



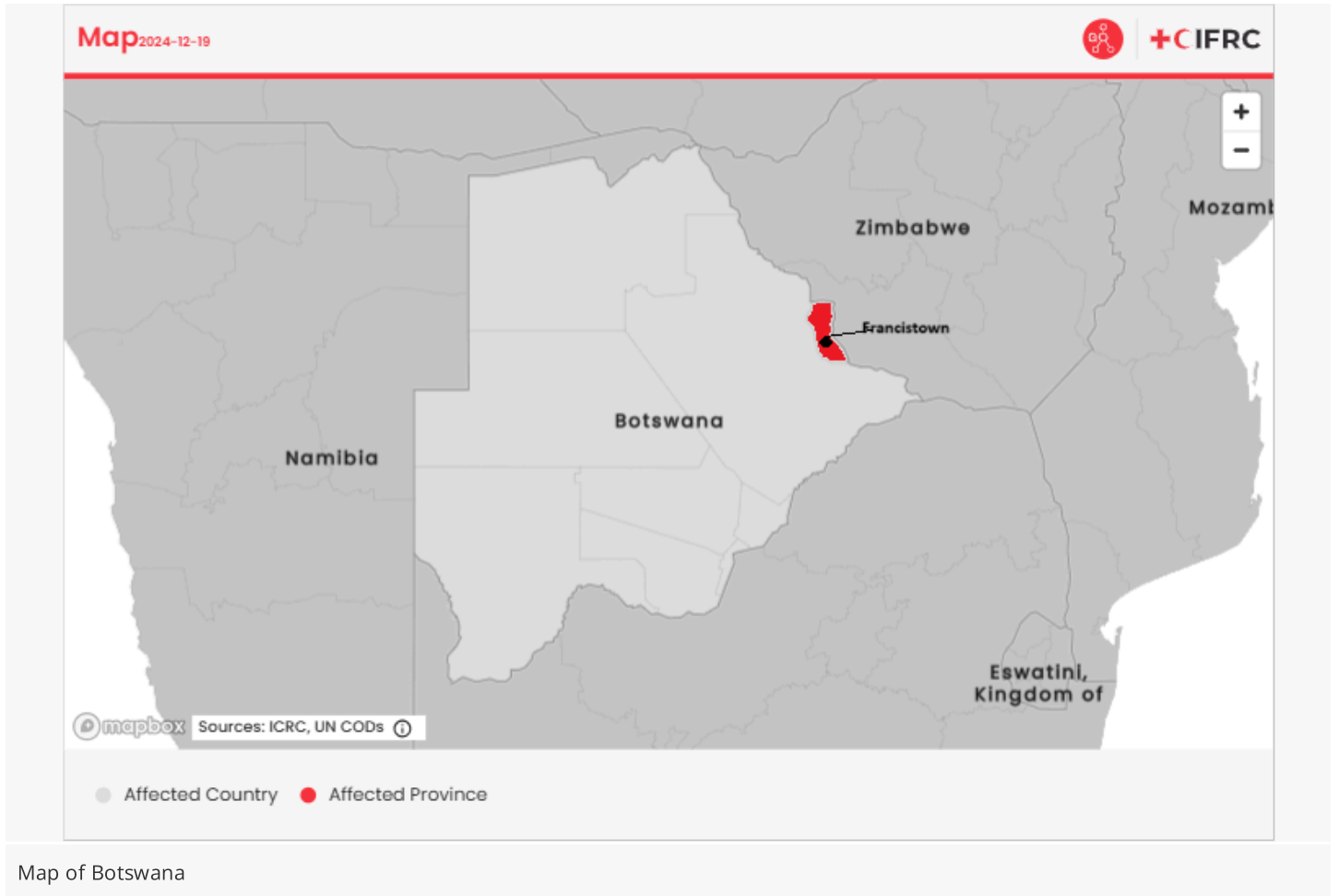
Image shows a tree uprooted by the strong winds causing damage to nearby vehicles. The fallen tree also resulted in the damage of the road.

Appeal: MDRBW007	Country: Botswana	Hazard: Storm Surge	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 300,392	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 23,000 people	People Targeted: 2,300 people	
Operation Start Date: 18-12-2024	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 30-06-2025	DREF Published: 20-12-2024
Targeted Areas: FRANCISTOWN			

Description of the Event

Date of event

04-12-2024



What happened, where and when?

On Monday, the 25 November 2024, Francistown experienced heavy rains accompanied by strong winds, which caused widespread destruction. Cars, houses, office buildings, and informal business structures operated by street vendors at the bus rank were significantly damaged. Another severe storm struck the same area and Tumasere on 03rd of December 2024, resulting in further damage, such as trees falling on parked cars and interruptions to electricity and communication networks.

In response, government authorities and the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) initiated an assessment to evaluate the extent of damage to roads and infrastructure. The most severely affected areas included Kgaphamadi, Somerset, Area W, Gerald Estate, and Galo/Old Mall in the Francistown.

The impact extended beyond private properties to include government offices, a junior school, a public clinic, and the civic center. In Francistown, approximately 460 households comprising around 2,300 people suffered significant damages. While minor injuries were reported, there were no major casualties. 57 informal businesses, primarily owned by women selling fruits and vegetables, were severely affected.

In view of this and on 04th December 2024, the Government of Botswana issued an appeal and requested the Botswana Red Cross Society to complement government efforts in supporting vulnerable communities in Francistown affected by severe storms. The storms caused extensive damage to personal property and infrastructure, leaving many in urgent need of shelter, food, blankets, mattresses, and clothing (refer to figure 1 below). It is against this background that the Botswana Red Cross is requesting to launch this operation to respond to the priority needs of the affected families in the Francistown and Tumasere area.

Following the assessments, the Government of Botswana distributed cash, food parcels and vouchers to 45 people to purchase food, toiletries and cooking gas to the affected communities. However, this support did not cover all the households as the government could

not reach all areas in Francistown and Tumasere that were affected by the storm surge. Additionally, the BRCS provided support to beneficiaries with 7 family tents and 15 kitchen sets. Therefore, the NS was approached to assist in providing support to bridge the gaps identified and to complement government efforts. As Botswana has had a change of government, following the appeal, the NS had to assist in facilitating the new authorities on the procedures around requesting international assistance, and this process caused further delays.



Picture shows extent of damage to residential property in Kgaphamadi



Picture shows extent of damage to residential property in Kgaphamadi

Scope and Scale

The Botswana Meteorological Services released an alert indicating that from the 02nd to the 06th of December 2024, Botswana will be experiencing an intense heatwave, and expected temperatures will be above seasonal averages ranging from 36°C to 43 °C. In Francistown, daytime highs have exceeded 38°C, raising concerns about heat-related health risks and accelerated water evaporation. This heatwave is consistent with projections of above-normal temperatures for the 2024/25 season, driven by weak La Niña conditions and global climate variability. Such extreme heat may lead to more intense storms when the rains return, increasing the likelihood of flash floods. These conditions underscore the importance of disaster preparedness and raising community awareness, particularly in vulnerable areas like Francistown.

The current hailstorm accompanied by heavy rains and strong wind led to substantial damage to public institutions, including Ntsho House and Area W Clinic, as well as private properties. Approximately 460 households (2300 people) were affected, 57 businesses and local infrastructures. The impact of the storms to the communities resulted in blown rooftops and fallen trees. Minor injuries were reported, but no major casualties occurred. Affected households included:

- Kgaphamadi: 321 reports, 64 evacuated.
- Somerset: 73 reports, 5 evacuated.
- Tumasere: 51 reports, no evacuations.
- Gerald Estate: 15 reports, no evacuations.
- Total: 460 households impacted with most structures partially damaged.

Incidents such as strong winds causing structural damage in Francistown and the collapse of a telecommunications tower in Mochudi point to new patterns of climatic hazards, deviating from the usual heavy rainfall and flooding scenarios, an example is the 2018 Mahalapye storm that recorded 126 mm of rainfall. These evolving weather patterns demand an adaptive approach to disaster

management and preparedness in Botswana.

The current severe storms and strong winds in Francistown serve as an example of emerging weather-related vulnerabilities in Botswana, where localized extreme events are becoming more frequent. According to the Statistics Botswana Report for 2022, Francistown has a population of 103,417 people, 49,647 males and 53,770 females. The intensity of the rainfall in Francistown and Tumasere resulted in destruction of property and infrastructure. A total of 18 homes were completely destroyed, leaving affected families in need of temporary accommodation, roof repairs, and non-food items (NFIs) such as blankets, clothing, and mattresses to help them navigate this challenging period. In addition to the business losses, the storm completely destroyed the roofs of several homes, leaving families in urgent need of temporary shelter and repairs.

Additionally, 57 informal businesses, primarily owned by women selling fruits and vegetables, were severely affected. Their structures were damaged, goods were destroyed, and accumulated cash was lost due to rain and mud. This has further heightened the vulnerability of women to natural disasters and widened the income disparity between men and women. The timing is particularly devastating as Francistown, the second-largest city in Botswana, sees increased traffic during the holiday season, with many travelers passing through to connect to other destinations. The affected vendors were anticipating higher profits during this period to prepare for expenses such as school uniforms for their children in January. Instead, they have had to halt operations at a crucial time for their businesses.

Over the last three years, Francistown has experienced repeated strong winds and severe storms that have resulted in floods during the summer months, leading to significant infrastructural damage and displacing vulnerable populations. Factors contributing to these incidents include tropical weather systems from the Indian Ocean, localized convective storms during peak rainy seasons, and exacerbated urban flooding due to poor drainage in densely populated areas. In December 2023, intense rainfall caused severe flash floods and strong winds in Francistown, resulting in extensive property damage, disrupted roads, and power outages, which delayed emergency responses and increased vulnerability among residents in informal settlements. The Botswana Meteorological Services' forecast for 2024/25 anticipates normal to above-normal rainfall and higher temperatures throughout February, suggesting continued risks of flash floods and structural damage from strong winds. While the country traditionally experiences most rainfall between October and April, averaging 330 mm to 600 mm annually, the nature of these events is shifting due to climate change. The Meteorological Services had forecasted 12.5mm of rainfall and the Francistown area ended up receiving heavy rainfall over a short period than was initially anticipated.

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:

In the past three years, the NS has had to respond to flash floods in the North East district as this is an area that usually experiences above normal rainfall. As this is low lying land, there is often flooding which causes structural damage and rivers overflow rendering roads inaccessible. The NS therefore consistently has a contingency plan for the Christmas holidays that speaks to the availability of NFIs in the BRCS offices in Francistown as well as having officers on standby to respond in case of an emergency.

In the previous flood response in Tutume Sub District operation no. MDRBW004, there was a lesson learnt workshop with participants from IFRC, BRCS and government. The outcome of the workshop was that the National Society should focus on long term solutions for the vulnerable communities that are consistently affected by floods. Additionally, the need for multi sectoral assessments was emphasized by participants, calling for the National Society and the Government to collaborate on developing and adopting a standardized multi sectoral assessment tool. The facilitators also highlighted the importance to coordinate efforts between the National Society the Government during emergency operations. In future, the BRCS is planning to implement EVCA to help



understand the risk and vulnerabilities in the respective areas and further explore developing a simplified EAP, prior to considering a full EAP.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

28-11-2024

Shelter, Housing And Settlements	<p>Following the widespread destruction of homes and makeshift structures that served as informal businesses, the National Society (NS) acted swiftly to provide immediate assistance to those affected. As part of their rapid response efforts, they distributed 7 tents to offer temporary shelter, and 15 kitchen sets to help families restore basic cooking and meal preparation capabilities. This prompt intervention aimed to address the urgent needs of displaced individuals and support their recovery during this challenging time.</p>
Health	<p>The National Society has been collaborating with the Ministry of Health to provide psychosocial support to distressed families, helping them cope with the impacts of the storm. Additionally, they have been referring these families to relevant organizations and government departments for further assistance.</p> <p>The Botswana Red Cross Society has extensive experience in health promotion, and risk communication and community engagement. To prevent vector borne diseases such as diarrhea and malaria, the National Society disseminates hygiene promotion messages and mitigation of mosquito breeding in flood affected areas.</p>
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<p>In partnership with IFRC (CBF), Botswana Red Cross Society has implemented a Protection, Gender and Inclusion project in three districts, Chobe, North East and Palapye, that ends on mid-July 2024. The project is delivered through various strategies that include Social and Behavior Change Communication, capacity building and research. BRCS staff and volunteers have been trained on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) response and prevention including provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA) for SGBV survivors. These skills will enable the response team to raise awareness on SGBV issues which are exacerbated by emergency situations, assess communities and link survivors with the appropriate health, safety and livelihood support needed.</p> <p>Through its operation of three rehabilitation centers in Tlokwen, Francistown, and Sefhare, the National Society is equipped with skills on designing and implementing interventions which are inclusive of people living with disabilities.</p> <p>Furthermore, PGI mainstreaming will be ensured by engaging staff and volunteers who are well trained on PGI, sharing information with beneficiaries on referral pathways during monitoring visits and by distributing dignity items as a complementary in-kind contribution. As part of health needs, group counselling sessions will be provided for beneficiaries and also act as a safe space for PGI issues that are already existing or may arise due to the CVA component of the operation.</p>
Community Engagement And Accountability	<p>BRCS has over 13,000 volunteers across the country. These volunteers are mentored through capacity building and provided with sufficient resources to engage with members of their communities. Before deployments into the community for society projects, the volunteers are offered refresher training to ensure that they provide clear communication to communities concerning the project and facilitate the sharing of feedback from the community.</p>
Coordination	<p>The NS attended coordination meetings and onsite visits with the NDMO and Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship to discuss the type of support that will be provided to the vulnerable communities during and post the storm. Furthermore, the NS coordinated a call for donor support in response to the needs of the affected vulnerable communities.</p>



National Society Readiness	The National Society has structures in place that ensure rapid response to disasters through action teams across the districts. BRCS Staff and volunteers have been trained on disaster response, CVA and PGI which are critical for the successful implementation of the proposed severe storms response operation. Additionally, there is a centralized location where all disaster relief stock is kept, monitored and accounted for during distribution to the district offices and sub-branches in times of disasters. The emergency disaster relief supplies are stored at the Tlamelong Rehabilitation Centre and managed by the Disaster Management team. Currently, the disaster relief materials in stock are tents, household kits (contains radio, kitchen set, water container, blankets) and shelter kits (contains shovel, rope, small tools).
Assessment	<p>Government of Botswana in collaboration with BRCS volunteers conducted assessment to verify the damages and the priority needs of the affected families. The following immediate needs were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter • WASH education • Clothes • Cooking equipment • Blankets • Mattresses • Tarpaulins • Household utensils • Psychosocial support <p>Following the cash and NFIs distribution, the NS will conduct post distribution monitoring to collect feedback, identify gaps and use the information collected to improve the upcoming distributions for the remainder of the operation. This will ensure that the distributions are aligned with the critical needs of the affected communities.</p>
Resource Mobilization	BRCS Staff and volunteers have been trained on disaster response, CVA and PGI which are critical for the successful implementation of the proposed DREF. Also, the NS has been working with the Netherlands Red Cross Society to strengthen capacity building and information management. The National Society has a Resource Mobilization Strategy which seeks to explore innovative fund raising methodologies through recruit of experienced and qualified staff, highlight and expand the commercialization of BRCS key competencies, build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, strengthen financial accountability systems and fundraise internally through donation boxes, gala dinners and breakfast business engagements.
Activation Of Contingency Plans	The National Society has an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan with the goal to save lives and minimize injury during floods, ensure safety and wellbeing of staff, volunteers and community responders during response operations, maintain effective coordination with key stakeholders and ensure district offices are stocked in disaster relief materials. This Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan also guides on evacuation protocols, medical emergency procedures and integrated risk communication. To enable rapid and efficient support to affected households during flood emergencies, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan also has a resource mobilization component.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through its Pretoria Cluster Office, has been actively providing technical support and facilitating coordination efforts to assist the National Society. This support includes guidance on planning and implementation of emergency response activities, capacity building, resource mobilization, and ensuring alignment with global humanitarian standards and practices.
--------------------	--



Participating National Societies	Netherlands Red Cross Red Cross Society is implementing DRR community-based training and supporting with the implementation of EVCA (Enhanced Vulnerability Assessment) for different interventions in different locations (Bobirwa and Letlhakeng).
---	--

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC actions which include the procurement of communication has not yet commenced, as the project will start next year. This will enhance communication of all emergencies and operations implemented by the NS. It was planned prior to address communication gaps for the National Society.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has joined forces with the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) to mobilize additional support from various stakeholders to enhance disaster response efforts for affected communities. The government supported and implemented a range of actions to address the immediate and ongoing needs of those impacted in area. These actions include facilitating safe evacuations for affected individuals and families, supplying essential groceries and cooking gas to support basic needs, and distributing vouchers to help with the purchase of food and toiletries. Additionally, cleanup operations have been carried out to restore affected areas to a safe and livable condition, while efforts to repair and restore damaged infrastructure have been initiated to ensure the affected communities can return to normalcy as quickly as possible. This partnership underscores the importance of a collaborative approach in effectively managing disaster response and recovery.
UN or other actors	None.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The activities under this operation will be coordinated by the District Disaster Management Committee, chaired by the head office of the BRCS and supported by the District Commissioner. The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) actively participates in disaster management coordination mechanisms within the National Disaster Management Technical Committee (NDMTC) and District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC). This collaboration includes close engagement with various stakeholders such as the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Ministry of Health including District Health Management Teams (DHMT), Social and Community Development, and the Ministry of Water and Human Settlement. The NDMO facilitates collaboration among various government ministries, non-governmental organizations, and community stakeholders to ensure a unified and effective response to disasters.

Needs (Gaps) Identified

Shelter Housing And Settlements

In the assessment conducted, NS has identified 18 houses that are totally destroyed, 182 houses with blown off roofs, and provide MPC to households who have lost all their livelihoods. For the others, they have various impact on the building which they can still leave in these houses.

NS has classified the level of impact and the households' vulnerabilities to assess their capacity to cope with the situation and to get these repairs done. The fully destroyed houses remain the highest priority while the houses with roof removed or blow away are the second major impact. As most homes have been damaged, there is a need to facilitate the purchase of building materials to rebuild and ensure that all affected families have shelter. Houses that have lost all roofing require tarpaulins to provide top cover while awaiting the support to rebuild and repair all damage. In the others, there is a need for temporary building repairs such as doors, glass for windows, door frames and minor repairs on the roof and other parts of the structures of the house affected.





Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Informal businesses operated in the bus rank that are mainly street vendors selling fruits and vegetable, cold drinks, airtime, sweets, chips and other snacks were soaked in water, some were blown away and damaged while hard cash was also blown away amidst the strong winds. This has caused loss of a profit at a pivotal time when the vendors were looking forward to making a sizable profit during the Christmas holidays as there will be increased traffic with many people passing through Francistown and taking connecting transportation to their respective villages.

Many homes had their rooftops blown off, exposing families to harsh weather conditions. Numerous trees were uprooted or broken, adding to the hazards and disruptions. The affected households require food, clothing, blankets and mattresses as well as toiletries.

It is important to recall that Botswana is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, covering approximately 581,730 square kilometers, making it one of the larger countries in the region. Despite its size, Botswana has a relatively small population of about 2.5 million people, resulting in a low population density. such impact in the communities is therefore already significant and usually has incidence in a larger group that depend on the overall dynamic of the activities, markets and purchase power. especially in rural communities like the one affected.



Multi purpose cash grants

Assessments have shown that the vulnerable communities would greatly benefit from unconditional cash grants that would enable them the purchase of basic food needs and building materials to help rebuild the damage to the property. Currently, the minimum food basket per household in Botswana is 99 CHF, therefore, the NS intends to assist the households with cash grants amounting to 65 CHF. The restricted cash will be distributed to households that have had structures that were severely affected (houses that are totally destroyed, houses with blown off roofs, and households who have lost all their livelihoods). This is based on the fact that the NS is complementing the efforts by the government. The country is currently receiving destructive rains and house repairs may delay due to weather and government lengthy processes. Currently, the BRCS through its volunteers have identified potential hardware suppliers who could stand in to support the intended voucher system for the distribution of restricted cash to the vulnerable community.



Health

Individuals directly impacted by the disaster, as well as those who witnessed the events, require psychosocial support to cope with the lingering shock. Additionally, those who sustained minor injuries require similar support to prevent further emotional distress.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Francistown has poor drainage which makes it susceptible to flooding during the rainy season. This poor drainage was particularly evident in townships such as Kgaphamadi, where the water was overflowing into home steads. The houses in this area are built close to one another as Kgaphamadi was initially an informal settlement, therefore, poor drainage in such a low income area poses a WASH threat. There was stagnant water in the streets where children usually play, and it was overflowing into homesteads, posing hygiene issues.

There is a need to educate the community of hygiene practices, particularly when there is overflow of water in homesteads and areas where children play. Dignity items and hygiene packs have also been identified as essential during this period as a mitigation measure against waterborne diseases which spread fairly quickly in areas with homes that are built close to one another.

Moreover, WASH campaigns are crucial throughout the intervention to reduce the possibility of water borne diseases particularly in this period when there's a diarrhoea outbreak among adults and children. It is crucial to conduct WASH campaigns in the affected areas and to ensure inclusion and protection of the vulnerable groups.





Protection, Gender And Inclusion

There is a need to ensure that the street vendors who are primarily women, are not taken advantage of during this time of need. The small businesses they owned supported their daily needs and those of their families, therefore, they were self-sufficient. Now they find themselves not having the means to purchase food, clothes and other necessities for their children. There is a need to educate responders and service providers on creating a safe space where they are free to discuss how this disaster has impacted them while also avoiding making them feel pressured to agree to favours of any form in order to be assessed or to receive assistance.

This contributes to the mitigation of SGBV and the enhancement of PSEA.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The assessment did not take into account the perspective of the vulnerable communities in how they want to be communicated with and the type of interventions that are beneficial to their needs. The NS covers this gap through CEA and extensive monitoring and evaluation.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The objective of this operation is to deliver extensive support to the victims in Francistown and Tumasere areas as a result of the severe storms and strong winds, ensuring their immediate and future needs are met comprehensively. The National Society is intending to support and assist 2,300 individuals (460 HHs) by offering unconditional cash grants to support the basic needs of the affected, as well as conditional grants for home repairs. The NS through this operation is planning to provide critical services such as NFI (mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and tarpaulins) WASH, psychosocial support, and initiatives for protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI). Furthermore, we are committed to strengthening community engagement and accountability (CEA) to empower and involve the affected populations in their recovery process.

This operation is planned to be implemented over a period of six months, focusing on addressing the priority needs of the targeted community or group. The initiative aims to provide timely and effective interventions, ensuring that critical issues are resolved, and sustainable solutions are put in place within the specified timeframe.

Operation strategy rationale

A total number of 23,000 people have been affected in all the identified areas. The NS is targeting 10% of the affected communities which translates to 2,300 people. The government has committed to mobilize resources to assist the remaining percentage of the affected people through social services. Therefore, through this operation, the Botswana Red Cross Society aims to provide critical support to 2,300 individuals, equivalent to 460 households, in the two districts most severely affected by recent extreme weather events in Francistown and Tumasere. The focus for the NS during this operation is the hard-to-reach areas and the most vulnerable community members such as the elderly, child-headed households and other minority groups. These districts were impacted by heavy rains, severe storms, and strong winds on the 25th of November 2024, followed by another severe storm on 03rd of December 2024, which caused significant damage and disruption to these communities.

The response strategy focuses on delivering both immediate response support through a combination of cash interventions and in-kind assistance, offering a holistic approach to disaster relief to be provided to the affected communities. This strategy aims to alleviate the immediate impacts of the disaster by meeting the emergency needs of affected families, including access to essential resources for recovery and stability. The cash intervention will empower affected households to meet their specific needs, while the in-kind distribution will address critical shortages of items such as food, water, shelter materials, and essential household goods. In addition to providing direct assistance, the operation will contribute in restoring the well-being of the affected communities and enabling them to regain their livelihoods and resilience in the face of future risks. Efforts will be made to assist families in coping with the aftermath of the disaster, offering them a path toward recovery, and ensuring they can return to normalcy as quickly as possible. Below are the key pillars of the intervention:

Cash assistance:

Unrestricted Cash Grants provided to 460 households for two months at a monthly value of CHF 65 (1000 BWP). This is a contribution of 66% of the usual expenditure basket and intend to help families cover essential expenses such as food, medical costs, buy school materials as per their priorities and do identification documents or provide transportation costs helping them to stabilize during this critical period. These lists being the priority of identified during the assessment conducted. This fund is to complement the efforts by the



Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs which is responsible for providing social services to the affected communities and which has already started contributing to the food and basic service's needs.

Restricted Cash Grants for Home Repairs:

Recognizing the significant structural damage to homes, the National Society will provide one-time restricted cash grants of CHF 164 specifically designated for the repair and rehabilitation of affected residences. This assistance targets 50 persons to repair damaged structures, including cracked walls, destroyed doors, windows, and roofs and totally destroyed of households targeting the most vulnerable, elderly, child headed households, people with disabilities and minority groups. This initiative aims to restore safe living conditions for the severely affected.

For this delivery, refresher training on CVA will be provided to the staff and volunteers to enhance capacity of the cash interventions. Identification, registration and verification of the beneficiaries will be carried out prior to the commencement of distribution of cash grants. The beneficiary list will also be validated through the traditional leaders working with the DRM committees and volunteers to ensure that it reaches the severely affected families. Before the cash grants are distributed, beneficiaries will undergo a thorough process of identification, registration, and verification. The beneficiary list will be validated in collaboration with traditional leaders, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees, and volunteers to ensure that the support reaches the most severely affected families.

In-kind and humanitarian service in emergency

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and Health: To tackle sanitation and hygiene challenges that have worsened due to inadequate drainage systems post-severe storms, the Botswana Red Cross Society will launch WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) campaigns. These initiatives will promote safe water practices and educate the community on maintaining sanitation to prevent the outbreak of diseases, with activities led by trained volunteers. The NS will procure 460 hygiene kits to assist the affected families, distribution will be done for one month.

Shelter Housing and Settlements: The NS through this operation is planning to provide critical household items to help the families restore their normal living conditions. This will include

- Household items to 460 families aligned to sphere standard for a size of 5 per families. 920 mattresses, 920 blankets provided to all the families considering that these sleeping materials were considerably damaged or are not safe to use due to debris.
- 01 kitchen set to be provided to the 18 HHs that have seen their houses fully destroyed because they were unable to find their household goods/material under the rubbles or they were too damaged.
- 120 tarpaulins will be provided to 120 ppl that will not be getting restricted cash targeting the most vulnerable families to cover the houses or their belongings.

The CEA component will foster transparent communication, ensuring that affected communities have a voice in the response and can provide feedback on the assistance being delivered. These principles will guide all aspects of the operation to ensure it is equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of the affected populations. The CEA/PGI checklist will be considered throughout the implementation of the operation to ensure a sensitive PGI approach. Furthermore, the Safe Spaces, training on prevention, mitigation and response to SGBV will be conducted in collaboration with IFRC. The NS will establish and maintain regular communications feedback and conduct focus group discussions to facilitate a dialogue with the affected community members to leverage on their local knowledge. CEA refresher training will also be conducted for staff and volunteers.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) aims to support families severely affected by the storm in Francistown and Tumesere districts, who have lost their homes and livelihoods. This focus on the two districts is based on the findings of an impact assessment conducted by the National Society, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office in the affected areas. Additionally, the National Society will work with traditional leaders, Councilors, DRM committees, and volunteers to verify the beneficiaries, ensuring that assistance reaches the most affected families. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) will be integrated throughout the operation to ensure that community members and leaders are informed about the objectives and activities of the response. During the operation, household size will also be considered, with a focus on prioritizing the most vulnerable populations. Interventions will be tailored to the specific needs of each community. To avoid duplication, communities that have already received support from other sources will not be prioritized. Special attention will be given to the most vulnerable households, including child-headed households, the elderly, women, and people with disabilities, particularly those who have not received assistance from the government, NGOs, or UN agencies.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selected vulnerable groups are:

- Informal traders who experienced stock loss and damage due to the storm
- Households who personal property was damaged during the storm
- Individuals who have been identified as destitute who were affected by the storm

The criteria that will guide the selection of households for assistance include:

Target Population: The majority of affected households are women and children, who are often the most vulnerable persons during disasters. There will be given more priority in the various interventions. Vulnerability Assessment will be conducted to assess the most affected households and informal business mostly affected and in need of support.

Collaboration with Local Authorities: The Social and Community Development Department, District Commissioner, Local Leaders / Chiefs, District Disaster Management Committee and volunteers living in targeted locations will be actively engaged in the household selection process to ensure a fair and transparent operation.

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.

Total Targeted Population

Women	960	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	302	Urban	100%
Men	803	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Boys (under 18)	235		
Total targeted population	2,300		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Procurement delays due to suppliers not meeting agreed timelines	Engage experienced suppliers who have the capacity to meet the demand and set timelines.
Negative publicity by media houses	Facilitate an inception meeting with media and key stakeholders outlining the operation, its objectives and relevance to the NS' mandate.
Possible delays in cash transfers	Ensure that the beneficiary information is verified and vetted to check accuracy before commencing cash transfers.
Accessibility issues due to damage on the roads caused by the storms	Engage volunteers to assess the situation on the ground and advise on alternative routesd

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

There are no security concerns.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes



Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 50,855

Targeted Persons: 2,300

Indicators

Title	Target
# of blankets provided to the affected families	920
# of mattresses provided to the affected families	920
# of households that receive tarpaulins	120
# of HHs that receive kitchen sets	18
# of HHs that receive restricted Cash grants for structural repairs	50

Priority Actions

- Provision and distribution of 120 tarpaulins to 120 HHs to the HHs that will not receive restricted cash.
- Provision and distribution of 920 mattresses to 460 households.
- Provision of 18 kitchen sets to 18 HHs.
- Provision of 920 blankets to 460 households (as per the need assessment conducted).
- _ provision of restricted Cash grants for structural repairs to 50HHs (one off) identified families will not receive tarpaulins.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 2,090

Targeted Persons: 60

Indicators

Title	Target
# of vendors reached through training on how to re-establish their business post disaster	60

Priority Actions

- Livelihood training of vendors on how to re-establish their business post disaster.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 79,670

Targeted Persons: 2,300

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people who receive cash transfers for two months	460
# of PDMs conducted	4
# of CVA refresher training for staff and volunteers	1

Priority Actions

- Unconditional cash transfers to address food and basic needs for 460 HHs (2months).
- 04 Post Distribution Monitoring.
- Identification, registration and verification of unconditional and restricted cash grants.
- CVA refresher training for staff and Volunteers.



Budget: CHF 2,787

Targeted Persons: 2,300

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached with psychosocial support	2,300
# of group counseling sessions conducted	16
# of people/households reached with hygiene packs	460

Priority Actions

- Provision of PFA and PSS services by volunteers to beneficiaries and communities.
- Development and printing of PFA manuals.
- Procurement of 460 hygiene packs.



Budget: CHF 13,031

Targeted Persons: 2,300

Indicators

Title	Target
#of people/households reached through the door-to-door wash campaigns	460
# of hygiene and dignity packs distributed	460
# of hygiene and sanitation campaigns conducted	12
# of refresher training conducted for the volunteers on health and hygiene	1

Priority Actions

- Door-to-door WASH campaigns.
- Provision of Hygiene and dignity packs to 460 HHs.
- Conducting the hygiene and sanitation campaigns.
- Refresher training for the volunteers on health and hygiene promotion.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 3,031

Targeted Persons: 55

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers trained on PGI consideration	55
# of briefing conducted on minimum standards for PGI in emergencies for staff and volunteers	4

Priority Actions

- Refresher training for volunteers and staff on PGI considerations.
- 04 PGI briefing on minimum standards for PGI in emergencies for staff and volunteers.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 11,672

Targeted Persons: 2,300

Indicators

Title	Target
# of focus discussions conducted to facilitate a dialogue with the affected community members to leverage on their local knowledge	4
# of volunteers & staff that receive CEA refresher training	55
# of people reached through feedback sessions conducted by volunteers using door to door approach	460

Priority Actions

- Establish regular communications feedback.
- conduct focus group discussions to facilitate a dialogue with the affected community members to leverage on their local knowledge.
- CEA refresher training for staff and volunteers.
- Safe spaces, training on prevention, mitigation and response to SGBV for staff and volunteers.
- Volunteers to conduct feedback sessions using door to door approach.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 41,113

Targeted Persons: 2,300

Indicators

Title	Target
#monitoring missions conducted by technical and operations	4
# of Operational meetings and coordination attended or organized by IFRC	12

Priority Actions

- IFRC field monitoring.
- Organize and facilitate the CVA Training to Staff.
- Ensure technical guidance on the proposed intervention and quality implementation. Include Secretariat Cash and Shelter Monitoring mission, remote support.
- IFRC support to communication and visibility on this operation and on NS actions in general. IFRC will ensure visibility Materials - Banners are aligned with branding and key messages.
- Strengthen the NS monitoring and accountability; Include bi-weekly follow-up, support to monitoring system and tools where required.
- Support the duty of care.
- Ensure learnings exercise is done through PDM and Lessons learnt workshop outcomes.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 96,142

Targeted Persons: 60

Indicators

Title	Target
# of Stakeholder engagement meetings conducted	4
# of monitoring visits conducted	10
# of Project launch or inception meeting conducted	1
#Public relations and response profiling by National Office (Documenting the Operations)	1
#Conduct a lesson learned workshop	1

Priority Actions

- Refresher training on PGI, Livelihoods (Re-establishing a business), CEA and PFA.
- Organize a kick-off meeting for the Project Launch, ensuring direction settings of all units.
- Organize and reinforce the monitoring with dedicated technical staff and support services supported under this operation. The response team from HQ will Conduct regular monitoring, ensure adequate monitoring systems and tools are available for effective reporting.
- Efficiently organize and manage resources allocated to the intervention, especially human and logistic resources. This includes the contribution under this operation for the vehicle movement, maintenance etc.
- Ensure institutional communication and representation of the NS in the key meetings, coordination platforms and with relevant



stakeholders.

- Stakeholder Engagement meetings.
- Public relations and response profiling by National Office (Documenting the Operations).
- Support the duty of care of the responders.
- Conduct the PDM for the cash assistance and the in-kind and service provided. Ensure Learnings exercise is done through PDM and incorporated in the intervention as relevant.
- Conduct a lesson learned workshop and integrate the outcomes for future interventions.

About Support Services

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

Volunteers: A total of 50 volunteers based in the Francistown area and are familiar with the context, will be engaged to provide support during the operation. The volunteers will be capacitated through refresher courses covering CEA, PGI and PFA in preparation for the successful implementation of the storm response. These equipped volunteers will conduct household assessments and beneficiary verification, engage with communities to share hygiene messages, distribute disaster relief supplies and participate in monitoring and reporting activities.

Moreover, 10 staff members from headquarters will be engaged in the operation to coordinate stakeholder engagements, supervise the volunteers, guide on use of data collection tools and conduct monitoring visits during and post distribution. BRCS will ensure that these officers are fully dedicated to the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the intervention. Subsequently, recognizing the National Society's staffing constraints, support towards contribution for the salaries of the Disaster Management Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Finance Officer are included in the planning and implementation of this initiative.

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

The National Society will handle procurements at the national level in accordance with established standards, national laws, and government regulations. Cash support will be provided via mobile money, and the National Society already has a valid contract in place with a Financial Service Provider (FSP). The procurement will be routed through the IFRC and essentially done by the National Society. The NS has active contracts with 2 financial service providers being Poso Money and Orange Money.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) has a dedicated Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) unit tasked with overseeing and reporting on its operations. The Disaster Management (DM) unit ensures the efficient execution of projects while upholding accountability to stakeholders and donors, accomplished through comprehensive project planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting processes.

A monitoring framework with defined timeframes will be developed in collaboration with the IFRC. This tool will offer technical support, track progress, identify challenges, and manage risks that may hinder timely implementation, facilitating corrective actions throughout the project phase. Additionally, IFRC will conduct monitoring visits to provide the National Society with technical assistance.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS), in collaboration with the IFRC communication focal point, will implement a comprehensive communication strategy to enhance visibility and engagement during the drought response initiative. This strategy will include the following components:

Documentation of Operations: All operational activities will be documented to provide a clear record of progress and challenges faced during the response.

Project Launch: A formal project launch event will be organized to announce the initiative. This event will involve key stakeholders, community leaders, and media representatives to generate interest and support for the program.

Social Media Awareness: BRCS will leverage various social media platforms to disseminate real-time updates about the interventions, and success stories. Engaging posts, infographics, and videos will be used to reach a wider audience and raise awareness about the impacts of drought on vulnerable communities.



Public and Private Media Engagement: The communication team will actively engage with both public and private media outlets to ensure comprehensive coverage of the intervention. Press releases, interviews, and feature stories will highlight the importance of the initiative and encourage community involvement.

Success Stories: Success stories showcasing the positive impacts of interventions on community resilience will be gathered and shared across all communication channels.

Community Involvement: Regular community engagement sessions will be held to gather feedback, address concerns, and involve community members in decision-making processes.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRBW007 - The Botswana Red Cross Red Cross Society Botswana Francistown Severe Storms

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	163,136
Shelter and Basic Household Items	50,855
Livelihoods	2,090
Multi-purpose Cash	79,670
Health	2,787
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	13,031
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	3,031
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	11,672
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	137,256
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	41,113
National Society Strengthening	96,143
TOTAL BUDGET	300,392

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Kutlwano Mukokomani, Secretary General, sg@botswanaredcross.org.bw, 26771588544

IFRC Appeal Manager: Kopano Masilo, Head of the Delegation, kopano.masilo@ifrc.org, 0663203886

IFRC Project Manager: Bongeka Mpinke, Senior Disaster Management Officer, bongeka.mpinke@ifrc.org, 0747920279

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Bongeka Mpinke, Senior Disaster Management Officer, bongeka.mpinke@ifrc.org, 0747920279

Media Contact: Susan Nzisa Mbalu, Communications Manager, susan.mablu@ifrc.org, +254733827654

[Click here for the reference](#)

