

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

30 November 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.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.16/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: June to November 2004;
Appeal coverage: 5.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 6,210,867 (USD 5,173,600 or EUR 4,060,700).
[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal target: CHF 6,574,216 (USD 4,937,451 or EUR 4,231,874)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- Namibia: Caprivi Floods, Emergency Appeal 09/2004 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/0904.pdf
- Namibia, 2005 Appeal no. 05AA013 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA013.pdf

Programme summary: The Namibia Red Cross¹ initiatives are in line with the government national policies and ARCHI 2010. The main focus in health and care is HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, and water and sanitation activities. The approach focuses on community mobilisation and awareness, volunteer recruitment and, service delivery activities such as caring for the terminally ill, psychosocial support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), food security, voluntary counselling and testing services (VCT) and the promotion and distribution of condoms.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents).

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>

¹ Namibia Red Cross – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=122>

Operational Developments

Namibia experiences a serious HIV/AIDS epidemic. The HIV prevalence rate is 21.3% which varies considerably with some regions such as Caprivi with as high as 43% and Kunene at 9%. The main challenges in addressing HIV/AIDS are poverty and limited resources. Some of the challenges are related to cultural practices, cross border trade, gender inequality, alcohol and substance abuse.

The Namibia Red Cross addresses basic needs of the most vulnerable communities in the areas of health and care, disaster preparedness and response, and the promotion of fundamental principles forms part of all activities. During the reporting period the national society reached 11,000 direct beneficiaries particularly those made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, natural disasters and social marginalisation. According to feedback from progress reports the positive impact made towards improving the quality of lives of vulnerable people particularly people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), OVC and the reduction of other diseases, such as water and sanitation related diseases is apparent. This is due to the mobilisation of communities to address social issues in their respective villages and strengthening of volunteers' capacities; currently at 4,000 volunteers countrywide.

The national society operates in seven regions; Caprivi, Kavango, Kunene, Khomas, Ohangwena, Otjozondjupa and Karas. Of these regions five are in the northern part of Namibia, where 70% of the population is situated and have lowest human development index.

All regional offices have a regional manager with technical support being provided from headquarters through the three departments; finance and administration, programmes, operations and quality assurance and communication and resource mobilisation. There are national programme coordinators in each programme; three officers in health and care, one disaster manager, one tracing and information dissemination officer and commercial first aid coordinator.

The Namibia Red Cross is committed to building an institution that is financially self-sustainable with strong governance structures, effective and efficient management systems and capacity to deliver services to the most vulnerable countrywide. Its greatest challenges continues to be the improvement of capacity building of staff and volunteers, branch development and aligning programmes to meet the priority needs of the most vulnerable.

As an auxiliary to the humanitarian services of its government the Namibia Red Cross continues to render services to the most vulnerable. The national society is well placed to promote the understanding of fundamental principles and humanitarian values. The Namibia Red Cross uses every opportunity either publicly or directly with individual stakeholders to disseminate relevant information concerning its interventions.

The Namibia Red Cross joined other Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies in celebrating World First Aid Day on September 11. On the same day, a basic first aid simulation by Red Cross volunteers was held at Maerua Mall in Windhoek. The occasion was used to enlighten the general public on initiatives of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and the Namibia Red Cross in particular.

Health and care

Goal: The general health and reduction of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STI) and other ailments of the vulnerable communities is improved and sustained through integrated community-based health and care interventions among vulnerable communities improved.

Objective: Vulnerability is reduced, care and support improved for 15,000 targeted beneficiaries in 13 regions in areas of HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, malaria, tuberculosis, reproductive health and community-based first aid (CBFA) through integrated and sustainable community-based programmes.

Progress/achievements

HIV/AIDS prevention

During the reporting period more than 498 community meetings (about 900 participants) were conducted by volunteers in the home based care (HBC) project areas. The volunteers also distributed more than 450 pieces of information education communication (IEC) materials and a total of 22,616 male and female condoms were distributed.

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In Karas region south of Namibia, 31 volunteers were recruited and trained in peer education and out of these, eight were trained in edutainment skills. The volunteers will continue to conduct peer education on HIV/AIDS and its underlying causes.

In October, a TV series (Desert Soul) targeting youth and young children between 8-12 age groups was launched and is being broadcasted by the national television twice a week. The programme addresses issues related to health and development. More than 37% of Namibians have access to TV representing 660,000 people who could be reached by the project countrywide. The Desert Soul project also covers health and care programmes through mass media covering print television and radio.

Care and support

The HBC projects being implemented in Khomas, Ohangwena, Grootfontein and Caprivi continue to provide care and support to 4,300 clients. Approximately 10,000 OVC are registered within the HBC projects and 80 of them benefit from a drop-in-centre in Kavango region. A total of 377 OVC have received education support. Through a well-established referral system between the ministry of women, child and welfare and the Ministry of Health and social services more OVC are being provided with additional support such as school and health fees exemption by the government.

A staff member from Ohangwena and Khomas and a volunteer from Caprivi regions received training in Memory project approaches. There are plans to train more HBC volunteers and clients in memory approaches. The main objective of the development of memory work for PWLHA and OVC is to provide psychological support.

Nutrition

Volunteers provide information on appropriate nutrition to clients within the HBC projects. Plans to start self-help projects are underway. The HBC implemented in Caprivi has a food security component where clients on antiretroviral drugs (ART) are initially provided with food parcels for a period of six months, being attached to more long-term food security activities such as vegetable gardening, with the help of support groups. During the reporting period, 76 people have been provided with food parcels and six support groups were formed.

Voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and highly active anti-retroviral treatment (HAART) activities

The VCT centre in Caprivi managed by the national society has 450 clients of which 186 were tested and were confirmed HIV positive, 110 of these were female and 76 male. The VCT centre is financially supported by Social Marketing Association (SMA) and Bristol Meyers Squib (BMS).

The national society in partnership with PharmAccess International, a Netherlands-based NGO, Stop AIDS, and other local partners including an organization of PLWHA (Lironga Eparu) has embarked on a comprehensive health insurance pilot project. The aim of project is to provide affordable health insurance to national society volunteers, selected community groups and provide assistance to 100 PLWHA who need immediate treatment on HAART. A total of 20 HBC clients in Windhoek (Khommas) are on HAART and will be provided with food parcels for a period of six months. The project will be implemented in four areas of Windhoek, Oshikango, Grootfontein and Luderitz

The Ministry of Health and social services has scaled up the provision of ART and PMTCT to PLWHA countrywide; however, there is great concern with regard to the limited knowledge of communities on ART and PMTCT services. To complement the rolling out of ART and PMTC by the government, the Namibia Red Cross has embarked on an immediate awareness and community preparedness campaign through treatment literacy and 'buddy' programme. Regional managers and programme coordinators received one week training on ART. The training was conducted by Peter Adams who is a South African consultant for HAART for Africa

Advocacy

The national society has managed to advocate for the rights of vulnerable people and PLWHA particularly through radio shows and public demonstrations. However, Namibia Red Cross is working on developing a more structured advocacy programme.

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Impact

The established of HBC projects in Caprivi, Ohangwena, Khomas and Grootfontein has improved the quality of life for PLWHA and OVC, this has been confirmed by a study conducted in Ohangwena and Caprivi region. The PLWHA interviewed highlighted improved hygiene and improved nursing care at home to have impacted positively on their lives. Increased numbers of OVC are now in school as a result of referrals done by the national society to the government.

Training of project managers capacitated them with greater knowledge on antiretroviral. The number of people going for VCT is increasing every month especially in Caprivi region where the volunteers are educating communities on the importance of being tested for them to access ART. There is greater demand for the national society's presence in Karas region where volunteers had been trained in HIV prevention with support from the Spanish Red Cross.

Approximately 100 HBC clients will be put on ART through cooperation with PharmAccess and this will lead to a better quality of life. The project has already started in Khomas HBC project with 20 clients on ART.

Constraints

Delayed confirmation of funds for 2004 activities due to delayed approval of the revised budget by the donors hampered implementation of programme plan where. There are long distances from one HBC project to another and from one household to another and with limited transport it has been difficult to reach out to the clients in time. Implementation only commenced after June 2004.

Disaster Management

Goal: The vulnerability of communities in all disaster prone regions is reduced through the design and implementation of appropriate disaster mitigation activities and disaster response programmes.

Objective: Prevention, preparedness and response capacities of communities living in disaster prone areas are strengthened, through the development of integrated strategies, systems, plans and activities hence reducing their susceptibility.

Progress/Achievements

Namibia Red Cross capacity is enhanced in disaster management through capacity building and community empowerment

Namibia Red Cross volunteers continue to distribute relief items of mosquito nets, soap and jerry cans to people affected by the floods in Caprivi region. Following heavy rains during the months of February and March 2004, the Zambezi River started rising to dangerous levels. Localized floods were reported in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, but the greatest concern was in the Caprivi Strip in north eastern Namibia. The most affected areas were the Kabbe and Katima rural constituencies, located in the low lying areas along the Zambezi. Approximately 20,000 people were affected and 5,000 displaced to four camps managed by the Namibia Red Cross.

A total of ten staff and volunteers received a Red Cross information dissemination training from the ICRC. The training empowered the participants with knowledge and skills on how to disseminate information on the principles of the Red Cross, its mandate, the code of conduct and the correct use of the emblem.

National society capacity in disaster management is strengthened and exhibiting minimum standards of well-prepared National Society in all disaster prone regions.

In Opuwo, Kunene region, 22 staff members from the Ministry of Health and social services and eight Red Cross volunteers were trained in basic first aid. A simulation exercise was held after the course to test how people can integrate theory into practice, as well as applying the acquired skills, knowledge and attitudes.

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Community-based early warning systems (CBEWS) - situation monitoring systems and alert networks are in place

There is a need for CBEWS systems particularly in the Caprivi region, which is currently the region most prone to disasters such as floods, droughts, and the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. The implementation of the project is affected by lack of funding.

Comprehensive contingency plans developed for likely emergencies/key sites

The Namibia Red Cross in collaboration with the ICRC has conducted a two-day emergency response (safer access) workshop in June in preparation for the general and presidential elections scheduled for 15 – 16 November, 2004. A total of 13 regional officers and five headquarters programmes staff attended the training.

In Caprivi region the national society is committed to developing contingency plans focusing on floods as the area is prone to flooding.

Promotion of networking amongst stakeholders and have clarified roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.

The Namibia Red Cross regularly attends regional emergency management unit (REMU) as well as the vulnerability assessment committee (VAC). The emergency management unit (EMU) of the Namibia government set up a task force which met every evening to draw up plans of actions and allocates the necessary logistic needs in response to the Caprivi floods disaster. The EMU played a vital role in coordinating the relief activities during the flood operation.

Namibia Red Cross disaster response capacity at all levels is improved.

The Red Cross responded by sending an RDRT for the Caprivi Floods, which handed over the operation to the Namibia Red Cross after a month on the ground. Red Cross volunteers were mobilized and trained in beneficiary selection and registration, relief distribution techniques and the code of conduct. A total of 30 HBC facilitators from the affected community also provided services in the camps; care for the HIV/AIDS patients, hygiene and health education and support to OVC. The Red Cross has been widely recognised by the Caprivi authorities and the local population for its swift action in response to the emergency and provide necessary leadership and assistance. Please refer to the Federation website to access the Emergency Appeal Operations Updates:

- Appeal 09/2004, Operations Update no. 1 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/090401.pdf
- Appeal 09/2004, Operations Update no. 2 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/090402.pdf

The national society held an emergency response workshop attended by all 13 regional managers and some head office staff in June 2004.

The disaster preparedness programmes' planning, design, implementation and monitoring of relevant local municipalities have improved.

The disaster management officer on the disaster reduction day addressed 50 students and staff at Namibian polytechnic on the importance of disaster and risk reduction focusing on the 2004 Caprivi floods case study.

Regional offices have improved their disaster prevention, preparedness and response capacities.

Information dissemination on disaster management is an on-going effort of the national society and has been intensified since the 2004 Caprivi floods.

The tracing capacity is strengthened and the ability to restore family links improved.

Staff and volunteers are continuously being sensitized in the restoration of family ties. With the new offices in Grootfontein, Namibia Red Cross is now distributing Red Cross messages on tracing in that town and its surroundings.

Impact

The first aid training given to volunteers from Opuwo, Kunene region will help the local communities through the provision of first aid before casualties are taken to the nearest health centre. The training offered to national society staff on safer access contributes to the capacity building efforts for Namibia Red Cross and promotes

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information dissemination on the mandate of the Red Cross, its principles and the role played by the national society during emergencies.

Constraints

The national society disaster management appeal activities have not attracted any funding and this has negatively impacted on the implementation of the planned activities.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: Increased tolerance, respect for human dignity and understanding of humanitarian values and fundamental principles among policy makers and the general public

Objective: Improved knowledge on humanitarian values, fundamental principles and the role of the Red Cross among policy makers and the general public

Progress/Achievements

Increased understanding of humanitarian values and principles

The national society continuously disseminates humanitarian values through meetings with stakeholders and in a weekly radio programme and creates and maintains contacts with both print and electronic media. Specifically the Namibia Red Cross issued four news releases on 6th Pan African Conference, World First Aid Day, International Risk Reduction Day and the launch of the Desert Soul TV series for children. The national society also hosted a press briefing for the 6th Pan African Conference. A 30-minute interview was also granted by national radio focusing specifically on the plan of action adopted at the 6th Pan African Conference and its meaning for Namibian communities. All these media activities covered the national society's programmes and projects while at the same time, emphasising on humanitarian values. The mass media initiative in partnership with Soul City (funding the Desert Soul project) is another major programme that will be used for behavioural change, covering HIV/AIDS, gender, alcohol, domestic violence and other social issues.

Better understanding of Namibia Red Cross' role as an auxiliary to government.

The edutainment unit held dissemination sessions in Karas region with newly recruited volunteers and clearly outlined the national society's auxiliary functions to the public authorities.

Increased understanding of fundamental principles and humanitarian values and Namibia Red Cross mission and application thereof in the Namibian context

The humanitarian values unit is currently working on two newsletters (internal and external), a brochure and a website. It is hoped that all these activities will enhance understanding of humanitarian values and reach a wider audience. Youth volunteers meet with staff regularly to discuss issues related to programmes or projects and establish how they are linked to fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

Increased understanding of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's role, activities and fundamental principles

On Disaster Reduction Day (13 October) the Namibia Red Cross addressed approximately 50 students and staff from the polytechnic of Namibia on disaster management and how other activities link with the movement's fundamental principles and the rendering of assistance to vulnerable communities. The national society continues to promote volunteerism and highlights specific needs among the beneficiaries and raises awareness on the impact of HIV/AIDS especially on women and children.

The ICRC and the Federation continue to build the capacity of the national society in support of its efforts and initiatives to disseminate Movement information to its stakeholders.

Impact

The Namibia Red Cross's cooperation with its beneficiaries, donors, media and other stakeholders has improved, thus mobilizing the power of humanity. More people would like to get involved as volunteers.

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Constraints

Lack of financial resources continue to affect implementation of activities and production of relevant materials such as leaflets, posters, newsletters, translation of the seven fundamental principles into local languages.

Organizational Development

Goal: The lives of vulnerable people in Namibia are improved as the Namibia Red Cross works toward a well functioning national society

Objective: Improved capacity of Namibia Red Cross to design, implement and manage its strategic directions at all levels by 2007.

Progress/Achievements:

Governance and management structures and systems strengthened.

The annual general meeting (AGM) was held on 21 August 2004. At the AGM, the Namibia Red Cross acknowledged the significance of improving the relationship with the government for a better recognition of its auxiliary role. Also recognised the need for developing and improving policies particularly health, youth and volunteer policies and branch development. The meeting emphasised the implementation of programmes involving the vulnerable groups and the youth as stipulated by the constitutions and to embark on resource mobilisation as part of organizational development. The AGM strategic documents will be reviewed and developed within the context of the changing external environment and in addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Effective policies, operational guidelines and management systems in place

The AGM observed that the Namibia Red Cross constitution does not clearly stipulate the roles and responsibilities of regional committees and thus resolved for immediate amendments. The AGM therefore assigned the governing board to expedite this process, by developing provisions in the constitutions that clearly stipulate the functions of the governing board and its relations with the management at all levels.

Namibia Red Cross has functional structures and activities in all 13 regions

The Namibia Red Cross five years strategy will end in 2005, during the national management and review meeting that took place in June 2004, it was resolved that an assessment is to be carried out on the progress of the strategy to pave way for the development of another strategy by November 2004. This activity could only be effectively carried out once the organizational development funds pledged by the Federation are received on time. Currently the national society is working on developing long-term strategies to address HIV/AIDS pandemic in the areas of treatment and advocacy.

Job descriptions for all managers are revised to stipulate performance indicators on which managers can be appraised against; this process is ongoing with other lower positions within the national society. Monitoring and evaluation tools and systems are put in place in the HBC project. The HBC coordinator received one week training to further strengthen the management and evaluation systems.

Impact

In general activities are being implemented professionally and efficiently however more capacity building particularly in the areas of management, finance and computer skills is needed. Once the pledged organizational development support is received this areas will be improved.

Constraints

Civil society in Namibia are faced with number of challenges especially competition for limited resources, this particularly presented by the fact that Namibia is classified as a lower middle income country and therefore regarded to be self sufficient. However this perception is completely distorted by the fact that the country has one of the most skewed income distributions in the world.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page](#)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| | | | | | TOTAL COVERAGE | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|-----|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 6,574,216 | | 5.5% |
| CAPACITY BUILDING FUND | | | | 35,000 | 08.09.04 | ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT |
| SWEDISH - RC | | | | 4,936 | 16.02.04 | PROGRAMME SUPPORT DELEGATE |
| SWEDISH - RC | | | | 83,663 | 16.02.04 | HIV/AIDS DELEGATE IN-COUNTRY COSTS |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 500,000 | SEK | 84,250 | 07.04.04 | HIV/AIDS |
| SWEDISH - GOVT | | 500,000 | SEK | 84,500 | 19.05.04 | HIV/AIDS |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 292,349 | CHF | 4.4% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|---|----------|----------|------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| SWEDISH - RC | | | | 71,000 | 16.02.04 | HIV/AIDS DELEGATE |
| Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete. | | | | | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 71,000 | CHF | 1.1% |

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 0 | CHF | |