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Emergency appeal operation update Namibia Drought: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Operation n° MDRNA009	GLIDE n° DR-2015-000130-NAM
Operations Update n° 6	Timeframe covered by this update: October 2015 – March 2017
Date of issue: 30 March 2017	Revised timeframe: 20 months (Sept 2015 – 31 May 2017)
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Lorraine Mangwiro, Head of Country Cluster Support Team, Southern Africa	Point of contact: Ms Naemi Heita, Secretary General
Overall operation budget: CHF 1,303,195	Appeal coverage: 44%
Number of people affected: 580,000	Number of people to be assisted: 16,500 (3,300 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	
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 businesses, Private Radio Kosmos and faith-based organisations are also providing support to local operations.	

This Operations Update presents the progress on the implementation of the operation to date. This Operations Update is requesting a cost and time frame extension for two additional months (New end date: 31 May 2017) and an additional CHF175,000 from BRCS to enable the National society to finalised its planned cash transfer programming (CTP) for 1100+ households in Opuwo and Epupa constituencies. Appeal coverage at the time of writing is 44%, donors are encouraged to support the appeal to enable Namibia Red Cross Society provide assistance to the targeted beneficiaries through the planned activities as detailed in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA). CHF 100,137 was initially allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society to begin immediate operations.

Appeal History

This [Emergency Appeal](#) 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 assistance provision; long-term livelihoods support through community gardens development; sustainable water access through spring and borehole cleaning/creation; and hygiene promotion.

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 allowed NRCS to continue lobbying for more resources to sustain the beneficiaries currently receiving support or more until end of lean season. The first [appeal revision](#) was done in September 2016 to cater for needed implementation time by the National Society. At the time of writing, the Appeal has an overall operational budget of CHF 1,351,937 and is **44% covered**. As such, the operation has been able to only cater for 1,200 beneficiaries with emergency food assistance provision and 4,000 beneficiaries for the water points rehabilitation.

Since government declaration of drought emergency and a number of interventions implemented, the situation on the ground has not improved necessitating government to further prolong the intervention periods for another four (4) months from September-December 2016. This allowed NRCS to revisit its Appeal to lobby more resources. As a result, NRCS with the technical support of the IFRC revised the Appeal and relaunched in September 2016.

In December 2016, a request for a time and cost-extension was made to the BRCS for an extension of the pledge for CHF 175 000 to allow NRCS to complete planned activities and accepted. As such, this Operations Update extends the current operation by 2 months and notes a new budget of CHF 1,303,195. The rationale for the extension is as follows:

Time factors:

- Poor rainfall is likely to postpone harvesting until May 2017 impacting on domestic crop and pasture production
- A delayed and uneven pattern of rainfall forecast to be compounded by lower than average precipitation, reducing the replenishment of soil moisture content
- The cash transfer component is carried out in two remote rural constituencies with poor road and telecommunication infrastructure as well as mobile pastoralist populations

Cost factors:

Programmatic

- Revision of the cash transfer value from NAD 450 to NAD 700 based on the minimum expenditure basket calculation for food and non-food items (and national inflation) conducted in November 2016
- Unforeseen commission costs for financial services provider to deliver cash on monthly basis
- Project support (vehicle fleet and driver; post-distribution monitoring and analysis)
- The onset of the rainy season brings with it an increased risk of water-borne diseases notably cholera. Exposure to behaviour change messages via posters, a short radio campaign and volunteer sensitization during cash transfer pay-outs will encourage good hygiene practices (5 key messages).

Support costs

- The National M&E coordinator is expected to contribute 50% of their work time to the 1) baseline survey and beneficiary targeting process; 2) post-distribution, beneficiary satisfaction and market price monitoring; and 3) overall programmatic support to the national DRR coordinator.
- The logistical challenge of significant distances between regional office and targeted villages requires additional rental cars of 14 days per month to carry out cash supervision, beneficiary monitoring, stakeholder meetings and post distribution surveys.
- With 2 vehicles being routinely used, there also is a clear staffing gap. An experienced and locally recruited driver / logistician would provide much needed mobility and procurement support on the field.
- The planned recruitment of CTP officer would require a laptop to enable day-to-day work responsibilities and communication with NHQ, partners and other stakeholders.
- The IFRC Cash Transfer delegate is expected to extend for 15 working days to backstop the first cash transfer and financial reconciliation.

The IFRC, on behalf of NRCS, would like to thank the British Red Cross Society, Canadian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Red Cross of Monaco, Spanish Red Cross Society 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.

A. Description of the disaster

Between October 2014 and February 2015, Namibia has 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 are 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.

Despite the forecasts indicating chances of normal to above normal rainfall for the current season, rainfall received so far has underperformed as evidenced by nearly all rain fed agriculture dependent farmers in northern Namibia having not started cultivations until November 2016 (the active cropping season). The above seem to confirm the predictions of 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 revised its Emergency Appeal in consultations with its partners including the government on the new focus of the emergency appeal. Poor rainfall is likely to postpone harvesting until May 2017 impacting on domestic crop and pasture production. This intervention focuses operations on Cash transfer programming for the most vulnerable communities in Kunene region. A subsequent cost and time extension has been approved by the BRC for consideration to reflect the changing dynamics of the operations initially not properly planned for during EPoA development. The updates on this intervention is provided under the respective Outcomes in this update report.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

A summary of the response to date is highlighted below:

- Provided a total number of 111,976 meals in Kunene and Kavango regions.
- Distribution of food parcels to 296HHs (153 in Kunene and 143HH in Kavango regions).
- Provided access to clean water to 4,000 beneficiaries' through the rehabilitation of 11 water points.
- Planning of Cash Transfer Programming assessment and preparatory stakeholder meetings with NRCS senior management and Kunene regional and constituency councils
- Rapid field assessment (community needs; market analysis and organisational capacity of regional team and financial service providers)
- Design of response logic and calculation of cash transfer value
- Training of 14 volunteers in household surveys and use of mobile devices for digital data collection
- Baseline household survey (registration of household socio-economic data including food security indicators)
- Publication of tender for financial service provision of cash transfers
- Requisition order for visibility materials

Summary key challenges

- Absence of accurate regional datasets notably population estimates from government and the redrawing of constituency boundaries since the 2011 census
- Poorly coordinated inter-agency drought relief platform reduced the team's access to reliable data on government targeted areas of intervention.
- Limited capacity of regional staff on Cash Transfer and Disaster Risk Reduction interventions are hampering the progress of the activities. For example, there exist no good records and memory of lessons from the Cash Transfer programming implemented in 2013/14 which could be partly attributed to higher staff turnover.

Summary of activities remaining

- CTP to 1100 households

- Post distribution monitoring in March 2017 and May 2017
- Media communication pieces to be shared widely within IFRC (including advocacy piece on CTP results)
- Updated health and nutrition messaging to accompany distribution (Post distribution monitoring is scheduled after the third and fourth rounds of cash disbursements to provide some insight into food security patterns and outcomes over the course of the CTP)

The NRCS has capacity in community engagement and accountability. This has been utilised in the roll out of CTP beneficiary Selection and Planning Surveys integrating the Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS).

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. The SRCS is funding the Livelihoods and Food Security (LFS) program in Zambezi region which was one of the regions that have been targeted by the EPoA which helps to supplement the strengthening of food security in those areas.

Movement Coordination

The NRCS continues to work closely with the SRCS to ensure coordinated implementation of the operation and to explore opportunities for integration with the existing LFS programme. SRCS has worked closely with Spanish government to secure funding the soup kitchens in Kavango, to complement its Livelihoods Activities initially implemented until June 2016 in the region. To date, the SRCS has secured funding of a Drought response intervention in Kavango reaching a total number of 200 household through the provision of once off seeds distribution and Conservation Agriculture capacity building of 200HH; monthly food parcels starting January-June 2017. The secured funding to this concept note was initially submitted in March 2016 by 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 has 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.

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 further 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. This field visits were followed up by another Communications Delegate in November 2016 who accompanied the NRCS field team to visit and document the operations of the NRCS.

To bolster financing for the Appeal, the NRCS has held discussions with the Canadian, German and Dutch Red Cross Societies. Unfortunately, there has been no significant outcomes regarding contribution to funding operations. 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
Namsof 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)
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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 strong reports. In addition, Head Quarter 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 3 more water tanks in selected communities in Kunene region. All resources further gathered as presented in Table 1 continued 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 (NAMVAC (Namibia Vulnerability Assessment committee assessment)).

The NRCS officially launched the local Appeal in October 2015 in consultation with local partners including UN, government, regional councils and NGOs. It 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 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 tapes to the NRCS, which has enabled the National Society to conduct MUAC measurements regularly during food distributions at soup kitchens. The donation would further enable NRCS to integrate the MUAC in Cash transfer programming to screen children during the pay-outs. 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. As a direct result of these actions, there have not been any cases of acute malnutrition recorded, though there were 6 moderate cases recorded, of which the referrals were provide to the NS by the regional hospital. Volunteers performed MUAC measurements and recorded this on weekly basis throughout the soup kitchen activity. Volunteers continued to monitor their progress even after termination of the soup kitchen activity.

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.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

Improve the food and nutrition status of 3,600 households affected by the food crisis through a cash transfer programme, access to safe water, adapted farming techniques and livelihoods support across Kunene, Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena, Kavango and Zambezi regions.

In this operations update, the NRCS is assisting 1,100 food insecure households in Kunene and Kavango regions as well as implementing water rehabilitation activities in Kunene through the outcomes in the proposed strategy.

Proposed Strategy

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

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

Output 1.1: 720 households / 3,600 beneficiaries receive daily subsistence.

Soup Kitchens

Between October 2015 and November 2016, a total of 1,185 people were assisted in Kunene (562) and Kavango (623) through daily meals provision—offered every day except Sunday. Despite these gains, this figure represents only 33% of the initial target of 3,600 households. This result is a function 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 111,976 meals have been provided.

On the other hand, 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.

Food parcels Distribution

Given the soup kitchens funding limitations which was only enough to sustain operations until May 2016 coupled with the impact soup kitchens make compared to household than individuals who access the feeding points, NRCS transitioned from soup kitchen operations to food parcels distributions in both regions. This approach was necessitated by the food items donated through the “Namibians Helping Namibians” Campaign and Radio Kosmos “Maak oop jou hand/Open your hand Namibia”. These resources enabled NRCS to sustain the soup kitchens until October 2016 and further transit to food parcels distribution until December 2016. The first food parcels distribution was completed in November 2016 reaching 296HHs (153 in Kunene and 143HH in Kavango regions). The food parcels consisted of basic food items of 12.5kg maize meal, 750ml cooking oil, 4x 410g tinned fish and 1kg iodised salt. Food items reflect the WFP recommended monthly rations for a family of 5 persons and tailored to local food preferences as outlined by SPHERE.

Through the Spanish Red Cross funded Drought Relief intervention program for Kavango region NRCS plans to provide food parcels to 200 households, beneficiaries initially registered under the soup kitchen operations for a period

of six (6) months starting January-June 2017. These parcels would consist of 12.5kg maize meal, 750ml cooking oil, 4x 410g tinned fish and 1kg iodised salt; to enable households meeting their basic food needs.

A Transition to Cash Transfer Programming

Since 10 November 2016, the NRCS have engaged the support of an IFRC Cash Transfer delegate seconded from the BRC household economic security (HES) roster to provide technical backstopping and build on the success of the 2013/14 CTP operation. With the closure of kitchens in Kunene and Kavango regions at the end of November, the focus of the Appeal fully transitioned to cash transfer programming (CTP).

The CTP is a multi-stage process engaging the project cycle steps and templates of the 'Cash in Emergencies Toolkit' as implementation of the Food Security Appeal evolves. Activities to date have focused on establishing 1) a strong assessment (including the triangulation of 2016 data with the 2013 Household Food Security assessment); 2) setting-up a detailed implementation plan; and 3) designing an evidence-based M&E system based on Module 5 of the Cash in Emergencies toolkit. The Appeal also sees a shift away from direct cash delivery by the NRCS to third party delivery via a financial services provider in line with wider Red Cross Movement policy and Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) global standards. A contractual partnership with a financial services provider is projected to reap the benefits of safe and efficient delivery of cash, 'Value for Money' and improved beneficiary accountability. Furthermore, the funding of a skilled partner opens up opportunities for promoting private sector investment in the financial services and telecommunications infrastructure, traditionally neglected in rural areas.

A first cash transfer payment occurred the week beginning 6 February 2017, and thereafter will occur on a monthly basis until the end of April 2017. NRCS is in the process of carrying out a baseline household assessment/registration in over 70 vulnerable villages reaching sample size of 1,600 households (approximately 8,000 persons) in Opuwo and Epupa constituencies. Rapid assessment findings indicate that the population is comprised of ~60-70% of HES 'Very Poor' and 'Poor' households (see annex). By surveying 1,600 households, the team will be able to target 1,100+/- households for support, plus a backup list of 100 beneficiaries without resorting to blanket coverage or the inclusion of 'better-off' households. The baseline assessment aims to capture the socio-economic and vulnerability status of each household from which 1,100+ households will be targeted to receive cash transfers.

The targeting system uses a geographic and score-based index to target the most vulnerable (categorised as 'poor' and 'very poor' under the BRC Household Economic Security guidelines) for assistance. While the Appeal as a whole aims to have both a food (and nutrition) security-related impact (i.e. through a reduction in households' use of harmful/risky coping mechanisms such as adults reducing the number of meals or migrating to informal settlements without basic services), the cash transfer intervention is also aimed at improving households' ability to meet their basic needs including health; education; transport to local market; hygiene; and emergency needs.

Monthly Cash Transfer pay outs to 1,100 head of households

In late November, a rapid field assessment was conducted (see annex) in Kunene region concluding that HES categorised 'poor' and 'very poor' households, notably women and children, have been and are adversely affected by the drought. The assessment pinpointed poor pasture land and failed crop planting as key causes, leading to the loss of livestock assets through unsustainable coping and gaps in food consumption, namely skipping meals and low dietary diversity.

Food prices in the main urban markets of Kunene region were found to be higher than average for the same period in 2015 (~33-36% for maize) and likely to increase due to poor domestic yields, higher demand, and the dependence on imports from South Africa and competition with Zimbabwe for maize in particular. It is worth highlighting that the majority of households access food staples via the main market of Opuwo town, burdening their monthly expenditures with transport costs of between NAD 100 and NAD 300 depending on the distance travelled.

Taken together the above findings have enabled the calculation of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) for a family of 5 persons. The MEB represents the basic energy requirements of 2,100 kilocalories per person per calendar month as well as non-food items, less the average 'very poor' income of NAD 1,000 (see annex for full details of the MEB calculation). While the transfer value has taken into account national inflation (running at approximately 6.5%), NRCS will continue to monitor market prices of staples to ensure food items remain affordable and accessible for beneficiaries.

The rapid field assessment has pinpointed a number of destitute pastoralists living in peri-urban settlements lacking access to basic services and infrastructure. An increase in the targeted number of households from 1000 to 1100 would allow the project to provide critical livelihood protection and food consumption support for the some of the very

poorest. Therefore, with the approval of the cost and time extension from January to May, monthly cash transfers of NAD 700 (CHF 52) will be delivered to 1100 households.

Training of Selected Staff in Cash Transfer Programming basics in Kunene and H.Q

As stated above, an IFRC delegate with CTP expertise was deployed. To date, the delegate has worked closely with the national DRR coordinator to strengthen capacity in CTP modules through an analysis of community needs, market and risk analysis, and organisational assessment, as well as the creation of a work plan and budget forecast for project tracking.

By fulfilling each of the four project cycle modules: 1) assessment; 2) response analysis; 3) set-up and implementation; and 4) M&E, it is expected that the NRCS will have enhanced their internal procedures; contingency plans and templates; and cash delivery options, in turn laying the foundation for improved 5) Cash preparedness.

Train volunteers in Red Cross Code of Conduct and emergencies

14 NRCS volunteers have been trained in mobile data collection and household survey techniques, including Red Cross Code of Conduct. Further trainings are planned in 2017 on Cash Transfer payment procedures and reporting; market price monitoring; post distribution monitoring; and community health and nutrition sensitisation skills.

Outcome 3: Livelihoods among targeted population are improved.

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.

Through the Spanish Red Cross funded drought relief intervention program for Kavango region, a total number of 200 Lead Farmers were trained in Conservation Agriculture in preparation of the upcoming cropping season to enable farmers. The farmers training was facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry supported by experienced local Lead Farmers who have piloted Conservation Agriculture with success. The training covered aspects of Conservation Agriculture in relation to the National Conservation Agriculture Framework for 2015-2019, CA in relation to climate change adaptation for rural farmers, principles of CA among others.

Upon successfully completing the CA training, the farmers were further each provided with drought resistant seed as follows: 5kg maize, 5 kg pearl millet, 2kg groundnuts and 5kg cow peas. Water for crops is based on a rain-fed agricultural system. NRCS would continue to mentorship and support to the lead farmers throughout the cropping season to ensure the farmers overcome the challenges experienced with Conservation Agriculture challenges for first time farmers such as low yields and weed infestation that hamper adoption of the concept.

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 4: NRCS effectively implements the operation and improves their presence and communication within the affected communities

Output 4.1 The operation is informed by two-way communication with the community

Soup Kitchens Operations and Food parcels distributions

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.

A beneficiary satisfaction Survey was administered to 32 adult respondents in Kunene and Kavango Regions through questionnaires after being explained the purpose of the survey and assured that all responses would be treated with confidentiality irrespective of the opinions expressed. The activity was planned to be conducted before the end of July 2016 under which the IFRC Appeal intervention funding was earmarked to be finalized. The survey was necessitated to gather service recipients' opinions and satisfaction towards the services rendered for the NRCS to improve future similar interventions. Further similar reviews were administered through focus group discussions with 40 volunteers involved with the cooking and administration of the soup kitchens.

Everyone responded indicating that the soup kitchens provided meals which assisted them to at least have a meal every day, enabling them to save costs related to food as they only have to cook during evenings while further saving on food purchases. For those with children, they further indicated that their children health improved as a result of receive a mixed diet meal which they would not be able to afford at household levels. All respondents indicated to have practiced hand washing before eating, as this was mandated by the volunteers during verifications before reaching the meals serving points. All respondents indicated that they consumed the meals at the kitchens, except only when they have received large portions they would then take such home to share with relatives or eat later. Some also indicated that they were allowed to collect meals only for those registered and not able to each soup kitchens which ensured Access to services including for the immobile.

Cash Transfer Programming Baseline Survey

Baseline Survey data collection is being conducted using mobile devices donated by the Spanish RCS, the team created a baseline survey tool to gather household-level socio-economic data, GPS coordinates and standardized food security indicators (household dietary diversity score and coping strategies index). Data will enable the NRCS to not only target vulnerable households for support, but deliver a baseline against which impact of the cash transfers on household food security can be measured. Post distribution monitoring is planned to take place at a further two points in time; one month after the first cash payment (February) and shortly after the final cash transfer (May).

In preparation for the first cash transfer, the team is exploring culturally appropriate communication channels in order to design an effective beneficiary complaints system. Possible channels include a mobile phone hotline and strategically located mail boxes as well as more traditional channels such as the volunteer network and walk-in reporting at the regional office. Upon finalization of the targeted beneficiary list in early January, the NRCS staff and volunteers will deliver brief sessions to traditional leaders in order to explain what the cash is for; how much is being provided; and how and when it will be delivered. Information will also be made available to other stakeholders, such as government line ministries and regional councils, and delivery agents, where applicable. Encashment monitoring and beneficiary satisfaction surveys will inform the team of any necessary changes to the delivery model.

Output 4.2 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, NRCS Quarterly Newsletter and on the IFRC website. A second media was conducted for a Communications Specialist from the Norwegian Red Cross Society. This was further followed up by the IFRC Communications Delegate in November 2016 to cover the NRCS operations in Kunene and Kavango, which sought to highlight the drought's impact on crops as well as profile the NRCS' drought response operations in Kunene and Kavango region. The stories and communications materials developed as



Volunteers preparing meals at an NRCS Soup Kitchen

result of this mission are in the final stages of development and will be shared through the IFRC 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. The NRCS Humanitarian Diplomacy/Communications Management further published the NRCS Quarterly newsletter regarding the operations.

Advocacy and public relation - press releases etc.

In late November, the Head of NRCS Humanitarian Diplomacy and Communications was joined by the IFRC communications delegate and undertook a visit to the program including a tour of the Kavango region. These articles will be published through the IFRC SARO network upon being made available. Similarly, the BRC posted an online article to highlight the plight of the population in Kunene region, appealing to the British public to contribute to the Appeal (<http://blogs.redcross.org.uk/international/2016/11/nomadic-tribe-facing-climate-change-namibia/>)

It is expected that post distribution data will be analysed and shared with government, financial service providers and Red Cross Movement partners across the southern Africa region as a component of the final evaluation. To succeed in changing the government's negative perception of cash as a humanitarian modality and promote private sector investment in financial infrastructure, it will be important for the NRCS to document and disseminate the CTP results.

Public health and nutrition messaging

The onset of the rainy season brings with it an increased risk of water-borne diseases notably cholera. Exposure to behaviour change messages via posters, a short radio campaign and volunteer sensitization during cash transfer payouts will encourage good hygiene practices (5 key messages). As per above, aqua tab distribution together with community-based sensitization during cash payments would promote safe and clean water use during the rainy season. Aqua tabs, packaged in strips of 10 tablets, have proven effective in field trials in the developing world for treating water in the home. Volunteers will also be trained on point-of-use water disinfection, allowing them to promote the use of Aqua tabs among beneficiary households in their various communities. 1100 Jerry Cans are to be distributed for 1,100 households, who received CTP to further support safe hygiene practices. Communication between the BRC global health advisor and NRCS team is on-going at the time of writing as to the most appropriate health and nutrition messages and media for delivering behaviour change at the household-level.

Visibility materials - Programme T-shirt and Coats procured

All vehicles, staff and volunteers carry the NRCS logo in the field. In preparation for first cash payment, a new consignment of bibs, t-shirts, baseball caps, pull-up banners and portable gazebos with the NRCS logo have been ordered. A further consignment of health and nutrition IEC materials are expected to be ordered in January as a means of promoting the 'soft conditionality' aspect of the cash transfers.

Project initiation meeting with Partner stakeholders: Cash Transfer in Kunene

In order to target the most vulnerable constituency villages, the NRCS team conducted a number of meetings with line ministries (Directorate of Veterinary Services; Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture; Ministry of Health; Directorate of Rural Water supply), regional and constituency councillors and administrative officers and the chairman of the Kunene branch of the NRCS. At the community-level, interviews were held with village headmen, community councillors, rural clinic staff and health workers as well as single and mixed gender group discussions with the population to ensure their inputs were fed into the response analysis.

While sliding scales of government drought response (food relief; market incentives for destocking; seed; school canteens; borehole rehabilitation etc.) as well as routine social protection grants have been made available to the population, their distribution is geographically uneven with little or no data available.

Nonetheless, the problematic unreliability of government data opened up a space for the team to rethink the vulnerability targeting system. Stage 1) in selecting *geographically vulnerable areas* took the form of a participatory process based on local knowledge (Red Cross volunteers; community health workers) that many of the smaller, more remote villages together with peri-urban settlements with high rates of destitute pastoralists are commonly underserved by government interventions (distance to water points and health clinics; absence of electricity; school absenteeism; poor sanitation; cases of malnutrition). Stage 2) in selecting households within those villages or settlements is based on a range of weighted socio-economic vulnerability criteria. The team is confident that many of the less populated, mobile and more remote villages will be targeted under the baseline assessment, improving the coverage and impact of the Appeal. A secondary effect is the role of the NRCS in bridging vulnerability targeting through participatory processes within the work of partners involved in the response.

Carry out CTP beneficiary Selection and Planning Surveys integrating the Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS)

Prior to starting the baseline household assessment / registration process, 14 NRCS volunteer enumerators and 5 staff were provided with a 2-day survey skills and mobile device handling training (8-9 December). Broadly, the training curricula covered the purpose of the assessment, a question-by-question run through of the baseline survey tool to ensure a common understanding of all terminology and mechanics, guidance on asking sensitive questions (i.e. expenditures; food consumption; income & asset ownership; coping strategies), standard operating procedures for making child malnutrition referrals, community engagement and a refresher session on the Red Cross Code of Conduct.

Importantly, volunteer enumerators had the opportunity to pilot the baseline survey tool, allowing the team to further refine the questions and recalibrate response options before rolling it out. Volunteer enumerators were divided into three teams of 4-5 persons, each led by a NRCS staff. Technical support on data aggregation and IT issues was provided by the NRCS IT officer and IFRC delegate to ensure a smooth data collection process. Volunteers have also been tasked with red flagging any cases of chronic illness or malnutrition to prioritise their selection. Daily feedback meetings between volunteers, NRCS staff and IFRC delegate raised any survey issues for troubleshooting and logistical challenges in reaching the target population. The data collection was completed in December 2016. A list of targeted beneficiary households was finalised in January 2017. Case-by-case appeals will decide if a targeted beneficiary household does or does not adequately meet vulnerability criteria and should be replaced using a back-up list. Equally, the programme has incorporated the DAPS framework from the start of the operation.

The table below outlines measures taken or to be incorporated into the CTP, in turn fulfilling each of the DAPS dimensions.

Dimension	Measure
Dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS have designed a culturally appropriate targeting system and cash transfer delivery mechanism based on a rapid field assessment and lessons learnt from 2013/14 CTP operation
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary selection criteria – drawn from wide range of stakeholders (inside and outside the community). Gender, age and protection considerations have been taken into account (i.e. targeting of caregivers; single head of household; orphans; disability; chronically ill; pregnant and lactating mothers; children <2 and <5 years) during rapid field assessment and baseline household survey and registration
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Females and males were consulted in single sex FGDs / KIIs regarding livelihood needs during rapid field assessment Rapid field assessment and baseline survey teams (leaders and volunteers) were represented balanced gender ratio Cash distribution timing will take into account daily routine of females and males / marginalised ethnic groups NRCS has been careful to avoid any sort of political bias in selection of villages of beneficiaries, while maintaining coordination with government
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All NRCS volunteers have undergone training in and are signatories to Code of Conduct Each baseline survey team has been supported by a HQ team leader for any issues/complaints on the field Complaints Response Mechanism is in the process of being designed, and will take into account any lessons learned from 2013/14 operation and ensure complaints are collated from illiterate community members Selection of regulated financial services provider(s) will include criteria for data privacy and good financial reconciliation Data protection – beneficiary lists will be locked/encrypted before being shared with regional staff and/or financial services provider(s) Complete separation of duties for implementation functions

Procure Beneficiaries registration equipment for Cash Transfer Program and MUAC

14 existing mobile devices were made available to team for the baseline assessment / registration. MUAC strips are available for selected volunteers to rapidly identify any severe/acute cases of malnutrition among children under five during cash payments. While some volunteers are already trained in MUAC, refresher training is planned for January on malnutrition danger signs and the correct procedure for referrals to rural clinics and/or the regional hospital.

Provision of security services for Cash Transfer Program during payments only maximum 7 days per month

Funding from this budget line will be incorporated into the costs of commission for one (*or more*) selected financial service providers to distribute cash efficiently and effectively on the field. A closed tender for service provision was published in the widely-read newspaper *The Namibian* on 7 December. At the time of writing bids are being received and a competitive bid analysis and selection is expected to take place by 21 December. As a component of the rapid field assessment, the team conducted an analysis of the various advantages and drawbacks of different cash delivery mechanisms. The tender evaluation committee will score bids based on a range of technical and financial criteria.

Bi-monthly Program review meetings in Kunene region

Two program review meetings have been held in Windhoek with the NRCS Senior Management Team (SMT). The SMT validated findings and plans included in the following presentations: 1) '*Operationalizing the CTP in Kunene Region using the RC Cash in Emergencies Toolkit*'; and 2) '*rapid field assessment and response logic*'. Presentations covered a range of issues from the impact of the drought on different livelihoods and wealth categories; cash transfer value calculations, beneficiary targeting criteria, advantages and drawbacks of different financial service providers, monitoring tools, and the planned time frame.

A work plan delegating tasks to various HQ and Kunene region staff has been shared and will be updated at the end of the year. Decision-making processes and information have also been shared with the BRC Disaster Management Coordinator for East and Southern Africa and IFRC Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, Southern Africa. Looking

ahead, it will be important for the team to coordinate findings and planned activities to various stakeholders on a regular basis.

Capacity building for national society

Under the cost extension, a 2-3 day training workshop for NHQ and regional staff in order to design a disaster contingency framework would in turn feeding into the national disaster response plan. Such a contingency planning workshop would be loosely structured to address the following three questions: 1) How can the NRCS recognise the next drought in the early stages? 2) How will drought affect key populations? and 3) How can the NRCS protect the most vulnerable from the next drought?



Community spring rehabilitated coupled with a water tap.

The workshop would be facilitated by an expert(s) to help the NHQ and regional staff answer these questions and to encourage an open and inclusive planning effort employing a proactive approach to build long-term resiliency to drought. Future disasters would trigger the implementation of the contingency framework speeding up the response time and effectiveness.

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

The rehabilitation of eleven (10) water points in Kunene were completed in September 2016 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 delivered Water and Sanitation (WASH) education at soup kitchens during food distributions. This approach helped to reduce communicable disease transmission and infection by ensuring that safe hygiene is practiced prior to eating. An estimated 111,976 beneficiaries in Kunene and Kavango have been reached this way and volunteers continue to engage with beneficiaries. The above corresponds with the number of meals served to date, since hand washing was made mandatory before receiving a meal. Beneficiaries needed to pass through a volunteer manned handwashing point on the way to collect a meal.



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

Operational Support Services

Please refer to the original [EPoA](#) for details.

C. Detailed operational plan

To date, the Appeal coverage has only reached 44%, 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 (Opuwo and Epupa constituencies) and Kavango. The following provides an overview of the NRCS overall planned interventions and progress.

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors		
Outcome 1: NRCS effectively implements the operation and improves their presence and communication within the affected communities in Kunene and Kavango		
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%
	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%
	Training for staff in cash transfer programming (including mobile data and household survey techniques)	100%
	Beneficiary satisfaction survey using ODK	100%
	Establish beneficiary complaints and feedback mechanisms (Suggestion Boxes and Help desks)	100%
	Development of monitoring tools and systems	100%
	Post-feeding monitoring	100%
	Monthly and quarterly field visits.	100%
	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	100%
	Establish structures in identified areas	100%
	Provide meals at soup kitchens	100%
	Train volunteers in MUAC and referral systems	100%
	Conduct MUAC and refer to relevant agencies	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.		
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 60 lead farmers (10 per region) in conservation agriculture and usage of drought tolerant, early maturing crops varieties and introduction to livestock and rangeland management (including procurement of tools (hoes) for farmers).	200%

	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 3,300 households 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%
Please note that the above progress refers only to Kavango region. No operations have yet been conducted in other targeted regions.		
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	100%
	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 and 1,100 jerry cans.	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.

EMERGENCY APPEAL

30/03/2017

MDRNA009

Namibia Food Insecurity

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0	0
Shelter - Transitional	0	0
Construction - Housing	0	0
Construction - Facilities	0	0
Construction - Materials	7,474	7,474
Clothing & Textiles	0	0
Food	151,866	151,866
Seeds & Plants	99,000	99,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	27,985	27,985
Medical & First Aid	118	118
Teaching Materials	0	0
Utensils & Tools	15,357	15,357
Other Supplies & Services	7,362	7,362
Emergency Response Units	0	0
Cash Disbursements	330,116	330,116
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	639,278	639,278
Land & Buildings	0	0
Vehicles	0	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	704	704
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
Medical Equipment	0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	704	704
Storage, Warehousing	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	2,111	2,111
Transport & Vehicle Costs	37,238	37,238
Logistics Services	0	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	39,349	39,349
International Staff	60,000	60,000
National Staff	0	0
National Society Staff	212,699	212,699
Volunteers	20,092	20,092
Total PERSONNEL	292,791	292,791
Consultants	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0
Workshops & Training	157,652	157,652
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	157,652	157,652
Travel	12,760	12,760
Information & Public Relations	12,878	12,878
Office Costs	10,441	10,441
Communications	16,773	16,773
Financial Charges	10,000	10,000
Other General Expenses	0	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	31,032	31,032
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	93,884	93,884
Partner National Societies	0	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	79,538	79,538
Total INDIRECT COSTS	79,538	79,538
Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees	0	0
Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	1,303,195	1,303,195
Available Resources		
Multilateral Contributions	143,758	143,758
Bilateral Contributions		0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	143,758	143,758
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	1,159,437	1,159,437