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DREF Operations Update

Malawi: Karonga Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF No: MDRMW013	GLIDE n° FL-2017-000090-MW1
Operation start date: 3 May 2017	Timeframe covered by this update: May - July, 2017
Overall operation budget: CHF 223,904	Operation timeframe: 3 months (end date 3 August 2017) with extension of 2 months (end date 3 October 2017)
N° of people being assisted: 10,750 people (1,950 HH)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, IFRC SARO	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA), Karonga District Council through the District Civil Protection Committee (DCPC), Act Alliance UNICEF.	

This Operations Update seeks to provide an update of the activities conducted so far as well as to request a 2-month extension with no budget changes for the DREF operation which will allow the MRCS to complete the remaining activities. The implementation has been affected by the delays in procurement and replenishment of relief items due to customs clearance procedures. The procurement of the items is ongoing and in the first week of August items will be delivered to the affected area. As the situation on the ground has evolved, the update also seeks to adjust operational activities to align them to the current situation and needs of the affected communities based on the results of the needs assessment conducted by the MRCS. Thus the budget has been reviewed to meet the changes in the new activities (the procurement of hygiene related items has been reallocated to the budget line covering the latrines, as there were higher needs identified for that), but no second allocation is requested.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

The Southern and Central Regions of Malawi experienced normal to above normal rainfall while the Northern Region received above normal rainfall. Karonga district which is located in the Northern part of Malawi, experienced fairly normal to above normal rainfall mid-March 2017 causing extensive flooding which resulted in the displacement of the affected communities.

A total number of 8,286 households (55, 921 people)¹ were affected by the flooding, about 665 houses collapsed whilst others were partly damaged. Most of the collapsed houses were semi-permanent structures. The affected households comprised of 4,759 farming families (2,974 male-headed households and 1,785 female-headed households). The remaining 3,527 households included those whose houses had been damaged partially as well as those whose household

¹ In Malawi, the national average household size is 5.5 people per household while 6.7 people per household is the average for this particular affected population. We use 5.5 people per household for operational purposes in this DREF.

property had been damaged. Within the affected population, 4,467 were children under-five years, 385 elderly people, 261 orphans and 15 people living with disabilities.

In view of this situation, MRCS with the support of IFRC launched a DREF operation with the aim of supporting the affected population who had been relocated to the holding camps and those who remained in their homes. The support was mainly focused on ensuring that the vulnerable communities have increased access to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene. It was also aimed at ensuring that communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.

Due to the changes in the prevailing situation, that saw the delays in procurement of relief materials, MRCS seeks an extension of the DREF to ensure that the NS completes the remaining shelter and wash related activities. Since the situation on the ground has evolved some activities budgeted for under the wash component like the procurement of handwashing buckets can no longer be implemented. Resources under this activity in the budget are to be reallocated for decommissioning of the latrines and training of volunteers in hygiene promotion.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

MRCS, as a membership based organization, has 33 Divisions (Branches) and a network of more than 30,000 members. It is present in all the 28 districts in Malawi. MRCS has previous experience in implementing DREF and emergency relief programs throughout the country with support from various donor partners and Partner National Societies (PNS). Over the years, MRCS has implemented several DREF operations and IFRC Emergency Appeals. MRCS has implemented numerous responses to drought and flooding across the country as well as a major earthquake response in Karonga in 2009 funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) through IFRC.

Over the years, MRCS has become a key partner to the government in designing and implementing different emergency response operations. In the recent 2017 flooding which affected Salima and Lilongwe City Districts, MRCS implemented a Cash Transfer Flood Response operation with funding from Danish Red Cross Society and Malawi Network of Older Persons Organization (MANEPO) in collaboration with HelpAge International. This is in addition to the Food Security Appeal currently funded by IFRC. The Netherlands Red Cross Society has supported MRCS financially to carry out a one off Cash Transfer to 17,500 households in the month of March, 2017 as part of the 2016/2017 Food Insecurity MVAC Response Program.

In Karonga District, MRCS has an active Branch Disaster Response team and Staff members who are currently implementing an urban WASH project funding by the EU. At national level, MRCS has trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members.

In response to the current flooding MRCS has constructed 12 temporary latrines and 12 temporary bathing shelters, has distributed 650 blankets, and has mobilized volunteers to conduct hygiene promotion activities both in the camps and in the affected communities. Resources used to support construction of the latrines and bathing shelters have been mobilized locally from one of Malawi's mobile service providers (Airtel Malawi). The 650 blankets distributed were taken from MRCS repositioned stock.

Since the operation started the situation has been stable and most of the displaced people have now returned back to their original locations. This necessitated the NS to conduct an assessment including verification of beneficiaries. Meetings with different key partners were also conducted to establish synergies and areas of collaboration during the implementation of the operation. Preliminary assessment of the desludging of toilets and decommissioning of temporary latrines in places which were used as evacuation sites has been done. Furthermore, quotations for the procurement of sanitation related items was done and delivery and distribution of these items is yet to be done.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Since the flood started, MRCS provided coordination of the assessment activities at community level with support from the Netherlands RC, Crisis Modifier. It also provided NFIs (Shelter Tool Kits, Kitchen Sets, Tarpaulins, Blankets, Mosquito nets and collapsible Jerri canes).

The Danish Red Cross has also made available resources to support 1500 households with unconditional cash transfer to help affected families to meet the other pressing needs apart from those that will be provided by the DREF.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Department of Disaster Management Affairs continue to provide overall coordination of the flood response through Karonga District Council and Karonga District Civil protection committee in particular. The Ministry of Health has been very active in leading and supporting all the WASH related activities. UNICEF, WVI and Act Alliance remaining the only other key actors supporting the affected beneficiaries especially during the response phase of the disaster.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Following the approval and transfer of the DREF Funding, MRCS assembled and deployed a team to manage the operation in Karonga District. The team was supported by RDRT Finance to help them in rolling out the operations. An assessment was conducted to validate the needs that had been identified during the initial assessments. The situation has evolved from the time the DREF was launched and most of the affected households have already returned to their original settlements.

From the assessments, a total number of 1500 beneficiaries were identified as the most vulnerable and in need of relief aid. The assessments also identified a total number of 38 latrines which needed to be dislodged, as well as 18 temporary latrines to be decommissioned. The assessment also revealed that some activities such as procurement of Chlorine and provision of hand washing facilities in the camps was no longer needed as at the time of the assessment camps were closed. Based on the findings of the assessment a revised work plan was developed to address the identified needs.

Risk Analysis

The affected area ceased receiving rainfall some two months ago and the risk of poor/inaccessible roads due to washed away roads and slippery roads is no longer there. Currently the only risk identified is the delay by the Revenue Authority to clear the duty Waiver as the export permit will be expiring in the next two weeks. MRCS will initiate an interface meeting with Revenue Authority to expedite the process.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The objective of the operation is to reduce the impact of the floods and promote the wellbeing of 1,950 flood affected HH (10,750 beneficiaries) through the provision of shelter, WASH, food security, and NFI assistance support.

Proposed strategy

This operation will provide immediate support in Karonga to 1,950 households through the provision of shelter, WASH, food security, and NFI assistance. To effectively deliver on the intended objective, the following Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities will be conducted:

Outcome 1: The operation provides quality assistance to reflect the needs of the affected population

Output 1.1: The situation, including immediate risks, damages and potential needs is assessed.

Activities:

- Deployment of National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) for assessment and registration of beneficiaries
- Briefing of District Civil Protection Committee members and MRCS Branch Executive members
- Sensitization Meetings with Camp Leaders & Local Authorities
- Beneficiary selection Meetings
- Monitoring and supervision of response activities
- Beneficiary Satisfaction/Exit Survey
- Lesson Learnt Workshop

Outcome 2: Vulnerable people have increased access to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services

Output 2.1: NS provides communities with knowledge and best practice to improve community-based management of water and sanitation facilities.

Activities

- Installation of fifty (50) hand washing buckets in five Camps.
- Provision of sanitation kits to 839 women of child bearing age (43% of all targeted women)
- Provision of 3,900 plastic pales to 1,950 HH (x2 cans per HH)
- Provision of 3,900 mosquito nets to 1,950 HH (x2 per HH)

Output 2.2: NS provides communities with knowledge and best practice on treatment and reuse of wastewater

Activities

- Volunteers conduct hygiene promotion activities both in the camps as well as in the affected communities

- Provision of Water Guard/Chlorine to 1,950 HH for pot chlorination
- Desludging of latrines in schools, which have been used as camps

Outcome 3: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.

Output 3.1: Short, medium and long-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households through the provision of household NFI's.

Activities

- Provision of tarpaulins (x2 per HH), blankets (x2 per HH), and sleeping mats (x2 per HH) to 1,950 HH to address immediate shelter requirements in the IDP camps.
- Transportation of the items to the distribution sites.

Outcome 4: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability

Output 4.1: IFRC staff have a common understanding of, and reflect in their work, corporate communications priorities, frames and messaging.

Activities

- Production of 100 bibs & 100 T-shirts for volunteer visibility.
- Profiling of project activities

Operational support services

Human resources

MRCS has 1 FACT trained staff, 5 RDRT and over 30 NDRT members with experience in Emergency WASH, Emergency Health, Logistic, Shelter, Relief and general emergency response. In Karonga District MRCS has 15 trained Branch Disaster Response team members and a contingent of volunteers trained in CBHFA and Disaster Preparedness and response. All these trained personnel are available to support the implementation of this intervention Therefore, to implement this DREF, MRCS will employ the services of six staff—an operations manager supported by 2 field officers (one per region), finance and administration, logistics and reporting officers—and 50 volunteers. National Society positions include 1NS Ops Coordinator at MRCS, 1 Reporting officer, 1 Logistic officer, 1 Field Supervisor, 50 volunteers. To strengthen the response, MRCS received support from a Finance RDRT who assisted the NS with financial management as well as the other operational activities.

Logistics and supply chain

IFRC logistics unit provided support to MRCS to ensure that international procurements are conducted according to IFRC standards and within the DREF timeframe. The regional office supported with international procurements whilst other local procurements were done by the MRCS logistics focal person. The MRCS has however experienced delays in acquiring a duty waiver that would allow the importation of relief materials from the regional warehouse in Zimbabwe. This has affected the provision of shelter as the NS does not have relief materials to support the affected communities. The MRCS is making efforts to engage the relevant offices. Due to the delays in acquiring the duty waiver and in turn the implementation of activities, the MRCS is seeking to extend the operation by two months which will allow the finalization of the activities.

Information technologies (IT)

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of the emergency operations. This flow will be maintained between those working in the field and other stakeholders, including the media and donors, to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. Donors and National Societies will receive information and materials they can use to promote the profiling of the operation. Relevant information and advocacy materials, including audio-visual products, will be channeled through IFRC and public websites: www.ifrc.org; MRCS will further use its Facebook page to profile the operation activities. Activities will include the following:

- Production of press releases, situational reports, news stories and beneficiary case studies.
- Engagement of the media (national and international) to highlight the needs the affected people and to profile the response of the Red Cross. This will include the use of established IFRC social media tools.

- Development of media packages, including facts and figures, issue briefs and audio-visual products for distribution to partner national societies, other partner organizations and media.
- Development and production of communications products that highlight achievements of the operation.
- Supporting field visits by communications colleagues from partner national societies and donor agencies.
- Supporting program teams in designing and producing operations-specific materials, including forms, banners, brochures, posters and signage.

Security

There are currently no issues of concern with regards to security under this operation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

Monitoring the operation's progress: close monitoring of turnaround time tasks and budget disbursement delays will be made. A monthly monitoring of activities will be in place with management tools that will be developed. MRCS will make sure that the operation's evaluation is made after each activity including beneficiary feedback and volunteers experience. After each distribution, an exit survey shall be conducted to assess the levels of satisfaction on how the distributions have been conducted. This will give MRCS good learning points to improve future similar actions. Periodically, the volunteers will also be assigned to visit the beneficiaries in either their camps or once they move back to their homes to get feedback on their perception on the overall support provided by MRCS through this operation. Technical support from the IFRC Regional office will be considered if deemed necessary. The RDRT member will be deployed to specifically compile such reports with support from the NS operations coordinator and the PMER and DM manager. Consequently, a robust monitoring and reporting system will be employed to track the outputs and outcomes of interventions. The regular monitoring will inform of any further revision needed in terms of timeframe and coverage. The operation will be regularly monitored by technical and management staff from IFRC SACO with field visits. IFRC SACO office representation and the Africa Region DMU will provide ongoing support in the aspect of the implementation. Lessons learnt from the previous DREF operations will be used to improve the implementation of this Karonga Flood response operation. At the end of the operation a beneficiary satisfaction survey will be conducted to collect feedback from the assisted beneficiaries on the operation. This information will form the basis of the lessons learnt workshop organized as an evaluation of the operation and the implemented activities

C. Detailed Operational Plan

Areas common to all sectors (assessments, monitoring and evaluation)				
Outcome 1: The operation provides quality assistance to reflect the needs of the affected population	Outputs			% of achievement
	Output 1.1: The situation, including immediate risks, damages and potential needs is assessed			60%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)	
	Yes	No		
1. Deployment of National Disaster Response Team Members	X		30%	
2. Briefing of District Civil Protection Committee members and MRCS Branch Executive members	X		100%	
3. Sensitization Meetings with Camp Leaders & Local Authorities	X		100%	
4. Identification of beneficiaries (Fuel and meals for stakeholders)	X		100%	
5. Monitoring and supervision of response activities	x		40%	
6. Beneficiary Satisfaction/Exit Survey		X	0%	

7.Lesson Learnt Workshop		x	0%
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>Mobilization of MRCS personnel to undertake assessments (100 volunteers and 10 staff) has occurred. From the beginning of the operations, Malawi Red Cross set up a management team to coordinate and guide the operation's implementation. The Department of Disaster management, The Karonga District Civil Protection Committee and the Ministry of Health have been the key stakeholders in this operation. To effectively deliver the operation, MRCS has also enhanced collaboration with different stakeholders at all levels including the beneficiary communities, the Area Development Committee, The Village Development Committees and the Civil Protection Committees. This has helped the implementation team to provide efficient assistance to the beneficiaries. MRCS volunteers have been in the fore front in all the activities of the operations including beneficiaries identification, distribution processes and monitoring. MRCS has identified the volunteers who will conduct hygiene promotion activities, the volunteers will be trained on how to effectively deliver the messages in the communities. By the end of the operations, a lessons learnt workshop will be conducted by the MRCS and its stakeholders and this will be used as a platform for learning for the implementation of future similar interventions.</p>			

Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation				
Outcome 2: Vulnerable people have increased access to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services	Outputs			% of achievement
		Output 2.1: MRCS provides communities with knowledge and best practices to improve community based management of water and sanitation facilities.		
Activities		Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
		Yes	No	
1. Installation of 50 Hand washing buckets in 5 Camps.			N	0%
2. Provision of Sanitation kits to 839 women of Child bearing age (43% of all targeted women)			X	50%
3. Provision of 3900 plastic pails (x2 per HH)			X	50%
4. Provision of 3,900 mosquito nets (x2 per HH)			X	0
	Outputs			% of achievement
		Output 3.1: MRCS provides communities with knowledge and best practices on treatment and reuse of waste water.		
Activities		Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
		Yes	No	
1.Volunteers conduct Hygiene Promotion activities both in the camps as well as in the affected communities		X		30%
2.Provision of Water Guard/Chlorine to 1,950 HH for pot Chlorination)		X		100%

3.Desludging of Latrines in schools which have been used as camps	X		100%
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>The MRCS has supported women of child bearing age with sanitation kits to help on ensuring good hygiene practices. Further to that, plastic pails have also been distributed to about 50% of the affected communities. To ensure that communities have access to safe drinking water, the MRCS also supported the household with water guard. Procurement process for chlorine is in the final stage and the chlorine will be delivered to Karonga. A total number of 50 latrines were assessed for desludging and 38 were identified for the process. The desludging process will be conducted in the coming weeks and budgets for the exercise have been approved. It has also been noted that the budget did not have budget line for decommissioning of temporary toilets in Camps.</p> <p>By the time the operation started, the situation on the ground had changed and the IDPs had left the camps. Resources under this activity in the budget are to be reallocated for decommissioning of the latrines and training of volunteers in hygiene promotion.</p>			

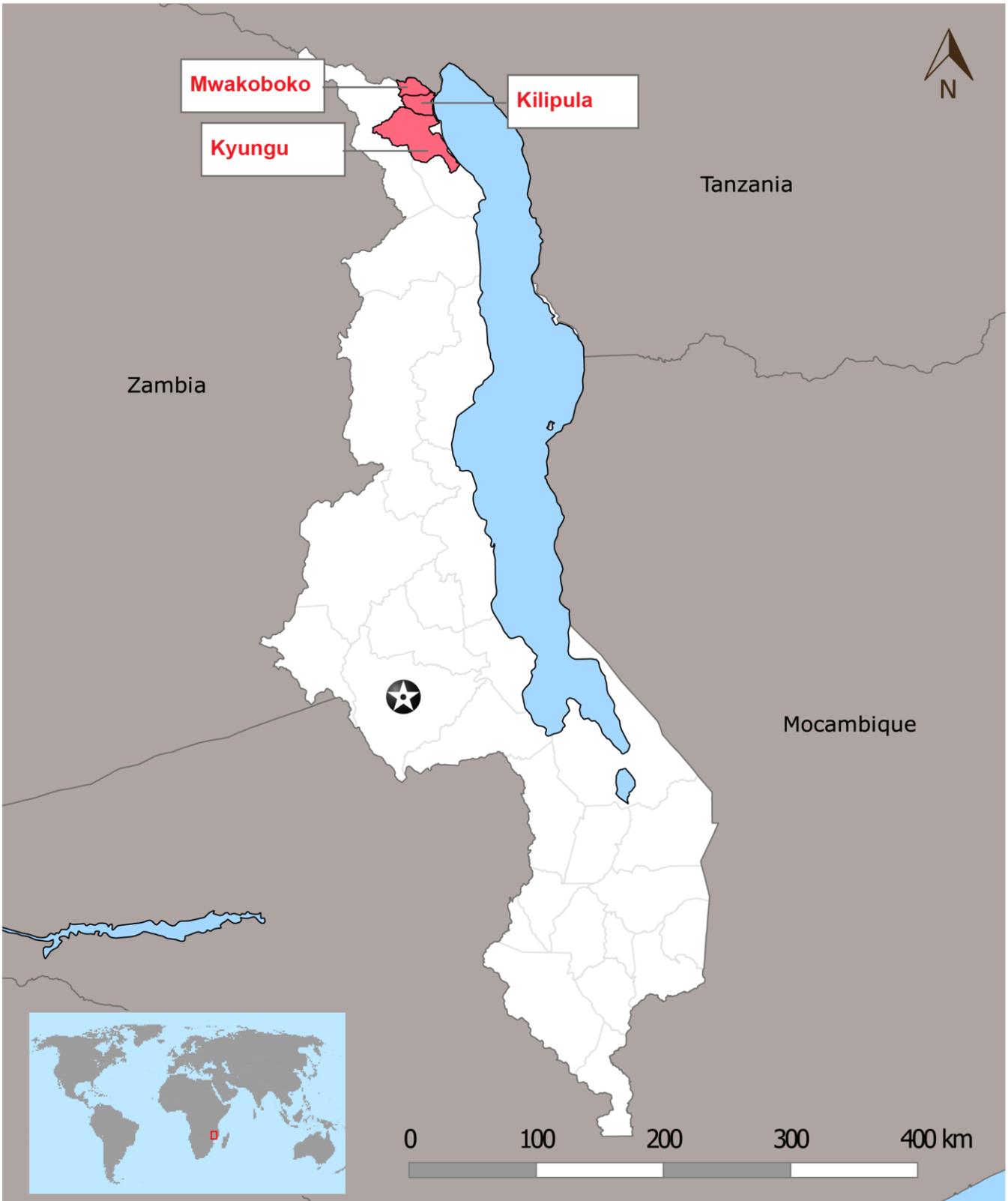
Shelter and Settlement				
Outcome 3: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being through shelter and settlement solutions	Outputs			% of achievement
		Output 3.1: Short and medium terms shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected Households through the provision of household NFIs		
Activities		Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
		Yes	No	
3.1.1. Procure and distribute shelter related NFI (Tarpaulins Blankets, Kitchen sets and Sleeping Mats)			X	0%
3.2.2 Transportation of the items to the distribution sites			X	0%
Progress towards outcomes				
<p>Beneficiary verification process was done and distribution centers were identified through meetings with local leaders, Village Civil Protection Committees and Red Cross Volunteers. MRCS has just been granted duty waiver on the 18th of July and this will now allow the transportation of relief materials from the regional warehouse.</p>				

Communications, PR, and PMER		
	Outputs	% of achievement

Outcome 4: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability	Output 4.1: IFRC staff have a common understanding of, and reflect in their work, corporate communications priorities, frames and messaging.		80%	
Activities		Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
		Yes	No	
4.1.1 Production of 100 bibs & 100 T-Shirts for volunteers visibility	X		100%	
4.1.2..Profiling of project activities	X		100%	
Progress towards outcomes				
<p>For improved visibility of the volunteers on the ground, the MRCS has procured 100 bibs and 100 T-shirts. These have been distributed to all he volunteers who are working under the operation. Profiling activities of the DREF and activities of the MRCS have also been conducted.</p>				



Malawi: Flooding



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Data sources: IFRC, GADM, Natural Earth. Map produced by: IFRC Africa Regional Office, Nairobi.

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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 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.**
