

OPERATIONS 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

SOUTHERN AFRICA: FOOD SECURITY AND INTEGRATED COMMUNITY CARE

18 August 2003

FOCUS ON NAMIBIA'S CAPRIVI REGION

Appeal No. 15/2003; Operations Update no. 1

Appeal launched on 28 May 2003 for CHF 13.6 million (USD 10.3 million or EUR 9 million) for five months for 347,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Period covered: 28 May – 18 August 2003

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 5.1%; See the Contributions List on the Federation's website for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 12.9 million (USD 9.8 million or EUR 8.5 million)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeal: Namibia no. 01.19/2003

Operational Summary: This Operations Update focuses on the humanitarian situation of Namibia's Caprivi region, and seeks to appeal for immediate donor support to enable the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) to extend its intended food security interventions to provide safety net and improved water-sanitation facilities to an additional 23,000 people affected by floods in the Caprivi region in May 2003.

Operational developments

The first and recent crop assessment mission of Namibia's Emergency Management Unit (EMU) suggests approximately 400,000 people may be in need of general food aid distributions in drought-affected Namibia; however, in the Caprivi region, the devastating floods in the eastern part towards the end of the season have worsened the already poor harvest. The flooding aggravated the food insecurity situation as most crops were not harvested by then and consequently perished.

In May 2003, heavy rainfall along the Zambezi River caused the banks of the river to burst downstream into the Caprivi region in the far north-east of Namibia bordering Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Botswana. The floods caused two deaths, submerged 22 villages and left more than 12,000 people homeless in the Kabbe and Katima rural constituencies. The livelihood of the people in the region depends on livestock grazing, fishing and small-scale subsistence farming. In the aftermath of the floods, some of the livestock drowned and this year's crops in

the fields washed away. In May 2003, the government declared a disaster in the region and launched an emergency appeal for humanitarian assistance to support the flood-affected communities.

Although the flood water has receded in most of the areas for now and the flood relief assistance from the government and other aid agencies has come to an end, the combination of droughts, floods and HIV/AIDS pandemic in the region has added to a high level of vulnerability amongst the region's 79,000 inhabitants.

The Caprivi region has experienced frequent and severe droughts for the last three years, compromising the already looming food security situation in the region. With 43 per cent of HIV/AIDS prevalence, the Caprivi region is the hardest hit by the pandemic, compared to 23.3 per cent nationwide. The region has also one of the highest poverty rates in the country. The prevailing food, water and sanitation, and health crises resulting from the devastating effects of the floods in May, the frequent and extensive droughts, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic amongst the local population have threatened and undermined the very survival of the people in the region.

There is also increasing and urgent need to improve the nutritional status of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), already clients of the NRCS home-based care (HBC) programme in the region. Access to food for this group has become critical: destitution limits any choice to recover sustainable livelihood. Without adequate nutrition, the health status of people living with AIDS dramatically worsens, therefore giving them even less capacity to maintain their household, and continuing a spiral of destitution.



**Caprivi Region of Namibia and neighbouring countries
(Map produced by Relief Web 16 May 2003; www.reliefweb.int)**

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

In May and June 2003, in response to the flood crisis, the NRCS distributed water containers, water purification tablets, kitchen sets, blankets, impregnated mosquito nets and tents to about 2,000 households; this response was based on an initial assessment performed in flood-affected communities, with support from the Federation, sister national societies, ECHO, USAID, OCHA and government agencies (see information bulletins).

According to the joint NRCS/Federation assessment undertaken during the onset of floods between May and June 2003, the NRCS and the government responses may have reduced the devastation of the floods on the communities, and helped to stabilize the situation; nonetheless, the immediate and long-term needs of the affected communities and the underlying cause of the disaster remain a priority concern. The humanitarian situation in the region is still precarious. People will continue to rely on relief food handouts for the next five months (August – December 2003). There is an urgent need to improve access to safe and portable drinking water, sanitation and the prevention of malaria in the affected communities.

In line with the stated objectives under the 'Southern Africa: Food Security and Integrated Community Care' appeal, a number of newly added initiatives have been undertaken by the NRCS. These initiatives target 23,000 most vulnerable people from the Kabbe and Katima rural constituencies, the most heavily affected by the floods, over the five-month period of August to December 2003. The assistance is to build on the existing NRCS disaster response capacity, its HBC infrastructure and its client base, with a focus on health, food security, water and sanitation needs of the 3,500 most vulnerable households (23,000 people) in the flood-affected communities. This target group is comprised of 63 per cent females and 37 per cent males, including children under five (11 per cent).

Food Security

Objective 1: To improve the nutritional intake of and support to 12,000 most vulnerable people and orphans affected by HIV/AIDS and drought in Ohangwena and Caprivi regions through the existing NRCS community home-based care (HBC) programme.

In addition to the 12,000 targeted beneficiaries planned in the original appeal, an additional 3,000 flood-affected people in the Caprivi region are targeted to receive food parcels for the five-month period. Each beneficiary will receive 12 kg maize meal, 1-liter vegetable oil, 3.6 kg beans and 2 kg corn soya blends. The ration will provide a daily caloric intake of 2,300 kcal per person.

Health/Water and Sanitation

Objective 2: To improve the water-sanitation facilities and service, hygiene and health knowledge of 23,000 most vulnerable people in the flood-affected communities of Caprivi region (added objective)

Activities planned to achieve the objective:

1. To support and assist 23,000 most vulnerable people in the flood affected communities with access to safe and potable drinking water, for personal and domestic hygiene:
 - Conduct technical feasibility studies on identified water points.
 - Mobilize the community to contribute labor and local materials as contribution to the project.
 - Distribute water purification tablets to most vulnerable people in 22 villages.
 - Rehabilitate and construct 20 water points in 20 communities.
 - Train communities on the operation and maintenance of the constructed water points.
 - Erect 12 water tanks with capacity of 10,000 liters in 12 communities and schools.
 - Establish and train water point committees (WPC) and facilitate hand-over of the facilities to the communities through the WPC.

2. To improve the sanitation, solid waste and excreta disposal in 22 villages targeting 600 women-headed households and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH):
 - Conduct participatory discussions with communities to determine appropriate and acceptable sanitation facilities.
 - Assist the community in the construction of 60 pit latrines by providing basic materials such as cement and welded mesh and technical support.
 - Mobilize communities to have proper waste disposal sites to control vectors such as flies.
 - Distribute oral rehydration solution (ORS) among the community for the treatment of diarrhea.
3. To reduce the risk of malaria to 1,500 vulnerable households, including PLWA and boarding school pupils:
 - Distribute 4,500 (3 per household) treated or impregnated mosquito nets to 1,500 vulnerable households.
 - Conduct vector control campaigns in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), including the disinfecting of 60 per cent of households and immediate surroundings with appropriate mosquito pesticide.
 - Conduct health education on basic facts of malaria and prevention practices in the communities.
 - Assist the 22 flood-affected villages with appropriate tools for clearing and brushing of their immediate surroundings.
4. To conduct health education and environmental hygiene promotion as a way of combating communicable, water- and vector-borne diseases; positively transforming water use and sanitary habits among vulnerable communities:
 - Recruit and train 50 volunteers from the flood-affected communities, in participatory methodologies on how to promote awareness on water borne diseases, proper sanitation, personal and domestic hygiene practices and the prevention of malaria.
 - Volunteers will conduct regular awareness session on health, hygiene and HIV/AIDS in all of the flood-affected communities.
 - Volunteers will promote and demonstrate proper use of mosquito nets, water purification tablets and ORS.

Capacity Building

Objective 6: To further strengthen the capacity of the NRCS human resource and institutional development in order to ensure quality and sustainable service delivery both at national, regional and community levels by the end of 2003. (added objective)

With current support from the Federation, sister national societies and the EU, the NRCS is successfully implementing HBC projects in three regions including Caprivi; this involves over 600 volunteers and caters to about 3,000 clients and PLWA. The NRCS has a regional branch in Caprivi staffed by a regional officer, an administrative assistant, a driver and a volunteer supervisor/coach. The following capacity building initiatives are planned to support the implementation of the food security operation:

Activities planned to achieve the objective:

1. Recruit a relief Coordinator and two supporting staff at regional level.
2. Train NRCS staff and volunteers, EMU and REMU (regional EMU) in disaster preparedness and response policy.
3. Train volunteers in first aid and community-based first aid.
4. Establish early warning systems in the disaster-prone communities.
5. Acquire and install necessary communication facilities to improve information systems at regional level.
6. Provide transport support for implementation and monitoring of the programme.
7. Improve the existing office facilities in the Caprivi regional branch office to accommodate activities of the flood operation.

Federation Support

Currently the Federation is not present in Namibia. A field delegate will be positioned to support the operation at regional and country level. The Federation Harare Regional Delegation will provide technical backup and advice in the areas of food security, HIV/AIDS and home-based care as well as organizational development as required and when necessary.

Monitoring and evaluation

The NRCS, with Federation support, will develop appropriate monitoring tools that will establish the basis for following up on the progress and impact of the programme on the affected communities. An interim evaluation will be conducted towards the end of December 2003 to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the operation. In addition, quantitative data will also be gathered for baseline comparative purposes.

For further information please contact:

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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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Southern Africa - Food Security

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 15/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

19/08/03

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				13,631,176		5.1%
ANDORRAN - RC				33,054	23.05.03	
BRITISH - GOVT/DEC		123,810	GBP	261,734	12.06.03	ZIMBABWE FOOD ITEMS
BRITISH - RC		30,000	GBP	66,105	14.08.03	ZIMBABWE FOOD SECURITY
JAPANESE - RC		166,362	USD	214,191	26.06.03	
MONACO - RC		20,000	EUR	30,860	14.07.03	
NEW ZEALAND- RC		3,373	NZD	2,009	16.06.03	
SWISS - RC				40,000	07.08.03	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				647,953	CHF	4.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			25,133		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			10,020		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			2,136		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			7,885		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			5,092		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				50,266	CHF	0.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Southern Africa - Food Security

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19/08/03

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