

# 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

2 December 2003

Appeal No. 01.19/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 442,484 (USD 303,063 or EUR 300,756)

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: June to October 2003

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### In Brief

Appeal coverage: 69.5%; [Click here to go to attached Contributions List](#), or refer to the Federation website.

Outstanding needs: CHF 135,002 (USD 101,400 or EUR 86,900)

#### Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- Southern Africa regional programmes, Annual Appeal no. 01.24/2003;
- Southern Africa: Food Security and Integrated Community Care, Emergency Appeal no. 15/2003

**Programme Summary:** The **Namibia Red Cross** continues to scale up HIV/AIDS activities: training of community health promoters, “edutainment” performances, distribution of condoms, and home-based care and support. The national society was involved in post-flood operations in the Caprivi region, and will perform a review to evaluate the effectiveness of their intervention. The national society has eight trained members on the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT). During the reporting period, one regional office of the Namibia Red Cross was established in Otjozonjdupa region.

### Operational developments

Namibia Red Cross, with support from the Federation Southern Africa Regional Delegation and other partners, continues to scale up its activities on HIV/AIDS through home-based care, health development, reproductive health, edutainment and the support of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). During the reporting period, one regional office of the Namibia Red Cross was established in Otjozonjdupa region (Grootfontein district).

Namibia Red Cross aims to reduce vulnerability, improve care and support of the targeted communities in the areas of HIV/AIDS, water-sanitation, malaria, tuberculosis, reproductive health and community-based first aid (CBFA) through the provision of an integrated and sustainable community-based programme.

In addition, Namibia Red Cross has been involved in post-flood operations for the flood victims in Namibia's north east region of Caprivi bordering Angola, Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The operation assisted 2,000 pupils and teachers who were previously excluded from the May and June flood operation.

On the other hand, the country is currently facing severe drought. According to the government's emergency management unit (EMU), more than 600,000 people are in need of food aid countrywide; Caprivi region is worst affected.

## Health and Care

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Health and care activities are currently being undertaken in six regions namely: Caprivi, Kavango, Oshana, Kunene, Karas and Otjozondjupa. Other programmes such as health communication and development and tracing are carried even in regions where the Namibia Red Cross has no physical presence.

During the reporting period, Namibia Red Cross opened a regional office in Otjozondjupa region (Grootfontein district). The office mainly deals with the home based care activities. There are plans to open another office in Luderitz district, in the Namibia's southern region of Karas.

**Goal: The general health and reduction of HIV/AIDS, STIs (sexually transmitted infections) and other ailments of the vulnerable communities is improved and sustained through integrated community-based health and care interventions.**

**Objective: Vulnerability is reduced, and care and support improved for targeted beneficiaries in seven regions in the areas of HIV/AIDS, water-sanitation, malaria, TB, reproductive health and community-based first aid (CBFA) through the provision of an integrated and sustainable community-based programme.**

Namibia Red Cross strategic direction is well within the overall Federation precepts and framework of [Strategy 2010](#), [ARCHI 2010](#) and the [Ouagadougou Declaration](#). Like other countries in Southern Africa, Namibia is currently besieged by HIV/AIDS (with prevalence estimated at 22.5%), drought and food insecurity.

To fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Namibia Red Cross has five distinct projects within the HIV/AIDS programme, namely:

1. Home-based care (six projects);
2. Edutainment (educational entertainment);
3. Reproductive health (adolescent reproductive health, and mother-child health);
4. Health and development (radio and television dramas, print material);
5. Orphans and vulnerable children (drop-in centre and family reintegration).

Furthermore, Namibia Red Cross is involved in commercial and community-based first aid, aiming to enhance the HIV/AIDS activities and its related illnesses such as tuberculosis and malaria.

### Progress/Achievements

1. **200,000 youths and general population have received information on HIV/AIDS/STD (sexually-transmitted diseases) and general health including water and sanitation in 13 districts in Namibia.**

#### **Namibia Reproductive Health Initiative (NARHI) project in Kunene and Kavango regions**

A total of 569 households in the two regions benefited from community health education during the reporting period, covering a total of 12,089 adolescents (5,909 females and 4,913 males). This indicates an increase of 945 from the last quarter. In addition, mother-child health sessions reached out to 4,345 people. In this quarter, 237 community meetings were conducted, totalling 448 meetings conducted in both regions. The edutainment performances have reached a total of 6,209 adolescents, an increase of more than 15% compared to last quarter.

The volunteers under the NARHI project trained 139 people as community health promoters. 36 of them received health education awareness on water and sanitation related diseases, 76 radios and cassettes as education tools for illiterate volunteers have been distributed, and 67 mosquito nets and 17 jerry cans distributed as incentives.

The expected result on water and sanitation was not fully met due to lack of resource persons from the Federation. However, 47 volunteers were trained to rehabilitate four water points in four villages benefiting 975 people. At the same time, four water point committees were established and members trained. A survey was conducted on the 114 rehabilitated water points to determine the capacity of the committees and 91 water points were repaired during the reporting period.

### **Edutainment performances**

The edutainment teams in the two regions which were trained by the national edutainment team reached out to 4,312 adolescents whereas the regional edutainment teams operating under the NARHI project reached out to 1,897 people (929 women and 968 men of reproductive age). In addition, radio shows on teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, STDs, etc were conducted in Rukavango language in Rundu district, Kavango region. During the reporting period, 10 more volunteers in Khomas region were trained on edutainment.

The national edutainment team based at the Namibia Red Cross headquarters in Windhoek carried out performances in Khomas, Otjondjupa, Omaheke and Hardap regions reaching 15,361 people. In addition, the team performed at the Windhoek prison's male section and female sections respectively as well as in Gobabis prison. In total, 1,070 inmates were reached. Two shows were also done for police and military personnel in Windhoek, Gobabis, Grootfontein and Luderitz districts.

### **Health communication and development**

Health communication and development project has adopted the name "Desert Soul" as its project name. The literature review for the adult HIV/AIDS booklet was completed. Negotiations with the media, National Broadcasting Cooperation (NBC), were held for the TV production and radio drama shows. Consultative meetings were held with Coca Cola to discuss distributions of the new booklet through the company. The brand testing has been completed. Transcriptions of the focus groups have been completed. The TV production tender has been awarded to NBC. Quarterly meetings were attended by the project manager in Johannesburg at Soul City. Additional field workers were also trained to speed up the research process.

## **2. 500,000 condoms distribution**

A total of 40,623 condoms were distributed countrywide during the reporting period. In addition, 12 condom outlets have been identified in four areas in Rundu urban (Kavango region) bringing the total number of 33 condom outlets in Rundu urban.

## **3. 41,000 people living with HIV/AIDS have received home-based care, support and counselling.**

In Caprivi region, 64 clients have been identified and are receiving care and support while 3,824 clients have been registered and receiving care and support in Ohangwena region. In Khomas region, 15 clients have been identified and are receiving care and support. Referrals to and from the hospitals and clinics were strengthened in Ohangwena and Caprivi. Eight village committees were selected in Caprivi.

Overall care and support has been given to 150 orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) in Rundu, Kavango. Food and education needs have been provided to about 60-80 children per day. The right of a child to education has been ensured. School outreaches have been conducted on Wednesdays and Fridays. Forty-five school-going children passed their second term examinations. Proper medical attention for the children has also been ensured. Six referrals to the hospital were done. Parents have been educated on the importance of taking children to the hospital. The most common ailments experienced by children are skin diseases and malaria. These diseases are common as children come from poor homes and water is drawn a distance from the houses. Most of the families cannot afford to buy mosquito nets. In addition, two new cases of tuberculosis were reported during this period. Some local businesses in Kavango, such as the supermarket chain, OK Foods, have been supporting the centre with donations in kind, mainly foodstuffs. Independent caterers do not support the centre any more.

Six coaches (volunteers) in the regions of Kunene, Ohangwena and Kavango have been identified and trained. They will monitor and supervise the work of the care facilitators in the three regions. Sixty new care providers were also trained in home-based care in Caprivi region, and 65 in Khomas region.

### **Impact**

- Health and care activities are contributing to community empowerment in areas where Namibia Red Cross is operating.
- Stigma and discrimination is still rampant among communities and this poses challenges to both volunteers and beneficiaries.
- Due to the Namibia Red Cross community empowerment and approach, family members of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) continue to learn how to take care of their sick relatives.
- OVC identified by the Namibia Red Cross volunteers receive support from the ministry of health and social services and the ministry of basic education for the exemption of fees.
- The number of pregnant women visiting antenatal clinics in Opuwo rural district in Kunene region has increased.
- HBC referrals to and from the hospitals and clinics strengthened in Ohangwena and Caprivi regions.
- Even though 62% of the mother-child health volunteers in Opuwo rural district cannot read nor write they are managing to contribute greatly to effective implementation of the programme through the use of radios.

### **Constraints**

- Effective implementation of activities is greatly affected by inadequate financial resources.
- Delay of funds from the Federation has contributed to impediments of work plans.
- Training of volunteers in watsan and NARHI (Namibia Reproductive Health Initiative) could not take place due to lack of technical and financial resources
- Some parents are discouraging volunteers due to lack of monetary incentives.
- In Opuwo rural district, communities are scattered (nomads) in search of grazing for their livestock, this affects training and awareness activities
- Continuous breakdown of vehicles due to poor road infrastructure in some regions contributes to delays in programme implementation.
- The unavailability of public or private transport in Opuwo rural district has a negative impact on the health of beneficiaries as they find it very difficult to access the public health facilities.

### **Coordination**

In its fight of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Namibia Red Cross continues to work closely with the ministry of health and social services and other ministries. Other partners include Catholic Aids Action, church organizations, Lironga Eparu, Social Marketing Association, Regional Emergency Management Unit, UN agencies, as well as other NGO, community-based organizations and the private sectors.

The Namibia Red Cross through its edutainment unit was commissioned by the office of Ombudsman and Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID) to conduct puppet performances in schools and public to create awareness on corruption.

### **Disaster Management**

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Namibia Red Cross presently has a total of eight qualified disaster response team (RDRT<sup>1</sup> trained) members, three of which were trained in September-October 2003. The team is also complemented by the skills of three VCA<sup>2</sup> trained officers. Both the RDRT and the VCA courses were funded by the Federation regional delegation based in Harare. The newly trained RDRT members will contribute greatly to Namibia Red Cross disaster management (DM) activities.

Following the initial response to the needs of the flood-affected communities in Caprivi between May and June 2003, the Namibia Red Cross has undertaken a review to evaluate the effectiveness of the flood operation, to determine the extent to which the operation impacted on the communities, to identify further urgent needs of the affected communities and to seek corresponding additional financial and material support to address them.

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<sup>1</sup> RDRT – Regional Disaster Response Team

<sup>2</sup> VCA – Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

After the review, Namibia Red Cross, with the funds from OCHA<sup>3</sup>, implemented a post-flood operation in September-October 2003 to cater for about 2,000 pupils and teachers who were previously excluded from May-June 2003 flood relief operation.

**Goal: The vulnerability of communities in all disaster-prone regions is reduced through the design and implementation of appropriate responsive programmes and engaged in mitigation activities to promote sustainability.**

**Objective: Prevention, preparedness and response capacities of communities living in disaster-prone areas are strengthened, through the development of integrated strategies, systems, plans and activities hence reducing their susceptibility.**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

##### **Staff and volunteers trained in appropriate disaster management by the end of 2003.**

Three Namibia Red Cross staff members were trained in the RDRT training in Malawi in September and October. The training was conducted by the Federation's regional delegation.

##### **Improved disaster preparedness and response capacity.**

Following the ECHO-funded flood relief operation in Caprivi during May-June, the Namibia Red Cross DM department with support from OCHA has successfully carried out the post-flood operation in the Caprivi region in September to October 2003 to cater for about 2,000 school pupils and teachers. RDRT and VCA trained personnel are adding value to the DM activities both in planning at implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation. This was well demonstrated during the flood operation in May and June in Caprivi. The affected communities were provided with relief items including hygiene items and safe drinking water. The risk of the vulnerable people getting malaria was also reduced through the provision of treated or impregnated mosquito nets to the pupils and teachers by October 2003. The provision of blankets and clothing has also prevented 1,500 vulnerable children in the flood-affected areas from getting pneumonia and other cold related effects.

On the other hand, a total of 377 people have received first aid training nationwide: 303 on basic first aid, 38 from the minor sector, 12 completed silver level, 12 gold level and 12 in instructors level.

##### **Sustainable food security initiatives incorporated into all national society priority programmes by the end of 2004.**

Namibia Red Cross has incorporated food security with HIV/AIDS and DM in the annual appeal for 2004. The Federation regional delegation is planning to duplicate the pilot food security project of Swaziland in Namibia in 2004.

##### **VCA conducted and needs established by the third quarter of 2003.**

In January, three Namibia Red Cross officers were trained in a regional VCA training of trainers workshop held in Harare. This, along with the disaster response skill acquired during the RDRT workshop added value to the implementation of the flood relief operation in Caprivi. However, VCA has not been conducted as planned because of funding constraints.

Due to slow donor response, the following expected results have not been achieved:

- Disaster management policy and plan reviewed and operational by the second quarter of 2003.
- Comprehensive disaster management plan to be operational by the end of 2003.
- Community-based early warning system is in place and operational, benefiting the vulnerable communities by 2004.
- Appropriate basic emergency stocks pre-positioned in at-risk areas.

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<sup>3</sup> OCHA – UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

### **Impact**

RDRT and VCA trained personnel are adding value to the DM activities both in planning at implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation. The flood operation in Caprivi has provided immediate relief to flood affected victims and at the same time demonstrated the improved disaster response capacity of the Namibia Red Cross.

### **Constraints**

The process of procurement of relief items during the post-flood operation took longer than expected as most items had to be bought from South Africa. Items such as water purifications tablets were not sufficient to cater for the target population for the intended period of three months. Namibia Red Cross has recognized a need to update their suppliers list. There should also be proper assessment, identification and registration of beneficiaries before any interventions, involving key stakeholders such as the ministry of education and regional council.

Lack of funding has hampered the implementation of Namibia Red Cross disaster management activities. As a result, all planned activities not related to the floods were not carried out. These include conducting VCA, DM training for staff and volunteers, setting up and strengthening of community-based early warning systems, and pre-positioning of emergency relief stock.

### **Coordination**

The Namibia Red Cross disaster management unit coordinates well with the government, especially with the EMU in the office of the prime minister. This was well reflected in the Caprivi flood operation in which Namibia Red Cross was provided with the use of government helicopter and vehicles to deliver non-food relief items.

Continuous coordination also exists with the ICRC, the Federation regional delegation, UN agencies as well as the regional councils.

## **Organizational Development**

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**Goal: Namibia Red Cross moves towards a well-functioning national society and delivers quality services and empowers the most vulnerable people throughout the country.**

**Objective: Improved capacity of Namibia Red Cross Society to design, implement and manage its strategic directions at all levels.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

- **Namibia Red Cross has an effective volunteer management in place.**  
Currently, Namibia Red Cross has 3,528 active volunteers, compared to 1,000 in the 2002 baseline survey. They are involved in HBC project, edutainment, community health education and other community mobilization activities countrywide. Volunteers are advocates on the ground for the most vulnerable. They also play an active role in recruitment of new volunteers and in mitigating and preventing disasters and epidemics in their communities.

Namibia Red Cross policies in recruitment, provision of incentives and motivational strategies among national society projects are lacking. The Namibia Red Cross uses the Federation policies as guiding tools. The retention of volunteers over a long period is difficult due to: competition among NGOs for volunteers; lack of monetary incentives for volunteers to alleviate their poverty and unemployment; and, absence of vehicles to travel long distances. There is also a shortage of professional volunteers to enhance the quality of service delivery. Staff incentives among various Namibia Red Cross branches need to be standardized in the communities. In addition, there should be increased involvement of volunteers in decision making.

Namibia Red Cross staff participated in a regional volunteer management workshop held in Zambia in June. The national society plans to:

- Strengthen and engage volunteers in their national radio programmes;
  - develop a volunteer policy;
  - fundraise for exchange visits for volunteers;
  - promote income-generating activities to sustain volunteers expenses and incentives;
  - strengthen volunteer's involvement with government constitutions to be effectively integrated in their work as part of sustainability; and
  - Further develop volunteer data and network.
- **Namibia Red Cross has functional branches in places that are actively participating in project implementation.**

During the reporting period, one regional office of Namibia Red Cross was established in Otjozondjupa region (Grootfontein district). Meanwhile, architectural plans for the construction of Opuwo branch office have been submitted, but the deed of sale is yet to be finalized with the district council. There are plans to open another office next year in Luderitz district, in the Namibia's southern region of Karas.
  - **Namibia Red Cross has increased its financial resource base in both value and diversity.**

The Namibia Red Cross head of finance attended the resource development workshop in April in South Africa, organized by the regional delegation.
  - **Namibia Red Cross has in place effective financial management systems.**

The head of finance also participated in the finance development meeting in Harare in October, organized by the regional OD department. In addition, the national society has installed the *Navision* system as their finance development tool.

### **Impact**

The technical support given to Namibia Red Cross by the Federation regional delegation through a number of consultations is enabling the national society to move towards a well-functioning national society. Namibia Red Cross deputy secretary general is a member of the regional capacity building team that has increased the incorporation of OD skills within the national society. The establishment of new branches and recruitment of additional staff and volunteers have to a great extent allowed the expansion of programme activities and assisted many more vulnerable people. Newly recruited officers get thorough orientation and training to manage projects effectively before they operate in the identified region. The new financial system has allowed the finance department to process documentation and reports more effectively to donors. It also allows more regular and updated reports to monitor budgets and projects more effectively.

### **Constraints**

Undertakings of most OD activities, such as training on the project planning process (PPP), volunteer management and branch development cannot be implemented due to lack of financial resources. A lot still needs to be done to sustain volunteers in various programme areas, given the huge operational and financial challenges as highlighted above.

### **Coordination**

OD activities are coordinated with the Federation regional delegation OD programme. OD issues are incorporated into most programmes of the national society and co-ordination exists between different departments at headquarters as well as at regional levels.

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***<Contributions Status below - Click here to return to title page>***

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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**CASH**

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>442,484</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 69.5%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
REALLOCATIONS FROM AP.01.24/2003				307,482		HIV/AIDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				307,482	CHF	69.5%

**KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)**

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES						
				0	CHF	0.0%

**ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET**

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