

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## NAMIBIA: Polio outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRNA002  
16 June, 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**Summary:** CHF 55,247 (USD 45,609 or EUR 35,437) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 16 June 2006 to support the Namibia Red Cross Society following an outbreak of polio.

The Namibia Red Cross Society assisted the government-led immunization campaign, which was carried out over three months and attained more than 90% coverage. The National Society efforts focused on social mobilization and immunization. A community-based surveillance system was established, and training provided to community volunteers on case identification and referral. Monitoring at both national and community level was thus reinforced.

As a result of these concerted efforts, the last confirmed case of polio was reported on 26 June 2006.



Children and their guardians waiting for immunisation at a health centre in Windhoek, Namibia  
Photo: Namibia Red Cross

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## The situation

On 2 June 2006, the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) reported an outbreak of polio. The causative organism was determined to be the poliovirus one wild type. Namibia had been polio-free since 2001, but may have been re-infected with an imported virus in 2005. At least 13 regions were affected by the outbreak, and a total of 301 cases reported – of which 281 cases of acute flaccid paralysis and 20 confirmed cases of the wild polio virus.

As a result of the outbreak, the MoHSS conducted polio immunization campaigns in three rounds, during the months of June, July and August 2006. The first two campaigns focused on all age groups, while the last targeted children under five and included measles vaccinations and vitamin A supplements.

The Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) supported the government's immunization efforts through community mobilization, as well as by providing logistical and technical support to the immunization campaign. The DREF allocation enabled the National Society to scale-up its activities, by providing additional transport, human resources and covering related costs (i.e. fuel). NRCS worked in close collaboration with the UN partners, such as the WHO and UNICEF, in support of the MoHSS. As of 26 June 2006, no new case of polio has been reported and the outbreak was deemed to have been contained within Namibia.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From the onset of the polio outbreak, NRCS participated in coordination meetings with the MoHSS, for purposes of monitoring and response. A total of 30 Red Cross volunteers assisted the MoHSS in administering polio immunizations. Over 300 volunteers also assisted to mobilize communities, by disseminating information on the disease and on proper identification of symptoms for referral and early treatment.

NRCS assigned two vehicles, with drivers, to the MoHSS to assist in responding to the outbreak, by reaching out-lying and difficult to access areas. Additional vehicles were used to transport volunteers to the six target provinces for the immunization campaigns. The Federation Zone office deployed a health delegate and health officer to provide technical support during the first series of National Immunization Days (NIDs) in June 2006.

### Progress towards objectives

#### Health

**Objective: To provide support to the MoHSS by ensuring that communities are sensitized about the disease and mobilized for the immunization campaigns in six of the most affected regions (Ohangwena, Caprivi, Kavango, Otjozondjupa, Kunene and Khomas region).**

- Three rounds of immunization were carried out during June, July and August 2006, attaining over 90% rate of coverage. The third round targeted children of less than five years, and combined polio vaccinations with measles and Vitamin A. NRCS volunteers assisted in the administration of the vaccine as well as in identifying suspected polio cases and referring them to health facilities for prompt treatment.
- More than 300 Red Cross volunteers and 30 staff assisted in the three rounds of immunization. The volunteers were active at immunization points, health centres and during house-to-house vaccination visits.
- NRCS volunteers mobilized communities by disseminating information on how to identify the signs and symptoms of polio, and where to go for assistance.
- NRCS provided 14 vehicles for the immunization campaign and social mobilization, in support of MoHSS.
- NRCS volunteers distributed 17,000 basic hygiene messages and more than 400,000 Polio Fact Sheets nationwide. The Red Cross also assisted with translation of the Polio Fact Sheets into five local languages.

#### Impact:

The outbreak was brought under control and contained within the borders of Namibia as a result of the prompt response by the MoHSS, with closely coordinated assistance from the NRCS and the UN partners. Disease surveillance system (both at community and health facility levels) was also

strengthened. All three immunization campaigns recorded more than 90% coverage; as a result of the closely coordinated and effectively run public education and mobilization activities.

**Challenges:**

- Some inconsistency in tallying at certain vaccination points.
- Lack of maps for all areas and difficulty of access due to floods and/or bad weather.
- Refusal of vaccination by individuals due to religious beliefs.

**Conclusion**

**Lessons learned:**

- Evaluation following each round of immunization helped to improve overall coordination and planning for the following round.
- Community mobilisation is a powerful tool that helped in controlling the outbreak and containing it within the country.
- Community mobilization on immunization needs to be integrated into NRCS volunteer health education sessions to create greater awareness.
- The technical support provided by the Federation's Regional Health and Care Delegate and Health and Care Officer enabled the National Society to better coordinate operational activities.

<b>How we work</b>	
<p><i>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</i></p>	
<p>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".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li><li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li><li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li><li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li></ul>
<b>Contact information</b>	
<p><i>For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>In Namibia:</b> Dorkas Kapembe-Haiduwa; Secretary General, Email <a href="mailto:secgen@redcross.org.na">secgen@redcross.org.na</a>; Phone: Tel: +264.61.235.216; Fax: 264.61.228.949</li><li>• <b>In Southern Africa Zone:</b> Françoise Le Goff, Head of Zone Office, Johannesburg; Email <a href="mailto:françoise.legoff@ifrc.org">françoise.legoff@ifrc.org</a>; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9711; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230</li><li>• <b>In South Africa Zone: Disaster Management Department:</b> Farid Aiywar; Email <a href="mailto:farid.aiywar@ifrc.org">farid.aiywar@ifrc.org</a>; Phone: Mobile: +27.83.440.0564 Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230</li><li>• <b>In Geneva:</b> John Roche, Operations Coordinator, Email: <a href="mailto:john.roche@ifrc.org">john.roche@ifrc.org</a>; Phone: +41.22.730.4400, Fax: +41.22.733.03.95</li></ul>	

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

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRNA002 - Namibia - Polio

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2008/4
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2008/4
Appeal	MDRNA002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		55,247				55,247
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
DREF		35,357				35,357
C1. Cash contributions		35,357				35,357
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		35,357				35,357
D. Total Funding = B + C		35,357				35,357
Appeal Coverage		64%				64%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		35,357				35,357
E. Expenditure		-35,357				-35,357
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance A - B
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		55,247					55,247	
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs			5,442			5,442	-5,442	
Total Transport & Storage			5,442			5,442	-5,442	
Personnel								
National Staff			151			151	-151	
National Society Staff			1,063			1,063	-1,063	
Total Personnel			1,214			1,214	-1,214	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation			13,037			13,037	-13,037	
Office Costs			6,321			6,321	-6,321	
Communications			45			45	-45	
Financial Charges			853			853	-853	
Other General Expenses	51,656		6,147			6,147	45,509	
Total General Expenditure	51,656		26,403			26,403	25,253	
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,591		2,298			2,298	1,293	
Total Programme Support	3,591		2,298			2,298	1,293	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>55,247</b>		<b>35,357</b>			<b>35,357</b>	<b>19,890</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>19,890</b>			<b>19,890</b>		