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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° 2	Timeframe covered by this update: 28 September-28 October 2015
Emergency Appeal operation start date: 28 September 2015	Timeframe: 7 Months (October 2015-April 2016)
Appeal budget: CHF 950,205	
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: 100,137 Swiss francs DREF allocated	
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 30 September 2015, with an appeal budget of CHF 950,205 to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) support the Namibian Red Cross Society (NRCS) reach 11,500 drought affected people making interventions in the following sectors; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, food security, nutrition and livelihoods for seven months.
- The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 100,137 was allocated to support the National Society to start up the operations by meeting the immediate needs of the affected.
- The IFRC on behalf of NRCS would like to appeal to all distinguished donors to support the Appeal to enable NRCS provide the needed support to the drought affected communities.
- This update provides information regarding the first 25 days of the operation after the launch.

Summary:

Namibia is currently experiencing chronic food insecurity that has largely affected the rural communities, as a result of low rainfall patterns between October 2014 and February 2015 (this is the active rainfall period for commonly grown crops). In addition, the south and western parts of the country experienced prolonged dry spells (no rain recorded) between January and February 2015. However some areas in the north recorded a heavy rainfall pattern that caused floods and 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 indicated that they are experiencing the worst crop performance in eighty years. The extremely poor crop harvests are realized in all the dry land crop producing regions.

Coordination and partnerships

The local appeal was launched on 14 October 2015 and those in attendance were; The Directorate of Disaster Risk Management (OPM), UNICEF, UNDP, USAID, The media and other Agencies. The launch also included the activation of the Namibians campaign that seeks to encourage Namibians to contribute to the drought response by donating funds in cash and in-kind.

The NRCS team consisting of the; DM Manager (Team Leader), DRR Coordinator, Logistics Coordinator and Accountant travelled to the Kavango and Kunene regions for their field assessment to determine the readiness of the branches, roll out activities, carry out needs assessments and introduce the operation to various stakeholders. This field visit was done between the 4 to 9 October 2015.

The team met various stakeholders including the; Regional Governor, Councillor of Mukwe consistency (Kavango East), Field Officer for the Regional Council and head of health centres. Plans of actions were shared and requests for support made during the implementation of the operation.

Operational implementation

Overview

DREF released CHF 100,137 to help start the operation while funding is being raised to fully address the needs as outlined in the emergency appeal. The southern Africa regional office has been providing technical support to NRCS team.

Outcome 1: Immediate food needs of 3,600 beneficiaries are met

Progress towards outcome:

The NRCS plans to cover five regions of Kavango, Kunene, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi. They are among the worst affected in terms of food insecurity. The NRCS team consisting of the; DM Manager (Team Leader), DRR Coordinator, Logistics Coordinator and Accountant travelled to Kavango and Kunene regions to determine the readiness of the branches and activate the soup kitchens. The National Society prioritised to run soup kitchens in Kunene region and expand to other regions depending on the availability of resources. The availability and readiness of volunteers for meal preparation was also assessed and it was confirmed that volunteers were readily available for the activity. The team made materials inventory of the items in both Kavango and Kunene region that will be used in the soup kitchen operations.

The soup kitchen at Opuwo office started its operations on 23 October 2015 serving one meal per day to 300 beneficiaries. Each registered beneficiary was assigned an identification card with a unique number attached. This enabled the volunteers to mark their attendance on a checklist. The NRCS volunteers prepared the meals and served beneficiaries six days a week (from Monday to Saturday). In addition, the volunteers conducted hygiene promotion activities such as; demonstrating good hygiene practises (proper hand washing before meals) and also conducted Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) on children under five years old.

The NRCS is collecting disaggregated data, the following table shows the number of beneficiaries from 23 October to 6 November 2015.

Children under 5		Expecting and lactating mothers	Orphans and vulnerable children		Malnourished persons		elderly		NRCS clients on treatment		Non-Registered (Extra)	
M	F	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
101	188	95	13	10	2	0	79	162	18	39	496	783

This is the initial data collection, it should be noted that the team on the ground is still smoothing out the collection methods. Currently the number of meals are being captured, however it does not necessarily reflect "plates served", rather the amount of raw food cooked per day. This is being captured and consolidated at the end of each week. At the moment, the soup kitchen feeds 50 registered beneficiaries on average and over 120 non-registered. This is because registration was done at a location approximately 900 metres away from the office. The elderly, disabled and persons living with HIV have complained about the distance. The NRCS staff are currently looking for a solution to this issue.

The NRCS volunteers responsible for cooking agreed through consensus to the modalities and the operation in the kitchen is running well. Additionally volunteers responsible for keeping and managing records at soup kitchen were oriented on the required tasks.



Beneficiaries having a meal at Opuwo Soup kitchen in region. Photo: NRCS



Hand washing demonstration. Photo: NRCS

Outcome 2 Livelihoods among targeted population are improved

No progress on this outcome, not prioritised due to unavailability of resources.

Outcome 3 Longer-term food insecurity among targeted population is reduced

No progress on this outcome, not prioritised due to unavailability of resources.

Outcome 4 Reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

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

In Kunene, field visits were conducted in five communities. Assessments were carried out for the water springs previously installed in the 2013 operation and equipped by the NRCS and are currently being used by communities. This was to establish the needs of the community in terms of water provision. The Okombako spring was identified for rehabilitation to give villagers access to clean water. Further assessment are contingent on funding and resources.

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

One session on hygiene promotion is carried out daily before provision of meals at the soup kitchen operating in Opuwo. The NRCS volunteers conduct hygiene promotion activities such as demonstrating good hygiene (proper hand washing before meals). The National Society is in the process of acquiring IEC materials from its stakeholders.



A spring in Kunene region at Okombako identified for rehabilitation/protection. Photo: NRCS

Summary of Progress:

Planned interventions	Implementation (%)
Outcome 1 Immediate food needs of 3,600 beneficiaries are met	10%
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 	<p>300 registered beneficiaries Materials for at Opuwo Soup kitchen procured See table above.</p> <p>The region is benefiting from the nutrition project supported by UNICEF who trained volunteers to conduct MUAC measurement at the soup kitchen</p>
Outcome 2 Livelihoods among targeted population are improved	0%
<i>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</i>	
<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 	On hold do to resource constraints
Outcome 3 Longer-term food insecurity among targeted population is reduced	0%
<i>Output 3.1: 25 community gardens are developed to provide nutritious food to 100 households/500 beneficiaries</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and establish 5 community gardens per region • Provide Garden committees with inputs 	On hold do to resource constraints
Outcome 4 Reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	2%
<i>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</i>	
<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 water points have been assessed. • 1 water point identified for rehabilitation • Further assessment are subject to availability of funding and resources
<i>Output 4.2: Hygiene promotional activities are conducted with the affected communities</i>	
<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%
<i>Output 5.1 The operation is informed by two-way communication with the community</i>	

<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings conducted (see partnership narrative for details)
<p>Output 5.2 The visibility of the NRCS is improved</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of visibility material (Hats, T-Shirts and Bibs) • Conduct media tours and hold press conference 	

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.



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.