

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Namibia : Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRNA0004  
GLIDE FL-2009-000062-NAM  
Operations update n° 2  
16 April 2009

Period covered by this Ops Update: 24 March to 3 April 2009.

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,569,797 (USD 1,376,399 or EUR 1,033,080).

Appeal coverage: 41%; [click here to go directly to the revised budget; here to view the donor response report; or here for 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 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.
- **Appeal budget revision:** this Operations Update (no. 2) reflects an increase to the overall appeal budget to support additionally identified operational costs.



Rescued belongings after floods near Lisikile Village, Caprivi Namibia  
25 March 2009

**Summary:** The Namibian Red Cross Society (NRCS) continues to deliver much needed assistance to people affected by the floods in six regions of Northern Namibia. In Kavango and Caprivi, the Chobe, Zambezi and Kavango rivers have reached their highest levels since 1963, where in parts water levels reached as high as 7.85 meters. Although the region has been affected by floods in the past, the extent and adverse impact this year is the worst in over 40 years.

The situation in the Caprivi region has left up to 13,000 people displaced. Additional communities are expected to be affected and require assistance for relocation to safe areas as ongoing assessments identify the impact of the floodwaters. While this impact is very present, the Namibian Hydrology division indicates that water levels in the northwestern regions have started to subside. As a result many people are beginning to move back to their houses and start reestablishing their lives. The provision of relief items as well as the construction of latrines and bathing shelters by the National Society has aided beneficiaries in coping with the situation in relocation camps that support 16,394 displaced people. However the materials at hand are not enough and additional relief items (including shelter kits, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, soap, and jerry cans) under this appeal, together with a bilateral donation from the Belgium Red Cross, are expected to arrive in the week of the 6 of April 2009.

The overall appeal budget has been increased to support additionally identified operational costs. The National Society appreciates the support of both local and international partners. This operation will be implemented over six months, and will therefore be completed by 30 September 2009; a Final Report will be made available by December 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

# The Situation

On the 17 March 2009, the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, 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 crops and maize fields, businesses and economic infrastructure, particularly the road networks. NRCS, with the support of the Southern African Zone office (SAZO) of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), launched its Emergency Appeal on the 25 March 2009. As of 1 April 2009 the flood is estimated to have affected over 550,000 people in the four northern regions. In Caprivi and Kavango, more people are being relocated to the camps due to high water levels. In the four northern regions - Omusati, Oshana, Oshana and Oshana - the floods were reported to be subsiding as the flow of water from Angola along the Cuvelai decreases. The preliminary findings of the assessment that took place in Caprivi indicate the following statistics:

**Table 1:** Total numbers of affected people in the Caprivi Region – preliminary findings

Constituency	Area	Estimated Number of Affected Households
Kabbe	Schucmansberg	390
	Namiyundu	250
	Nankuntwe	340
	Sifuha	375
	Malindi	259
	Isiize	300
	Kalimbeza	269
	Muzii	152
	Ibilibinzi	77
	Masikili	112
Katima Rural	Lisikili	350
	Nfoma	344
	Libula	91
	Namalubi	58
	Bukalo	54
	Sikanjabuka	31
<b>Total Households affected in the Region</b>		<b>3,452</b>

Note: These figures have been taken from the NRCS assessment conducted in the first week of April 2009

## Coordination and partnerships

The coordination of the response operation is being headed by the Office of the Prime Minister's Directorate of Emergency Management (DEM) at the national level, while the Regional Emergency Management Unit (REMU) coordinates at the regional level. The Floods Emergency Management Coordination Office (FEMCO) has been reactivated, and is headed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Local Government and Housing. The staff members of DEM are part of FEMCO. The office has the overall responsibility of coordinating emergency activities in the four northern regions.

Coordination meetings are held every Wednesday with all the relevant stakeholders, including the NRCS. At the regional level, REMU, comprised of various stakeholders, holds weekly meetings to share information and progress. At the national level, DEM calls weekly coordination meetings with all the stakeholders.

The coordinating bodies are comprised of different line ministries, United Nations agencies – (UNICEF, WHO, UNDP) and the NRCS, ensuring that the focus areas of each stakeholder are clearly defined to avoid overlap or duplication in response. Importantly, the National Society is a member of both the national and regional coordinating bodies.

The in-country IFRC representative and SAZO have supported the National Society throughout the emergency operation. The initial DREF allocation has greatly improved the response capacity of the NRCS to provide much needed relief to the affected population in all six areas. The zone office has also supported the National Society by sending three communication experts to help profile the response activities of the NRCS and to report on the effects of the floods, focusing on the Kavango and Caprivi regions.

The Belgium Red Cross is supporting the NRCS bilaterally by donating relief stocks including shelter kits, kitchen sets, jerry cans, water purification tablets and latrine platforms. Discussions are also underway with the Spanish Red Cross for additional non-food items.

**National Society Capacity Building:** NRCS has a well-established capacity in emergency preparedness and response, considering the frequent occurrence of natural disasters particularly in the north-eastern part of the country. The National Society has responded to the disaster as rapidly and effectively as possible by mobilizing its resources (people, money and other assets) and using its network in a coordinated manner to counter the initial effects of the disaster and to meet the needs of the affected communities. Rapid action is required to prevent further loss of life.

Currently, the National Society is utilizing its trained regional disaster response team (RDRT) members to conduct assessments and coordinate the distribution of relief items. Additional support has been requested from SAZO to facilitate the deployment of an RDRT member from Zambia to support the emergency operation in the north-eastern part of the country (covering Kavango and Caprivi regions). This deployment will complement the current staff component, which is overstretched due to the magnitude of the disaster, and will increase the response capacity of the NRCS through on-the-job training and coaching.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The NRCS, with support from the IFRC, is in the process of finalising a detailed plan of action to guide the implementation of the emergency operation across all six identified regions. The action plan will support the National Society in implementing the activities outlined below for a period of six months, until the 30 of September 2009.

### Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)	
Objective: 4,000 flood-affected households are provided with appropriate non-food relief items.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Relief items distributed to 4,000 households in six regions for a period of six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct joint rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments in the Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Kunene, Kavango and Caprivi regions.</li> <li>• Distribute 8,000 blankets, 4,000 mosquito nets, 48,000 bars of soap and 2,000 hygiene kits to the relocated schoolchildren and lactating mothers.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** Representatives from the NRCS participated in joint assessments to the north-western and eastern part of the country, led by representatives from the Namibian Government. Based on these assessments, the National Society released its pre-positioned stock to commence the relief operation. Staff and volunteers in all the affected regions distributed relief items. Table 2 outlines the items distributed since the beginning of the operation.

All distributed relief items are received by the head/representative of each household on behalf of the family and have helped the beneficiaries return to their normal lives. Initial feedback from the beneficiaries has been positive and the distribution of blankets has been greatly welcomed with the beginning of winter. In addition, the distribution of mosquito nets that contribute to the prevention of malaria has also been greatly appreciated.

To date, all distributed relief items came from the NRCS's pre-positioned stock. Additional items were ordered, are currently being mobilised and are expected to arrive in Namibia before 9 April.

**Table 2:** Distribution of relief items per region

Regions	Blankets	Mosquito nets	Kitchen Sets
Ohangwena	154	110	
Omusati		35	42
Oshana	76	90	
Oshikoto	67	328	
Kavango		623	21
Caprivi	Reports currently being compiled		
<b>Total distributed</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>63</b>



Namibia Red Cross volunteer registers displaced villagers for distribution of relief items, 25 March 09

**Challenges:**

- The coordination of operational plans among stakeholders is currently a challenge. This is due to the lack of regular platforms for stakeholders to exchange information at all levels. These platforms need to be set in place.
- The limited supply of relief materials in-country has led to the mobilization of resources from outside Namibia, resulting in delays
- There are still difficulties in accessing some areas as they have been cut off by the floodwaters. While NRCS is utilising boats to undertake relief distributions in these areas, it is time consuming.

**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 and preventive, community-level and primary healthcare services to 4,000 households for six months.**

Expected results	Activities planned
Mortality and morbidity as a result of the emergency are reduced in the target population and health services are supported through a primary healthcare-oriented programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide 20 volunteer modules of the cholera kits towards community-based activities at affected communities under the Ministry of Health (MoH).</li> <li>• Mitigate the effects of cholera by developing the capacity of provincial Red Cross Offices in active case-finding, correct preparation, use and distribution of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and in surveillance.</li> <li>• Support the government-organized mass vaccination campaign through social mobilization activities and or independent monitoring in coordination with MoH/WHO/UNICEF.</li> <li>• Pre-position additional supplies such as cholera kits and ORS sachets as a contingency stock for up to 10,000 persons.</li> <li>• Train 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.</li> </ul>
The scope and quality of the National Society involved in health and care services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train 150 community-based volunteers in health promotion.</li> <li>• Sustain health promotion campaigns within the affected population focusing on malaria and water-borne diseases targeting 4,000 households in affected areas.</li> <li>• Distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials for health education and hygiene promotion campaigns (such as posters, flyers).</li> <li>• Support reproductive health (RH) and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) activities, including the protection of women, girls and children.</li> <li>• Train 50 volunteers on emergency health within the next six months.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** Volunteers trained in participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) have been mobilised to provide health and hygiene community mobilisation activities. This immediate response has reduced the chance of loss of lives and the possibility of an outbreak of communicable diseases in the flood-stricken areas. Health and hygiene activities are ongoing to ensure that communities receive the necessary support to prevent an outbreak of water-borne disease.

Supporting the initial mobilisation of volunteers, an additional 78 NRCS volunteers have been provided with training in health and hygiene promotion, and water and sanitation practices. These volunteers have since been mobilised to provide education and increased awareness on the prevention of communicable diseases. Preparations are underway to train additional volunteers in health emergencies and gender issues, with the support of the MoH and Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare. A further 150 volunteers will be provided with First Aid training in the second two weeks of April.



Namibia Red Cross volunteer talking to children living in the Schukumansberg camp, 26 March 09

#### Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

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

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

**Progress:** The initial response in support of providing access to safe water and sanitation facilities for the affected population included the distribution of 80,000 water purification tablets across all regions; 15 jerry cans were distributed in Oshikoto region and 174 in the Kavango region. The provision of water purification tablets has enabled households to treat contaminated water supplies effectively, providing access to safe water to avoid an outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases.

A total of 43 pit latrines and 37 bathing shelters have been constructed in the relocation camps established by the government of Namibia. Table 3 outlines the location of these actions.



**Table 3:** Construction of sanitation facilities per area.

Region	Pit latrines constructed	Bathing Shelters
Ohangwena region	8	6
Omusati region	7	9
Oshana region	12	12
Kavango regions	16	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>

To date no outbreak of hygiene or water-related diseases has been reported in the six regions affected by the floods, and the NRCS's contribution could be linked directly to this outcome.

**Challenges:**

- Additional latrines are needed in the camps as the number of displaced people continues to rise daily.
- The Society has exhausted its stock of water purification tablets. However, more are expected to arrive in the next shipment of relief stocks.

**Shelter**

**Objective: 4,000 most vulnerable flood-affected families in Namibia are living in a safe and healthy environment within six months of the beginning of the operation.**

Expected results	Activities planned
The targeted 4,000 displaced households are provided with material for shelter and are living with dignity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute tents to 1,000 families.</li> <li>• Provide 3,000 households with tarpaulins and shelter kits.</li> <li>• Shelter training provided to National Society staff and volunteers.</li> </ul>



**Progress:** Shelter is increasingly becoming an issue for the affected populations. To date the NRCS has provided a total of 179 tarpaulins to the following regions: Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Kavango, and Omusati. In addition to the items provided by the NRCS, staff and volunteers have assisted in the creation of management systems for relocation camps.

**Challenges:** Many displaced households do not have shelter materials and are therefore forced to sleep under the trees. More shelter materials are urgently needed. Fortunately, additional

shelter materials will be received in the second week of April from SAZO and the Belgium Red Cross.

**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; with coordinated and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure and distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate relief activities and report on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Establish appropriate warehouses and arrange transportation to distribution points.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** The procurement and mobilisation of relief items is currently being facilitated by the IFRC's logistics department at SAZO. These are expected in-country by 9 April and will greatly assist the response operation. In addition, the procurement of relief materials available locally is also currently underway.

**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
<p>Increase the overall visibility and positioning of the NRCS in strategic areas, and create new resources to strengthen the general communication aspects of the National Society. Forster synergies and facilitate joint approaches through engaging different partners in the operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide briefings to the media about the Red Cross response activities, twice monthly for three months.</li> <li>• Provide press releases as necessary; organize radio/TV talks on response activities carried out.</li> <li>• Share reports/updates with all partners, national and international.</li> <li>• Produce a response brochure/DVD after three months.</li> </ul>

**Progress: A number of communication and public information activities have been undertaken including:**

- Press conference held on 20 March 2009 for the launch of the Public Appeal.
- The launch of the Emergency Appeal covered by the local and international media.
- Assessment reports and situation reports are shared with all the participating stakeholders, PNS, and delegates.
- In Namibia, a national radio session was used to disseminate the information about the floods.
- Regionally, interviews have been conducted with various news agencies highlighting the need for further assistance for the affected populations.



**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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**[<Revised appeal budget and updated donor response report attached below;  
click here to return to the title page>](#)**

## **APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

Namibia Floods

MDRNA004

### **RELIEF NEEDS**

500 Shelter	439,454
505 Construction Materials	
510 Clothing & Textiles	57,580
520 Food	0
523 Seeds & Plants	0
530 Water & Sanitation	275,089
540 Medical & First Aid	24,000
550 Teaching Materials	7,692
560 Utensils & Tools	145,240
570 Other Supplies & Services	54,855
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>1,003,910</b>

### **CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

580 Land & Buildings	
581 Vehicles Purchase	
582 Computers & Telecom Equipment	0
584 Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
587 Medical Equipment	
589 Other Machinery & Equipment	

### **TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

590 Storage - Warehouse	17,250
592 Distribution & Monitoring	85,250
593 Transport & Vehicles Costs	130,000

### **PERSONNEL**

600 International Staff	69,954
640 Regionally Deployed Staff	13,200
661 National Staff	
662 National Society Staff	45,846
670 Consultants	0

### **WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

680 Workshops & Training	8,000
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### **GENERAL EXPENSES**

700 Travel	17,500
710 Information & Public Relations	13,000
730 Office running costs	600
740 Communication Costs	3,120
750 Professional Fees	0
760 Financial Charges	
790 Other General Expenses	60,130

### **PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

599 Programme Support - PSR	102,037
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**Total Operational Needs 565,887**

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**Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) 1,569,797**

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