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DREF operations update Tanzania: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRTZ015	GLIDE n° FF-2014-000009-TZA
Operations manager: Dennis Kjeldsen	Point of contact: Joseph Kimaryo, Director, Disaster Management, Tanzania RC
Operations update n° 1: Timeframe Extension	Timeframe covered by this update: 31.01.2014 - 29.04.2014
Operation start date: 31 January, 2014	Timeframe: 3 months to 30 April, 2014; extended to 30 May
Overall operation budget: CHF 180,676	
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 180,676	
Number of people affected: 10,000	N° of people being assisted: 2,000 (400 Households)
Host National Society presence : Tanzanian Red Cross Society: 50 volunteers, 5 staff, 3 branches	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, Spanish Red Cross and American Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: UNICEF, Government of Tanzania, the Military (Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces), Caritas and Islamic Foundation (food relief support to government.)	

Summary:

Heavy rains caused flash floods in Morogoro region, located approximately 270 kilometres West of Dar Es Salaam, between 22nd and 23rd January, 2014. The rains which fell upstream in the regions of Tanga, Dodoma and Manyara overwhelmed the river banks downstream, especially Mkundi river, resulting in disastrous flash floods in three districts of Morogoro region, namely, Kilosa, Mvomero and Gairo.

Kilosa district was the most affected with 1,865 households displaced. In Mvomero district 222 households were displaced and 10 households were displaced in Gairo district. In all three districts a total of 2,097 households (over 10,000 people) were displaced. In Kilosa district 4 wards were affected, namely, Magole, Dumila, Msowero and Kitete. Magole ward was the most affected particularly the village of Magole and Mateteni sub-village in Mbigiri village.

Apart from population displacements, the flash floods caused extensive damages to physical infrastructure (roads, bridges), public buildings (schools, religious buildings), and crop fields. In the worst affected district of Kilosa 500 houses were destroyed either completely or partially, leaving the occupants of these houses homeless. Hundreds of other houses were flooded with muddy water destroying all the belongings therein.

A key bridge on the highway that links Dar es Salaam and other regions in the Central and West Tanzania was washed away by the floods leaving thousands of road travellers stranded for three days before the government restored the service after commissioning a temporary/emergency bridge.

Following the flash flooding a DREF operation was approved to support the National Society respond to the emergency. The government provided land for the Internally Displaced where camp centres were and two camps were established namely Magole and Mateteni villages. The three months response operation

focuses on four emergency sectors namely; shelter, water and sanitation, health and distribution of non-food relief items (NFIs). The main activities being implemented under each sector are highlighted below:

- Shelter – construction of 400 emergency shelters to accommodate 400 most vulnerable families.
- Water and sanitation – to procure and install 3 water tanks (each 10,000 litres capacity), 2 tanks at Mateteni camp and 1 tank at Magole camp, for storage of water; to construct 100 latrine drop holes in both camps; and to undertake hygiene promotion activities in order to minimize the risk of water and sanitation related diseases.
- Health (psychosocial support service) – to provide psychosocial support service to the affected population.
- Relief distribution – to distribute non-food relief items to 400 families in both camps:
 - Hygiene related NFIs – hygiene/dignity kits, buckets, jerry cans, water purification tablets and laundry soap
 - Basic household items – kitchen sets, mattresses, blankets

Technical support was provided through the deployment of a psychosocial RDRT personnel who is working with the National Society. This has meant that much needed psychosocial services have been provided to the beneficiaries.

During the review of the RDRT detailed plan of Action, The RDRT and the Focal Health response realized that the activities were under budgeted. The NS requested for more funds and an additional amount of CHF 4,664 was approved from the existing budget and reallocated accordingly to support the activities.

This operation update also extends the operation timeframe for one month to allow for the operation review and lessons learnt workshop to take place in May.

Situation

Currently, the whole country is receiving long rains which normally last for approximately four months from March through June. Several parts of the country are now experiencing significant levels of flooding and cases of emergency situations are being reported from numerous parts of the country. The current disaster area where the DREF was launched (Morogoro) is experiencing additional flooding as a result of the long rains and fierce storm winds which has caused significant damage to the emergency shelters constructed for the beneficiaries. As a result of this, noted damage to the shelters has been observed. The National Society has to embark on repair/rehabilitation activities. UNHCR- Tanzania Office provided additional 200 pcs of tarpaulins from their disaster preparedness stocks (DP stocks).

At the moment, the number of targeted beneficiaries remains fairly stable but the risk is quite high that the numbers might suddenly escalate in view of the ongoing long rains which put the disaster area at risk of further flooding.

Considering the evolving situation (long rains and storm winds) the beneficiaries are poised to stay in the established camps much longer than anticipated not only because of the imminent long rains and storm winds but also because of their relatively poor economic status. During the disaster, beneficiaries lost their homes, food reserves and essential household items most of their livelihoods were destroyed and washed away therefore it will take longer time before they will be able to go back and rebuild their homes get back to their normal life. There is urgent need for appropriate post disaster recovery considerations to support the affected community.

The National Society seeks an extension for one month (until 30 May) to allow a lessons learnt and review workshop to be held, which will bring together the local actors and PNSs who have been part of the operation. The reason for this is that the country at the moment is experiencing heavy rainfall and because the disaster management team is heavily involved in responding at the national level and is monitoring the situation.

The extra allocation for the psychosocial activities was approved to be reallocated from the RDRT line; the original budget included a provision for two months of RDRT support, but based on the needs the RDRT was deployed for only one month. This line was subsequently reduced and a portion of the additional funds were reallocated to cover the psychosocial support activities.

A number of the budget lines will be revised on a minor scale to cover relevant under- and overspends. The current financials are being updated to allow clarity on any remaining gaps, and a second operation update focused on the revision of these budget lines may be issued in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the operation review will focus on logistics, with technical support to be provided by regional and zone logistics colleagues. The plan is that the recommendations from the review will support to the National Society on strengthening the quality of its procurement and logistics services in the short, mid- and longer term, in future operations.

Challenges

The Floods response operation at Mateteni and Magole camp has been facing challenges due to the ongoing rains in the current disaster area. Cases of heavy precipitation upstream with subsequent moderate flooding downstream to the disaster area have been causing significant interferences in the implementation of the relief intervention. The Tanzania Meteorology Authority (TMA) already issued forecasts on above normal rains warnings and imminent flooding in several parts of the country.

Another challenge is the occasional high speed winds/storms that have been blowing off the emergency shelters, tearing apart the tarpaulin roofs and leaving the occupant families vulnerable to harsh weather conditions. Part of the issues was attributed on the quality of the locally made tarpaulins. In addressing this challenge the TRCS has embarked on repair work to re-instate the badly damaged emergency shelters to a habitable condition but that has had an impact on the budget.

The beneficiaries affected are poor, and they are bound to stay longer than anticipated because they will likely not be able to re-build their homes in good time due to lack of resources. This calls for post-disaster recovery assistance and interventions in rehabilitation of disaster proof housing and disaster risk management and seeds and few farm implements. To address these needs, the regional team are looking to work with the National Society to access longer-term funding outside of this DREF operation.

Coordination and partnerships

In the mid of the ongoing response operation the National Society had the opportunity to host a monitoring visit from the ECHO regional office in Nairobi represented by its Rapid Emergency Response Coordinator who visited the affected region and the camps established by the TRCS.

The Government, through the Morogoro Regional and Kilosa District authorities has been leading and coordinating roles for this emergency operation.

The Tanzania Red Cross Society leads the planning and implementation of the emergency operation with its partners, mainly UNICEF and UNHCR whom TRCS has a standby Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with for emergency preparedness and response in the WASH, Health and Nutrition sectors.

Tanzania Red Cross also received cash and in kind contributions to support the affected beneficiaries from corporates in-country in this response.

IFRC is not present in-country, however there is close coordination between the NS and the IFRC regional representation office in Nairobi. The regional office provides technical support to the National Society and has been closely monitoring the implementation of this operation. An RDRT specialized in psychosocial support was deployed for one month to support the psychosocial component during the operation.

The Government has been providing water in the camp supplied by the Tanzania Military trucks on a daily basis.

Operational implementation

Overview

Activities implementation status:

- 1) Construction of emergency shelters
The construction of 400 emergency shelters is completed. 262 emergency shelters have been constructed at Mateteni displacement camp and 138 shelters at Magole displacement camp.
- 2) Procurement, transportation and installation of 3 water tanks
With support from UNICEF three (3) water tanks (each 10,000 litres capacity) were bought in Dar es Salaam and transported to Magole (1 tank) and Mateteni (2 tanks). All the tanks have been installed and fitted with water distribution tap stands. They are already in use by the displaced population at both camps.
- 3) Construction of emergency communal latrines (100 drop holes)
This activity is also implemented with UNICEF support. A total of 102 emergency communal latrine drop holes have been constructed; 70 at Mateteni camp and 32 at Magole camp. Unfortunately 8 drop holes at Mateteni collapsed due to loose soil, remaining with 62 drop holes. Therefore, a total of 94 latrine drop holes are in use in both camps. Hand washing facilities (tip taps) have also been constructed, two besides each latrine block.
- 4) Hygiene promotion activities
Hygiene promotion activities are ongoing in both camps, carried out by TRCS volunteers. Hygiene promotion IEC materials were distributed in both camps for wider awareness creation on good hygiene practices.
- 5) Psychosocial support service (PSS) provision
Psychosocial assessment was conducted starting the week of 17th March. Prior to the assessment the PSS team and volunteers underwent a three days induction training ready for the assessment and provision of PSS thereafter. A total of 2 national society trainers with a technical back up of one PSS RDRT from IFRC/Nigeria Red Cross did the training and capacity building of 20 TRCS volunteers on PSS provision.
- 6) Non-food relief items (NFIs) distribution
The NFIs distributed by TRCS include, mosquito nets, mattresses, kitchen sets, water buckets, jerry cans and laundry soap bars. The last shipment of jerry cans and hygiene/dignity kits will be distributed by the first week of May as there was a delay in the procurement process, for these items.

Planned interventions	Implementation (%)
Health and care	
Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.	100%

Output 1.1 The health situation and immediate risks are addressed using agreed guidelines.	100%
Procure and transport 800 mosquito nets for malaria prevention (2 per family)	100%
Distribute 800 mosquito nets to target population	100%
Demonstration for the beneficiaries on how to use the mosquito nets	100%
Procure 50 first aid kits	100%
Carry out first aid services to persons in need and referrals to identified appropriate health facilities.	100%
Output 1.2 Psychosocial support provided to the target population.	100%
Conduct two days training for 10 volunteers on psychosocial support	100%
Carry out psychosocial support services	100%
Water and Sanitation	
Outcome 2: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.	100%
Output 2.1 400 affected families have increased access to safe water, and improved hygiene and sanitation conditions.	100%
Procure and transport hygiene/dignity kits (toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary pads, diapers)	0%
Procure and transport water buckets	100%
Procure and transport jerry cans	30%
Procure and transport water treatment tablets	50%
Procure and transport laundry soap	100%
Distribute hygiene/dignity kits (toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary pads, diapers)	0%
Distribute water buckets	100%
Distribute jerry cans	0%
Distribute water treatment tablets	100%
Distribute laundry soap	100%
Output 2.2 400 affected families have increased understanding on hygiene practices as a way of reducing the risks for diseases.	100%
Develop a hygiene communication plan (based on the needs assessment, hygiene issues, target group etc.)	100%
Train volunteers on basic hygiene and sanitation practices and on how to implement HP activities	100%
Develop and print appropriate IEC materials on hygiene promotion.	100%
Volunteers conduct awareness creation campaigns on good hygiene and sanitation practices	100%
Shelter and Household Items	
Outcome 3 The immediate shelter and basic needs of the target population are met.	100%
Output 3.1. Emergency shelter assistance is provided to the target population.	100%
Develop Emergency sheltering strategy	100%
Identify volunteers and staff to support the shelter operation	100%
Procure and transport shelter construction materials (tarps, tools, timber/poles)	100%
Train volunteers on emergency shelter set up and construction	100%
Distribute shelter construction materials to targeted families and support construction activities	100%
Output 3.2 Living conditions for 400 displaced and vulnerable families are improved through the provision of basic household items/non-food items (NFIs)	100%
Procure and transport 400 kitchen sets (locally assembled sets)	100%
Procure and transport 800 mattresses	100%
Procure and transport 800 blankets	100%
Distribute 400 kitchen sets (locally assembled sets)	100%
Distribute 800 mattresses	100%
Distribute 800 blankets	100%

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Tanzania:** Joseph Kimaryo, Disaster Management Director; Tanzania Red Cross National Society; phone: +255 713 325 042; email: utouh2009.yahoo.com
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Finnjarle Rode, Regional Representative for East Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 20 283 5000; email: finnjarle.rode@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator, Africa; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC IFRC Zonal Logistics Unit (ZLU):** Rishi Ramrakha, Nairobi; phone +254 20 283 5142, Fax +254 20 271 2777, email: rishi.ramrakkha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC regional representation:** Diana Ongiti, Senior RM Officer; phone +254 20 2835 276; email: diana.ongiti@ifrc.org

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

- **IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator, Africa phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

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