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Emergency appeal

Lesotho: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRLS004	4,500 people to be assisted	Appeal launched 22 January 2016
Glide n° OT-2016-000005-LSO	84,369 Swiss francs DREF allocated	Appeal ends July 2016
	664,073 Swiss francs Appeal budget	

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of **664,073 Swiss francs** to enable the IFRC to support the **Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS)** to respond to the food security needs of **4,500 affected beneficiaries¹** with a focus on **food distributions, cash transfer, health and hygiene promotion, and livelihoods and related training activities, and the distribution of seeds and tools**. The planned response reflects the current situation and available information at this point of the evolving operation, and will be adjusted based on new developments and more detailed assessments. Details are available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

June 2015: Lesotho Vulnerability Committee (LVAC) report estimates 11% of population are food insecure and 180,880 will need food assistance.

December 2015: Lesotho declares an emergency and requests international assistance to help 180,880 food insecure people not being reached by on-going safety net food assistance interventions. 84,639 Swiss francs allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for assessments and to support the start of assistance.

January 2016: Emergency Appeal launched for 664,073 Swiss francs for 4,500 people



Lesotho's onset of rains was delayed by 30-40 days affecting land preparation and other agricultural activities. Of the few people who managed to plant their fields, the crops are dying off due to the current prolonged dry spell. Photo: LRCS

The operational strategy

Needs assessment and beneficiary selection

Lesotho received the lowest amount of rainfall for 15 years, resulting in farmers being unable to engage in their normal winter ploughing between May and April 2015. The country was further affected by the late onset of the main agricultural season rains, which had been anticipated for August/September 2015 and this has been attributed to the strong El Niño event that affected much of Southern Africa (FEWSNET). A total 447,760 people were affected by the food insecurity situation however the government and other agencies' Safety Net interventions have been able to cover some needs leaving 180,880 people in need of assistance. The drought situation has also affected water availability for human and livestock consumption as well as limiting availability of casual labour opportunities.

¹ From among the estimated 11% of the population of Lesotho currently affected by food shortages

The LVAC recommends food assistance using cash transfers to ensure vulnerable households do not engage in negative coping mechanisms, such as the disposal of productive assets to meet household's food needs. LRCS proposes that the food assistance be complemented by capacity building interventions to improve the productive capacity of the vulnerable households through trainings and seeds support.

The beneficiary selection process will be informed by the LVAC report, inter-agency recommendations as well as using the community based selection approach which allows the people in the targeted districts to inform the selection based on their definitions of vulnerability. LRCS will ensure that the selection of beneficiaries will be consistent with IFRC's commitment to strive for gender equality and diversity, and to ensure non-discrimination in the provision of services to the most vulnerable. The LRCS selection criteria will put much emphasis on vulnerable groups in society. The selection criteria in the targeted communities include:

- Chronically ill persons
- Persons with disabilities and the elderly
- Households with malnourished children under 5
- Households with malnourished pregnant and lactating women
- Vulnerable households headed by women or children
- Orphans or vulnerable children (OVCs)
- Households with members on antiretroviral medication
- Labour constrained households
- The very poor

Operational strategy

LRCS will target three of the most affected districts in Lesotho - Thaba Tseka, Mafeteng and Qacha's Nek. LRCS will coordinate with the Government departments, as well as share information on targeting and the beneficiaries that will be receiving support. In the event that other agencies will target the same districts LRCS will share beneficiary data and planned activities to ensure there will be no duplication of efforts. The proposed strategy for the operation will use direct food assistance, and cash transfers to assist vulnerable households meet their food needs from January to June 2016.

The market assessment done by LRCS established that the food basket costs CHF68. To complement the assistance to meet food needs the targeted beneficiaries will also receive agricultural seed packs and tools as well as training through lead farmers. LRCS will identify 10 volunteers in each of the three districts who will receive training and cascade the information to the vulnerable households. Health and hygiene activities will also be implemented with a special focus on promoting safe and clean water promotion. The National Society will target households with malnourished people for the cash transfers as well as referring the malnourished people to health centres for therapeutic feeding. The National Society will engage the government to ensure that the malnourished people are assisted.

Under this proposed operation, beneficiaries will be engaged in the following livelihoods and food security initiatives:

- Community dams
- Land reclamation initiatives
- Silt trap construction
- Tree planting
- Reseeding of rangelands
- Soil and water conservation activities.

These are the activities aimed at improving community livelihoods through community engagement and participation. The activities are also aimed enhancing resilience capacity within communities beyond the disaster occurrence. From each beneficiary household, one member will participate in activities for a maximum of twenty days.

The LRCS is seeking a start-up DREF allocation of CHF 85,369 to support initial actions, such as beneficiary targeting and food distributions.

Proposed sectors of intervention



Coordination and partnerships



LRCS will ensure coordination with Movement partners in the implementation of the operation. LRCS has on-going projects supported by different Partner National Societies including the Norwegian, British and Japanese Red Cross. The National Society has in previous years (2012 and 2013) implemented DREF operations to support food insecure people. The LRCS will also coordinate with the government and its departments at National and District level in the implementation of the operation. Staff from the GoL departments will be engaged to support trainings as well as monitoring of the operation.



Food security



Nutrition



Livelihoods

Outcome 1: Immediate food needs of 4,500 beneficiaries (900 households) are met over a period of six months.

Output 1.1: 900 households (4,500 beneficiaries) receive food aid and cash distributions in order to purchase food (CHF 68 per month per household).

Activities planned:

- Information dissemination to local authorities through awareness session
- Beneficiary targeting, identification and registration
- Food procurement (maize, beans, sorghum and cooking oil)
- Establishment of Cash Transfer System for CTP
- Staff and volunteer training in CTP implementation and monitoring
- Validation of beneficiary lists and establishment of accountability systems
- Selection of CTP service provider
- Training of beneficiaries in the use of mobile money platforms

Outcome 2: Livelihoods of 900 households (4,500 beneficiaries) are reinforced to build community resilience in targeted regions.

Output 2.1 Appropriate agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer, production tools) are distributed to 900 households.

Activities planned:

- Assessments to identify vulnerable HHs with land and capacity to participate in agricultural activities
- Conduct specific needs assessment via Ministry of Agriculture to identify most appropriate items to be distributed depending on the market availability and period
- Assessment to establish capacity of local traders to provide proposed seeds and fertilizers
- Organize procurement of seeds, fertilizers and production tools for 900 farmers
- Training of lead farmers in agricultural production (they will be trained in farming techniques, water harvesting techniques like dam maintenance, catchment design and maintenance, and water hygiene), which will be cascaded down to entire community
- Seeds, fertilizer and tools distribution



Water; Sanitation; Hygiene promotion

Outcome 3: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted districts.

Output 3.1 Health and hygiene promotion activities carried out to targeted population.

Activities planned:

- Training of volunteers, water committees and teachers on hygiene promotion (proper hand washing, water treatment and health education)
- Training of volunteers to monitor malnutrition indicators and conduct referrals and social mobilization exercises in targeted communities
- Hazard mapping and analysis in villages and schools and identify potential water sources

- Distribution of water treatment tablets
- House to house visits for hand-washing; water treatment and health education

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 4: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.

Output 4.1 Initial needs assessment are updated following consultation with beneficiaries.

Activities planned:

- Inception meeting with implementation team (LRCS and IFRC)
- Coordination and engagement with key stakeholders
- Joint monitoring of operations by LRCS and IFRC
- Lessons-learned and review meetings



Programme support services

Human Resources

The National Society DM Manager will have the overall responsibility, with support from 9 programme staff, including 3 district field officers who will dedicate 100% of their efforts on the operation. The National Society has two officers who have been trained in CTP and will also support the LRCS staff and volunteers through training and capacity building to ensure smooth implementation of the operation. IFRC has a CTP Operations Manager in Southern Africa and will support LRCS in assessments as well as setting up the CTP system.

Communications - advocacy and public information: LRCS through the communications office will share progress and information on the progress of the operation through the National Society's website. Some of the activities to be included will be:

- Develop media packages, including facts and figures, briefs and audio-visual products for distribution to partner National Societies, other partner organizations and media
- Hold public gatherings at community level to sensitise the community about the activities of the appeal and the role of community
- Engage proactively with media (national and international) to highlight the needs of the affected people and to profile the response of the Red Cross
- Develop communications products including key messages for partners to use for their back donors and own audiences
- Support field visits by communications colleagues from the National Society and donor agencies
- Support programme teams in designing and producing project-specific materials, including forms, banners, brochures, posters and signage
- Further build the capacity of the National Society communications focal point
- Produce people-centred stories, beneficiary case studies, photos and videos to highlight the small scale interventions being implemented through this appeal, for use in a Africa region-wide campaign to be launched in 2016 on food insecurity

Logistics: The food, cash and inputs distributions will be done using the existing capacity of the National Society. Three vehicles will be used to meet the transportation requirements of the staff and volunteers. Fuel and vehicle maintenance needs will be covered under the operation's budget. The IFRC will also provide technical support on procurement. LRCS will use the National Society as well as IFRC procurement guidelines for all the procurements and contracting of services.

Reporting, monitoring and evaluation: LRCS will rely on its extensive experience and PMER capacity to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of the operation. Specific tools will be developed to monitor the implementation and impact of the CTP activities under the operation. An inception meeting will be held whilst routine meetings will be held to review and inform progress of the operation as well as changes that may need to be implemented. The Field Officers and headquarters staff will conduct monthly

post distribution meetings, market monitoring and assessments to check on cost of commodities as well as inflation as a result of the cash transfers.

Security: The LRCS does not anticipate any security threats in the areas of operation. Currently there is no political unrest in the country and no security issues are anticipated during the operation.

Budget

See attached summary Appeal budget for details.

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Under Secretary General
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Elhadj Amadou As Sy
Secretary General

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 Humanitarian 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.

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



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

EMERGENCY APPEAL OPERATION

22/01/2016

Lesotho Food Insecurity (MDRLS004)

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0			0
Shelter - Transitional	0			0
Construction - Housing	0			0
Construction - Facilities	0			0
Construction - Materials	0			0
Clothing & Textiles	0			0
Food	122,400			122,400
Seeds & Plants	42,300			42,300
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0			0
Medical & First Aid	0			0
Teaching Materials	0			0
Utensils & Tools	27,900			27,900
Other Supplies & Services	0			0
Emergency Response Units	0			0
Cash Disbursements	254,800			254,800
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	447,400	0	0	447,400
Land & Buildings	0			0
Vehicles Purchase	0			0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	4,050			4,050
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0			0
Medical Equipment	0			0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	4,050	0	0	4,050
Storage, Warehousing	0			0
Distribution & Monitoring	0			0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,700			8,700
Logistics Services	0			0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	8,700	0	0	8,700
International Staff	24,000			24,000
National Staff	7,200			7,200
National Society Staff	54,820			54,820
Volunteers	8,865			8,865
Total PERSONNEL	94,885	0	0	94,885
Consultants	0			0
Professional Fees	0			0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0	0	0
Workshops & Training	27,600			27,600
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	27,600	0	0	27,600
Travel	21,500			21,500
Information & Public Relations	3,000			3,000
Office Costs	1,200			1,200
Communications	2,400			2,400
Financial Charges	4,000			4,000
Other General Expenses	0			0
Shared Support Services	8,808			8,808
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	40,908	0	0	40,908
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	40,530	0	0	40,530
Total INDIRECT COSTS	40,530	0	0	40,530
TOTAL BUDGET	664,073	0	0	664,073
Available Resources				
Multilateral Contributions				0
Bilateral Contributions				0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	664,073	0	0	664,073