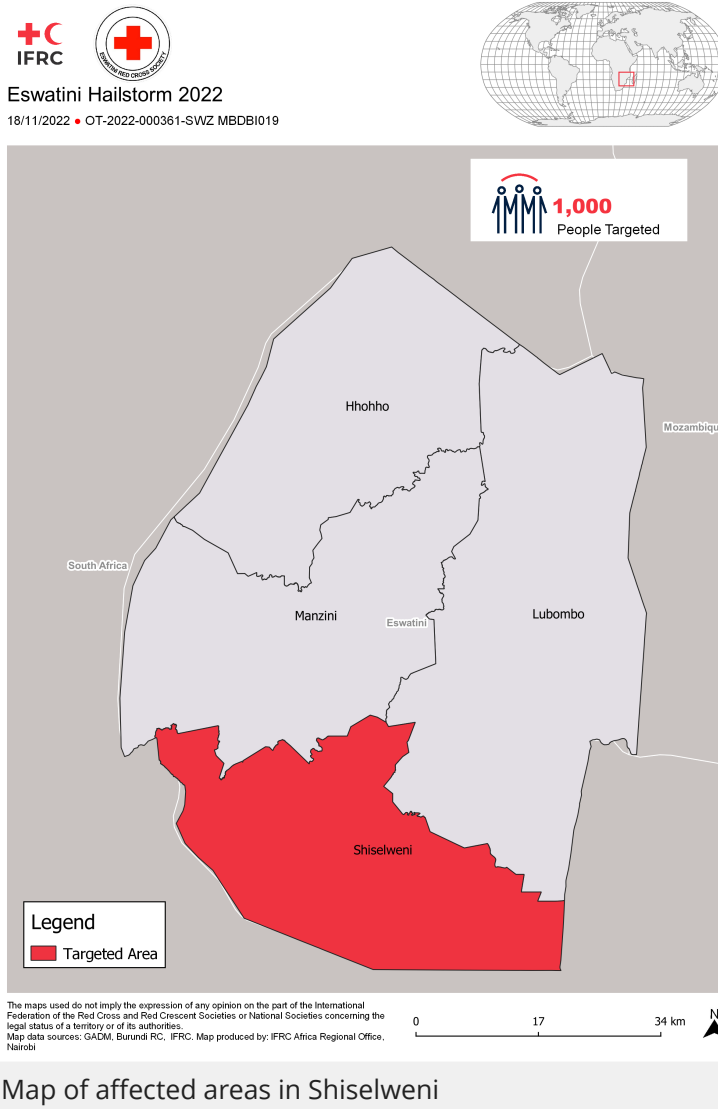




Roof destroyed by hailstones, as assessed by BERCS

Appeal: MDRSZ003	DREF Allocated: CHF 102,139	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Other
Glide Number: OT-2022-000361-SWZ	People Affected: 1,058 people	People Targeted: 1,058 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 2022-11-21	Operation End Date: 2023-02-28	Operation Timeframe: 3 months
	Targeted Areas:	Shiselweni	

Description of the Event



Map of affected areas in Shiselweni

What happened, where and when?

Eswatini Meteorology department's weather forecast for the 5th November was isolated thundershowers and rain showers being warm to hot in the Lowveld. A hailstorm with strong winds and hail stones as big as a child's fist was experienced on Saturday 5 November 2022 night, affecting mostly Nsingizini and Nsubane communities under Hosea and Somtongo in the Shiselweni region. The affected communities are in the Lowveld of the country.

An estimated 1,058 people (213 households) were affected by the storm with some families losing their roofs which were blown away or roofing sheets riddled by the hailstones. Window glasses were also shattered and household furniture, food, and other documents soaked in water. School uniforms and books for school pupils were not spared. The affected people were exposed to more danger as they had to sleep in that day in the yet-to-be-fixed structures as no support had been rendered yet.

Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS) mobilized and deployed four volunteers and two officers who conducted the rapid household assessment through interpersonal interviews with the household heads on the 6th November 2022. The standard rapid assessment tool was used. The National Society also provided psychological support to the distraught communities. On 7th November, a joint assessment was further done with National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), where available response material was 16 tarpaulins and 30 food parcels were disbursed on the subsequent days.

Given the very limited support available for the affected people, the NDMA, on 11 November, issued a formal request for support to BERCS, to support the affected households.



Soaked room in Nsingizini.



BERCS SG and a volunteer assessing damages during assessment

Scope and Scale

From the joint assessment conducted with NDMA, the community reiterated the need for support on shelter, food, and school materials destroyed. The communities are subsistent farmers who thrive on agricultural activities such as crops and poultry. Their economic status categorizes them as the most vulnerable, which means they may struggle to recover from the impact of the storm.

Assessments further revealed that food items were destroyed by the water as roofs have now become porous following impact of the hailstones. According to the IPC Eswatini Acute Food Insecurity analysis, populations in Shiselweni are in IPC 3 (crisis). Households which already food insecure would have their situation exacerbated thus a need to support them to meet food needs. Moreover, other household items such as furniture, school books, and uniforms were not spared. High vulnerability entails that the household's important documents were also not spared.

The affected communities have some vulnerabilities including child-headed households, the elderly, children under five years and people suffering from chronic diseases that pull the limited resources.

Communities affected by hailstorms in the past received support on shelter but not all the losses are compensated. Some who lost their livelihoods could not be assisted due to limited available resources. For example, commercial vegetable farmers need more investment to support them and also field crop support has been less supported in the past.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population groups?	No
Did the National Society respond?	Yes

Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	No
If yes, please specify which operations	
<p>Specify how the lessons learnt from these previous operations are being used to mitigate similar challenges in the current operation</p> <p>In 2020/21 summer, the country experienced around 5 hailstorms covering Manzini, Shiselweni, and Hhohho regions. Their impact was mostly on blown-away roofs and damaged livelihoods such as field crops and poultry. An estimated 4000 people were affected but the National Society responded through a crisis modifier (EU funding) to support 45 households with roofing, and over 200 tarpaulins and the Government were rolling out food assistance. Lessons learned there included:</p> <p>1 - Preparedness is key- having enough pre-positioned materials enable quicker response. Unfortunately, this time around the stock replenishment had not been done when the disaster struck and the food assistance program is closed. Under the ECHO PPP project, National Society has shall have stock prepositioned although delayed.</p> <p>2 - The actual number of affected may increase as the impact may be staggered or due to secondary effects. The need to update operation as impact increases.</p>	

Current National Society Actions

Assessment	A joint rapid assessment was conducted by BERCS and NDMA on 6 and 7 November 2022, where 1058 people (213 households) were found to be most affected by the storm. About 59 house roofings were destroyed while 67 were partly damaged, i.e. a total of 630 people or 126 households in need of shelter. Community needs were identified through the assessments as shelter, food, and other basic needs such as health, and hygiene promotion.
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Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) supports BERCS through its Country Cluster Delegation located in Pretoria. A technical support platform has been set up by the IFRC to support BERCS in managing the current emergency and any ensuing communities are assisted in a dignified manner. IFRC is currently providing technical support to BERCS for rapid assessment, communication, resource mobilization design, and implementation of the response.
ICRC	ICRC is currently not in the country.
Participating National Societies	<p>The National Society is working closely with the following in-country PNS in the following thematic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finnish RC active in DRR, Food Insecurity Response - Belgian RC provides support for First Aid - British RC provides support with WASH, Food Insecurity Response. <p>For this specific disaster, no partner is engaged yet in this operation.</p>

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	<p>From the joint assessment by NDMA and BERCS conducted on 6 and 7 November, the community needs were identified as shelter, food, and basic needs, as well as health and hygiene. This led to the NDMA mobilizing 30 food parcels which were distributed to the community on 8 November 2022. From their available stocks, 16 tarpaulins were provided to selected households to temporarily cover their roofs.</p> <p>BERCS and NDMA currently have no response materials stocked such as roofing sheets, timber, nails, wires, and glasses for windows, thus could not support the affected people immediately. Food stocks are also low thus a minimum number was supported. The NDMA on the 11th of November requested the Red Cross to seek more resources in the form of roofing material, food stock, and other non-food items to support the affected.</p>
UN or other actors	No actions taken yet.

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

The NDMA coordinates all interventions by humanitarian agencies with support from other UN Agencies through the Command-and-Control Centre. Civil Society and NGOs are working jointly with the government to provide immediate assistance at the regional level. To avoid duplication of efforts, National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) coordinates responses across all the cluster leads so that efforts are done in a coordinated manner.

At the regional level, the NDMA and BERCS technical officers work together in assessments, response, and other support areas. When resources are minimal or not available NDMA mobilizes through the Red Cross and other partners as done in this response.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The National Society in conjunction with NDMA has implemented shelter support for similar situations. During such times, the assessment reports group them into damaged and partly damaged structures.

From the assessment, 630 people or 126 households are in dire need of shelter solutions with 59 totally damaged roofs and 67 partly damaged houses. There are needs in terms of roofing sheets, timber, wire nails, roofing nails, and galvanized wire as temporary measures, while complete re-roofing is required for most of these houses. BERCS will liaise with NDMA and other Government departments for support and expertise on this.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

According to the IPC Food Insecurity Analysis for October 2022 – March 2023, the number of people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above is expected to increase by an estimated 6% in Eswatini and 15% of the people in Shiselweni are already in IPC 3 (Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/eswatini/eswatini-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-analysis-june-2022-march-2023-published-july-4-2022>).

Based on the above, it is clear that the affected population is already battling with low food availability and access to food is increasingly challenging. In addition to this, the hailstorms washed away and destroyed livestock, crop production, and household food stocks, leaving them worse than before and emotionally distraught.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF operation, Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS) aims at supporting 1,058 people (213 households) affected by the hailstorm in Shiselweni, through the provision of food, basic needs, livelihoods, and household items through a multipurpose cash grant. The 630 people (126 HH) whose houses experienced damage will receive shelter materials.

The operation area will be in the Nsingizini and Nsubane communities of the Shiselweni region and implementation will be planned for three months.

Operation strategy rationale

To meet above stated objective, BERCS plans to provide support through:

1. Procurement of shelter items (Target: 126 households [630 people]).

Through this DREF operation, BERCS plans to ensure delivery of necessary material for temporary repairs of roofing by procuring and distributing them directly to the families whose houses have been partially and completely destroyed. Below activities will be implemented under this sector:

- Conduct detailed multi-sectoral assessment of the situation in targeted areas
- Participatory beneficiary identification and selection

- Procurement and distribution of roofing materials to 126 most households that have had their roofs partially and totally destroyed.
- Provide support to 126 families in repair works with support from Government specialists.

2. Provide Multipurpose Cash (Target: 213 households [1,058 people]).

BERCS boasts five years of experience in cash and voucher assistance (Mobile Money and cash in envelopes) which covered the Shiselweni region. The affected areas were indeed part of past cash interventions, making the use of cash transfers a viable solution for these communities.

Currently, BERCS is running cash transfers covering 6 constituencies in the Shiselweni and Lubombo regions. For this operation, the National Society opts for cash transfer using Mobile Money as an existing 3-year contract is in place with MTN, a mobile telephone company.

Multipurpose cash grants will be provided to all targeted 126 households (630 people) to support access to food for one month, as well as the provision of essential household items. The cash value to be disbursed per household is a one-off Eswatini (SZL) of 3,000, calculated based on the value of the monthly food basket in the community, the cost of household items to be replaced, and livelihood support to allow the affected families recover quickly from the shock.

3. Cross-cutting issues - PGI, CEA, and PSEA (Target: 213 households [1,058 people])

Given that under the ECHO PPP Program, BERCS has recently trained its volunteers on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), these cross-cutting elements will defacto be included in the volunteers' jobs through all sectors of implementation. In a bid to be cost-efficient, there will be no additional briefings or training for these cross-cutting issues under this operation.

During assessments, BERCS will ensure to use of PGI, CEA, and PSEA approaches, during the assessments and through implementation. BERCS is already using the WFP feedback mechanism country-wide and will continue to use the same during this operation to avoid creating parallel mechanisms.

BERCS will conduct a verification of the beneficiaries selected to control that the selection criteria are respected. BERCS staff and volunteers will also collect feedback and complaints from beneficiaries during the selection and throughout the course of the operation. Sensitive feedback will also be collected and processed in accordance with the applicable guidelines. Feedback will be shared and analyzed at HQ to refine the selection process and criteria if necessary. This will also be used to adapt the intervention based on community needs.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The overall target for this DREF operation is 1,058 people (213 households) in the affected areas of Nsingizini and Nsubane. All targeted locations are rural areas and will receive cash grants to support food and other basic needs. Families who have lost their roofings or whose roofs have been damaged (126 HH) will receive support through material for repairs.

The volunteers in the community will be engaged together with the community structures (Leadership, Rural Health Motivators, and Inner Council) to target and register the affected people. Fortunately, this arrangement has been used in past responses by BERCS and is in line with the NDMA guidelines.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

All affected people, as of 18 November, which sum up to 1,058 people according to joint BERCS and NDMA assessment will be supported through this operation. Supported will be distributed as follows:

* 1,058 people (213 HH) will receive cash grants while 630 people (126 HH) who are part of the overall affected, will

in addition receive roofing items.

In the event that the situation worsens, since the storm season is just starting, selection criteria will be developed in consultation with affected communities prioritizing the CEA approach to ensure the community is included from the planning to execution stage of the operation. The selection criteria will be based on the extent of damage by the hazard with priority given to the marginalized groups; children, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities (households with).

Total Targeted Population

Women:	333	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	213	100 %	0.00 %
Men:	312	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	200	5.00 %	
Total targeted population:	1,058		

Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions


Risk	Mitigation action
Another hailstorm affects the same community, increasing the number of affected people	BERCS will update this DREF Operation with a maximum five days from the date of an additional hailstorm, to allow inclusion of additional targeted persons, to be provided with needed support.
Risk that cash distributed might be diverted	Although there is no zero-risk, BERCS and Shiselweni community have experience with CVA. Additionally, the community gatekeepers are familiar with the National Society support and all measures taken when dealing with Mobile Money transfers through the FSP.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Various anti-government protests by students, police forces, and trade unions have been organized in recent months to demand better working conditions and pro-democracy reforms. In response, authorities have increased security and deployed armed forces at recent protests.

BERCS is already responding to this unrest through the ECHO PPP project, with additional support from the Belgium Red Cross and from the ICRC with First Aid and Safer Access training respectively.


Planned Intervention

	Shelter Housing And Settlements	Budget	CHF 49,106
		Targeted Persons	630
Indicators		Target	
# of households supported with roofing materials		126	
# of partially damaged roofings are fixed		67	
# of completely destroyed roofing are repaired		59	
# of volunteers deployed for shelter activities		10	
# of post distribution monitoring conducted		1	
<p style="text-align: center;">Priority Actions:</p>		<p>The following activities will be implemented with a target of 630 people (126 HH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a detailed multi-sectoral assessment of the situation in targeted areas • Participatory beneficiary identification and selection • Procurement of roofing materials to 126 most households that have had their roofs partially and totally destroyed. • Deploy 10 volunteers for 2 days to support the distribution of shelter material • Deploy 10 volunteers for 10 days to support repair works with technical support from Government specialists. • Ensure monitoring of the use of distributed items 	

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 9,443
		Targeted Persons	0
Indicators		Target	
# of monitoring visits conducted by HQ staff		2	
# of volunteer insured during the course of the operation		10	

Priority Actions:	<p>The following activities will be implemented to ensure BERCS will successfully implement the operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision of the operation by a BERCS branch officer • Provision of volunteer insurance for the 10 volunteers • Ensuring the operation is monitored by an HQ staff member • Ensure that BERCS is able to communicate with the local community, governments, and other stakeholders • Provision for financial charges to cover banking charges • Provision of an administration fee for BERCS • Provision of Transport and vehicle costs
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	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 1,614
		Targeted Persons	1058
Indicators		Target	
# of radio sessions conducted on early warning/early action		5	
% of feedback addressed		80	
Priority Actions:		<p>Ensure streamlining of CEA approaches in the operation as well as use CEA techniques for dissemination of early warning messages, given the storm season is beginning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct 5 radio sessions on early warning/early action • Ensure feedback from community is followed up by the National Society 	

	Multi-purpose Cash	Budget	CHF 41,976
		Targeted Persons	1058
Indicators		Target	
# of families reached with cash grants		213	
# of volunteers engaged in sensitization		10	
# of post distribution monitoring conducted		1	
		<p>BERCS will ensure that the 213 affected families are provided with multipurpose cash grants to support access to food for one month (based on a monthly food basket), as well as the provision of essential household items. The cash value to be disbursed per household is a once-off Eswatini (SZL) 3,000 calculated as follows:</p>	

Priority Actions:

- * SZL 1200 for livelihood support (amount based on current allocation in ECHO PPP and Finnish RC MFA projects).
- * SZL 800 for food needs which is based on the food basket as set by the cash working group
- * SZL 400 for hygiene basket as per cash working group
- * SZL 600 for household items as per cash working group allocation.

The cash grants will be disbursed under an unrestricted modality to allow families the flexibility to use them based on their specific needs. Activities to implement include:

- Volunteer sensitization of targeted families on the use of cash by 10 volunteers for 3 days
- One-off unrestricted cash disbursement to 213 families
- Post-distribution monitoring by 10 volunteers for 2 days

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 2 staff (1 full time and 1 support) and 10 volunteers will be needed for this operation (10 volunteers from the Response team, 1 Branch staff, and 1 staff from the HQ DM department). The HQ will be responsible for coordination with NDMA and IFRC, providing guidance to Branch Staff and reporting on the operation.

The branch staff is responsible for regional coordination, guiding the proceedings at the community level, and implementation of the operation. Volunteers are key in assessment, data collection, and the feedbacking office on ground operations.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

All the proposed relief items will be procured locally by BERCS as materials are available and markets are functional. BERCS will incorporate IFRC procurement and procedures into its internal procurement process. The National Society has a functional Logistics department that will oversee the procurement process. The NS will also engage IFRC in situations where procurement is not done locally to support the National Society in the procurement process.

As the National Society is working closely with the government, which has contracts with services providers for roofing materials, the National Society will procure through the support of the government thus anticipating that the procurement process will take up to 1-2 weeks.

The National Society has an existing renewable 3-year financial service provider contract with MTN that covers the entire country. This will enable the National Society to carry out cash distributions with ease.

How will this operation be monitored?

PMER activities such as reporting, monitoring, and planning will be carried out throughout the operation where reports will be shared, and monitoring will be conducted. Post-distribution monitoring will be also conducted at the end of each distribution to get feedback from the beneficiaries. Operational updates will be issued and shared with the cluster office. The final report will be done at the end of the operation with technical support from IFRC. All reports will be done in accordance with IFRC PMER standards.

Additionally, The Finance Department will monitor all the expenditures according to the National Society financial procedures also taking into consideration the IFRC financial procedures. Financial reports will be issued and shared with the IFRC cluster office for review.

Regional offices will provide weekly updates that will feed into the operational update report. BERCS will also provide both narrative and financial reports at the end of the operation and this will be done with support from the IFRC cluster office.

The IFRC will visit the country once to monitor the operation. Additionally, IFRC will be having monthly coordination meetings with the technical National Society colleagues. The IFRC will visit the country once to monitor the operation. Additionally, IFRC will be having monthly coordination meetings with the technical National Society colleagues.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

IFRC Comms will work with the NS Public Relations Officer on the development and sharing of early warning and early action messages for floods and hailstorms. Volunteers on the ground will pass the messages and also through our National radio slot the information will be disseminated. Locally, the PRO in liaison with the Branch personnel will constantly communicate with community leadership especially the constituency Councillor who is the link to the communities. Through meetings, and printed IEC material the affected people will be reached and messages passed.

Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRSZ003 - Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society Shiselweni Hailstorms

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	92,695
Shelter and Basic Household Items	49,106
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	41,976
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	1,614
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	9,443
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	0
National Society Strengthening	9,443
TOTAL BUDGET	102,139

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Contact Information

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

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