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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update 1

Botswana: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF: MDRBW004	GLIDE n° FL-2018-000028-BWA
EPoA update: 29 May 2018	Timeframe covered by this update: 21 March 2018 until 25 May 2018
Operation start date: 21 March 2018	Operation timeframe: 5 months (New end date: 21 August 2018)
Overall operation budget: CHF 111,493	
N° of people being assisted: 564 households (2,820 people)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: District Government; (District Disaster Management Committee, District Health Management)	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

Following technical issues with Botswana bank that caused considerable delay in the transfer of funds to the National Society, Botswana Red Cross Society was not able to carry on with the implementation of activities started at the onset of this disaster. In addition, given shortage at the IFRC Dubai warehouse, IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) needs more time to proceed and complete the replenishment of the IFRC Regional Warehouse based in Harare within the operation timeframe. Indeed, it is from Harare that NFIs to be distributed as part of this operation were dispatched to Botswana. No revision is being made on the operational strategy.

As such, this operational update is requesting a two months no-cost timeframe extension (new end date: 21 August 2018) to allow the National Society to implement all the activities outlined in the EPoA and for IFRC RLU to complete replenishment of stocks provided to the NS for distribution.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Above normal rainfall has been experienced in Tutume Sub district in Central of Botswana since 23 February 2018. The drastic weather change has resulted in torrential rains that have already affected the district causing displacement, damage to property and a risk of an outbreak of water borne and vector related disease. According to the Department of Meteorology Services, rainfall amounts range between 120-192mm, with a report of dams over spilling causing floods in the neighbouring villages of the Tutume Sub district.

From preliminary local authority assessments, images shared online, on the newspapers and by RC volunteers' observations on the ground, the most affected villages were in the Tutume sub district, comprising of the following: Gweta, Zoroga and Tsookotshaa.



Volunteers assisting during evacuation activities. ©BRCS

As of the 26th February, the villages of Gweta, Zoroga and Tsookotshaa were reported to be entirely flooded, affecting approximately 845 households (4,225 people). On 27 February 2018, the affected households were being evacuated to Gweta Vocational Training Centre and Zoroga Primary school.

Table 1: Number of affected persons in all three villages of concern

DISTRICTS	Village	Affected population (families)
Central	Gweta	410
	Zoroga	310
	Tsookotshaa	125
	Total	845

A disaster report from the Gweta Disaster Committee revealed that the hospital sewage had overflowed due to the excessive rainfall and contaminated surface water. The report further explains that the sewage is likely to contaminate the nearby boreholes that supply households with their water. The same disaster risk was noted by the 2017 BRCS Flood response operation. The team on the ground have reported that the Water Affairs Department is working on correcting the situation by pumping out the waste to prevent it from overflowing into the water source and to avoid compromised hygiene practices as well as water quality. There is a serious risk of water and other vector-borne diseases, including Amebic dysentery, Cholera, Hepatitis A and Typhoid, as well as illness carried by mosquitos like malaria that are endemic in the affected areas.

According to a preliminary report from Red Cross volunteers and District Disaster Management Committee on the ground, the water level has continued to increase in the past three days. The team has faced challenges including access to some parts of the village due to flooded roads. In addition, the Department of Meteorology Services also reported on 4 March 2018 a forecast predicting 60% chances of rainfall in the northern parts of Botswana which included the areas of Zoroga, Gweta and Tsookotshaa. By 20th of March, it was reported that the rains had reduced in intensity, but the water was yet to recede from flooded areas. As these villages are situated in the Makgadikgadi salt pan, slow receding waters with some pooling could remain for months after the flooding. It should be noted that these same villages are amongst those seriously affected by Cyclone Dineo in February 2017 and are still recovering for the economic set back.

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) has received several requests for relief intervention from District Offices, but the Country has not declared the current situation as a national emergency. Although the Government has not declared these floods as national emergency, there are important humanitarian needs such as shelter and WASH, which the National Society is unable to attend to without support. Therefore, the NS has requested to the IFRC a CHF 111,493 DREF grant. The National Society, through this DREF operation, intends to provide assistance to 564 most affected households in these three severely affected villages (322 HH in evacuation centres, 97 HH moved to host families and approximately 145 HH still living in their partially flooded homes).

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The BRCS has disseminated early warning messages that included several radio interviews to inform the public on the flooding emergency. It actively participated alongside local disaster committees in supporting the evacuation of families stranded by rising water. On Saturday 24 February 2018, the BRCS volunteers completed a joint rapid assessment with District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) in the affected areas of Zoroga, Gweta and Tsookotshaa.

The District Disaster Management Committee is managing the evacuation centres including the classrooms of the Zoroga School with direct support of the BRCS. Eight tents were provided to the vulnerable families that included the elderly, lactating mothers and people living with disabilities. At these evacuation centres, the government is providing security and no issues of violence or abuse have been identified.

The BRCS assisted by providing 14 family size tents to the Government run evacuation centre to reduce the overcrowding in the classrooms.

Using stock that was available from last year's flood response operations, the BRCS has immediately distributed the following to affected families who made their way to the Government run evacuation centres. Eight of the most

vulnerable families were given family tents and basic items. Others moved into the school buildings and some large capacity tents (30 pax/tent) provided by government. The BRCS volunteers are on site providing important PSS, in particular to children. They are ensuring sanitation of the area as well as the 4 latrines, which are however, insufficient. The government will provide temporary latrines on site. This DREF shall support the replenishment of already distributed NFIs including kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, mattresses, buckets and bars of soap.

Table 2: Items distributed to affected households by BRCS before the launch of the DREF

Distributed items	Displaced to Evacuation Centre (322 HH)	Hosted by relatives (97 HH)	Remaining in their homes (145 HH)	Total
Kitchen sets	26	17	10	53
Blankets	52	58	27	137
Mosquito nets	100	50	50	200
Mattresses	20	10	10	40
Buckets	26	32	20	78
Bar soaps-	76	38	30	144
Family tents	8	0	0	8
Ladies shoes (pairs)	15	12	10	37

The BRCS is also participating in coordination meetings at National and district level and will continue to collaborate with the District Disaster Management Committee on continuing assessments.

The BRCS will continue to monitor the situation and intends to expand its response through this DREF operation. It should be noted that the BRCS has the experience and capacity to carry out the proposed activities. Indeed, BRCS has a pool of volunteers who are trained in the relevant sector activities like assessment, relief distributions, WASH, Shelter, message dissemination and technical support. The National Society has been responding to different emergencies in the country including seasonal floods as it is one of the recurring disasters in the country.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

BRCS is part of IFRC Southern Africa Cluster, which is located in Pretoria and from which it receives support. Communication has been maintained with the IFRC Cluster Office in Pretoria, as well as with the Africa Region Office in Nairobi. There are no other Movement partners present in the country. The National Society will continue to share updates and reports of the situation with the relevant units of the above mentioned IFRC Offices.

Movement Coordination

The IFRC is present in the region, but not in the country. Since there is currently no Disaster Management Delegate at the IFRC South Africa Country Cluster Office, coordination has been established with the regional representative of the IFRC Regional Office, who has been monitoring the assessment. Reports and update will be shared with the regional office. There is no partner National Society in the country.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The government has assisted by providing boats which have been used to evacuate the affected population. The boats have also been used to transport students cut off from their schools in Gweta and Sepako villages. Government is also coordinating the response activities, hosting meetings where BRCS responders share their reports. The National Society participates in all coordination activities/meetings.

The District authorities are working closely with the BRCS both in the assessment of the evolving situation and collaborating with providing temporary shelter at the evacuation centres. The District government is also providing the affected population with the food and water they require and will provide sanitation services for post flood clean up. Aside from District Government, no other NGO or partner is present on the ground to support this emergency.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

The needs on the ground remain same as at the launch of this DREF operation. Please see the emergency plan of action published [here](#).

Targeting

The overall target for this DREF operation is 564 households (2,820 people) in Zoroga, Gweta and Tsokotshaa villages. Please refer to [EPoA](#) for details on targeting.

Table 3: Number of persons requiring assistance from 3 villages of concern

DISTRICTS	VILLAGES	Affected population (HH)	Population requiring assistance (HH)	BRCS Targeted population (HH)
Central	Gweta	410	410	205
	Zoroga	310	310	310
	Tsokotshaa	125	125	49

Scenario planning

Please refer to [EPoA](#) for details on scenario planning.

Operation Risk Assessment

According to the District Disaster Management Committee, 60% of the families have not left their homes despite the high-water levels due to limited safe infrastructure options to house them. The continued presence of these families in flood affected areas, with inadequate shelter and insufficient access to safe water or adequate sanitation conditions increases the risk to their health. As per the Meteorological Service forecasts, rains continued to the end of March 2018 in the Central district, further affecting these already vulnerable populations. There are no security threats at the moment, the village disaster committee together with Red Cross volunteers are doing monitoring on daily basis.

The poor condition of road networks due to flooding, have made the response challenging as the responders take time to reach the affected population. These delays could cause frustrations among the affected population and also increase the harmful impacts of the flooding if further delays are experienced. The congested conditions at the evacuation centres could lead to other hygiene related and respiratory illnesses as well as issues with protection and gender-based violence. The government is currently working on repairing the road network in all affected villages.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Operational objective:

To provide immediate relief assistance to 322 HH (1,610 persons) most affected by the flooding in Zoroga, Gweta and Tsokotshaa villages of Tutume sub district in the sectors of shelter, health, and WASH.

Operational plan and strategy

The Operational plan and strategy for this operation remains same as planned in the [EPoA](#). Indeed, this Operations Update only focuses on allowing a two months no-cost timeframe extension (new end date: 21 August 2018) for the National Society to implement all the activities outlined in the EPoA and for IFRC RLU to complete replenishment of stocks provided to the NS for distribution.

Following technical issues with Botswana bank that caused considerable delay in the transfer of funds to the National Society, Botswana Red Cross Society was not able to carry on with the implementation of activities started at the onset of this disaster. In addition, given shortage at the IFRC Dubai warehouse, IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) needs more time to proceed and complete the replenishment of the IFRC Regional Warehouse based in Harare within the operation timeframe.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Health

People reached: 125 people

Male: 53

Female: 72

Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Health Output 1.1: Communities are provided by NS with services to identify and reduce health risks

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by NS with services to reduce relevant health risk factors	2,820	0
# of people reached by First Aid services	2,820	125
# of mosquito nets distributed. Target: 322 HH (2 per HH)	644	0

Progress towards outcomes

Some 25 volunteers have already been deployed on the ground since the onset of the emergency, to conduct hygiene promotion activities in the affected villages. Some 125 people have been assisted with First Aid services and those with serious conditions were referred to Gweta Primary Hospitals. Affected people were attended with different conditions such as shock which is most experienced during flooding and volunteers at the same time disseminate messages on risk associated with flooding water, and also assisting at the evacuation points.

BRCS volunteers, in close coordination with District Health Management, are monitoring the situation to identify potential extra needs of assistance.

Some 644 Mosquito Nets from IFRC Regional Warehouse (Harare) have been dispatched and reached Botswana RC on May 19. Distribution is being organised.

The other planned activities could not be implemented as the DREF funds had not reached the National Society until mid-May, due to banking issues.



Shelter

People reached: 0 households (0people)

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Output 1.1: Short-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlement (Target 322 HH)	322	0
# households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance (Target 200 HH)	200	0

Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive (Target 200 HH)	200	0

Progress towards outcomes

The planned activities could not be implemented as the DREF funds had not reached the National Society. However, quotations have been sourced and suppliers have been selected in compliance with IFRC and NS procurement procedures.

Some 200 Shelter tool Kits and 400 tarpaulins from IFRC Regional Warehouse in Harare (Zimbabwe) have been dispatched and reached Botswana RC on 19 May. Shelter construction shall commence from the week of 28 May 2018.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 2,820 people (564 households)

Male: 1,394

Female: 1426

Outcome 1: : Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Output 1.1: Communities are provided improved access to safe water

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families provided with knowledge and best practice to reduce the risk of waterborne and water related diseases (Target 564 HH)	564	405
# households provided with training and products to ensure safe water that meet agreed standards according to specific operational and programmatic context (Target 564 HH)	564	0

Output 1.2: NS promote positive behavioural change in personal and community hygiene among targeted communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in hygiene promotion activities (Target: 60 volunteers)	60	0
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities (Target: 2,820 persons)	2,820	2,820

Progress towards outcomes

Some 25 volunteers are currently on the ground disseminating information on hygiene promotion with District Health Management team to curb any risk of outbreak of water-borne diseases in the affected areas. Volunteers are working closely with District Health Management teams to communicate with communities on proper use of water. Key messages are being disseminated specifically on hygiene promotion. To date, all targeted population has been reached with hygiene promotions messages. In addition, 405 households were also provided with best practices to reduce the risk of waterborne and water related diseases.

Volunteer trainings will start on the 5 June 2018 and will run concurrently with other trainings planned for community leaders.

Strategies for implementation

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

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessments conducted in the affected areas	Not specified	2
# of volunteers and staff involved in the operation	25	25

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.

Output 3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of communication materials produced	1000	0
# of videos produced	1	0

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop organized	1	0

Progress towards outcomes

Some 25 volunteers have been deployed to the field as planned, while two assessments were conducted in collaboration with government focusing on water contamination. The analysis indicate that the water is safe for drinking; however, communities are still being advised to continue to boil the water as the government is still testing the water to come up with a final report.

Nothing else has been achieved yet due to delay on the transfer of funds.
The lesson learnt workshop will be done at the end of the operation to evaluate all the implemented activities.

D. BUDGET

The overall budget for this operation remains CHF 111,493, as this operation update did not request for a budget revision.

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.