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Emergency Appeal

Southern Africa Drought (Food Insecurity)

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

(Revised) Appeal n° MDRZA009	81,000 people (16,200 households) to be assisted	Appeal launched 11 December 2019
Glide n° N/A	768,800 Swiss francs DREF allocated	Appeal ends 10 April 2021
	7,7 million Swiss francs funding requirements	

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of **7,7 million Swiss francs** to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support **four National Societies in Southern Africa (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia)** to deliver assistance to **81,000 people (16,200 households)** affected by a worsening drought for **14 months** with a focus on **Livelihoods and Basic Needs**. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time of the operation.

The four targeted countries were selected bearing in mind that Red Cross Red Crescent network has ongoing operations in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, which are all addressing food insecurity. The additional four countries would expand the Federation network humanitarian response to eight countries in southern Africa. The selection of target communities is based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis and National Vulnerability Assessment (NVAC) reports. In consultations with the respective National Societies and in-country partners, the areas selected are where other non-Red Cross Red Crescent partners are not operational.

The Appeal is designed in coordination with in-country Red Cross/Red Crescent partners and seeks to build on existing programmes implemented by the National Societies, to implement emergency response activities and recovery interventions in the face of worsening food insecurity in southern Africa.

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

May 2019: National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVAC) in southern Africa undertake assessments. Humanitarian needs are identified in [SADC Synthesis Report 2019](#).

October 2019: Lesotho declares a drought emergency. Mobilisation of resources for humanitarian response begins.

November 2019: IFRC issues an [Information Bulletin](#) on the food insecurity situation in southern Africa and holds consultations with the four National Societies and partners to identify potential areas for humanitarian assistance.

December 2019: IFRC launches an Emergency Appeal for 7,7 Million Swiss Francs to assist 81,000 people for 14 months and allocates CHF 768,800 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to start the operations.



*In Namibia, 25-year old Mapandjura daily struggles to survive the drought by moving around to look for water.
Photo by IFRC / Hugo Nijentap*

The operational strategy

Needs analysis

(a) Regional overview

Southern Africa currently has over 11 million people¹ experiencing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and above) in nine countries (Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe). As of the beginning of November; Angola, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia declared states of drought emergencies, requiring international assistance to address the worsening food insecurity.

The 2018/19 rains were largely poor and latest forecasts indicate that several countries will be seriously affected by the continuation of the current dry conditions during the 2019-2020 production season. These include Eswatini and Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, parts of Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Earlier forecasts by the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook (SARCOF) indicated a 25% likelihood of below average rainfall. However, more recent forecasts indicated a much more serious situation of 70-80% likelihood of a consecutive below average rainfall season².

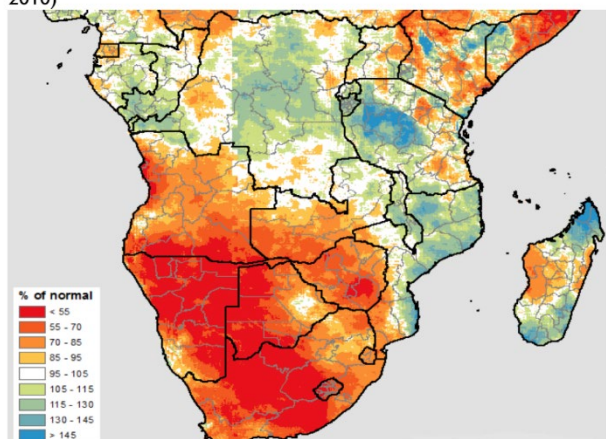
In response to the increasing food insecurity situation, governments across the region developed national mitigation and response plans, are allocating emergency response funds, and calling on the humanitarian community to provide additional support. In-country, government-led coordination mechanisms have been set up to ensure any response interventions address the most in need communities, and that resource mobilisation efforts are properly managed.

The Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies have supported their respective governments with additional assessments and consultations to determine areas and sectors for potential interventions. This multi-country Emergency Appeal is designed to cover Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia, as the Red Cross Red Crescent network already has ongoing emergency operations in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, reaching 207,055 people (41,411 households) with food security related interventions. In addition, governments and other external partners are responding in other geographical areas and this Appeal focuses on areas where humanitarian gaps exist.

The UN agencies have developed a multi-sectoral Regional Appeal to address emergency needs in 10³ countries over a period of 9 months (October 2019 – June 2020). In some countries the UN agencies have accessed the Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF) and humanitarian response are planned/ongoing. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is working with national governments to explore sub regional and regional funding opportunities such as through the Africa Development bank (AfDB) and the World Bank.

Regional Climate crisis trends and outlook

Figure 1. October 1, 2018 – January 25, 2019 CHIRPS preliminary rainfall, cumulative precipitation anomaly compared to average (1981-2010)



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Past Rainfall and weather outlook for Southern Africa:

In the summer rainfall season from October 2018-January 2019 significantly lower rainfall than average was measured over southern Africa. By 1 February 2019, FEWS NET declared an alert, triggered by the delayed start of the season and the significant rainfall deficit negatively impacting cropping conditions.

This trend continued this year with below average rainfalls observed over especially western parts of southern Africa at the onset of the rainy season in October / November 2019.

The scenario is consistent with a forecast of increased drier conditions for southern Africa (see graph below). It

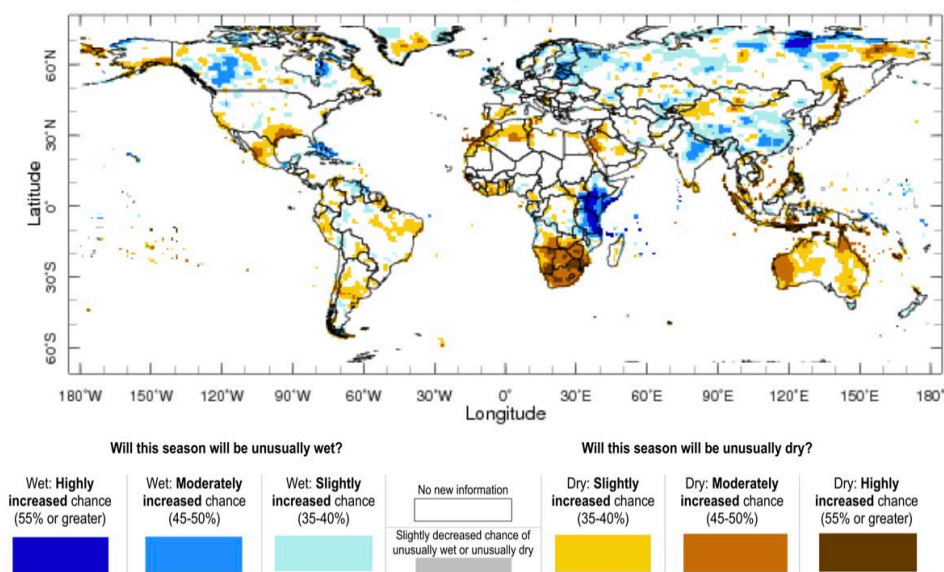
¹ UN Joint Call for Action to Address the Impacts of Climate Change and a Deepening Humanitarian Crisis in Southern Africa

² The European Centre for Medium – Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)

³ Refer to the UN Joint Call for Action for overlapping countries.

is thus important to prepare for assistance as it appears that in many areas in southern Africa the summer rains have failed for a second consecutive year.

Forecast for Dec 2019 - Feb 2020, Forecast Issued Nov 2019



(b) Country by country situation analysis

This Emergency Appeal focuses on four countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia) where emergency and recovery activities will be implemented. A small component of the Appeal has a regional component, focused to provide technical, surge and operational support across the southern Africa region, including countries with ongoing Emergency Appeals (Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia) to ensure continuous needs analysis 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 in streamlining cross cutting components on community engagement and accountability, and protection, gender and inclusion, and strengthening communication, monitoring systems and document lessons learned.

Botswana: The country has experienced recurrent drought for several years with the 2018/19 rains described as the lowest in three decades. The consecutive rainfall deficits and prolonged dry spells have led to the drying up of water sources on which livestock depend, especially in Botswana's Okavango Delta where high livestock mortality has already been witnessed⁴. The Government of Botswana declared a state of drought emergency and put in place mitigation measures for the period July 2019 to June 2020. Despite government actions to address the effects of the drought emergency (e.g. increasing the subsidy on livestock feed to 35 per cent, provision of double supplementary feeding rations for children aged 6 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 are projected to be food insecure for the peak lean season of January to March 2020.⁵

Botswana has a strong social protection system that would normally identify the most vulnerable people and households for support but individuals who are not registered on the government safety net registers are left out. The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS), through its social support and rehabilitation service programmes for children with disabilities, has evidence of vulnerable households which do not benefit from the government social support system. Botswana Red Cross Society will thus focus on implementing activities to ensure inclusion, address the emergency needs of and contribute to recovery for the most vulnerable and marginalized households in the communities it serves.

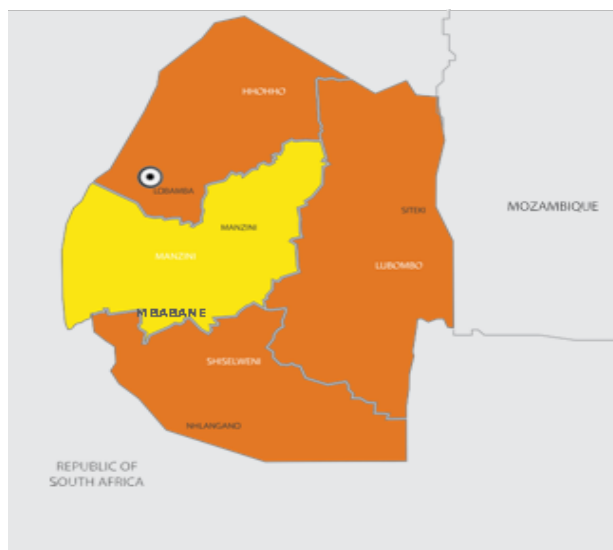
⁴ Botswana Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, June 2019

⁵ SADC Synthesis report on the state of food and nutrition and vulnerability in southern Africa, 2019

Eswatini: Drought is affecting Eswatini and the Country's Annual Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Report (July 2019) indicated a decline in cereal production; mostly affecting the lowveld and dry mid veld in the Shiselweni, Lubombo and Hhohho regions.

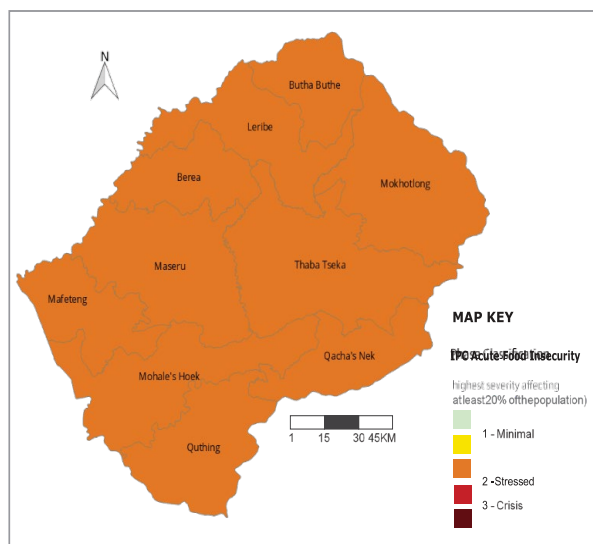
National economic challenges including high unemployment and rising food prices persist, while frequent combinations of shocks such as long dry spells, storms and fall army worm infestations remain major challenges resulting in serious levels of food insecurity. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) acute food insecurity analysis, between October 2019 and March 2020, around 232,000 people (25% of the rural population) are likely to experience acute food insecurity (IPC 2, 3 and above). The SADC Synthesis Report on the state of food and nutrition security and vulnerability in southern Africa shows the number of people facing acute food insecurity has increased by 88% from 2018/19 figures, highlighting the deteriorating situation that is expected to worsen due to the prediction of failed /failing 2019/2020 rainy season.

*Eswatini Acute Food Insecurity IPC Map
Oct 2019 - March 2020*



Lesotho: Recurrent drought events in Lesotho are the main cause of food insecurity, affecting crop production and food prices, livestock prices, as well as having a serious impact on child nutrition status and health. The 2018 rains were very poor, resulting in a decline in food production of 68 per cent in 2019. This year drought effects have intensified, affecting thousands of people leading to increases in acute malnutrition cases and severe

Lesotho Acute Food Insecurity IPC Map Oct 2019 - March 2020



water shortages for both humans and livestock. The difference between the current situation and the last major drought which affected the country in 2015/16 (when the lowlands were mostly affected), is that this time the entire country is badly affected and currently classified as IPC 3 (Crisis).

According to the IPC acute food insecurity analysis it is projected that 433,000 people (30 per cent of the rural population) will face acute food insecurity (IPC 3 and above) from October 2019 to March 2020. The government officially declared a state of drought emergency on 30 October and has since developed a national mitigation and response plan to run till June 2020. The government has also set up ministerial and technical committees to boost the capacity of the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) at national and district levels to coordinate the mitigation and response interventions.

Since the declaration of the drought emergency and consequent development of the national mitigation and response plan, the government has not yet released funding for the response. The Disaster Management Authority (DMA) is considering several options for resource mobilisation, including reallocations from sectoral budgets, and an emergency loan from the World Bank (this discussion was still ongoing at end of November 2019).

United Nations (UN) agencies are responding mainly in the lowland districts, building on the ongoing World Food Programme (WFP) chronic food insecurity programme. However, to date limited humanitarian assistance has been delivered to the mountain districts, despite all the 10 districts of Lesotho being classified as IPC 3 (Crisis); and the situation is expected to worsen. Already, the current planting season for the mountain districts is lost even if good rains are received because planting in the mountainous areas should have been completed by October, to ensure crops are harvested before the 2020 cold season sets in. Significant gaps exist in the humanitarian response, especially for the 'hard to reach districts' in the mountains. This will be the focus of the LRCS under this multi-country EMERGENCY Appeal; in terms of response and recovery interventions.

Namibia: The country was affected by prolonged dry weather in the 2018/19 cropping season. This led to below average production in 2019, severe water shortage and poor pasture conditions. This in turn affected livestock conditions causing a massive drop in prices as well as trade value (e.g. rate at which a goat is exchanged for maize). The long dry spell also resulted in increased livestock mortality, with the Ministry of Agriculture estimating 59,000 animals (mainly cattle) were lost as a result of drought. Consequently, the Government of Namibia declared a state of drought emergency in May 2019, triggering reallocation of government resources to respond to the crisis. According to the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NVAC), over 289,644 people are food insecure and need immediate food assistance. This number is expected to rise during the 2019/2020 consumption period. The Country is working on its first IPC analysis and although not yet officially published, eight out of the 14 regions analysed are in IPC 3, and current rainfall forecasts indicate the situation may worsen. The eight most affected regions are Hardap, Kavango East, Khomas, Kunene, Ohangewana, Omusati, Omaheke and Zambezi.

The Government of Namibia has allocated resources to respond to the worsening food insecurity and water crisis and this support is planned to run till March 2020. Areas of government support include; distribution of food parcels, provision of water, enhanced animal health support, supporting enhanced fodder production at green schemes, which will be distributed to needy farmers, and introducing a 50% subsidy scheme to enable small-scale farmers establish fodder production facilities (using hydroponic means). The government support is country wide but falls short of reaching all the people in need.

Current ongoing responses

In response to the ongoing food insecurity caused by drought and flooding, IFRC launched emergency appeals for **Malawi** [MDRMW014](#) and **Zambia** [MDRZM012](#) in April and October respectively. Implementation is ongoing and both emergency appeals have recovery components to ensure households are supported to recover their normal livelihood. However, funding for the two operations has been low and IFRC continues to mobilise resources to ensure that all planned recovery activities are implemented.

In **Zimbabwe**, there is currently no IFRC appeal, however the Zimbabwe Red Cross is responding to the crisis through a programme supported by the British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, and Finnish Red Cross societies, in partnership with WFP. The programme is funded by ECHO and reaches approximately 225,000 people with cash transfers. Other ongoing ZRCS projects supported by Red Cross Red Crescent partners have crisis modifier components which have been activated to respond to the evolving acute food insecurity situation.

In **Mozambique**, food insecurity is being addressed through the ongoing Emergency Appeal for TC Idai [MDRMZ014](#), through Area of focus 3: Livelihoods and basic needs.

Although the responses activities for Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique are not included under this multi country Emergency Appeal, they will be included in terms of regional support for cross border monitoring, advocacy and resource mobilization. The IFRC Southern Africa Cluster is closely monitoring the evolving food security situation and raising advocacy concerns through relevant platforms including the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) for which IFRC is a co-chair, donor coordination meetings and with the SADC Secretariat.

For the four target countries under this current multi country response, IFRC will support the National Societies and partners to build on ongoing projects/programmes to scale up and/or initiate in responses to address food insecurity. An overview of the country by country current responses are as below:

Botswana

Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) runs a Rehabilitation Services Programme that reaches most vulnerable in the communities of Tlokweng, Francis Town and Sefhare; where three Rehabilitation centres are operational. The rehabilitation centres focus on children and youth with disabilities, and provides support in terms of training, social support services, referrals and community-based rehabilitation for people with disabilities. This programme is funded by the Government of Botswana and includes provision of meals for the children at the centres. In addition, BRCS runs social support programmes through the branches including horticultural gardens that produce food for the most vulnerable people in the community. The intention is for the branch gardens to serve as demonstration sites for good practices in nutritious food production which can be replicated in the communities. BRCS is adopting the government drive to promote horticulture, building on the existing seven branch horticulture gardens, and the three farms in central districts that serve as demonstration and learning centres. BRCS intends to build on this work to reach out to vulnerable people that are not selected by the government social safety net programmes. BRCS, through its outreach programmes, has evidence of these categories of near households affected by the current food insecurity that do not receive support through the government responses. BRCS will

then advocate with relevant government departments to ensure such vulnerable individuals are enrolled in the social safety net programmes for future support.

Eswatini

The Eswatini Red Cross Society has been implementing Cash Based Interventions (CBI) in Somntongo and Matsanjeni constituencies of Shiselweni Region. The CBI project implemented by the Eswatini Red Cross and funded by the Finnish and British Red Cross recently came to an end having supported 11,109 people, some 2000 households; affected by food insecurity crisis. This Emergency Appeal will build on the learning from the CBI project and address emerging needs in the same target areas.

The WFP is currently providing CBI programmes for five constituencies in Lubombo Region and two constituencies Hhohho Region for a six-month period; from November 2019 to April 2020.

Shiselweni Region is one of the most affected regions in Eswatini and Eswatini Red Cross has a long experience working in the area, with the most recent being the CBI. Eswatini Red Cross, with support from the British Red Cross has embarked on a community project focused on water points rehabilitation, rainwater harvesting, menstrual hygiene management, and promotion of good nutrition – working in conjunction with Silele Clinic in Shiselweni Region. In addition, a health project funded by Japanese Red Cross is implementing activities with PLWHIV and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) working through Teen Clubs at schools and youth out of school. The project works through health motivators, who support HIV infected youth and orphans with medicines and food parcels. Eswatini Red Cross work closely with different stakeholders to ensure contributions from each of these separate interventions contribute to the bigger picture of building community resilience in the region.

Lesotho

Lesotho Red Cross currently doesn't have any Red Cross Red Crescent partners in-country, however IFRC is supporting a HIV and AIDS project focusing on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). British Red Cross has been a partner to Lesotho Red Cross for many years and has the capacity to support the national society and support this response.

Lesotho Red Cross in partnership with World Vision is implementing an ECHO - funded DRR project in two districts (Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek), ending in December 2019. In addition, Lesotho Red Cross is currently conducting community social mobilisation for a WFP CBI project in the lowland district. In 2015/16 Lesotho Red Cross worked in partnership with WFP on cash and food for community assets programme, which strengthened the National Society capacity in CBI programming. The National Society continues to manage community-based disaster response team (CBDRT) which play an important role in terms of community mobilisation, preparedness and response.

Namibia

With support from British, Spanish and German Red Cross Societies as well as the German Government, the Namibia Red Cross is assisting 1,211 households with cash assistance in the Sibbinda constituency in the Zambezi Region. This is one of the most drought - affected regions and the British Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross supported project has been extended to March 2020, to meet emerging food needs as well as seed support for the planting season.

With USAID funding, Namibia Red Cross is rehabilitating 15 water points in Kunene (reaching 1,500 households). GIZ has approached Namibia Red Cross regarding potential funding CBI but this is not expected to take off till later next year. With funding from Government of Japan, Namibia Red Cross is rehabilitating 16 additional water points in Kunene region, reaching 350 households.

In Kavango region, Namibia Red Cross has partnered with WFP to distribute food to approximately 16,000 households. WFP provides the food, while NRCS handles the logistics for distribution, community mobilisation by volunteers and post distribution monitoring.

Coordination and partnerships

IFRC Southern Africa Country Cluster Support Office has been coordinating and providing technical support to the National Societies since severe El Nino - induced drought of 2016/2017 to prepare and respond to the food insecurity crisis. However, with further escalation of the food insecurity situation in the region since 2018, the National Societies of Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe have been assisting affected communities with the support of Red Cross Red Crescent partners namely, American, Belgian, British, Danish, Finnish,

German, Netherlands, and Swiss Red Cross. Partner National Societies will be invited to second staff and technical expertise to the operation, with overall management role played by the Southern Africa CCST.

This multi-country Emergency Appeal will enable IFRC and its Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies to scale up responses to address acute food insecurity, while contributing to longer term recovery and resilience building.

IFRC will play the overall coordination role for the Emergency Appeal, working closely with in-country partners on supporting operational activities at the country level. A coordination mechanism will be set up to ensure regular updates, review of operational challenges, and appropriate remedial action are taken as necessary. Partners are invited to second technical staff to IFRC to lead the operations in the respective countries. Bi-monthly coordination meetings will be held with each country operation team and CSST for updates on progress and challenges experienced.

The IFRC is the co-chair of the Food and Nutrition Security Working Group (FNSWG) and will use this platform to share the collective Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian response with other humanitarian actors in southern Africa. In addition, on a monthly basis, the IFRC Cluster office will continue coordinating with relevant humanitarian actors through RIASCO (Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee) and SADC's Resilience Working Group.

In country, National Societies and their Red Cross Red Cross partners will work with the national coordination mechanisms for drought response. This will include participation in the planning and review meetings, advocacy on emerging humanitarian needs, and reporting on progress and challenges.

Targeting

This Emergency Appeal will target drought-affected communities and households and will target the most vulnerable persons in the implementation. Special focus will be given to meeting the needs of children under-five, pregnant women and nursing mothers, people with disabilities, the elderly, and people receiving medication for chronic illnesses like HIV and tuberculosis (TB), following national agreed targeting approaches.

Southern Africa has high TB and HIV incidence, and affected people receiving medication will need special attention to achieve and maintain good nutritional status. This Emergency Appeal aims to reach 81,000 people affected by drought in target communities in four southern Africa countries. The National Societies will use the community-based targeting approaches and will engage communities, local leaders and other stakeholders in participatory processes to identify and select the people and households for support.

Community engagement will be an ongoing process, which will also be used to collect information about the impacts of responses and to inform course-correction; where necessary. This approach is adopted for its ability to improve two-way communication between national societies and affected communities, and to enhance the IFRC's accountability to communities. Comprehensive targeting criteria will be developed and validated through community dialogue sessions for their input/review and used to selecting the most vulnerable to receive assistance. The National Societies have good acceptance within the communities they serve and with the local authorities. These relationships will be leveraged to facilitate operations in areas considered hard to reach, which this appeal aims to support.

Table 1: Geographical Impact and Targeting

Country	District/Region	District Pop.	IPC 3 /4	Target Pop.	Existing program to build on and lead partner	Relevant Branch
Eswatini	Shiselweni	191,107	57,000	25,000	Cash Based Intervention: Finnish and British Red Cross; Water point Rehabilitation: British Red Cross	Shiselweni
Lesotho	Butha Buthe District	85,619	17,000	5,000	ECHO funded DRR: World Vision	Butha Buthe branch
	Mokhotlong District	97,386	19,000	5,000	ECHO funded DRR: World Vision	Mokhotlong branch
	Thaba Tseka District	125,992	44,000	8,000		Thaba Tseka branch

	Qachas's Nek District	54,848	19,000	5,000		Qachas's Nek branch
Namibia	Kunene District	102,485	20,497	18,000	Water Point Rehabilitation - USAID and Japanese Government	Kunene branch
Botswana	Kgalagadi District	50,492	38,000	2,500	Government supported BRCS initiatives	Central branch
	Central District	638,604	38,000	7,000		
	Southern District	215,775	38,000	5,500	Government supported BRCS initiatives	Kgalagadi branch Southern branch
TOTAL		1,562,308	290,497	81,000		

Proposed Areas for intervention

The **overall operational objective** of the multi-country Emergency Appeal is to provide immediate food assistance and livelihood recovery support through cash/voucher interventions to the most affected households in the targeted communities for a period of 14 months.

In addition, IFRC Southern Africa Cluster, with support from the Regional office in Nairobi, will provide technical advice and backstopping to the region in terms of ongoing monitoring and analysis of needs, operational surge support, coordination and resource mobilisation. The regional component of the Emergency Appeal will cover the four countries in the appeal as well as countries with ongoing emergency operations such as Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The IFRC will continue to monitor the other drought affected countries in the sub-region.

This multi-country Emergency Appeal will align with Red Cross Red Crescent network long term work in southern Africa that aims to strengthen community resilience; building on the Southern Africa Resilience Plan (2017 – 2020). The Resilience Plan focuses on innovative approaches to strengthen community resilience, including strengthening Red Cross branches as centres of resilience, innovation and learning. Lessons learned from previous Food Security Appeal (2016 -2017) informed the design of this Emergency Appeal to ensure more efficient and targeted response.

Special focus will be put on strengthening climate change adaptation approaches and practices, drawing from the expertise of the Federation network, including the Red Cross Climate Centre, the Livelihoods Resource Centre and the Global Disaster Preparedness Centre. These will play a key role in strengthening the capacities of National societies to deliver high quality support to the target communities.

Access to water activities are included under some of the livelihood activities such as rainwater harvesting in Botswana and livestock waterpoint rehabilitation in Namibia. Partners (British Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross) are supporting Eswatini with rehabilitation of water sources. After consultation with the four National Societies, a strategic decision was made to focus this operation on livelihoods and food security. The implementing National Societies will continue to monitor the needs related to water, sanitation and hygiene and will revise the appeal to respond according.

Areas of Focus



Livelihood and Basic Needs

People targeted: 81,000

Male: 38,880

Female: 42,120

Requirements (CHF): 6,141,000

Proposed Intervention

Needs Analysis:

Southern Africa has been affected by frequent drought events reducing both immediate access to food and longer-term livelihood strategies of the most affected communities. A strong drought in the 2018/19 cropping season affected larger parts of southern Africa⁶. Tropical storms in March triggered floods in several countries, which displaced people, destroyed crops and other productive assets. Food insecurity has been widespread as the drought affected most countries in southern Africa and resulted in Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia declaring national drought emergencies and appealing for humanitarian assistance.

The latest rainfall forecasts for the 2019/2020 season indicate a high likelihood of below average rainfall in the 2019/2020 agricultural season, which will likely result in consecutive below average rainfall season as 2018/2019 was largely poor too.

In response to this evolving humanitarian crisis this Emergency Appeal will support Botswana Red Cross, Eswatini Red Cross, Lesotho Red Cross and Namibia Red Cross to implement food assistance and recovery activities targeting the most affected communities. The planned Red Cross activities consider the overall humanitarian needs, responses by other actors so far, and build on ongoing Red Cross Red Crescent partners' supported initiatives to maximise resource utilisation, protect the gains made through ongoing programmes, and ensure quality service delivery. The proposed interventions, by country are as below:

Botswana:

Despite the actions by government to address the effects of the drought emergency some gaps still exist, especially for very vulnerable households who may not be on the government support system. With this background Botswana Red Cross proposes to implement support interventions that will provide immediate relief and contribute to recovery of affected households. The approach is to build on existing Botswana Red Cross programmes (the Rehabilitation Services Programme and the backyard gardens concept that was introduced in seven branches). Botswana Red Cross will implement the following activities:

- **Provision of food vouchers:** for vulnerable households in the area covered by the Rehabilitation Services programme. With funding from Government of Botswana, Botswana Red Cross provides food for children with disabilities who are enrolled at three centres. The Society also provides other ongoing support in the form of training, protection and vocational skills. The communities where these rehabilitation centres are located have very vulnerable households which are not always able to access enough food, which creates a social concern for the rehabilitation centres. To address the problem of lack of access to enough food for especially vulnerable households, BRCS will provide food vouchers to target households, based on agreements with selected shops in the surrounding communities. The food vouchers will be provided for a period of six months to align with the government drought response plan. These households are also being supported with vegetable production and will have started supplementing their food needs.
- **Support to backyard gardening:** Botswana Red Cross has in the past introduced the backyard gardening concept in seven branches, with the aim of producing food to supplement diets of identified vulnerable households. The branch backyard gardens have lacked resources and equipment leading to failure to produce for the intended purpose. Botswana Red Cross will revive the backyard gardens and use them to produce supplementary food for vulnerable members of the communities and use the gardens to demonstrate and promote the concept of surrounding households and other branches. In addition, households supported with food vouchers will also be supported to establish backyard gardens to grow vegetables and improve communities' access to a varied et. BRCS will support selected households with vegetable seeds, rainwater harvesting equipment, shade nets, tools and

⁶ SADC Synthesis report on the state of food and nutrition security and vulnerability in southern Africa

simple drip irrigation equipment. This activity will be accompanied with training, community mobilisation and technical demonstrations, to promote uptake using relevant climate-smart techniques.

- **Provision of livestock feed vouchers:** Although the government has introduced the subsidy on livestock feed, several households are not benefiting as they do not have funds to buy even the subsidised feed. These, therefore, 'fall through the cracks' and need support. Botswana Red Cross will identify households in this category within the communities served by the three rehabilitation centres and the seven branches promoting the backyard garden concept and provide them with vouchers for livestock feeds for six months. The reason for the long livestock feeding period is that forecasts indicate the rainfall season will be poor and may therefore not support full pasture regeneration. In addition, the consecutive drought events have weakened animals and full recovery may take longer than usual, even if the rains increase soon.

Eswatini

Based on the Eswatini Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) report of July 2019, approximately 200,000 people are faced with acute food insecurity, out of approximately 157,000 people are in IPC 3 or worse. Despite the Government of Eswatini developing response plans, not funding has been released yet by the government.

Eswatini Red Cross plans to intervene three constituencies, two of which (Somntongo and Matsanjeni) are the current/closing Cash-Based Intervention areas. This will give Eswatini Red Cross an opportunity to build on the work it's done with the 2,000 households, applying lessons learnt and strengthening local systems for cash and recovery interventions in the phase of increasing food insecurity.

The cash component will target 5000 households in the three constituencies, out of which, 2,000 households will be supported with seed for the next planting season, and 1,000 households will be supported with Keyhole/backyard gardening. The specific interventions are as below;

(a) Cash transfers for food: Eswatini RC will target 5,000 households in three constituencies of Shiselweni in region with cash transfers for food purchase. The intervention will build on the recent cash transfer programme that was supported by Finnish RC and British RC which reached approximately 11,000 people. A lessons' learned workshop was held for the cash transfer programme and the NS will apply this learning in the design of this intervention. The cash transfer value (E700) is based on 75% of the cost of the minimum food basket which has been discussed and agreed upon by the Eswatini Food Security and Nutrition Working Group that comprises stakeholders from Government (National Disaster Management Agency - NDMA), and humanitarian partners, including WFP. In 2016/17 WFP carried out comprehensive Market assessments which humanitarian partners in Eswatini use in design of cash transfer programmes. Eswatini Red Cross will use these assessments and combine with rapid review of the markets to fine tune its planned interventions.

(b) Provision of seed: To support livelihood recovery for the most affected households in the three constituencies, Eswatini Red Cross will provide seed (beans and sweet potatoes) to 2,000 households selected from the 5,000 households targeted with cash transfers. The seed provision will target the next cropping season that starts in September. Linked to this intervention, the National Society will hold community sessions to promote drought resistant crop varieties and climate-smart agriculture techniques to assist communities to adapt to the changing climate conditions for crop cultivation. This will be done through cash or voucher modality. From the resilience perspective, some drought resistant crops training will be delivered to the farmers in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) Support to backyard gardens (keyhole gardens); To contribute to increasing dietary diversity at household level, Eswatini RC will promote backyard/ keyhole garden concept targeting 1,000 households. The support will be in form of seed, basic tools (garden fork, watering can, and water storage containers), and technical support in establishment and management of backyard/keyhole gardens. Given the scarcity of water in the area, the National Society will promote reuse of household water in the vegetable gardens and encourage small scale water harvesting methods, as well as practices that keep soil moisture – such as mulching.

Lesotho:

Since the declaration of the Drought emergency on 30 October, the Government of Lesotho has developed a national mitigation and response plan, but no government funding has been released yet. The UN agencies are responding mainly in the lowland districts, but to date no humanitarian assistance has been delivered to the Mountain districts, yet all the 10 districts of Lesotho are classified as IPC 3 (Crisis) and the situation is expected to worsen. Already, the current season is lost even if good rains are received because planting in the Mountain areas should have been completed by October, to ensure crops are harvested before the 2020 cold season sets

in. Lesotho Red Cross will therefore focus on the 4 mountain districts (Butha Buthe, Mokhotlong, Thaba Tseka and Qachas's Nek) which are characterised as 'hard to reach'. In addition, Lesotho Red Cross has recently implemented projects in some of these 4 districts so the planned interventions will build on what has been achieved e.g. in 2 districts an ECHO funded DRR project (Lesotho Red Cross in partnership with World Vision International) is near completion. Follow up capacity strengthening support in risk reduction will be implemented. LRCS will implement the below activities;

- **Cash and/or vouchers for food:** Lesotho Red Cross will target 25% of the total households in IPC3 in the 4 districts, with cash and voucher transfers to increase their access to food. The initial three months will be on a free transfer basis. For the following three months, cash/food vouchers for community asset building approaches will be used, benefiting 4,600 families. This will ensure that all able-bodied adults contribute to community asset building by providing labour to agreed community infrastructure rehabilitation and/or construction. Those unable to work e.g. elderly and people with disabilities will continue to receive unconditional transfers. This is in line with ongoing Food for Work approaches led by the Ministry of Forestry, and with the national social safety net programmes. The cash/voucher transfer value has been set by the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC), based on the updated cost of the minimum food basket, and Lesotho Red Cross is a member of this government led multi stakeholder assessment committee. Lesotho Red Cross has experience in Cash for Community Assets programming through its partnership with WFP in 2015/2016, and the current partnership where Lesotho Red Cross is undertaking community mobilisation in the lowland districts for an upcoming WFP cash transfer programme.
- **Agricultural input support:** Lesotho Red Cross will target 15% of total households in IPC 3 in the 4 districts with inputs to restore production in the 2020 agricultural season that starts in August 2020. Due to poor rains in 2018, agricultural production in 2019 declined by 68%. With the current season already declared a failure in the mountain areas, Lesotho Red Cross anticipates serious constraints in 2020 in terms of seed and other agricultural inputs. Lesotho Red Cross support will include seeds (namely wheat, peas, and potatoes) for the normal rainfed agriculture, and vegetable seed (namely spinach, beetroot, cabbage, carrot) for homestead gardening. In addition, watering cans, shade nets and tools will be provided to support the homestead gardening activities. This intervention will be undertaken through vouchers utilising a combination of input seed fairs/specially organised input markets and/or through selected input suppliers.

For the above, training and capacity strengthening initiatives will be carried out, building on existing community disaster risk reduction (DRR) Lesotho Red Cross has implemented with districts, community councils, and villages. Cross cutting concepts of protection, gender, inclusion and community feedback mechanisms will be streamlined in the project interventions.

Namibia

The recent assessments by the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NAMVAC) indicate that over 200,000 people are faced with acute food insecurity and therefore in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The Government of Namibia declared a state of drought emergency in May 2019 and put in place measures to address the situation. These include distribution of food parcels, provision of water, animal health support, supporting enhanced fodder production at green schemes, and introducing a 50% subsidy scheme to enable small-scale farmers establish fodder production facilities (using hydroponic means).

Kunene Region is among the most affected areas and Namibian Red Cross has selected to focus its response activities there, as it is one of the 'hard to reach' districts' with hardly any ongoing assistance for the most affected households. The National Society has ongoing programmes in the region, on which to build its response, and these include; Rehabilitation of 15 water points (reaching 1,500 households), which is funded by USAID, and, rehabilitation of 16 additional water points (reaching 1,700), which is funded by the Government of Japan.

Building on the above ongoing interventions, Namibia Red Cross will implement the following emergency food assistance and recovery activities;

(a) Cash and in-kind food distribution: Kunene is a vast region with very poor infrastructure so accessing some areas is very difficult. The documented learning experiences from the cash transfer implemented in the same areas by the NS will be used throughout the implementation. There are fears that cash transfers may not work in some areas, but also physical movement of food parcels to the most affected area could be very difficult and expensive. For this reason, the National Society proposes a combination of both cash and in-kind distribution, although the actual modality will only be determined after a detailed markets assessment of the region. The support is anticipated to reach 2,500 families. The Government of Namibia is planning to reach several affected

people with food parcels, and this also will determine the option the National Society will adopt to ensure there is complementarity with government programmes and to avoid potential duplication.

(b) Rehabilitation of livestock water points: Livestock keeping is a main livelihood activity for the people in Kunene, although recent recurrent drought events have caused the death of many animals. The National Society is already supporting 3,000 households through rehabilitation of water points mainly for human consumption (although there is no clear distinction between water for livestock and for domestic use. To increase access to water for the livestock of the most affected people in Kunene, Namibia Red Cross will rehabilitate 20 key water points mainly using local labour and materials. Alongside this activity, Namibia Red Cross will work with the department of water to promote local techniques and approaches in rehabilitation and maintenance of the water sources. This activity will be linked to the ongoing interventions on water rehabilitation to maximise learning, technical expertise and replication of learning.

(c) Provision of livestock feed vouchers: The consecutive drought events have weakened animals and full recovery may take longer than usual, even if the rains increase soon, For the latter reason the Namibia Red Cross will provide livestock feed through vouchers/direct distribution to 3,600 farmers. This support will be given for six months as forecasts indicate the rainfall season will be poor and may therefore not support full pasture regeneration.

Population to be assisted: The livelihoods component will focus on providing food assistance and supporting protection and recovery of livelihoods initiatives for 16,200 households affected by drought through a combination of cash, food vouchers, livestock water point rehabilitation, feed vouchers, seed, tools and technical advice.

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

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

Planned Activities:

- (a) Conduct market assessments (review/update where they exist) to inform design options
- (b) Employ community engagement and participatory interventions
- (c) Food assistance through provision of cash/vouchers for food, particularly to vulnerable groups who are not able to produce their own food or generate income
- (d) Conduct post distribution monitoring, including through community feedback mechanisms set up as part of the response

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

Planned Activities:

- (a) Provision of seeds and farming tools
- (b) Technical support in vegetable/backyard/keyhole gardening
- (c) Awareness raising on climate smart agricultural practices, including crops
- (d) Provision of livestock feed vouchers
- (e) Rehabilitation of livestock water points possibly through cash for work
- (f) Conduct post distribution monitoring

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 1,554,000

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in these operations, the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: human

resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration.

Strengthen National Society

Requirements (CHF): 694,000

Human Resource

To implement and support this operation, National Societies have proposed adequate structures at both national and branch levels to ensure effective delivery of planned activities. To complement available skills on livelihood programming, technical training will be delivered with the support of IFRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Reference Centres (including Livelihoods Resource Centre, Climate Centre, Global Disaster Preparedness Centre) and relevant public authority institutions. IFRC will recruit full time Operations Coordinators/Livelihood Specialists, for 14 months, to be based in four countries to offer relevant technical support to the operation. Partner National Societies with ongoing programming in the region will be asked to contribute technical expertise to the operation; thereby ensuring a joined up, complementary approach to livelihoods and food security. Surge deployments would be considered based on technical gaps identified.

Finance and Logistics

Financial resources will be safeguarded by high quality financial and administrative practices supported and monitored by the National Societies and IFRC Cluster finance staff. Compliance with IFRC logistics and financial procedures will be observed. Continuous monitoring and technical support will be provided by IFRC to ensure that agreed standards are met.

Security

The security situation in the areas of operation, in four countries is stable with no current or future projected events to affect planned activities. Petty crime, road traffic accidents, and communicable diseases make up the largest risks to operational personnel. National societies will be encouraged to review/develop security plans to reflect changing risks and appropriate mitigation strategies.

S1.1: 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

Activities planned

- Ensure that volunteers are insured
- Provide briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face
- Ensure volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities
- Ensure volunteers' safety and wellbeing
- Ensure volunteers are properly trained
- Ensure volunteers' engagement in decision-making processes of respective projects they implement
- Deliver Livelihoods programming course and climate risk management for national society staff.

Ensure effective international disaster management

Requirements (CHF): 860,000

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

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved through the integration of CEA approaches and activities

The response will seek to ensure that affected populations access timely information that enable them to take informed decisions about how to rebuild their lives, and have opportunities to share their input, feedback and complaints which will be used to improve the quality of the response. CEA will seek to achieve the following:

- Sector needs assessments include interviews and feed-back from communities and key informants.
- That all affected people receive information about the Emergency Appeal activities in the response which allows them to enroll for available support or take relevant action.
- Affected people are heard and able to influence Red Cross decision-making by providing feed-back (and complaints) which the national societies will act upon

Communications

The IFRC Southern Africa Cluster's Communications team aims to produce content to support the objectives of this Emergency Appeal.

It will focus on gathering content on the emergency response activities and recovery interventions undertaken by the IFRC and in-country partners to the worsening food insecurity in southern Africa.

The content-gathering missions will include the generation of audio-visual materials, photographic materials, case studies, interviews and written content to be disseminated across broadcast and print media, as well as IFRC and broader Red Cross Red Crescent social media channels.

During its content-gathering missions it will support in-country communications teams where the need exists. IFRC will further support the four countries with the launch country Emergency Appeals in their respective countries.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Implementation of the activities in this Emergency Appeal will consider protection, gender and inclusion issues, an approach which is projected to have a multiplier effect on protecting and maintaining the health of individuals in affected communities in Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho and Namibia and averting new health emergencies. While everyone in targeted communities in the four countries may be equally affected by drought, gender, age and vulnerability often position some people as more susceptible to the effects of food insecurity than others. Southern Africa has some of the highest HIV and tuberculosis (TB) prevalence rates globally (with co-infection rates of between 60 and 70 per cent in all countries). Indeed, the small kingdoms of Eswatini (27.3 per cent) and Lesotho (25 per cent) record the highest and second highest HIV prevalence rates in the world respectively. HIV prevalence in Botswana (20.3 per cent) and Namibia (14 per cent) is also high. Countries in the sub-region have made strides in the recent past to reduce new infections and turn the tide on both epidemics; these gains are now being threatened by the looming drought.

Although HIV epidemics in southern African countries are generalised, there are some groups that are more at risk than others. These include adolescent girls, young women, young men and pregnant women. Some cultural and religious practices, gender inequality, power dynamics and low socioeconomic status decrease the agency and decision-making power among groups with lower power and have been identified as strong contributors to the higher incidence of HIV among members of these groups. Preventing poverty and mitigating other impacts of food insecurity on these identified vulnerable groups is crucial to protecting vulnerable groups from sexual exploitation and being forced to enter into sex work for livelihoods. This operation will design the targeting criteria based on vulnerabilities in line with the analysis above. People living with HIV and TB are a specific group that needs to be considered, with focus on ensuring that services support them to continue taking treatment. Undernourished children and immunocompromised individuals are extremely vulnerable to (re)infection and acquiring other diseases.

Red Cross community engagement and accountability strategies will be employed to identify and select recipients of support, and to determine what form this support should take. The intervention will also ensure that the needs of the elderly and people living with disabilities are considered, to ensure their equitable access to assistance. Thus, people living with TB and HIV, pregnant and lactating women, children under five-years old, orphaned and vulnerable children, adolescent girls, female-headed households, the disabled and the elderly will be prioritised for special attention in the proposed response. Inclusion will be considered when deciding on the modalities and mechanisms of community engagement, and the distribution strategies and points for assistance. Feedback mechanisms will also be set up to ensure two-way communication between responders and communities, to increase accountability and monitor implementation.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and reporting (PMER)

The PMER teams in the four countries will ensure compliance with expected deliverables and reporting requirements. In addition to the project teams in the field, the PMER units will conduct regular missions to guide the field on monitoring systems and activities and supporting community satisfaction surveys and baseline surveys to inform future monitoring and changes to the operational plan. The planned post-distribution monitoring for cash and voucher assistance will equally help to assess and allow for review of strategies and modalities as necessary, for both this response and future responses.

The IFRC Regional PMER Team will work with the respective National Society PMER teams facilitate internal reviews, lessons learnt sessions, Real Time Evaluations and final operational evaluations as required, to capture the performance, including the successes and challenges of the operation to inform future operational strategies.

The PMER teams will contribute to maintaining of key project data by supporting data collection, analysis, storage and dissemination in collaboration with the disaster management and operations teams. IFRC will support PMER teams in the four countries to create/strengthen data management systems to support data collection, analysis and reporting of project indicators. This will include introduction and strengthening of capacity in uses of Kobo tools, in line with key IFRC Africa milestones for 2020.

National Society Capacity Development

Strengthening capacities will support National Societies to be better prepared to respond to the needs of the vulnerable people they serve within their Jurisdiction. Therefore, it is essential for the Federation to ensure they are

healthy, accountable and sustainable. In this regard, National Societies leadership, structures, systems, processes/procedures policies need to guide their operations. Ensuring NS development through this operation will develop a better self-management which will develop and reinforce their autonomy. This will also reduce the risk of fraud, exposure and steer the National Societies to being efficient.

NS Structure – IFRC consultative assessments with several National Societies have identified a gap between the branches and HQ. Bridging the gap of information flow, communication and understanding the need for quality membership and its engagement is key to their success. To ensure that the membership on the ground understands the mandate of the National Societies and Red Cross Red Crescent network, dissemination sessions on procedures, processes, policies, constitutional requirements will be conducted. Throughout this operation the Federation will support and encourage National Societies to fulfil this responsibility. For example, the Federation has planned to support BOCA exercise in some branches within the targeted National Societies.

Youth engagement – involve and revive youth engagement and programming towards getting them involved in volunteerism, mentoring and coaching them towards sustainability and for them to advocate for the accountability i.e. holding their leaders accountable through questioning of things that they know about.

Volunteer Management – we intend to have proper documentation and data/record of volunteers and the work they do so that we can appreciate and measure their contribution scientifically. This can be done through acquiring of a volunteer management system that helps us know and manage our volunteers better as well as keeping a good eye of their well-being.

Funding requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

EMERGENCY APPEAL

APPEAL CODE – Multi-country - DROUGHT

Funding requirements – summary

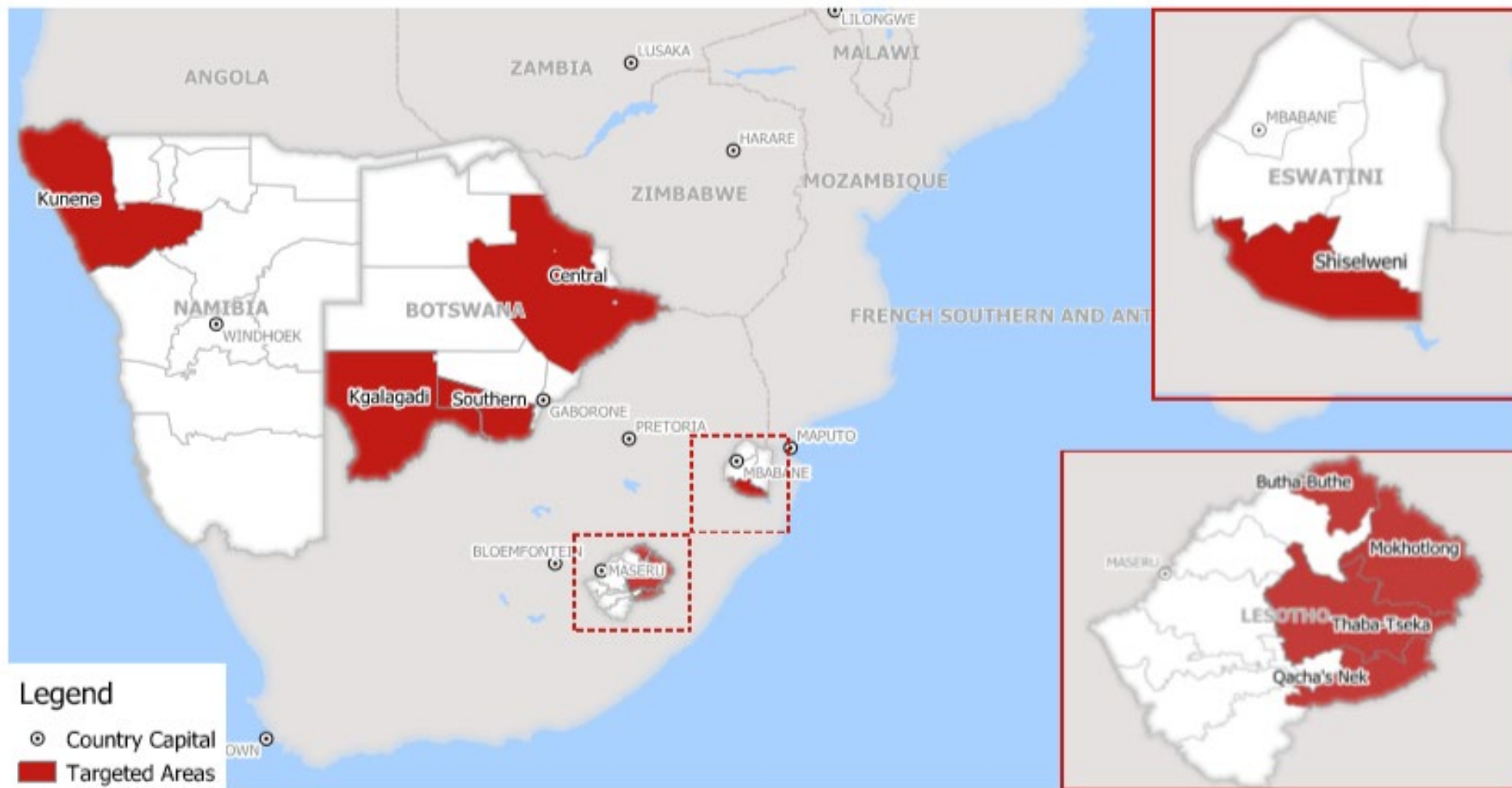
AREA OF FOCUS	Botswana	Lesotho	Eswatini	Namibia
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	1,240,000	1,770,000	1,205,000	1,935,000
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES	155,000	270,000	130,000	120,000
EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT	260,000	160,000	235,000	220,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS PER COUNTRY	1,655,000	2,200,000	1,570,000	2,275,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS				7,700,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

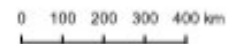
Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General



Southern Africa Drought (Food Insecurity) Emergency Appeal



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Source: GADM, Natural Earth, HDX, IFRC.



Contact information

Reference documents

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Click here for:

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

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society – Danger Nhlabatsi, Secretary General; email: danger@redcross.org.sz; Mobile: +268 7602 8861
- Botswana Red Cross Society; Kutlwano Mukomani, Secretary General; email: Sg@botswanaredcross.org.bw; Mobile: +26771588544
- Lesotho Red Cross Society: Kopano Masilo, Secretary General; email: kmasilo@redcross.org.ls; Mobile: +26658869447
- Namibia Red Cross Society: Bernadette Bock, Secretary General; email: bernadette.bock@recross.org.na; mobile number; Mobile: +264 81 127 6629

IFRC Country Cluster Office, Pretoria:

- Michael Charles, Head of Cluster, IFRC Southern Africa Multi-Country Cluster Support Office for Southern Africa; phone: +27113039715; email: michael.charles@ifrc.org

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IFRC office for Africa Region:

- Adesh Tripathee, Head of Disaster Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; phone +254731067489; email: adesh.tripathee@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Nicolas Boyrie, Senior Officer - Operations Coordinator (Africa); + 41 22 730 49 80 email: nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

Franciscah Cherotich, Ag. Head of Partnership and Resource Development, email: franciscah.kilel@ifrc.org; phone: +254 202 835 155

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit: RISHI Ramrakha, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit, email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org phone: +254 733 888 022

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- IFRC Africa Regional Office: Illah Evance Ouma, Ag. PMER Coordinator, email: illah.ouma@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 (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.

