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Emergency appeal operation update

Namibia: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRNA008

GLIDE n° DR-2013-000062-NAM

Operation update n°3

11 October, 2013

Period covered by this Ops Update: 28 June to 30 September 2013.

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,372,054

Appeal coverage: 72% [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal History:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 28 June 2013 for CHF 1,372,054 to assist 11,000 households for 12 months.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 150,000 was allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the National Society in its initial response.
- [Operations update n° 1](#) and [n° 2](#) were published on 15 July and 31 July 2013 respectively.



Namibia Red Cross volunteers serve lunch to 250 people, mainly children every day at the Red Cross branch in Opuwo, northern Namibia. Photo/IFRC.

Summary: A national state of emergency was declared by the Government of Namibia on 17 May, 2013 requesting for international assistance for the estimated 331,000 people in rural communities classified as food insecure representing 14percent of the total population of Namibia. The Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) subsequently launched an appeal to support the government call for emergency assistance and to provide assistance in four of the worst affected regions .Through the response operation, NRCS will provide support by delivering assistance in Water and Sanitation, Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods sectors.

During the reporting period, NRCS has undertaken some significant steps in supporting the worst affected populations, by forging partnerships, co-ordination, assessments and direct programme delivery. An in-depth needs assessment of Water Sanitation and Hygiene was undertaken by the WASH cluster's Rapid Assessment team in four regions and a detailed household food security needs assessment has been completed with the support of a British Red Cross Household Economic Security (HES) Analyst. This has provided important information and guidance on designing a needs based response.

To date, cash contributions have been received from the American Red Cross, European Commission – DG ECHO, Japanese Red Cross Society, Luxembourg Government, Red Cross of Monaco, Swedish Red Cross, The Canadian Red Cross Society (from the Canadian Government), and The Netherlands Red Cross and USAID. On behalf of Namibia Red Cross Society, IFRC would like to thank these donors for their generous contributions to the Namibia Drought Emergency Appeal.

The situation

The drought situation in Namibia continues and it could still worsen, as the relief activities are still in their initial phase and not yet reaching many of the affected regions. The government is drawing up a large scale response to distribute maize meal the implementation of which is just beginning.

The Red Cross has undertaken assessments on Food Security and WASH and the summary findings are as follows;

Food Security Assessment: NRCS Staff and volunteers conducted a detailed HES assessment with the technical and financial support of British Red Cross between 10 July and 8 August, 2013 in the regions of Kunene, Kavango and Oshikoto in northern Namibia that had previously been identified by the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) and the NRCS as being among the most drought-affected. The assessment findings indicate significant differences between the situation and the populations' coping mechanisms in each of the three regions. There are differences in terms of length of drought, the severity of the impact of drought, livelihood strategy of the population, and the underlying level of poverty and coping strategies available to households. As a result of these differences, two regions- Kunene and Kavango have been identified as needing immediate assistance.

The assessed communities in Oshikoto are also affected by the drought but the HES assessment found they are better able to cope because of a higher average household income, cheaper food, the presence of small livestock (as saleable assets), and multiple sources of income and greater assistance from their community. In Kunene and Kavango, many poor households lack regular income opportunities and assets. Households are therefore increasingly reliant on government assistance in the form of pensions, grants and food assistance. In some communities, households reported receiving donations of food from family and friends in 2012, which is an indication of the chronic poverty that some households are facing.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: On request from the Red Cross and UNICEF, a Rapid Assessment was conducted by the Inter-agency WASH Rapid Assessment team in four of the most affected of the 13 regions, namely; Kavango, Kunene, Ohangwena and Oshikoto. The assessment found that in Kunene region, where a substantial proportion of households rely on livestock, the people are adversely affected by drought in terms of reduced pastures and water for both human and livestock consumption. In the other three regions of Ohangwena, Kavango and Oshikoto, where households mainly rely on crop and partial livestock, the households food insecurity is due to crop failure, and partially to water resources for human consumption.

Many communities are employing a variety of coping mechanism, including migrating to other areas in search of grazing or water. Due to limited rainfall, families are resorting to consuming water from unprotected and potentially contaminated water sources, shared with animals. Some boreholes have dried up, and livestock farmers have had to migrate further distances from their villages to find sufficient grazing rangeland, a situation that might create a competition between communities over access to basic services, such as water, health and education for children.

As the drought conditions intensify, community coping mechanisms are being eroded. This situation is likely to result in over-use of limited resources such as water and grazing areas; loss of livelihood as livestock weakens or succumbs to effects of drought. This in turn has significant impact on health and wellbeing of the people making them susceptible to water and sanitation related diseases particularly, diarrhea and cholera.

Findings of both the WASH and Household Economic Security assessments have been shared widely and have informed the Emergency Appeal, which is being revised to include a cash programme as recommended by the assessments.

Coordination and partnerships

The NRCS continues to co-ordinate with all the stakeholders and the Government, both at national and regional levels. The IFRC Southern Africa Regional office is in regular contact with OCHA, DFID, USAID and EU in particular to update them on the situation and to identify areas of collaboration. Other coordination measures remain the same as reported in the Emergency Appeal.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

Since the launch of the Emergency Appeal, the NRCS has undertaken a Household Economic Security (HES) Assessment and a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Assessment (led by the WASH Cluster). A British Red Cross HES delegate supported the NRCS in July to assess the situation and coordinate with other agencies to undertake a food security assessment and plan a response.

The NRCS has started relief interventions including nutritional screening and referrals, provision of cooked meals to malnourished children and other vulnerable, food-insecure people, and provision of knowledge and material support for safe drinking water and hygiene. NRCS response so far per sector are as follows;

Food Security: Eight soup kitchens have so far been established, 4 in Kunene region, 2 in Ohangwena and 2 in Kavango region. The target beneficiaries include children under 5 years, orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), people with disabilities, pregnant and breast feeding women, elderly people who have no other support and HIV/AIDS patients who are under treatment. Beneficiaries are registered to monitor how many individuals are regularly eating at each soup kitchen, and then coded, using identification cards, to monitor the number of people accessing this support every day to ensure consistency and coverage. Volunteers follow up with families who do not attend and they are encouraged to regularly participate in the feeding scheme.

Based on the HES assessment a cash response has been planned to meet immediate household needs and will be included in the revised appeal. A cash transfer programme concept note was developed and shared with the Government of Namibia. The details of operationalizing the cash programme are being designed.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: A baseline survey has been conducted in Kunene and in Ohangwena region, water purification tablets have been distributed to 21,000 beneficiaries in 49 villages in Okongo constituency, while in Omundaungilo, water purification tablets were distributed to 500 beneficiaries. Volunteers have been trained in distribution techniques and households have been identified in Ohangwena and Kavango regions for distribution of hygiene kits.

Nutrition: Nutrition training on Infant and Young Child feeding for community volunteers has been conducted in Kavango and Ohangwena regions. The training was attended by 40 volunteers in Kavango and 118 volunteers in Ohangwena. Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements have so far been taken on 143 children in Kavango and Ohangwena and 32 children have been identified as malnourished. These children have been subsequently referred to both the health centres for treatment and to the Red Cross soup kitchens.

Two Regional Disaster Response Team members (1 generalist and 1 WatSan) were deployed to assist the National Society. A cash transfer delegate has also been deployed from the British Red Cross HES roster to design and implement the cash transfer programme. A full-time operations manager has been recruited and is supporting the NRCS to implement the response.

Progress towards outcomes

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods	
Outcome 1: At least 2,000 Orphan and Vulnerable children, disabled and elderly people have improved access to sufficient nutrition food in the targeted areas for up to six months	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated needs assessment and baseline completed. Provide cooked meals at the 4 regional soup kitchens to 2,000 of the most vulnerable individuals in the 4 regions for 6 months (2 times a day). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing of methodology and questionnaires for integrated WASH, Food Security and Nutrition assessment Household Economy Security technical support 40 volunteers are trained to assist government for targeting and food distribution (10 in each affected area) Support 2000 individuals (500 most vulnerable individuals each in the four regions). Procure cooking materials for each kitchen in each region. These will include 2 big pots, one stove with two plates, 500 plates, 5 washing dishes and 500 spoons per region. Procure foods items for soup kitchen (Maize meal 176.4 MT,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen and establish a total of 4 kitchen gardens for supporting feeding scheme <p>4 regions = 4 kitchens = feeding 2,000 in total (500 per kitchen)</p>	<p>Beans 3.15 MT, Fish 1.6 MT, Beef 1.6 MT, cooking oil 1.6 MT and vegetable 5.25 MT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ratios were calculated using standard calculator. Train 40 volunteers (10 per region) in food preparation 10 volunteers cook and provide meals to beneficiaries per region Establish one community group (fifteen members per group) per garden that will work on the gardens entailing beneficiaries of the feeding schemes. If necessary, gardening activities will start November and December during rainfall season. The community groups will also benefit from the tanks to be provided all though the gardens will be next to river or water points. Give one training and follow up support to each community groups on gardening (soil preparation, compost making, planting, pest and diseases control, watering and harvesting) Procure vegetable seeds for the gardens (including Cabbages, Tomatoes, Lettuce, Rape, Carrot, Beetroots, Spinach, Onion and Green peppers), 350 kg per community group. Procure tools that will be used in the gardens (8 watering cans, 8 digging forks, 8 rakes, 3 spraying cans, 5 spades, 3 wheelbarrows, 15 gloves, 2 generators, 4 roles of steel wires, 2 roles of soft wires, 2 roles of diamond wire, 56 poles, 2 gates, 25 cement, 4 black pipes, 4 tanks and tank stands each garden) Procure other gardening inputs such fertilizers and weed killers Support soil preparation, planting, weeding, disease and pest control and harvesting by NRCS volunteers and Government extension workers
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Progress: A Household Economic Security Assessment has been completed. Eight soup kitchens have so far been established, four in Kunene region, two in Ohangwena and two in Kavango region. The target beneficiaries include children under the age of five years, orphans and other vulnerable children (OVCs), disabled people, pregnant and breast feeding mothers, elderly people who have no support and HIV/AIDS patients who are under treatment. Beneficiaries are registered to monitor how many individuals are regularly eating at each soup kitchen station, and then coded, using identification cards, to identify who has turned up for a meal every day. This enables both the consistency and coverage of the programme to be monitored.

Outcome 2: At least 80 per cent of under 5 children have access to community based nutrition and during the drought emergency in four northern regions of Namibia	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of households with mothers and caregivers of children under 5 years of age receive nutrition education and counseling and hygiene promotion 100% of children under 5 years from the target regions, identified as being severely malnourished are referred to health facility services for management and treatment Community demand for maternal, infant and young child nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a minimum of two TOTs in C-IYCF, acute malnutrition screening and WASH hygiene promotion (PHAST) for 350 volunteers Cascade C-IYCF, acute malnutrition screening and hygiene promotion to health volunteers in Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshikoto and Kunene regions. (Target 80% (280) of 350 volunteers over 12 month period.) Develop a household monitoring and record keeping template for use by 350 trained health volunteers Develop and set up strong referral linkages to existing health facilities implementing the Nutrition, Assessment, Counseling and Support (NACS) programme. Develop a referral tool that links pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children to health facilities for treatment and management of severe acute malnutrition. Orientate Government Health Committees including the Regional Aids Coordinating Committee (RACOC) and Constituency Aids Coordinating Committee (CACOC) in the target regions on the expanded scope of practice of health volunteers

Progress: Nutrition training on Infant and Young Child feeding for community volunteers has been conducted in Kavango and Ohangwena regions. The training was attended by 40 volunteers in Kavango and 118 volunteers in Ohangwena. Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements have so far been taken on 143 children in Kavango and Ohangwena and 32 children have been identified as malnourished. These children have been subsequently referred to both the health centres for treatment and to the Red Cross soup kitchens.

NRCS has developed a bilateral agreement with UNICEF country office in Namibia to seek financial and technical support to implement outcome two and will therefore be removed from the Revised Emergency Appeal in preparation.

Outcome 3: Reduced food insecurity among 4,000 affected rural households through inputs, support and training.	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,000 households provided with seeds and 150 lead farmers trained in good farming practices and provided with fertiliser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out continuous assessments of food security, nutrition and livelihoods Identify 150 lead farmers (37 per region) Distribute maize and pearl millet (mahangu) seeds to 4,000 and 2,000 households respectively and fertilizers to 150 lead farmers. (25 kg of maize seed, 25 kg of mahangu seed per household and 50kg of fertilizer per lead farmer) for a field of up to 4 ha. Distribution of tools to 4,000 households (each household will receive one hoe). Community sensitization and training on best agricultural practices Identification of drought tolerant crop varieties Train 150 lead farmers in conservation agriculture and usage of drought tolerant, early maturing crops varieties and introduction to livestock and rangeland management Four training in seed selection and preservation for 300 follower farmers conducted by lead farmers. Conduct a training on post harvesting and storage handling training for 150 lead farmers Seed multiplication demonstration Monitoring of progress for the targeted farmers by NRCS regional officer and extension technicians. DRR and Monitoring and Evaluation coordinators will conduct quarterly field visits for monitoring purpose.

Progress: Activities relating to outcome 3 on reduced food insecurity have not yet begun.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion	
Outcome 4: 11,000 families have access to safe and clean water for emergency domestic and livestock consumption.	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% of target beneficiaries reports access and use of safe drinking water Increased access to water for livestock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of water purification tablets to 11,000 households Distribution of jerry cans to 11,000 households Training of 11,000 households on use of water purification tablets at time of distribution and in follow up home visits. Distribution of plastic water tanks (5,000L) for 24 community groups, Directorate of Water Supply, Sanitation and Coordination will be filling water in the tanks Rehabilitate 5 water points
Outcome 5: Increased hygiene knowledge for community members in the targeted areas	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hygiene promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training 350 volunteers in hygiene promotion using PHAST.

activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education on hygiene promotion • Provide hygiene kits to volunteers
Outcome 6: To provide access to sanitation facilities in relocation areas of San communities in Oshikoto region for 450 individuals.	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% target population reports access and regular use of sanitation facilities provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 15 volunteers in emergency latrine construction • Consultation with affected population to determine latrine design and location • Construct 22 latrines at a camp for 450 relocated individuals • Awareness raising on the use of the latrine by NRCS volunteers

Progress: A WASH Assessment led by the WASH cluster and hosted by NRCS has been undertaken and a baseline survey has been conducted in Kunene and in Ohangwena region. Water purification tablets have been distributed to 21,000 beneficiaries in 49 villages in Okongo constituency, while in Omundaungilo, water purification tablets were distributed to 500 beneficiaries. Volunteers have been trained in distribution techniques and households have been identified in Ohangwena and Kavango regions for distribution of hygiene kits.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Red Cross has been working very closely with media to highlight the situation and needs of the communities affected by the drought.

Drought in Namibia has now been featured by many major news outlets around the world including Reuters, BBC, the Guardian and Al Jazeera. The IFRC SARO communications officer took an Al Jazeera web journalist to the field during the first week of September to visit the worst drought hit regions of Namibia. To date interviews with IFRC field staff and with the Regional Representative have been published. Coverage from Al Jazeera is also expected to include further stories and photojournalism. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts reached hundreds of thousands of viewers and continue to be shared online. Domestically, the Namibia Red Cross features in local news media almost on a daily basis. UNICEF also led a media trip to Namibia and the content which has been featured across international media, strongly highlights the IFRC and Namibia Red Cross operation. A link to IFRC photos of the situation is: <http://www.ifrcmedia.org/assets/galleries/2013/namibia-1/index.html>

Regular updates by the IFRC and NRCS are also being provided on Relief Web.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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