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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	EA Operations Update no 7
Date of issue: 28 July 2017	Timeframe covered by Update: June – July 2017
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Florence Mangwende, DM/PMER Delegate IFRC Southern Africa	Point of contact: Ms Naemi Heita, Secretary General
Operation start date: 30 September 2015	Expected timeframe: 24 months (30 September 2015 to 30 September 2017)
Overall operation budget: CHF 1,303,195	
Number of people affected: 580,000 Number of people to be assisted: 16,500 (3,300 hhds)	Appeal coverage: CHF 590,694 (45 percent) CHF 100,137 was initially allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society to begin immediate operations.
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Namibia Red Cross Society headquarters and two regional branches of Kunene and Kavango, (five fulltime, four support staff, and 40 volunteers).	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The Spanish Red Cross is working closely with Namibia Red Cross Society, together with Support from the IFRC Southern Africa Cluster office.	
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 organizations are also providing support to local 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) with 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 with community gardens development; sustainable water access through spring and borehole cleaning/creation; and hygiene promotion.

- [Operations Update no1](#) was issued on 26 October 2015
- [Operations Update no2](#) was issued on 12 November 2015
- [Operations Update no3](#) was issued on 3 May 2016
- [Six-Month Operations Update](#) was issued on 23 May 2016
- [Operations Update no5](#) was issued on 3 August 2016

The [Appeal revision](#) was done in September 2016 to cater for needed implementation time by the National Society. In July, the Government of Namibia declared the drought an emergency. This allowed 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 has an overall operational budget of CHF 1,351,937 and is 45 percent 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 the government's drought emergency declaration, the situation on the ground did not improve necessitating the Government of Namibia to further prolong the intervention periods for another four (4) months from September-December 2016. This allowed NRCS to revisit its Appeal and 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 was accepted.

- [Operations Update no6](#) was issued on 30 March 2017
- [Operations Update no7](#) was issued on 29 May 2017 and it was meant to request a non-cost extension to allow the NRCS to finalize the remaining activities related to cash distribution and the final operation evaluation, which is feeding into a Southern Africa evaluation of the food insecurity emergency appeals.

This Operations Update seeks to provide an update of the activities conducted so far as well as to request a two-month extension until 30 September 2017, with no budget changes. The affected communities still require support to meet their basic food needs as such this extension is basically to allow the National Society to conduct the last cash transfer activities, post distribution monitoring as well as reporting. Therefore, there is no change in budget, no change in beneficiaries and no change in the intervention strategy

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 this Appeal.

Description of the disaster

Between October 2014 and February 2015, Namibia experienced highly erratic rainfall patterns that negatively impacted the planting and cultivation seasons. The 2016 assessment done by the office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture estimated that 729,134 people were food insecure and 595,839 needed 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 2014/2015 crop production yields were 46 percent 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 to access water, such as collecting water from unprotected sources. This put 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 2016/2017 agricultural season, most farmers in the northern part of Namibia who depend on rain-fed agriculture had not planted by November 2016 (the active cropping season). Poor rainfall postponed harvesting until May 2017, which

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 the Spanish Government to secure funding of the soup kitchens in Kavango, to complement its Livelihoods Activities initially implemented until June 2016 in the region. The SRCS secured funding for the Drought response intervention in Kavango, reaching a total number of 200HH through the provision of once-off seeds distribution and Conservation Agriculture capacity building for 200HH and monthly food parcels from January to June 2017.

To bolster awareness for the emergency 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 finalized 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 visit was followed up by another Communications Delegate in November 2016 who accompanied the NRCS field team to visit and document the operations of the NRCS.

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 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
Future Energy CC	N\$ 10,000	Food items
Kosmos Radio Campaign		Food items Cash Non-Food Items (mostly clothing and blankets)

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

The NRCS officially launched the local Appeal in September 2015 in consultation with local partners including UN, government, regional councils and NGOs. The NRCS participates in government-led reviews of the drought response (organized by the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management in the Office of the Prime Minister) and provides updates on the status of implementation of the Emergency Plan of Action (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 tons (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 initiated the “Maak oop jou hand Namibia/Open up your hand Namibia”, a drive aimed at mobilizing resources of financial pledges, Food and Non- Food items mostly targeting local companies. In addition, the radio station raised 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, the participation of UNICEF.

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 direct result of these actions, there have not been any cases of acute malnutrition recorded, though there were six moderate cases recorded, of which the referrals were provided to NRCS by the regional hospital. Volunteers performed MUAC measurements and recorded this on a weekly basis throughout the soup kitchen activity. Volunteers continued to monitor their progress even after termination of the soup kitchen activity.

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 articles for the IFRC available at www.ifrc.org/africa.

Operational Implementation

Overall objective

The overall objective of the operation is to: **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 and implementing water rehabilitation activities in Kunene through the outcomes in the proposed strategy.

To date, the Appeal coverage has only reached 45 percent, which has significantly impacted the implementation of the intervention’s work plan. As such, priority was assigned to food assistance operations initially and water point rehabilitation. 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.

Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods

Outcome 1: Immediate food needs of 2,000 beneficiaries are met.

Output	Activities planned	Progress %
Output 1.1: 2,000 households provided with cash to cover immediate food needs	Selection and Registration of beneficiaries	100
	Procure cooking materials for kitchens in each region.	20
	Procure food items for the 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
	Conduct Cash Transfer to 2,062 registered beneficiaries (936 in February and 1,126 in June 2017)	37
	Conduct Appeal Post Evaluation Assessment.	100

The NRCS conducted the distribution of 1,200 food parcels to 200 Households in Kavango for a period of four months from January-June 2017 under the Spanish Red Cross Drought Relief support program.

A first cash transfer payment occurred the week beginning 6 February 2017 to 936 registered beneficiaries'. Through the rapid field assessments that were conducted it was noted that a number of destitute pastoralists living in peri-urban settlements did not have access to basic services and infrastructure. Based on the identified needs, NRCS increased the targeted number of households under the cash transfer intervention from 1,000 to 1,100 as this 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 cash transfers of NAD 700 (CHF 52) would be provided to a targeted number of 1,100 households, with the remaining final cash transfer scheduled to be conducted in August 2017.

NRCS was also part of the Southern Africa Emergency Appeals evaluation. In June, the external consultant could visit the affected communities to conduct an interview which would feed into the regional report and lesson learnt workshop.

As state above, with 45 percent funding, NRCS prioritized cash transfers to meet basic food news and other activities like procuring cooking materials were not completed as planned.

Outcome 2: Livelihoods among targeted population are improved		
Output	Activities planned	Progress %
Output 2.1: Agricultural production capacity is increased through the provision of inputs and training to 3,300 farmers to improve food security of 16,500 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)	100
	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 25 kg maize or 25 kg of pearl millet/mahangu seeds to lead farmers for 3,300 households to cultivate a field of up to four ha	0
	Post-distribution seed monitoring to ensure relevance and timeliness	0
	Establish farmer co-op to enhance coordination and share best practices	0
<p>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. 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. Upon successfully completing the CA training, the farmers were further each provided with drought resistant seed as follows: 5 kg maize, 5 kg pearl millet, 2 kg groundnuts and 5 kg cow peas. The other activities that fall within this outcome could not be implemented due to limited funding on the appeal which resulted in prioritization of the cash transfer.</p> <p>As state above, with 45 percent funding, NRCS prioritized cash transfers to meet basic food needs and other activities like cascading of trainings on best agricultural practices were not completed as initially planned.</p>		

Water, Health and Hygiene promotion		
Outcome 3: Reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities		
Output	Activities planned	Progress%
Output 3.1: 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 3.2: Hygiene promotion 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
<p>The NRCS rehabilitated 11 water points in Kunene with the support of local communities and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. The rehabilitated boreholes are benefiting altogether 4,000 beneficiaries. Coupled with the rehabilitation was the distribution of aqua tabs and community based sensitization which were done during cash transfers to promote the use of safe and clean water. Volunteers were also trained on point-of-use water disinfection, allowing them to promote the use of Aquatabs among beneficiary households in their various communities. Some Jerry Cans were distributed to households, who were benefiting from the CTP to further support safe hygiene practices.</p>		

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors		
Outcome 4: NRCS effectively implements the operation and improves their presence and communication within the affected communities		
Outputs	Activities planned	Progress %
Output 4.1 The operation is informed by two-way communication with the community.	Project initiation meeting with 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
	Conduct a Post Distribution monitoring of the Appeal	100
	Conduct Appeal Evaluation Assessment.	100
Output 4.2: The visibility of the NRCS is improved	Visibility items are procured for staff/volunteers	100
	Media Tours	100
	Press releases conducted	40

To increase the operation's visibility, the NRCS conducted a media tours in the affected regions. Field visits were conducted with the Humanitarian Diplomacy/Communications Manager, the NRCS Secretary General, Communications Specialist from the Norwegian Red Cross as well as with IFRC Communications Delegate. All these visits sought to highlight the drought's impact on crops as well as profile the NRCS' drought response operations in Kunene and Kavango region. The Spanish Red Cross supported the NS with training and equipment for Mega V and ODK. This was useful especially in collecting baseline data as well as in the registration of beneficiaries. NRCS trained its volunteers (40 volunteers—20 from Kunene and 20 from Kavango) on record keeping ensuring accurate data collection from the soup kitchens, how to take MUAC measurements to monitor and screen children for malnutrition, and the effective use of the Mega V and ODK equipment donated by the SRCS.

A beneficiary satisfaction Survey was administered to 32 adult respondents in Kunene and Kavango regions through questionnaires. The survey 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 Discussions with 40 volunteers involved with the cooking and administration of the soup kitchens. All indicated 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 purchase.

Summary of activities completed since the last operations update

- Second CTP distribution to 1,100 households.

Summary of activities remaining

- Final CTP distribution to 1,100 households in August 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 -- PDM is scheduled after the third round of cash disbursements to provide some insight into food security patterns and outcomes over the course of the CTP).

PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION FOR REMAINING ACTIVITIES

	July	August				September			
Activity	wk 4	wk1	wk2	wk3	wk4	wk1	wk2	wk3	wk4
Submissions of Journals to cluster Office									
Review of Journals by Cluster Office									
Submission of Journal and Cash request to NBO									
Transfer of Funds to NS									
Transfer of funds to CTP service provider									
Community sensitization									
Cash transfer									
Post distribution Monitoring									
Reporting o final activities									

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 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.
