



The impact of drought on the crops in Hukuntsi published by sundaystandard newspaper in April 2024

Appeal: MDRBW005	Country: Botswana	Hazard: Drought	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 499,471	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 37,000 people	People Targeted: 5,350 people	
Operation Start Date: 10-06-2024	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 31-12-2024	DREF Published: 12-06-2024
Targeted Areas: Southern, North East			

Description of the Event

Date when the trigger was met

30-05-2024

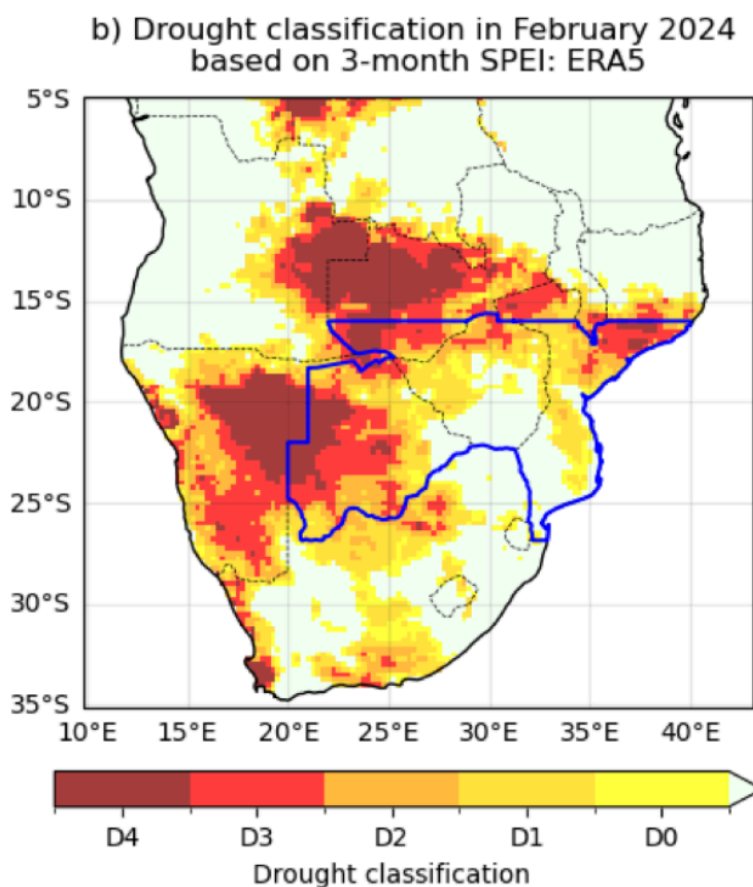


Figure 1 above shows the impact of drought in Botswana

What happened, where and when?

On May 24, 2024, the Rural Development Secretariat under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development issued a report urging support due to the devastating impact of drought on food security drivers, nutrition, water supplies, and food production. The report highlighted a significant decline in crop yields, with a drop from 206,572 tons harvested in 2021/22 to 125,184 tons in 2022/23. Cereal production in 2022/23 reached only 67,530 tons, which is equivalent to just 23% of the national requirement. The 2022/23 cropping season experienced low and highly erratic rainfall, along with extended dry periods, severely impacting food and agricultural production, disrupting urban water supplies, and damaging the rural economy and socio-cultural structures. As a result, the nation is experiencing significant chronic food insecurity, with over 10% of the population facing food and nutrition problems.

The country has experienced dry spells and rainfall deficits in recent years, leading the government to declare a drought emergency in July 2023. This marks the third consecutive year of severe drought, affecting arable agricultural land in a context where 70% of the rural population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, primarily through rain-fed farming. Since then, 163,000 people have been categorized as food insecure. The SADC Synthesis Report on The State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa indicated that 37,000 individuals in Botswana are experiencing food insecurity in 2024.

The El Niño drought effect in Southern Africa has further exacerbated the already critical drought situation. According to the Southern Africa Seasonal Monitor report, Botswana is currently experiencing El Niño conditions, leading to severe rain deficits and challenging harvest conditions across most of the region, with dry spells expected to persist. In May 2024, the Heads of State from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held an Extraordinary Summit to address the cumulative challenges posed by El Niño-induced droughts and floods, specifically focusing on Botswana. The summit emphasized the impacts of climate change in the region, particularly the effects of El Niño-induced droughts and disasters on the economy, health, water resources, and energy sector. The government of Botswana expressed concerns about imminent food and livestock feed shortages due to unfavorable weather conditions impacting crop

production, predicting a difficult period ahead. Drawing comparisons to the severe droughts of the 1980s, the summit underscored the potential for the current situation to replicate that crisis and called for partners to invest in mitigating the situation.

In response to the crisis, the Botswana Red Cross has launched a DREF intervention, considering the above context and in response to various calls for action from the government.



Impact of heat and dry spells on the crops in Mabutsane area



Impact of drought in the North-East District

Scope and Scale

1. Long-standing Drought and Declining Agricultural Production

The year 2023 marked the third consecutive year of severe drought in Botswana, with conditions showing no signs of improvement in 2024 due to the effects of El Niño. Historical data highlights the devastating impact of droughts on vulnerable communities, exacerbating a steady decline in agriculture over the past decade and compounding challenges in health, education, and economic stability. Despite government interventions, the number of food-insecure individuals has remained significant. As of 2024, 37,000 people are facing food insecurity, a figure comparable to previous years: 38,300 in 2019/20, 36,145 in 2020/21, and 36,977 in 2021/22. The SADC Synthesis Report on The State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa 2022/2023 attributes this situation to prolonged dry spells, erratic rainfall, and extreme temperatures, which have led to reduced planting acreage and crop failures. These conditions have resulted in increased food insecurity and higher rates of underweight children.

2. Current Period Scale and Projections

Despite various government interventions, food security in Botswana has worsened, particularly in eastern regions such as Lethakeng, Hukuntsi, Mabutsane, Shoshong, Boteti, Ghanzi, Okavango, North East, and Molepolole. These areas have been severely affected by food insecurity, malnutrition, and high livestock mortality rates. An April 2024 report from the Department of Crop Production indicated severe crop damage due to extreme heat and low rainfall, particularly in the Kgalagadi, North East, and Central Districts. The May 24, 2024, report from the Rural Development Secretariat detailed the 2022/23 cropping season's challenges, with total production falling to 125,184 tons from 206,572 tons in 2021/22. Cereal production reached only 67,530 tons, just 23% of the national requirement, and delayed planting activities have further heightened the risk of food insecurity for rural households.

3. Worsening Factors and Context Analysis

The ramifications of drought extend across nearly all sectors, including agriculture, water, and health. The loss of income from failed crops, livestock mortality, and job loss significantly strains livelihoods. Drought exacerbates the fragile food and agricultural situation, severely disrupting the rural economy and socio-cultural fabric. Approximately 70% of rural households rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, with crop production heavily dependent on rain-fed farming. Rangelands, which cover over 60% of the country and support the livestock industry, are particularly affected by drought. Urban communities face water scarcity, leading to rationing and constraints on daily activities. Vulnerable populations, including the elderly, the destitute, and children under five, are most affected, with malnutrition often worsening during drought periods. Rising food prices further exacerbate rural communities' vulnerability, highlighting the urgent need for intervention. Many livestock farmers are rushing to sell their cattle to mitigate losses anticipated during the dry winter season.

The Department of Meteorological Services' Climate Outlook for 2024 forecasts a hot and dry season from January to April, with potential impacts including decreased river discharge, dam levels, crop yields, pasture degradation, and increased food prices. This outlook suggests a more severe drought compared to previous seasons. With winter approaching, the likelihood of wildfires in this historically wildfire-prone region is high. Following consecutive years of drought and extreme temperatures in early 2024, the coming months (June



to August 2024) are expected to be cold, with average temperatures between 9°C and 21°C, and little to no rain, making July and August mostly dry.

In response to the crisis, the Botswana Red Cross has launched a DREF intervention, taking into account the above context and responding to various government calls for action.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Sundaystandard	https://www.sundaystandard.info/botswana-records-driest-february-in-40-years/
2. 2022 SADC Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa	https://reliefweb.int/report/angola/synthesis-report-state-food-and-nutrition-security-and-vulnerability-southern-africa-2022-enpt
3. 2019 Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Programme Report	https://reliefweb.int/report/botswana/botswana-vulnerability-assessment-committee-results-2019

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	No
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:

The National Society's recent flood intervention in 2018, funded by the DREF, and the food security intervention, funded by partners, provided valuable insights into the use of multi-purpose cash compared to in-kind food distribution. From the 2018 flood intervention, it was learned that cash is generally the preferred recommendation across different contexts, taking into account the diversity of communities. This finding was further supported by the 2023 food security project funded by Palms of Life. During this intervention, some families expressed a need for hygiene items and clothing, especially for school-going children. If cash had been used as the distribution method, families could have prioritized their actual needs. Moreover, this approach could reduce logistical costs, allowing more funds to directly benefit the affected individuals.

In contrast, in-kind food distribution operates on the assumption that food is the highest priority for those in need. However, this may not always be the case, as different situations affect people differently. It was also learned that while cash provides flexibility to meet various needs, it can risk compromising the intended impact, particularly in cases requiring specialized support, such as nutritional supplements for children or effective income-generating activities. Therefore, the National Society learned to balance between cash and in-kind approaches to mitigate the risk of cash being used for other purposes, which could potentially increase the vulnerability of these families. This must be accompanied by a strong Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) strategy to ensure the targeted families fully understand the intervention.



Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

01-04-2023

Livelihoods And Basic Needs	<p>After three consecutive years of drought, the government declared a state of emergency in July 2023. In support of government initiatives, the National Society (NS) has been actively involved in:</p> <p>Early warning efforts: Providing support for nutrition and food insecurity response over the past three years, thanks to support from ECHO, the government, and NGOs. This support has also led to capacity building for the NS in new approaches to food security and livelihood, including smart agriculture.</p> <p>The Gweta Community Farm has become a vital resource for food security and livelihood enhancement, shedding light on the daily challenges faced by farmers in Botswana. The NS has employed two experienced horticulturalists specializing in sustainable farming practices to provide guidance to farmers coping with dryness, extreme heat, and water scarcity.</p> <p>Since 2023, the NS has supported the government in early warning and assessment efforts. Through the Palms-funded project, the NS has also provided support for food package distribution in the Okavango District for six months to malnourished children under 5 years old and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Additionally, a one-time cash-for-food assistance was provided to families in the Qanqwa settlement in April 2024. This allocation is focused on response, with some transitional activities aimed at contributing to medium-term impact.</p>
Health	<p>In 2023, the National Society implemented a food security project in the Okavango District, funded by Palms for Life, targeting malnourished children under 5 years old, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. This initiative aimed to provide food packages for six months. As part of this effort, a one-time food distribution operation was conducted in the Qanqwa settlement in April 2024 to offer much-needed relief to households not covered by government social safety nets. Additionally, nutritional education was provided to the beneficiaries.</p>
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<p>The National Society has water tanks in Tsetseng Village to improve access to clean and consistent water supply. This was in partnership with the Coca Cola Foundation and are currently being refilled by the Government of Botswana.</p>
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<p>In partnership with IFRC (CBF), the Botswana Red Cross Society is implementing a Protection, Gender, and Inclusion project in three districts: Chobe, North East, and Palapye, scheduled to conclude in mid-July 2024. The project utilizes various strategies, including Social and Behavior Change Communication, capacity building, and research. Although the project is being implemented in different districts, the National Society has developed some capacity at the headquarters level and for some members of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT). This capacity will be beneficial in the implementation of the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approach in this intervention, particularly regarding the delivery of key messages on PGI, capacity building for staff and volunteers, and research on the root causes of sexual and gender-based violence. These skills will be employed as needed for the intervention.</p>
Education	<p>With the support of the government, the BRCS continues to provide educational, rehabilitation, and stimulation services to children living with disabilities in three key areas across Botswana: The Sefhare Stimulation Center in Sefhare, the Tshimologo Stimulation Center in Francistown, and the Tlamelong Rehabilitation Center in Tlokweng. In 2023, 101 children with disabilities were enrolled across these three centers. The Tlamelong Rehabilitation Center has enrolled 39 trainees with disabilities, specializing in horticulture and textiles. These centers also provide meals to the learners, ensuring they are well-nourished, particularly those from disadvantaged families. Additionally, the</p>



	<p>Tlamelong Rehabilitation Center offers horticultural training, enabling some learners to establish their own gardens and poultry farms.</p>
<p>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery</p>	<p>In 2023, the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) organized Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Law workshops to educate government officials on disaster law, specifically focusing on the BRCS Act and National DRM laws. These workshops were part of the sensitization efforts for the upcoming BRCS Act review process, reaching a total of 106 government officials. The National Society Disaster Management Office supported the development of draft legislation to guide the law components. The draft bill, which aims to repeal the Red Cross Act of Botswana 1968, is now available for review by relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Additionally:</p> <p>The Netherlands Red Cross Society (NLRCs) has signed a two-year contract with the BRCS following extensive engagement in water management and innovation in Botswana. BRCS participated in the IFRC Solferino Academy Global Innovation Summit Conference, where they co-hosted a session with the NLRCs on building active participatory partnerships in the humanitarian sector. This session highlighted the BRCS/NLRCs Water Management and Innovation Partnership project as a case study.</p>
<p>Community Engagement And Accountability</p>	<p>The BRCS has over 13,000 volunteers nationwide. These volunteers receive capacity-building mentorship and are provided with sufficient resources to engage with their communities effectively. Before being deployed for society projects, they undergo refresher training to ensure they communicate project details clearly and facilitate community feedback.</p> <p>BRCS promotes behavioral and social change across all its programs by using television, radio, newspapers, and social media to disseminate information on public health issues, first aid, SGBV, climate change, and livelihoods. In 2023, BRCS was featured 33 times on television, radio, and in newspapers, while maintaining active social media accounts, with their Facebook page having 37.2K followers.</p>
<p>Environment Sustainability</p>	<p>BRCS has been conducting training sessions for farmers in Gweta on climate-smart agriculture and water conservation. Consequently, the National Society is well-equipped to extend these training programs to other districts across Botswana.</p>
<p>Coordination</p>	<p>The National Society collaborates closely with several government departments, notably the Ministry of State President - National Disaster Management Office and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. These departments are key stakeholders in addressing vulnerability, enhancing community resilience, and ensuring food security nationwide.</p> <p>The National Society has a multisectoral partnership with government ministries and departments such as the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Office of the President, National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Botswana Council for the Disabled, and UN agencies (FAO and UNDP) and the private sector.</p>
<p>National Society Readiness</p>	<p>Over the past three consecutive years of drought in Botswana (since 2020/2021), the National Society (NS) has undertaken projects supported by various donors. These initiatives have contributed to the NS's readiness and capacity strengthening in various areas of expertise.</p> <p>Despite limited resources, the NS has supported the government in early warning and assessment activities, which are ongoing. A report from May 25 provides more information on areas of gaps and support needed by the government, allowing the NS to develop a plan to complement government efforts and scale up action for the 2023/2024 drought.</p> <p>In terms of cash readiness, the NS established agreements with financial service providers through the ECHO project (2020-2021), gaining valuable experience and lessons. The project aimed to improve the food and nutrition security of drought-affected, food-insecure households in Ngamiland, Central, and South East Districts of Botswana through the provision of food and livelihood assistance.</p>



	<p>BRCS staff and volunteers have received training on disaster response, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), which are critical for the successful implementation of the proposed DREF.</p> <p>The NS has also collaborated with the Netherlands Red Cross Society to strengthen capacity building and information management.</p> <p>Furthermore, training and experience in IFRC emergency operation and cash assistance were facilitated and organized by IFRC.</p>
Assessment	<p>Since the declaration of drought in 2023, assessments have been continuously conducted. An updated assessment report was released on May 24, 2024, which informed the request for intervention. The National Society continues to monitor the situation. Currently, the government, in collaboration with the National Society, is conducting a comprehensive assessment to determine the impact of drought in the country. The results of this assessment are expected to be released in June or July 2024.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is actively engaged in providing technical support to monitor the current situation. Working closely with the National Society, the IFRC remains vigilant in monitoring developments. This technical assistance highlights the IFRC's commitment to supporting disaster response efforts and strengthening community resilience. By participating in early warning initiatives and maintaining continuous monitoring, the IFRC aims to ensure that communities are well-informed and prepared to respond effectively to evolving crises. This proactive approach is in line with the IFRC's mission to alleviate human suffering and promote the well-being of vulnerable populations globally.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>Netherlands Red Cross Society provides support under the Water Management and Innovation Partnership by providing support to the Gweta Community Farm, specifically in relation to water conservation. Netherlands Red Cross Society is also investing on capacity building and information management of BRCS.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

There is no ICRC presence in country.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	<p>Botswana has established a well-structured drought monitoring and early warning system, supported by some capacity. This system utilizes drought indices and socio-economic conditions to evaluate drought risk and vulnerability. Following the declaration of a state of emergency due to drought in July 2023, the government initiated various activities, including early actions. Currently, these early action interventions, such as information dissemination and awareness messaging, are being implemented by the government with the support of the National Society (NS). As a key early action, the Botswana Vulnerability Assessment Committee (BVAC) conducts annual livelihood vulnerability assessments to guide interventions during droughts.</p> <p>The government has also launched response programs to assist the most vulnerable communities, including support for agricultural production, a nutrition program, and a</p>



comprehensive assessment. The National Drought Assessments will provide insights into the needs of districts affected by drought. Although this report is scheduled for release around June or July 2024, initial highlights have already been disseminated by the government to encourage action from partners.

BRCS has been in discussions with the National Disaster Management Office (Ministry for State President) and the Rural Development Council (Ministry of Local and Rural Development) to identify gaps in current food security initiatives, determine other needs, and address them in the districts most severely affected by the drought.

UN or other actors

BRCS has been working in partnership with Palms for Life to provide food security interventions in the Okavango District.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The National Society participates in coordination mechanisms within the National Disaster Management Technical Committee (NDMTC) and District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC).

BRCS collaborates closely with DDMCs, which include the Department of Crop Production, Veterinary Services, Social and Community Development, and Water Utilities Corporation, among others. This collaboration involves sharing information on the drought situation and working together to conduct assessments.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

According to the report from the Rural Development Secretariat under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, the 2022/23 cropping season experienced low and highly variable rains, along with prolonged dry spells.

Livestock production is a significant activity in both urban and rural areas and is a major industry in the country. Cattle farming is widespread, with cattle outnumbering people by two to one. While this remains a priority activity, it is crucial to note that the drought's impact on cattle activities is significant for small farmers and families who depend on it as a primary source of income or food. The drought, coupled with water scarcity in some areas and inflation of food and input prices, poses challenges for the most vulnerable families and small-scale farmers, potentially worsening their food security. Rangelands, covering over 60% of the country and vital for the cattle industry, are severely affected by the drought. Many livestock farmers are selling their cattle to mitigate losses incurred and anticipated during the upcoming dry winter season.

Agriculture remains the main source of income for 70% of rural communities (comprising 30% of the population), which are currently experiencing crop failures due to rain deficits and dry spells. Areas such as Lethakeng, Hukuntsi, Mabutsane, Shoshong, Boteti, Ghanzi, Okavango, North East, and Molepolole are the hardest hit by food insecurity, malnutrition, and high livestock mortality rates. A report from the Department of Crop Production in April 2024 highlighted severe damage to crops across the country, especially in the Kgalagadi (Hukuntsi and Mabutsane), North East, and Central Districts, which are the hottest regions.

Total production for the 2022/23 season stands at 125,184 tons, lower than the 206,572 tons harvested in 2021/22. Cereal production is at 67,530 tons, representing only 23% of the national requirement. Due to the delayed start of the season, most farmers have not yet begun ploughing or planting.

The grazing situation has significantly deteriorated, with poor conditions reported in areas such as Serowe, Lethakeng, Mabutsane, Hukuntsi, and Mahalapye. Veld fires have further exacerbated the problem.

The severe drought has severely impacted the primary sources of income for both arable and livestock farmers, significantly affecting their livelihoods and ability to meet basic needs. Livestock farmers are facing acute water and forage shortages, leading to weakened animals and decreased milk production, reducing the value of livestock and forcing farmers to sell their animals to recover funds already invested. Agricultural losses contribute to decreased food production, rising food prices, and increased food insecurity.





Multi purpose cash grants

Unconditional multipurpose cash grants offer immediate financial relief to families and farmers, enabling them to purchase food, essential goods, and meet basic needs, ultimately improving food self-sufficiency. BRCS will select a financial service provider for the cash distributions.

Providing financial assistance through unconditional multipurpose cash grants can offer immediate relief to farmers experiencing financial difficulties due to crop failures, livestock losses, and lack of basic needs. These funds can help families cover their essential needs, invest in productive assets, and stabilize their livelihoods during challenging times. Volunteers will be involved in assessments, beneficiary registration in the three districts, and post-distribution assessments.



Health

Recent reports from UNICEF Botswana (2023) and the Kgalagadi North District Disaster Risk Management Committee have highlighted concerning levels of malnutrition and food insecurity among children under 5 years old. The data shows high rates of wasting, stunting, and underweight, indicating a significant portion of the population is experiencing food insecurity worsened by persistent drought conditions. Poor feeding practices and limited access to nutritious food are key factors contributing to the prevalence of malnutrition in the area.

Furthermore, drought has had adverse effects on mental health, as communities have suffered crop losses, livelihood disruptions, and agricultural setbacks. It is crucial that any intervention in this regard supports these affected individuals without inadvertently causing harm and ensures they are connected to appropriate resources.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Most regions in Botswana have experienced extreme temperatures and minimal rainfall, leading to water scarcity. The prolonged droughts have reduced the frequency of rainfall, resulting in the depletion of surface and groundwater sources.

Being a semi-desert country, Botswana relies heavily on limited surface water supplies, with most villages depending on wells, boreholes, and dams for water. The lack of rainfall, exacerbated by El Niño conditions, has led to below-average levels in dams and wells, leaving vulnerable communities with limited access to safe drinking water. This situation has created competition for water resources among humans, livestock, and wildlife, with the likely consequence of wells, boreholes, and dams drying up during the dry season, which extends until October.

The Rural Development Secretariat's report highlights that major water supply projects have significantly improved water access in several villages that previously faced acute shortages. Villages such as Metsimantsho, New Xanagas, Mahotshwane, Makobo, Jamakata, Natale, Makopong, Kokotsha, Grootlaagte, Draaihoek, Xhumo, Dimajwe, Itholoke, Ngwatle, Zutshwa, Dibete, Tewane, Toromoja, Betesankwe, and Good Hope have transitioned from inadequate to stable water supply.

Due to limited water sources, priority is given to water for cooking rather than for good hygiene practices like handwashing. The lack of proper hand hygiene can lead to health issues such as diarrhea. Therefore, there is a need to promote and educate communities about the importance of hygiene practices.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In the context of drought and limited resources, concerns regarding protection, gender, and inclusion become more pronounced, especially for vulnerable populations such as women and children.

It is crucial to enhance protection services to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, which tends to increase during operations that provide support in the form of cash.

Currently, village leadership is predominantly male, highlighting the importance of ensuring gender equity by considering the specific needs of women and ensuring that aid distribution is fair and inclusive.

Continued community education on protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) is necessary, along with training for community volunteers who will be involved in assessments and distributions. PGI training will be integrated with Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) training to address all community needs, incorporate feedback, and ensure that all planned interventions are inclusive and do not harm vulnerable communities.





Education

Botswana Government has successfully managed to operate a school feeding programme that provides one meal a day and reaches all government schools. Currently all primary schools are provided with breakfast and mid-day meal including a third meal for school going children in the remote areas; There are no needs identified in education services.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

1. Dry spells and associated disasters in Botswana:

Botswana, a semi-arid country, faces deforestation challenges, particularly in fragile ecosystems like its dry land forests. The indiscriminate harvesting of both woody and non-woody forest components leads to land degradation. According to a report from the Rural Development Secretariat under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, twenty-six districts experienced wildland fire outbreaks since the beginning of the fire season, worsening from August to October 2023. Factors such as extremely dry fuel load, high temperatures, and windy conditions exacerbated the situation, resulting in a total burnt area of 777,750 hectares (Ha) since April 2023. The Ghanzi District recorded the highest area burnt at 313,661.2 Ha, followed by the Okavango and North East Districts with 121,273.9 and 113,109.9 Ha, respectively.

Tree planting is a significant nature-based solution that can help offset greenhouse gas emissions, promote biodiversity conservation, enhance water retention, and create socio-economic benefits. However, in 2010, Botswana had approximately 4.58 square kilometers of tree cover, covering less than 0.1% of its land area. By 2022, it lost 2 hectares of tree cover, equivalent to 1.70 kilotons of CO₂ emissions. From 2001 to 2022, Botswana lost 11 Ha of tree cover to fires and 499 Ha to all other drivers of loss. While tree planting can restore degraded landscapes and enhance ecosystem resilience, it is a long-term solution. Immediate and transitional perspectives need to be assessed and prioritized for the upcoming season.

2. Rainfall forecasts:

Since the last quarter of 2023, the agricultural season has experienced rainfall failures. According to a Drought Update report dated May 24, 2024, from the Rural Development Secretariat under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Botswana's rainfall season typically starts in October. Forecasts for the first half of the season (October to December 2023) predict normal to below-normal rainfall in the northern and western regions (Ngamiland, Chobe, Ghanzi, and Kgalagadi). Meanwhile, the eastern regions (Northeast, Central, Southeast, Kgatleng, Kweneng, and Southern Districts) are expected to receive below-normal rainfall, with above-normal temperatures expected nationwide. From January to March 2024, most of the country (Ngamiland, North Central, Chobe, Ghanzi, Kgalagadi, Southern, Southeast, Kgatleng, and Kweneng) is forecasted to experience normal to below-normal rainfall. The extreme eastern regions are expected to see below-normal rainfall, indicating ongoing challenges with water availability and agricultural productivity. As a result, the season is classified as a meteorological drought year. The report also notes that water supply, especially in rural areas, is inadequate, with water levels in major rivers at their lowest. Grazing conditions for livestock have significantly deteriorated and are now rated as poor, exacerbated by veldt fires. Some districts are experiencing water scarcity and cases of child malnutrition. The Botswana Meteorological Services predict cold temperatures in June to August, with little to no rain, making July and August mostly dry.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The Botswana Red Cross Society will ensure community engagement and accountability through several strategies, including establishing efficient feedback mechanisms and using the collected data to guide projects. Local authorities will supervise public gatherings to identify vulnerable individuals based on established selection criteria. Help desks will be established during all community interactions to facilitate two-way communication and gather feedback. This approach seeks to promote transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness in delivering assistance and services.



Environment Sustainability

The drought in Botswana has severely affected agriculture, resulting in crop failures, livestock losses, and food shortages. It is crucial to assist farmers in exploring alternative livelihood options to improve food security and resilience to changing climate conditions. Community resilience can be strengthened through capacity building, education, and training in drought preparedness and emergency response strategies. Empowering local communities to adapt to environmental changes is essential for reducing the impact of drought on livelihoods and overall well-being.



Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The government of Botswana is currently finalizing a comprehensive assessment of all regions in the country, with the report expected to be released between June and July 2024. This assessment will identify gaps and results, determining whether further intervention is necessary to support farmers and communities in coping with the impact of drought during the winter season and the upcoming planting season (October to November 2024).

Discussions at the Southern Africa summit emphasized the importance of ongoing annual drought assessments to understand and project the effects of drought on key economic sectors. This assessment may complement the analysis of food insecurity caused by drought in the country.

[Assessment Report](#)

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The goal of this DREF request is to assist 5,350 individuals (1,070 households) in Hukuntsi, Mabutsane, and the North-East District who are facing challenges related to food insecurity, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as disruptions to their livelihoods. This assistance will be provided through sustainable measures, including access to clean water, supplementary feeding for malnourished children, livestock feed, and multipurpose cash transfers.

This operation will span 6 months and will focus on supporting vulnerable and underserved communities with sustainable interventions to address their livelihood needs, combat malnutrition in children under 5 years old, improve access to clean water, provide multipurpose cash grants, and promote tree planting.

Operation strategy rationale

The approach is to ensure a comprehensive and multifaceted response strategy to address the immediate and long-term needs of these communities. These interventions have been carefully designed to provide support to the affected communities during the emergency phase and to set the path for transition to next season while further data being collected may inform a revision and early recovery considerations.

Current emergency phase intervention is informed and designed based on the needs and information from the summary report that was released on the 24 May 2024 by Rural Development Secretariat under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural development. The DREF strategy also consider that Government is already covering the support to agriculture and that other partners are active in country. This intervention will have specific objective to reach the communities in food insecurity and facing drought effects on their livelihood, food and water access but also general wellbeing. Focusing in the localities of Hukuntsi, Mabutsane and the North-East district with immediate humanitarian relief. Strategy details provided below.

This DREF will be subject to revision based on season priorities and findings and recommendations expected from the comprehensive assessment report to be released by the government in June/July 2024. This report will also guide the interventions to be implemented during the next planting season, from October to December 2024, and will determine if further escalation and resource mobilization are needed to assist the affected districts. The Government report will be shared and if need be, an operation update will be provided. In any case, an update is expected prior the next planting season and will be informed by the data collected by then, feedback from communities, sub-regional strategic orientations coming out of the ongoing multi-country movement coordination.

1. Health

The actions prioritise under health will be to Enhance health risk prevention and wellbeing; strengthen the supplementary Feeding Programs and Promoting Optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices. Those axis will contribute to strengthen the good practices aiming to reduce the risk of deterioration of wellbeing for families already facing food insecurity and/or having nutrition challenges. Especially for families with health vulnerability criteria such as age groups with specific nutrition consideration, elderly, Pregnant and Lactation women etc.

- Strengthen existing supplementary feeding programs targeting 300 households, to ensure that children under 5 years receive nutritious meals that meet their dietary requirements. This is based on the assessment that was conducted by the Ministry of health. Purchasing supplements for malnourished children is a way to ensure that the targeted beneficiaries receive the required supplements for the children under 5 years and minimizes the probability for some families to buy other items not intended to address the nutritional needs of the children.

- Promoting Optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices will be done by volunteers after appropriate training. The BRCS will ensure



that for the time of the operation, the team provide education and support to mothers and caregivers on proper infant feeding practices to ensure children receive adequate nutrition during their critical growth periods. This will be possible through visits but there will be an extensive dissemination of these messages during the group discussions with mothers, PLW, during the engagement with local institution, community representatives, head of households. Ensuring the message is streamlined for effective prioritization of good nutrition practices. Messages will cover risk of malnutrition, sign of malnutrition, importance of exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and the introduction of complementary foods thereafter. During household food distributions, BRCS volunteers will further emphasized on these messages.

- On the Psychological First Aid and Mental Health Support, BRCS will start by training community volunteers in psychological first aid techniques to provide immediate emotional and psychological support to individuals affected by the impacts of drought, food insecurity, and malnutrition. That team will then support the PFA to the communities where needed. Ensuring individuals in need of mental health services are referred to appropriate resources and care providers.

2. WASH intervention will be deployed on two priority areas at this stage: Improve access to safe water as an immediate needs and promote good hygiene and food hygiene. The aim being to mitigate any worsening factor of the food insecurity situation.

- For effective water solution and prioritization of the communities that need the most a scale-up of the water access, NS will conduct mapping of water sources. That mapping will serve to identify the water sources that need to be repaired and the communities with an important gaps in terms of water access. Looking into the distance with water point, existing water sources and gaps, ratio of sources and communities, use of the existing sources identified etc. That analysis will give element for a more relevant installation of the Water tank and define where at contrary, there is a need for repairs of existing water sources.

- This intervention is planned to support communities with 4 water tanks that can sustain them, and livelihoods until the next rainy season which begins in November. Strategically placed water tanks will provide a reliable means to store water during the current dry spell and ensure limited disruptions to livelihoods and agricultural activity due to water related challenges.

- Under this operation, the NS is planning to refurbish 3 water sources in the identified districts for human and livestock consumption as well as cropping as the government is providing vegetable seeds.

- The project will promote Hand Washing Practices and a refresher trainings for volunteers on hand washing using the ECV Response tools is planned. BRCS will launch a community-wide campaign to raise awareness about the importance of hand washing in preventing the spread of diseases

and improving overall health in three districts.

- Purchase and Distribute soaps to 800 registered households promote regular hand washing practices, especially before meals and after using the toilet.

The WASH strategy will improve access to safe water as an immediate need and enhance general health prevention as risk mitigation to avoid worsening food insecurity due to outbreaks and risk hygiene practices.

3- Multipurpose cash to enhance the revenue capacity to access food and basic needs and potentially access other priority needs.

550 Households will be supported with unconditional multipurpose cash grants to empower beneficiaries to prioritize their needs according to their individual circumstances, promoting dignity, autonomy, and empowerment. BWP 750 will be provided per month for 3 months. Totalizing BWP 2250. Families will prioritize on the immediate needs such as food, healthcare, education, or income-generating activities based on their unique circumstances. The drought has led to food shortages and heightened food insecurity, particularly among vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly. The value for cash is aligned with the Government standard for cash interventions set-up under social services department.

The NS has a contract with the FSP which is Botswana Post and this contract is currently active, therefore, they will be used for this operation. the advantage of this is that Botswana post has an agreement with Choppies Supermarket, which would give the beneficiaries options of essential item to priorities. its should also be mentioned that Choppie Supermarket is one of the the largest supermarket in Botswana with chain stores in all districts.

4- Food security and livelihood will prioritize solutions that will boost the households income capacity during the current period to access food and boost their capacity to access basic needs and services. It will also prioritize contribution to the local production by ensuring the most common household subsistence farming activity is reinforce.

- BRCS will support at least 100 households farmers with livestock feeding or feeding supplements for Farmers. This will target households with livestock who are experiencing challenges. They will be receiving feeds as per the assessment report main gaps that was released by the government on 24 May 2024.

- A Poultry farming (layers) intervention is proposed. BRCS will assist 120 households to diversify livelihoods among farmers and reduce dependency on rain-fed agriculture and adapt to the changing environmental conditions. The poultry support includes procurement of 50 chicks, the farm structure, layer cage, 50 point of lay pullets, water system, feed, egg collection trays, medicine, transport and installation at the site. This is an immediate relief for families as households will benefit from nutritional value of eggs and profits from egg sales. It also offers a reliable source of protein and income, contributing to food security and economic stability. By engaging in these activities, the community gains valuable skills and resources that can support them during future droughts, reducing their dependence on external aid and enhancing their medium term resilience.

- Having seen the positive impact that climate smart agriculture and water conservation activities have had in improving the soil quality and agricultural outputs in Gweta, the NS intends to conduct similar trainings in Mabutsane, Hukuntsi and North-East Districts. This is an



effort to educate the community farmers on sustainable farming practices that save water, are not harmful to the soil and will help mitigate impacts of future droughts and other climate change related risks. These trainings will target smallholder farmers, pastoralists, community-based organizations, farmer cooperatives and village leadership to foster self-reliance, long term sustainability and adapt to the current climatic challenges.

5- Integrated community engagement to support sustainable and resilient community practices

The planned trainings for volunteers, will cover CEA and Feedback Response Mechanisms modules to ensure that there is clear procedures for responding to community feedback promptly and transparently. Once assessments for beneficiaries' selection start, there will be regular reporting by the project team on project progress, outcomes, and impact to maintain transparency and accountability to the community.

An extensive strategy will be in place to engage the community leaders and maintain a two way feedback and communication all through the intervention. The team will organize the information sessions to the communities to assist through their local representative and trusted channels. In the targeting process, BRCS will be involving Community leaders and Influencers in decision-making processes to ensure that community voices are heard. Harmonized solutions will always been prioritized and the details implementation plan will be oriented based on community feedback and local consensus with key stakeholders for various areas of interventions. Botswana Red Cross Society will also ensure Community Engagement and Accountability serve as a leverage for a sustainable change willing to initiate in the local communities and active stakeholders. The NS, In the three Districts will conduct stakeholder's engagements to involve them and get their support for the various initiatives in this DREF and reflexion on long term or resilient solutions. There will be at least 6 Community Meetings where members can provide feedback, ask questions, and voice concerns about the project. Ongoingly, there will be Social Media Platforms, office telephone and emails available to engage with the community, gather feedback, and address concerns in real-time.

7- Path for transitional plan and long term solutions

- Collaborative efforts involving government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and other stakeholders are essential to effectively address the complex challenges faced by farmers and communities affected by the drought. This will also contribute to the project sustainability beyond the funding.
- Continuous data collection to inform further operational design and exit strategy. The recent update report from Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development highlighted the urgent need to address the food insecurity and health challenges exacerbated by drought conditions. As the Government of Botswana is expected to release a comprehensive report on Drought in Botswana in June/July 2024, this forthcoming information will guide the National Society in determining the necessity of requesting additional funding to effectively address the scale of the identified issues.
- Botswana Red Cross Society will also ensure Community Engagement and Accountability as a leverage to build sustainable change and advocate for good and safe practices, smart and sustainable agricultural practices, climate considerations and disaster management etc. There will be effort during this intervention to bring key community opinion leaders among the farmers, economical stakeholders, key actors in the context to exchange and engage on the sustainable initiatives that community can agreed on and contribute to increase the impact of this DREF.
- Community feedbacks collected all along the DREF operation will serve as a key parameter for the priority definition in a potential revision. Same as the learnings and Post distribution data if already available.
- BRCS current strategy is built to help on the seasonal transitional impact. The Poultry egg project is an exit strategy as post the support, households will have built resilience and continued livelihoods project.
- NS has a plan to advocate for tree planting project beyond the DREF. Hence, the importance of the DRR and long term solutions will be part of the messages to the communities and local institutions/stakeholders. The NS will build on and strengthen existing local institutions such as Community Based Organizations and horticultural cooperatives by conducting the necessary consultation and inception meetings to give the community an opportunity to have an input in the implementation roll out.
- BRCS will scale-up the communication and advocacy on the drought challenge and food insecurity activating various leadership and operational platforms. BRCS will also use various methods such as social media, radio, print media and television to reach a broader audience.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) aims to assist the most vulnerable populations in Hukuntsi, Mabutse, and the North-East district affected by persistent drought-induced food insecurity. The primary objective is to support 1,070 households, benefiting approximately 5,350 individuals, by addressing their basic needs within a 6-month operation.

The decision to focus on the Mabutsane, Hukuntsi, and North-East Districts for drought relief operations is based on the summary of the drought and vulnerability situation report released by the Rural Development Secretariat under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development on 24 May 2024. The Village Extension Team provides a suitable platform for selecting households. BRCS will collaborate closely with local clinics and community health care nurses to provide support in screening nominated families. Based on this input, BRCS will assess households for eligibility of the nominated families. BRCS will select targeted households among the food-insecure



communities using the following criteria:

- Children under 5 years diagnosed with malnutrition in the last 6 months.
- Children under 5 years discharged from the Supplementary Feeding Programme but still at risk.
- Lactating mothers with infants under 6 months showing early signs of malnutrition.
- Household size may also be considered.

The selection criteria were carefully chosen to ensure that the most vulnerable populations are prioritized and that interventions are tailored to the unique needs of each community. Communities that have already received other forms of support will not be prioritized to prevent duplication of efforts.

For the nutrition activities, the selection will be coordinated with the Government. For farming and multipurpose cash (MPC) activities, priority will be given to households experiencing heightened vulnerabilities and those whose farming activities have been impacted by the drought, especially the dry spell since late 2023. Households meeting the social vulnerabilities listed above will be prioritized, and further selection will consider economic vulnerabilities.

Economic vulnerabilities that will be considered for the 550 households targeted for the MPC include families with low or no income-generating activities, household ownership of dwellings, assets, and livestock, and the primary source of income being linked to climate performance and the frequency of existing income activities.

Additional economic vulnerabilities to be considered for farming assistance include farmers whose households rely on farming as the main or only subsistence activity, farmers whose livestock have died in the dry spells witnessed since February 2024, etc.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) will utilize community-based targeting strategies to identify individuals eligible for assistance, ensuring active involvement of community members, local leaders, and stakeholders. Prior to initiating the targeting process, comprehensive selection criteria will be discussed and collectively endorsed by community members to ensure transparency and mutual agreement.

This participatory approach empowers communities to rank households based on their susceptibility to food insecurity, ensuring that aid is directed to those most in need. By fostering transparency and community ownership, this inclusive methodology enables precise beneficiary identification tailored to the unique circumstances and requirements of each locality.

To ensure continuous community involvement, the National Society (NS) will hold regular community engagements throughout the implementation of this operation. These sessions will provide a platform for community members to voice their concerns, offer feedback, and participate actively in decision-making processes.

In addition to these strategies, the NS will collaborate with local leaders and stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the targeting process. This collaboration aims to adapt and refine the approach as necessary, ensuring that interventions remain relevant and effective in addressing the specific needs of the communities.

Through this comprehensive and inclusive approach, the Botswana Red Cross Society aims to build stronger, more resilient communities capable of responding to and recovering from the impacts of food insecurity and other related challenges.

Age Distribution:

Botswana has a youthful population, with a higher percentage in younger age groups compared to older age groups. The age group 0-4 years has the highest share of the population, followed by subsequent age groups, with the age group of 100 years and above having the lowest share. The age distribution, particularly the presence of vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly in rural and remote areas, was considered in the selection process. These demographic segments are more susceptible to the adverse effects of drought, including food insecurity, malnutrition, and health-related issues.

Gender Dynamics:

Gender dynamics play a crucial role in determining vulnerability to drought. Women and girls often bear the brunt of drought impacts, as they are primarily responsible for household water and food security. By targeting districts with a significant female population, the aim is to address gender disparities in access to relief assistance and promote gender-sensitive interventions.

Socio-Economic Activities:

Livelihood Dependence:

The livelihoods of communities in the Hukuntsi, Mabutsane, and North-East Districts are predominantly based on agriculture, livestock farming, and traditional pastoralism. These socio-economic activities are highly susceptible to fluctuations in rainfall and are therefore severely impacted by drought conditions. By targeting districts where agriculture and livestock rearing are central to livelihoods, the aim is to address the immediate needs of vulnerable households facing food and income insecurity.

Income Levels:

Socio-economic indicators such as household income levels and access to employment opportunities were considered in the selection



process. Communities with lower income levels and limited employment opportunities, especially women and youth, are more likely to experience heightened vulnerability during drought periods, as they may lack the financial resources to cope with the impacts of crop failure and livestock losses.

Landscape Vulnerabilities:

Environmental Degradation:

The Hukuntsi, Mabutsane, and North-East Districts are characterized by semi-arid landscapes with fragile ecosystems that are particularly susceptible to environmental degradation and desertification. Drought exacerbates these vulnerabilities, leading to land degradation, loss of biodiversity, and reduced ecosystem services. By targeting districts with vulnerable landscapes, the aim is to mitigate the environmental impacts of drought and promote sustainable land management practices.

Water Scarcity:

Access to water is a critical issue in arid and semi-arid regions like the Kgalagadi and Central Districts. These areas often face chronic water scarcity, which is exacerbated during drought periods. By focusing on districts where water scarcity is a pressing concern, the aim is to prioritize interventions that address immediate water needs, such as the rehabilitation of water sources and the provision of water-saving technologies.

Within these three districts, BRCS will collaborate closely with the Social and Community Development (S&CD) Offices and Health Centres to select specific villages and communities (households) eligible for either cash transfers or food packages. This response will employ the eligibility criteria used by the S&CDs for various social protection systems provided by the government, including the Vulnerable Group Feeding programme, the Orphan Care programme, and the Destitute Persons programme.

Total Targeted Population

Women	2,100	Rural	100%
Girls (under 18)	1,230	Urban	0%
Men	1,200	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Boys (under 18)	820		
Total targeted population	5,350		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Beneficiary security.	Communities will be informed of the operation through CEA engagement. The NS will engage Leaders and gate keepers prior cash distribution and distribution of supplements while ensuring accountability and ensuring the beneficiaries do not miss the distribution days.
Gender Based Violence & Child Protection issue.	Capacity building engagements on SGBV will be conducted by NS.
Delays in cash transfers.	Ensure that the beneficiary information is verified and vetted to check accuracy before commencing cash transfers.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

There are no security concerns.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?



Planned Intervention



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 201,802

Targeted Persons: 1,100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households to receive support to farming activities - focusing on poultry support.	120
# of famers to receive livestock feeds.	100
PDM survey covering the livelihood support.	1

Priority Actions

- Additional data collection and analysis, especially market assessment.
- Training of Households on poultry farming.
- Selection of the households' target and engagement with farmers on the activities.
- Chicken Layers Package distribution to 120 farming households.
- Distribution of feeding supplements for 100 Farmers for the livestock.
- Monitoring of the implementation.
- Post distribution monitoring and exit survey.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 90,231

Targeted Persons: 550

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households who successfully received cash for basic needs after being identified and processed for transfer.	550
% of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households, according to their priorities (Min Exp Basket)	100

Priority Actions

- Activation of existing agreements with the identified Financial Service Provider (Botswana Post Office).
- Rapid update on market situation and availability of staple food and standard basic needs.
- Verification and registration of beneficiaries.
- Conduct household assessments to identify beneficiaries.
- Provision of unconditional cash transfers to address food and basic needs.
- Post-distribution monitoring of identified beneficiaries.

Budget: CHF 55,607

Targeted Persons: 1,500

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households to be assessed and enrolled with children under 5. malnourished	300
Support under 5 children malnourished with food.	300
# of people reached with messages on feeding practices, includes parents, mothers, women and families head.	1,500

Priority Actions

- Support under 5 children malnourished with food (300)
- Distribution of supplementary food to selected beneficiaries.
- Coordinate with care givers, health centers and the Ministry of health on identification of the families with malnourished children.
- Message delivery to the communities with children under 5, PLW and other vulnerable groups on the Optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices. Done by volunteers after appropriate briefings.
- Monitoring of the implementation and the use of supplement in adequate manner and ensure demonstration where needed.
- Inclusion of epidemic prevention messages to the community awareness, especially on recurrent diseases.
- Post-distribution monitoring and exit survey.


Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 41,270

Targeted Persons: 4,250

Indicators

Title	Target
# of water tanks to be procured and installation in the two Districts.	4
Mapping or Assessments conducted for villages with water scarcity.	2
# of awareness raising on community water management.	2
#of people reached through Door-to-Door WASH campaigns	5,350
# of boreholes rehabilitated.	3

Priority Actions

- 04 water tanks procured and set up in rural focusing on economically disadvantaged communities supported with chicken project.
- 03 boreholes refurbished.
- Access for special persons such as persons with disabilities will be taken into consideration.
- Establish a system of weekly water bouncing through collaboration between Water Utilities.
- Awareness raising on community water management.
- Engage with village leaders for sustainable management of the water tank and coordinate with them for the appropriate Hand over project to village leadership.
- Awareness raising on community water management.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 7,317

Targeted Persons: 210

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers and staff trained.	60
# of community leaders and community influencers trained.	150

Priority Actions

- Refresher training for staff and volunteers.
- Training for community leaders and community influencers.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 7,665

Targeted Persons: 5,350

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people engaged and reached with CEA activities.	5,350
# of consultation meetings.	6
% of feedback collected that are successfully treated or responded to.	100
# of needs assessment which includes information gathered from affected people.	2

Priority Actions

- Have consultation meetings with village leadership and other stakeholders in each district.
- Conduct focus group discussions with community members to get them involve in project design.
- Project introduction in the identified communities.
- Community sensitization meetings.
- Volunteer monthly meetings for debriefings and orientations.
- Focus groups and discussions on Hygiene and nutrition practices.
- Consultations feedback, feedback collection on the intervention.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 14,633

Targeted Persons: 46



Indicators

Title	Target
# of monitoring visits conducted and reported.	4

Priority Actions

- Project Monitoring visits.
- Project Inception meeting.
- Provide remote support on operations, technical and coordination.
- Technical guidance on different sectors.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 80,947

Targeted Persons: 5,350

Indicators

Title	Target
# of meeting for technical and supervision.	4
# of Lessons learnt workshop.	1
# of monitoring visits reported.	9
# of Post distribution monitoring.	1

Priority Actions

- Volunteer insurance.
 - Volunteers and staff visibility.
 - Communications and visibility of the operation.
 - Procurement of branding and visibility materials.
 - Logistic mobilization for the intervention and the monitoring.
 - Monitoring visits from HQ technical profiles required to the induction and the implementation of the key activities. Technical support to be deployed and mission to assist on the CEA sensitization meeting
- Staff and Volunteer Trainings.
- Logistic planification for the overall intervention.
 - Post distribution Monitoring.
 - NS through the mobilized staff ensure timely and quality implementation and reporting.
 - Lessons Learnt workshop.
 - Engage with media all through the intervention and relevant stakeholders to scale-up on the communication around the disaster, echo the community voice and advocate for NS intervention.

About Support Services

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

36 volunteers will be enlisted for Community Volunteer Assistant (CVA) interventions, distributions, and project monitoring. They will be deployed to assist in conducting household assessments, registration and verification of beneficiaries, post-distribution monitoring, surveys, and key messaging dissemination workshops. All volunteers will undergo training in Community Engagement and Accountability



(CEA), Participatory Geographic Information (PGI), livelihoods, and water management. Additionally, all volunteers have actively participated in community health activities.

A total of 6 Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) staff members will lead this initiative throughout the operation. Four staff members are from the BRCS headquarters, while two staff members are based in the districts where the operation will take place. These field-based staff members possess extensive knowledge of the area, its inhabitants, and their needs. BRCS will ensure that 4 HQ staff members are fully dedicated to the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the intervention. This team includes the Disaster Management Coordinator, Finance Officer, and 2 Drivers. Given their essential roles, they are indispensable throughout the operation. Therefore, recognizing the National Society's staffing constraints, support for their salaries is included in the planning and implementation of this initiative.

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

National Society will conduct the procurements at National level following the established standards and existing National law and Government standards established. The cash support will be provided through mobile money and NS has already a valid contract with an FSP.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) has an operational Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) unit responsible for overseeing and reporting on its operations. The Disaster Management (DM) unit ensures the effective implementation of projects while maintaining accountability to stakeholders and donors. This is achieved through robust project planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting processes.

A monitoring framework with specific timeframes will be developed with support from the IFRC. This tool will provide technical support, track implementation progress, identify challenges, and manage risks that could delay timely implementation, allowing for remedial actions throughout the project phase. Additionally, IFRC will conduct monitoring visits to provide the NS with technical assistance.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The National Society (NS), in collaboration with the IFRC communication focal point, will meticulously document all operations and disseminate updates across various social media platforms. This initiative aims to ensure broad visibility and provide up-to-date information to the public and stakeholders. Furthermore, the team will gather and spotlight success stories, demonstrating the positive effects of the interventions and the resilience of the supported communities. Through these narratives, the NS seeks to raise awareness, promote transparency, and encourage additional support for its endeavors.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

- Botswana Red Cross Society Drought Relief

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	403 891
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	201 802
Multi-purpose Cash	90 231
Health	55 607
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	41 270
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	7 317
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	7 665
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	95 580
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	14 633
National Society Strengthening	80 947
TOTAL BUDGET	499 471

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



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[Click here for the reference](#)

