sanitation facilities.

### **Progress**

Malawi Red Cross Society has implemented a number of activities during the reporting period:

- Procurement of blankets for distribution to the affected families in Nsanje
- Conducted residential training of 15 District Health Workers and 25 Red Cross Division Volunteers in the use of the cholera treatment modules and volunteers modules.
- Dialogue with disaster management authorities at the district and national level to plan borehole drilling and relief distribution as soon as people are relocated.
- Training of district health workers and volunteers during the period 1 to 5 May 2012 in the use of cholera treatment module and volunteer modules to help contain the cholera outbreak.

### **Challenges**

The Government of Malawi has been negotiating with traditional authorities so that communities along the flood prone areas could be relocated to safer areas. This has led to delays in implementation of the

WATSAN and shelter activities, hence the need for a one month extension. An agreement has now been reached with the communities to relocate.

## Contact information

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

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.