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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

South Africa: Severe Thunderstorms

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

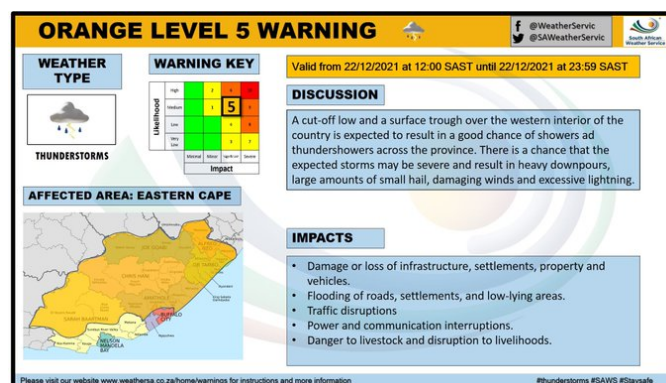
DREF Operation:	MDRZA011	Glide n°:	OT-2021-000210-ZAF
Date of issue:	28 December 2021	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	30 April 2022
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF 399,000			
Total number of people affected:	8810 people (1762 Households)	Number of people to be assisted:	5000 people (1000 households)
Provinces affected:	Eastern Cape	Provinces/Regions targeted:	Eastern Cape
Host National Society presence: 40 volunteers and 10 staff members. The Head Quarters staff members are providing technical support to the provincial teams who include provincial managers, branch managers, coordinators, officers, and volunteers. HQ has deployed 1 technical staff to the province to enhance their capacity to respond effectively			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC and Belgian RC			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: South African Government and other civil society organisations (Gift of givers and Local Businesses)			

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

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

In the early hours of the 12th of December, heavy thunderstorms hit Mthatha town, in the OR Tambo district of the Eastern Cape province. [Media reports indicated](#) a total death toll of 6 people, more than 27 people hospitalized and 100s being homeless. As the week progressed, Amathole, Buffalo city, Chris Hani, Alfred Nzou and Joe Gqabi surrounding districts were also impacted by thunderstorms. [Reports further stipulated that over 1,000](#) homes were damaged, with the likely of more being affected. To date, through on-going joint assessments by the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC), local municipalities and other stakeholders inclusive of the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS), 1,762 households (8,810 people) have been recorded to



ORANGE LEVEL 5 WARNING

Valid from 22/12/2021 at 12:00 SAST until 22/12/2021 at 23:59 SAST

WEATHER TYPE
THUNDERSTORMS

WARNING KEY

Likelihood	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Impact	Low	Medium	High	Very High
	1	2	3	4
	1	2	3	5

AFFECTED AREA: EASTERN CAPE

DISCUSSION
A cut-off low and a surface trough over the western interior of the country is expected to result in a good chance of showers and thundershowers across the province. There is a chance that the expected storms may be severe and result in heavy downpours, large amounts of small hail, damaging winds and excessive lightning.

IMPACTS

- Damage or loss of infrastructure, settlements, property and vehicles.
- Flooding of roads, settlements, and low-lying areas.
- Traffic disruptions
- Power and communication interruptions.
- Danger to livestock and disruption to livelihoods.

Please visit our website www.weather.co.za/home/warnings for instructions and more information

#thunderstorms #SAWS #Staysafe

Orange level 5 warning: Thunderstorms: Eastern be adversely affected. Additionally, the [South African weather services \(SAWS\)](#) issued an orange level 5 warning with turbulent weather conditions predicted to bring more showers and

thunderstorms in the already affected areas of the Eastern Cape province.

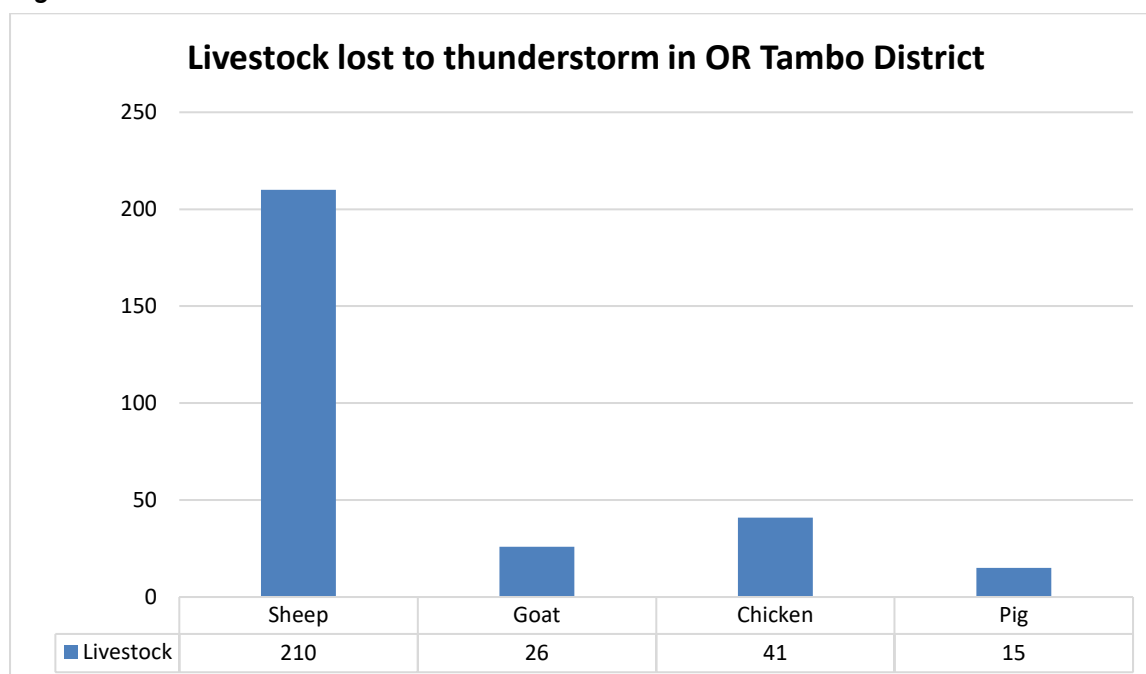
Some affected populations' homes have been severely damaged or destroyed with others being partially damaged, posing the risk of unsafe buildings especially with continuous heavy rains still experienced in affected areas. Many families have lost household items to the weather or had to leave without being able to take them with them. The infrastructure of their neighbourhoods, the market, public transport and other important services is also impacted yet based on the initial assessment, services remain available. SARCS will continue to actively participate in Joint Operations Committee (JOC) which are spearheaded by both province and district municipalities to ensure well-coordinated response and recovery interventions which minimize duplication of efforts to same communities whilst other communities are still in need. The following table displays number of households affected and the extent of damage assessed in the four affected districts.

Table 1: Households affected by thunderstorm per district

District	Severely Damaged Households	Partially Damaged Households	Total Households
OR Tambo	258	484	742
Buffalo City	250	259	509
Amathole	151	185	336
Alfred Nzou	28	71	99
Chris Hani	24	25	49
Joe Gqabi	25	2	27
Grand Total			1762 (8810 people)

In addition, people's livelihoods have been greatly disrupted. Some families have lost flocks of sheep, goats, and chickens and other essential assets especially in the OR Tambo district as displayed in the graph below.

Figure 1: Livestock lost to thunderstorm



Several people have sought refuge from friends, family, and other are staying in community halls and/or schools in nearby communities which are not affected. In total there are 450 families that are accommodated in community halls and schools across three districts (OR Tambo; Amathole and Alfred Nzou). This is posing great risks of the spread of COVID-19 as people cannot adhere to physical distancing. Some family members suffered psychosocial trauma due to the impact of thunderstorm. The congested conditions in temporary shelters are known to increase GBV as privacy and security are compromised.



Negative impact to source of livelihoods in the Eastern Cape - SARCS

The thunderstorm has greatly affected health, WASH, food security and livelihoods sectors and people are struggling to cope will ripple effects which include trauma, stress, limited hygiene materials and food insecurities. Coupled with lower -income levels due to disturbed livelihoods; people's well-being is at risk especially with the prevalence of COVID-19 infection. Based on above, this DREF request will focus on supporting the urgent needs of affected communities which include psychosocial first aid (PFA), food, hygiene materials, and replacing lost essential household items like blankets, and mattresses.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

Since the devastating thunderstorm, SARCS on the 13th December mobilized 40 volunteers in the Eastern Cape who were deployed in 5 affected district municipalities. More so, 10 staff members (5 headquarters, 5 provincial) were deployed to ensure timely response to affected communities. More so, the Head Quarters has deployed one technical staff to assist the province as the incident has occurred when COVID-19 cases are currently increasing. The response included activation of psychosocial support (PSS) teams to assist those who are suffering effects of trauma caused by the thunderstorm. SARCS' current response on the thunderstorm has reached a total of 500 people. The National Society's (NS) response includes the following;

- ❖ Activation of 10 staff and 40 volunteers
- ❖ Provision of first aid to 63 people
- ❖ Psychological first aid to 108 people.
- ❖ Restoring Family Link (RFL) services to 53 people separated from families.
- ❖ Distribution of 250 blankets, which will be replenished with this DREF
- ❖ Initial Rapid Assessments and collaborating with government at both local municipalities, districts, and provincial teams.

SARCS has a strong volunteer base of first responders in the affected provinces and has capacity in disaster management (DM); health; WASH; community engagement and accountability (CEA); protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and psychological first aid (PFA). The ongoing resurgence of COVID 19 cases in South Africa following depiction of omicron variant and sharp rising of cases across the country limits SARCS to deploy its teams to full potential. More so, continuous thunderstorms especially in some of Eastern Cape's province districts limit teams' ability to conduct full needs assessments in the affected communities and local areas.

In effort to mobilise resources to respond the NS has been reaching out to in-country donors. The fact that most businesses and organisations usually close annually mid-December is resulting in slow response from potential donors locally and has left the NS in just expectant position. The demand for humanitarian assistance by affected communities remains overwhelming to the NS as existing relief stock levels have sharply dropped.



Distribution of blankets as relief to affected households in Mthatha (EC)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) supports SARCS through its Country Cluster Delegation located in Pretoria. A technical support platform has been set up by the IFRC to support SARCS in managing the current emergency and any ensuing recovery programmes. IFRC is currently providing technical support to SARCS for rapid assessment, communication, resource mobilisation design and implementation of the response, in close coordination with other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners.

In addition, RFL support to affected communities has been possible through support from ICRC. The RFL services which have been provided so far include phone calls and phone charging services. The first aid skills which have been imparted to volunteers in the past through support from Belgian Red Cross (BRC) has proven to be useful among first responders who have been displaying capacity to attend to emergencies and crisis in their communities.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in country

The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) coordinates all interventions by humanitarian agencies with support from other United Nations Agencies through the Command-and-Control Centre. Civil Society and non-government organisations are working jointly with government to provide immediate assistance at provincial level. To avoid duplication of efforts, the Joint Operating Committee (JOC) have resorted that the response should be done in a coordinated manner. Through the JOC meetings, it was agreed that the South African Red Cross Society and the Department of Social Development will conduct assessments and distribute relief items, while other sectors such as department of water affairs, agriculture and forestry, roads department will focus on restoring and rehabilitating the damage of infrastructures in the affected provinces. Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), which is responsible for the relationship between the national government and the provincial governments and municipalities, announced that joint assessments are still on-going to fully record the impact of damages and number of displaced people. Once the assessments are finalised a formal release will be made.

Other implementing partners which include NGOs like Gift of the Givers has donated 1000 food parcels to provincial PMDC to distribute to affected households. More so, Pakistan and Al Imdaad local business donated 30 blankets, 70 food parcels and 60 hot meals. The government through Department of Social Development is providing psychosocial support to affected population. The Department of Infrastructure and Human Settlement have provided 100 temporary shelters and is currently collaborating with Department of Education to assist with 8 damaged schools. In addition, they are expected to reconstruct the 3 bridges and a road which were washed away. On that note the government indicated that respective sectors are in the

process of procuring some relief stock, but it is overwhelming for them to reach all affected people due to limited resources.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

From onset of recent thunderstorms impact in Eastern Cape, SARCS has been collaborating with Provincial Disaster Management Centres (PMDCs) to conduct joint rapid assessments to note the urgent needs in affected communities. Continuous heavy rains in most affected areas are preventing assessment teams from reaching some of the affected communities. SARCS currently relies on data from the initial rapid assessment conducted jointly with local government as highlighted earlier.

The needs analysis will continue to be updated with more detailed information on immediate and potential needs, disaster impact, access, and protection risks. The multi-sector needs assessment will be conducted using observation, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KII). Details will be worked out in coming days.



Needs assessments in collaboration with government ©SARCS

Considering the above, the following are key points to shed some light on the needs recorded during the rapid assessments which are still ongoing:

Food Security and Livelihoods: The impact of the thunderstorm have posed a great threat to food insecurity and livelihoods for affected communities. Most of the affected people lost their food stock as they were damaged by the rains. More so, some also lost their flocks especially sheep, goats and chicken which were their source of livelihoods. Further impact is expected as the affected province continues to receive heavy rains which in combination with the on-going resurgence on COVID-19 highly increase the levels of food insecurity in the affected communities requiring an integrated response. Actors such Gift of the Givers provided 1,000 food parcels as a once off donation.

Shelter: In total 736 households have suffered total damage of their shelter structures, both walls and roof collapsed due to severe thunderstorm. Displaced families have also lost their basic household items such as blankets, kitchen utensils and clothing. The NS has used its pre-positioned stock of 250 blankets that were distributed to 60 families in OR Tambo and Alfred Nzou districts. Although most of them seek refuge to friends, and relatives, some are being accommodated in community and school halls as they do not have the means to rebuild their homes now and require humanitarian assistance. Although not yet reported, risks of sexual and gender-based violence targeted towards women, girls and children are increased when their shelter is compromised, and when accommodated in open congested halls with no security and poor lighting. The Department of Human Settlement is involved in the JOC, though have not clearly committed how they will assist communities to rebuild, so at the moment it is not clear how long the communities will stay in shelters.

Health and Care: Due to overcrowding in shelters, it has been difficult for people to adhere to COVID-19 regulations during evacuation and effort to save their lives. This poses great risk of increased COVID-19 infections in the coming weeks especially with the Omicron variant which is causing skyrocketing infections across the country. As of 21st December 2021, Eastern Cape was recording **15 874 active cases** compared to **3 995 active cases** which were recorded on the 10th of December 2021 when the early warning of thunderstorm was issued by SAWS. More awareness on COVID-19 and RCCE need to be maximised in affected communities. Due to the trauma experienced by the affected families, a number of people are left distressed and worried about the loss of their assets.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Overcrowding at the temporary shelters significantly compromises good hygiene practises. Women and girls may also find it challenging to manage their menstruation in the absence of adequate water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities. WASH facilities are also very important for lactating women, babies and toddlers.

WASH facilities also need to be easily accessible by people with disabilities or mobility challenges, for whom special considerations must be made. Provision of relief materials like hygiene and dignity packs (including baby diapers and menstrual hygiene management packs) are key to promote safer hygiene practices and ensure limited exposure to the virus in evacuation camps and hosting households. Local government at municipality levels have played a crucial role to ensure that there is water supply in evacuation camps, but the challenge is hygiene materials among affected people to use.

Protection and Gender Inclusion (PGI):

Through collaborations with government sectors especially local municipality, SARCS has been ensuring that PGI is integrated so far through providing SGBV, PSEA and Child Safeguarding awareness raising in evacuation camps. So far there has been no recorded cases of abuse especially among women and children in the camps. SARCS will ensure that the community feedback mechanism set up will include a confidential mechanism to receive, handle and respond to sensitive complaints, including reports of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and potential sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by SARCS staff and volunteers. Volunteers will disseminate information on various services available and how to access them.

Targeting

In total 1762 households were affected by thunderstorms. The NS will be targeting 1,000 households in the following categories:

- 734 households that are severely destroyed, and they have no other income except government social grants.
- 274 partially damaged households which are child headed, owned by elderly or households with
- people living with disability.

The targeting for this DREF intervention aims to address the needs highlighted in sectors above.

- ❖ Shelter
- ❖ Food Security and livelihood
- ❖ Health and care
- ❖ WASH

Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted.

The estimated disaggregated data for targeted population according to age and sex is not yet available in detail as the assessments are on-going and will be provided once assessments are finalised. A total of 1000 households (5000 people using standard value of 5 members per household) are targeted by the NS. Most interventions like food security and shelter will target households whilst hygiene targets people.

Scenario planning

The planned response reflects the situation and information available as of now, considering the evolving situation and required adjustments to contextual changes. The DREF which supports the design of the overall operation, focuses on health and care, WASH, shelter, food security and livelihoods and basic needs with PGI and CEA mainstreamed. Three scenarios have been developed below to guide National Society's response actions, and the current response strategy is based on the most likely scenario. This could be modified in the event of further damages or following detailed assessments.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Best Scenario: The thunderstorm subsides within next one week, with limited additional injuries and no further deaths recorded.	Loss of livelihoods minimised. Affected and displaced people can return home and begin recovery process	The implementation of this DREF operation is finalized, in coordination with National Authorities and other stakeholders. The assessments results are used to source funding for recovery actions with support from partners and government
Most likely scenario: The thunderstorm continue in the coming two weeks	Affected areas do not have access to basic needs	Review of the current DREF operation following assessment to broaden the scope of the response, with a possible

especially in Eastern Cape which is has recorded more fatalities so far.	More damage to property Disruption of livelihoods	change in strategy, a longer timeframe, request for second allocation. Continue monitoring while working closely with both local and national JOCs.
Worst case scenario: Intensification of thunderstorm with the impact spreading to other provinces, leading to increased death toll and injuries within the next two weeks.	Mass displacements are recorded Mass destruction of infrastructure, property, and loss of livelihoods, leading to food insecurities. WASH situation deteriorates	Review of the current DREF operation to broaden the scope of the response, with a possible change in strategy, a longer timeframe, request for second allocation or the launch of an Emergency Appeal to implement a large-scale response operation.

Operation Risk Assessment

This DREF operation is exposed to several risks as highlighted below, for which the National Society and Cluster Delegation have discussed mitigation measures to ensure targeted communities receive the needed support.

Risks	Likelihood	Mitigation measures
Threat to limited food supplies	Medium	The National Society will forge response collaborations with the Government to ensure that relief items get to the targeted population timeously. The National Society will also conduct Rapid Assessment of Markets (RAM) to understand market dynamics and establish if markets can meet demand and supply. Where supply is affected by damaged infrastructure the NS will advocate for the government to re-establish routes as soon as possible to ensure the target population has access to basic services.
Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)	High	Congested conditions in temporary shelters (community and school halls) increase the likelihood of GBV as privacy and security are compromised Measures will be put in place to ensure that staff and volunteers adhere to the “Do no harm” principle whilst working with affected populations. More so, awareness raising will be conducted in affected communities to curb SGBV and referral pathways will be mapped and communicated for use by survivors. Trained SARCS volunteers will provide MHPSS support for survivors of SGBV.
COVID-19	High	PPE will be distributed to staff and volunteers involved in the response and will also be given to target communities especially the 258 people who were displaced. COVID-19 prevention messaging will also be conducted in areas where SARCS will be responding.

This DREF operation and its operational strategy considers the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and is aligned with the IFRC global emergency appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Ministry of Health, as of 21 December 2021, the country has recorded 3 332 008 COVID-19 positive cases and 90 488 deaths with 198 426 active cases across the country.

Through this operation, SARCS volunteers will be provided with appropriate PPE (face masks, alcohol-based sanitizers) to ensure that they are not exposed to COVID-19 while providing much-needed support to the affected. The design of the DREF operation has considered movement restrictions and will respect all COVID-19 protocols put in place by the government. COVID-19 messages will be part of the hygiene promotion messages that volunteers will disseminate in the evacuation centres.

National Society responses to COVID-19 are supported through the IFRC [global appeal](#), which is facilitating and supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19. This DREF operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and [regional Emergency Plan of Action](#) for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Africa Regional Office, in coordination with global and regional partners. This means that the National Society will ensure, even as it responds to thunderstorm, COVID-19 prevention measures are adhered to, in line with regional plan of action and its national COVID-19 country plan. IFRC continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crisis should adapt to this crisis and provide necessary guidance to its membership on the same. The National Society will keep monitoring the situation closely and revise the plan accordingly if needed, taking into consideration the evolving COVID-19 situation and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to access to the affected population, availability of relief items, procurement issues, and movement of National Society volunteers and staff as well as international staff. For more information, please consult the [Covid-19 operation page](#) on the IFRC Go platform.

The table below, indicates potential impacts of the pandemic on this DREF operation and how SARCS will respond to the situation in the event COVID-19 mitigation measures become more stringent.

COVID-19 measures	Standard epidemic control measures	Temporary lockdown of society (schools, shops, public functions)	Complete lockdown and restriction of movement during implementation period
Likelihood	High	Moderate	Low
Impact on operation	No impact on operation. SARCS will ensure adherence to epidemic control measures put in place by government.	The current level 1 restrictions do not have any negative bearing on planned activities.	SARCS is known for its neutrality in providing humanitarian response where needed.
Mitigation measures	As the epidemic control measures were already in place before the crisis, the operation is designed to adhere to the regulations. Peer education sessions will be conducted in small groups with due respect to physical distancing measures. Response teams and displaced populations will be provided with enough PPEs	Same as under standard epidemic control measures. In addition, some delays might be experienced with procurements of some items due to heavy storm which might hamper infrastructure. If this happens, a timeframe extension might be requested. SARCS will distribute COVID-19 PPE to the staff and volunteers who will be involved in the response.	Health and hygiene promotion activities will be adjusted in line with any new measures that might come up, while relief through cash and voucher assistance will be provided. SARCS will distribute COVID-19 PPEs to the staff and volunteers who will be involved in the response.

B. Operational strategy¹

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this operation is to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs of approximately 5,000 people (1,000 HH) affected by the thunderstorms through the provision of a multipurpose cash grant, WASH and health services for 4 months.

The DREF will also ensure that the SARCS is able to conduct more detailed assessments that will inform the course of the operation and allow for the plan of action to be updated if necessary.

Proposed strategy

The operational strategy of this operation is the outcome of continuous follow-up, assessments including market assessments, and data analysis, as well as consultation between the SARCS, stakeholders and government officials on how to respond to this emergency in an integrated manner. The operational strategy also aims to mitigate the combined impacts of thunderstorm, and ongoing COVID-19 response. The operation management team and Movement partners will ensure that discussions and advocacy for linking emergency response to engagement in longer-term resilience programming with affected communities is carried out through coordination mechanisms and articulated efforts in liaison with public authorities and involved parties.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) will be integrated into all the response interventions as there will be community participation and involvement in this response. The NS will continue using existing community structures to implement this operation ensuring involvement of key stakeholders such as community leaders and ensuring people with special needs are prioritised. Feedback mechanism will be set up to listen to community concerns and give feedback on matters related to the operation. The following are proposed intervention areas by the National Society informed by the current situation on the ground, which remain subject to revision as information comes from the on-going assessment.

SARCS's main response strategy will include provision of multipurpose cash transfer to support 1000 families to meet their most pressing needs regarding food, house items and house repairs, as these are the main needs indicated by affected communities.

SARCS has recently implemented Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal on recent DREF where 1 636 households were given cash transfer through mobile money at R1000 a month for 2 months. The targeted branches implemented distributions of food voucher cards to 950 families which also included some of the migrants through Shoprite and Checkers supermarket chains, with the support of the International Organisation on Migration (IOM) between February and March 2021 and 1 900 PepsiCo vouchers in May 2021 across all provinces. SARCS managed to secure a financial service provider (FSP) which was Nedbank for the recent DREF and IFRC Southern Africa Cluster Delegation will support the National Society to establish a longer agreement. Based on preliminary information collected during the ongoing rapid assessments, markets remain open and accessible.

1. Food Security, Livelihoods and Basic needs (Target: 5000 people or 1000 households)

SARCS will ensure that the affected families are provided with multipurpose cash grants to support access to food for two months (based on monthly food basket in South Africa), as well as provision of essential household and emergency shelter items as detailed in table below. The cash value to be disbursed per household is South African Rand (ZAR) 4 000 at R 2 000 for 2 months and this unrestricted cash transfer to allow families the flexibility to use based on their specific needs. The amount has been calculated based on 2 months' worth of basic food basket, household items and house repairs. The SARCS will be targeting 736 households with severe damaged houses, and 264 child-headed and disabled households.

SARCS has faced challenges in the procurement of food parcels, as well as shelter related relief items in past operations supported by DREF and expects that by utilizing multipurpose cash grant as modality, it would mitigate some of the possible delays that could be faced to implement a rapid response.

¹ The plan should be prepared by the National Society, with support from the Secretariat technical departments and support services.

Table 3: Number of disbursements and amount per month

Number of transfers	Purpose				Number of Households
Cash disbursement -	Description	Frequency	Amount disbursement for per month (ZAR)	Total (ZAR)	1000
	Multi-purpose cash	2	R2000	R4000	

Some 40 volunteers will be engaged in the cash distribution activities. After the cash distribution, 12 volunteers will conduct post distribution monitoring (PDM) of the response for 2 days.

The activities will include:

- ❖ Training/refresher of 40 volunteers in cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for 2 days
- ❖ Reviewing of agreement with financial service provider (FSP)
- ❖ Distribution of cash grants for food (2 months), essential household and shelter items to 1000 households. This activity will be supported by 12 volunteers for 2 days
- ❖ Conduct PDM for 3 days by 12 volunteers

2. Health and care (Target 5000 people or 1000 households)

There is need to intensify psychological first aid to ensure communities affected by thunderstorm have necessary attention, and sensitization with regards to COVID-19 and vaccination, screening, testing and contact tracing. To note, SARCS is already providing first aid to those who suffered injuries and refer others to clinics and hospital for more professional assistance.

Mental Health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS) will complement the material support provided to people affected. PSS staff and volunteers will offer PFA support to individuals and families in distress to ensure calm and rebuild hope whilst identifying people with severe medical and psychological needs for referral to specialized services. Follow ups will be done to find out how families are coping while feedbacking to the livelihoods and WASH teams on emerging needs at family and community level. The Psychosocial approach will help to mobilize and engage community leaders, promote safety and dignity of groups of people most at risk. The following actions will be undertaken:

- ❖ Provision of MHPSS/PFA sessions to community as needed by 20 volunteers for 2 days a month, for 3 months. In the same vein, PFA support will be provided to frontline staff and volunteers through team meetings, stress management sessions and peer support.
- ❖ Identification of people in distress and referrals to specialized health care centers
- ❖ Provide first aid services to injured people
- ❖ Conduct advocacy for continued supply of medication for HIV/AIDS patients within affected communities.

Supporting MOH with COVID-19 screening, testing and contact tracing. This will be done through the ongoing COVID-19 Emergency Appeal. T

3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (Target: 5 000 people or 1000 households)

There is need to promote good hygiene practices and required interventions in this regard include among others provision of masks, dignity packs and handwashing stations in the evacuation camps. SARCS will provide hygiene packs (including menstrual hygiene), buckets, and soaps to the 1000 affected households. As the country is currently affected by COVID-19, good hygiene promotion and awareness is needed. More so, CEA is key, and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities will be strengthened and incorporated into WASH interventions.

In this area, SARCS will target 5000 people who will be supported with hygiene kits and masks. Hand washing stations will be established at evacuation centers to promote good hygiene practices. The WASH activities will include the following:

- ❖ Conduct hygiene promotion and health awareness sessions twice a month for 3 months, supported by 40 volunteers

- ❖ Distribution of hygiene kits (1000 households) and dignity kits for estimated 500 women of childbearing age and adolescents' girls

4. Shelter (1000 households)

Some affected households are being accommodated in community and school halls. As there is a need for the community to rebuild their homes, SARCS will assess the current gaps and provide sensitization on how to build stronger housing. The SARCS aims that 736 households that have been severely damaged and 264 child-headed and disabled households will acquire the necessary shelter materials for the repairing and reinforcing of their houses, and the NS will accompany this with awareness session on how to build safe and strong houses as part of our community engagement.

- ❖ Conduct community awareness on safe and strong housing structures in 5 affected districts in EC.
- ❖ Assessment of shelter needs, capacities, and gaps of 1000 households
- ❖ Advocating for government Department of Infrastructure and Human Settlement to assist affected households to re-build their homes.
- ❖ Procurement of 250 blankets for replenishment

To ensure that the targeted households procure shelter materials that are in line with the government shelter standards, the NS will work closely with government structures to conduct sensitization on building back safer, to ensure that new structures will be able to withstand future shocks. . .

Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

PGI will be mainstreamed throughout the intervention to ensure communities dignity, access, participation and safety. Acknowledging that women, girls, men and boys with diverse ages, disabilities and backgrounds have different needs, risk and coping strategies, the operation will pay particular attention to protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups and on gender and diversity analysis. Gender roles will be considered in targeting (e.g., If women have safe access to FSPs and markets) and when setting up distribution time and dates as well as in hygiene promotion activities. As part of the needs assessment and analysis, a gender and diversity analysis will be included in all sector responses including Livelihoods, WASH, Shelter to understand how different groups have been affected and their preferences for receiving assistance, which will inform the operational strategy. All sectors will seek to meet the IFRC Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergencies. PGI activity will include:

The activities under this sector will include:

- ❖ Sensitization sessions will be organized within affected communities, sharing basic social cohesion and protection messages, and sharing referral pathways in case of any SGBV cases.
- ❖ RFL services will be provided to those who lost contact with their families, in cooperation with the ICRC RFL team using the available RFL services and in case missing persons, an active and immediate coordination with the ICRC central tracing agency will be made.
- ❖ Conduct refresher session for 40 volunteers (at least 25% women) on Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies to support the women, elderly and children to access health services, provide the necessary hygiene kits to them, and address issues on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and collect data.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

During the detailed assessments, SARCS will ensure to use CEA approaches, to determine the preferred communication channels by communities and preferred feedback mechanism. As part of these approaches, SARCS will conduct a verification of the selected households to ensure that the selection criteria are respected. In addition, the selection criteria will be shared widely through trusted channels of communication which include community engagement forums which are usually spearheaded by traditional leaders and local authorities to ensure that people understand why they have or have not been selected, to minimise community tensions. National Society staff and volunteers will also collect feedback and complaints of targeted households during the selection and throughout the operation, based on the channels identified during the needs assessment as preferred by the affected communities. Feedback will be shared and analysed at HQ to refine the selection process and criteria if necessary and ensure that complaints regarding the selection of community members are investigated and addressed in a timely manner. This feedback will also be used to adapt the intervention based on community needs, attitudes and perceptions.

- ❖ Refresher training on CEA (including establishment of community feedback mechanism) for 40 volunteers. Building back safer messages will be incorporated in the information to be shared with the communities,
- ❖ Establish feedback mechanisms and ensure there is an effective system in place to process and act on the complaints, feedback, suggestions, questions and rumours received. Feedback will also be provided to the community to ensure they are aware their feedback has been considered.

Operational support services

Human resources: SARCS is present and has strong footprint in both affected provinces Eastern Cape with functional Provincial offices and branch offices. Volunteers and staff members from these provinces have experience with responding to thunderstorms and other emergencies. SARCS have mobilized 40 volunteers and 10 staff members to support the overall response, 40 of which will be covered through this DREF operation. The DREF will cover insurance for the 40 volunteers who will support implementation of activities under the operation through the IFRC insurance scheme.

IFRC will deploy a surge delegate under this DREF operations to enhance the capacity of the NS in operations interventions.

Logistics and supply chain: The National Society has a functional Logistics department which will oversee all the procurement process. The financial service provider (FSP) which was recently during implementation of DREF on urban violence will be engaged to support the cash and voucher assistance which will be conducted by SARCS with support from IFRC Cluster Delegation and Regional office Logistics departments. SARCS will incorporate IFRC procurement procedures into their internal procurement process, strictly adhering to the same.

Information technology and telecommunications: The affected provinces have functional and adequate Information, Communication and Technology. The status quo might change as thunderstorm in both provinces might intensify, potentially leading to network disruptions due to destruction of existing infrastructure and might affect the operation. SARCS and IFRC are monitoring the situation.

Communications: The National Society has a communications unit, which works closely with different media houses by ensuring that SARCS interventions are well published, and communities and stakeholders will be aware of SARCS response interventions. Updates on the operation will be shared on the National Society social media networks (websites, Facebook, Twitter). The National Society will also work closely with IFRC communication focal person for technical support to ensure sufficient media coverage of the response. Response teams will utilize available visibility clothing and equipment during the operations to ensure easy identification and avoid harm. Both the SARCS and IFRC communications officers will be deployed for two weeks to ensure proximity support to the operation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER): PMER activities such as planning, monitoring and evaluation will be carried out throughout the operation and reports will be shared. Post distribution monitoring will also be conducted at the end of the cash disbursements and other support to families to get feedback from recipient families. Operational updates where necessary will be issued and shared by the Cluster Delegation. PMER will also support regular assessment to inform the response targeting and ensuring that needs of the most vulnerable are catered for.

Continued assessments and monitoring will also be an integral part of the operation and will be used to ensure that the operation is in line with the evolving situation on the ground. The findings from the assessment will assist and guide the resource mobilization efforts with a further focus on urgent needs and recovery-related activities including disaster risk reduction, PGI and National Society Development in emergencies. Two DM field visits will be conducted for coordination of the overall response, monitoring of activities, as well as to support resource mobilization efforts by reaching out to potential local partners who could support recovery for the affected communities. These field visits will be covered through this DREF operation.

At the end of the operation, SARCS and IFRC will jointly support a lesson learned workshop with all stakeholders, including recipient households, to collect feedback on efficiency and effectiveness of the response. This feedback will be used to inform future such operations. Provincial offices will provide weekly updates that will feed into the operational update report. SARCS will also provide both narrative and financial

reports at the end of the operation with support from IFRC Cluster Delegation. All reports will be conducted in accordance with IFRC PMER standards.

Information Management (IM): Through collaboration with the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) in Southern Africa, IM activities will include data analysis of the assessment, production of maps/Infographic and support creation of data visualization dashboard which will be later maintained by IFRC Cluster Office with capacity building of SARCS. Content upload of the activities on the GO platform will be done at the IFRC Cluster Delegation with technical assistance from IFRC Regional Office

Administration and Finance: The Finance Department will monitor all the expenditure according to the National Society financial procedures, taking into considerations the IFRC financial procedures. Financial reports will be issued and shared with IFRC Cluster Delegation for review.

Security: The security environment in the affected provinces is marred with incidents of robbery and theft. Health Hazards are also a major risk as the country currently grappling with the resurgence after detection of omicron variant in-country characterized by skyrocketing figures of COVID-19 positive cases spurred on by lack of adherence to preventive measures that was prevalent during evacuation efforts. Despite this, the National Society is working closely with communities from these areas and there is no threat posed to the response team. Government law enforcement is always present in these areas to provide secure environment to the communities and other organizations working within these areas. Roads in affected areas may be flooded, as such, it is useful to always reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and allow additional time to complete journeys. Liaise with local contacts to ascertain the feasibility of specific journeys.

To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime, health or road hazards active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. This includes situation briefings, movement tracking and monitoring and implementation of minimum-security standards. Security Plans are in place including medical evacuation before deployment as well as confirmation that IFRC COVID BCP plans are implemented. All RCRC personnel actively involved in the operations must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security and introduction to PSEA). SARCS staff and volunteers will be visible by wearing protective clothing with the Red Cross emblem. All National Society assets such as cars will also be visibly marked by the Red Cross emblem. The National Society will ensure that all the volunteers and staff involved in the operation will sign the Code of Conduct.

The Regional Security Unit (RSU) will establish direct contact with National Society security officers/focal points engaging in closer coordination and National Society capacity building. The RSU will closely monitor the operating environment in South Africa in general and the operational area.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 5000 people (1000 households)

Male: 2,000

Female: 3,000

Requirements (CHF): 275,426

Population to be assisted: SARCS will provide multipurpose grants through Cash Voucher Assistance to 1000 households of the value of R1000 per month for 3 months. The groups to be targeted include households who were severely destroyed and other partially destroyed for child-headed households, elderly living with children or alone, people living with disabilities, lactating mothers, and families in precarious economic conditions.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The value of vouchers is based on the minimum expenditure basket in country and market dynamics in affected communities.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	% of targeted households reached with multipurpose cash transfers (MPCT) funding that is support appropriate to meet their emergency needs (Target: at least 80% or 1000 HH)															
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of people provided with cash grants (Target: 1000 people) # of volunteers engaged in CVA activities (Target: 40 volunteers) 															
	Activities planned per week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP081	Detailed multisector needs assessment	■															
AP081	Training/refresher of 40 volunteers in cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for 2 days	■	■														
AP081	Validation of financial service provider	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■								
AP081	Carry out rapid market assessment	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■								
AP081	Provision of multipurpose cash for 2 months to 1000 households									■	■						
AP081	Conduct PDM for 3 days										■	■					
AP084	Set up feedback mechanisms										■	■					
											■	■					



Health

People targeted: 5000 (1000 households)

Male: 2,000

Female: 3000

Requirements (CHF): 1,776

Risk analysis: With ongoing resurgence, should the lockdown heighten to level 5, it will be difficult for National Society to implement the operation. There is also heightened risk of COVID-19 infection with overcrowding in shelters, as it has been difficult for people to adhere to COVID-19 regulations during evacuation and efforts to save their lives. Due to the trauma experienced by the affected families, a number of people are left distressed and worried about the loss of their assets

Population to be assisted: Psychological First Aid (PFA) and First aid services will be provided to the target population as needed. Health and hygiene promotion campaigns and COVID 19 awareness will be conducted, targeting the entire affected population.

Programme standards/benchmarks: WHO and South Africa Ministry of Health Standards

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced and they are aware and practicing COVID 19 protocols.	% of targeted people reached with health activities (Target: 100%)															
	Health Output 1.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines and COVID awareness materials	# of people sensitized on COVID-19 (Target: 5000 people)															
	Activities planned per week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP023	Rapid situational analysis in 1 province (5 districts) affected																
AP021	Conduct screening and contact tracing in affected communities																
P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment	# of people reached with first aid services (Target: needs based)															
	Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.	# of community members reached with psychological First Aid services (Target: 5000 people)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP023	Provide PFA services in affected communities																
AP022	Assist injured people with first aid services																
AP023	PFA team meetings/stress management sessions for staff and volunteers																



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 5000 (1000 households)

Male: 2,000

Female: 3,000

Requirements (CHF): 52,747

Population to be assisted: SARCS targets 5000 people that are affected by thunderstorm displaced families to be accommodated at evacuation centers and there is need to provide them with proper hygiene promotion to avoid the spread of diseases such as COVID 19. The priority will be given to the vulnerable groups as classified by the department of Social Development (Elderly, Child Headed, lactating mothers, people living with disabilities and most vulnerable community members)

Programme standards/benchmarks: Activities will ensure that affected families are equipped with ways to prevent the potential negative health effects. WASH orientations will be sensitive to the cultural practices of the community and strive to meet the specific needs of the elderly, women, children, and persons with disabilities. Activities will be in line with Sphere guidelines and WHO standards.

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	% of targeted people reached with hygiene promotion activities (Target: 100%)															
	WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of volunteers engaged in hygiene promotion activities (Target: 40 volunteers) # of hygiene promotion sessions conducted (Target: 6 sessions) 															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Refresher Training of 40 volunteers on health and hygiene promotion	■	■														
AP030	Procurement of hygiene and dignity kits	■	■	■													
AP030	Distribution of hygiene and dignity kits				■	■	■	■	■								
AP030	Conduct hygiene promotion and health awareness twice a month for 3 months		■		■		■		■		■		■				
AP030	Select target groups, key messages, and methods of communicating with beneficiaries (mass media and interpersonal communication), based on needs assessment findings	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					



Shelter and Settlement

People targeted: 5000 people (1000 households)

Male: 2,000

Female: 3,000

Requirements (CHF): 7,237,5

Needs analysis: The severe thunderstorm has caused a lot of damage to homes of most affected population leaving them stranded. Those whose homes are inhabitable are living in collective shelters or are hosted by family and friend temporarily. Some of these situations are not dignified or secure. They need essential HH items for cooking and sleeping and want to return to their residences as soon as possible where the most vulnerable will need to be assisted to repair or rebuild their homes. Widespread dissemination of build back safer messaging will help everyone make safe and durable repairs to their homes to avoid similar damage from similar storms and other climate change related disasters.

Risk analysis: The overcrowding in evacuation camps and in households that have accommodated the affected population are exposed to high risk of COVID-19 infections. Construction and repair done without good guidance can be dangerous.

Population to be assisted: Most affected populations in this sector are in Eastern Cape province which include OR Tambo district and Amathole District. The intervention will aim to assist a total of 1000 households

Programme standards/benchmarks: The interventions under this sector will adhere to sphere standards and South African government Department of Infrastructure and Construction.

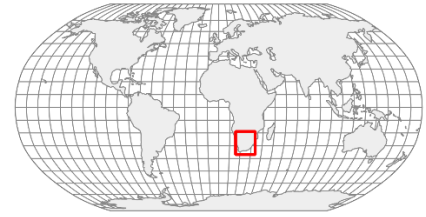
P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions															
	Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.															
Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP005	Assessment of shelter needs, capacities, and gaps															
AP005	Coordination with government and other stakeholders															
AP005	Procurement of 250 blankets for replenishment															
AP005	Conduct community awareness on safe and strong shelter structures in 5 affected districts in EC.															
AP005	Evaluation of the shelter support provided															

#people reached with sensitisation on building of safe shelter
#stakeholders engaged to address shelter needs of affected communities
#people assisted with vouchers to meet shelter needs

Please include an indicator from the Key Data Sheet with a target

Strategies for Implementation
Requirements (CHF): 76,759

P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of detailed assessment reports produced (Target: 1) • # of affected regions assessed • # of volunteers participating in the response (Target: 40 volunteers). • # of supervision missions conducted by the SARCS (Target: 3 missions). • # of community feedback received and processed (Target: at least 80%) • # of IFRC monitoring missions (Target: 2 missions) • # of lessons learned workshop conducted 																
	Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP084	CEA refresher training for 40 volunteers																	
AP084	PGI briefing on Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies																	
AP042	Conduct continuous assessment of situation in target communities																	
AP042	Deploy 40 volunteers for the assessment and implementation of response activities																	
AP042	NS branch & national level monitoring of activities																	
AP042	Deployment of Cash and Relief Surge for three months																	
AP084	Setup and run feedback mechanism																	
AP049	DM monitoring mission for coordination (IFRC)																	
AP084	Organize a Lesson Learned workshop																	
AP084	Provision of PPE for 40 volunteers																	

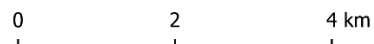


South Africa : Severe Thunderstorm

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



D. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The overall grant allocated for this operation is CHF 399,000 as detailed in budget below

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

*all amounts in
Swiss Francs
(CHF)*

DREF OPERATION

MDRZA011 - South Africa -
Thunderstorm

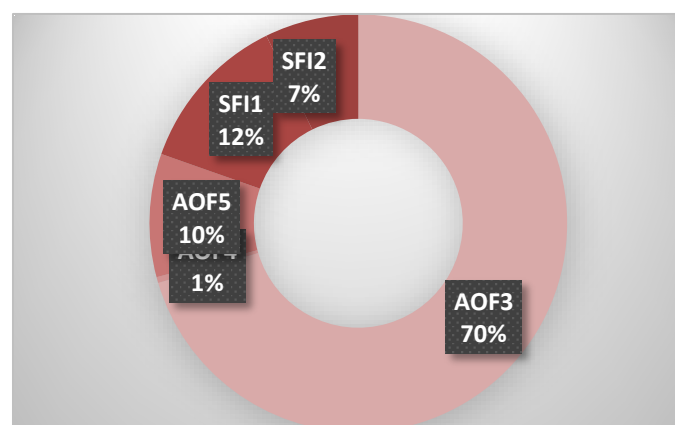
20/12/2021

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Cash Disbursement	239 127
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	239 127
Distribution & Monitoring	47 084
Transport & Vehicles Costs	7 238
Logistics, Transport & Storage	54 322
International Staff	19 976
National Society Staff	1 158
Volunteers	8 824
Personnel	29 957
Workshops & Training	10 769
Workshops & Training	10 769
Travel	8 106
Information & Public Relations	2 027
Financial Charges	5 211
Other General Expenses	25 129
General Expenditure	40 472
DIRECT COSTS	374 648
INDIRECT COSTS	24 352
TOTAL BUDGET	399 000

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	275 426
AOF4	Health	1 776
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	37 331
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	48 344
	Effective International Disaster	
SFI2	Management	28 415
TOTAL		399 000



Reference documents



Click here for:

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

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

South African Red Cross Society

- **Acting Secretary General:** Fernel Campher; Email: fcampher@redcross.org.za Phone: +2720421494
- **Operational coordination:** Fernel Campher; Programmes Manager, Email: fcampher@redcross.org.za ; Phone: +27720421494

In the IFRC

- Dr Michael Charles, Head of Cluster Office; phone: +278 34132988; email: Michael.charles@ifrc.org
- Naemi Heita, Operations Manager; phone: +27829264448; email: naemi.heita@ifrc.org

IFRC Africa Region:

- Adesh Tripathee, Head of DCPRR Unit, Kenya; phone: +254 731 067 489; email: adesh.tripathee@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Nicolas Boyrie, Senior Officer Operations Coordination; email: nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org
- Eszter Matyeka, DREF Senior Officer; email: eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office: Louise Daintrey-Hall**, Head of Unit, Partnerships & Resource Dev: louise.daintrey@ifrc.org phone: +254 110 843978

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: Philip Kahuho, Manager, PMER; email: philip.kahuho@ifrc.org; phone: +254 732 203 081

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