

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° 3
7 May, 2009

Period covered by this
Operations Update: 16 April to
30 April 2009.

Appeal target (current): CHF
2,121,518 (USD 1,878,181 or
EUR 1,403,594).

Appeal coverage:

[<click here to go directly to the revised budget, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- The Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 25 March 2009 for CHF 1,494,980 (USD 1.3 million or EUR 979,849) for six months to assist 20,000 beneficiaries or 4,000 households.
- A revision of the appeal budget to CHF 1,569,797 (USD 1,376,399 or EUR 1,033,080) was made in the first operations update.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): an initial amount of CHF 146,695 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC's) DREF to support the National Society's response.
- A second amount of CHF 129,000 was allocated from the IFRC's DREF to the Namibian Red Cross Society (NRCS) to deliver immediate sanitation services to approximately 13,000 displaced persons living in 31 relocation camps.
- **Appeal budget revision:** this Operations Update (no. 3) reflects an increase to the overall appeal budget to support additionally identified operational costs, including the deployment of the Mass Sanitation emergency response unit (ERU) to the Caprivi region.



A flooded maize field in Lisikile Village, Caprivi, Namibia.

Summary

The Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) continues to provide much-needed assistance to people affected by floods in six regions in the northern part of the country: Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Omusati, which lie in the Cuvelai Basin, as well as in the Kavango and Caprivi regions. More than 700,000 people have been affected, 54,581 persons displaced and, of those displaced, 16,394 persons have been moved to relocation camps. An estimated 92 deaths have been reported and 544,114 people are at risk of long-term food insecurity over the 2009/10 period.

The level of the Zambezi river is slowly subsiding, but communities downstream continue to experience flooding, forcing people to relocate to higher ground and to seek shelter in relocation camps. In the Caprivi, the worse affected areas are still flooded while others, mainly in the Cuvelai Basin, are stabilising.

The NRCS emergency relief operation focuses on the provision of emergency shelter, improving water and sanitation conditions, promoting health and hygiene practices and the relief distribution of non-food items (NFIs). NRCS, with the support of the IFRC, aims to urgently improve the sanitation conditions in 31 of the relocation camps in the Caprivi and Kavango regions, where approximately 9,809 and 3,400 displaced families respectively are temporarily living, according to the latest figures provided by the NRCS.

In support of NRCS, a British Red Cross (BRCS) led Mass Sanitation Module (MSM 20) ERU was deployed on 25 April 2009 to work in the Caprivi and Kavango regions and provide support for latrine construction, strengthen hygiene promotion and provide support on capacity building to ensure sustainable coping mechanisms are put in place. The ERU is finalising a rapid assessment of the sanitation needs in the camps and has begun training volunteers on hygiene promotion. Over a period of two weeks, additional logistical support, including specific support to the ERU, is provided by a BRCS logistician. The ERU deployment was made possible by financial and human resources contributions from the British, Spanish, Irish and Swedish Red Cross Societies, as well as additional DREF funds from the IFRC, and is expected to be implemented over a period of two months with possible completion by June 2009.

The Situation

The north-eastern and north-central regions of Namibia, the Cuvelai basin and the regions of Caprivi and Kavango have received torrential rains since the beginning of 2009. The rains increased the water levels of the Cunene, Chobe, Zambezi and Kavango rivers, which are fed by tributaries originating in Angola and Zambia. The increased water levels have caused severe flooding, with the Chobe, Zambezi and Kavango rivers in Kavango and Caprivi reaching heights not recorded since 1963.

Unlike the rapid onset of the 2008 floods, the impact of the 2009 floods have been cumulative, with more devastation and human suffering due to the prolonged nature of the disaster. This year's floods have damaged more public infrastructure, including roads and bridges that were repaired from the 2008 floods, thereby significantly reducing the affected population's access to health facilities, schools and markets.

The majority of the poor rural population in Namibia lives in the northern areas currently affected by the floods. The cumulative effect of flooding in 2008 and 2009, in combination with the low level of resilience and coping capacity of the population (27 percent of the population live below the poverty line, of which 13.8 percent are severely poor)¹ have severely affected the living conditions of people in northern Namibia.

It is estimated that 23,000 people were affected in the Caprivi region and approximately 9,000 in Kavango. The displaced population is expected to remain in the relocation camps for three to six months, until the water level subsides. As a result of decreasing water levels, some communities in the relocation camps at Oshikoto, Omusati, Oshana and Ohangwena are returning to their homes.

The assessments by the NRCS, the government's Disaster Management Unit and the UN Disaster and Coordination (UNDAC) mission have all highlighted the urgent need for sanitation facilities; the provision of potable water, hygiene kits and water containers for household storage; as well as hygiene promotion in the relocation camps, especially Schuckmannsburg, in order to improve living conditions and to avoid outbreaks of water-borne diseases. The NRCS requested a Mass Sanitation Module (MSM 20) ERU to be deployed due to the challenges experienced in the area of sanitation and hygiene promotion and the lack of equipment and resources (including human resources) to build sufficient latrines quickly enough to satisfy the need in the relocation camps.

Coordination and partnerships

The coordination of the response operation is led 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) coordinates all flood response activities in the four northern regions, led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Local Government and Housing. Coordination meetings are held weekly with all the relevant stakeholders, including the NRCS. In the Caprivi and Kavango regions, the coordination of response activities is done through the REMU, with weekly meetings to share information and progress, with various stakeholders, including the recently deployed sanitation ERU and NRCS.

¹ UNDAC Assessment Report Namibia Floods, April 5 2009

The coordinating bodies are comprised of various line ministries, UN agencies (UNICEF, WHO, UNDP) and 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.

National Society Capacity Building

NRCS has a well established emergency preparedness and response capacity, considering the frequent occurrence of natural disasters, particularly in the north-eastern part of the country. In addition to utilizing its regional disaster response team (RDRT), trained staff and volunteers to work in the emergency operation, an additional RDRT member from Zambia has been mobilized as the operation's coordinator in the Kavango and Caprivi regions. The British-led ERU, which was deployed to Namibia on 25 April 2009, will also help extend and build NRCS's capacity in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion through on the job training and coaching.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

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 are distributed to 4,000 households in six regions for a period of six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute 8,000 blankets, 4,000 mosquito nets, 48,000 bars of soap, 4,000 kitchen sets and 2,000 hygiene kits to relocated school children and lactating mothers. Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

The following table outlines the cumulative relief items that have been distributed since the beginning of the operation:

Regions	Blankets	Mosquito nets	Kitchen Sets	Soap	Hygiene kits
Ohangwena	154	110	-	-	-
Omusati	-	35	83	-	67
Oshana	76	90	-	-	-
Oshikoto	67	328	-	-	-
Kavango	-	623	21	-	81
Caprivi	4,400	10,700	2,183	44,368	4,403
Total Distributed	4,697	11,886	2,287	44,368	4,551

The relief items distributed to date have helped the beneficiaries return to their normal lives. Initial feedback has been positive: the distribution of blankets with the beginning of winter and mosquito nets that contribute to the prevention of malaria were welcomed.

To date all relief items have been distributed from NRCS pre-positioned stock, the regional DP pre-positioned stock in Harare, as well as relief items donated bilaterally by Partner National Societies (PNS). Additional items have been ordered and are expected to arrive in Namibia before mid-May 2009.

Challenges:

- Loopholes in coordination among other stakeholders in terms of their operational plans, mainly resulting from irregular exchange of information at all levels.
- Except for receipt of pre-positioned stock, delays are experienced in the delivery of procured relief items.
- Most of the materials needed, especially construction materials for sanitation, are not readily available in the region making it difficult to implement and maintain SPHERE standards.
- It is difficult to access people stranded in areas that can only be reached by boat, thus making it difficult to distribute relief items.
- Sanitation in relocation camps where the water table is high under the surface is still a challenge. Quick action is needed to avoid the outbreak of water-borne diseases.

- Further relocations of affected populations are caused by the gradually rising water level on the flood plains of the Caprivi Region.

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, preventive, community-level and primary health care services to 4,000 households in six affected areas for six months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Mortality and morbidity as a result of the emergency are reduced in target population and health services are supported through a primary health care oriented programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 20 volunteer modules of the cholera kits towards community-based activities at affected communities under the Ministry of Health (MoH). • 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. • Support the Government organized mass vaccination campaign through social mobilisation activities and or independent monitoring in coordination with MoH/WHO/UNICEF. • Pre-position additional supplies such as cholera kits and ORS sachets as a contingency stock for up to 10,000 persons. • Train volunteers in target branches on Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) and on Epidemic Control for Volunteers training package with emphasis on malaria and water-borne illnesses.
The scope and quality of the National Society involved in health and care services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 150 community-based volunteers on health promotion. • Sustain health promotion campaigns within the affected population focusing on malaria and water-borne diseases targeting 4,000 households in affected areas. • Distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials for health education and hygiene promotion campaigns (such as posters, flyers). • Support reproductive health (RH) and sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) activities, including the protection of women, girls and children. • Train 50 volunteers on emergency health within the next six months.

Progress:

NRCS volunteers trained in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) have been mobilized to provide health and hygiene community mobilization activities. This immediate response has reduced the risk of an outbreak of communicable diseases in the floods stricken areas.

Supporting the initial mobilisation of volunteers, an additional 78 NRCS volunteers, trained in health and hygiene promotion, and water and sanitation practices in Ohangwena, Oshana and Kavango regions, have been mobilized. Preparations are underway to train more volunteers on health emergencies and gender issues, with the support of MoH and Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare. An additional 300 volunteers will be provided with First Aid training.

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"> • Distribute 1,000,000 water purification powder sachets. • Distribute 8,000 household level water storage facilities (i.e. jerry cans) to 4,000 households.
Appropriate sanitation, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage, is provided to 4,000 families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with construction of 300 temporary latrines (in relocation camps). • Assist with construction of 225 temporary bathing shelters (in relocation camps). • Assist with vector control and prevention measures. • Assist in waste disposal measures.
The health status of the population is improved through hygiene promotion activities and behaviour change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 150 community-based volunteers on hygiene promotion. • 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. • Provide IEC material on hygiene promotion (printed materials [posters, flyers, etc], manuals, educational materials, etc).

Progress:

The deployment of the (light) MSM ERU at the end of April 2009 provided NRCS with additional support to improve the provision of sanitation services, including latrine and bath shelter construction, as well as to strengthen hygiene promotion activities. So far the ERU, in close collaboration with NRCS, has made following progress:

- A rapid assessment of most relocation camps in the Caprivi region has been undertaken.
- Action plans have been developed based on the assessments.
- Training has been provided for 70 volunteers on hygiene promotion, covering participatory methods of hygiene promotion, camp management and monitoring and evaluation, and is due to be completed by mid-May.
- Additional activities being planned for include working with children in the camps (i.e. hygiene promotion through drama, song and dance).
- With the financial support of the Swedish Red Cross, additional sanitation materials are being procured locally.

Furthermore, to provide safe water for the affected population, 158,000 water purification tablets have been distributed across all regions, as per the distribution table alongside. The provision of water purification sachets has enabled households to treat contaminated water effectively to avoid the outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases.

Regions	Water purification sachets	Jerry cans (20lts)
Ohangwena	40,000	-
Omusati	20,000	-
Oshana	20,000	-
Oshikoto	-	15
Kavango	9,000	174
Caprivi	69,000	173
Total Distributed	158,000	362

Region	Pit latrines constructed	Bathing Shelters
Ohangwena	8	6
Omusati	7	9
Oshana	12	12
Kavango	27	15
Caprivi	32	58
Total	86	100

A total of 86 pit latrines and 100 bathing shelters have been constructed in the relocation camps established by the government. The table alongside outlines their location:

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

Challenges:

- The high water table remains between 0.5 and 1 metre under the surface, presenting a challenge with regard to the construction of latrines; therefore special built-up pit latrines need to be constructed.
- Additional latrines are needed in the camps as the number of displaced people continues to rise.
- There is a shortage of trained manpower on latrine construction.
- The National 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 shelter material and are living with dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute tents to 1,000 families. • Provide 3,000 households with tarpaulins and shelter kits. • Shelter training provided to National Society staff and volunteers.

Progress:

In addition to the items provided by the NRCS, staff and volunteers have assisted in the establishment of management systems for the 31 relocation camps, as indicated by the table alongside.

Regions	Tents	Tarpaulins	Plastic sheeting
Ohangwena	-	-	-
Omusati	-	67	-
Oshana	-	-	-
Oshikoto	-	-	-
Kavango	50	81	-
Caprivi	92	4,403	257
Total Distributed	142	4,551	257

Challenges:

- The target of providing temporary shelter to 4,000 households remains unfulfilled. However, when the National Society distributed shelter kits to the displaced families at the beginning of the operation, they noticed that the tools inside the shelter kits were not being utilized. NRCS decided to distribute tarpaulins and plastic sheeting instead of the full shelter kit. The National Society used 1,000 family tents that were available as DP stock and distributed two tarpaulins per household to the remaining 1,500 households.

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 coordinated the mobilization of relief goods, received all incoming goods, provided centralized warehousing and standard vehicles as required, and coordinated the efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure and distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. Monitor and evaluate relief activities and report on relief distributions. Establish appropriate warehouses and arrange transportation to distribution points.

Progress:

The IFRC's logistics department in the Southern African Zone office, in liaison with the Regional Logistics Unit in Dubai, handles the procurement and mobilisation of relief items. Additional relief items are currently in the pipeline, either as in-kind donations or separate procurements. Funds allowing, the remaining needs will be ordered as soon as possible (refer to the table below).

Item	Total Planned under the (revised) Emergency Appeal	No. dispatched (Received)	No in pipeline (IKD / procured)	Outstanding needs / to be ordered
Blankets	8,000	2,000	3,200	2,800
Mosquito netting	4,000	3,000	-	1,000
Jerry cans	8,000	3,000	2,000	3,000
Kitchen sets	4,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
Shelter kits	3,000	1,500	-	00
Tarpaulins (4x6)	3,000	00	2,000	1,000
Family tents*	1,000	-	1,000	0
Water purification tablets	1,000,000	-	250,000	750,000
First aid kit	50	-	-	50
Cholera kit	20	-	-	20
Soap & detergent	48,000	5,328		45,672
Hygiene kits	2,000	-	1,000	1,000

*Prefabricated shelter tents (4x4)

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Objective: To better profile and position the National Society as a leading organization in disaster management in Namibia

Expected results	Activities planned
<p>Increase the visibility and positioning of the NRCS in strategic areas and create new resources to strengthen general communication.</p> <p>Forster synergies and facilitate joint approaches through engaging different partners in the operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send stories about the Red Cross response activities to the media. • Give press releases as necessary; organize radio/TV talk on response activities carried out. • Share reports/ updates with all the partners, national and international. • Produce a response brochure/DVD after three months.

Progress

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

- Press conference held on the 20 March 2009 at the NRCS head office for the launch of the Public Appeal.
- The Emergency Appeal was launched at the IFRC Zone Office in Johannesburg, and covered by 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 conducted to disseminate information about the floods.
- Regionally, interviews have been conducted with various news agencies highlighting the need for further assistance for the affected populations.
- The Southern Africa Zone Office information officer has arranged a media tour to the affected regions.
- One Africa Television and The Namibian interviewed the MSM 20 ERU on 28 April. The National Radio channel was due to conduct an interview on 30 April 2009.

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:

- **In Namibia:** Dorkas Kepembe-Haiduwa; Secretary General, Email secgen@redcross.org.na; Phone: Tel: +264.61.235.216; Fax: 264.61.228.949
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- **In Geneva:** John Roche, Operations Coordinator, Email: john.roche@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4400, Fax: +41.22.733.03.95

For Pledges towards this floods operation:

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For Media enquiries:

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

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Namibia Floods

MDRNA004

RELIEF NEEDS

500	Shelter	389,954
505	Construction Materials	
510	Clothing & Textiles	57,580
520	Food	0
523	Seeds & Plants	0
530	Water & Sanitation	471,289
540	Medical & First Aid	20,000
550	Teaching Materials	7,692
560	Utensils & Tools	145,240
570	Other Supplies & Services	84,480
571	Emergency Response Units (ERUs)	266,000
Total Relief Needs		1,442,235

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	19,350
592	Distribution & Monitoring	86,250
593	Transport & Vehicles Costs	130,000

PERSONNEL

600	International Staff	69,954
640	Regionally Deployed Staff	66,500
661	National Staff	
662	National Society Staff	47,846
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	2,600
740	Communication Costs	4,120
750	Professional Fees	0
760	Financial Charges	
790	Other General Expenses	76,265

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

599	Programme Support - PSR	137,899
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Total Operational Needs **679,283**

Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) **2,121,518**
