

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

NAMIBIA

18 July 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA013; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to June 2005; Appeal coverage: 65.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF319, 539 (USD 248, 282 or EUR 204, 767)

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal target: CHF 912,850 (USD 725,100 or EUR 588,000)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: In an effort to strengthen community resilience in coping with the effects of HIV/AIDS, Namibia Red Cross¹ focused on the implementation of community-based health and care, disaster management and food security initiatives. The priority areas are in accordance with the Algiers plan of action of the African Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Millennium development goals to which the Namibian government commits.

The national society raised more than Namibia Dollars 300,000 to assist Tsunami victims in South East Asia and East Africa, through direct deposits, public auction, soccer matches and other donations.

The organizational development activities were partaken to build the capacity of the national society staff, volunteers and structures, policy and strategy development. With support from the Federation capacity building fund, the national society embarked on the improvement of governance structures from headquarters to village level and strengthening of systems and human resource capacity.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed log frame documents). All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

¹ Namibia Red Cross- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=122>

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For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The Namibia Red Cross, through its staff and volunteer network, is playing a complementary role to the government's endeavors to make a significant improvement in the lives of vulnerable people. Efforts to reduce poverty are however undermined by diseases. Any attempt to stimulate economic and social development, therefore, must successfully address the effects of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and lack of access to clean equitable water and sanitation.

The national society provides home-based care (HBC) services to people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC). The HBC activities included the provision of palliative care for terminally ill at household level, psychosocial support, counseling, adherence for HBC patients on anti retroviral treatment and distribution of emergency food parcels and blankets. HBC activities were managed through well-established volunteer structures currently in four regions of Ohangwena, Khomas, Caprivi and Otjozondjupa, with Kavango. The HBC structure has proven to be an effective entry point towards addressing and mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS, particularly the socio economic issues of the communities.

The 'Desert Soul' project is a multi-media approach that uses print, television and radio channels to create awareness and educate the public on HIV/AIDS and social issues that make people more vulnerable such as alcohol, child and women abuse. The messages are developed systematically using qualitative research, with input from targeted beneficiaries and key stakeholders forming the basis of the content.

The disaster management programme activities have been constrained by lack of financial resources, however the response capacity towards incidents and the level of participation towards issues related to emergencies has been significant. The disaster preparedness and response projects were aimed at reducing vulnerability of communities through the designing and implementation of appropriate responsive programmes and mitigation activities. With support from the Federation regarding the new initiative on risk reduction, the national society's disaster management capacity and community resilience will be strengthened.

The organizational development programme specifically focused on reviewing the constitution and strategic plan, development of policies such as the volunteer and youth policy, human resource systems and skills development of governance, staff and volunteers. The six-month programme will be ending in August 2005. In addition to the finalization of the five years strategy, other priority areas are the revision and development which includes volunteer management, resource mobilization plan and strategy, constitutional review through continuous involvement and consultations with other stakeholders including the governing board.

Health and care

Goal: Sustainable improvement in health and well being for vulnerable population of 300,000 people in seven regions of Namibia.

Objective: Vulnerability is reduce for 300,000 targeted beneficiaries by the end of 2005 in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, water and sanitation, malaria, tuberculosis (TB), and community-based first aid through the provision of an integrated and sustainable community-based programme.

Achievements

- A total of 150 orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) were provided with care and support including food, school uniforms and assistance with homework in Kavanga region. The OVC were integrated into other families and the community at large.

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- Namibia Red Cross, through home-based care (HBC), is providing care and support to 2,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and terminally ill in the four regions as indicated in Table 1. A number of the PLWHA is part of support groups that create a forum for self-motivation, exchange of information and planning for the future.

Table 1: Number of HBC beneficiaries per region

Region	Number of HBC beneficiaries
Ohangwena	484
Khomas	424
Caprivi	774
Otjozondjupa	60
Kavango (OVC)	150
Total	1,892

- The national society is providing 617 PLWHA with emergency food parcels on a monthly basis for a minimum of six months. This intervention is a short-term food security measure linked to a more sustainable and long-term intervention in the form of income generating activities depending on viability and interest of the beneficiaries.
- During the reporting period, 538 people in Caprivi were linked to long-term food security projects and are to benefit from the tuck shop small business for support groups in Windhoek. Given the critical need for long-term and sustainable food security requirements in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS, the national society embarked on a community economic empowerment project that will establish a revolving fund or small scale credit scheme for the communities.
- Currently a baseline study is being conducted, with assistance from a consultant, in Caprivi and Khomas regions identified as key priority areas to collect information from the affected communities and other stakeholders regarding their capacity, needs and viable activities that will contribute to food security for PLWHA.
- Social mobilization and HIV/AIDS awareness activities were implemented in seven regions reaching 240,000 people. A total of 3,000 condoms were distributed and field staff and volunteers conducted campaigns on their use in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS/STI and unwanted pregnancies.
- A booklet , “HIV and AIDS action now”, covering topics on HIV/AIDS, rights of PLWHA, stigma and discrimination, voluntary counselling and testing, grants and treatment as adopted in 2004 was launched on 3 June 2005 by the president of the republic of Namibia.
- ‘Desert Soul’ is producing a booklet on women abuse, ‘Help Stop Women Abuse’. A stakeholders’ workshop was held on 1 June 2005 and the booklet’s translation into three local languages-Otjiherero, Oshiwambo and Silozi- was completed on time. Pre-testing of the existing material commenced on 20 June 2005 and to date four regions have been covered.
- A television series launched in October 2004, Soul Buddyz, has been broadcasted for six months by Namibia Broadcasting Corporation. The episodes cover issues such as rights of children, HIV/AIDS, safe communities and violence or abuse.
- The national society representative and the Soul City radio producers held a meeting on 25 April to finalize the ‘Message Brief’, a document that will guide the creative team in producing a drama series on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other food and health related issues.
- In supporting the government’s efforts in the provision of anti retro-viral therapy (ART) to PLWHA, Namibia Red Cross, is providing adherence counselling, establishment of support groups and peer education for 940 people. ART information sessions were conducted in two days courses for people on ART and their supporters (buddies), mainly focusing on adherence to medication and looking at the quality of support to be provided by the families and care providers. The ‘buddy’ programme had registered 22 beneficiaries in Caprivi region alone by the end of March 2005.

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- The VCT centre in Caprivi continued to increase access to ART services to the community and acts as an entry point to HIV/AIDS prevention as well as referral for care and support.
- Namibia Red Cross entered into agreement with the MoH to support and manage 200 community counsellors based in public health facilities countrywide. The community counsellors’ project is aimed at reducing the effects of HIV/AIDS and other illnesses by their assisting as aid nurses in public health facilities. 70 community counsellors graduated after a six-week extensive training conducted by Life Child Line on VCT, PMTCT and highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). The National Institute of Pathology (NIP) provided training on rapid testing. The trained volunteers were deployed in 49 health facilities in all the 13 regions with the aim of reducing the effects of HIV/AIDS and other illnesses.
- Namibia Red Cross has about 3,000 volunteers active in seven regions. There are three levels of volunteers: supervisors, who are senior volunteers responsible for larger catchment areas/villages; facilitators, who are responsible for training of care providers, and care providers- responsible for providing care and support to people at household level.

Table 2: Number of volunteer per level per region

Region	Supervisors	Facilitators	Care Providers
Ohangwena	15	96	450
Khomas	5	23	74
Caprivi	27	158	550
Otjozondjupa	2	16	81
Karas	8	17*	9*
Rundu	0	0	12
Kunene	0	0	1452*
Total	57	310	2,628

*Karas – facilitators are peer educators, and care providers provide edutainment

*Kunene – care providers are mainly community-based health promoters

Water and sanitation

- Namibia Red Cross volunteers conducted water, sanitation, HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns in three villages within Ovahimba in the Opuwo district. A total of 101 beneficiaries were reached.
- A total of 40 people were trained as community-based health promoters in the six villages, giving 14% coverage for the year.
- During the reporting period four water pumps were constructed and are providing clean water to approximately 1,640 people in Opuwo district.

Impact

- Information, education and communication (IEC) materials distributed in all regions helped improve knowledge of targeted communities about HIV/AIDS and its impact.
- Stigma and discrimination is steadily reducing thus ensuring that PLWHA and those affected, e.g. OVC, have access to care and support.
- According to an evaluation conducted in March 2005 in Windhoek, ‘Soul Buddyz’ television programme is making a significant positive impact in terms of improved knowledge, attitude and behaviours of youth towards HIV/AIDS, disability and other social issues that affect the development of children².
- Communities have been mobilized to utilize available services such as PMTCT, HAART and VCT.

² “.....if your mother is HIV positive, you don’t have to be angry, you don’t have to shout at your mother because your mother never had time to tell you. You don’t have to kill yourself because your mother is having HIV and you don’t have to say you are here alone because your mother is going to die just now”- A female participant from Theo Katjimune Primary School in the “Soul Buddyz” TV programme.

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- Provision of VCT services as part of prevention measures has ensured access to ART for those in need.
- The emergency food parcels distributed under HBC is helping accelerates the recovery of people on ART due to the improved nutritional intake.

Constraints

- Food security remains a challenge in terms of strengthening the support to HBC-supported people, especially those on ARVs.
- There is a strong need to integrate tuberculosis intervention into all HBC projects, taking into the consideration that the 60% TB/HIV/AIDS co-infection rate, according to the government statistics.
- Stigma and discrimination is still prevalent in some areas and is prohibiting some people to register on HBC programmes.
- Poverty, unemployment and alcohol abuse are some of the elements contributing to vulnerability.
- Namibia Red Cross lacks strong monitoring tools to assess programmes impact. Availability of such tools would help the national society to scale up its HIV/AIDS interventions.
- Delays in financial transfers hampered the materialization of the planned up-scaling of HBC activities in two other regions within the Global Fund.

Disaster management

Goal: The vulnerability of communities in disaster prone regions is reduced through the design and implementation of appropriate disaster mitigation and response programmes.

Objective: The disaster management capacity of Namibia Red Cross and communities living in disaster prone area are strengthened.

Achievements

- In partnership with the government's emergency management unit (EMU), a basic training on disaster management (DM) was conducted in Caprivi during the first quarter of 2005 for government officials, community representatives and national society's staff and volunteers.
- Namibia Red Cross contributed to the Tsunami disaster by mobilizing local resources worth Namibia Dollars 300,000. The funds were transferred through the Federation to support Tsunami victims.
- The national society assisted 70 families who lost their families members following a tragic road accident that killed 28 people in May 2005. The management and coordination staff assisted the affected families with burial arrangements, transport and psychological support.
- During the first quarter of the 2005, the national society, in collaboration with the regional emergency management unit, initiated community mobilization to move people from flood plains to high lands in the Caprivi region. The team developed a contingency plan in anticipation of flooding in Caprivi region.

Impact

- The national society's intervention in both the Windhoek and Caprivi floods of 2004 exposed staff and volunteers to disaster situations and capacitated them to prepare and respond better in the event of future emergencies.
- The fundraising campaign for Tsunami victims strengthened the national society's partnerships with the corporate sector and the government.

Constraint

- The national society disaster management annual appeal activities did not attract funding thus negatively impacting on the implementation of the planned activities.

Humanitarian values

Goal: Increased tolerance, respect for human dignity and understanding of humanitarian values and fundamental principles among beneficiaries, staff, volunteers and the general public

Objective: Improved knowledge on humanitarian values, fundamental principles and the role of the Red Cross among general public, staff, volunteers and beneficiaries.

Achievements

- The national society continues to disseminate humanitarian values through meetings with stakeholders and a weekly radio programme held on National Radio every Thursday.
- During this reporting period, the information department addressed more than 500 primary school pupils and teachers of the Michelle McLean primary school in Windhoek on disaster awareness as well as humanitarian values.
- The information department carried out numerous public relations exercises aimed at creating and maintaining contacts with print and electronic media as well as the general public. The Namibia Red Cross issued news releases and media statements on the following events; Southern Africa partnership of Red Cross meeting, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, “come closer” campaign, provision of ART, World Health Day, launch of “HIV/AIDS action now” booklet, road accidents and OVC strategy and advocacy.
- The information officer undertook field trips to Kunene and Ohangwena regions aimed at familiarization and information gathering.
- Namibia Red Cross’s goodwill ambassador continued to promote volunteerism, highlight specific needs among beneficiaries and raise awareness on the impact of HIV/AIDS, especially on women and children.
- The ‘come closer’ campaign urged stakeholders to contribute to the welfare of HBC clients and OVC. The media were encouraged to partner with the national society in disseminating the ‘come closer’ campaign messages to all communities.
- A comprehensive brochure on the national society was printed and distributed while various posters and small print-runs on World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day and World Aids Day among others were produced for exhibitions.
- Youth volunteers were supported in playing a role in community involvement and hospital visits. They were provided with Easter eggs for OVC project.
- During the reporting period, the information department addressed more than 500 pupils of the Michelle McLean Primary School in Windhoek and their teachers on disaster awareness and humanitarian values. The pupils later raised funds in aid of the South East Asia and East Africa Tsunami victims.
- The national society officials continued to meet with senior government officials, at national level, to promote its work, build partnerships and advocate for the most vulnerable.

Impact

- The participation in commemorations such as the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day created a better understanding of the Red Cross principles and values among the Namibia communities, which in turn encouraged individuals and partner organizations to work with the national society.
- Cooperation with the communities, donors, media and other stakeholders has improved owing to the national society’s ability to disseminate the humanitarian principles and values.

Organizational development

Goal: The lives of the most vulnerable people in Namibia improve as the Namibia Red Cross works towards becoming a well-functioning national society.

Objective 1- Capacity building: Improved capacity of Namibia Red Cross to design, implement and manage its strategic directions at all levels by 2006.

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Objective 2-Resource Mobilization: Maximum support and resources for the national society are secured.

Objective 3-National society policies and strategies: National society policies and strategies improved and developed.

Achievements

- The management discussed the strategic business solutions (SBS) audit for non-governmental organizations benchmarking report and the accenture operational review report, which among others had identified gaps in the service delivery efforts of the national society. The report recommended strengthening of programmes related to advocacy not only as part of addressing the plight of people affected by HIV/AIDS but also elevating the national society's recognition as the leading humanitarian organization in the country.
- The national society's managers received orientation training by PricewaterhouseCoopers on public speaking and financial procedures: reporting, audit, and procurement.
- The strategic business solutions representative, accompanied by the regional finance delegate, conducted three-day mission to Namibian Red Cross to assess the current Navision accounting system configuration and make appropriate suggestions and changes.
- Marketing and resource mobilization work plan was developed and presented to all programmes for implementation.
- The national society assisted set up five income generation tuck shops for HBC volunteers to provide support to beneficiaries through a 'social assistance fund'. A feasibility study and business plan to establish an Internet facility for income generation for the national society's regional office in Opuwo is being conducted, and implementation is planned for late in the year. Namibia Red Cross Society gets about 25% of its core income from a rental of a shopping complex developed in 1998 and sales of first aid courses and kits.
- One of the national society's financial accountants attended a three-day training workshop in a payroll system, VIP.
- Seven national coordinators and programme managers of the national society attended a financial management workshop. The purpose of the training was to increase the level of basic understanding and knowledge of finance and financial management among programme managers and finance staff.
- Between 15 and 18 March, Namibia Red Cross conducted a national management meeting on orientation to the national society and Federation policies and strategies in Windhoek. The meeting was attended by regional managers and project coordinators.
- A task force was set to draft the new strategic plan, with technical support from the Federation regional delegation and South Africa Federations representative.

Impact

- Through the support of the capacity building fund (CBF) from the Federation, the national society has strengthened the capacity of management and staff, thereby equipping them to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in Namibia.
- Due the considerable funds raised to assist the Tsunami victims from public auctions, the national society has decided to conduct public auctions on annual basis as a resource mobilization option.
- The skills acquired by the accountant during the three-day training have improved the national society's payroll systems management and will ensure efficiency and accountability of the national society's financial accountants.
- The national society now conducts a constant management meeting which updates on movements in the field, while the regional managers are getting support in the areas of programme implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- The national society managed to forge partnerships with the private sector and mobilize resources to assist the Tsunami and the road accident victims. There has been positive response from all stakeholders and national society.

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Constraints

- Implementation of activities was hindered by delayed transfer of fund from the Federation mainly due to banking formalities. This has resulted in the need for an extension of project timeframe.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				912,850	TOTAL COVERAGE	
					65.0%	
OPENING BALANCE				81,608		
BRITISH - DFID				387,203	01.05.05	DISASTER REDUCTION PHASE II
SWEDISH - GOVT	700,000	SEK		119,700	01.06.05	HIV/AIDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				588,511	CHF	64.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			4,800		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				4,800	CHF	0.5%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	