

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Namibia: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRNA006
GLIDE FL- 2011- 000007-NAM
Operations update n° 1
10 May 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 10 April 2011
to 4 May 2011

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,811,530
coverage: 16%

[<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, >](#)

Appeal history:

The Emergency Appeal was launched on the 8th of April 2011 for CHF 1,811,530 for six months to assist 37,457 displaced people/9,364 families.



Flooded Homesteads in Oshana Region/ photo: NRCS

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): An initial amount of CHF 296,472 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) DREF to support the National Society's response.

Summary: NRCS continues to assist people affected by the worst floods in decades in the Northern Namibian regions of Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Kavango and Caprivi. The number of affected people rose to **500,000** with about **60,000** displaced, approximately **19,000** in relocation camps and **65** related deaths reported since the onset of the disaster.

The water levels rose and reached the highest levels on record in Oshana region, resulting in more communities relocated to higher ground in the regions of Oshana, Omusati and Ohangwenan Regions. It is also expected that more communities will be relocated in Caprivi and Kavango as the situation unfolds. The water levels downstream in the Caprivi Regions continue to rise.

The provision of relief items as well as the construction of latrines and bathing shelters by the national society has enabled the supported beneficiaries to cope with the situation in the relocation camps. The materials received through the DREF, though helpful, are not in themselves adequate to reach the scope of the needs.

According to the National Hydrology Division, the level of water in the north western regions is significantly subsiding. The situation at this stage is still uncertain, as it is still raining.

This operation is expected to be implemented for a period of six months, and will therefore be completed by 30 September 2011, with a Final Report made available by December 2011 (three months after the end of the operation).

The national society appreciates the support of both local and international partners to this appeal so far.

The situation

On 29 March 2011, the government of Namibia declared a national state of emergency to respond to large-scale flooding in the northern parts of the country. The declaration was based on the results of a rapid assessment conducted on 25 to 27 March 2011. Following the declaration of an emergency a joint assessment was conducted in collaboration with the Government, NRCS and the UN agencies. The displaced population was estimated at 60,000 people, roads, bridges, business centres, crops and road network and other infrastructure has been destroyed in Cuvelai basin which includes Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto and Omusati. Some communities have been cut off from schools, health clinics, and other social amenities. In Karas region initially the total population relocated was 12,000 but the situation has normalised and the majority have returned to their respective homesteads. Due to the findings of the joint assessment team, The National Disaster Risk Management Committee mandated the NRCS to take up the responsibility of camp management in all the 78 relocation centers.

The National Society with the support of the zone office of the International Federation of the Red Cross launched its Emergency Appeal on the 8th of April 2011. The flood is estimated to have affected over 500,000 people in the seven northern regions. In Caprivi and Kavango more people are being relocated to the camps due to high flood levels. In the four northern regions – Omusati, Ohangwena Oshikoto and Oshana, the floods are reported to be subsiding, as the flow of water from Angola along the Cuvelai has decreased. Though subsiding, water levels are still high even when compared to the same period in 2009 when an emergency was also declared.

Table 1 below shows the preliminary registration in the camps. Note that some of the displaced have been accommodated in tents while the majority does not have shelter.

Table 1: Population displaced in 2011 floods to date

Region	People displaced in the seven Regions	
	Households	Total Population
Caprivi	3,750	15,000
Kavango	625	2,500
Ohangwena	453	3500
Omusati	875	4,100
Oshana	2100	10,357
Oshikoto	40	158
Kunene	200	2,000
Total	8,043	37,615

Information will be updated since the registration is ongoing

This flooding experience has demonstrated the potential of the Zambezi River Basin Initiative (ZRBI) to strengthen the capacity¹ of communities in floods mitigation by establishing and reacting to early warning systems. This is evidenced by the swift and effective resources mobilization of people, money and other assets to address the sanitation needs of communities relocated to higher ground. To date, a total of 31 villages have been relocated permanently to higher ground in the Caprivi Region and 57 households in the Kavango Region.

The NRCS participated in the initial national assessment and identified the needs in the six regions. Urgent support was provided to the relocated communities. Through the ZRBI, the NRCS also engaged the communities in the identification of locations on higher ground and preparation of these areas as reception centers during disasters.

However, the water and sanitation situation still poses a challenge, as the number of displaced population continues to rise. The (NRCS) has started mobilizing regional staff and trained volunteers in Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Kavango, Kunene and Caprivi Regions, where a response operation is underway.

¹ Community disaster teams ,water and sanitation teams and health teams

Coordination and partnerships

Internal

The current disaster response operation is being undertaken by the NRCS, in collaboration with the Regional Disaster Risk Management Committees. At the National level, the NRCS is a member of the National Risk Management Committee.

At regional level, the IFRC Southern Africa regional office will coordinate with movement partners present in Namibia and also within the region to enhance mobilization of financial resources. Where needed, the IFRC Southern Africa regional office will identify suitable staff to be deployed (as RDRTs) to assist the national society in its response activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Under the DREF allocation, the NRCS has acquired relief items to assist the initial 2,000 families with the basic necessities. The National Society distributed relief items, including water purification sachets, blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene packs to the affected communities along the Orange River in the south, Caprivi in the north east, in Kavango and the four north western regions of Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Ohangwena. The construction of latrines and construction of bathing shelters and hygiene promotion and health education are underway.

Progress towards Objectives

The NRCS is utilizing the initial DREF funds allocated in the initial response activities. At this stage the response operation is focusing on the relief distribution to reduce the impact of floods.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Objective: 9,364 flood affected households are provided with appropriate non-food relief items.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9,364 households receive relief items such as blankets and hygiene kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting continuous assessments in the affected areas. Distributing blankets and soaps to the relocated school children and lactating mothers. Providing technical and financial support in logistics, warehousing and distribution Monitoring and evaluating the relief activities and providing reports of relief distributions

Progress:

Joint assessment was conducted in collaboration with the Government, NRCS and the UN agencies. The assessment was aimed at established

Below is the progress table showing the current of relief items distributed to the population in the camps.

Table 2: Relief items distributed

Relief Items	Flooded Area Relocated					Grand Total
	Caprivi Region	Kavango Region	Oshana	Omusati	Ohangwena	
Number of families	3,100	377	930	1368	360	6,135
Total number of beneficiaries	12,000	1243	3823	3739	1349	22,154
Tarpaulins (Single)	250	0	103	120	86	559

Black Sheets (Rolls)	100	0				100
Mosquito Nets	546	292	10	49	397	1,294
Soaps	2,000	0		770	329	3,099
Water maker	43,246	4,000	10000	10000	33400	100,646
Kitchen sets	14	0			39	53
Tents	434	27		27		488
Blankets	591	0		128		719
20L Jerry Cans	300	292		56	87	735
Pit Latrines constructed	150	6	20	10		186
Family showers	101	6		10		117
Hygiene kits	1,100	170	499	61	100	1,930

The staff and volunteers continue to distribute relief items in the relocation camps. Currently the response action is constrained due to the preregistration that is underway.

Emergency shelter

Objective: 9,364 households have access to a safe and adequate emergency shelter	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The targeted 9,364 displaced families are provided with shelter materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of tarpaulins to the affected 7,364 families Trainings of volunteers and public awareness to beneficiaries related to the use of tarpaulins

Progress:

In total 559 tarpaulins and 488 tents were distributed in the relocation centres. The distribution of relief items continues and it is expected that by the coming week all items received through the DREF support will be distributed and therefore there is a need to replenish these items to help restore dignity to the displaced population. Although generally the water levels are subsiding, the number of displaced people is increasing as more communities can now be reached and registered. Shelter materials are thus required to assist these communities now in their relocation centres and also these materials will be used when they go back while still constructing their homesteads.

Training on the use of shelter materials been conducted as the distribution is done in the relocation centres.

Challenges:

The current relief stocks was mainly aimed to support only 2,000 families, therefore there is a need to replenish shelter materials as the situation is still unfolding towards the flood plains in the Caprivi Region.

Emergency health and care

Objective: Health risks, morbidity and mortality resulting from the emergency are reduced among affected population through the provision of health promotion, preventive, community-level and services to households in affected regions for six months.	
Expected Results	Activities planned
Mortality and morbidity of 43,729 beneficiaries as a result of the emergency are prevented through a primary health care oriented programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide first aid and referral services for affected communities through 100 volunteers in the coming six months. Distribute mosquito bed nets within the two months of the operation Refresher training for 100 volunteers on communicable disease surveillance in coordination with MoH and District Health Offices.
The resilience of the community is improved through better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresher training for 100 community-based volunteers on health promotion as well as hang up/keep up.

health awareness, knowledge and behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain health promotion campaigns within the affected population focusing on malaria targeting 9,364 households in affected areas. • Support and provide printed and other materials to be used in the health promotion campaign (such as posters, flyers, manuals, educational materials, etc). • 50 more volunteers will be trained in the Community Based Health & First Aid (CBHFA) approach to assist in responding to the issues surrounding emergency at the same time ensuring that prevention is emphasized in order to minimize disease outbreaks through proactive health education in affected communities and also strengthening
Psycho-social support is provided to affected households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 150 staff and volunteers of the Society engaged in Psychological Support in emergency • Identify and provide Psycho-Social Support to the affected families.

Progress:

The trained volunteers on CBHFA and health education during the previous disasters have been mobilised to conduct hygiene promotion and health education in all the camps. The volunteers have also been involved in the disease surveillance and referrals to the clinics.

Plans are underway to conduct refresher training for these volunteers on first aid and health education. Part of the training will include psychosocial support. A total of **1,294** bed nets have been distributed from the prepositioned stocks.

Initially the Society did not procure bed nets since the government indicated that they had enough stock in the regions. However the stocks could only support 3,000 people and there is a need to procure enough bed nets to reduce the possibility of malaria outbreak in the affected populations.

Challenges:

The planned training for staff and volunteers have not yet been conducted to date due to lack of funding. The initial funds receive from the Federation was utilised in the response towards the construction of latrines and used in the distribution of relief items. These trainings are also important since there are some isolated cases of cholera in Angola and it is expected that this may roll down to Namibia.

Therefore there is a need prepare the staff and volunteers so that there are able to respond and prevent the spread of the diseases. The DREF allocation did not include the bed nets due to the government stocks which just ran out. The bed nets are being included in the Emergency appeal, however the coverage stands at 16% and these does not look promising for the Society.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne diseases is reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 9,364 families in the seven affected Regions for six months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Safe water is provided to 9,364 families while damaged systems are restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing household level water storage (i.e. jerry cans) to the affected families. • Distribution and training on water Purification sachets/Tablets (WPT).
Appropriate sanitation, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage, is provided to 9,364 families in the seven affected regions for six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating defecation fields. • Building pit latrines in relocation centres. • Facilitate vector control and prevention measures in collaboration with government • Provide domestic solid Waste disposal facilities.
The health status of the population is improved through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher training for 100 community-based volunteers on PHAST/in emergencies

behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct hygiene promotion campaigns within the affected population focusing on behaviour change. • Provide IEC materials for health promotion campaign.
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Progress:

The Society managed to distribute **735** jerry cans, and **100,646** water makers. Distribution continues in all the relocation centers in all the affected regions.

In total the Society managed to put up **186** pit latrines in the different relocation centers. Bathing shelters were also provided both for women and men in all the different camps.

Region	Pit latrines	Bathing shelters
Caprivi	150	22
Oshana	20	10
Omusati	10	10
Kavango	6	4
Kunene	0	0
Totals	186	46



Table 3: Latrines and bathing shelters constructed

Volunteer constructing latrines at Oshoopala camp/Photo NRCS

The Society was also mandated to conduct camp management in all the relocation centers. As a result the society in the process of establishing camp management structures in all the relocation centers. This will also include a committee on water and sanitation committee. The community will be provided with the necessary skills on sanitation and also trained on PHAST methodology.

Different hygiene materials translated in the specific languages were acquired from the UNICEF and distributed in all the camps. Similarly the IEC materials used during the 2009 ERU team have been reproduced and disseminated in all the camps with the volunteers. Volunteers in all the camps assisted the communities in establishing solid waste disposal pits in the camps in all the camps.

Challenges:

Most of the planned activities under this section have not been conducted due to limited funding. The situation is still unfolding and there is a need to scale up water and sanitation activities. The operation is constrained due to limited funding. Therefore there is a need to resource more funds to be able to scale up the response operations. There other challenge is that the Society has managed to provide very limited latrines which is not even meeting the minimum standards, this due to the limited funding and the situation that compromised the response operation.

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 items and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and distribute relief stocks and controlling supply movements to end user • Monitor and evaluate relief activities and reporting on the relief distributions • Facilitate appropriate warehousing and transportation to distribution points

Progress:

At this stage the Society managed to deliver all the procured relief items through the DREF to the entire affected region. Distribution is also underway. Proper warehouse and distribution through the distribution cards is being utilised and proper records kept.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The NS with technical support from the regional office will conduct awareness and publicity activities including field trips to sensitise the public and media on the situation on the ground and the humanitarian response. They will also work with programme teams to develop beneficiary communications that support programme objectives in decreasing the vulnerability of the affected populations. Volunteers will also disseminate the principles and values of the Movement during their response operation.

Objective: Regular credible and reliable information to the public is provided	
Expected results	Activities planned
A steady flow of timely and accurate information between field and other stakeholders is maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct awareness campaigns through print and electronic media • Support field staff in producing regular field updates for sharing with stakeholders • Develop/adapt IEC materials for public education on impact of floods • Ensure the visibility of the Red Cross in response operations • Collaborate and support other NS programmes to produce IEC material and develop social mobilisation campaigns • Collect visual materials of the operation • Organize at least one media tour to the operation area • Strengthen the communication capacity of the national society

Progress:

With the assistance of the Federation Senior Communication Officer, the Society managed to profile the flood emergency and the current response operation and a press release was posted on the IFRC web site. Similarly the flood operation was presented on CNN.

Constant updates are being provided to the local media who update the nation on a regular basis. The Society also plans to conduct a media tour where media practitioners will be available to participate. The objective is to increase the Society's disaster operation visibility.

Capacity of the National Society

Though there are still areas for improvement, the NRCS has shown growth in its capacity to respond to emergencies over the last few years. The NRCS has at its disposal trained staff and volunteers in disaster response. Its National Disaster Management Response has gained experience from previous disasters, especially in the Caprivi Region. The National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) has jointly carried out simulation exercises and develops contingency plans in readiness for the flooding season. These exercises were supported by the Office of the Prime Minister, OCHA and the Regional Councils. There is a pool of more than 4,000 volunteers who can be mobilised country wide to respond to disasters. These volunteers have been capacitated in the field of hygiene promotion, water and sanitation, gender issues and trained to respond to disasters. The NRCS has at its disposal 5 RDRT trained staff and 1 ERU trained staff on water and sanitation.

This particular aspect was also evident with the results of the joint assessment conducted in collaboration with the OPM, NRCS and the UN agencies. As a result of the findings in the camps the National Disaster Risk Management Committee chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet mandated the Society with the responsibility of camp management in all the relocation camps. The Society have standardised all the registration process and at the moment the registration is under way to collect concrete figures in all the relocation centres.

General Operation Challenge

The Society launched an emergency appeal on the 8th of April 2011, the response towards the appeal have been relatively low as at this stage the appeal is only about 16% covered. In relation to the scale of the emergency the Society's response operation is currently limited and compromised, as there is relatively very low resources. Therefore there Society still appeals for resources to be able to effectively response to the emergency. Sanitation also needs to immediately be undertaken to prevent further outbreaks of water borne diseases.

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 \(NGOs\) 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 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.

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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