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Operation Update Report

Southern Africa: Drought (Food Insecurity)

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n°: MDR63003	GLIDE n°: N/A
Operations update n° 2: 18 September 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: December 2019 – August 2020
Operation start date: 11 December 2019	Operation timeframe and end date: 16 months, 30 April 2021
Funding requirements: CHF 7.4 million	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 768,800
N° of people being assisted: Botswana: 7,750, Eswatini: 25,000, Lesotho: 23,000, Namibia: 18,000 Total: 73,750 people (14,750 households)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: American Red Cross, British Red Cross; Canadian Red Cross; Finnish Red Cross; Netherlands Red Cross; Spanish Red Cross; Swedish Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Governments of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia; Government of Japan. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), United States Agency for International Development (USAID); World Food Programme (WFP); Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO); GIZ; and UNICEF.	

<Please click [here](#) for the budget and [here](#) for the contacts>

Summary:

The operation update reflects the current situation and information available – both affected by the Covid-19 circumstances.

Based on the continuous food insecurity in Southern Africa exacerbated by Covid-19 containment measures the timeframe of the Emergency Appeal is extended with two months until the end of April 2021 to cover basic food needs also in the upcoming lean season. Assessments will be carried out during the last six months of the operation to inform further intervention needs to address the persistent needs.

During the reporting period **Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS)** was able to expand their food assistance to another 150 households, bringing the total number of households reached monthly to 300 as of June 2020. As government eased Covid-19 related movement restrictions, enabling BRCS to revert to the initial plan of food assistance through a voucher system, as beneficiaries were once again allowed to move around and visit shops. BRCS is in the process of improving the voucher system upgrading it to a digital one enabling beneficiary choice of goods. BRCS has also established the first six model gardens that are used to guide and train 100 households in setting up theirs in order to improve their household food production. The demonstration gardens went together with a food security training and demonstrations for volunteers and beneficiaries on construction of water efficient back yard gardens. Originally, foreseen fodder support to livestock holders has been excluded as grazing has improved after the 2019/2020 rain season. However, it is possible this may have to be revisited again depending on the effects and timing of forecasted La Niña rains in Southern Africa.

Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS) finished its last three mobile cash distributions to 2,300 households during the reporting period and began preparations for the planting season support to households establishing keyhole gardens and seed distributions. While initial plan was to carry these out through in-kind support, it is now foreseen to utilize conditional cash as the intervention modality. Beneficiaries are to attend a training on climate-smart agriculture before receiving their cash and having the opportunity to purchase inputs from a fair called together by BERCS. Based on the outlook and recommendations of the new Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report for

Eswatini, it is foreseen to revive mobile cash support for food assistance again for the upcoming lean season from October or November until the end of April 2021, meaning food needs will be covered during two lean seasons instead of the originally planned one. This is one of the main reasons also informing the Operation's timeframe extension.

Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) finalized its five rounds of mobile cash transfer to 2,005 households during the reporting period. Preparations were started for the planting season by training lead farmers on community based basic agriculture practices and climate change adaptation as well as disaster risk reduction, and by preparing for procurement of suppliers for local fairs, where beneficiaries may purchase agricultural inputs. Vouchers will be used as a purchasing medium at the agricultural input fairs. In Lesotho it is likewise foreseen to extend the food and basic needs mobile cash support to beneficiaries over for the 2020-2021 lean season, owing to below average staple food production and COVID-19 exacerbated food security and livelihood situation. Support will there be extended over two lean seasons instead of original one season and prompting on its part also the extension of the Appeal timeframe.

Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) carried out preparations for its cash for basic needs support during the reporting period by preparing the financial services provider procurement together with IFRC. NRCS was experiencing staffing shortage to effectively respond to its three on-going IFRC supported operations beside its other programmes, and challenges/delays in identifying and recruiting the needed personnel. Recruitment for a new DM officer and a regional officer were completed in the reporting period and it is foreseen that cash distributions may start late September, while waterpoint rehabilitation interventions need to be kick-started simultaneously. After further information and deliberation on the feasibility and needs, the agricultural seed and gardening activities have been excluded from the implementation plan. Instead basic needs cash support plan is extended to cover six months, instead of initial four.

Following fundraising efforts and partner engagement the Appeal has attracted CHF **2,079,913** funding and is 27% covered at the end of August 2020. The implementation rate at the end of August 2020 stands at CHF **1,598,731**. IFRC will strengthen its resource mobilization efforts to be able to cover more communities in the upcoming lean season.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Regional

Southern Africa is prone to recurrent extreme climatic shocks and has experienced normal rainfall in only one of the last five cropping seasons, resulting in 2019 having the highest acute food insecurity situation in the region in the past decade that sparked government and international actors to provide humanitarian support, including this Emergency Appeal.

In 2020, crop production was impacted by the late onset of rains, prolonged dry spells, sporadic heavy rainfall, as well as pest outbreaks. While maize harvests rose regionally by 8% (due to increase in harvest in Zambia and South Africa), poor rainfall and economic challenges saw maize production in Zimbabwe drop by 57% and dry conditions also affected production in Eswatini, Lesotho, south-eastern Angola, southern Madagascar and Mozambique.

In addition to the climatic and weather conditions, the period from March 2020 was marked by Covid-19 exacerbating the already acute food insecurity situation in Southern Africa. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) synthesis report at the end of July 2020 indicates that 44.8 million people in urban and rural areas across the 13 Members States of Southern Africa are food insecure¹. This number of people lacking reliable access to enough nutritious food, has increased by almost 10% in 2020 compared with the data provided at the same time last year. For the 10 countries covered by the IFRC Southern Africa Cluster the number of food insecure people is close to 18.4 million people according to the report, and for the four countries covered by this Emergency Appeal the number in the synthesis report is 1,191,999 people, combining urban and rural areas.

Covid-19 containment measures exacerbated the food insecurity situation by causing loss of livelihoods and employment opportunities as a result of lockdowns and other movement restrictions, and by consequence also the loss of remittance incomes, as well as the closure of school meal programmes. Besides specifically school children, the restrictive measures affected particularly the urban poor, who rely heavily on livelihoods from the informal sector and local markets, which were forced to close temporarily as a result of lockdown measures. The agricultural sector and rural population were however also similarly impacted – lockdowns and restrictions prevented rural workers from attending to their jobs, leading to loss of employment opportunities on one hand, and the loss of essential work force in the fields on the other, risking late or failed harvesting and selling of produce.

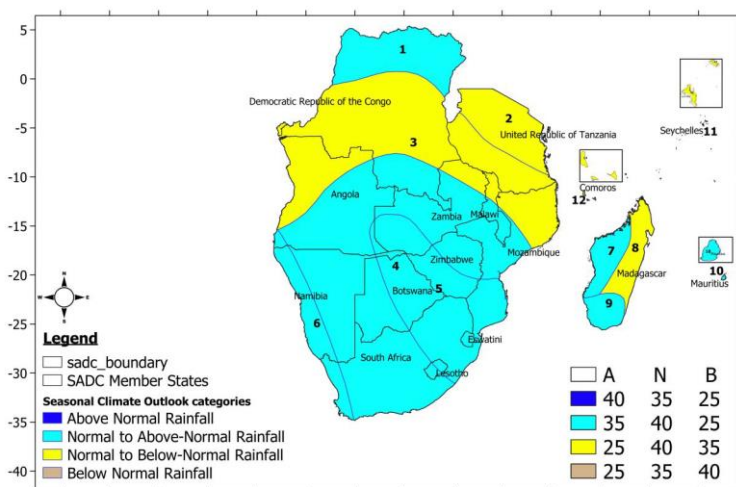
¹ https://www.sadc.int/files/3715/9644/8328/Synthesis_Report_2020_EN.pdf

These factors have further increased the risk of malnutrition in the region, as food diversity has been constrained, inaccessible and unaffordable to the most vulnerable households, pushing them to adopt negative eating practices to adapt, including reducing frequency, quantity and quality of foods. It is projected that acute malnutrition across the region could increase by 25% or more over the remainder of 2020 and into 2021, leading to some 8.4 million children to suffer from it in 2020, and of these, some 2.3 million children will require life-saving treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

It is likely that the projected number of the food insecure in general will rise further in light of the fact that the full impact of Covid-19 on the urban poor is yet to fully materialize, and as the lean season approaches. Rural food insecurity is expected to peak between November 2020 and January 2021. By this time smallholder farming households will have depleted their food stocks, with the next harvest not expected until April 2021.

Staple supplies in areas affected by poor rainfall performance are expected to significantly reduce from October through December. As supplies will be restricted, significant price increases are expected in these areas. Supplies are likely to be very scarce between exactly January and March, the peak lean season, and prices are also expected to reach their highest level during this period.

Regional Climate crisis trends and outlook - Rainfall and weather outlook for southern Africa



1 Rainfall forecast Southern Africa October-December 2020 Source: SADC

The period October to March is the main rainfall season over most of Southern Africa. This year, model predictions and expert opinion indicate a 60% chance of La Niña development during September-November 2020². Generally, La Niña is associated with wet conditions in the region and in line with the prediction, normal or above normal rainfall is forecast for October 2020 -January 2021. This concerns also the western coast of Namibia, eastern half of Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini. In the rest of Namibia, western half of Botswana and Lesotho, however, there is increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall³.

While proper rains could be beneficial for agriculture and pasture improving the harvest conditions and thereby the food production and food security situation in the region, the timeliness

of the rains remains a point of uncertainty for agriculture.

Country by Country Analysis

Botswana

In Botswana a new government vulnerability assessment has been carried in 2020, but it was not published yet at the time of reporting. The SADC synthesis report states for Botswana the same number of food insecure people as was projected for the 2020 lean season, 38 000 persons. For the time being the earlier projections are used as the basis for the intervention, while with the new report publication and NS assessments, revisions of the contextual information may be needed later on in 2020 looking to the first four months of 2021.

Botswana has experienced recurrent drought for several years and was affected four times in the last five years, with the 2018/19 rains described as the lowest in the country in three decades. These consecutive rainfall deficits resulted in the worst ever vegetation condition index, 2018/19 cereal production was 5,356 MT as compared to the 66,093 MT harvested in 2017/18 season, making just about 2% of national cereal requirement that stand at 300,000MT⁴.

In October -December phase of the 2019/20 rainy season the country received very low rainfall, significantly below normal rates both in distribution and time. Little rains were accompanied by strong winds and very high temperatures at an average of 26c (78.80f). Some areas also experienced flash floods following heavy downpours of a day or two in one area. These brought hope to farmers, some even ploughed utilising the little moist received. This false hope was short lived. The fragile seedlings and grass perished due to high temperatures and the short-lived moisture, worsening effects of the drought. Area planted this season (2019/20) has declined as compared to last season. Production is expected to be comparable to last year, however still significantly below average to long term. In the first quarter of 2020

² WMO Press Release: <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/wmo-update-60-percent-chance-of-la-ni%C3%B1a>

³ SADC Regional Weather Outlook Forum 24: <http://csc.sadc.int/images/documents/FINAL%20SARCOF-24%20STATEMENT.pdf>

⁴ Summary report for the drought and household food security vulnerability assessment 2018/2019

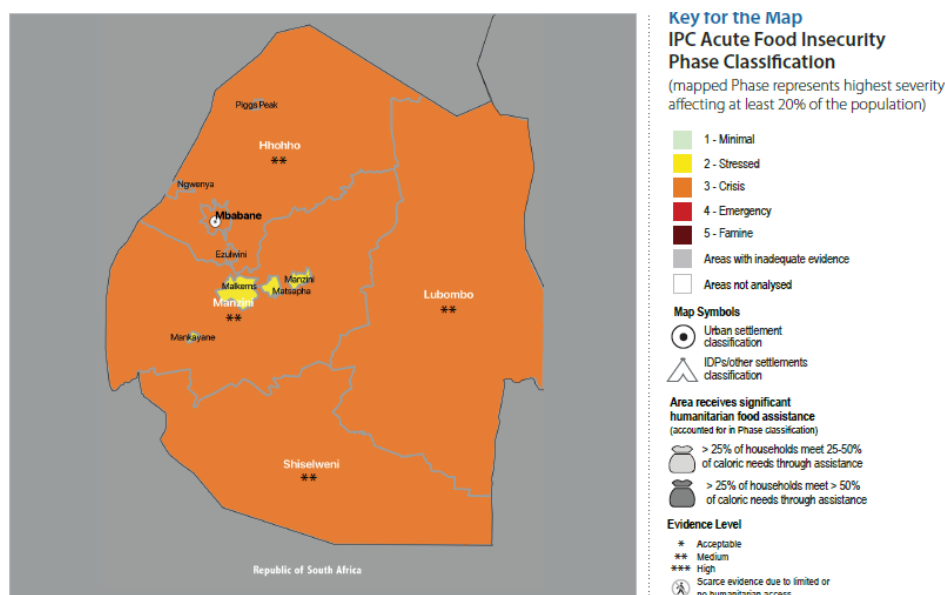
the south eastern part of the country received above average rainfall permitted regrowth of pastures. At the same time, fall armyworm and corn cricket has been reported in the central and southern parts of the country affecting crops.

On 20 May 2019, the Government of Botswana declared a state of drought emergency calling upon all state parties to work together and assist in drought effects mitigations. This after undertaking a drought and Household Food Security (DHFS) assessment in the later parts of March 2019. Despite Government actions to address the effects of the drought emergency as outlined in the mitigation plan for the period July 2019 to June 2020⁵ (e.g. increasing the subsidy on livestock feed to 35%, provision of double supplementary feeding rations for children aged six to 59 months, distribution of basic food packages in ‘deserving’ districts, and introduction of special food packages for moderately and severely underweight children), some gaps still exist, especially for very vulnerable households who may not be on the Government support system for one reason or another. About 38,000 people were projected to be food insecure for the peak lean season of January to March 2020⁶.

Covid-19: Botswana is a net importer of food grains and cereals. Closed borders have a negative impact on the supply of food, which again contributes to price inflation at market level. This is already apparent in the country and in the operations budget. The lockdown may also cause devastating economic impact on the informal workers and small businesses. In rural areas, the livestock sector represents 87% of the agriculture’s contribution to the GDP, but as market demand decreases, incomes from the livestock sector may decline.

Eswatini

In Eswatini, a new Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Analysis was published in August 2020⁷ providing a prognosis until March 2021. The general outlook is that food security situation has and will deteriorate for rural and urban households in Eswatini. Compared with 2019, the country’s food insecurity situation has deteriorated with a notable increase in the proportion of the populations in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and higher.



2 Projected Situation October 2020 - March 2021. IPC Report.

Between June and September 2020, over 330,000 people (29% of the population) were expected to experience high acute food insecurity, of whom 30,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 301,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). In the projected period up to March 2021, the number of people facing high acute food insecurity will likely increase to over 366,000 people (32% of the total population).

The driving factors have and continue to be: 1) Dry spells in November and December 2019 that led to a delayed start of the farming season, which negatively impacted food production in 2020. 2) Loss of employment due to Covid-19 lockdown measures

resulting in loss and/or reduction of income, negatively impacting households’ ability to purchase food and farm inputs. 3) Unusually high commodity prices further restricted food access and exacerbated the already compromised food availability for poorest households.

Shiselweni region, which is the target region under this EA, maintains the same Crisis (IPC Phase 3) classification as in 2019, with an estimated 45% of the population (89,115 people) facing high acute food insecurity and in need of urgent action. An estimated 79,300 people are in Crisis while 9,815 people are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Partially caused by unusually high levels of pests and disease that compromised crop harvests. It is estimated that approximately 31.4 % of households have food stocks that will last them less than two months. An increase in food prices linked to the food supply chains being interrupted by Covid-19 containment measures undermined food access by reducing the purchasing power of households. The food consumption score and household dietary diversity score suggest the region

⁵ Botswana Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, June 2019

⁶ SADC Synthesis report on the state of food and nutrition and vulnerability in Southern Africa, 2019

⁷ Eswatini IPC Analysis June 2020 – March 2021, August 2020: <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1152808/?iso3=SWZ>

is facing Crisis levels of food insecurity overall with 46% of households employing food coping strategies, such as: eating less preferred food (88.6%) and reducing meals (62.1%). A large portion of the population (52%) is adopting crisis and/or emergency coping livelihood strategies. Households reported to have spent savings (37.2%), borrowed money (52.8%) and resorted to begging (28.7%) to meet their food needs. Some of the households in the region have started to sell their productive assets, while others have sold more animals than usual to increase their food purchasing power.⁸

Lesotho

According to the results of the IPC in Lesotho, published also at the end of August 2020⁹, the food security situation for rural households in Lesotho has deteriorated and is deteriorating, despite the ongoing harvest season between May and September 2020. Around 26% of Lesotho's population (380,000 people) are facing high food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and around 33,000 people of these people are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) phase currently in June-September 2020. This is an increase from 2019 when 24% of people were in the same situation, and overall, the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher has increased by a significant 15 % points between 2018 and 2020.

For the projection period October 2020 – March 2021, around 40% of the population (582,000 people) will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse in the. While currently three regions are classified as stressed (IPC Phase 2) until September 2020, including Botha-Bothe targeted under this EA, all 10 districts are projected to experience high acute food insecurity with pockets of highly vulnerable populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the upcoming lean season.

Recurrent drought events in Lesotho are one of the main causes of food insecurity, affecting crop production and food prices, livestock prices, as well as having a serious impact on child nutrition status and health. This year 2019/2020 marked a third year of poor crop production, reduced by 30% during the current period. The reduction is mainly due to erratic rainfall, above average temperatures, late planting and early harvesting by some farmers to prevent frost damage, late onset of conducive seasonal rains, and limited access to agricultural inputs. For mountainous districts including Mokhotlong and Thaba Tseka targeted under this EA, the reduced harvest was caused by poor germination due to low moisture content. For some farmers limited inputs disable them from expanding the area planted. Covid-19 containment measures induced poor access to inputs and machinery making winter cropping almost non-existent, further undermining the performance of the agricultural sector. Lesotho Meteorological Services forecast normal to below normal rainfall in the projection period, which is likely to lead to decrease in income from agricultural labour.

Beside the weather events affecting the agricultural sector, Lesotho has also serious macroeconomic and social challenges exacerbated by political instability that decelerate economic growth in general. This was the case already prior to Covid-19 containment measures, which further exacerbated the economic situation increasing unemployment and reducing remittances, income and purchasing power.

Prices of food commodities have also risen due to Covid-19 measures and the economic situation. Prices for food commodities are expected to increase further when households deplete their stocks and return to purchasing from retailers, also because only larger, formal traders have been granted permits to import from South Africa, giving them a monopoly over the prices. In August 2020, however, the Government of Lesotho introduced a 60% subsidy on all agricultural seeds. Anyone in Lesotho could purchase the subsidised seeds, which were sold in government- run central stores only.

Projected Situation October 2020 - March 2021



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)



⁸ Eswatini IPC Analysis June 2020 – March 2021, August 2020: <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1152808/?iso3=SWZ>

⁹ Lesotho IPC Analysis June 2020 – March 2021, August 2020: http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC%20Lesotho%20AcuteFoodInsecurity2020JulyMarch2021%20Report.pdf

Further factor in increasing the number of food insecure people in Lesotho are the negative impacts of Covid-19 measures on migration and remittances. There are normally an estimated 420,000 migrant workers from Lesotho working formally or informally in South Africa. They normally provide for their families in Lesotho through remittances. Now at least 93,000 migrant workers are estimated to have returned due to lockdown measures in South Africa, having created a major gap in income sources and thousands more unemployed people in Lesotho exhausting their coping strategies. These returned migrants are typically household heads supporting on average five dependents. Now their challenges included – according to the IPC report: lack of food (63%), loss of jobs (61%), lack of income for survival (42%), and poor health conditions (17%).

Namibia

Good rainfall during December 2019 and January 2020 resulted in improvements in grazing conditions, water supply and livestock body conditions in general in Namibia. However, the area around southern Angola and north and western Namibia, where also the Red Cross target area Kunene lies, remain unfavourable due to persistent dry conditions through much of the season. Drought conditions continued to impact the livelihoods of various communities negatively in those areas. Household food security remains weak particularly in the rural areas where most households are reported to have no food reserve left following a failed agricultural production due to severe and devastating drought conditions experienced last season.¹⁰ Covid-19 lockdown measures have exacerbated the food insecurity situation also in Namibia causing loss of jobs, livelihoods and income.

According to 2019 IPC Analysis carried out in October 2019, the projection was that between April and September 2020, an estimated 360,000 (15% of the population) people were expected to experience severe acute food insecurity, including Kunene region targeted under this EA.¹¹ While the new IPC assessment has already been carried out, it is not yet published at the time of reporting. Preliminary results indicate however, that also in Namibia the food insecurity situation has deteriorated and now 433 000 people, 20% of the total population of Namibia, is facing high acute food insecurity (Phase 3 or higher).¹²

SUMMARY OF CURRENT RESPONSE

The secondment of the Finnish Red Cross delegate to the IFRC Southern Africa Cluster to support IFRC in coordinating this multi-country Emergency Appeal has been extended from 6 to 9 months to cover currently until the end of 2020.

Botswana

Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) has designed a relief programme to augment government efforts to reduce the impacts of droughts. BRCS supports targeted 1,550 households in four districts that were worst hit by drought, namely Central, Southern, South East and Kgalagadi North. The operation is implemented in 12 communities within these districts where BRCS already has capacity: Kang, Lehututu, Lekgwabe, Mabule, Kanye, Moshupa, Tlokweng, Sefhare, Mmadinare, Tonota, Shashemooke and Dukwi.

To date BRCS has organised stakeholder consultations, carried out household assessments and identified beneficiaries, procured suppliers and goods, reprioritised and adjusted activities to Covid-19. Food distributions were started in May 2020 for 150 households. In June 2020, another 150 households were added to the beneficiaries bringing the total to 300, who are being supported monthly. BRCS also set up the first six demonstration gardens for the households supported to set up their own.

BRCS intervention planning was shared for inputs at district level and were informed by stakeholder consultations. The government of Botswana is leading the drought response in the country and BRCS as an auxiliary held national level stakeholder consultations with the National Disaster Management Office, different departments at the Ministry of Agriculture Development and Food Security and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, as well as with District Development Committees, sub district and village extension teams at district level. Consultations are an ongoing process continuing throughout the intervention.

For community identification, the National Society district teams together with Headquarters staff liaised with district stakeholders to identify potential households and undertook households' assessments with support from the Social and Development departments. Where the district government had already started profiling, they provided potential lists of households for BRCS endorsement, while in most cases assessments were conducted by BRCS. BRCS plan is to assist beneficiaries who will not benefit from government support due to shortage of resources.

¹⁰ SADC Food Security Quarterly Update Issue 3, April 2020: Season: 2019-2020, January to March 2020

¹¹ IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, Government of the Republic of Namibia, October 2019.

¹² IPC Regional Update, Southern Africa, August 2020

BRCS human resources are stretched due to ongoing Covid-19 response needs coupled with public limitations, restrictions. Food security being a priority issue, the National Society is committed to continuing the implementation of the drought operation alongside the Covid-19 operation and utilizes available volunteer resources to support the staff.

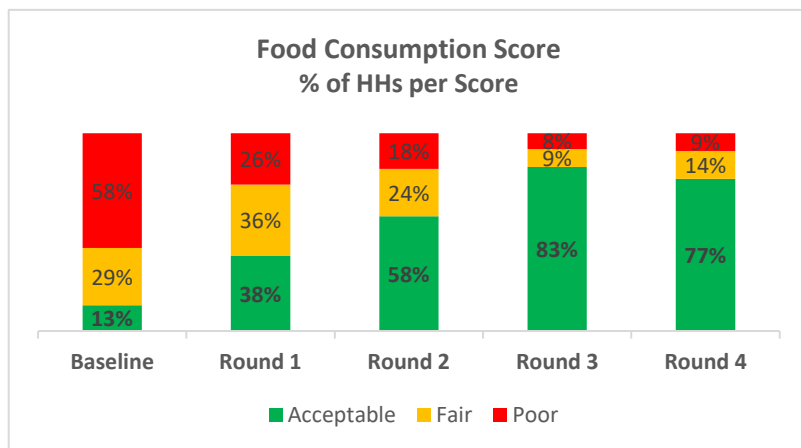
BRCS does not have partner National Societies present in the country. The IFRC is represented by a Disaster Preparedness Delegate based in the capital, Gaborone, since the end of January 2020. IFRC and BRC were together able to secure ECHO funding for a food security/livelihood intervention for the North-East district.

The National Society works closely with the IFRC Cluster and ICRC in South Africa on the development of the National Society and increasing fundraising opportunities.

BRCS is a member of the National Disaster Management Technical Committee and thus experiences strong cooperation with the Government of Botswana in disaster/emergencies responses. The Society contributed to the Government led drought assessment.

Eswatini

By the end of the reporting period, BERCS had completed preparatory activities of the intervention and the four planned mobile cash distributions. The preparatory activities included for instance consultations and meetings with communities and local authorities, beneficiary identifications and registrations, as well as volunteer briefings. BERCS baseline survey on the target household's food consumption score (FCS) and coping mechanisms were carried out alongside the registration. While in the baseline 58% scored Poor, after the four rounds of cash distributions only 9% scored Poor while 77% scored Acceptable, indicating that the basic needs cash support had been used as planned.



BERCS Post distribution monitoring (PDM) results showed that respondents reported 98.1% of money was spent on food, 31% on coal/fuel/firewood and 25% on health for round 3, and the number of meals had increased for most interviewed families after second and third round distributions.

Number of meals	Before	After
Four and above	0.6	5.7
Three	31.8	77.7
Two	59.2	16.6
One	8.3	0

Price monitoring has also been carried out and 79% of BERCS PDM respondents reported that prices for basic commodities had increased, which confirms IPC projections. Meanwhile a market assessment that was planned to be conducted together with the WFP has been cancelled after discussions with WFP fell through. Meanwhile telephone consultations are planned with bigger markets.

BERCS has implemented cash-based interventions since 2016 and has gained substantial experience in managing such emergency operations. The 2020 cash-based intervention under this Emergency Appeal and Finnish Red Cross and ECHO support is a continuation of a 2019 programme that was funded by the Finnish Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs humanitarian funding. BERCS is supported in country by Finnish Red Cross delegate.

Disaster Management (DM) work is core to the work of BERCS operations and the National Society has extensive experience in responding to localised emergencies in the country. Working closely with communities in affected areas, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) considerations are mainstreamed into operations, to define the criteria used to identify the populations most vulnerable to effects of hunger and to ensure that the most deserving people are reached with humanitarian assistance.

The selected communities have a local Red Cross branch and volunteers have been assigned to the two projects; 12 volunteers in each constituency work for the two projects simultaneously. The local BERCS branches are governed by a regional branch, located in the town of Nhlanguano. The regional branch is staffed by one field officer and one field assistant. The local Red Cross branches do not have paid staff, only volunteers.

Lesotho

LRCS completed its five rounds of multipurpose mobile cash distributions during the reporting period for 2005 households and carried out trainings for lead farmers on community based basic agriculture practices and climate change adaptation as well as disaster risk reduction. The trainings build the capacities of the lead farmers who may then guide also other beneficiaries in these topics and skills. The trainings served also as the preparation for the planting season for which LRCS is procuring suppliers to sell seeds and shade nets to beneficiaries at local fairs, where beneficiaries may use LRCS vouchers.

These activities were preceded in the first quarter of 2020 by preparatory activities such as stakeholder meetings to identify and coordinate on targeted areas and transfer values for planned support, beneficiary identification, verification and registration, financial service provider (FSP) procurement, as well as suggestions boxes for community feedback. The entry point for beneficiary selection was through verification and validation of National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA) for all humanitarian actors responding to drought. Distributions were started in March and continued in April, reaching 2005 households.

The national society has two programmes, namely, Disaster Management that aims to improve the capacity of communities and National Society to respond to disasters through capacity building and community empowerment. Health and social services that aims at reducing the number of illnesses, deaths, and impact from diseases and public health emergencies by improving the quality of life of People Living with HIV and AIDS and other chronic illnesses, including vulnerable communities, through provision of Primary Health Care Services as well as First Aid training. LRCS operates in all ten districts of Lesotho and has approximately 10,000 volunteer base who carry out almost 90% of the humanitarian work of the national society. This Emergency Appeal response is in line with National Society's 2018 to 2022 strategic plan on strengthening and enhanced disaster and environmental management systems. The current actions build upon the National Society's history of Disaster Response actions that foster community resilience in natural and manmade disasters.

IFRC is not represented in-country in Lesotho but is supporting LRCS covid-19 response in addition to this Emergency Appeal, and a British Red Cross seconded delegate was deployed in country to support the design of the intervention. Of partner National Societies, Belgium Red Cross supports LRCS's First Aid in schools and disaster response, ICRC supports a Restoring Family Links project and German Red Cross is piloting forecast based financing project. LRCS adolescence corner in Health facilities is supported by Shoken Fund, and Wales is supporting WASH and Hygiene promotion in school.

The Disaster Management Authority (DMA) at national level (including Disaster Management Forum) and the District Disaster Management Team (DDMT), which includes representatives of various ministries, are in place in country. LRCS is a member of the DMA and, therefore, enjoys strong cooperation with the Government in disaster/emergencies responses. The National Society contributes to the food security and livelihoods (FSL), nutrition, health and WASH clusters of the Authority.

Lesotho has social safety nets in place through its Ministry of Social Development which provided financial resources to support the chronically most vulnerable families and elderly through pensions provided by the Ministry of Finance. This assistance is managed through a domestic database that covers most of the rural population (socio-economic ranking of households through community targeting approach), called NISSA (National Information System for Social Assistance).

LRCS currently partners with UN agencies, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through the DMA. In response to drought, United Nations/WFP and World Bank are currently implementing a six-month cash transfer project in the northern and southern regions of Lesotho respectively. This is to support the immediate food assistance needs.

Namibia

Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) was supported by British Red Cross delegate to carry out a needs and markets assessment and cash feasibility study in the first quarter. The mission was cut slightly short due to foreseen Covid-19 containment measures but provided the National Society with most recommendations needed for moving forward in designing the response. Covid-19 operational planning and implementation have taken up much of NRCS human resources since the end of March and together with Government imposed movement restrictions and assembly limitations have undermined NRCS capacity to advance the operation in schedule.

NRCS was experiencing also a staffing shortage to effectively respond to its three on-going IFRC supported operations beside its other programmes, and challenges/delays in identifying and recruiting the needed personnel. Recruitment for a new DM officer and a regional officer were completed in August.

In June-August the procurement for a financial service provider was prepared with the support of IFRC Cluster and cash and procurement specialists. The service provider is expected to be contracted in September and cash distributions started right away thereafter.

NRCS has over 8 staff and 80 volunteers who are involved in various community-based interventions, including food security programming. NRCS has branches in eight regions, but covers ten regions through its operations: Zambezi, Kavango-East and West, Otjozondjupa, Oshana, Oshikoto, Oshana, Kunene, Omusati and Khomas. The NRCS supports the Government of Namibia in their humanitarian efforts according to the priority needs of the people in the country. The National Society has strong Government and community relations in areas that are affected by drought. Additionally, the National Society has established good working relationships in all the regions with other stakeholders through existing coordination platforms.

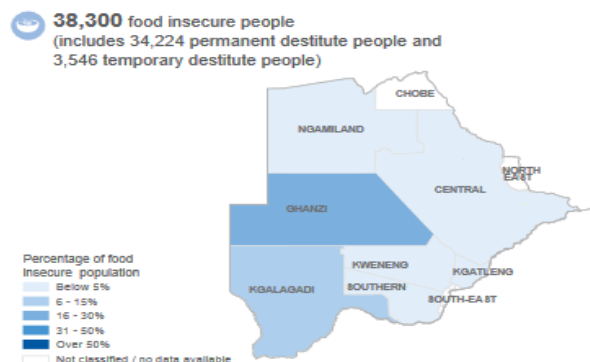
Complementing Government efforts on food security and nutrition in the country, NRCS works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry as well as the Ministry of Health and Social Services to identify vulnerable areas where the Society can add value to the lives of people using its comparative advantages of wide coverage of ground structures.

There is no IFRC representation in Namibia, but NRCS is supported by British Red Cross, German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross and the partners have kindly offered their delegate support also to the Emergency Appeal planning. NRCS has funding also from USAID and the German and Japanese Governments for rehabilitating water points, as well as from the WFP for in-kind food distributions.

Needs analysis

Regional: A small component of the Emergency Appeal has a regional focus on providing technical, surge and operational support across the southern Africa region, including for other countries with ongoing Emergency Appeals (Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia) to ensure continuous needs analyses and timely updates/revisions as may be necessary. This regional component is also important as food insecurity may trigger people to move in search of better opportunities. This process will also link to long-term resilience building and strengthening National Societies to streamline cross-cutting components of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and strengthening communication, monitoring systems and the documentation and sharing of lessons learnt to improve the IFRC's capacity for evidence-based advocacy.

Botswana



Regional Socio-Economic Context

Total population:	2.2M (2017)	Rural population:	0.78M (36% total population)
Life expectancy	68 yrs (2011)	Unemployment Rate	17.6% (2017)
Population Growth Rate	1.69% (2017)	Average GDP Growth	4.5% (2018)
Human Development Index	0.717 (2017)	Under 5 Mortality Rate	37.6 per 1,000 live births
Adult Literacy	88.7% (2015/16)	Inflation	3.2% (2018)
		HIV and AIDS	20.3% (2018)

Figure 3: Source: Botswana Vulnerability Assessment Committee Results 2019- Food Insecurity Situation

The 2019 assessment and projection indicated that more than 38,000 people would be food insecure in the months from January to March 2020, with the potential of malnutrition in some areas. The above accumulates to about 9,500 households spread across disadvantaged regions like Ngamiland, Kgalagadi, Southern and Central districts. A new assessment has taken place but has not yet been published and the earlier figures are still referred to.

Immediate needs of affected communities were in areas of livelihoods and basic needs support -food for both people and livestock as well as capacity to strengthen food production.

After assessments in the first quarter of 2020, BRCS concluded that people's food needs are most pertinent, exacerbated by Covid-19 containment measures, while rains received had alleviated the pressure of fodder for animals.

Eswatini

The freshly updated IPC Report for Eswatini, and more specifically for Shiselweni region targeted under this EA, project that the region remains in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) until March 2021 with around 50% of the population (99,126 people) facing high acute food insecurity. Purchasing power will likely be reduced due to Covid-19-induced income losses. Food supply chains and markets are expected to remain functional and stocked, which is seconded by BERCS PDM results were 99,4% of respondents reported markets functional, and borders with South Africa open to facilitate food imports,

while delays may take place due to movement restrictions. Households' food stocks are expected to be depleted with progression of the lean season and households will be more dependent on markets for food, making a stable source of income and purchasing power necessary for coping. The need is therefore to reduce food consumption gaps and to protect livelihoods by providing agricultural inputs and supporting self-reliance e.g. through backyard garden.

BERCS PDM results show that because of previous planting season some of the respondents did not plant at all this year and others received poor harvest. Therefore, BERCS sees the need for continued support to start already early this year. The government provided support for over 300 000 people in need due to Covid-19. This support was accorded in the EA targeted areas after the months of Red Cross support covering August and September 2020. To align with this, BERCS sees the need for continued support from October 2020 onward.

Lesotho

Since food production will remain below the five-year-average and food imports from South Africa will continue, albeit with delays at border control, food availability will be a minor limiting factor to food security in the country, according to the IPC report. However, food access is expected to be a major limiting factor in all districts due to reduced personal production, higher food prices and reduced purchasing power¹³. The IPC report prediction is supported by LRCS price monitoring results whereby staple food prices have increased by 2% on average surpassing the purchasing power of LRCS beneficiaries. The needs therefore lie in reducing food consumption gaps and protecting livelihoods of vulnerable people in the country. Priorities include immediate humanitarian assistance for all households in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3) or higher and the provision of agricultural inputs to farming households that cannot afford access to inputs, while longer term resilience building is also needed. LRCS sees the need to restart cash for food and basic needs early in line with the expected early onset of the lean season in October-November 2020 and to carry it on until April 2021 when the first harvests are expected.

Namibia

In 2019, the late onset of the rainy season and early departure of rains induced a shorter rainy season punctuated by dry spells that affected ground and surface water recharge, thereby accelerating dry conditions. Further, excessive heat that ensured heightened effective evapo-transpiration that increased dryness. As such, water levels in most water bodies decreased and dried up, creating numerous waters needs for domestic use and livestock.

Specific impacts in the critically affected communities, alongside agriculture (food insecurity), include a reduction in access to clean and safe water for human and animal consumption and for agricultural production. The Government of Namibia, with the support of its stakeholders, carried out IPCs Acute Analysis in October 2019¹⁴. According to the report, the critically affected sectors include food security, health, education, WASH, energy and livestock diseases.

To address the identified food insecurity needs, NRCS will employ both longer-term livelihoods support and basic immediate needs support.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Botswana

Following assessment results and Covid-19 implications, as well as limited funding available under the EPoA, BRCS decided to prioritise the use of resources for food support and gardening supplies to people and to deprioritise fodder for the time being. The need for the fodder or other livestock support will be revisited as needed during assessments in the last quarter of 2020, following also the results of the rainy season and the predicted La Niña impact.

BRCS original plan was to provide people with vouchers for food. Growing concerns of the spread of Covid-19 during the reporting period made it difficult however for suppliers to commit to proposed supply and distribution of goods. This first delayed procurement of suppliers and later the restrictions adopted by the government of Botswana to observe extreme social distancing and the associated limits on travel affected the voucher plans. Community could no longer access suppliers to collect food packages, so BRCS moved to procure the food stuffs and arrange for in-kind distribution to target households by volunteers. This requires more volunteer and logistics resources than foreseen but can be managed within the existing budget framework. At the same time, the restrictions and strict controls at borders,

¹³ Lesotho IPC Analysis June 2020 – March 2021, August 2020:

http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC%20Lesotho%20AcuteFoodInsecurity2020JulyMarch2021%20Report.pdf

¹⁴ http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_AcuteFoodInsecurity_Namibia_2019Oct2020Sept.pdf

meant suppliers were faced with increased logistical costs and are passing these costs to consumers. Therefore, there has been an observed increase in commodity prices, that affects the previously planned prices for food packages, quantities and package contents.

In June 2020, BRCS was able to resume the use of vouchers for the food distributions and is looking to improve its voucher system to allow for flexibility and choice for the beneficiaries in terms of commodities available to purchase with the voucher.

With the current funding it is foreseen to support the establishment or renovation of 100 gardens (EPoA target 1000) The gardening support was initially planned as in-kind support. It is now foreseen, however, to implement it through a voucher modality allowing for flexibility and choice to the beneficiaries. The garden set up goes together with food security training and demonstrations on construction of water efficient back yard gardens for volunteers and beneficiaries. BRCS backyard gardens are promoting the use of household grey water and harvesting rainwater during rainy seasons in order to save and make use of existing resources. Tyres will be used as pots for growing plants/vegetables, as they can easily be filled with good quality fertile soil and/or compost. The garden structure will have a fibre/plastic roofing at the top with a gutter installed to allow rainwater collection in a 5000 litre tank. It will also have a basin to collect or to be filled with used water or gray water that will be used for irrigation. At least 4 types of different vegetables can be grown in the gardens.

The Covid-19 containment measures in force in the country meant that face-to-face CEA activities, such as briefings on the distributions could not be safely implemented as planned, but were instead carried out by phone communications, which included also key messaging related to Covid-19 prevention measures. Trainings for communities will not be organised before it is deemed safe to do so. BRCS is to maximise on the available CEA funding and to create synergies under the simultaneous drought and Covid-19 operations to create a unified BRCS hotline for communities to provide feedback and to get information. Now, feedback is collected through continuous consultations at different levels.

Eswatini

BERCS sees no need to change the operational strategy as the planned activities are the ones needed and recommended for the existing needs. The operation continues with the target to provide cash-based assistance to 5,000 households during the peak of the hunger gap, followed by support for the construction of back-yard gardens for 1,000 households and improved seed distribution for 1,000 households during the planting season in September 2020. Considering on one hand the households so far reached, and on the other projections and persistent needs, it is decided that basic cash support will be provided again in the upcoming lean season 2020-2021. Target for now remains the same 5,000 households, while following assessments expanding the targeted area within Shiselweni and raising the number of people targeted may come into question. Implementation will follow the funding available.



4Beneficiary being assisted 3rd July to receive her third payment in Eswatini.

instead of face-to-face, with reduced sample sizes and targeting only those with phone access. All these examples demonstrate first and foremost the flexibility, creativity and willingness of the National Society to advance and carry out quality programming despite restrictive circumstances. Similar adjustments may be required also in the remaining operational months.

Lesotho

While the strategy remains the same, Covid-19 related limitations and restrictions in Eswatini meant adjustments to the implementation practicalities and delays: large distributions had to be broken down to accommodate only allowed number of people at once. This meant several smaller events instead of a big one, many more days and much more human resources and logistics involved. Logistics in general have required a lot of changes and additional time to abide by distancing protocols and to keep everyone safe – communities, volunteers and staff alike. BERCS as well as its financial service providers have experienced delays in completing essential paperwork while observing distance working requirements resulting in slight delays in some transfers. Post distribution monitoring and exist surveying have been carried out via phone

In Lesotho, no significant changes are foreseen in the operational strategy. Targeting and activities remain the same: unconditional cash transfers, restricted cash transfers and agricultural inputs. In addition to the unconditional cash transfers already done for lean season 2020, mobile cash transfers are now foreseen also for the 2020-2021 lean season starting exceptionally early from November 2020 until April 2021 when the harvest is expected. Unconditional cash transfers are planned for a period of 6 months from November to April for the most vulnerable, while for those able, three months of transfers are conditional to households rehabilitating or establishing community assets.

Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee reassessed the transfer value based on food basket cost during the reporting period and raised it from CHF 42 to CHF 47 per household. LRCS will therefore readjust also its transfer value for the new cash transfers based on this amount, while calculating the amount per household based on the number of members in the household.

In addition to cash for basic needs, the target of 2,760 households remains for receiving seeds and agricultural inputs during the 2020 planting season currently under implementation. Out of 2,760 targeted, the target is to select 200 as lead farmers trained on climate smart agriculture and food conservation/preparation. LRCS wants to ensure families involved in farming as per normal livelihoods, have the agricultural inputs to plant for the next season and support their food security for the next marketing year (2020/2021).

The Government subsidy on seeds has made the seeds now more affordable to everyone. The subsidy may however put suppliers'/retailers' business at risk as privates may purchase directly from the government stores. At the same time the government run seed stores are not easily available for the beneficiaries targeted under this EA who live in remote areas, especially for those in the mountainous districts. Therefore, in order to support the beneficiaries with improved access to agricultural inputs and to support the local economy, LRCS has opted to use supplier seed fairs close to the beneficiaries that will function with value vouchers.

Like the other countries, Lesotho is also impacted by Covid-19 containment measures limiting public gatherings and enforcing distancing. This has affected LRCS's implementation practicalities requiring adaptations but has not implicated changes in the operational strategy.

LRCS aims to support the poorest targeted families not covered by existing social assistance and other humanitarian actors in this period of limited labor opportunities and food production. LRCS expects to provide financial assistance during this emergency time and to engage with those communities through the identification and development of community assets that will support resilience and recovery of communities.

Namibia

Based on the recommendations of the need's assessment carried out during the first quarter, the National Society will focus the intervention in line with available funding, resources and capacities to one constituency in Kunene region instead of two. NRCS has therefore proposed to focus on Khorixas for the time being. After further deliberation and information gathering NRCS also concluded that seed and gardening activities are not a priority in the targeted constituencies. These activities will therefore be removed from the action plan and emphasis will be put on reaching more beneficiaries with basic needs, cash support and rehabilitating water sources for longer term livelihoods support. Funding allowing NRCS will investigate including beneficiaries from Sesfontein constituency for the basic needs cash support as originally foreseen.

In practice then, with the current funding, this intervention will focus on the provision of immediate food and basic needs support through cash or in-kind grants to 1,140 families (EPoA target 2,500) in the targeted constituencies through unconditional/multipurpose cash grants of CHF 42 on a monthly basis for a period of 4 months, beginning in September 2020 – to be increased to 6 month funding allowing. For this transfer value, the national food basket value of CHF 34 was used with an additional CHF 8 to cover transport to the nearest town for distribution and a reserve to cover for transaction costs. Since this will be a multipurpose assistance, recipients may use the grant based on their household needs and priorities.

To ensure access to water for animals and households, the operation will support the rehabilitation of 15 strategically located water points in the two constituencies that will benefit at least 200 households (1,000 people). Finally, 20 people throughout the constituency will be identified and form part of a water point committees.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Botswana



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 300 HH (approx. 1500 people)

Male: NS is working to collect detailed breakdown information.

Female:

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihoods support	1,550 HH (7750 ppl).	1,500 people (300 households)

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households receiving food vouchers	300 HH (1500 ppl).	300

Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households receiving garden tools and seeds.	1000 HH	0
# of households receiving livestock feed vouchers	250 HH	0
# of households receiving livestock feed vouchers.	250 HH*	0
# of PDM and Post-Harvest Monitoring done	n/a	3

Output 1.4: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with CEA messages	7750 ppl	2515

Progress towards outcomes

For much of quarter 1 and 2, BRCS carried out preparatory activities, including stakeholder consultations, community/household assessments for beneficiary identification and registration. BRCS was able to identify 2515 potential beneficiaries for the time being. Due to Covid-19 containment measures affecting prices, procurements, logistics and overall planning, BRCS was slightly delayed in its distributions. Distributions were started in May, reaching at first 150 HH. Another 150HH were added in June, bringing the total to 300HH all households will be supported for 6 months, so half of the HH will receive support a month longer than the other half who started earlier.

Due to nationwide movement restrictions related to Covid-19 containment measures, BRCS adjusted its food support modality from vouchers to in-kind food parcels to be delivered to households in May. In June BRCS was able to return to the original voucher plan. Currently BRCS is in the process of refining its voucher database system to allow beneficiary choice and options for goods to be purchased.

BRCS needs assessment revealed also that rains had alleviated the pressure on fodder need, while food support needs persisted and were in general exacerbated by Covid-19 border closures, limitations and restrictions. Therefore, to prioritise in line with available funding and needs, BRCS focuses on the food needs and gardening. Fodder is left out of the EPOA plan and the budget is redistributed to food and gardening activities, without the total changing.

BRCS set up six demonstration gardens during June-August 2020 and is looking to expand the gardening support during September onward to the 100 households foreseen. The six demonstration gardens went along a food security training and demonstrations on construction of water efficient back yard gardens. Over 130 volunteers and beneficiaries participated.

Community briefings on the voucher modalities were adjusted to fit Covid-19 containment measures. In the briefings on voucher system beneficiaries were made aware of open channels for feedback and complains launch. BRCS has carried out 3 PDMs in June-August – reports are pending.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved NS Capacity to respond timely and appropriately during emergencies.	n/a	n/a

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that participated in the operation	50	75

Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Senior management team, Board members and Branch committees that participated in the OCAC process	35 ppl	0

Progress towards outcomes

The district offices, field officers and volunteers were involved in the identification, assessment and distribution of food this in a way brought together district NS Rapid Response Teams, built rapport and through meetings and trainings their knowledge and readiness are improved. Particularly the Sefhare, Tonota, and Tlokweng offices. Volunteers have an important role in BRCS intervention, yet at the start of the operation was difficult to engage volunteers on monthly basis as activities were short time. Finally, when engaged, volunteers were part of the community/household assessments carried out to identify and register households, and the adjusted distribution plans with in-kind deliveries required more volunteer hours than foreseen with the original voucher modality. BRCS volunteers are also sought for by the Botswanan government for their response purposes attesting to the capacity of BRCS and its volunteers – 150 of them were engaged in government food distributions in May. Volunteers are also needed closely in guiding beneficiaries in setting up their backyard gardens.

Furthermore, as BRCS is also implementing a Covid-19 operation in tandem with this one, all volunteers have been trained also in Covid-19 safety measures and awareness raising efforts are included in all BRCS activities. Botswana Red Cross staff and volunteers supported 15 communities in Kgalagadi, Chobe, Ngamiland, Northern areas to construct traditional handwashing stations (called sikupu) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in areas where the cash-based intervention was being implemented to alleviate impacts of food insecurity. Volunteers set up water points in different communities and outside institutions to avail potable water for handwashing, especially for the elderly, sick and people living with disabilities who struggled to travel far to collect water. Following construction of the waterpoints, volunteers spent time educating communities about COVID-19 and its prevention and demonstrating correct handwashing techniques at both the waterpoints, and the cash registration and collection points.

BRCS has initial plans to embark on OCAC process supported by IFRC Southern Africa Cluster. The Cluster NSD delegate was supposed to visit BRCS in March/April for planning purposes, but this plan is suspended for now due to Covid-19 restrictions.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Quality planning and implementation ensured	n/a	n/a

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Provided support for initial operational start-up	n/a	2

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination and stakeholder engagement meetings done	n/a	narrative

Progress towards outcomes

The designing of the intervention was supported by IFRC surge DM delegate for one week in February in addition to which the IFRC Cluster Operations Manager, was involved to support notably beneficiary identification in country in February.

As of February, there is IFRC DP Delegate in-country to coordinate IFRC's ECHO funded Regional Disaster Risk Reduction project in cooperation with SADC. Being in-country, the delegate can support the National Society also in the other ongoing operational management and act as link between the IFRC Cluster and the National Society.

A CEA and PGI introduction training are planned with BRCS for September supported by the IFRC Cluster PGI/CEA officer.

There are very few humanitarian organisations in country and while more could be done in terms of coordination, the Government of Botswana is leading all emergency responses, including targeting. BRCS therefore pays careful consideration and undertook capacitation to prepare and facilitate that not only are stakeholders aware and partake in the project but also that most of the work is facilitated at the district level by District officers and field officer working with volunteers and government officials at the district. This has broadened the working relations and rapport at the district and accountability of both branches and NS offices at district. The national society is also expected to present the progress report to the Rural Development Council chaired by the Vice President in the Council August 2020 sitting.

BRCS also carried out consultations for the intervention with different national stakeholders: The National Society successfully consulted 3 ministries, 4 districts, 8 subdistricts and 12 villages during initial stakeholder consultations, including Ministry of Presidential Affairs and Administration National Disaster management Office; Ministry of Agriculture Development and food security Department of Crop Production, Department of Animal Health and Production and Department of Horticulture; Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Department of social protection and Rural development council secretariat. At community level BRCS consulted Village Development Committees, and the Village Extension Teams made up of representatives of all Extension Departments in the village. Consultations at each level are ongoing processes expected to continue throughout the intervention.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Increased Government support to NS	n/a	n/a

Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of initiatives supported by Government	n/a	narrative

Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved funding for emergency appeal from cooperates and national institutions.	n/a	1

Output S3.2.3 National Societies are supported in resource and partnership development (from both domestic markets and foreign sources).

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Developed resources mobilisation strategy	1	narrative

Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of reports submitted timely	12	4

Progress towards outcomes

The Government of Botswana supports BRCS and its social protection programme. BRCS is included in the national DM structures at all levels. Also, in relation to the drought/food insecurity response, the Government is leading the response planning and for instance subsidises livestock.

A team of IFRC Southern Africa Cluster visited BRCS in February 2020 to have a skills-sharing workshop on a variety of National Society Development topics, including strengthening BRCS auxiliary role, as well as resource mobilization and development. As a follow-up, BRCS has developed its own resource mobilization and fund-raising ideas and have been approaching various organisations for funding opportunities. This Emergency Appeal has so far attracted partner National Societies (pNSs) and foreign government humanitarian funding. However, BRCS has been able to attract private sector and UNICEF/UNDP funding for its Covid-19 intervention. IFRC Cluster Communications Officer shared tips on National Society visibility and profiling communication. Given the first quarter was mainly preparatory activities, reporting was started in April 2020.

Eswatini



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 14,379 people,

Male: 6,661

Female: 7,718

Out of whom 167 household heads (113 females and 54 males) are living with disabilities

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihoods support	5,000 HH	2,300 HH

Output 1.2: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached through cash transfers	5000 HH	2300 HH
# of PDM carried out	4	4

Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families supported with backyard gardens	1000 HH	0
# of people reached through training sessions	500 HH	0

Progress towards outcomes

By the end of August 2020, BERCS had covered 2,300 households with four rounds of multipurpose cash transfers reaching 14,379 people (7718 females and 6661 males; out of whom 167 household heads 113 females and 54 males) are living with disabilities. The distributions were preceded by stakeholder consultations, assessments, identification, selection and registrations, FSP procurements and volunteer briefings/trainings.

Post-distribution monitoring (PDMs) was carried out after each round of cash transfers to beneficiaries the end results were established against the baseline conducted in the beginning. Please see some of the key results reached on page 7 of this report.

The National Society and WFP had planned to conduct a market assessment, but due to Covid-19 precautions the discussions finally fell through, while the exchange of data collection tools were completed, the planning was frustrated by assembly restrictions for volunteer trainings on market assessment, and the lockdown restricting transportation and movements.

Outputs under 1.3 are planned for September 2020 and will be carried out through conditioned vouchers, conditioned by the attendance in climate smart agriculture trainings before receiving the grant to purchase inputs at a fair.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved NS Capacity to respond timely and appropriately during emergencies.	n/a	n/a
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that participated in the operation	50	22
Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on CEA	n/a	22
# of assessments carried out	n/a	2
# of volunteers who have signed Code of Conduct	n/a	tbs
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>BERCS has engaged and trained/briefed 22 volunteers for the intervention (18 females, 8). males. One has dropped out thence having gained employment) and maintains good volunteer management practices: Volunteer database has been developed and volunteers were insured. In the kick-off meeting volunteers were oriented on the project, on Kobo, and on PGI and CEA. A full training on PGI and CEA was planned for March/April with IFRC engagement but had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 travel limitations. Awareness sessions were nevertheless carried out. On 18 March, a refresher meeting with the volunteers was held, where the project activities were run through, along with the tasks of the volunteers per activity. The RCRC Principles and Code of Conduct were reiterated. The Code will also be signed by all volunteers when the next face to face sessions are again possible after Covid-19 restrictions. Lead volunteers were selected per constituency to assist in handling some concerns from the volunteers and psycho-social support is made available, but no reported needs for now. Volunteer meetings are carried out monthly, together with open and constant communication to allow volunteers to register or report issues. Due to Covid-19 the monthly meetings were not possible in the reporting period though and costs on mobile data and volunteers' access to smart phones undermined the plan to organize online meetings. WhatsApp group is nevertheless also used for communication, especially during Covid-19 safety measures. Transport for volunteers was provided for some activities especially in cases where they contribute their time and efforts outside of their chiefdoms.</p> <p>A baseline survey on the target household's food consumption score (FCS) and coping mechanisms were carried out alongside beneficiary registration. Out of the total respondents, 13% scored Acceptable, 29% scored Fair, and 58% scored Poor. In the end line survey after 4 rounds of cash distribution 77% scored Acceptable, 14% Fair and 9% poor.</p> <p>Households targeting and registration were informed by PGI issues, while a full baseline PGI assessment was not carried out as planned due to scheduling conflicts, and later with travel restrictions enforced by governments in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The household's selection criteria consider the inclusion of the elderly, chronically ill, disabled and child headed households. Monitoring tools also consider PGI. The PDM tool and has questions on issues of gender-based violence and follow up actions are taken when reported. Focus group discussions sought perceptions of women on being part of the programme and how that impacts life in the household.</p> <p>Communities are well engaged in the operation: household's selection was done by the community members themselves. They followed the selection criteria used under the food security coordination which is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronically ill household head • Disabled (physically/mentally) household head • Child headed household • Household with pregnant or lactating mothers with children under 5 years • Elderly (above 60) headed household • Widow living with orphans under 17 years • Single parent headed household with children under 5 years • Household with depleted assets <p>The community nominated each household, discussed and agreed on the selection criteria that qualifies that individual. If two or more criteria are met, then he or she was listed as a household for assistance. The initial lists were approved and stamped by the Chiefdom Inner Council and later handed over to the Project Team.</p> <p>The initial Chiefdom lists were then used as reference for the households Registration which was done through Kobo. Households convened at their respective chiefdoms and were interviewed and registered by the trained</p>		

BERCS volunteers. Information collected were the household demographics: name and surname of household head, ID and cell phone number of household head, household breakdown (sex and age), household vulnerability, as well as the food consumption and coping mechanisms. The initial lists were then used as basis for verification. The team targeted 11% of the total number of households in both constituencies, but only reached 8% (some areas were hard to reach, and beneficiaries were not found at their houses). Households sampled for the verification were randomly selected but also included those with inconsistent or incomplete data. Some of the key things verified were the selection criteria, family size, ID number and cell phone number of the beneficiaries.

For continuous community feedback BERCS set up a hotline with the support of and hosted at WFP. Feedback and complaints are received and acted upon. A summary sheet is updated regularly, tracking the feedback and complaints received through the different mechanisms, and its status (if resolved or still open). Between June and August 3 complaints were received and they were all resolved with the next distribution round taking place.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Quality planning and implementation ensured	n/a	✓

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge deployment to BERCS and IFRC support missions	n/a	5

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination and stakeholder engagement meetings done	n/a	3

Progress towards outcomes

IFRC is not directly represented in-country in Eswatini, but Finnish Red Cross delegates were deployed bilaterally in the country to support BERCS in its overall cash/food security operation planning, as Finnish Red Cross is the main bilateral partner and contributor to BERCS operation, with the support of ECHO funding. One delegate was deployed to support in designing the overall intervention, two were engaged to support the procurements, particularly for the Financial Service Provider, and financial management set-up, and two persons to support the implementation through quarters one and two, benefitting the coordination of the two sides of BERCS' operation.

In the beginning of the intervention, constituency and chiefdom sensitization meetings were conducted to present information on the project to local stakeholders and to agree allocation of households per chiefdom. In addition, a project kick-off Meeting was organized in January 2020, attended by 30 participants (12 female and 18 male) from different stakeholder organisations mainly working in the region as well as BERCS staff and volunteers. Two coordination meetings and one stakeholder meeting have been organized besides the introductory meetings.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Increased Government support to NS	n/a	n/a

Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of initiatives supported by Government	n/a	narrative

Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of reports submitted in a timely manner	12	6

Progress towards outcomes

The Government of Eswatini supports BERCS' health operations and staff as well as its disaster management. A recent example, the Government started the provision of support for over 300 000 persons in need due to Covid-19. The National Disaster Management Agency convened a food security Cluster meeting with relevant stakeholders (NGOs) to plan around the intervention. BERCS as a member of the Food Security Cluster participated in the discussions and was allocated 10 constituencies (6 in Hhohho region and 4 Shiselweni region) to provide support through the government intervention. BERCS started reporting on advancements after the first quarter's preparatory activities.

Lesotho



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 8309

Registered verified beneficiaries: 2101 female adults, 2068 male adults, 846 children 0<5 years of age and 3006 children 5-17 years of age. Of the beneficiaries, 222 live with a disability.

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihoods support	4600 households (23,000 people) with cash 2760 households (13800 people) with agro-support	8309

Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households receiving garden tools and seeds	2760 HH	0

Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

# of households receiving unconditional cash	4600 HH 1-3months 2600 HH 4-6months	2005
# of households receiving conditional cash (Cash for Assets),	2,000 households (10,000 people) upon details from registration	0
# of PDM and PHM carried out	2	2

Progress towards outcomes

LRCS started the operation with five rounds of unconditional cash grants, which were finalized during the reporting period. Preparatory activities were carried out in the first quarter including community and stakeholder meetings, households' identification, verification and registration, procurement of financial service provider as well as suggestions boxes for community feedback.

July-August included trainings organized for 200 lead farmers selected from among the households receiving cash and agricultural inputs. The trainings on community based basic agriculture practices and climate change adaptation as well as disaster risk reduction built the capacities of the farmers in preparation for the planting season and the agricultural inputs to be provided through the operation. The procurement of suppliers for local fairs, where

beneficiaries may purchase agricultural inputs was also prepared during July-August, while the seed fairs are foreseen for September-October.

Stakeholder meetings were carried out with national Disaster Management Authority, District Disaster Management Teams, Ministry of Social Development and local authorities, as well as with other governmental and non-governmental organisations. The Government welcomed LRCS to implement the activities in all proposed districts and community councils. Consultations were followed by households' identification, selection validation and registration. LRCS had access to deploy 10 DDMT per district to oversee and support the verification and validations exercise. In addition, 10 volunteers were engaged per district and trained in the use of ODK for beneficiary registration, baseline and price-monitoring.

In all districts the entry point for households' targeting, selection, verification and registration was National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA) database/list, which was triangulated with community targeting. Households were verified based on the following criteria: Vulnerable food insecure households, this include household classified under ultra-poor households without any social grant as per NISSA; Child headed Households; Vulnerable Household with people living with disability without any social grant.

LRCS identified 2005 HH (of which 1016 are female headed) comprising 2101 female adults and 2068 male adults, 846 children 0<5 years of age and 3006 children 5-17 years of age. Altogether 222 of the identified potential beneficiaries live with a disability.

LRCS initially targeted 4 districts that are located in the highlands and mountainous range of the country. This included Butha Buthe, Thaba Tseka, Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek, focusing mainly on hard to reach communities councils that are prone to early frost and located within the highest altitude. However, through National humanitarian agencies mapping response plan that was done in January in partnership with UN agencies, Humanitarian actors and World Bank under the coordination of DMA, LRCS dropped one district. Qacha's Nek was dropped from LRCS intervention as World Food Program covered the entire district.

The initial plan was to target 4,600 households in all districts however, the Emergency Appeal was not fully funded, then household target was reduced to 2,005 HH.

Feasibility study for the food insecurity situation and market assessment was carried out in Thaba-tseka, Mokhotlong and Butha Buthe Districts. The assessment indicated that unconditional and unrestricted mobile cash transfer would be feasible for this emergency response and that markets were functional in all towns. In addition, the network coverage for two mobile operators was also assessed. Selection of Mobile service provider for the cash transfer was done considering each network coverage in different regions. Both Vodacom and Econet were selected, through a tender process supported by procurement and IFRC technical delegate.

LRCS market assessment concluded that on average, there was 5% increase in food prices as compared to the baseline, due to limited access to commodities influenced by Covid-19 lockdown regulations.

PDM results showed that in comparison to baseline, there is an improvement on household's food consumption scores where majority (74.6%) of the households fall within adequate category, as opposed to 34.4% at baseline. Mokhotlong had the highest proportion of households with poor food consumption (28.8%), followed by Thaba Tseka (28.1%), Butha Buthe (14.3%). The survey revealed that majority (51%) of the respondents rely on humanitarian assistance for a living. In comparison with the baseline there is a slight improvement from 30% to 14.6% on HH who don't have access to income. In the first month after distribution, 93% of HH spent their income on food and less than 1% indicated to spend income on other items, such as house rent, loan repayment, education, agricultural inputs and purchasing on other household goods. The survey revealed that 70% of HH heavily relied on humanitarian assistance to purchase food from the market. The other most common food sources include own production (19%), and gift from relatives (8%). Undesirable sources such as credit have shown a downward trend from 5% to 3% when compared to the results of the previous baseline. However, 19% rely on own production which include production such as summer vegetables and little harvested grains from the field. Of the respondents, 51% indicated decision on the use of cash are mostly with the females (wife) as it entails mostly expenses on food, while 18% reported husband, 14% and 16% reported collaboration of all household members and wife and husband respectively.

Good mobile network coverage enabled smooth operation of mobile wallet to both agents and target households. As a result of the first cash distribution, retailers indicated an improvement in community purchasing power hence improving the economy of the local market, according to LRCS PDM.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved NS Capacity to respond timely and appropriately during emergencies.	n/a	n/a
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# staff salaries contributed	15	9
# of volunteers and staff trained on Level One Cash	150	15
# of volunteers and staff trained in climate smart agriculture	25	0
Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Senior management team, Board members and Branch committees that participated in the BOCA process	15ppl	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>LRCS has nine staff members engaged in the operation and 18 technical volunteers to support project implementation. BRC seconded IFRC surge capacity was deployed to Lesotho in January for a period of 3 months to support design and set-up the intervention, including financial service provider procurement. LRCS volunteers have gained strong experience of cash programming already in earlier years' operations and there is a pool of volunteers who keep capacitating new volunteers. 15 volunteers were trained earlier (not under this EA) and were regularly refreshed/supported in their skills.</p> <p>Induction workshop was conducted for staff and volunteers in February to give an overview of the project and prepare everyone for the response. The workshop included for example: code of conduct, communication, finance procedures, project delivery modalities, project staff and volunteers' roles and responsibilities, key messages about community participation in targeting and beneficiary registration, Open data kit (ODK) training, report writing and tracking of indicators. To ignite the day, the Secretary General facilitated in LRCS Overview session which entails the structures of the society, Mission and Vision. While the Department of Human resource and administration. The workshop attracted 31 persons from district level (Professional Technical Volunteers, Project Officers and Divisional Secretaries) as well as the Headquarters (Human Resource and Administration, Office of Secretary General, Communications, CEA, Finance, Logistics, fleet services, PMER Office and Disaster Management). All in all, it can be said that LRCS capacity to respond was improved greatly already with this all-encompassing workshop for everyone.</p> <p>LRCS reports also continuous support from the South African cluster on regular basis in Communication, Finance, CEA and PGI as well as overall coordination of the operation. LRCS has carried out BOCA and is planning to engage board members and district branch staff in the processes.</p>		

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
NS is compliant with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance	n/a	narrative
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>LRCS has taken due measures to ensure that everyone in the operation is aware of the Code of Conduct, their duties and responsibilities and as well as with other good humanitarian practices, such as ensuring community participation (see induction workshop under Output 1.1.6). Furthermore, LRCS assures that in all its activities it does not only concentrate on acute or chronic disabilities it further pays special attention to gender, disability, age in order to accumulate all community groups in its intervention.</p> <p>LRCS is currently mainstreaming CEA in all programmes, to allow communities to fully engage and participate in all activities within different stages of the project cycle. Therefore, CEA activities commenced from the targeting exercise where communities were given priority to select vulnerable food insecure household using community-based targeting approach. Further, LRCS introduced a Complaints, Feedback and Response Mechanism's (CFRM), consisting of Suggestion box, Toll free line, and Help desk. 60 suggestion boxes were placed in 60 DPs, and 60 help desks were established in all DPs. Toll Free line is based in Maseru Headquarters and administered by CEA officer. These mechanisms allow communities to freely voice out their grievance's and provide two-way feedback. Close monitoring is done to ensure that complaints are addressed in time depending on the type of complaint. In the PDM conducted by LRCS, 89% of respondents were aware of their right to complain and participate in all levels of the project cycle. Common complaints concerned delayed transfers and the transfer value. On the basis of the delayed cash transfer CEA officer and mobile network operators established that households had lost their sim card,</p>		

while some blocked the pin code. The funds were reversed, and volunteers were deployed to re-register those who blocked their pin code and re-distribute lost sim cards. Then payment was therefore processed within two days. As for the complaint on transfer value, LVAC technical team agreed on M151 per household member after considering the food basket gap.

Communication is another critical component for visibility of the whole operation. IFRC Cluster office supported this component at the initial stage of the development of the appeal. The Red Cross is one of the leading organizations in the Drought Response in Lesotho and have been invited to different media platforms to outline their response plan to draught. LRCS communication department had also collected various case studies, articles, videos and pictures.

Namibia



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 0

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihoods support	3,600 households (18,000 people).	0

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households receiving food support cash/in-kind	2,500 HH (12,500 ppl).	0

Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households receiving garden tools and seeds	3,600 HH	0

Output 1.4: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with CEA messages	7750 people	0

Progress towards outcomes

Needs assessment, market assessment and cash feasibility studies were carried out in Q1, 2020. Based on assessment results, providing unconditional/multipurpose cash grants was feasible, if the right delivery modality is found. The transactions in communities are monetised, markets exist and did not risk major disturbances because of the influx of cash. The assessment recommended to consider National Society capacities and to focus implementation in line with National Society local branch capacities and available funding. Government instituted state of emergency and lockdowns were put in place at the end of Q1 and the National Society started planning and responding to Covid-19 needs. This tied up the limited NRCS human resources and the National Society progress with the drought Emergency Appeal implementation was stalled during Q2. Financial Service Provider tendering has been prepared during Q3 and will be contracted in September. Cash distributions will take place thereafter, currently planned for 1140 households for four months. Funding allowing the number will be increased as well as the length of support to six months to carry over the lean season. NRCS is starting the operations in Khorixas constituency, where priorities are on cash for food support and water point rehabilitations.

The gardening and seed input activities were after further information gathering found not to be a priority in Khorixas constituency, so these are left out of the EPoA. The budget will be moved to reach more people with cash support and possibly also water point rehabilitations, funding allowing.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved NS Capacity to respond timely and appropriately during emergencies.	n/a	n/a

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that participated in the operation	50	15
# of trainings given to volunteers	2	1

Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on CEA	n/a	0

Progress towards outcomes

NRCS was fully participating and engaged in the design and planning of the intervention and the EPoA in the first quarter of 2020. This included the NRCS's Organizational Development (OD) officer conducting a capacity assessment in the region and identifying staffing needs. The NS started the recruitment process in Q2 to identify suitable project staff. This process was delayed however in the lack of finding suitable candidates. Recruitments were finally finalized in August 2020.

Covid-19 also stalled progress with preparatory activities for this Emergency Appeal in Q2, and NRCS's limited human resources were consumed and stretched by the Covid-19 operational planning and response.

A group of 15 volunteers were recruited and received an induction on KoboCollect. The volunteers will receive an additional orientation on CVA.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Quality planning and implementation ensured	n/a	n/a

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge deployment to NRCS and IFRC support missions	n/a	2

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination and stakeholder engagement meetings done	n/a	narrative

Progress towards outcomes

IFRC Cluster operations manager visited NRCS in January-February to provide technical support in the design of the EPoA, accompanying the National Society team in Stakeholder meetings at National and Regional level, as well as with FAO and WFP. NRCS has also bilateral support from British Red Cross, German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross and the partners have kindly offered their delegate support also to the Emergency Appeal planning. British Red Cross delegate was engaged to carry out a needs and markets assessment and cash feasibility study together with the National Society in the first quarter, and a programme delegate supported first by Spanish Red Cross and then the British Red Cross is providing technical support to the NS in livelihoods programming in-country.

The following Stakeholder consultations were included in the assessment in March in both Sesfontein and Khorixas:

- Discussions with regional and constituency administrative authorities and their technical staff, and relevant facilities.
- Focus group discussions with affected communities

- Questionnaires administered through KoBo platform to 359 heads of households in Sesfontein, and to further 195 in Khorixas constituency.
- Key informant interviews: Key informants included traditional leaders, traders and shop managers, health staff, teachers.
- Visit to communities and direct observations

A fire that broke out in a vulnerable informal settlement in Erongo region in July prompted a 4-months DREF operation from NRCS to support those who lost their homes. The operation is also supported by IFRC.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Increased Government support to NS	n/a	-

Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of initiatives supported by Government	n/a	1

Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved funding for emergency appeal from cooperates and national institutions.	n/a	0

Output S3.2.3 National Societies are supported in resource and partnership development (from both domestic markets and foreign sources).

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Developed resources mobilisation strategy	n/a	1

Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of reports submitted in a timely manner	12	0

Progress towards outcomes

NRCS gets an annual allocation from the Government and works closely together notably at the Regional level. NRCS has an existing resource mobilisation strategy, but it hasn't been reviewed under/in relation to this Emergency Appeal. NRCS has had challenges in progressing with the preparatory activities of the intervention as well as reporting after the first quarter owing to Covid-19 operational pressures.

D. Financial Report

The funding requirement of the Emergency Appeal operation was reduced to CHF 7.4 M in the EPoA from the initial CHF 7.7 M in the EA. The reduction in the funding requirements reflects National Societies' priorities and planned activities.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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 (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.**

Emergency Appeal

Interim FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/12-2020/08	Operation	MDR63003
Budget Timeframe	2019/12-2021/02	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 17 Sep 2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDR63003 - Southern Africa - Drought (Food Insecurity Crisis)

Operating Timeframe: 11 Dec 2019 to 11 Feb 2021; appeal launch date: 11 Dec 2019

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	0
AOF2 - Shelter	0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	6,150,000
AOF4 - Health	0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	0
AOF7 - Migration	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	675,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	875,000
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	0
Total Funding Requirements	7,700,000
Donor Response* as per 17 Sep 2020	2,079,558
Appeal Coverage	27.01%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	0	0	0
AOF2 - Shelter	0	0	0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	1,202,962	774,519	428,444
AOF4 - Health	0	0	0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	0	0	0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	0	0	0
AOF7 - Migration	0	0	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	967,782	609,984	357,799
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	488,806	214,214	274,592
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	133,720	0	133,720
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	15	15	0
Grand Total	2,793,285	1,598,731	1,194,554

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2020/08

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	2,786,213
Expenditure	-1,598,731
Closing Balance	1,187,482
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	1,187,482

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	768,800	Reimbursed :	0	Outstanding :	768,800
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Emergency Appeal

Interim FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/12-2020/08	Operation	MDR63003
Budget Timeframe	2019/12-2021/02	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 17 Sep 2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDR63003 - Southern Africa - Drought (Food Insecurity Crisis)

Operating Timeframe: 11 Dec 2019 to 11 Feb 2021; appeal launch date: 11 Dec 2019

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance							0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income	
American Red Cross	368,367				368,367		
British Red Cross	357,929				357,929		
DREF Allocations				768,800	768,800		
Finnish Red Cross	339,942		38,000		377,942		
Japanese Red Cross Society	88,665				88,665		
Red Cross of Monaco	42,780				42,780		
Swedish Red Cross	243,961				243,961		
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Gov	102,960				102,960		
The Netherlands Red Cross	113,774				113,774		
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	321,035				321,035		
Total Contributions and Other Income	1,979,413	0	38,000	768,800	2,786,213	0	
Total Income and Deferred Income					2,786,213	0	