



SARCS volunteers conducting Assessment

Appeal: <b>MDRZA020</b>	Country: <b>South Africa</b>	Hazard: <b>Storm Surge</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Response</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 485,115</b>	
Glide Number: <b>-</b>	People Affected: <b>38,785 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>7,500 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>18-11-2024</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>31-05-2025</b>	DREF Published: <b>26-11-2024</b>

Targeted Areas: **Eastern Cape, Free State, Limpopo, Mpumalanga**

# Description of the Event

## Date of event

28-10-2024



Provinces affected by thunderstorms

## What happened, where and when?

On 28 October 2024, four provinces which include Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Free State and Limpopo province experienced severe thunderstorms with intense winds. A total 7,757 households (38,785 people) have been severely and partially damaged across all affected provinces. In Mpumalanga this particularly impacted the Ehlanzeni Municipality. The storms affected three local municipalities: Mbombela, Nkomazi, and Bushbuckridge, with Bushbuckridge (specifically wards 1, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, and 30) and Greater Acornhoek being hardest hit. The aftermath saw over 6,206 households (31,030 people) and 39 schools damaged, along with four fatalities reported.

Meanwhile, in Limpopo, the storm severely impacted Mopani, Vhembe, Capricorn, Sekhukhune, and Thulamela, with Lepelle-Nkumpi in Capricorn Municipality suffering the most damage. Approximately 224 households (1,120 people) were affected, three individuals received treatment for injuries, and several displaced people were evacuated at the Mashite Community Hall. In both provinces, the thunderstorms brought heavy hail, strong downpours, and high winds, resulting in widespread destruction: damaged infrastructure, schools, electricity poles, and homes with roofs blown off or walls collapsed, leaving some houses completely destroyed and roads impaired (<https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/938738-2/>).

Following these storms, heavy rains and strong winds continued to impact parts of the Eastern Cape and Free State, leading to severe flooding. In the Eastern Cape, thunderstorms caused flooding across several areas, notably in Nelson Mandela Bay, damaging roads, sewer systems, vehicles, buildings, and homes. A bridge along Rockland Road in Kwanobuhle collapsed, school operations were disrupted, and over 400 students were unable to sit for their exams. Evacuations took place, with displaced residents moving to town halls and schools, while widespread power and water outages affected hundreds, leaving thousands vulnerable to the flooding's effects. Approximately 3,394 people were impacted, with 3,000 evacuated to 19 shelters, and one elderly person lost their life due to the storm. Many of these areas had already been affected by flooding just four months prior, intensifying the vulnerability of local communities.

In the Free State, the storm primarily impacted the Mangaung Metro Municipality, Lejweleputswa District (Henneman, Theunissen, Odendaalsrus, and Welkom), and Thabo Mofutsanyane District (Harrismith, Qwaqwa, and surrounding towns). Approximately 147



households reported structural damage, with one house completely destroyed and 12 others experiencing roof damage. Some homes were flooded, and yards were waterlogged due to inadequate stormwater drainage systems. In Lejweleputswa, over 75 homes suffered significant wind and flood damage. Tragically, a Grade 9 student was killed by lightning in Theunissen, and a Grade 11 student sustained serious injuries. Around 735 individuals have been affected by these events, though no evacuation centres have yet been established.



MP Provincial Response Team conducted assessments in Bushbuckridge



The Limpopo Branch Response Team conducted assessments in Sekhukhune

## Scope and Scale

The storm surge that has struck Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and the Free State stands out as a significant event, highlighting the visible and adverse effects of climate change on communities. This was experienced as communities were waiting expectantly for the first summer rains. The areas recently impacted by the storm surge had not experienced such events in the past five years. Many communities were unprepared for the severe consequences despite the South African Weather Service (SAWS) issuing an early cautionary alert on October 27, 2024. The warning highlighted a Yellow Level 2 alert for severe thunderstorms, including hail, heavy downpours, and damaging winds across much of South Africa.

On October 28, 2024, following the SAWS warning, Mpumalanga reported incidents of severe thunderstorms with strong winds in Ehlanzeni Municipality, affecting three local municipalities: Mbombela, Nkomazi, and Bushbuckridge, with Bushbuckridge suffering the greatest impact. The most affected areas in Bushbuckridge include wards 1, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, and 30, as well as Greater Acornhoek. The storm damaged over 500 households and 30 schools, caused 4 fatalities, and led to widespread infrastructure destruction.

<https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/four-dead-hundreds-of-homes-damaged-in-mpumalanga-hailstorm/>

In Limpopo, the severe thunderstorms impacted the Mopani, Vhembe, Capricorn, Sekhukhune, and Thulamela regions, with Lepelle-Nkumpi under Capricorn Municipality being the hardest hit. Over 224 households were affected, and 3 individuals sustained injuries, with some displaced residents relocated to Mashite Community Hall. Both Mpumalanga and Limpopo experienced significant damage, including destroyed schools, power poles, homes with roofs blown off, collapsed walls, and damaged roads.

In the Eastern Cape, severe flooding followed heavy rainfall and strong winds, particularly in Nelson Mandela Bay. The floods caused widespread destruction to infrastructure, including roads, sewer systems, vehicles, buildings, and houses. Notably, a bridge along Rockland Road in KwaNobuhle collapsed. School operations were disrupted, leaving over 400 learners unable to sit for exams. Evacuations were carried out, with approximately 3,000 displaced individuals relocated to 19 shelters. The area also experienced water and electricity outages, affecting thousands. Tragically, one elderly person lost their life, and this flooding occurred in areas already impacted by similar events four months earlier.

In the Free State, the storm heavily affected Mangaung Metro Municipality, Lejweleputswa (including Henneman, Theunissen, Odendaalsrus, and Welkom), and Thabo Mofutsanyane (Harrismith, Qwaqwa, and surrounding towns). Structural damage was reported in 147 households, with one house completely destroyed and 12 others sustaining roof damage. Several homes were flooded, and waterlogging occurred in backyards due to inadequate stormwater drainage systems. Over 75 homes in Lejweleputswa suffered significant damage. Tragically, a Grade 9 learner was killed by a lightning strike in Theunissen, and a Grade 11 learner was seriously injured. Approximately 735 people have been affected, but no evacuation shelters have been established thus far.

## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. SABC News	<a href="https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/four-dead-hundreds-of-homes-damaged-in-mpumalanga-hailstorm/">https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/four-dead-hundreds-of-homes-damaged-in-mpumalanga-hailstorm/</a>
2. SABC News	<a href="https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/938738-2/">https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/938738-2/</a>

## Previous Operations

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

SARCS continues to draw lessons learnt from previous operations with regards to the essence of maximizing on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). This will ensure that the affected communities actively make decisions on recommending response interventions for specific operations. This ensures successful implementation as of planned interventions as communities have sense of local ownership which in turn foster sustainability.

In addition, the NS learnt to strengthen its reporting system at all levels in effort to enhance accountability. This enables timely implementation of planned operations more effectively and efficiently.

The NS has applied key insights from previous responses to severe weather events, including storm surges, floods, and tornadoes, to address and reduce similar challenges in the current operation. As warmer seasons advance, extreme weather fueled by climate change and intensified by El Niño conditions have increased the frequency and severity of these hazards, putting affected communities in vulnerable situations. This is especially critical as SARCS is now responding in new areas, highlighting the need for a rapid, coordinated response to provide essential humanitarian support, safeguard lives, and uphold dignity.

Recent disaster trends show significant, complex vulnerabilities, underscoring the need for strong disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure to mitigate the effects of natural hazards. SARCS acknowledges that disadvantaged communities are particularly at risk from these unpredictable, climate-driven events. Despite limited resources, SARCS, with IFRC's support, has enhanced preparedness and readiness across high-risk provinces, focusing on building the capacity of communities, volunteers, and staff in disaster response and management.

To bolster response capabilities, SARCS has implemented ongoing refresher training for disaster response, community engagement, Health & WASH in Emergencies Training as well as specialized intervention skills, aiming to strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and "Building Back Better" efforts in vulnerable communities. Regular disaster drills conducted by Provincial Response Teams (PRTs) ensure that volunteers and staff are well-prepared for emergencies, resulting in a more skilled and responsive team.

The design of current interventions is informed by successes and challenges from the past. Based on prior experiences, SARCS has incorporated risk analysis and essential planning steps. Effective communication with stakeholders and affected communities is crucial



to managing expectations and maintaining coordination, as past communication gaps led to delays and confusion. To improve this, SARCS will continue engaging Western Province through Provincial Joint Operations Committees (JOCs) and collaborate with stakeholders and partners through National JOCs.

To further enhance community engagement, SARCS works closely with local leaders and volunteers to facilitate consistent information flow with affected areas. Addressing past challenges with delayed aid, SARCS has established partnerships with suppliers who can deliver relief items within 48 hours of funding approval, with payment deferred until funds are available. Additionally, essential supplies from previous operations are being utilized to meet immediate needs in disaster-hit areas. Through these reinforced measures, shaped by prior lessons, SARCS is better positioned to respond effectively to the complexities and demands of the current disaster environment.

Lastly, the current thunderstorm is exceptional in scale and impact, marking a significant departure from previous operations. This disaster has affected over 8,576 households across five provinces—Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Eastern Cape and Free State.—and has caused extensive damage to infrastructure, homes, and livelihoods. Critically, many areas affected, such as Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga and Lepelle-Nkumpi in Limpopo, have not experienced such severe impacts in recent years, underscoring the intensification of climate-related hazards. In the Eastern Cape, areas impacted include Vastrap Qunu, Veeplaas, Missionvale, Kleinskool Izinyoka, Bethelsdorp, Kwanoxolo, Phola Park Gomora, Kuyga, Lower Central, and Kabah. Meanwhile, in the Free State province, affected areas include Harrismith, Qwaqwa, Henneman, Welkom, Boshoff, Bothaville, and Thaba Nchu. These areas in both provinces have not encountered flood or thunderstorm emergencies in recent years. The magnitude of destruction, the recurrence of extreme weather events, and the compounding socio-economic impacts highlight the need for a robust and urgent response. Allocating DREF funds is essential to address these unprecedented challenges effectively, to safeguard lives, and support immediate recovery.

## Current National Society Actions

### Start date of National Society actions

28-10-2024

<p><b>Livelihoods And Basic Needs</b></p>	<p>The NS resumed response on day 2 by providing hot meals to 2,500 people to date, distributed 1,000 blankets and mattress. SARCS remains committed to providing critical relief across all affected provinces, delivering hot meals, blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, and hygiene packs to those impacted by the recent thunderstorms. Despite facing a rapidly depleting stockpile due to consecutive disasters and ongoing interventions nationwide, SARCS continues to prioritize immediate relief efforts to meet the basic needs of affected communities. The NS will also require replenishing of used stock. This response not only addresses immediate necessities but also supports the well-being and dignity of displaced and vulnerable individuals as they work to recover. SARCS is actively seeking to replenish its resources to sustain these vital efforts and ensure readiness for further support as conditions evolve.</p>
<p><b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b></p>	<p>SARCS is actively facilitating Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in affected areas across all four provinces. This is achieved through community forums and accessible platforms that allow for engagement and updates on ongoing operations. Awareness and sensitization sessions are conducted to keep communities informed about initiatives impacting their lives. Ongoing collaboration with relevant authorities and partners is essential to encourage community involvement in the planning and implementation of interventions to foster acceptability and trust.</p>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p>	<p>SARCS is actively engaging across all affected provinces and districts, conducting joint rapid assessments to measure community needs and respond promptly to incidents in impacted areas. Using the Kobo tool, SARCS performs needs assessments and holds meetings to gain direct insights into the vulnerabilities and requirements linked to these extreme weather events. Collaboration with local authorities and other organizations is prioritized to strengthen coordination and better understand the disaster risk landscape. Through continuous monitoring, SARCS adjusts its actions as environmental conditions change or new incidents arise. These assessments also help prevent the duplication of services and efforts. Volunteers are identifying several immediate needs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Food- with hot meals and food parcels</li> </ul>



- Shelter
- WASH items
- Clothing
- Cooking supplies
- Blankets
- Mattresses
- Cash Voucher Assistance

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	In this response, the IFRC, through its Pretoria Cluster Office, provides SARCS with technical support as part of its Secretariat responsibilities to the National Society. IFRC offers operational guidance to SARCS teams, such as PMER, Finance, and Programs, with SARCS joining biweekly calls to exchange information with IFRC technical experts. These calls also function as a forum for making essential operational decisions and for providing action points.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	N/A

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC continually supports the NS on Restoring of Family Links (RFL) as well as the implementation of the Safer Access Framework (SAF) for staff, volunteers and the affected communities to ensure that they are protected from further harm and enhanced vulnerabilities.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	The government, through Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and Disaster Management Centres (DMCs), has identified community halls in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo to shelter affected individuals. The Department of Social Development (DSD) is also providing psychosocial support (PSS) in several impacted areas and coordinating relief efforts from other humanitarian organizations assisting those affected. The South African government, through the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and various departments, continues to lead humanitarian efforts in response to the thunderstorms' impact. At the provincial level, SARCS actively participates in Joint Operations Centre (JOC) meetings, working alongside other humanitarian actors to coordinate support and avoid duplication of efforts. Additionally, Eskom is aiding by restoring electricity in the affected regions.
<b>UN or other actors</b>	The South African Weather Service (SAWS) consistently issues weather updates and early warning messages, allowing government bodies and humanitarian groups like SARCS to strengthen communication efforts with communities, especially those in vulnerable areas.

### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

Yes, there are coordination mechanisms in place. Joint Operation Committees (JOCs), activated by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) at national, provincial, district, and local municipal levels, coordinates disaster response, with SARCS actively participating at each level to reinforce its auxiliary role. The Department of Social Development (DSD) leads the coordination of relief efforts from both the government and other partners, ensuring streamlined assistance and preventing overlap. DSD provides essential psychosocial support (PSS) in affected areas and oversees contributions from various humanitarian organizations to maintain a well-coordinated, effective response for those impacted.



# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

The devastating thunderstorms has severely impacted shelter in affected areas, with some homes completely destroyed, and others left without roofs or windows, which increases threats to residents, especially regarding criminal activity.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The recent severe thunderstorms are taking a heavy toll on food security and livelihoods throughout the affected provinces. Many individuals have lost essential belongings and food supplies, while farmers are facing the devastation of washed-away crops and the loss of livestock. These impacts increase their vulnerability to social instability and poverty, depriving them of their main sources of sustenance. Providing immediate food assistance to these families is vital to help them maintain adequate nutrition for their loved ones. Addressing these urgent needs is also crucial for stabilizing communities and building resilience against future hardships.



## Health

The impact of the thunderstorms across affected provinces is causing significant stress and trauma among families. Many individuals feel distressed and anxious over the loss of their assets and livelihoods. While the Department of Social Development offers psychosocial support (PSS). The current resources available cannot reach all affected households due to the scale of the incident. In support of Department of Social Development and through this operation SARCS intends to enhance government efforts by providing mental health and psychosocial support services to impacted communities.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Promoting good hygiene practices and ensuring access to clean, safe drinking water is essential to prevent disease outbreaks, especially as some affected provinces continue to struggle with diarrheal diseases and other ongoing health crises. Awareness campaigns are urgently needed to encourage safe hygiene behaviours across impacted communities. A comprehensive WASH response is critical, not only to address these immediate challenges but also to safeguard the health and well-being of populations impacted by the thunderstorms. Addressing both current needs and ongoing health risks, will allow building community resilience, reducing health vulnerabilities, and preparing for future challenges.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

SARCS must ensure the integration of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) by raising awareness on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Child Safeguarding within affected communities. This effort is critical to reduce abuse risks, particularly for women and children in the allocated community centres and overcrowded areas like informal settlements. Since facilities that are not user-friendly can increase vulnerability to abuse, SARCS needs to establish a community feedback mechanism that includes a confidential process for receiving, managing, and responding to sensitive complaints, such as reports of SGBV and potential SEA involving SARCS staff and volunteers. Additionally, it would be necessary provide information on available services and how to access them by creating a referral pathway.

## Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

SARCS is actively working to meet urgent needs in affected communities, but the severe thunderstorms and the hardships they have caused continue to present major challenges. Communication between teams and volunteers proves difficult due to widespread power outages across all affected provinces, disrupting internet and electricity access. Logistics is also challenging, with only two operational vehicles available, limiting NS capacity to transport supplies and personnel effectively. Time management is impacted as NS underestimates the time required to reach each village, leading to delays in the response. Material shortages further complicate efforts, as many families face food insecurity after their supplies were damaged by the storms, and the NS lack the resources to meet all immediate needs. Additionally, damaged roads restrict access to remote areas, making it difficult to reach certain affected parts of the



province where no volunteers are present. These challenges highlight ongoing gaps in communication, resource availability, and logistical planning during the response.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The primary objective of this DREF operation is to support 7,500 people (1,500 HHs) impacted by thunderstorms in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Free State for 6 months through a comprehensive response that addresses key humanitarian priorities, including Shelter, Health, WASH, Multi-purpose Cash Assistance, PGI, and CEA. This approach aims to alleviate the immediate effects of the disaster while enhancing the well-being of affected populations, meeting their essential needs, and ensuring a dignified, holistic response. By covering these core needs, the operation strives to foster stability and resilience in the most vulnerable communities.

## Operation strategy rationale

As part of its operations strategy the NS prioritizes delivering emergency assistance by focusing on emergency shelter support, livelihoods, health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Multipurpose Cash, Protection of Gender and Inclusion, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) services, along with humanitarian support to ensure communities have access to food, shelter, and critical household items. Based on ongoing needs assessments, SARCS has allocated resources strategically to address the most urgent needs within a short response window. This strategy aims to meet immediate needs while building a foundation for resilience in vulnerable communities.

In addition, the NS requires a surge personnel to assist the NS with overall coordination for the operations and mainly assist the NS in ongoing efforts of Early Action Plan (EAP) development and finalisation. The surge deployment should be for 3 months to provide required support needed by NS.

### 1. Shelter

The Department of Human Settlements is legally responsible for providing shelter to affected populations, adhering to specific standards. With this consideration, the main goal is to ensure the 750 families are provided with basic shelter items which include mattresses and blankets. Each family will be given 2 blankets, 2 mattresses following the Sphere standards.

### 2. Livelihoods

The NS is currently providing hot meals (2 meals a day for 1 month) to 2,000 people who are displaced in the 4 provinces. To ensure provision of fresh hot meals, the NS plans to secure 3 mobile kitchens to be able to cook and distribute the hot meals to displaced people in FS, MP and Limpopo. As previously highlighted, the recent floods and thunderstorms have affected new areas in the respective provinces. Unfortunately, the respective branches in these affected provinces are not equipped with mobile kitchens, which are essential for preparing and distributing meals to the affected families. This limitation poses a challenge to providing immediate relief and ensuring that basic nutritional needs are met for the affected communities. Addressing this gap is critical to enhancing the response capacity during emergencies.

### 3. Health

People affected by the storm surge are in great distress and require special services for their mental health as their households were destroyed and most of them lost their property and belongings. Community members have indicated during assessments that mental health support is a priority. The NS resumed Health in Emergency services which include Psychological First Aid (PFA), Psychosocial Support (PSS), and Psychosocial First Line (PFL) interventions to affected people. With professional social workers from the government involved in flood response, SARCS intends to provide Psychosocial First Aid, with government assistance available for counselling and other mental health interventions when needed.

### 4. WASH

Promoting good hygiene practices and ensuring access to clean, safe drinking water is essential to prevent disease outbreaks, especially as some affected provinces continue to struggle with diarrheal diseases and other ongoing health crises. Awareness campaigns are urgently needed to encourage safe hygiene behaviours across impacted communities. This response includes distributing water purification kits and essential hygiene kits, provision of Mobile toilets to evacuation centres, and supporting robust community education on water safety, sanitation, and hygiene practices. By addressing both current needs and ongoing health risks, this approach aims to build community resilience, reduce health vulnerabilities, and prepare for future challenges.

### 5. Multi-purpose cash grants

To address the needs of affected households with dignity, multi-purpose cash vouchers are essential. These vouchers empower families to prioritize their needs, ensuring they can meet their various requirements and preferences. Additionally, multi-purpose grants provide crucial support for displaced individuals struggling to maintain a steady supply of essentials due to recent disruptions.

SARCS will provide Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) to 1,500 households from the affected provinces (500 Mpumalanga, 400 Limpopo, 300 Free State and 300 Eastern Cape). Each household will receive a one-off payment of R2500 determined based on the value of the food basket and prices of essential household items in local markets. The intervention will enable targeted households to prioritise their needs and also presented with options to ensure their preferences are catered for as they will be able to choose what they need most for





their household well being. There is an existing agreement with Nedbank as the Financial Service Provider (FSP) and integration with 121 projects for the Netherlands Red Cross' 510 team is underway which has been used in recent cash interventions to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

#### 6. Protection of Gender and Inclusion

In its operations, SARCS will continue to prioritize vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as women, children, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and others. This will ensure that affected people will not suffer discrimination and exclusion which might exacerbate their plight. To enable this the NS will enhance its capacity through training of 80 volunteers and 20 staff on PGI.

#### 7. Community Engagement and Accountability

The CEA approach remains the central participatory method which SARCS will continue to promote to ensure active and meaningful engagement of affected communities throughout the operation. A total of 80 volunteers and 20 staff will be oriented on CEA to enhance their capacity in prioritizing CEA for all interventions of this major operation.

The NS is also strengthening its exit strategy which is designed to reduce community dependence on aid by fostering resilience and promoting disaster preparedness at multiple levels. A vital component of this strategy is strengthening early warning and early action (Anticipatory Action) through development and implementation in collaboration with the South African Weather Service (SAWS). By enhancing the accuracy, timeliness, and accessibility of alerts, SARCS aims to empower communities to take proactive measures when severe weather is anticipated. This will be complemented by implementing anticipatory action frameworks, including pre-positioning essential supplies, training community members on evacuation planning, and equipping them to identify and utilize safe shelters during emergencies.

Sustainable recovery will also be a central focus, with initiatives like safe shelter awareness campaigns that promote "building back better," multi-purpose cash assistance to allow affected households to address their immediate priorities, and livelihood restoration programs to support long-term stability. SARCS will work closely with local leaders, volunteers, and Joint Operations Committees (JOCs) to ensure that these efforts are community-driven and aligned with national disaster preparedness policies.

The National Society (NS) is working in collaboration with companies, including SANTAM and the Old Mutual Foundation, to mobilize funds aimed at strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans. Additionally, the NS is engaging domestic donors to mobilize resources for financing long term programs that will promote sustainability and strengthen community resilience. These efforts are also aligned with the government's existing plans to build resilience in communities, ensuring a cohesive approach to achieving the NS's objectives.

Furthermore, SARCS will invest in capacity building by training community leaders and volunteers in disaster risk reduction (DRR) techniques, fostering local ownership and long-term sustainability. These efforts, combined with policy-level collaboration and continued community engagement, aim to strengthen resilience against recurring disasters while ensuring a seamless transition from emergency response to sustainable recovery.

## Targeting Strategy

### [Targeting Strategy Supporting Document](#)

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

Through this operation, SARCS aims to reach an overall direct target of 1,500 households (7,500 people) affected by the thunderstorms in Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Free State.

SARCS aims to reach:

- 1,500 households with cash assistance to provide immediate support, helping families to secure temporary housing, make necessary home repairs, support rental costs, and supplement their needs for food and other essentials.
- 1,000 HHs with water purification kits, hygiene kits.
- 750 HHs with basic shelter items which include mattresses and blankets.

Additionally, SARCS aims to reach an indirect target of 12,500 people with awareness campaigns to safe hygiene behaviors, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Child Safeguarding within affected communities.

SARCS will use detailed assessment data and real-time mapping to identify unmet needs and underserved areas to prevent geographical overlaps and ensure complementarity in targeting. These assessments, conducted in collaboration with Joint Operations Committees (JOCs) and local municipalities, enable precise targeting of households based on vulnerability criteria such as the extent of damage and access to previous assistance.

Coordination with other humanitarian actors, including the Department of Social Development (DSD) and local and community-based



humanitarian organizations and stakeholders, ensures clear roles and responsibilities, avoiding duplication of services. Strengthened community engagement mechanisms like local feedback sessions will validate targeting decisions, ensuring transparency and inclusivity.

SARCS will also leverage lessons from earlier DREF responses to fine-tune its approach, prioritizing areas with significant gaps in aid delivery. Regular coordination meetings with stakeholders will ensure efficient resource allocation and equitable support distribution across affected provinces.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria will prioritize individuals and families who have experienced the loss of their homes, livelihoods, or a disruption in essential services. This approach is designed to address the immediate needs of those most severely impacted by the disaster. Additionally, particular attention will be given to vulnerable and socially marginalized groups, including pregnant women, the elderly, people living with disabilities, and child-headed households. These groups are prioritized due to their heightened vulnerability in disaster situations, ensuring that their unique needs are met and their safety is prioritized. This selection approach is designed to be inclusive, equitable, and culturally sensitive, with a strong focus on safeguarding the rights and dignity of all individuals, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups.

The criteria for selecting beneficiaries will be transparently shared with community members and local authorities, with clear explanations provided through community meetings to clarify the rationale behind targeting specific groups or any necessary exclusions. This inclusive approach is designed to build community trust and ensure that support reaches those in greatest need.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	2,722	Rural	80%
Girls (under 18)	1,875	Urban	20%
Men	1,110	People with disabilities (estimated)	2%
Boys (under 18)	1,793		
Total targeted population	7,500		

## Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Damaged roads, as well as key infrastructure and challenging terrain may limit access to remote and isolated areas.	Set up alternative transportation options, where available with other key stakeholders such as air or water transport, to reach otherwise inaccessible locations and deliver prepositioned relief supplies, effectively enhancing response times. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with local authorities to prioritize road repairs and clearance efforts.</li> </ul>
Limited resources, including funding and personnel, may restrict the scope and impact of the response	Gather additional resources through strengthened resource mobilisation efforts and donor outreach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner with other humanitarian organizations to share resources and expertise. Consideration of inter-provincial support for other provinces to assist the affected provinces</li> <li>- Prioritize resource allocation for high-impact interventions to maximize effectiveness.</li> </ul>
Damaged infrastructure may obstruct information flow and coordination efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide response teams with training on effective communication protocols.</li> <li>- Involve community leaders to aid in sharing essential information.</li> </ul>

Women, children, and other vulnerable groups may face risks, including gender-based violence and child protection concerns

Introduce protective measures, such as safe spaces and community networks, to ensure the security of vulnerable groups.

- Run awareness campaigns on protection and prevention of gender-based violence.
- Offer specialized services to support survivors of violence.

### Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Security and safety risks, including potential theft, looting, and civil unrest, pose significant challenges to the safety of response teams and the secure delivery of aid to impacted communities. To address these concerns, SARCS will work closely with local law enforcement and security agencies to provide protection during aid distribution and to create a secure environment for operations. Additional measures, such as collaborating with the Community Policing Forums, will be put in place to protect distribution sites and prevent disruptions. Ongoing security assessments will allow SARCS to track situational changes and adjust response strategies accordingly, ensuring the safety of personnel and resources throughout the operation.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

## Planned Intervention



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 55,898

**Targeted Persons:** 3,750

### Indicators

Title	Target
#detailed assessment conducted	4
#households reached with blanket distribution	750
#households reached with Mattresses distribution	750
#people reached with safe shelter awareness on building back better	2,000

### Priority Actions

- Conduct 1 Detailed Need assessment per province in four provinces for needs and vulnerabilities, of damages of affected households.
- Distribution of mattresses, blankets to 750 Households each receiving two blankets and mattresses per households
- Raise awareness on safe shelter on building 2000 people



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 20,366

**Targeted Persons:** 12,500

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of people supported with hot meals	2,000
# of mobile kitchens procured	4

## Priority Actions

- Provide 2,000 people with hot meals for 4 weeks
- Procure mobile kitchens for provision of hot meals for 4 provinces



## Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 190,902

**Targeted Persons:** 7,500

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of staff and volunteers provided with CVA refreshers training session	80
#household verified successfully received cash vouchers after being identified and processed for support.	1,500
% of target expressing satisfaction after Cash distribution	90

## Priority Actions

- Household profiling and beneficiary verification
- Refresher training of volunteers
- Deployment of volunteers to support and monitor cash intervention process.
- Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of operations.
- Distribution of multi-purpose cash voucher assistance to 1500 households.



## Health

**Budget:** CHF 16,429

**Targeted Persons:** 12,500

## Indicators

Title	Target
#people reached with PFA and PSS services	2,500
#people reached with health promotion awareness messages	12,500
#people reached with referral of distress	250

## Priority Actions

- Identification of people in distress.
- Coordination of PFA, PSS and PFL.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 80,784

**Targeted Persons:** 2,500

## Indicators

Title	Target
#volunteers provided with refresher training on WASH	80
#people reached with awareness/sensitization sessions	2,500
#households reached with household hygiene packs	1,000
#of HH reached with purification kits	1,000
# of mobile toilets set up at evacuation centres	4

## Priority Actions

- Provide hygiene packs to 1,000 affected households. The hygiene packs comprised of sanitary pads, bleach, toothbrush set, bath soap, body lotions, washing powder, roll on and towels.
- Conduct sensitization sessions on hygiene/sanitation and health.
- Conduct refreshers training for volunteers on health, hygiene and sanitation.
- Provide clean and safe drinking water to the affected community.
- Promote hand washing and hygiene promotion utilizing the ECV toolkits focusing on likely disease outbreaks.
- Procure and distribute water purification kits
- Procure and set up mobile toilets at evacuation centres



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 778

**Targeted Persons:** 2,500

## Indicators

Title	Target
#staff and volunteers briefed to implement PGI minimum standards in emergencies	80
# of people reached with PGI interventions	2,500

## Priority Actions

- PGI briefing on the minimum standards for PGI in emergencies.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 2,066

Targeted Persons: 2,500

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers provided with refresher training on CEA	80
# of people reached directly when collecting community feedback	2,500

### Priority Actions

- CEA Orientation refresher for volunteers.
- Engage volunteers and staff to collect community feedback
- Ensure active engagement of all stakeholders, including the supported communities, to facilitate the exchange of relevant information, ultimately leading to the creation of resilient, less vulnerable communities



## Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 25,032

Targeted Persons: 1

### Indicators

Title	Target
#monitoring visits conducted by IFRC	4
# of surge personnel deployed	1

### Priority Actions

- IFRC field monitoring visits with operation, logistic, finance and PMER.
- Support the technical aspect of the intervention where required by the NS
- Ensure accountability and compliance to the applicable quality in the implementation, the processes and requirement of the activated emergency tool.
- Procurement of IFRC visibility material
- Deployment of surge personnel



## National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 92,859

Targeted Persons: 80

### Indicators

Title	Target
#Field visits conducted by HQ	4



%volunteers and staff reached with visibility materials	100
#lessons learnt workshops conducted	4

## Priority Actions

- Field supervision by Provinces and branches through regular orientation and update of volunteers
- HQ supervision through monitoring mission and remote regular meetings and exchanges.
- NS administration support to handle the intervention
- Maintenance and running costs
- Visibility, protection and safety of the NS through Provision of visibility materials
- Volunteer insurance
- Public relations and coordination with stakeholders through meetings and different platforms
- Conduct lessons learnt workshops in the 4 provinces

## About Support Services

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

This operation will engage a total of 80 volunteers across the four affected provinces: 25 volunteers in Limpopo, 20 in Mpumalanga, 15 in the Free State, and 20 in the Eastern Cape where they have already activated their Provincial Response Teams. These volunteers will be crucial in providing direct support to affected communities, conducting assessments, distributing relief items, assisting with shelter and WASH initiatives, and supporting community engagement efforts.

Additionally, 9 staff members will be deployed regionally, with 2 staff members in Limpopo, 1 in Mpumalanga, 1 in the Free State, and 5 in the Eastern Cape, to oversee field activities and ensure efficient coordination at the provincial level.

At the National Office, 13 staff members will coordinate the overall operation, offering vital support in program management, finance, supply chain logistics, communications, and National Society Development (NSD) across all affected provinces. This team will play a key role in guiding and managing the operational response, ensuring that resources are effectively utilized, and that communication remains clear and responsive throughout the operation.

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

Surge personnel (Operation Manager) to assist the NS with overall coordination for the operations will be deployed for 3 months. The Operation Manager will lead in managing this operation i.e. Thunderstorm and Flood DREF operation. The Ops Manager will be required to support the National Society (SARCS) in the successful planning and implementation of this response operation. The operation manager will be reporting to the Head of Country Cluster Delegation and the DM Coordinator under the Pretoria Cluster. The main responsibilities of the Operation Manager are related to strategy and priorities definition, management of overall operation, external coordination, Movement coordination, security management, and transition to recovery.

Specific tasks for Operations Manager:

1. Assume responsibility for leading the operation on behalf of the IFRC in the affected country, ensuring appropriate links with the IFRC structure (Resource Management and Program management).
2. Provide technical support in the country and ensure they work closely with the managers of relevant NS departments in all related programming roles and responsibilities, providing advice and recommendations that carefully consider local capacity and context.
3. Constantly monitor the disaster situation and overall context and adapt the orientation or set-up of the operation.
4. Act as a link between the affected National Society (NS) and IFRC secretariat in case new assistance is required for responding to a new threat.
5. Movement context, principles and values:
  - i. Promote and assist the integration of humanitarian priorities and interventions within all relevant programming divisions in the NS.
  - ii. Analyze and adapt Movement systems and standard operating procedures and innovate where needed to meet the needs of affected communities.
6. Coordination: Advocate for and design integrated operational strategies considering the partner's respective capacities to ensure that all components of the response are identified, planned and carried out in a coordinated, collaborative and integrated manner
7. Program management, planning, monitoring & reporting:
  - i. Lead the operational strategy to develop programmatic approaches which strengthen and develop the National Society's structures, capacity, and performance; analyze and understand their current strengths and weaknesses and ensure the provision of necessary



technical and material support particularly in relation to the ongoing crisis.

- ii. Encourage joint assessment, planning and implementation between sectors, where appropriate, moving towards an overall multi-sector integrated approach.
- iii. Monitor the implementation of interventions and ensure the projects remain fit for purpose.
- iv. Ensure rigorous monitoring and management of budgets to all Federation-assisted programs within the NS, ensuring compliance with IFRC finance procedures and that expenditure is within income and approved ceilings and within donors' earmarking requirements.
- v. Identify problems and solutions in a timely and effective manner and support to solve the identified challenges.
- v. Consider the exit strategy for the operation from an early stage and how it might link to and support the NS long-term programs.
8. Resource management: Advise on the need of human resources, support coordination with the Country and Cluster IFRC offices.
9. Direction setting, operational objectives and team planning: Define and communicate the operation's strategic direction to implement and the development of capacities within the NS for emergency response and review contingency planning for identified threats in operational areas.
10. Safety and Security, and Risk Management: Ensure the safety and security of staff in the operation by taking operational decisions based on changing risk levels, providing relevant updates to stakeholders and factoring in risk management into planning, through existing security structures when possible.
11. Interpersonal communications and collaboration: Act as operations focal point for a diverse range of communication channels to deliver accurate, clear and concise messages and handle media interviews confidentially, eloquently and professionally. Provide overall guidance for communications.
12. Conduct strategic analysis of the situation to identify humanitarian issues and potential risks, including fraud and corruption, by gathering relevant information, evaluating its impact and managing sensitive information discreetly and professionally.
13. Champion high-quality accountability standards and ensure compliance with relevant policies and procedures.

Other:

- Any other tasks that may be required (within reason) to achieve the objective of this assignment.
- Provision of adequate handover, including the provision of brief guidance notes and counter-parting where possible.
- Preparation of a short summary report at the conclusion of the assignment on lessons learned.

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

Procurement for this operation will be done and coordinated by the National Society. NS has an active database of suppliers managed by the Procurement Committee who are always engaged to provide services and supply relief stock in emergency response within 48 hours of engagement as they are aware that SARCS is involved in providing immediate response during emergencies. This will ensure timely response during the operation. Relief items which include blankets, mattresses, hygiene packs and visibility materials are needed for this response.

## **How will this operation be monitored?**

The monitoring of this operation will be carried out by the IFRC, through its Cluster office in Pretoria, in close collaboration with the National Society and with additional support from Regional Office. IFRC will coordinate monitoring activities with key stakeholders and offer specialized support in areas such as logistics. The monitoring efforts will focus on ensuring adherence to minimum standards in humanitarian service delivery, upholding humanitarian principles that guide the Movement's operations, and maintaining efficiency in the delivery of supplies and services to beneficiaries. Additionally, the operation will be monitored for effective management of supplies during storage, along with accuracy, completeness, and punctuality in reporting.

## **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation**

The National Society's communication strategy for responding to thunderstorms across the four affected provinces (Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, and Free State) centres on leveraging social media platforms, traditional media (radio and TV) and regular website updates as key tools for real-time information sharing, community outreach, and resource mobilization. These digital channels will be integral for maintaining active engagement with the public, providing timely situational updates, and mobilizing support for relief efforts. The Communications, Marketing, and Resource Mobilization Task Team will coordinate communication efforts, supporting both emergency response and the National Society's daily operations.

The IFRC will play a vital role in supporting this communication strategy, working closely with the National Society's communications team to enhance the use of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. This Secretariat role will include creating impactful content, posting regular updates on relief operations, and actively responding to community questions and feedback. Additionally, IFRC will assist with updating the National Society's website, ensuring it provides current information, situational reports, success stories, and opportunities for public support. The website will feature a user-friendly interface, making it easy for affected individuals and stakeholders to access important resources and contact details.





This collaborative approach between the National Society and IFRC combines the strengths of social media outreach and website enhancements to ensure accurate, accessible, and timely information reaches the public, supporting a more coordinated and responsive thunderstorm relief operation.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRZA020 - The South African Red Cross Society South Africa Thunderstorms LP,MP,EC and FS

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>367 223</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	55 898
Livelihoods	20 366
Multi-purpose Cash	190 902
Health	16 429
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	80 784
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	778
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	2 066
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>117 892</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	25 032
National Society Strengthening	92 859
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>485 115</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

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

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**IFRC Project Manager:** Bongeka Mpinke, Disaster Manager, bongeka.mpinke@ifrc.org

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Bongeka Mpinke, Pretoria Cluster Disaster Manager, bongeka.mpinke@ifrc.org

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[Click here for the reference](#)

