

# EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

Appeal no. 09/04  
(provisional)  
1 April 2004

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 181 countries.

### In Brief

**THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL PROVISIONALLY SEEKS  
CHF 797,000 (USD 629,201 OR EUR 511,688)  
IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES  
TO ASSIST 50,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 5 MONTHS**  
*(click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget)*

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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For further details please contact:

- Razia Essack-Kauaria, Secretary General, email [secgen@redcross.org.na](mailto:secgen@redcross.org.na); Phone 264 61 235 216; Fax 264 61 228 949
- Alasan Senghore, Head of Southern Africa Regional Delegation, Harare; email [ifrczw02@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrczw02@ifrc.org); Phone 263 4 70 61 55/6; Fax 263 4 70 87 84
- Terry Carney, Federation Regional Officer, email [terry.carney@ifrc.org](mailto:terry.carney@ifrc.org); Phone 41 22 730 4298, Fax 41 22 733 0397

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

### The Situation

Following heavy rains during the month of March 2004, the Zambezi River<sup>1</sup> started to rise to dangerous levels. Localized floods were reported in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, but the greatest current concern is in the Caprivi Strip in northeastern Namibia where authorities claim it is the worst floods in the area since 1958 ([click here to go to the attached map](#)). According to authorities in Namibia, two people died on Tuesday 30 April. Namibian hydrology authorities' records indicate that the water level in the river reportedly rose to 6.71 metres, and continued increasing at a rate of some 10-15 cm per day.

<sup>1</sup>The Zambezi originates in the highlands of Angola and Zambia, from where it flows into Namibia's Caprivi Strip, through the borders between Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, before reaching Mozambique where it finally empties into the Indian Ocean.

## **Nambia: Floods in Caprivi; Appeal (provisional) no. 09/2004**

The most affected areas in the Caprivi Strip are the Kabbe and Katima constituency located in the low-lying areas along the Zambezi. Previous severe flooding in this area (May 2003) resulted in some 12,000 people displaced. There are fears that the situation will deteriorate further as the water levels usually peak around the end of April during the annual rainy season, and the worst may be yet to come. Those affected have been shifting their belongings from flooded areas to higher ground. There is limited shelter currently available for these families, who are temporarily settling in the open, underneath trees, with limited protection from the heavy rains.

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the area is 43%. There is a significant fear that contamination of water sources will provoke an outbreak of water borne diseases and malaria, deepening the vulnerability of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) in the area. It is imperative that the affected people maintain access to clean water, blankets and protection from mosquitos. Most of the population of the area rely on subsistence farming, and chronic food insecurity prevails in the region. The flooding threatens this year's harvest.

According to Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) sources, the water continues to rise even in areas that don't normally experience flooding. Responding to a request from the NRCS, the Federation is launching this preliminary appeal to deliver immediate assistance to those most in need, and pending further details and reports from the RDRT assessment team.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

CHF 60,000<sup>2</sup> was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the NRCS to begin relief and assessment activities. A Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) consisting of three members from the Namibia Red Cross and one from the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross, and supported by the Federation's regional disaster response officer and information delegate, has been operational on the ground since Monday 29 March. The team is in the process of completing an initial assessment, supporting governmental assessment and action. The team has visited much of the worst affected areas. The floodwaters are rapidly closing in on low-lying areas, and flooding has occurred in a matter of hours in some places visited. The team leader, who also participated in last year's flood operation, has confirmed that the situation is much worse this year.

The local government has faced some difficulties in providing the necessary transport for assessment teams, but will make 5 boats available (as of 31 March). The authorities have provided transport support in the form of helicopters from Windhoek to reach the most remote areas. This should make it possible to estimate the exact numbers of people affected.

The NRCS arranged with the National Emergency Management Unit to transport the following relief items from the national society warehouse in Windhoek to Katima Mulilo on Saturday, 27 March: 128 tents, 50 jerry cans, and 52 mosquito nets.

The NRCS regional manager is also chairing the National Land and Shelter committee. The Federation's regional delegation in Harare is currently purchasing water purification tablets, jerry cans, and mosquito nets to support an initial 1,000 families.

### **Coordination**

The NRCS and the Federation will work in close collaboration with the national and regional emergency management unit, the UN (UNICEF) and other agencies to ensure that shelter, food and safe drinking water are delivered to those affected.

### **Immediate needs**

As more rains and flooding are expected in the coming days and weeks, there is an urgent need for the following additional emergency relief supplies to respond to the needs of some 50,000 people affected by the floods:

- 12,000 blankets.

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<sup>2</sup> Information Bulletin no. 1 erroneously identified a DREF allocation of CHF 94,500. The correct amount is CHF 60,000.

## **Nambia: Floods in Caprivi; Appeal (provisional) no. 09/2004**

- 1,500 tents.
- 5,000 tarpaulins.
- 8,000 jerry cans.
- 12,000 mosquito nets.
- 3 New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK).
- 80,000 bars of soap.
- 3,000 packets of chemical pesticide for indoor residual spraying (volunteers will be trained to assist to spray the households for the community in the affected areas).

Any supplies remaining after the operation will be used to reinforce the NRCS's emergency buffer stock.

## **The proposed operation**

### **Objectives, activities planned, and expected results**

The operation will focus on the immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance in the form of specifically targeted relief items to selected beneficiaries pending their return to their homes. The operation, developed in close co-ordination with the NRCS and local authorities, will provide support to approximately 10,000 families for 5 months. The overall co-ordination of the project will be undertaken by the NRCS, and staff and volunteers from the corresponding branches will implement activities. There will also possibly be a Federation presence in the form of a delegate to support the implementation and reporting of the operation.

## **Health**

### **Objective: To prevent and control the spread of malaria.**

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- procure and distribute 12,000 mosquito nets to 10,000 households.
- mobilize and educate communities on awareness, protection, and the environmental/vector control measures.

## **Water-sanitation**

### **Objective 1: To minimize the risk and outbreak of water born diseases, and improve access to safe water.**

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- distribute 3.6 million water purification tablets to 10,000 households (one tablet per person/day for 60 days). Each tablet disinfects 20 litres of water.
- distribute 80,000 bars of soap to improve sanitary conditions.

### **Objective 2: To provide water containers for the affected families.**

Activity planned to reach this objective: distribute 8,000 jerry cans for 10,000 families affected by the floods.

## **Relief distributions – basic relief items**

### **Objective: To provide blankets to those affected by the floods.**

Activity planned to reach this objective: distribute 12,000 blankets to 10,000 families.

## **Shelter**

### **Objective: To provide shelter material (tarpaulin) for 10,000 families.**

Activity planned to reach this objective: distribute 5,000 tarpaulins to those whose houses have been destroyed.

## **Capacity of the National Society, and capacity building within this appeal**

The NRCS was established following a parliamentary act in 1991. It is auxiliary to the government and focuses on assisting vulnerable communities in line with the Federation. The NRCS has developed a Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), which will be the basis for the development of a Cooperation Agreement Strategy in 2004. The

**Nambia: Floods in Caprivi; Appeal (provisional) no. 09/2004**

national society is working in partnership with the Belgium, Spanish, and Netherlands Red Cross Societies as well as the Namibian government, Soul City (NGO), Bristol Meyers Squibb (pharmaceutical company) and the Social Marketing Association (NGO).

Any additional needs that may require further amendments to this appeal will be reflected in Operations Updates.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

The primary responsibility for monitoring and evaluation is with the NRCS, supported by the Federation's regional delegation in Harare.

**Budget summary**

See Annex 1 for details.

Abbas Gullet  
Director  
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala  
Secretary General

**[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)**

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY**

APPEAL No. 09/2004

**Namibia - floods**

TYPE	VALUE
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>IN CHF</b>
Shelter constructions (tents, tarpaulins)	280,000
Clothing textiles (blankets, mosquito nets)	134,000
Water and sanitation (purification tablets etc.)	50,000
Medical first aid (health kits)	20,000
Utensils tools (jerrycans)	35,000
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>519,000</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>	
Computers telecom. equipment	5,000
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	52,000
<b><u>TRANSPORT STORAGE VEHICLE COSTS</u></b>	
Transport and storage	100,000
Vehicle costs	20,000
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	
Expatriate staff	36,000
National staff	30,000
<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE GENERAL SERVICES</u></b>	
Travel related expenses	10,000
Information expenses	5,000
Administrative general expenses	20,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>	<b>278,000</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>	<b>797,000</b>
<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET REQUEST</b>	<b>797,000</b>

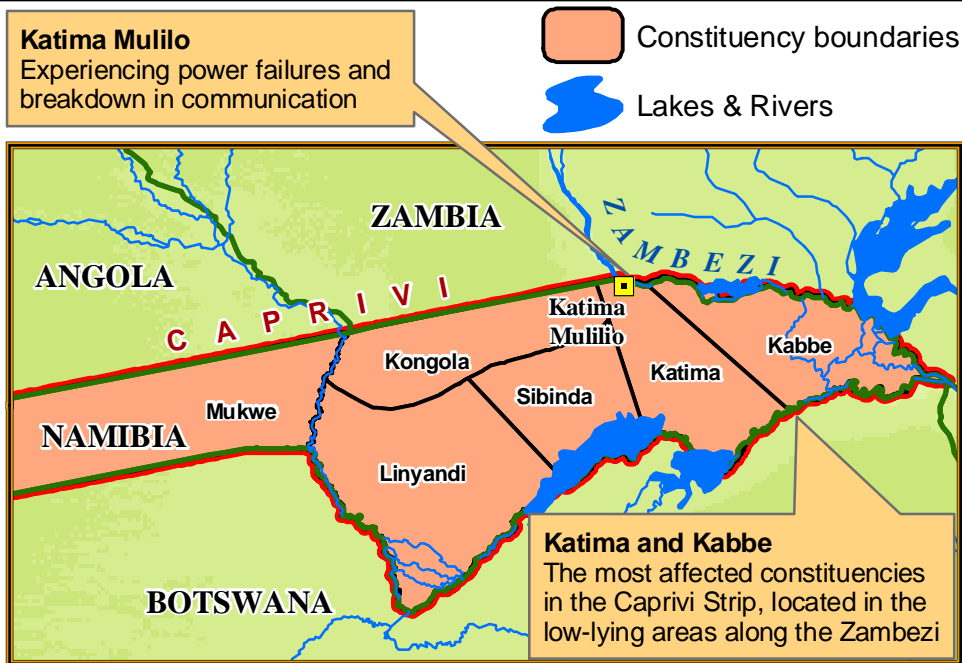


# Namibia - Floods

28 March 2004

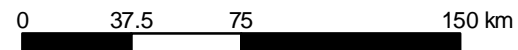
IFRC Information Bulletin No. 1

"The International Federation's Regional Delegation in Harare remains on red alert as the level of the Zambezi River continues to rise, following heavy rains during the month of March."



**Katima Mulilo**  
Experiencing power failures and breakdown in communication

**Katima and Kabbe**  
The most affected constituencies in the Caprivi Strip, located in the low-lying areas along the Zambezi



## Caprivi Region:

Localized floods have already been reported in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, but the greatest current concern is in the Caprivi Strip in north-eastern Namibia where authorities claim it is the worst flooding in the area since 1958. The water level in the river has risen to 6.71 metres and continues to rise some 10-15 cm per day. In May 2003 the river burst its banks and displaced some 12,000 people. This year's floods have already affected more people than last year's. The current water level is more than 2 metres higher than during last year's flood.

Source: IFRC Information Bulletin No. 1  
Namibia - Floods  
28 March 2004

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations