

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Namibia: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRNA004
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000062-NAM
Operations update n° 1
16 April 2009

Period covered by this Ops Update:

11-27 March 2009

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,494,980 (USD 1.3m or EUR 979,849)

Appeal coverage: 41%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report;](#)
[or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 25 March 2009 for CHF 1,494,980 (USD 1,3m or EUR 979,849) for six months to assist 4,000 households (20,000 beneficiaries).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 146,695 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society's response.



Families seeking shelter under trees in the Kavango region

Summary: Heavy rainfalls, the floods from the Cuvelai basin in upstream Angola, and the rising levels of the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers, caused flooding in the four northern Namibian regions of Omusati, Oshikoto, Oshana and Ohangwena, affecting 276,254 people. Both the Zambezi and Kavango Rivers rose to a record 75% above their normal levels, leaving many people displaced and destroying infrastructure.

The DREF allocation is being used to strengthen the Namibian Red Cross Society's (NRCS) response activities by improving sanitary conditions in the relocation camps, providing hygiene promotion by volunteers and distributing basic relief items to those affected by the floods. The National Society also received a donation of N\$ 100,000 from Standard Bank Namibia and a food donation from Delta Secondary School.

This operation is expected to be implemented over six months, and will therefore be completed by 31 August 2009; a Final Report will be made available by November, 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

The situation

On 17 March 2009, the Namibian President declared an emergency in the north and north-eastern regions of the country, where floods have caused large-scale destruction to homes, schools, health facilities, mahangu and maize fields, businesses and economic infrastructure - particularly the road networks. Although the floods

in Omusati, Ohangwena Oshikoto and Oshana are reportedly subsiding, the normal rain season is only expected to end in about two weeks. Table 1, compiled by the Floods Emergency Coordinating Office (FEMCO), shows statistics of the four northern regions affected by the floods.

Table 1: Statistics of the northern regions affected by the floods

	OSHANA	OMUSATI	OHANGWENA	OSHIKOTO	TOTAL AT 18/03/2009
Number of Constituencies	10	12	11	10	43
Number of affected Constituencies	10	12	6	7	35
Number of affected people	203,916	253,980	133,703	117,818	709,417
Displaced households	846	101	126	31	1104
Displaced people	5,090	537	1,250	186	7,063
Relocated people	2,507	537	1,250	186	4,480
Schools closed	53	119	37	10	219
Hospitals cut off	0	0	1	0	1
Clinics cut off	4	10	5	0	19
Outreach points cut off	16	29	20	5	70
Cholera cases Reported	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria cases Reported	215	2,117	5,610	0	7,942
Lab confirmed	215	2,117	31	0	2,363
Deaths by malaria	3	14	8	0	25
Death by drowning	32	28	15	4	79
Missing persons	2			2	4

Reportedly, 25 households in Mashare constituency and 109 learners from Mutuarandja School relocated, and Mukwe constituency is in need of immediate evacuation. Table 2 shows statistics of people affected and relocated as reported by the Kavango regional branch.

Table 2: Relocations

RELOCATION AREA	HOUSEHOLDS	PEOPLE
Sikondo relocation Camp	98	450
Sikenge village	18	84
Mayana school	learners: 110 households: 37	350

The Caprivi regional branch reported that floods in Katima rural and Kabbe have displaced many people, and is expected to be of greater magnitude as water reaches new areas. The results of the assessment for the Caprivi and Kavango regions are expected shortly. According

to the hydrology division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, the situation is improving. The Zambezi and Kavango Rivers have, as at 26 March 2009, subsided by 1cm from 7.83m and by almost ½m from 8.4m respectively.

Needs assessments: The government's Directorate of Emergency Management (DEM), comprised of government officials, NRCS and United Nations members, is conducting a thorough assessment in these regions. Affected communities are left without shelter, food, water and other necessities to sustain life. There is also an urgent need to continue improving the sanitation in the relocation camps.

Beneficiaries to be assisted: The National Society launched an Emergency Appeal on the 24 March 2009 to support 4,000 families (20,000 people) in the affected regions for six months.

Coordination and partnerships

The DEM at the national level and the Regional Emergency Management Unit at the regional level head the overall coordination of the programme, with FEMCO also being reactivated. Coordination meetings are held every Wednesday with all the relevant stakeholders (UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, NRCS). The Coordinating bodies ensure that the focus areas of each stakeholder are clearly defined to avoid overlapping or duplication in response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective: 4,000 flood-affected households provided with appropriate non-food relief items. Distributions carried out according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups, and based on a system/process of careful registration that controls, monitors, and records the movement of such goods.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Relief items distributed to 4,000 households in four regions, for a period of three to six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a joint rapid emergency needs and capacity assessment in the Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana, Kavango and Caprivi regions. Distribute 8,000 blankets, 4,000 mosquito nets, 48,000 bars of soap and 2,000 hygiene kits, the latter to relocated schoolchildren and lactating mothers. Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and providing reports of relief distributions on a monthly basis.

Progress:

The NRCS took part in the first joint assessment in the four north-western regions and was part of the assessment in the Caprivi and Kavango regions. The National Society provided boat training to 11 staff members of the Regional Councils of Omusati and Ohangwena. The NRCS has also thus far distributed items as listed in table 3.

Table 3: Distribution

REGION	BLANKETS	MOSQUITO NETS
Ohangwena	154	110
Oshana	76	90
Oshikoto	67	328

Emergency health and care	
Objective: To reduce health risks, morbidity and mortality as a result of the emergency on the affected population through the provision of health promotion, preventive, community-level and primary health care (PHC) services to 4,000 households for six months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Mortality and morbidity of beneficiaries as a result of the emergency reduced and health services supported through a primary healthcare-oriented programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 20 volunteer modules of the cholera kits towards community-based activities under the Ministry of Health (MoH). Mitigate the effects of cholera by developing the capacity of provincial Red Cross Offices in the correct preparation, use and distribution of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), in active case finding and in surveillance. Support the Government's organized mass vaccination campaign through social mobilisation activities and/or independent monitoring in coordination with MoH/WHO/UNICEF. Pre-position additional supplies such as cholera kits and ORS sachets as a contingency stock for up to 10,000 persons. Training volunteers in target branches on community-based health and First Aid (CBHFA) and on the Epidemic Control for Volunteers training package, with an emphasis on malaria and water-borne illnesses.
The scope and quality of the National Society's health and care services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train 150 community-based volunteers in health promotion. Sustain health promotion campaigns within the affected population focusing on malaria and water-borne diseases targeting 4,000 households in affected areas. Distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials for health education and hygiene promotion campaigns (such as posters,

	flyers). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support reproductive health (RH) and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) activities, including the protection of women, girls and children. • Train 50 volunteers on emergency health within the next six months.
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Progress: Health and hygiene promotion and water and sanitation training were provided for 53 volunteers in two regions.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of water-borne and water-related diseases reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene promotion to 4,000 families in the Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana, Kavango and Caprivi regions.

Expected results	Activities planned
Safe water provided to 4,000 families displaced by floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute 600,000 water purification powder sachets. • Distribute household level water storage (i.e. jerry cans) to 4,000 households.
Appropriate sanitation, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage, provided to 4,000 families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with the construction of 100 temporary latrines. • Assist with the construction of 100 temporary bathing shelters. • Assist with vector control and prevention measures. • Assist in waste disposal measures.
The health status of the population is improved through hygiene promotion activities and behaviour change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 150 community-based volunteers on health and hygiene promotion. • Conduct hygiene education and health promotion campaigns for a target of 4,000 households within the affected population, focusing on behaviour change. • Provide IEC material on hygiene promotion (printed materials, manuals, educational materials, etc).

Table 4: Construction

REGION	PIT LATRINES	SHOWERS
Oshana	12	12
Ohangwena	8	6
Omusati	6	8
Kavango	6	3

Progress:

The distribution of 20,000 water purification tablets in the flood-affected regions has helped prevent diarrhoeal diseases. In the Oshikoto region, 15 jerry cans were distributed. Construction has taken place as listed in table 4.

Challenges: The situation is fluid, creating challenges as the capacity of the National Society is stretched. Other challenges poor coordination and the limited availability of relief materials as most of them are sourced from outside the country.

Emergency shelter

Objective: for six months, 4,000 of the most vulnerable flood-affected families displaced in Namibia receive appropriate emergency shelter (family tents or shelter kits) to help preserve their physical and mental wellbeing and human dignity, and prevent a further deterioration of the human situation.

Expected results	Activities planned
1,000 families are safely sheltered in family tents and 3,000 families receive shelter kits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and distribution of 1,000 family tents. • Transportation and distribution of 3,000 shelter kits. • Emergency shelter training provided to National Society staff and volunteers. • Monitor activities through field visits.

Progress: In the Ohangwena and Oshikoto region, 52 and 67 tarpaulins respectively were distributed to the affected people. However, more shelter is needed.

Challenges: There is a serious shortage of tents for shelter due to the daily increase of affected and relocated people.

Logistics	
Objective: To support the relief operations, delivering a range of relief items in line with the operational priorities	
Expected results	Activities planned
The operation has coordinated mobilization of relief goods; reception of all incoming goods; warehousing, centralized provision of standard vehicles as required; and coordinated and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Monitor and evaluate relief activities and report on relief distributions. • Establish appropriate warehouses and arrange transportation to distribution points.

Progress: Requisitions for the purchase of relief materials were sent to the Federation. The procurement of locally available relief materials is currently underway.

Challenges: There is a delay in the procurement process of the requested materials.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Objective: To better profile and position the NRCS as a leading organisation in disaster management in Namibia	
Expected results	Activities planned
Increase the overall visibility and positioning of the Namibia Red Cross in strategic areas, and create new resources to strengthen the general communication aspects of the National Society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the media with reports about Red Cross response activities. • Produce press statements as necessary; organize radio/TV talks on response activities. • Produce a response brochure/DVD after three months.
Forster synergies and facilitate joint approaches through engaging different partners in the operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share reports/ updates with all the partners - national and international.

Progress: A press conference was held on 20 March 2009 for the launch of the Public Appeal. Assessment reports and situation reports are shared with all participating stakeholders, PNSs, and delegates. Refresher training was held for 30 volunteers on the fundamental principles and Code of Conduct.

How we work

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

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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