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Emergency Plan of Action

Preliminary Final Report

Malawi: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRMW011	GLIDE n° FL-2015-000006-MWI
Date of issue: 27 April 2016	
Operation Start Date: 22 January, 2015	Operation end date: 21 January 2016)
Appeal Budget: CHF 3,055,497	Appeal Coverage: 79%
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 263,962	Total Estimated Red Cross and Red Crescent response to date: CHF 2,302,436 (187,265 in-kind)
N° of People Being Assisted: 52,124 people (9,477 households)	
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 15 Staff and 350 volunteers	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Swiss Red Cross, The Netherlands Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco, Swedish Red Cross and Icelandic Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, UNFPA, UNOCHA, IOM, World Vision, Goal Malawi, MSF, Shelter-box, IMC, AMRA, CARE, SC, Oxfam and Water Missions.	

This is a preliminary final report. All activities under this operation have been completed. A final report will be issued in a month's time.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Heavy rains experienced in the first quarter of 2015 caused flooding in 15 of the 28 districts in Malawi, most of which were located in the southern part of the country. The Southern Region of Malawi received 400% higher rains than usual (compared to the long term mean) causing the Shire River to reach its highest level in 30 years. The President declared a state of disaster on 13 January 2015 and appealed for assistance from the international community in managing the disaster and its aftermath. Assessments were carried out by different agencies including an initial joint assessment by Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) for the Government of Malawi. Besides this, other assessments were conducted; one by the United Nations Disaster Assessments and Coordination (UNDAC), and the second was an Inter-Agency Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) coordinated by the Ministry of Lands and Housing, the third was a Damage Tracking Matrix (DTM) led by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The MRCS participated in these assessments.

The assessments prioritised a number of districts based on the effects of flooding on livelihoods, displacement of populations and destruction of infrastructure, properties and farmlands. It is reported that 230,000 people were displaced and 63,000 hectares of farmlands destroyed. The prioritised districts included Nsanje, with an estimated 74,000 people displaced, Phalombe with about 50,000 people displaced and Chikwawa with an estimated 35,000 people displaced. Other districts included Zomba, Blantyre and Mulanje. Out of this list of prioritised districts, the Red Cross targeted five districts, four to be supported through the Emergency Appeal (Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Blantyre) with a combined total of 8,493 Households (42,130 persons) and the fifth district (Zomba) to be supported by Danish Red Cross through bilateral funding to Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS).

The Emergency Appeal was launched on 21 January 2015 for CHF 2,795,351 and was later revised, after detailed needs assessment, on 28 February 2015 to CHF 4,085,351 for 46,712 people (8,493 households). The Emergency Appeal was revised for CHF 3,055,497 (8,493 households) in July 2015 to adjust activities based on funding raised and needs on the ground. The revision also catered for the extension of the appeal time frame to cover recovery

activities. The MRCS with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) focused on 6 key outcomes:

1. Improving preventive health measures;
2. Filling gaps in the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene solutions;
3. Helping to bridge the food gaps left by the lost crops and upcoming lean season;
4. Helping people to establish safe temporary shelters for their families;
5. Support to protection measures including family links and psychosocial support;
6. Improving MRCS own capacity in disaster preparedness and response.

[<click here to view the contact details and here to go directly to the interim financial report >](#)

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

The national society with the support of its partners accomplished the following outputs at the end of the operation:

- 9,477 households were supported with standard non-food items (NFI) in the four districts. In addition, 8,384 households received energy saving stoves donated by Habitat for Humanity to MRCS.
- 350 volunteer carpenters were trained to construct emergency and transitional shelter. A total of 2,209 households (out of targeted 5,200) had benefitted from emergency (in IDP Camps) and transition shelters.
- Training on PASSA (Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness) of 20 MRCS and government (DoDMA and Department of housing) staff was concluded in June 2015. Altogether 20 MRCS and government staff (Ministry of Housing and DoDMA) staff were trained on safe shelter. The knowledge and skills acquired during the training benefitted both the emergency and recovery shelter construction. During the month of July and early August 2015, PASSA related sensitisation was conducted in resettlement sites to those affected by the floods.
- 340 volunteers have been trained on epidemic control and surveillance and supported efforts towards controlling the outbreak of cholera. The outbreak which began with case importations from Mozambique registered 423 cases with 6 deaths (by mid-April) spread across 7 districts. MRCS trained additional volunteers (through UNICEF support) to carry out similar efforts in border districts registering cases.
- 16 boreholes were rehabilitated and a further 20 new boreholes in resettlement areas have been drilled, and are providing water to permanently resettled communities.
- 37 temporary latrines with handwashing facilities were constructed in camps. Construction of 18 permanent latrines with hand washing facilities was completed in 4 schools which were used as IDP centres. 44 latrines were exhausted in Blantyre district.
- 600 bundles of sweet potato vines were distributed in Chikwawa, 700 in Phalombe and 150 in Nsanje districts.
- In total 100 permanent houses had been completed by January 2016. The construction took longer than anticipated due to lack of artisans and additionally the cost estimate of 170 units was higher than forecasted.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

- Malawi Red Cross Society was the lead agency and had the lead role in the operation, with technical support from IFRC. A number of Partners National Societies (PNSs) supported the national society, Danish Red Cross in particular supported the operation bilaterally covering Zomba district.
- The FACT team comprised of team leader, Watsan, logistics, relief and shelter was deployed to Malawi in February 2015, to assess the humanitarian situation in the country and needs of affected people. FACT carried out in depth assessments of the situation and later supported the first revision of the Emergency Appeal.
- In addition, the Federation provided technical support through the in-country team that comprised of the Operations Manager, Logistics Delegate, Shelter RDRTs (Operation team) and Shelter Co-Lead and Information Management Delegate (Coordination Team) during the first month of the operation. SARO team provided back up technical support in management of the emergency programme, logistics and financial management.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The declaration of a state of disaster by the head of state led to activation of clusters in the country to coordinate the emergency (the activation was at both national and district levels). Government ministries and departments played the cluster lead roles, and non-state actors played the co-lead role. MRCS was a co-lead for shelter and settlement cluster. DoDMA played a crucial role in the entire emergency coordination.

Through its existing Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with UNICEF, the national society supported health and hygiene promotion in some districts. MRCS also received a number on donations by corporate bodies (including Carlsberg [bottled water], Toyota Malawi [foodstuffs], Malawi Telecoms (MTL) [foodstuffs], and JTI [foodstuffs] among others.

MRCS continued as a co-chair of the Shelter and Camp Management cluster and has maintained strong links with the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinating Team (UNHCT) and key international organizations in country. MRCS participated in national and district levels cluster meetings. During these meetings MRCS shared its plan to avoid duplication of services with other partners.

MRCS participated in a number of Inter Agency initiatives including the Initial Rapid Assessments (in partnership with DoDMA), Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA), led by the Ministry of Lands and Housing and with participation of other stakeholders.

Information Management component was supported by an IFRC Information Management delegate and was closely linked to the coordination aspect of the operation. The MRCS team provided frequent updates through the local media, both audio-visual and print. A publication of donations received locally by MRCS was also released through the print media. MRCS continues to publish its work on the MRCS official website and Facebook page.

IFRC's participation in logistics cluster provided opportunities for support in airlifting of relief items to areas that remained geographically cut off for the entire duration of the emergency phase. The availability of helicopters, and the immense support from the Malawi Defence Force (MDF), made it possible to move humanitarian supplies to areas that presented a huge logistical challenge for the operation. MDF provided four wheel drive trucks that proved to be critical assets in the relief work.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) for the Government of Malawi carried out initial joint assessment of the floods situation in the countries. Follow up assessments were conducted by the United Nations Disaster Assessments and Coordination (UNDAC), headed by UNOCHA. The assessments categorised a number of districts based on the effects of flooding on livelihoods, displacement of populations and destruction of infrastructure, properties and farmlands. MRCS also participated in Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) led by IOM, and Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) led by Ministry of Lands. The National society used the post disaster assignments results to inform the design of Appeal revisions.

A review of the emergency shelter design was done based on beneficiaries and volunteers' feedback on suitability of shelter that it was difficult to occupy shelters during the day due to heat as the roof design was too low. The temporary shelter design by Red Cross shelter experts was presented to the shelter cluster and approved.

Risk Analysis

Accessibility to the most affected areas was difficult in some places, as roads were impassable if they were mud clogged and some bridges had been washed away, which made transportation of material and assessments virtually impossible other than by air or boat. The National Society through coordination mechanisms requested for airlifting of the relief items by the Malawi Defence Force to the cut off areas.

The majority of the affected populations whose shelters were damaged remained at-risk of epidemic outbreaks due to contaminated water sources, lack of sanitation facilities, lack of shelter and exposure to the elements. A cholera outbreak was reported owing to a shortage of clean water, sanitation facilities, food and stagnant water. The Nsanje, Phalombe and Chikwawa districts are cholera endemic areas, with the last outbreak experienced in Nsanje in 2012. Malaria cases were reported to have gone up. MRCS trained volunteers in disease control to raise awareness among the affected families. There were no reported cases of cholera in camps that were under Malawi RC management, which could be attributed to the effectiveness of volunteer community mobilisation. NS also distributed bed nets to protect families from mosquito bites and rehabilitated water points to make clean water available to the affected families.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall Objective

The operation will address the disaster-affected population's survival and immediate needs through the provision of shelter and relief items, sanitation, hygiene promotion and health promotion for 8,493 displaced households (some 46,700 people) in Chikwawa, Nsanje, Blantyre urban, Phalombe and Zomba districts camps for a period of six (6) months, and to support selected populations with some inputs on recovery of livelihoods.

Proposed strategy

MRCS was part of inter-agency assessments at both national and district level. In addition, there was ongoing monitoring by the national society staff and volunteers at the district level. Heads of sectoral departments (Watsan, health and OD) supported the DM department with the design and programming of those specific sectors and offered technical back up during the implementation. The FACT team supported the NS with coordination and collaboration both at national society level and with external agencies. The team also supported the detailed needs assessment that informed the second revision of the Emergency Appeal in February 2015.

MRCS carried out a BSS in May 2015, during the transition phase from relief to recovery to find out whether beneficiaries were satisfied with the goods and services received during the operation. Results confirmed that majority of households' lost household assets, crops and livestock which had seriously eroded their livelihood capacities. The main coping strategy identified was household members engaging in casual work, additionally the minority of respondents indicated they do gardening. Beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the support received from the Red Cross and its services. Vulnerable groups and people with special needs were among the beneficiaries served by the Red Cross during this operation.

Operational support services

Human resources (HR)

The operation was covered by technical staff and volunteers for the successful operation who included the following:

- 350 volunteers were engaged (approximately one volunteer per 30 households) to carry out shelter construction, distributions, assessments, loading and offloading. Volunteers were supported with travel cost, allowances and refreshments during the operation.
- 15 members of staff at HQ and district level were involved in the operation.
- The IFRC Operations Manager took overall responsibility of overseeing the operation, together with his counterpart, the MRCS DM Manager.
- The operational team had the support of the logistics delegate for eight months, and two shelter Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members (from the Maldives and Nepal) for two months.
- At the district level, the district project officers were in charge of the operation supported by the district accounts/ book keepers and other technical staff at field level.

Logistics and supply chain

MRCS recruited a logistics officer who worked closely with IFRC Logistics delegate. The IFRC Regional office recruited a Logistics delegate for eight months of the operation, to ensure adherence to procurement and logistics procedures. The logistics function was also supported from the regional office by the Regional Logistics Delegate who was deployed to the operation for the first two months of the operation to set up logistics and procurement systems.

Communications

A communications consultant was sent to Malawi in Feb 2015 to support the Emergency Appeal raise visibility and to support fundraising efforts. Stories and pictures taken were posted on IFRC website to increase visibility of the operation. The National Society Communications officer also undertook trips to the field to collect stories that were shared with IFRC and also published in the local newspapers.

Security

The security situation remained good throughout the operation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

PMER was an important area for this operation to ensure good quality reports, upholding accountability and compliance to the established standards. Close monitoring was regularly conducted by the National Society staff with technical support from IFRC Operations Manager to track the effects and impact of response actions, with ongoing monitoring visits carried out including beneficiary satisfaction survey. Frequent visits by IFRC programme, logistics and finance staff were also carried out for technical back stopping. A lessons-learned workshop and a final evaluation were carried out to review best practices, lessons and inform recommendations for future interventions in December 2015.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality Programming / Areas Common to all Sectors

<p>Needs assessment</p> <p>Outcome 1: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation at all stages</p> <p>Output 1.1 Emergency plan of action is updated and revised based on detailed field assessment</p> <p>1.1.1 Carry out detailed needs assessment</p> <p>1.1.2 Revise the EPoA to reflect the emerging needs and the longer term response activities required</p> <p>1.1.3 Develop the monitoring and evaluation plan of the operation</p> <p>1.1.4 Carry out the MTR / lessons learned workshop / final evaluation</p> <p>1.1.5 Beneficiary communication survey</p> <p>1.1.6 Conduct monitoring visits for all sectors</p>
<p>Achievements</p> <p>The initial joint assessment of the floods situation in the country was carried out by Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) in January 2015. Follow up assessments were conducted by the United Nations Disaster Assessments and Coordination (UNDAC), headed by UNOCHA. The assessments categorised a number of districts based on the effects of flooding on livelihoods, displacement of populations and destruction of infrastructure, properties and farmlands. MRCS also participated in Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) led by IOM, and Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) led by Ministry of Lands. The National society used the post disaster assignments results to inform the design of Appeal revisions.</p> <p>The FACT team carried out detailed assessment in the targeted districts, the findings of which were combined with report findings of other agencies to feed into the design of Emergency Appeal revision of February 2015. The National Society staff and volunteers continued monitoring and assessing the situation, the results of which were used to guide and inform the implementation of the operation. The final Emergency Appeal revision for CHF 3,055,497 (8,493 households) was done and issued in July 2015 to adjust activities based on funding raised and needs on the ground. The revision also catered for the extension of the appeal time frame to cover recovery activities.</p> <p>MRCS carried out a Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey (BSS) in May 2015, during the transition phase from relief to recovery to find out whether beneficiaries were satisfied with the goods and services received during the operation. Six MRCS staff were trained on Open Data Kit (ODK), who in turn trained volunteers who took part in data collection. Data was collected from 492 targeted households in the areas of Nsanje, Phalombe, Chikwawa and Blantyre. Results confirmed that majority of households had lost household assets, crops and livestock which had seriously eroded their livelihood capacities. The main coping strategy identified was household members engaging in casual work, additionally the minority of respondents indicated they had established gardens of their own. Beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the support received from the Red Cross and its services.</p> <p>The final evaluation was carried out in December 2015, and highlighting that the flood emergency operation was appropriate and relevant both to the affected population and was based on the needs identified through various assessments. The emergency phase of the flood operation was largely effective, though there was slow delivery of the items and there were delays, recommendations were made on areas that need improvement.</p>
<p>Challenges</p> <p>Registration was a bit challenging as the number of beneficiaries was erratic as the people from neighbourhoods flocked to the camps for registrations and distributions.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to clarify the role of PMER in emergency operations; the PMER unit in Malawi Red Cross Society is over stretched and was unable to effectively provide support during the flood emergency. • Develop a monitoring and evaluation plan and related tools for future operations to assist in assessing the progress of operations.
<p>Health and Care</p> <p>Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of 8,493 families (some 47,600 people) are reduced.</p> <p>Output 2.1 Affected populations are aware of risks and able to reduce their exposure to disease, such as malaria, cholera and HIV</p> <p>2.1.1 Procurement and distribution of 16,986 bed nets (2 per household to 8,493 households)</p> <p>2.1.2 Train 250 volunteers in epidemic surveillance in coordination with MoH</p> <p>2.1.3 Source and distribute of IEC material to be sourced from UNICEF and MOH.</p> <p>2.1.4 Distribute 200,000 condoms to be sourced from the MOH.</p> <p>2.1.5 Conduct community health awareness by the volunteers.</p> <p>2.1.6 Train 80 volunteers in first aid</p> <p>2.1.7 Preparation for a possible outbreak of cholera during the remaining</p>

Achievements

Following the increasing risk of outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases, preparedness measures begun with activation of a team of volunteers previously trained in Epidemic Control and Surveillance. 12 volunteers were deployed to camps in the west bank in Nsanje district to carry out hygiene promotion activities. This area was considered at highest risk of cholera outbreak following confirmation of cases in Mozambique, and the constant movement of people between the two countries.

In the second week of February, imported cases were reported at Nkhaze health centre (near the border between Mozambique and Malawi in Nsanje) and an isolation and treatment facility set up at the health centre. The cases were confirmed through laboratory investigation and subsequent cases treated as cholera based on case definition criteria. In the days that followed, the number of cases increased to 423 in mid-April with 6 deaths (case fatality proportion=1.4%). The cases were spread across 7 districts including Nsanje (203 cases with 3 deaths), Chikwawa (170 cases with 1 death), Ncheu (10 cases), Mwanza (9 cases), Lilongwe (7 cases), Blantyre (23 cases with 2 deaths) and Dedza (1 Case). The outbreak was epidemiologically linked to the outbreak in Mozambique (Mutarara and Doa districts). Five Oral Rehydration Points were mobilised from Southern Africa Cluster Office, and have since been donated to the Ministry of Health.

Two trainings were done; a TOT involving the District Project Officers (DPOs), and Training of volunteers who were trained as hygiene promoters. The table below presents a summary of the numbers trained per district:

Table 1: A summary of staff and volunteers trained on Cholera prevention

District	Phalombe	Chikwawa	Nsanje	Mwanza	Zomba	Blantyre
DPOs Trained	1	1	1	1*	1*	Trained 14 HSA as ToTs
Volunteers Trained to work in IDP camps	60	105	125	0	520**	0
Volunteers Trained to Work in villages	0	117	102			150

* The ToTs were trained in order to support training of volunteers under PNSs funding. For Mwanza the training was supported by Finnish Red Cross and in Zomba by Danish Red Cross

** The training of volunteers was supported by Danish Red Cross

A total of 290 volunteers were trained in the four districts to provide hygiene promotion services in the IDP camps. An additional 520 were trained in Zomba with support from Danish RC. Since the outbreak was spreading fast in frontier villages, the MRCS with UNICEF support, conducted training of volunteers in Chikwawa (117), Nsanje (102, with additional 100 set to be trained in TA Mlolo) and Blantyre (100, while the appeal funds supported training of additional 50).

The MRCS received 500,000 male condoms 1,000 female condoms and HIV testing kits as unsolicited donation from Banja La Mtsogolo (BLM) a local NGO. These items were distributed in the four districts and the testing kits donated to health centres.

Challenges

The cholera outbreak created fears among the displaced communities and they needed reassurance and information on the disease. Volunteers had to work extra hard to create awareness and educate families on how to protect themselves from contracting the disease.

Lessons learned

It is good to have volunteers trained on general disease prevention as part of preparedness, already trained volunteers of MRCS could be deployed immediately to start with community sensitisation from the onset of emergency.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome 3: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases for 8,493 families (some 47,600 people) in targeted communities

Output 3.1 Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out

3.1.1 Conduct assessment of water supply and sanitation facilities in the affected area to understand critical needs

Output 3.2 Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to 8,493 families (some 47,600 people)

3.2.1 Procure and distribute jerry cans for safe water storage and basins for washing (1 each per hh)

- 3.2.2 Train population of targeted communities on safe water storage and safe use of water treatment products
- 3.2.3 Rehabilitation of water sources (total 20)
- 3.2.4 Drilling of new boreholes in temporary or permanent relocation sites (total 20)

Output 3.3 Adequate sanitation which meets SPHERE standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to 8,493 families (some 47,600 people)

- 3.3.1 Construction of up to 40 latrines in case of critical gaps in any district
- 3.3.2 De-sludging of 50 latrines in public buildings where affected population have been living
- 3.3.3 Provision for rehabilitation and clean-up of camps after closure or relocation

Output 3.4 Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population of 8,493 households.

- 3.4.1 Procure and distribute hygiene kits (2 tooth pastes and 5 tooth brushes, 1 sanitary pad pack and 500g toilet soap and 500g laundry soap) (1 per HH full kit, and soap for a 2 month period)
- 3.4.2 Training of 250 volunteer in hygiene promotion (also link to UNICEF (MOU)
- 3.4.3 Carry out hygiene promotion with affected families (also link to UNICEF MOU)

Achievements

Water and sanitation interventions as outlined in the Emergency Appeal were based on initial joint assessment by MRCS and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) for the Government of Malawi among other consequent assessments. During the period of the response the MRCS through its water and sanitation department conducted several assessments to establish specific WASH needs in IDP camps. These included need for rehabilitation works so as to support immediate water needs and later drilling of new boreholes to facilitate the resettlement of IDPs in safe sites. The drilling of new boreholes was targeted at new sites that had been agreed upon by beneficiaries, community leadership including government district water officers as new and safe settlement sites.

In order to support communities relocate to safe sites, MRCS and other agencies agreed upon drilling of new boreholes in relocation sites. 16 boreholes were rehabilitated and are providing clean, safe and portable water to more than 800 households. Rehabilitation of boreholes per district - Phalombe: 8; Nsanje: 7; and Chikwawa: 1 completed. A further 20 new boreholes in resettlement areas have been drilled, and are providing water to estimated 1,000 households (5,500 people).

Ongoing assessments conducted by the water and sanitation team found the boreholes functioning normal. In total 15 water management committees have been set up and trained to oversee the management of the boreholes, and ensure sustainability of the facilities. 10,182 jerry cans were distributed to all targeted households and additional 705 families received two each as they had no additional water containers at home.

There was an initial plan for procurement and distribution of 2,000 water filters, but with the consultation of beneficiaries and community leaders it was agreed to rather use funds meant for water filters to drill additional 10 boreholes for two main reasons: the 10 boreholes will serve greater populations over an extended period of time and therefore offers more value for money; additionally there have been issues with consistency of correct use of such filters in households previously covered by other MRCS programmes. The technical team worked closely with the government officials to ensure long-term sustainability (maintenance) of the water facilities.

37 temporary latrines with handwashing facilities were constructed in camps. Construction of 18 permanent latrines with hand washing facilities was completed in 4 schools which were used as IDP centres, as the latrines in existence at the time were filled up and could not be emptied due to the wetness of the soil. 44 latrines were exhausted in Blantyre district.

Altogether 65 volunteers were trained on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), the training focused on getting participants understand the genesis of CLTS, principles and methodology for applying CLTS, acquire the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes to effectively facilitate the CLTS approach, understand and effectively use the CLTS process tools, develop workable strategies for applying the CLTS approach in respective camps and relocation areas and develop plans for triggering communities in relocated areas and camps.



Tippy Tap being used in Phalombe



Permanent latrine in Phalombe School

290 volunteers were trained and involved in IDP camps hygiene and sanitation improvement actions. They also conducted awareness sessions targeting populations in camps. To maintain hygiene and reduce the possibility of diseases outbreak among the displaced population, 500g toilet soap, and 500g laundry soap were distributed per family for two months.

The hygiene and disease prevention awareness was found to be effective as there was no reported cholera case in the camps under Red Cross supervision. Many cholera cases were reported in surrounding areas hit by floods. Nsanje reported the highest number (203 and 3 deaths), followed by Chikwawa (170 cases with 1 death), Blantyre (23 cases with 2 deaths).

Challenges

In some cases where displaced communities were hosted in schools, the soil was too wet for latrines to be emptied during the emergency phase of the operation. Some relocation facilities were overcrowded and toilets were not enough to meet the required standards.

Lessons learned

Having existing volunteers trained on diseases prevention is critical for disease prevention during emergencies as they could be mobilised right away to do community awareness.

Shelter and settlements

Outcome 4: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met

Output 4.1 Temporary shelter assistance and basic household items are provided to 8,493 households

- 4.1.1 Provision of temporary shelter in the form of tarpaulins (2 per household), shelter kits (1 per 2 HH), fixings (1 kit per HH) and wooden poles (13 per HH)
- 4.1.2 Procurement and distribution of sleeping mats and blankets (2 per HH)
- 4.1.3 Procurement and distribution of NFIs (kitchen sets) (1 per HH)
- 4.1.4 Demonstration of shelter construction by the volunteers

Output 4.2 Recovery shelter assistance targeting 200 most vulnerable households

- 4.2.1 Design and have approval of house plans and bills of quantities.
- 4.2.2 Procurement of ISSB machines.
- 4.2.3 Conduct training of volunteers and staff on PASSA
- 4.2.4 Conduct training of volunteer artisans and brick block makers on use of ISSB machines
- 4.2.5 Procure and distribute construction materials (CGI sheets, cement, timber)
- 4.2.6 Construction of houses targeting 200 most vulnerable households.
- 4.2.7 Procurement and planting of trees around constructed units.
- 4.2.8 Handing over of constructed units to beneficiaries.

Achievements

Following the onset of disaster, MRCS began the distribution of relief supplies using NFIs that were pre-positioned in Blantyre and Lilongwe warehouses. Verification of affected families was done prior to dispatch of relief items where it was possible. This was due to the erratic numbers of beneficiaries especially at the beginning of the operation (with people streaming into the camps during scheduled distributions).

In total, 9,477 affected families were provided with tarpaulins and shelter kits; 17,566 tarpaulins and 4,694 shelter tool kits were distributed. In total 22,470 poles were distributed to support the construction of temporary shelters. Distribution of non-food items done in all four districts: 18,766 blankets; 5,936 kitchen sets; 1,622 sleeping mats were also procured and distributed based on household needs. The final target beneficiary numbers moved to 9,477 due additional relief items received from local donors.

Table 2: Summary of relief items distributed to beneficiaries in 4 districts.

District	HH	Tarpaulin	Shelter T-Kit	LLINs	Blankets	Kitchen sets	Jerry cans	Bar Soap 1kg	Sleeping mats
Blantyre	1,124	2,060	517	2,060	2,060	833	1,030	2,070	974
Chikwawa	900	1652	450	600	1800	900	900	1800	648
Nsanje	5,767	10,734	2,883	11,534	11,534	3,089	6,566	10,262	0
Phalombe	1,686	3,120	844	3,372	3,372	1,114	1,686	3,194	0
Total HH Reached	9,477	17,566	4,694	17,566	18,766	5,936	10,182	17,326	1,622
Targeted for Distribution	8,493	16,986	8,493	16,986	16,986	8,493	8,493	16,986	8,493
Pending distribution		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,299

Various NFIs were airlifted into Malawi from Las Palmas and Dubai, through partnership between Boeing and IFRC. This facilitated quicker delivery of items to the beneficiaries and quicker restoration of human dignity for the affected population. As the distribution of relief items was going on, preparations were also made for construction of emergency and transition shelters. This culminated in the development of a suitable shelter design with the support of FACT and RDRT shelter.



Initial emergency shelter design

A review of the emergency shelter design was done based on beneficiaries and volunteers' feedback on suitability of shelter that it was difficult to occupy shelters during the day due to heat, the design is too low. The temporary shelter design by Red Cross shelter experts was presented to the shelter cluster and approved.

In total 401 volunteers were trained in emergency and transition shelter construction. This was followed by the training of the selected volunteers in each of the four districts. Volunteer were re-trained following the improvement of the design. The review of the shelter design and the re-training of the volunteers was led by two shelter RDRTs deployed from South Asia region to support shelter construction.

Table 3: A table showing the volunteers trained per district on shelter construction

District	No. of volunteers trained	No. of Shelters Constructed
Phalombe	248	1,184
Blantyre	20	140
Chikwawa	31	236
Nsanje	102	672
Total	401	2,232

A total of 2,232 temporary shelter units were constructed in the targeted districts of Chikwawa (236), Blantyre (140), Phalombe (1,184) and Nsanje (672). In areas where tarpaulins were distributed first, beneficiaries constructed their own shelters before the volunteer construction teams reached them. The rapid distribution of NFIs and shelter materials support for affected families helped people meet their immediate needs for dignity, privacy and protection from adverse weather.

The inception of the recovery phase began in May 2015 with preparation for construction of permanent houses for IDPs. This was designed to complement the government of Malawi's and other organisations effort in ensuring that the floods victims get access to safe housing that can better withstand floods. The other national investments on shelter for recovery phase include but not limited to Oxfam (cash transfer including in Phalombe), World Vision (materials support), MRCS/Danish RC (materials support in Zomba) and most important Malawi government (material support) with funding from World Bank. The operation had planned to construct up to 200 housing units for the floods displaced households but due to funding limitation, the number was reduced to 170.

The projected distributed of units per district were as follows: Nsanje – 70 units, Chikwawa – 40 units, Blantyre – 20 units and Phalombe 70 units. MRCS prepared beneficiary selection guidelines in consultation with the affected communities, traditional leaders and government authorities at all levels.

MRCS adopted a house design that it had used after the earthquake response in Karonga. The designs and quantities were developed with partnership with the Ministry of housing and the plans presented and approved by the national shelter cluster coordination mechanism. To mitigate the problem of housing collapsing due to heavy rain and floods, Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) training was conducted during the month of June to sensitise 20 MRCS and government staff (Ministry of Housing and DoDMA) staff on safe shelter. The training aimed at raising awareness of the “everyday vulnerable” of the “everyday risks” related to their built environment and foster locally appropriate safe shelter and settlement practices. This was a training of trainees and the knowledge and skills acquired was employed in the construction deliberations during the inception of the recovery construction phase. During the month of July and early August 2015 PASSA related sensitization was conducted in resettlement sites to those affected by the floods.

10 ISSB brick making machines were procured for use by volunteer artisans and brick-makers. The distribution was done in Nsanje (3), Phalombe (3), Chikwawa (2) and Blantyre (2). Two trainings by the manufacturer for 22 volunteer artisans on the use of machines were carried out. The essence of the manufacturer’s technician was to ensure complete understanding of the mechanical operation and maintenance of the machines and best soils and cement aspect ratios.

Phalombe hosted the soil block press and flood resilient house construction training for 25 local artisans. The artisans were drawn from Nsanje, Zomba, Blantyre, Chikwawa and Phalombe. Community Development Facilitators (CDFs) from all the mentioned districts also participated in the training. The first two days of the training covered theory and the last two were practical where participants acquired skills in the block making and construction work. During the month of July, a further 22 volunteers were trained in brick moulding.

The Ministry of Housing, Planning, Environment, Public Works and other relevant government officials are involved in the day to day supervision of the construction process at the district level. All materials needed to construct 170 houses were procured and dropped off in respective districts. In total 100 houses were completed by January 2016.

Challenges

- Slow pace of delivery of relief supplies due to damage to major link roads - the prepositioned relief supplies were insufficient and emergency procurements had to be done.
- Erratic beneficiary figures made targeting difficult.
- Streamlining operations with other actors proved difficult and often overlaps were reported despite the cluster coordination efforts.
- A number of donations were made to MRCS by local partners, and most of these did not have logistical support which strained operational resources.
- Some activities like permanent shelter and borehole construction experienced delays as they depended on land allocation by the traditional leaders and approval of the design by Ministry of Housing.
- The construction volunteers experienced low production capacity of the bricks making machine. The construction took longer than anticipated due to lack of artisans and additionally the cost estimate of 170 units was higher than forecasted, which required additional resources for the NS to complete the 50 units to cover artisans costs. The IFRC has been supporting MRCS to work out the strategy on how to successfully complete this activity.

Lessons learned

Due to lack of shelter trained RDRT in the region, the deployment of RDRT took longer than anticipated, as request for support had to be sent to other regions (Asia). Discussions are underway to conduct RDRT shelter training to improve shelter response capacities for future operations in the region.

The construction of permanent houses proved to be a lengthy and strenuous exercise. For future similar operations, cash transfer programme should be considered as an alternative to actual construction.

Restoring family links

Outcome 5: Separated individuals are re-united with their families

Output 5.1 Vulnerable individuals separated from their families are registered and active tracing is carried out to search for their relatives

- 5.1.1 Orient volunteers on restoration of family links
- 5.1.2 Prepare tracing forms
- 5.1.3 Registration of missing or separated family members

5.1.4 Trace missing family members, or separated children
Output 5.2 Vulnerable individuals are protected more effectively in the camps and relocation sites
5.2.1 Advocacy with Government bodies on protection issues
Achievements
MRCS used its staff who deals with tracing services to look into cases of missing people. The staff worked with volunteers in the four target districts to conclude cases of missing people. The expected support from ICRC tracing department could not materialise as the person had other commitments.
Advocacy by MRCS on the protection of vulnerable groups continued at different coordination platforms with all stakeholders.
Challenges
It took longer to resolve the matter of missing individuals as there were no names given of the missing people, apart from the estimates.
Lessons learned
Have a few volunteers trained on tracing so that cases of missing people could be handled promptly in future operations. The national society to work with ICRC to address the identified gap.

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 6: Basic food needs are met within the most vulnerable households
Output 6.1. Households either receive food rations, or those with access to gardens receive certified maize seeds or root cuttings and families can cook with less fuel wood, and suffer less harm from smoke.
6.1.1 Procurement and distribution of food rations for 1,200 households in Zomba district over 3 months (Danish RC bilateral with MRCS in Zomba)
6.1.2 Procurement and distribution of fuel-efficient stoves to all households, with instruction on proper use
6.1.3 Procurement and distribution of maize seeds and root cuttings (sweet potato) to all households will access to land or gardens
6.1.4 Screening and referral of both moderate and severe acute malnutrition

Achievements

Although the impact to the economy has not been quantified, massive damage was caused to farmlands and since this constituted the largest source of livelihoods for communities, disruption was also large scale. Livelihoods were also affected by destruction of infrastructure which reduced access to markets¹, and the subsequent displacement reduced people's purchasing power, resulting to poor business environment.

Table 4: A snapshot of damage caused by flooding. Source; UNDAC Assessment report

District	Estimated Hectares	District	% of livelihoods disrupted
Chikwawa	4,300	Chikwawa	90
Nsanje	1,500	Nsanje	90
Phalombe	8,550	Phalombe	70

In June 2015, 600 bundles of sweet potato vines were distributed in Chikwawa, 700 in Phalombe and 150 in Nsanje districts. Due to the late distribution of potato vine, the beneficiaries have been urged to make nurseries in order to preserve the vines till the next planting season. Due to lack of resources maize seeds were not provided.

Procurement of energy saving stoves was halted due to a partnership that was developed between the MRCS and Habitat for Humanity, which donated 10,000 energy saving stoves to IDPs mainly in the lower Shire region. These were the same beneficiaries targeted by MRCS.

Challenges

Dry spells delayed the procurement of sweet potato vines and maize seeds to May/June.

Screening and referral of malnourished people was not done as volunteers were busy with the awareness raising on cholera to avoid further spreading of the disease.

Lessons learned

¹ UNDAC Assessment Report – Malawi Flooding, January 2015

It is advisable to work together with the Government Agricultural Extension officers during the design of the response so that they can advise on the appropriate agricultural support to the beneficiaries. The coordination will ensure that the agricultural input support is relevant and in line with the country context.

NS Capacity Building and disaster preparedness

Outcome 7: MRCS emerges from the floods operation stronger in their HQ, technical and branch capacity, and better able to respond to disasters in future

Output 7.1 Increased branch leadership and institutional capacity

7.1.1 Leadership and team building training

7.1.2 Skill share between Federation, RDRT and NS staff

7.1.3 Develop a plan based on the final evaluation recommendations to strengthen the NS response capacities

Output 7.2 Improved disaster preparedness capacity

7.2.1 Replenishment of MRCS disaster response stocks as appropriate, with greater flexibility built into the DP approach of the NS

7.2.2 Strengthen MRCS DM preparedness and response through early warning, commodity tracking and stock management training.

7.2.3 Procure and print commodity tracking and stock management supplies.

Achievements

Due to lack of shelter trained RDRT in the region, two RDRT were deployed from South Asia. The RDRT trained a pool of MRCS volunteers on emergency shelter construction. Volunteers selected for training were those who had skills in carpentry and some building construction experience. The training started by having a Training of Trainers (TOT) for 30 volunteers. This was then followed by the training of the rest of the volunteers. The RDRT deployment and trainings allowed the exchange of skills and knowledge across Red Cross volunteers. The trained volunteers are now a great resource for MRCS who could be quickly mobilized to attend to emergency shelter needs with future disasters. The final evaluation of the operation took place beginning of December 2015. The evaluation pointed out that the flood emergency operation was appropriate and relevant both to the affected population and the various stakeholders who were involved in the flood emergency response specifically Malawi Red Cross Society and the Government of Malawi. The emergency phase of the flood operation was largely effective, though timely delivery of the items was relatively slow and there were delays due to road damages.

International staff attached to the operation have been working closely with MRCS staff and volunteers to ensure capacity building through skills transfer, this will ensure that MRCS has enough capacity to support its future operations. MRCS took over the logistics support of the operation during the last three months of the operation, this is a testimony to the capacity building that has taken place.

To support the management of the warehouse, different forms needed to control stock were printed. Replenishment of MRCS stock was done throughout the operation to ensure that MRCS has NFIS to respond immediately to disasters.

Challenges

The deployment of RDRT took longer than anticipated, as request for support had to be sent to other regions (Asia).

The magnitude of the floods experienced in the country was bigger than any institution could anticipate, and this overwhelmed the capacity of the national society. However the capacity building efforts invested in staff and volunteers of the national society during the operation is anticipated to improve response mechanisms in future operations.

Lessons learned

Contingency planning is important in getting the national society ready to respond to emergencies. MRCS should make it a routine to have simulations of its Contingency Plan for better preparedness to emergencies.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Malawi:** Hastings Kandaya, Director of Programmes, Malawi Red Cross Society. Phone: +265 991015441; email: hkandaya@redcross.mw
- **IFRC Southern Africa Cluster Team:** Michael Charles, Acting Head of Cluster/Programs Coordinator for Southern Africa Cluster; Tel. +27834132988; Email: michael.charles@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Region:** Farid Aiywar, Head of Disaster and Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Unit, Nairobi, Kenya; phone +254 731 067 489; email: farid.aiywar@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Region Logistics:** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Regional Logistics Unit; mobile phone: +254 733 888 022/ Fax +254 20 271 2777; email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Senior Quality Assurance Operations Officer, office phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Africa Region:** Fidelis Kangethe, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Coordinator; mobile phone: +254 714 026 229; email: fidelis.kangethe@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **In IFRC Africa Region:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator; mobile phone: +254 731 067 277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

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

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

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Saving lives, changing minds.



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

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

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRMW011 - Malawi - Floods

Timeframe: 21 Jan 15 to 21 Jan 16

Appeal Launch Date: 21 Jan 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	*	Programme	MDRMW011
Budget Timeframe	2015/1-2016/1	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		3,055,497				3,055,497	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Cash contributions							
American Red Cross		281,529				281,529	
British Red Cross		32,705				32,705	
Catholic Relief Services		50,777				50,777	
Czech Government		52,219				52,219	
European Commission - DG ECHO		159,785				159,785	
Finnish Red Cross		2,408				2,408	
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government*)		41,334				41,334	
Icelandic Red Cross		42,107				42,107	
Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund		157,447				157,447	
Japanese Red Cross Society		80,200				80,200	
Monaco Government		10,392				10,392	
Red Cross of Monaco		10,354				10,354	
Swedish Red Cross		267,112				267,112	
Swiss Red Cross		160,000				160,000	
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Government*)		267,831				267,831	
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government*)		535,420				535,420	
C1. Cash contributions		2,151,619				2,151,619	
Inkind Goods & Transport							
American Red Cross		19,695				19,695	
British Red Cross		151,963				151,963	
Finnish Red Cross		47,042				47,042	
C2. Inkind Goods & Transport		218,700				218,700	
Inkind Personnel							
German Red Cross		0				0	
Kenya Red Cross Society		57,481				57,481	
Other		0				0	
C3. Inkind Personnel		57,481				57,481	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		2,427,800				2,427,800	
D. Total Funding = B + C		2,427,800				2,427,800	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		2,427,800				2,427,800	
E. Expenditure		-2,420,069				-2,420,069	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		7,731				7,731	

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Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			3,055,497			3,055,497		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	330,622		156,488			156,488	174,134	
Construction Materials	498,993		345,563			345,563	153,430	
Clothing & Textiles	302,851		214,326			214,326	88,525	
Seeds & Plants	27,600		4,070			4,070	23,530	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	194,800		126,709			126,709	68,091	
Medical & First Aid			5,740			5,740	-5,740	
Utensils & Tools	215,358		188,342			188,342	27,016	
Other Supplies & Services	14,493						14,493	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	1,584,717		1,041,238			1,041,238	543,479	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	60,000		19,991			19,991	40,009	
Computers & Telecom	13,000		12,453			12,453	547	
Office & Household Equipment			4,956			4,956	-4,956	
Others Machinery & Equipment			10,841			10,841	-10,841	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	73,000		48,241			48,241	24,759	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage			23,383			23,383	-23,383	
Distribution & Monitoring	36,000		58,240			58,240	-22,240	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	162,602		167,523			167,523	-4,921	
Logistics Services			59,172			59,172	-59,172	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	198,602		308,318			308,318	-109,716	
Personnel								
International Staff	189,300		201,584			201,584	-12,284	
National Staff	3,000		14,024			14,024	-11,024	
National Society Staff	196,369		139,622			139,622	56,747	
Volunteers	156,525		55,737			55,737	100,788	
Total Personnel	545,194		410,967			410,967	134,227	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	85,325		68,289			68,289	17,036	
Professional Fees			69			69	-69	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	85,325		68,358			68,358	16,967	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	119,480		75,978			75,978	43,502	
Total Workshops & Training	119,480		75,978			75,978	43,502	
General Expenditure								
Travel	68,200		99,373			99,373	-31,173	
Information & Public Relations	6,300		1,794			1,794	4,506	
Office Costs	5,820		7,871			7,871	-2,051	
Communications	10,510		12,168			12,168	-1,658	
Financial Charges	9,000		30,833			30,833	-21,833	
Other General Expenses	130,526		2,063			2,063	128,463	
Shared Office and Services Costs	6,600		4,203			4,203	2,397	
Total General Expenditure	236,956		158,305			158,305	78,651	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			151,850			151,850	-151,850	
Total Operational Provisions			151,850			151,850	-151,850	

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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			3,055,497			3,055,497		
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recovr	184,813		142,192			142,192	42,621	
Total Indirect Costs	184,813		142,192			142,192	42,621	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee			9,722			9,722	-9,722	
Pledge Reporting Fees	27,410		4,900			4,900	22,510	
Total Pledge Specific Costs	27,410		14,622			14,622	12,788	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,055,497		2,420,069			2,420,069	635,428	
VARIANCE (C - D)			635,428			635,428		

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRMW011 - Malawi - Floods**

Timeframe: 21 Jan 15 to 21 Jan 16

Appeal Launch Date: 21 Jan 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	*	Programme	MDRMW011
Budget Timeframe	2015/1-2016/1	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

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IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	2,946,625		2,330,666	2,330,666	2,324,713	5,953	
Shelter	108,872		97,134	97,134	95,356	1,778	
Subtotal BL2	3,055,497		2,427,800	2,427,800	2,420,069	7,731	
GRAND TOTAL	3,055,497		2,427,800	2,427,800	2,420,069	7,731	