

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Namibia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRNA006
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000007-NAM
14 March, 2011

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 and 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.

CHF 296,472 have been requested from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to 4,000 families.

Summary: The start of 2011 saw the escalating rise in the major rivers in the country. The Orange River in the southern part of the country has risen up to 9.70m. To date a total of 12,000 people living in Karas region along the river have been relocated to higher ground.



Figure 1: Flooded homesteads in Kavango photo/NRCS

In the north, the Zambezi and Kavango rivers levels are rising at an alarming rate. The levels in the two rivers are higher than they were during the same period last year. The observed trend to date suggests that the maximum levels reached last year in the two rivers might be exceeded this year. See figures below.

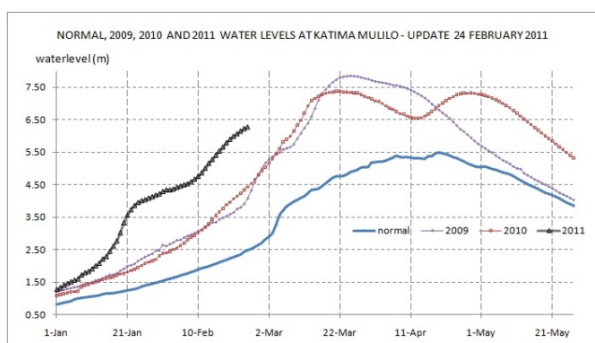


Figure 2: Three year comparison for Zambezi river

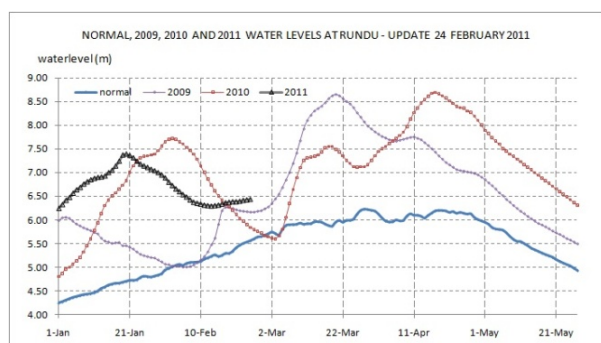


Figure 3: Three year comparison of the two rivers

So far, an additional 1,370 have been relocated in Caprivi region, resulting in at least 13,370 people so far relocated to safer areas. It is expected that more people in the affected areas will be relocated, with a planning figure of over 20,000 based on evidence from previous years.

Through the DREF the Namibia Red Cross is targeting support to 4,000 families (20,000 people) in the Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana regions in the north as well as the Karas Region in the south. To enable effective response to the floods, the National Society requires support that will help the preparedness and response to the operation. The following activities are planned to be carried out:

- Procurement of relief items – 4,000 blankets, 4,000 tarpaulins, 360,000 water makers, 2,000 jerry

- cans, 4,000 hygiene parcels and 36,000 bars of soap.
- Training 100 volunteers on hygiene promotion and health education Hygiene promotion sessions in the camps by the volunteers (which is crucial to prevent further water borne disease outbreaks).
- Construction of extra 60 latrines and 60 bathing shelters at the planned relocation camps.
- Deployment of RDRT trained staff to the affected regions.
- Supporting the local staff and the disaster response structures in the affected Regions

This operation is expected to be implemented over a period of 3 months, and will therefore be completed by end of June 2011. The final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by September 2011). However, the period may be extended depending on the evolving situation.

[<click here for DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

The escalation of water levels in major rivers is threatening the lives of communities along their banks. This trend is similar to that of 2009 flood disasters which resulted in an emergency being declared. The situation is likely to deteriorate further, with forecasts indicating a possibility of more rains in these major river catchments, increasing the likelihood that numbers at risk in 2011 will exceed those in 2010. Table 1 compares 2010 figures with the extreme flood year of 2009.

Table 1: Population affected during 2009 and 2010 floods

Region	Total population		People affected		People in relocation camps	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Caprivi	87,058	87,058	26,263	50,000	19,738	17,109
Kavango	257,235	257,235	9000	30,000	4,718	5533
Oshana	261,323	261,323	133,703	-	1,296	0
Omusati	243,657	243,657	228,842	-	564	0
Oshana	176,586	176,586	161,916	30,000	2,478	1140
Oshikoto	181,304	181,304	117,818	-	138	0
Total	1,207,163	1,207,163	677,542	110,000	28,932	23,782

These figures suggest the likelihood of more than 20,000 people (about 4,000 households) to be relocated.

NRCS capacity in emergency response has improved greatly. The National Society has responded swiftly and effectively by mobilizing resources (people, money and other assets) to address the sanitation needs of communities who have been permanently relocated to higher ground. This was made possible through the Zambezi River Basin Initiative (ZRBI).

The society participated in the initial national assessment and identified the likely needs in the six regions. Rapid action was then undertaken to provide support to the community that have relocated. The society through the ZRBI also engaged the communities in the identification of locations on higher ground and preparations of these areas as reception centres during disasters. However water and sanitation still pose a challenge. To date a total of 31 villages have relocated permanently to higher ground.

The Society has started mobilizing the regional staff and trained volunteers in Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Kavango and Caprivi Regions. To date the staff and volunteers have started with the assessment which will inform response mechanisms.

Some of the preliminary findings suggest that most of the flood plains in Caprivi Region are already submerged and the villages have started relocating to the usual reception centres. The government has activated the contingency plan and efforts are in place to start with the evacuation of the elderly to relocation centres. All schools in the flood plains are currently being relocated.

Monitoring and assessments continue in these Regions. The Society relief stock levels are at this stage low considering the rate at which the situation is unfolding. To date a total of 12,000 people have been hit by floods along the Orange river, which is the first time the area as been hit by such a disaster. This requires the society to obtain more resources to effectively respond to the disaster should the situation deteriorate.

Coordination and partnerships

The Society has worked closely with the Regional Disaster Risk Management Committee (RDRMC). The Regional coordination is headed by the Regional Council through the Regional Governor who is the chairperson of the RDRMC of which NRCS forms part of. Based on the established contingency plan the regions have different sectors which are headed by sectors from ministerial structures and NRCS provide the supporting auxiliary role as deemed necessary through its fundamental principles governing the Red Cross. In the Caprivi Region the contingency plan has been activated. The technical team been established and has started with the assessment of the areas in the region. The Society forms part of the assessment team.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

NRCS has grown in capacity in emergency response, considering the frequent occurrence of natural disasters, especially in the Caprivi Region. The Namibia Red Cross Society has at its disposal trained staff and volunteers in disaster response. These teams have been able to respond to the recurrent disasters and hence have experienced and acquired skills to respond to these disasters. This was also evident in the simulation exercise conducted in the Caprivi region last year with the support from the Office of the Prime Minister, OCHA and the Regional Councils. More volunteers and staff were also trained on VCA, CBHFA through the ZRBI programme. To date the Society has a pool of more than 4,000 volunteers who can be mobilised country wide to respond to disasters. Although some trainings have been conducted to capacitate these volunteers there is still a need to increase the capacity of these volunteers in areas of water and sanitation, hygiene promotion and first aid which is vital in disaster situations.

The Society has already started responding in providing water purification sachets, blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene packs to the affected communities along the Orange River in the south and Caprivi in the north.

The Society requires support to restock the relief items and also to facilitate an effective response mechanism. The National Society has started responding to the disaster as rapidly and effectively as possible, through the mobilization of limited resources (people, money and other assets) and used the networking and coordination in responding to the recurrent disasters. Plans are also underway to launch a national appeal to supplement the DREF application.

The needs/population affected

Details of the population already relocated are presented in the table below;

Table 2: Population Affected (16/02/2011)

Region	Relocation Camp	No of households	Total Beneficiaries
Karas	Aussenkehr		12,000
Caprivi	Schukmansburg	142	762
	School kids at Schuckmansburg		608
	Kapolota	9	40
Total population relocated to date			13,370

These presented figures were collected as up to the 16th of February 2011. Registration is still ongoing and more people are being relocated to higher ground. The figures are expected to increase in the coming days.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome

4,000 flood affected households are provided with appropriate non-food relief items.

Outputs:

- Distributions are carried out according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups, and are based on careful registration and a system/process that controls and monitors, and record the movement of such goods.

Activities planned:

- Conducting joint rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments in the affected
- Conducting joint rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments in the affected regions
- Distributing 4,000 blankets, 36,000 soaps and to the relocated school kids 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

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion**Outcome:**

The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 4,000 families in the seven affected Regions for 4 months.

Outputs:

- Water purification and storage solutions are distributed to affected households, who are trained in their use
- Access to safe sanitation is increased
- Affected populations are exposed to coherent messaging on good hygiene practice

Activities planned:

- Distributing water purification powder to 4,000 households (30 sachets per household per month for 3 months).
- Distributing household level water storage (i.e. jerry cans).
- Assisting with construction of 60 temporary latrines and bathing shelters.
- Training 100 community-based volunteers on health and hygiene promotion using the PHAST in emergencies methodology.
- Carry out community training on use of water treatment chemicals.
- Conducting hygiene and health promotion campaign within the affected population focusing on behaviour change.
- Providing information, education and communication (IEC) material on hygiene promotion (printed materials (posters, flyers, etc), manuals, educational materials, etc).

Emergency shelter**Outcome:**

Within the first three months of the operation, 4,000 of the most vulnerable flood-affected families in Namibia are living in a safe and healthy environment.

Activity and output planned:

- Distribution of 4,000 tarpaulins and tents to the affected families.

Emergency health**Outcome:**

Health risks, morbidity and mortality resulting from the emergency are reduced among the affected population.

Outputs:

- **Health promotion, preventive, community-level and PHC services to households are provided for three months in affected regions.**

Activities planned:

- Train 100 community-based volunteers on health promotion as well as hang up/keep up.

- Sustain health promotion campaigns within the affected population focusing on malaria and water-borne diseases targeting 4,000 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 quick referrals

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 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Namibia: Dorkas Kapembe-Haiduwa, Secretary General; Tel no +264 61 413750; email: dorkas.kapembe-haiduwa@redcross.org.na
- In IFRC Southern Africa Region: Ken Odur, Regional Representative, Johannesburg, Email: ken.odur@ifrc.org, Phone: +27.11.303.9700, Fax: + 27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- In IFRC Africa Zone: Head of Operation; Dr. Asha Mohammed, Email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org; Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- In IFRC Southern Africa Region: Disaster Management Coordinator; Farid Abdulkadir Email: farid.aiywar@ifrc.org; Phone: Mobile: +27.83.440.0564 Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- In Geneva: Christine South, Operations Coordinator for Southern Africa region; phone: Tel +41 22 730 4529; fax: +41 22 730 0395; email: christine.south@ifrc.org

[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

Namibia Floods (MDRNA006)		
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>		
Shelter		63,908
Construction Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles		18,200
Food		0
Seeds & Plants		0
Water & Sanitation		52,100
Medical & First Aid		2,400
Teaching Materials		0
Utensils & Tools		19,280
Other Supplies & Services		54,000
Total Relief Needs		209,888
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles Purchase		0
Computers & Telecom Equipment		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>		
Storage - Warehouse		2,400
Distribution & Monitoring		2,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs		18,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
International Staff		3,500
Regionally Deployed Staff		0
National Staff		0
National Society Staff		23,350
Consultants		0
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>		
Workshops & Training		3,500
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>		0
Travel		0
Information & Public Relations		10,063
Office running costs		1,500
Communication Costs		3,000
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges		0
Other General Expenses		0
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		0
Programme Support - PSSR		19,271
Total Operational Needs		86,584
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)		296,472
Available Resources		0
Net Request in CHF		296,472

