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Emergency Plan of Action Final Report

South Africa: Storm Surge

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRZA007
Date of Issue: 21 June, 2017	Glide number:
Date of disaster: 7 June 2017	
Operation start date: 21 June 2017	Operation end date: 20 September 2017
Host National Society: South Africa Red Cross Society	Operation budget: CHF 140,855
Number of people affected: 6918 people	Number of people assisted: 6700 beneficiaries
National Societies involved in the operation: The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) covers 9 Provinces in South Africa in its auxiliary role to public authorities. It has approximately 1,500 staff members across Provinces and Branches, and approximately 5,000 volunteers across South Africa. Volunteers at Branch level are trained in various levels of Disaster Management, Health and Care, Youth Development, Restoring Family Links (RFL), Youth Development and Gender-Based violence (GBV).	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: Eden District Municipality, IEC, Islamic Relief, South African Defense Force, Emergency Medical Services, Fire services, other NGOs	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The Western Cape Province of South Africa experienced storms which affected Cape Town and surrounding areas. An intense cold front affected the Western Cape from the 7th to the 8th of June 2017. Very high and rough sea conditions persisted the on entire coastline where South Africa's west and south-west coast experienced the brunt of the damaging wave conditions. Along with the extreme wind and waves, heavy rainfall and flash flooding occurred in areas of Cape Town as rain spread over the eastern parts of the Western Cape and central Northern Cape with only isolated showers in the south coastal areas. From the 5th of July 2017, the South African Weather Services issued an alert of the impending intense cold front with potential for rough seas, heavy rainfall storm surges, snow falls, flash floods in West and South West of Cape Coast. Upon receiving this alert, the SARCS immediately activated response tools in readiness to provide assistance to potential victims in Cape Town. The various organs for response also started activating preparedness for response measures, including safety measures, through various social media platforms. On the 7th of July the predicted storm sages and wind gusts with speeds of 100km/ph ravaged Cape Town and other coastal areas causing damages to infrastructure, falling trees and nine (9) fatalities.

As the fierce storm took hold in the Cape Town area, large parts of Knysna, Brenton-on-Sea, Buffalo Bay and surroundings, as well as parts of Plettenberg Bay, went up in flames. The fires started as a result of strong gale force winds which resulted from the storms and an electrical spark. The severity of the situation became apparent when fire

fighters, despite all efforts, could not extinguish the fires and by then 26 fires were identified in residential areas in and around Knysna. The fires affected infrastructure in Knysna and communication systems. The water supply to the town was completely severed as the fire department required all the water to fight the 26 fires. Electricity in the towns were cut to guard against further electrical fires. The gale force winds however proved to be challenging and the fires raged on and re-sparked small fires which had previously been dealt with. A call went out from the Eden District Disaster Management for help from other Municipalities and volunteer fire fighters. Over 1,000 firefighters were engaged and eventually they brought the fires under control. Almost 12,000 people were evacuated and nine people died due to the fires. Residents were evacuated to 13 halls and churches for their safety. Households, especially those who lived in informal settlements, lost their property to the fire making their situation dire.

As the magnitude of this fire emergency exacerbated, the Government of South Africa declared a state of national disaster and subsequently launched a Domestic and International Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance. The SA Government estimated that approximately 300 million was required to address emergency, medium, and long-term needs associated with the fire emergency. Some of the funding was received and the Government and various partners conducted delivery of services to affected areas. SARCS along with the Government, NGO's and Partners also received funding from the various sources to cover the remaining humanitarian gaps.

Sequel to this impact, the SARCS with support from IFRC, launched a DREF for CHF 140,855 on 19 June 2017 to support the NS to carry out a detailed needs assessment, deliver relief supplies to the affected population, and replenish SARCS stock.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

The South African Red Cross Society upon receiving alert of the fires that were raging in the Eden District Municipality by its branch situated in the Knysna area on Tuesday, 7th June 2017, immediately deployed staff and volunteers to assist the affected communities through distribution of prepositioned relief materials in a multi-sectoral and inter-agency response niche system. This strategy provided the most needed first aid services in the evacuation and hot meal services to the affected community. In terms of support, the NS was able to provide the following assistance to the affected communities:

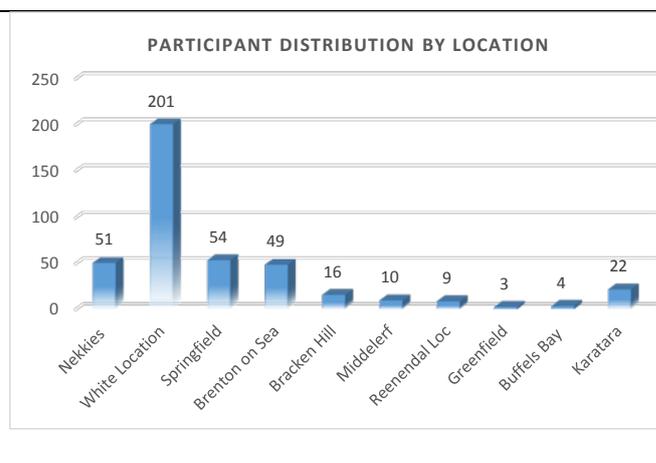
Table 1: Assistance provided by SARCS in affected areas

District	Number of households	Number of blankets	Number of Hygiene packs	Number of baby packs
Hornlee				
Ward 6	200	200	188	12
Ward 7	120	120	115	5
Ward 8	700	700	568	69
Blade Square,	1320	1320	1236	84
Middelarf,	2509	2509	1932	577
Buffalo Bay	219	219	213	6
Springveld	1695	1695	1503	192
Total	6700	6700	5755	945

Upon approval of the DREF, the NS rolled out the emergency response mechanisms which had been set in motion in June. Provincial level teams and National DM Manager were deployed to carry out further detailed needs assessment to establish a comprehensive picture of the emergency situation and the needs of the affected populations. Joint assessments were in some districts carried out with other Civil Protection Societies (CPS) members to promote coordination and increase efficiency, transparency and beneficiary accountability of all agencies inclusive of civil societies planning interventions in the affected areas. The findings proved not to be too far from the projections on the initial rapid assessments in terms of the scale and geographic coverage of the affected area. The detailed assessments also generated more in-depth information on the target beneficiaries including the list of names which aided significantly in the relief distribution which followed the conclusion of the procurement processes. All of the procurements were done locally, for expediency and relevance to the local contextual realities. The table below highlights the participants of the detailed assessments:

Table 2. Household participants in the assessment

Affected Location	6-18M	6-18F	19-59M	19-59 F	> 60 M	>60F
Nekkies	1	4	9	11	16	10
White Location	0	2	45	52	61	41
Springfield	0	0	11	3	18	22
Brenton on Sea	0	1	12	10	10	16
Bracken Hill	0	0	3	6	2	5
Middelarf	0	1	3	4	0	2
Reenendal Loc	1	0	1	3	1	3
Greenfield	0	0	2	1	0	0
Buffels Bay	0	0	1	2	0	1
Karatara	0	0	4	9	3	6
Total by age group	10		192		217	
Grand Total	419					



Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies assisted with the DREF grant and supported SARCS in coordinating the efforts via the National DM Manager. The Manager liaised with the South African Red Cross Society CEO, external coordinators, partners, staff and volunteers. The scope of the operation was defined based on the magnitude of needs identified in the field.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

As auxiliary to Government, SARCS maintains a strong relationship with National Disaster Management Committee, Provincial and Municipal authorities. SARCS participates in Joint Operations Committee (JOC) meetings on national and provincial level on a daily basis. Other actors were also key in the response to the humanitarian needs on the ground as highlighted by the table below:

Table 3: Humanitarian bodies which contributed to the response

Agency	Sector	Response activities
Islamic Relief	NFIs	Distribution of blankets
Ministry of Disaster Management	Shelter	Temporary shelter
Ministry of Health	WASH	Education and dissemination of water supply
Grand West Casino	WASH	Bottled water
Fruit & Veg Donated	Food	Provision of nutritious food for children
Land Rover	NFIs	Clothes
Be-Safe SA	WASH	Masks

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The detailed Needs Assessment determined that livelihoods, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), as well as infrastructure rehabilitation were the priority areas for intervention. The independent assessment results gathered by the SARCS provincial teams in 10 affected districts managed to inform on the extent of the impacts and nature of the needs as presented.

As the affected population had to relocate to safer areas, relief items for personal hygiene were mentioned by beneficiaries as needed. Many of the households lost their properties or it was damaged or burned down completely; therefore, emergency household NFIs and basic emergency shelter materials were identified as most needed. The shelter support provided by the RC helped protect the affected from climatic, biological and environmental elements significantly, thus contributed to lowering morbidity rates from diseases, especially acute respiratory infections.

Risk Analysis

The major risk that was faced by the NS during the operation was the raging fire in the targeted areas. In the initial days of the response, most of the areas were not accessible as the fires were close to the roads posing a risk to the staff and volunteers. The NS had to wait until the fire was put under control for it to move in and support the affected households.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

The overall objective of the operation was to ensure that the immediate needs of 6,700 beneficiaries (1,340 HHs) of the affected individuals were met through the provision of essential emergency relief assistance and proper assessments of their needs.

Proposed strategy

The DREF operation was implemented in a period of 3 months and it sought to fulfil the overall objective through the deployment of SARCS volunteers to support the affected communities, distribution and replenishment of relief materials. This was achieved through the following:

- 1. Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform programme design and implementation:** The National society conducted detailed assessments in the affected districts. The data collected from these assessments were used to inform the needs on the ground. In addition, the assessments helped inform beneficiary targeting which ensured that the right people received support. A total number of 150 Volunteers were mobilized and trained on how to conduct the detailed assessments and these were key in the data collection.
- 2. The affected families have immediate access to non-food items to address their immediate needs:** Through the support of the DREF, the NS was able to replenish 6,700 blankets that were distributed during the initial response. A total number of 5,755 hygiene packs were procured and distributed to the affected population. The NS also procured and distributed 945 baby packs.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Shelter People reached: 6700 Male: Female:</p>	
<p>Outcome 2: The affected families have immediate access to non-food items to address their immediate needs</p>		
<p>Output 2: Basic needs – NFI assistance is provided to the most affected communities</p>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Replenishment of 6,700 blankets	6,700	6,700
Procure 5,755 hygiene packs for women	5,755	5,755
Procure and distribute 945 baby packs	945	945
Set up RFL services in all affected areas		Done
<p>Narrative description of achievements</p>		
<p>The National society managed to procure NFIs which included 6700 blankets which were mainly for replenishment of blankets that were distributed during the initial response to the storm surge. A total number of 5,755 hygiene packs were also procured to support women who had been displaced during the floods. This was to ensure that women's sanitary needs were met during the difficult time and to promote dignity of the women. A total number of 945 hygiene packs were also procured and distributed to support families which had babies.</p> <p>The National society also managed to put in place tracing system to support the families who had been separated from their loved ones during the crisis. The Tracing services was set up at the Local shopping malls and it made use of the local newspapers to inform families and this served as a platform to ensure families were reunited. People were initially displaced to temporary safe places upon evacuation, but most returned into their neighborhoods where they rented alternative accommodation or stayed with friends or relatives. According to the municipality, 30 persons moved out</p>		

completely from original locations. Only 29% of mentioned family separations cases occurred as the affected families had to relocate some of the family members to other areas to live with friends and relatives as a coping strategy following the emergency.

Challenges

The National Society faced challenges during the procurement process especially due to the lack of knowledge of the IFRC standards. This meant that implementation was a bit delayed with some major procurements being done a few weeks before the DREF closed as the NS had to learn about and follow the IFRC procurement process.

Lessons Learned

There is need for the IFRC to provide training with regards to the procurement processes and expected standards so that NS is able follow them and avoid delays in implementation.

International Disaster Response

Outcome 1: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform programme design and implementation

Output 1: Detailed needs assessments are conducted in consultation with beneficiaries and authorities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Mobilise National Society staff and volunteers in various locations across Knysna for detailed needs assessment to address immediate risk, damages and potential needs	150	150
Mobilisation of transportation and communication for staff and volunteers deploying to areas that are likely to be affected		Done

Narrative description of achievements

The National Society managed to engage a total number of 150 volunteers who were actively involved during the operation. Of the overall 150 volunteers, 45 were engaged to assist in the data collection processes of the detailed needs assessments. Multi-sectoral detailed needs assessments were conducted in 10 affected districts to inform on the extent of the impacts and nature of the needs. These assessments managed to identify further additional needs that were not anticipated in the original EPoA budget and narrative such as more blankets, clothes, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, squatting plates for latrines. Monitoring visits were also conducted for quality, technical backstopping and support to the implementing branches. The NS also managed to conduct a Multi-sectoral lesson learnt workshop to provide hindsight that improves future response operations.

Challenges

The NS faced budgetary constraints mainly because the costs of assessments were higher than anticipated as the assessment was conducted in 10 districts as opposed to the six earlier forecasted.

Lessons Learned

Coordination is key especially in times of disasters. The NS was able to conduct assessments with other departments in the government as well as other concerned stakeholders. This resulted in a detailed report which largely informed the necessary response to the affected communities. The coordination was also extended to the lessons learnt workshop which traditionally was only for the SARCS staff. This is a useful move which helped in mapping the strength of each stakeholder and this will indeed inform future coordinated responses.

During the assessments it was noted that there is a great need to invest in educating the communities on how to be prepared so that they respond effectively to fire disasters. There is thus a need to strengthen response preparedness activities such as fire response simulations which involve all the stakeholders. This will help ensure coordinated response in the future.

D. THE BUDGET

Financial analysis

The NS applied for DREF support amounting to CHF 140,855 of which CHF133,822 (95%) were spent. As such, a total amount of CHF 7,033 (5%) will be returned to the DREF. The NS managed to implement the DREF operation with no major variances or changes to the budget. There was an over expenditure on the personnel costs due to increased costs for volunteers that were assisting during the response and the detailed assessments this resulted in a variance of about 10.7% to the actual planned budget. Another variance was due to the increased bank charges incurred during transactions as the funds had to be transferred to the province from the HQ and this meant increased financial charges against the planned costs. The currency revaluations also contributed to an increase in the financial charges and this resulted in a variance of about 237%.

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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 (NGO's) 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.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRZA007 - South Africa - Storm Surge

Timeframe: 19 Jun 17 to 19 Sep 17

Appeal Launch Date: 19 Jun 17

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2017/1-2017/11	Programme	MDRZA007
Budget Timeframe	2017/6-2017/9	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		140,855				140,855	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		140,855				140,855	
C4. Other Income		140,855				140,855	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		140,855				140,855	
D. Total Funding = B + C		140,855				140,855	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		140,855				140,855	
E. Expenditure		-133,822				-133,822	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		7,033				7,033	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			140,855			140,855		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	52,126		52,266			52,266	-140	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	30,759		30,759			30,759	0	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	82,885		83,025			83,025	-140	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	2,754		1,030			1,030	1,724	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,265		966			966	2,299	
Logistics Services	306						306	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	6,325		1,997			1,997	4,329	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	21,616		16,177			16,177	5,439	
Volunteers	13,077		14,479			14,479	-1,402	
Total Personnel	34,693		30,656			30,656	4,037	
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,205		1,288			1,288	-83	
Office Costs	5,496		6,125			6,125	-629	
Communications	1,225		702			702	523	
Financial Charges	429		1,450			1,450	-1,021	
Total General Expenditure	8,355		9,565			9,565	-1,211	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	8,597		8,579			8,579	18	
Total Indirect Costs	8,597		8,579			8,579	18	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	140,855		133,822			133,822	7,033	
VARIANCE (C - D)			7,033			7,033		

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IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster management	140,855		140,855	140,855	133,822	7,033	
Subtotal BL2	140,855		140,855	140,855	133,822	7,033	
GRAND TOTAL	140,855		140,855	140,855	133,822	7,033	