

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

NAMIBIA: FLOODS AND CHOLERA

19 February 2007

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2007) is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached map>](#)

Activities undertaken are aligned with the International Federation's 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.**

The Situation

Due to excessive rains coming in from Angola (on the border with Namibia), the Zambezi River has started to swell and flooding is likely to occur in low lying areas such as the Caprivi Strip in Namibia, Western Province in Zambia, Mashonaland Central in Zimbabwe and Tete Province in Mozambique. The situation in the Caprivi Strip, Namibia, is likely to be worse than previous years. As at 6 February 2007, the water level in the Zambezi had risen to 4.71 metres, compared to 1.65 metres in February 2004.

The government of Namibia deployed assessment teams in the affected areas, which reported that some crop fields and other low lying areas are already submerged, with a number of villages surrounded by water. Approximately 20,000 people are expected to be relocated to sites allocated by the government on safer grounds.

Furthermore, cholera cases have been reported in two northern regions bordering Angola (Kunene and Omusati). Since the onset of the outbreak, a total of 250 cases and 7 deaths have been reported in the country, with 50 of them in Outapi Town, Omusati Region. The government has indicated that the situation is now under control, as the Namibia Red Cross (NRC) is assisting by conducting sensitization campaigns.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Caprivi branch office of the Namibia Red Cross attends coordination meetings organized by the Regional Emergency Management Unit (REMU), and is giving feedback to headquarters on a regular basis. It is anticipated that relief items such as tents, water purification tablets, insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs), blankets and jerry cans will be needed. Specific amounts of these items as well as pre-positioning of emergency stocks in the Caprivi warehouses are yet to be determined.

Namibia: Floods and Cholera; Information Bulletin no. 01/2007

The Federation regional delegation in Harare has deployed a representative to assist the NRC for a period of one month. Owing to reports of impending abnormal floods in Caprivi Region, a Federation representative joined the team deployed to Caprivi, on 18 February 2007, to assist in preparation and pre-positioning of relief items. Other members of the team include a programme manager, a water and sanitation (WatSan) officer and two regional disaster response team (RDRT) members.

Items to be pre-positioned in Caprivi warehouse include 600 ITNs, 1,000 blankets, 40 tents, 1,000 tarpaulins, 30,000 water purification tablets (single doses), 150 jerry cans, 20 life jackets, water resistant torches, batteries, helmets with lights, gas lamps and oral rehydration salts (ORS). Communication radios will be checked to ensure they are functional, both at the headquarters and the Caprivi office. Support staff will also be mobilized when necessary.

In response to the cholera outbreak, staff and volunteers from the Kunene regional Red Cross office have been conducting community mobilization activities, and have supplied 1,000 water purification tablets and some jerry cans. The situation is reported to be under control. The staff is part of the coordinating team at the regional level.

On 13 February 2007, NRC attended a press conference at the Ministry of Health (MoH), in Windhoek, to discuss the cholera outbreak in Omusati Region and to agree on a plan of action. The national society will conduct an assessment of the situation in Omusati Region and place Ohangwena Region on alert for a possible cholera outbreak, as it is borders Angola.

At the moment, the NRC has 11 RDRT trained members available for deployment. The Federation regional delegation in Harare is closely monitoring the situation and has put other RDRT members on standby. However, the regional delegation and the national society need to replenish the disaster preparedness stock, which has been depleted by dispatches in response to several disasters in the region since the beginning of the year.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- ***In Namibia:*** Razia Essack-Kauaria, Secretary General, Namibia Red Cross, Windhoek; Email: secgen@redcross.org.na; Phone +264.6.1.235.216; Fax +264.61.228.949
- ***In Harare:*** Françoise Le Goff, Head of Southern Africa Regional Delegation, Harare; Email françoise.legoff@ifrc.org; Phone +263.4.70.61.55, +263.4.72.03.15; Fax +263.4.70.87.84
- ***In Geneva:*** John Roche, Federation Regional Officer for Southern Africa, Africa Dept., Geneva; Email john.roche@ifrc.org; Phone +41.22.730.44.40; Fax +41.22.733.03.95.

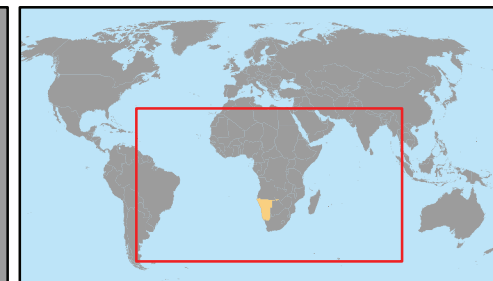
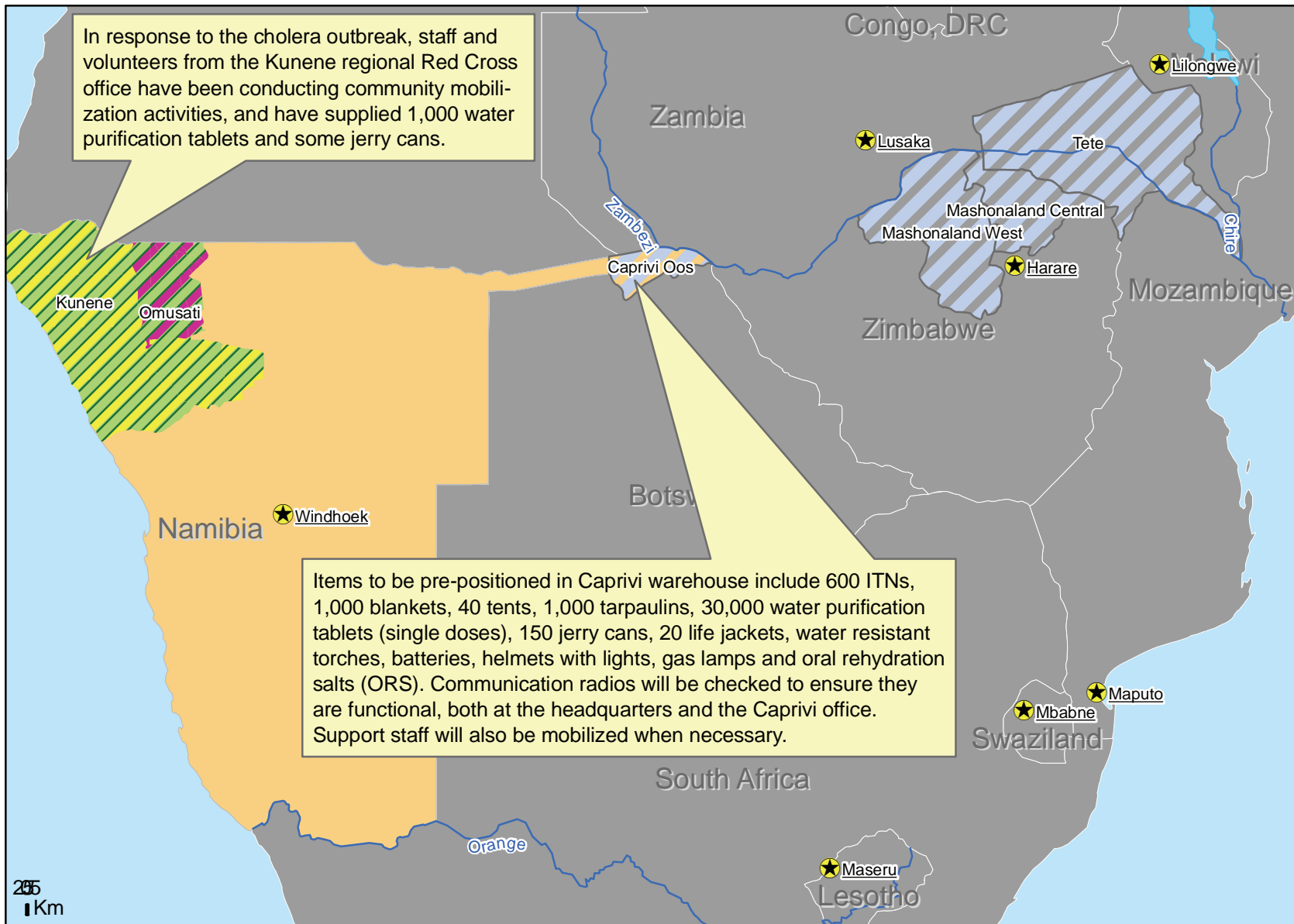
All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#)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

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

<[Map below; click here to return to the title page](#)>



Namibia: Floods and cholera



- Capitales
- Major River
- Cholera cases in Kunene
- Cholera cases in Omusati
- Flood prone areas

205
 | Km

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, GIST, Federation