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Emergency appeal operation update Namibia: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Operation n° MDRNA009	GLIDE n° DR-2015-000130-NAM
EA Operations Update n° 5	Timeframe covered by this update: October 2015 – July 2016
Date of issue: 3 August 2016	
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Naemi Heita, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, IFRC, Southern Africa	Point of contact (name and title): Ms Dorkas Kapembe-Haiduwa, Secretary General
Overall operation budget: CHF 950,205	Operation timeframe: 28 September 2015 –30 April 2017)
Number of people affected: 580,000	Number of people to be assisted: 11,500 (3,200 households)
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Namibia Red Cross Society Headquarters and 2 Regional Branches of Kunene and Kavango, (5 fulltime, 4 support staff, 40 volunteers)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): The Spanish Red Cross is assisting in country at HQ-level to prepare proposals for recovery in drought-affected regions while the IFRC Pretoria Cluster Office is providing technical support.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Namibia through the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, and the Regional Councils of Kunene and Kavango. Traditional Authorities, Private Radio Kosmos and faith-based organisations are also providing support to local operations.	

Appeal History:

This [Emergency Appeal](#) (Appeal n° MDRNA009) was launched on 30 September 2015 for **CHF 950,205** to support the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) to reach 3,200 households (11,500 individuals) through short and medium-term humanitarian interventions. Programmes were designed to be implemented over a seven-month period and sought to address immediate food security and water requirements through emergency food assistance; long-term livelihoods support through community gardens development; sustainable water access through spring and borehole cleaning/creation; and hygiene promotion.

The second revision was done in April 2016 to cater for needed implementation time by the National Society. In July, the Government of Namibia declared drought an emergency. In an effort to complement government efforts, the National Society decided to extend the emergency Appeal to April 30, 2016. This will allow NRCS to continue lobbying for more resources to sustain the beneficiaries currently receiving support or more until end of lean season. At the time of writing, the Appeal remains significantly underfunded, having received only **15% coverage**. As such, the operation has been able to only cater for 1,200 beneficiaries with emergency food assistance and 4,000 beneficiaries for the water point rehabilitation.

CHF 100,137 was initially allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society to begin immediate operations.

The IFRC, on behalf of NRCS, would like to thank the Canadian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Red Cross of Monaco, and the Netherlands Red Cross for supporting the Appeal thus far. However, the Federation is appealing to all distinguished donors to support this EA in order to enable the NRCS to provide the much-needed support required by drought-affected communities. This is particularly important given the shifting realities on the ground and increasing needs of the affected population.

Summary:

Between October 2014 and February 2015, Namibia experienced highly erratic rainfall patterns that negatively impacted the planting and cultivation seasons. The recent 2016 assessment done by the office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Agriculture estimated that 729,134 people were food insecure and 595,839 need immediate assistance due to the drought situation. Prolonged dry spells and extensive flooding characterized the planting season and resulted in delayed planting and destroyed crops. As a result, the 2014/15 crop production yields were 46% below average (NAMVAC 2015), which put parts of country at high risk of food insecurity. Additionally, the drought forced many families to adopt negative coping strategies in order to access water, such as collecting water from unprotected sources. This puts affected populations at risk of contracting waterborne diseases, which, if left unattended, may have negatively affected public health. The emergency also disproportionately affected the livelihoods and nutritional status of highly vulnerable individuals, including the elderly, orphaned and vulnerable children, and those living with HIV/TB. There is also a 55% – 60% chance of La Niña occurring toward the end of the year compounding the impact of El Niño. In the Southern Africa region, La Niña brings wetter than normal conditions, and often leads to extensive floods. The humanitarian impact is likely to be significant and long lasting leaving children and families' coping mechanisms depleted.

Thus, the situation needs a concerted response from the Movement and, as such, prompted the NRCS to connect with the IFRC Southern Africa Cluster office to revise their Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA). The NS is currently revising its Emergency in consultations with its partners including the government on the new focus of the emergency appeal. The final revised document will be published mid-August 2016.

Coordination and partnerships

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent actors in-country

At present, only the Spanish Red Cross Society (SRCS) is present in Namibia as a Partner National Society (PNS). In relation to the response, the SRCS is working with the NRCS to develop Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery proposals that target the regions outlined in the EPoA but is limited in its engagement with actual response operations. However, the SRCS is funding the Livelihoods and Food Security (LFS) program in two regions that have been targeted by the EPoA – Kavango and Zambezi – which helps to supplement the strengthening of food security in those areas.

Movement Coordination

The NRCS works closely with the SRCS to ensure coordinated implementation of the operation and to explore opportunities for integration with the existing LFS programme. SRCS is working closely with Spanish government to explore possibilities of funding the soup kitchen in Kavango, to complement its Livelihoods Activities in the region. Currently, updates and plans are being shared with Movement partners to explore further support possibilities through the SRCS and the country embassy office. The SRCS has donated Open Data Kit (ODK) and Mega V to the NRCS and has provided a Delegate to support training NRCS staff on its application and use in the field. This donation covered the planned procurement of these items in the initial Appeal. Response coordination is done through quarterly meetings and, when the need arises, emergency steering committee meetings.

To bolster awareness for the emergency situation and garner public financing for the Appeal, in March 2016 the NRCS welcomed a Communications Delegate from the Norwegian Red Cross Society. The Communications Delegate visited the regions affected by the drought and was shown the soup kitchen operations. She has since finalised producing the mission's deliverables of which the communications materials and stories have been shared with the Namibia Red Cross Society for distribution. Additionally, in March 2016, the NRCS, in collaboration with the SRCS, developed two concept notes related to livelihoods programming that aimed to implement resilience and recovery projects within the affected areas. At time of writing, no feedback had been provided regarding the status of applications except that the Regional Governor of which the applications are targeted had consultative meetings to present such proposals.

To bolster financing for the Appeal, the NRCS has held discussions with the Canadian, German and Dutch Red Cross Societies. As well, the NRCS has launched the "Namibians for Namibians" campaign on 13 April 2016, which saw initial success during the drought Appeal in 2013. Since the official launch on 13 April 2016, the following in-country support has been received as presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: A summary of the in country donations made to the Namibians Helping Namibians Campaign

Company	Donation value	Type of Donation
Namibia Water Corporation	N\$10,000	Cash
Namsov Trust	N\$140,000	12,000 tinned fish
FNB Foundation	N\$100,000	Cash
Pupkewitz Foundation	N\$130,000	3,264 bottles (375ml Cooking Oil)
Development Bank of Namibia	N\$ 20,000	Cash
Oshana Build It	N\$ 50,000	Cash
Debmarine and NDTC Staff	N\$ 21,692	Food items
Kosmos Radio Campaign		Food items, cash, non-food items (mostly clothing and blankets)

Regarding capacity building, the NRCS' Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator participated in the IFRC Africa Zone's *EPoA and Contingency Planning workshop* held on 14-18 March 2016. The workshop sought to build the capacity of participating NSs in EPoA preparation and reporting. As such, the NRCS has an increased capacity to submit timely EPoA applications and progress reports. In addition, headquarter and Kunene regional staff involved with the administration of the Appeal were personally visited by the IFRC Disaster Risk Management Coordinator and Finance Officer to conduct in-house guide on the proper administrations of the operations during the period of 20-23 June 2016. The visits were mainly to provide capacity on financial administration of the operations in relation to IFRC standards and further to familiarise IFRC staff with the ground operations. During the visits, a meeting with the NRCS Management was further held to discuss way forward for the Appeal implementation beyond 30 July 2016. These meetings formed the basis of revising the NRCS Appeal budget for the remaining period of July 2016 clearly clarifying the use of the remaining Appeal budget before the closing period of the current Appeal. Of these, the focus would be on continuing soup kitchens in the current operational areas and completing the remaining water point rehabilitation along with installations of 5 more water tanks. All resources further gathered as presented in Table 1 will continue to supplement the continuation of the soup kitchen operations.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in-country

Government has declared the current drought a National disaster following the 2016/17 Namibia Rural Food security and Livelihoods Vulnerability Forecast assessment which found that more than **729,134** are food insecure.

The NRCS officially launched the local Appeal in October 2015 in consultation with local partners including UN, government, regional councils and NGOs. NRCS participates in government-led reviews of the drought response (organised by the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management in the Office of the Prime Minister) and provides updates on the status of implementation of the EPoA. The NRCS also participates in food security monitoring and reporting at the local levels.

In 2015, the Namibian Government launched a comprehensive drought response program designed to assist affected communities with dry food rations and water provision until the end of March 2016. Throughout the response, the government has provided drought relief to an estimated 370,316 people across the country. Additionally, the South African government has provided in-kind drought response support worth 100 million NAD in the form of food assistance (maize meal) and borehole drilling (104 boreholes). The Namibian Government has also received 700 metric tonnes (MT) of maize grain, 30 MT of rice and 3 MT of fish and fish powder from the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The government of the Republic of India further donated a total of 1,000 tons of rice and other food grains for drought relief while a total amount of 100 pounds of essential medicine including antiretroviral medication were pledged.

A local private radio station Kosmos 94.1 has initiated the "Maak oop jou hand Namibie/Open up your hand Namibia", a drive aimed at mobilizing resources of financial pledges, food and non-food items mostly targeting local companies in which interested companies choose to sponsor food to a minimum value of N\$5,000 – N\$20,000 although each company has freedom to sponsor beyond the N\$20,000 mark. The drive was planned to be conducted on 15 July 2016 between 06-08h00 mainly in Windhoek. In addition, the radio station continues to raise awareness on campaign on radio, TV and social media further targeting its followers beyond Namibian borders.

There has been limited engagement by other humanitarian agencies throughout the response. There has also been very limited coordination and information sharing between the NRCS and other humanitarian partners however, NRCS commits to engage and coordinate with its in-country partners. Of note, UNICEF has provided middle upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes to the NRCS, which has enabled the National Society to conduct MUAC measurements regularly during food distributions at soup kitchens. As a result of the declaration, it is highly anticipated that formal

engagements would commence between different partners including those that NRCS engaged with during the 2013 drought operations.

In order to raise awareness and visibility of NRCS operations, the Humanitarian Diplomacy/Communications (HD) Department conducted a week-long media tour with local journalists to visit the operation's soup kitchens. Local papers ran several stories on the response effort and the HD/Communications Department produced a number of articles for the IFRC available at www.ifrc.org/africa.

Operational implementation

The NRCS is assisting 1,200 food insecure people in Kunene and Kavango regions as well as implementing water rehabilitation activities in Kunene through the following outcomes:

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 1: NRCS effectively implements the operation and improves their presence and communication within the affected communities

Output 5.1 The operation is informed by two-way communication with the community

To inform the planned response, an operations assessment was conducted in December 2015 and commenced with consultation meetings involving the Kunene and Kavango Regional Councils. Following these consultations, community members and volunteers were mobilized to assist in the operational fieldwork. To date, 40 volunteers—20 from Kunene and 20 from Kavango—have been sensitized on the operational approach as well as criteria for beneficiary selection. Furthermore, volunteers were trained in record keeping to ensure accurate data collection from the soup kitchens, how to conduct MUAC tests in order to monitor and screen children for malnutrition, and the effective use of the Mega V and ODK equipment donated by the SRCS. NRCS staff as well as the Secretary General of the NRCS also received training in ODK and Mega V.

Output 5.2 The visibility of the NRCS is improved

To increase the operation's visibility, the NRCS conducted a media tour in February 2016. Field visits were conducted with local journalists and led by the NRCS' Humanitarian Diplomacy/Communications Manager and the Secretary General. The media tour was aimed at highlighting the food insecurity situation in Kavango, Kunene, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi—the regions targeted through EPoA. From this, a number of stories were published in the local newspapers and on the IFRC website. A second media tour was conducted for a Communications Specialist from the Norwegian Red Cross Society, which sought to highlight the drought's impact on crops as well as profile the NRCS' soup kitchen operations in Kavango region. The stories and communication materials as result of this mission are in the final stages of development and will be shared widely once they have been completed. Finally, to increase the visibility the operation, the NRCS procured t-shirts, overalls, aprons, and bibs for volunteers working at the soup kitchens in Kunene and Kavango,



Meals Provision at Kavango Soup Kitchen. ©NRCS

procured t-shirts, overalls, aprons, and bibs for volunteers working at the soup kitchens in Kunene and Kavango,

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 2: Immediate food needs of 3,600 beneficiaries are met.

Output 2.1: 720 households / 3,600 beneficiaries receive daily meals from soup kitchens.

Since October 2015, a total of 1,185 people have been assisted in Kunene (562) and Kavango (623) through daily meal provision - offered every day except Sunday. Despite these gains, this figure represents only 33% of the initial target of 3,600 beneficiaries. This is as a result of limited funding, which has been able to support only four soup kitchens of the twelve originally proposed for Kavango (2), Kunene (4), Oshikoto (2), Ohangwena (2) and Zambezi (2).

At this point in implementation it was expected that 170,640 meals would have been served, however, to date only 43,214 meals have been provided.

Further challenges have been experienced throughout implementation that has been useful in informing the future of the programme. Firstly, in terms of access, populations in Kunene are highly migratory, which limits their accessibility to area-specific soup kitchen sites. Similarly, for some remote villages, the soup kitchens are located at too great of a distance to access on a regular basis. Secondly, problems have arisen during periods where the government is engaged in drought relief distributions. The NRCS opines that because government assistance is designed to target an entire family it is preferable to the NRCS distributions that are designed to serve only registered members of a family.

Due to funding limitations, the national society made a decision to focus on a few soup kitchens, to avoid spreading resources too thin and be able support identified beneficiaries over the entire lean season. The in-kind donations sourced from local companies resulted in savings made on the operation, and is complementing the resources received from international partners. The beneficiaries remain vulnerable due to continuing drought in the country.



Community water tank for rehabilitation. ©NRCS

Water, health and hygiene promotion

Outcome 5: Reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities

Output 5.1 800 families have access to safe and clean water for household and livestock consumption through community managed water sources

Due to funding constraints, the NRCS prioritised food assistance in the rollout of the initial response operation. As such, water point rehabilitation was delayed until sufficient funding was received to ensure that soup kitchens would not be interrupted. So the national society commenced water point rehabilitation in Kunene in March 2016. Kunene was targeted for initial programming, as it has been the region hardest hit by the drought. To date, 10 (ten) water points (out of the eleven targeted) in Kunene have been rehabilitated in collaboration with the local communities and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. The rehabilitated boreholes are benefiting altogether 4,000 beneficiaries.

Output 4.2: Hygiene promotional activities are conducted with the affected communities

To promote safe hygiene practices, the NRCS delivers Water and Sanitation (WASH) education at soup kitchens during food distributions. This approach helps reduce the potential for communicable disease transmission and infection by ensuring that safe hygiene is practiced prior to eating. An estimated 1,185 beneficiaries in Kunene and Kavango have been reached this way and volunteers continue to engage with beneficiaries.



An NRCS volunteer teaches hand washing to a beneficiary of the food assistance programme at Opuwo office soup kitchen

Overview of the NRCS overall planned interventions and progress

At present, Appeal coverage has only reached 15%, which has significantly impacted the implementation of the intervention's work plan. As such, priority was assigned to food assistance operations initially and water rehabilitation has only recently begun. The National Society is currently carrying out activities in Kunene and Kavango.

A detailed summary of progress made thus far is outlined below:

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 1: NRCS effectively implements the operation and improves their presence and

communication within the affected communities		
Output	Activities planned	Progress
Output 1.1 The operation is informed by two-way communication with the community.	Project initiation meeting with all Stakeholders	100%
	Conduct media tours and hold press conferences	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial assessments to identify water points and asses the market capacity	100%
	Procurement of visibility material (hats, t-shirts, and bibs)	100%
	Procure ODK equipment kit	100%
	ODK training	100%
	Beneficiary satisfaction survey using ODK	0%
	Establish beneficiary complaints and feedback mechanisms (Suggestion Boxes and Help desks)	100%
	Development of monitoring tools and systems	100%
	Post-feeding monitoring	0%
	Monthly and quarterly field visits.	85%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Final evaluation and lessons learnt workshop with local stakeholders	0%
Output 1.2 The visibility of the NRCS is improved.	Visibility items are procured for staff/volunteers	100%
	Media tour	100%
	Press releases conducted	40%
Food security, Nutrition and Livelihoods.		
Outcome 2: Immediate food needs of 3,600 beneficiaries in the affected regions are met		
Output	Activities planned	Progress
Output 1.1 720 households / 3,600 beneficiaries receive daily meals from soup kitchens	Selection and Registration of beneficiaries	100%
	Procure cooking materials for kitchens in each region.	20%
	Procure foods items for soup kitchen	Ongoing
	Establish structures in identified areas	100%
	Provide meals at soup kitchens	Ongoing
	Train volunteers in MUAC and referral systems	100%
	Conduct MUAC and refer to relevant agencies	Ongoing
Please note that the above progress refers only to Kunene and Kavango regions. No operations have yet been conducted in Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi.		
Outcome 3: Livelihoods among targeted population are improved		
Output	Activities planned	Progress
Output 3.1 Agricultural production capacity is increased through provision of inputs and training to 1,100 farmers to improve food security of 5,500 people	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.	0%
	Cascading of trainings on best agricultural practices by lead farmers to 10 beneficiary farmers each reaching an additional 200 farmers	0%
	Cascading of training to a target of 300 farmers by lead farmers	0%
	Procure and distribute 25kg maize or 25kg of pearl millet/mahangu seeds to lead farmers for 1,100 farmers to cultivate a field of up to 4 ha.	0%
	Post-distribution seed monitoring to ensure relevance and timeliness	0%
	Establish farmer co-op to enhance coordination and share best practices	0%
Outcome 4: Longer-term food insecurity among targeted population is reduced.		
Output	Activities planned	Progress

Output 4.1: 25 community gardens are developed to provide nutritious food to 100 households/500 beneficiaries	Establish households to participate in 5 community gardens per region	0%
	Provide community gardens with inputs.	0%
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene promotion		
Outcome 5: Reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities		
Output	Activities planned	Progress
Output 5.1 800 families have access to safe and clean water for household and livestock consumption through community managed water sources.	Assessments to identify areas most in need of water point rehabilitation	100%
	Procurement of water point rehabilitation equipment	100%
	Rehabilitation of 10 water points	90%
	Establish and train water point committees in rehabilitation activities and cultivate ownership over the maintenance of water points	60 %
Output 5.2: Hygiene promotional activities are conducted with the affected communities.	Distribution of pre-positioned water purification tablets	60%
	Training volunteers in Hygiene Promotion	100%
	Development IEC materials on hygiene promotion	100%
	Conduct community hygiene promotion activities (including HIV and AIDS awareness) in conjunction with other planned operation activities	100%
Please note that the above progress refers only to Kunene and Kavango regions. No operations have yet been conducted in Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi.		

Contact information

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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 Humanitarian 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:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.
