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Emergency appeal operations update Namibia: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRNA009	GLIDE n° DR-2015-000130-NAM
Operations update n° 1	Timeframe covered by this update: first 12 days
Date of Issue: 26 October 2015	
Emergency Appeal operation start date: 29 September 2015	Timeframe: 7 Months (October 2015-April 2016)
Appeal budget: CHF 950,205	Appeal coverage: 0 %
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF100,137	
N° of people being assisted: 3,200 households / 11,500 people to be assisted	
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS): 9 Regional Branches in Omusati, Ohangwena, Kavango (East and West), Oshikoto, Kunene, Zambezi, Khomas and Otjozondjupa Regions. NRCS has a total number of 317 Permanent Staff and over 915 Active Volunteers.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The Spanish Red Cross currently operates as a partner National Society with Namibia Red Cross Society on the basis of food security.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Namibian Government through the Office of the Prime Minister (Directorate of Disaster Risk Management). In addition, Faith Based Organisations Council of Churches in Namibia; UN Agencies such as UNICEF, OCHA, WFP, WHO and FAO.	

Appeal History:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 29 September 2015 **CHF 950,205** to enable the IFRC to support the Namibian Red Cross Society (NRCS) to reach 11,500 drought affected people with a focus on interventions on the sectors of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, food security, nutrition and livelihoods for seven months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF **100,137** was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to start up the operations by meeting immediate needs of affected people.
- IFRC, on behalf of Namibia Red Cross would like to appeal to all donors to support the Appeal to enable the NS provide the needed support to the drought affected communities.
- This update provides information regarding the first 12 days of the operation since the launch.

Summary:

Namibia is currently experiencing chronic food insecurity, mostly affecting rural communities, as a result of drought due to an abnormally low rainfall patterns between October 2014 and February 2015 (the active rainfall period for commonly grown crops). In addition, the south and western parts of the country experienced abnormally prolonged dry spells (no rain recorded) between January and February 2015. Although some areas in the north recorded good rainfall, it caused localized floods and heavy rainfall washed away planted seeds, causing poor germination. These rains started late and there were no significant follow up rainfall to support agricultural production.

The Directorate of Disaster Risk Management in the Office of the Prime Minister indicate that the country is experiencing the worst crop performance in eighty years, and indicates that these extremely poor crop harvests are affecting in all dry land crop producing regions.

[<click here to view the contact details >](#)

Coordination and partnerships

- NRCS team plans to launch the Appeal locally on the 14 of October. Stakeholders, such as the government of the Republic of Namibia, UNICEF, UNDP, USAID, have been invited.
- The Appeal launch will also activate the *Namibians helping other Namibians* campaign, which the National Society carried out during the last drought response in 2013. This assisted NRCS in getting funding and in-kind support for the drought response.
- The NRCS team consisting of the DM Manager (team leader), DRR coordinator, the logistics coordinator and the accountant travelled to the Kavango and Kunene regions for field assessment to determine actual needs and to establish areas to carry out the operations. This was done between 4 to 9 October 2015.
- In the Kavango region, the team met the volunteer group that will be involved in the operation of the soup kitchens and also conducting MUAC measurements. In addition, the team also met various stakeholders such as the Regional Governor, the Councillor of Mukwe constituency (Kavango East), the field officer for the Regional Council and Head of Centres for both Omega Clinic and Nkurenkuru Hospital.
- The NRCS team made a presentation to the Governor of Kavango East region explaining the intended operation and also seeking his support during the implementation of the operation.
- The NRCS team made materials inventory of the items that are in both Kavango and Kunene region that will be used in the upcoming soup kitchen operations.
- The team in Kunene also visited identified water rehabilitation sites in addition to visiting the soup kitchen sites.

Operational implementation

Overview

CHF 100,137 was released from DREF funds to help kick-start the operation while funding is being raised to fully address the needs as outlined in the emergency appeal. Southern Africa Regional Office has been providing technical support to NRCS team. Further detailed analysis on output achievements to be monitored over the next few weeks, however, the team is working toward the following operational plan.

NRCS will target the **five regions of Kavango, Kunene, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi**, which are among the worst affected in terms of food insecurity, and are where NRCS can provide added value as they are currently implementing various programmes in all five regions. A total target of 11,500 people/approximately 3,200 households will benefit from meal provision, water rehabilitation and hygiene promotion activities and agricultural support.

The **food security response** strategy includes soup kitchens for 720 households (3,600) people, which will provide one meal a day six days a week. The meal adheres to the minimum SPHERE Standards, with each individual receiving a 0.565kg meal, comprising of maize meal (420g), beans (60g), fish or meat (30g) and cooking oil (30g) fortified with vitamin A. These standards are also in line with the Namibian Emergency Flood Report recommendations developed by the World Food program (WFP) as part of its Technical Assistance to the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management – May 2011/February 2012, which has been used as a baseline for past emergencies. NRCS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, will integrate malnutrition indicators monitoring and measurements including the MUAC Assessment.

NRCS and IFRC discussed cash transfer programming options rather than the soup kitchen methodology, however, NRCS felt best placed to deliver assistance via soup kitchens as NRCS are anticipating a high possibility of getting food donations in-country from the “Namibians Helping Namibians” campaign, which proved highly successful in the previous intervention. Like in some other countries, Namibian donors are more comfortable with in-kind donations. In addition, soup kitchens provide a platform into communities to allow NS staff and volunteers to undertake health promotion and do MUAC assessments. Therefore NS has decided to use soup kitchens as a multi-pronged approach to assisting the communities.

Additionally, NRCS will provide longer term, **food security and livelihood support** via the establishment of five community gardens and provision of gardening inputs per region, which will benefit 100 households and improve nutrition for 500 beneficiaries. Livelihoods will be supported through identification and training of 100 lead farmers. Lead farmers will be identified in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Local Traditional Authorities and local councillors. Lead farmers will be responsible for cascading knowledge and skills

to an additional 10 beneficiary farmers each, therefore reaching 1,100 farmers and improving the livelihoods of 5,500 beneficiaries through cultivation of maize and millet.

To ensure access to clean water for consumption, the operation will support the **rehabilitation of 16 strategically located wells/springs** in Kunene region that will benefit 1,280 households (6,400 people). The identification of the water points will be done in collaboration with the local authorities and government (Rural Water Supply under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF)). Water point committees will be established and trained in the management of the water points; this will enhance the management and sustainability of the intervention.

NRCS will conduct community **hygiene promotion activities** (at soup kitchens, schools, community gatherings and clinics) and alongside the planned operational activities to prevent the outbreak or spread of water borne diseases and cholera in all the targeted regions (3,200 households/11,500 beneficiaries). HIV and AIDS prevention education will be provided alongside health and hygiene promotion activities. The NRCS would further consult the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to secure IEC awareness materials. This approach was implemented successfully in the 2013 emergency appeal operation.

Planned interventions	Implementation (%)
Outcome 1 Immediate food needs of 3,600 beneficiaries are met	2%
720 households/3,600 beneficiaries receive daily meals from soup kitchens	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection and Registration of beneficiaries • Procure cooking materials for each kitchen in each region. • Procure foods items for soup kitchen • Build structures in identified areas • Provide meals at soup kitchens • Train volunteers in MUAC and referral systems • Conduct MUAC and refer to relevant agencies 	
Outcome 2 Livelihoods among targeted population are improved	0%
Output 2.1: Agricultural production capacity is increased through provision of inputs and training to 1,100 farmers to improve food security of 5,500 people	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and train 100 lead farmers (20 per region) in conservation agriculture and usage of drought tolerant, early maturing crops varieties and introduction to livestock and rangeland management • Cascading of trainings in best agricultural practices • Cascading of training to a target of 300 farmers by lead farmers • Procure and distribute maize and pearl millet (mahangu) seeds to 1,100 farmers. (25 kg of maize seed, 25 kg of mahangu seed per lead farmer) for a field of up to 4 ha. • Post-distribution seed monitoring • Establish farmer cooperatives to share best practices 	
Outcome 3 Longer-term food insecurity among targeted population is reduced	0%
Output 3.1: 25 community gardens are developed to provide nutritious food to 100 households/500 beneficiaries	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and establish 5 community gardens per region • Provide Garden committees with inputs 	
Outcome 4 Reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	2%
Output 4.1: 1,280 households / 6,400 beneficiaries have access to safe and clean water for household and livestock consumption through community managed water sources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments to identify 10 water points • Procurement of water point rehabilitation equipment • Rehabilitation of 10 water points • Establish and train water point committees who will participate in rehabilitation activities and have ownership over the maintenance of the water points 	
Output 4.2: Hygiene promotional activities are conducted with the affected	

communities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training volunteers in Hygiene Promotion • Development IEC materials on hygiene promotion • Conduct community hygiene promotion (including HIV and AIDS awareness) in conjunction with other planned activities 	
Outcome 5 NRCS effectively implements the operation and improves their presence and communication within the affected communities	5%
Output 5.1: The operation is informed by two-way communication with the community	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project initiation meeting with all Stakeholders • Initial assessments to identify water points and asses the market capacity • Procure ODK equipment kit • ODK training • Beneficiary satisfaction survey using ODK • Establish beneficiary complaints and feedback mechanisms (Suggestion Boxes and Help desks) • Development of monitoring tools and systems • Post-feeding monitoring • Monthly and quarterly field visits. • Final evaluation and lessons learnt workshop with local stakeholders 	Stakeholder meetings held in Kavango and Kunene regions
Output 5.2: The visibility of the NRCS is improved	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of visibility material (Hats, T-Shirts and Bibs) • Conduct media tours and hold press conference 	Stakeholders invited to Namibian Launch

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and 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.

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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.