

EMERGENCY APPEAL

South Africa | Floods and landslides



South African Red Cross volunteer in Tongaat, one of the areas heavily impacted by the floods resulting in widespread destruction @SARCS

Appeal №: MDRZA012	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 8 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: TBD	
Glide №: FL-2022-000201-ZAF	People [affected/at risk]: 123,808 (provisional)	People to be assisted: 30,000 People
DREF allocation: CHF 332,222	Appeal launched: 21/04/2022	Appeal ends: 31/10/2023

This Emergency Appeal is launched to allow South Africa Red Cross Society (SARCS) to scale-up the delivery of life-sustaining integrated package of relief services to the affected population. As impact assessments continue, the operation will be revised defining the engagement of SARCS and partners in recovery actions.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

A National State of Disaster has been declared after three days of pounding rain that has caused one of the deadliest natural disasters in South Africa's recent history. According to national authorities, at least 123,808 people were affected, 448 people died and over 30,000 are displaced, mostly in collective evacuation centres. Rescue teams, including South Africa Red Cross Society volunteers, have been mobilised to the affected areas to search for the missing and bring others to safety. As of 21 April, over 53 people are still unaccounted for.

The devastation in the most affected areas of KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces is immense: nearly 12,500 homes have been destroyed or damaged, 66 health centres affected, and 600 schools devastated which will put 270,000 students at risk. In addition, KwaZulu-Natal authorities indicate that businesses, roads, bridges as well as electricity and water infrastructure have been damaged or destroyed. Most casualties and destruction occurred in the most vulnerable and exposed peri-urban areas, where informal settlements flourish as people cannot afford adequate housing and had to resort to building their dwellings in high-risk areas.

Ripple effects from the disaster came soon after, with people experiencing severe distress after having lost their homes, livelihoods, and in some cases their family members. In these areas, most families rely on informal jobs to generate income, and as a result of the storm have lost their means of livelihood.

Over 30,000 people have been evacuated to 28 evacuation centres, but as the number of people arriving increases, more centres are being prepared. These crowded spaces lack safe water, sanitation and hygiene, hence there are serious risks of proliferation of diseases. Protection risks, particularly Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) cannot be ruled out.



@SARCS

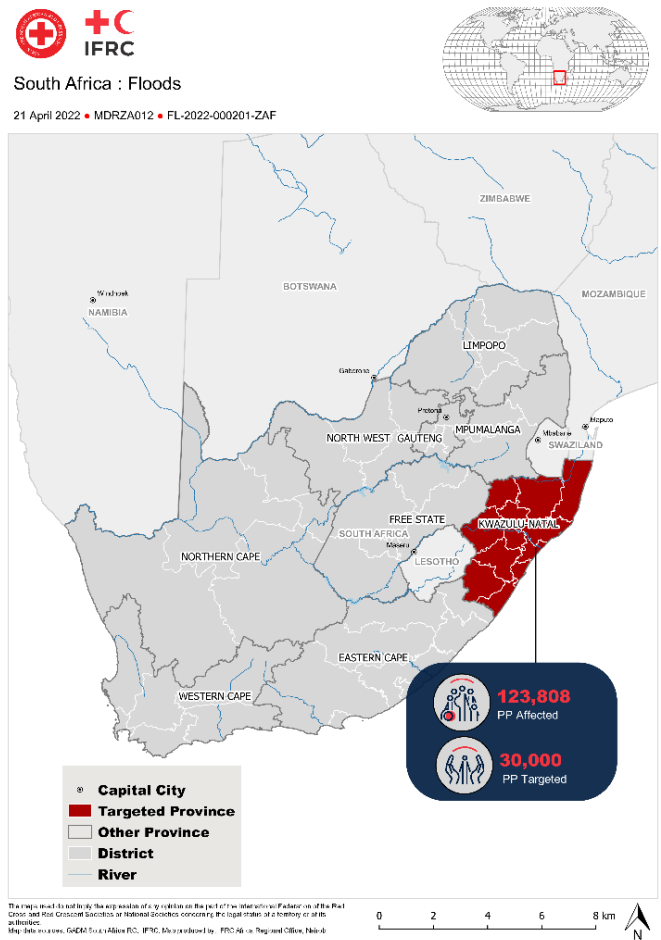
Finally, the most affected areas are not only the most vulnerable and impoverished in South Africa but have also been overwhelmed by other disasters this season, including the effects of Tropical Cyclones Ana and Batsirai, as well as direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This series of shocks, socio-economic impacts and unemployment have resulted in riots that led to repeated instances of violence, such as the one that broke out in July 2021 in KwaZulu-Natal resulting in over 200 deaths. Protests and looting have already been witnessed and may escalate further.

This disaster underscores the increasing intensity of extreme weather events caused by climate change, and their harsh impact on the most socio-economically vulnerable. More rain is forecast in the coming days which could aggravate the situation further. In addition to relief and recovery activities, preparedness and risk reduction will be assessed, planned, and included at a later stage through 'climate-smart' activities, which will be essential to save lives and livelihoods and reduce exposure of the most impoverished populations.

TARGETING

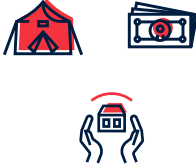


The disaster Joint Operating Committee (JOC) called upon the South African Red Cross Society and the Department of Social Development to lead relief operations. SARCS quickly enacted its disaster teams and conducted assessments jointly with government through its local municipalities, and disaster management centres at both district and provincial levels. At the time of launching this Emergency Appeal, at least **123,808 people are confirmed to be severely affected** by this disaster, including over **30,000 living in evacuation centres**. Others have sought shelter with relatives. Numbers are expected to increase as assessments resume and the influx to evacuation centres continues.

Through this emergency appeal, SARCS will support a total of **30,000 people (6,000 households)** with a package of relief activities in evacuation centres, as well as reducing their exposure to present and future risks and creating the path for recovery, once safe and sustainable solutions are found. Psychosocial support sessions will be delivered to reduce distress and improve mental health status of the victims. Targeting will consider primarily households with severely damaged houses and those who are economically vulnerable, having lost their livelihoods and with no alternative coping mechanisms to meet their basic needs. Particular attention will be given to displaced women and children that are more exposed to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) or may resort to negative coping mechanisms in order to survive.






PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is seeking **8 million Swiss francs** to support SARCS to scale-up the ongoing response to needs generated by the impacts of the floods and landslides. So far, SARCS has provided food, blankets, and other household items to over 2,000 people in evacuation centres, as well as first aid and psychosocial support to victims. The strategy of the IFRC supported response focuses on attention to urgent needs of people in the evacuation centres, supporting risk reduction and early recovery in communities when appropriate, noting that safe housing solutions must be found as return to informal and hazardous settlements is not an option. Presently, priority areas at this stage are the following: 1) Integrated Household Assistance (household items, food, and multi-purpose cash); 2) Health (including PSS) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and 3) Protection and Prevention.

	<p>Integrated Household Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide relief assistance to 30,000 people in evacuation centres and communities through in-kind distributions, which help people meet their essential needs – including food, household, and hygiene items. • Provide Multipurpose Cash Assistance to 6,000 households, for a period of up to 6 months, which will allow families to sustain their basic needs and restart some form of livelihood and seek dignified shelter solutions, when appropriate and safe.
	<p>Health and WASH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based health services will reduce the immediate risks to people's health, and psychosocial support will be provided to ensure wellbeing. • Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services will be ensured to 30,000 people, including the distribution of essential hygiene related materials.
	<p>Protection and Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage safe and equitable access to basic services by strengthening SGBV prevention and considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors. • Support people in affected communities in taking informed, appropriate and safe approach to recovery, to reduce their exposure to future shocks. • Conduct detailed assessments for recovery and strengthening community resilience.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	<p>Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders including the communities being supported throughout the response, ensuring that appropriate information is passed that allows building-back stronger and less risk-exposed communities.
	<p>National Society strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage SARCS in the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) approach – including contingency planning, simulation exercises, and prepositioning of stocks with relevant partners. • Support the set-up of sound operational and risk management and increase technical capacities of SARCS by deploying surge staff to affected locations
	<p>Coordination and partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate with decision-makers, donors and other stakeholders to take appropriate steps to rebuild communities in a safe and dignified manner. • Strengthen coordination and partnerships within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and with relevant external actors, including the Government, UN agencies and the private sector. • Documenting the impact of the disaster in communities and monitor the needs of the affected communities with a view to assessing and addressing longer term needs.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the coming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation Wide approach which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY



South Africa Red Cross Society

Core areas of operation



Number of staff:	100
Number of volunteers:	3,250
Number of branches	42

The South Africa Red Cross Society (SARCS) operations are centrally coordinated and led through the Secretary-General's office at the headquarters in Johannesburg. The SG's office is supported by a Senior Management Team (SMT) comprising of managers from different departments such as Disaster Management, Health and Care, Branch development, Finance and Organizational Development. This team supports the decentralised structure of provincial and branch offices that leads the implementation of activities and community engagements. The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provide both technical and financial support to the National Society. SARCS has some gaps in staffing and hence technical support will be provided from

the IFRC through the Cluster delegation in Pretoria as well as surge deployments to increase operational and technical capabilities.

The KZN (KwaZulu Natal) SARCS provincial office takes lead of the flood's response with support of the HQ, IFRC and ICRC. 300 volunteers and 30 full-time staff which includes 10 national technical staff have been deployed. The national technical staff will provide both technical support and supervision to field teams to ensure project adherence, effectiveness, and efficiency to achieve intended outcomes.

SARCS is currently implementing Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) under a current DREF in Eastern Cape province which involves cash transfer through mobile money to 1000 households at a value of R2000 for 2 months (January and February 2022). Towards the end of last year, the NS also implemented CVA in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal under the Urban Violence DREF where 1 636 households were given cash transfer through mobile money at R1000 a month for 2 months.

In the current emergency response, SARCS through the DREF will be providing one off, mobile money cash transfers to 1,500 households to the value of R2 258.

IFRC Membership coordination

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.

For this response, 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. Additionally, the IFRC provided Psychological First Aid (PFA) training to SARCS as part of their preparedness activities. This is proving to be useful in this current emergency response as the SARCS volunteers and staff are providing ongoing PFA support.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supports SARCS through their sub-regional delegation in Pretoria. Providing technical assistance in the form of building the National Society's operational capacity and in ensuring strong linkages with government structures. In the current emergency response, ICRC is providing Protection of Family Links (PFL) support to SARCS to enable them to undertake activities that help reconnect families and address the issue of missing persons.

External coordination

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) agreed that the South African Red Cross Society and the Department of Social Development will be responsible to conduct assessments and lead relief operations, while other sectors such as department of water affairs, agriculture, and forestry and the roads department will focus on restoring and rehabilitating the damaged infrastructures in the affected provinces.

Contact information

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

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