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Operation Update Report

Southern Africa: Drought (Food Insecurity)



Emergency appeal n°: MDR63003	GLIDE n°: __
Operation update n° 3: 15 February 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: September 2020 – December 2020
Operation start date: 11 December 2019	Operation timeframe and end date: 17 months, 31 May 2021
Funding requirements: CHF 7.4 million	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 768,800
N° of people targeted: Botswana: 7,750 - Eswatini: 25,000 - Lesotho: 23,000 - Namibia: 18,000 Total: 73,750 people (14,750 households)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: American Red Cross, British Red Cross; Canadian Red Cross; Finnish Red Cross; Netherlands Red Cross; Spanish Red Cross; Swedish Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Governments of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia; Government of Japan. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), United States Agency for International Development (USAID); World Food Programme (WFP); Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO); GIZ; and UNICEF.	

<Please click [here](#) for the budget and [here](#) for the contacts>

Summary:

This operation update reflects the current situation and information available since the last operation update published in September 2020.

The operation timeframe will be extended by one month to end on 31 May 2021 to allow for a final evaluation to be completed. Simultaneously, as needs persist and the funding gap in 2020 allowed to reach less than half of the targeted people in many places, extending the operation further beyond May is being discussed. Following discussions with the National Societies and estimates of needs and possible activities, a new operation update may be published to extend the timeframe or the Emergency Appeal may be revised should a change of activities be foreseen.

In parallel, the IFRC is looking to launch a new 10-year food security programme for Southern Africa and a Zero Hunger Agenda to provide longer term support to the small holder farmers affected by persistent adverse weather conditions with the aim to support the vulnerable families to be food secure. The programme and the Zero Hunger Agenda are planned for launching in the first half of 2021. The work and results of this Emergency Appeal operation will be used to inform the programme design and provide the ground on which to continue the resilience work. The planned final evaluation is to shed light on the main lessons and recommendations to be considered.

Since the last Operation Update, **Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS)** was able to finalise their 6 months of food assistance to 300 households. BRCS also upgraded its voucher system to a digital one and it is looking to use the adopted system across its programmes where relevant. BRCS embarked on a procurement process to engage suppliers for the 100 beneficiary gardens to be constructed to improve household food production.

Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS) carried out crop management trainings and seed distributions to 1979 beneficiaries. This was done using conditional mobile cash whereby attendance at the training was a condition to receive the cash to purchase seeds at a fair organized adjacent to the trainings. BERCS will distribute backyard garden inputs to 1000 beneficiaries using the same conditional cash modality in the first quarter of 2021. An additional month of cash support distributions will also be conducted to support households during the lean season.

Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) distributed seeds and garden inputs to 2005 households at multiple seed fairs organized over three weeks close to the beneficiaries in November 2020. Vouchers were used as purchasing medium at the fairs where suppliers had first been procured through a tender system. LRCS organized food preservation workshops to lead farmers, volunteers and beneficiaries in the communities as part of enhancing food preservation skills in preparation for the lean season. In Lesotho it is likewise foreseen to provide an additional month of mobile cash support for the lean season to beneficiaries in the first quarter of 2021. Besides unconditional cash, conditional cash is planned in exchange for work in community preparedness projects planned together with community disaster management teams.

Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) started its cash assistance for basic needs distributing three rounds of support - for October-December 2020. Cash assistance is planned to continue through January-February 2021 targeting in total 5 months of support for 1204 households. Waterpoint rehabilitation interventions have not been started but NRCS is committed to complete 15 of them by the end of the operation reaching 200 households.

Following fundraising efforts and partner engagement the Appeal had attracted CHF 3 188 435 cash contributions and CHF 68 400 in HR support and is in total 44% covered at the end of 2020. The implementation rate at the end of December 2020 stands at 80,6%.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

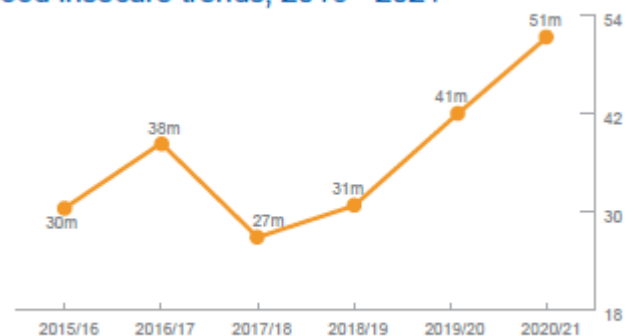
Description of the disaster

Regional

Southern Africa is prone to recurrent extreme climatic shocks and has experienced normal rainfall in only one of the last five cropping seasons. Resultantly 2019 had the highest acute food insecurity situation in the region that sparked government and international actors to provide humanitarian support, including this Emergency Appeal.

The regional food security situation has only deteriorated during 2020. While in July 2020 the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states estimated a total of 44.8 million people being food insecure, an increase already from 2019, the December 2020 update indicates that 51.3 million people are currently food insecure in this larger Southern Africa region.¹ This is the highest number ever recorded by the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Programme and denoting a 14,5% increase or correction upward in six months, while the impacts of Covid-19 cannot yet be entirely captured as assessments capture mainly rural figures.

Food insecure trends, 2015 - 2021**



** Figures are mainly based on rural assessments, with few countries also conducting targeted urban assessments

1. SADC regional food insecurity trends. Source: SADC Synthesis Report December 2020 Update

In the ten countries covered by the IFRC Southern Africa Cluster delegation the number of food insecure people according to the same assessment report for the lean season 2020/2021 is close to 28,5 million people. That means a staggering 54% increase/correction upward in six months. In the four countries under this Emergency Appeal the number of food insecure people has risen/been corrected upward by 19%, reaching 1 420 730.

The reasons for the significant deterioration of the situation are much due to Covid-19 induced disruptions and distortions of supply and distribution chains that make the regionally available food locally inaccessible, particularly to those who have lost their livelihoods. In addition, the region has faced animal diseases and crop pests, notably the African Migratory Locust that has affected Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe and 7 million people who had not yet recovered from the 2019 drought.

The regional rainfall and crop production outlook 2020/2021 in SADC is promising. La niña oscillation has brought average to above-average rains to much of the region, allowing to expect largely favourable crop production, if rains continue stable. Yet, excessive rainfall can cause loss of crops locally².

¹ [SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2020, December Update](#)

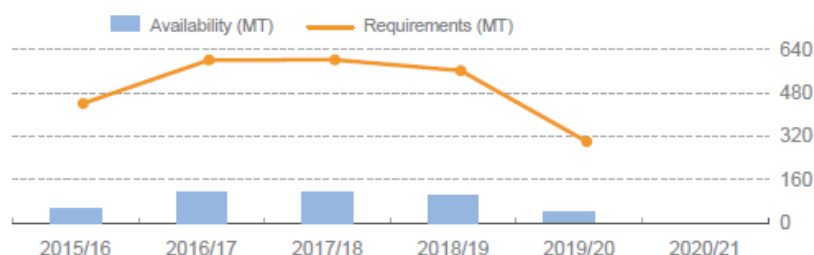
² SADC Agromet Update Issue 3_2020-2021

Country by Country Analysis

Botswana

Botswana has experienced recurrent drought for several years and was affected four times in the last five years, with the 2018/19 rains described as the lowest in the country in three decades. These consecutive rainfall deficits resulted in the worst ever vegetation condition index.

Cereal Availability and Requirements



*Food insecurity data based on NVAC assessments and forecasts in 2019

Creation date: Nov 2020 Sources: SADC/NVAC, Development & Humanitarian Partners

Source: SADC RVVA December Update 2020

During 2020 the country received generally favourable rainfall conditions, improving vegetation across the country. The improved pasture conditions are expected to support an increase in livestock production in 2020 and cereal production increased manifold from 5,000 tonnes in 2019 to 45 000 tonnes in 2020.³

Botswana is a net importer of food grains and cereals, so although an increase in cereal and livestock production in 2020 improve food availability and ease

access constraints to food for subsistence farmers moving to 2021, Covid-19 restrictions may cause an increase in the prevalence of malnutrition nationally. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (wasting - being too thin relative to height) among children under age 5 in Botswana is already 7,3%.

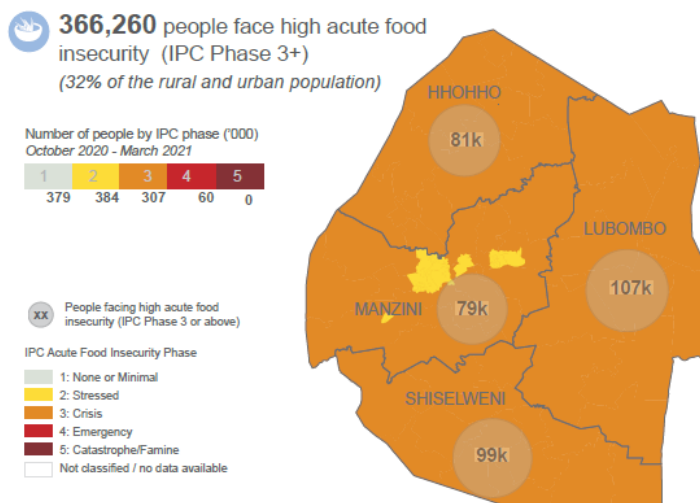
Covid-19 cases have increased in December 2020 - January 2021 significantly in the country and the Government has introduced a night curfew between 20:00 – 04:00. Stricter measures may be in prospect as the case spread continue to reach remote areas. The effects of the pandemic include a reduction in economic activities and associated income losses. Closed borders have a negative impact on the supply of food, which again contributes to price inflation at market level. This has been noticeable also for BRCS operation which has been affected by suppliers having limited stocks available and uncertainty about being able to replenish stocks through imports.

Botswana faced also serious outbreaks of African Migratory Locust (AML) in 2020 with the Government leading the response to contain it and its effects on crops.

Eswatini

In Eswatini the general outlook of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis in force estimates that the food security situation in the country has deteriorated for rural and urban households with the start of the lean season, as was projected.⁴ Compared with 2019, the country's food insecurity situation has deteriorated in 2020 with a notable increase in the proportion of the populations in Crisis (IPC Phase 3+). While the number of food insecure people was approximately 232 000 in 2019, in the projection up to March 2021 the number of people facing high acute food insecurity is over 366,000 (32% of the total population), of whom the vast majority, 350 000 people, live in rural areas.⁵

Eswatini's 2020 cereal production *decreased* 19% compared with 2019 and left a 156 000 metric ton needs gap. This reflects directly in the farming households' food supplies and income generating opportunities. The Covid-19 restrictions also reduced remittances and income opportunities especially for casual labourers reliant on daily wages. Simultaneously food prices have been high in the country limiting households purchasing capacity further, at a time when households are increasingly dependent on markets as they deplete their food stocks during the lean season.



2 Eswatini Food Security situation Oct 2020 - March 2021. Source: SADC Revised Synthesis Report Snapshots, December 2020.

³ SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2020, December Update.

⁴ IPC Analysis and projection for Eswatini October 2020- March 2021

⁵ SADC Synthesis Report Snapshots December 2020 Update

Parts of Eswatini received below average rains in total over the period of October 2020 - January 2021, which is when rains are expected, reportedly affecting farming operations such as weeding. Yet, in January, the landfall of tropical cyclone Eloise brought heavy rains also to Eswatini. While on national level the rains are projected favourable for crops, on local level they caused waterlogging and leaching, with subsequent negative impacts on the crop condition, and even floods destroying households and damaging crops. The floods affected also Shiselweni region and Hosea district targeted under this EA.⁶

Lesotho

In Lesotho approximately 40% of the population, 582,170 people, are estimated to be in Crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) of food insecurity or worse until the end of the 2020/2021 lean season in April. This is a considerable 34% increase from the 2019/2020 estimates.

Lesotho has experienced a decrease in crop production already three years in a row and 2020 production left an estimated 300 000 metric tons needs gap in the production. Imports of cereals are above average for 2020/2021 with maize imports reaching nearly 40% above the past five-year average. The low production affects directly the farming households' food supply and the high imports induce price increases on food items which farming households need to purchase during the lean season. Combined with below average labour wages and reduced remittances due to Covid-19 restrictions, the farming households faced access issues and the lean season starting already on October 2020, two months earlier than on average.

Covid-19 restrictions have also closed schools which hadran a meal feeding programme for school children effectively leaving many children without this daily meal creating further stress on the households' coping structure.

Lesotho has received in general average to above average rains since November 2020, which have provided positive grounds for the harvest and improved pasture and livestock body condition as well as prices. Rains have also improved water sources for livestock and households. This is promising for the 2021 harvest, should rains stay stable, and has already improved agricultural labour opportunities. Some farmers, including beneficiaries of the EA have already been able to sell their produce for income.

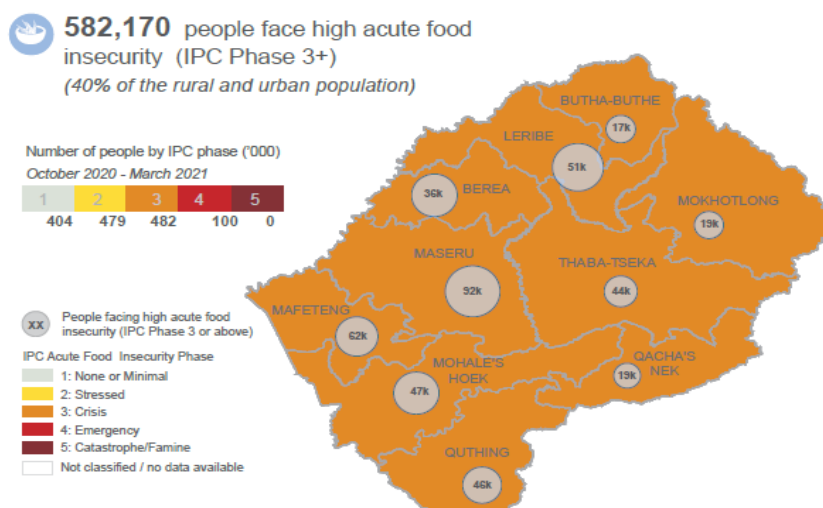
Early 2021 Covid-19 caseload increase, and related restrictions have again undermining labour and income opportunities, however It remains to be seen for how long the strict measures, including curfew, are required and what their compound effect on food security will be for the coming months.

Namibia

In Namibia, the food insecurity situation for crisis levels (IPC Phase 3+) is estimated at nearly 441,000 persons up to the end of March 2021. This shows a slight increase from the same period in 2019/2020 when the figure was 430,000. It is worth highlighting that unlike a year ago, now there are 14 000 people in Phase 4, emergency.

The driving factors for the food insecurity are the prolonged dry spells, flooding and loss of incomes due to the Covid-19 control measures implemented by the government. The period coincides with Namibia's lean season, during which households rely more heavily on markets having depleted their own food stocks.

Food availability in the markets is expected to be stable due to increased importation from neighboring South Africa, as well as government subsidies on cereal prices. Reflecting improved supply situation, cereal import requirements in 2020/21 are estimated at average level and below the large volume imported in 2019/20. However, household access to food will be hampered by income losses due to COVID-19 restrictions.



3 Food insecurity in Lesotho Oct 2020 - March 2021. Source: SADC Revised synthesis Report Snapshot December 2020.

⁶ SADC Agromet Update Issue 3_2020-2021

demonstration gardens were constructed augmented with trainings of volunteers to support beneficiaries in building their own gardens. The beneficiary gardens are to be built in 2021.

BRCS is a member of the National Disaster Management Technical Committee and thus experiences strong cooperation with the Government of Botswana in disaster/emergencies responses. The Society contributed to the Government led drought assessment.

During the reporting period BRCS started also a parallel ECHO-funded operation with IFRC's support aimed at mitigating the impact of drought and Covid-19 on food security in three districts of Botswana complementing Government and BRCS existing response. The activities build on lessons and capacities built under the EA and include cash distributions to 1600 households and similar livelihood support asunder the EA, namely vouchers for agricultural inputs. In addition to National Society preparedness capacity building, the intervention includes also Covid-19 related health risk communication and community engagement in the form of awareness raising, countering misinformation and the provision of hand-washing facilities.

Eswatini

Baphalali Eswatini RC (BERCS) completed its originally planned five rounds of multipurpose mobile cash distributions for 2300 households in two constituencies – Sigwe and Hosea – in July. In the reporting period BERCS distributed also seeds to 1979 households using conditional cash: assisted persons were to take part in climate smart agriculture training before cash funds for released for use at seed fairs organised adjacent to the trainings.

BERCS intervention is coordinated with parallel Finnish RC and ECHO supported emergency operation, as well as with Eswatini's Government interventions and the overall humanitarian response in the country. During the reporting period the Government through the National Disaster Management Agency registered 300 000 households across the country for further support in the form of food parcels. As a member of the Food Security Cluster BERCS participated in the planning and was allocated 10 constituencies (6 in Hhohho region and 4 in Shiselweni region) to provide support through the government intervention. Upon deliberations with the NDMA all areas (Hosea, Sigwe, Somntongo, and Matsanjeni) where the EA and ECHO operations are implemented were given to the NS to allow smooth transition between the BERCS and the Government support. The Government support came at an opportune time filling a gap between between the multipurpose cash provided by BERCS under this EA ending in July/August and the seed support in December.

Meanwhile the ECHO funded BERCS intervention has continued in different constituencies in the same region throughout and is currently planned until the end of March 2021. Finnish RC together with consortium partner British RC have applied to ECHO for an extension of the intervention until the end of July to continue support over the extended lean season. Beyond July no support is currently foreseen, while the 2021-2022 lean season may start as early as October as it has in the recent years.

Lesotho

In 2020, LRCS completed its five rounds of multipurpose mobile cash distributions for 2005 households and carried out trainings for lead farmers on community based basic agriculture practices and climate change adaptation as well as disaster risk reduction. Further food preservation workshops were conducted to demonstrate how food may be preserved for to support households through the lean season. The trainings built the capacities of the lead farmers who thence have cascaded these skills also to other beneficiaries. Following the trainings, LRCS organized seed fairs where beneficiaries were able to purchase seeds and shade nets for their gardening and agricultural activities using vouchers.

The Disaster Management Authority (DMA) at national level (including Disaster Management Forum) and the District Disaster Management Team (DDMT), which includes representatives of various ministries, along with the Ministry for Agriculture are the key stakeholders of LRCS for the operation and have been closely involved in the trainings and other activities providing expertise. Through these national actors LRCS also coordinates its activities with other humanitarian actors in the country, especially with WFP.

IFRC in cooperation with the British Red Cross applied for ECHO HIP in February 2021 to strengthen the capacities of communities in Lesotho to cope with stress and shocks of disasters before, during and after disasters. The proposed Action would build on results and lessons learned under this EA particularly as concerns LRCS cash and voucher preparedness capacity. The Action foresees cash assistance and disaster preparedness and community resilience activities through existing community-based disaster risk reduction structures with enhanced Linkages to Government Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems, and enhancing institutional capacities at national, district and local levels. One of the target districts under the proposed ECHO HIP Action would be Thaba Tseka benefitting also under this EA, so particularly there the Action will build on results and practices under this EA.

Namibia

Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) started its multipurpose cash distributions for 1204 households in the last quarter of 2020 completing three distributions for October-December. The distributions are to continue for two more months in January-February 2021. NRCS will also complete its planned 15 waterpoint rehabilitations in January-April 2021 benefitting estimated 200 households, coupled with water management committee trainings

Complementing Government efforts on food security and nutrition in the country, NRCS works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry, who are involved in particular in the identification of the identification of the water points to be rehabilitated and in the water management committee trainings to be conducted. Local authorities were also central in at the start of the cash intervention in identification and verification on beneficiaries.

Needs analysis

Regional: A small component of the Emergency Appeal has a regional focus on providing technical, surge and operational support across the southern Africa region, including for other countries with ongoing Emergency Appeals to ensure continuous needs analyses and timely updates/revisions as may be necessary. This regional component is also important as food insecurity may trigger people to move in search of better opportunities. This links also to long-term resilience building and strengthening National Societies to streamline cross-cutting components of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and strengthening communication, monitoring systems and the documentation and sharing of lessons learnt to improve the IFRC's capacity for evidence-based advocacy.

Botswana

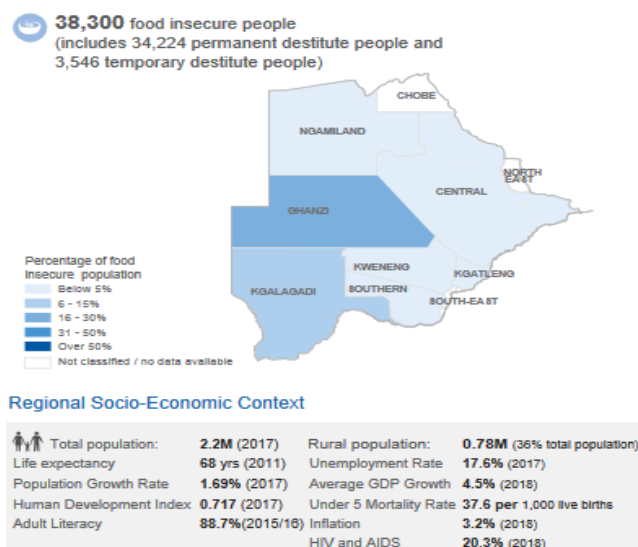


Figure 5: Source: Botswana Vulnerability Assessment Committee Results 2019- Food Insecurity Situation

In Botswana the 2020 Government vulnerability assessment was published during the reporting period and it maintains the projection of 38 000 persons facing food insecurity in the 2020/2021 lean season as was the case for the 2019/2020 season.

The above accumulates to approximately 9,500 households spread across disadvantaged regions of Ngamiland, Kgalagadi, Southern and Central districts – no changes are seen in the geographical spread of the impacted since 2019/2020 projections.

Immediate needs of affected communities are in areas of livelihoods and basic needs support - as well as capacity to strengthen food production.

Rains alleviated the pressure of fodder for animals and BRCS continues to see people's food needs as a priority, exacerbated by Covid-19 containment measures. Botswana is facing an increasingly difficult situation with Covid-19 since the end of 2020 and the National Society sees needs

increasing related to loss of labour wages and livelihoods. There is a night-time curfew in place in Botswana at the time of writing the report.

Eswatini

The estimate of food insecure people for the targeted Shiselweni region has increased per the projections, with an estimated 50% of the population, 99,126 people, currently facing high acute food insecurity and in need of urgent action during the lean season.⁷

Reduced formal and informal labour opportunities due to the low harvest and Covid-19 restrictions cause income depletion at a time when the population relies on purchasing food from markets. Urgent action is therefore called for to reduce food consumption gaps and to protect livelihoods for populations in Crisis and Emergency, particularly those affected also by Covid-19 in the priority regions, such as Shiselweni. Concrete needs sited are the provision of complimentary food assistance, promoting the restoration and recovery of livelihoods through agricultural inputs with a particular focus on areas affected by natural hazards such as drought/long dry spells.

⁷ [Eswatini IPC Analysis June 2020 – March 2021, August 2020](#)

In line, Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society sees the need to support households with cash before the harvest season and to support household's own food supply by back-yard garden support. BERCS foresees that the stricter Covid-19 containment measures instituted at the start of 2021 are likely to create further needs and gaps well beyond the lean season. Additionally, it is yet to be seen what effects the heavy rains of January-February 2021 have had on the seed crops distributed in December. It is possible that the rains have been detrimental for the growth of the harvest undermining the support efforts so far undertaken.

Lesotho

In the three districts targeted under this EA in Lesotho the combined total of food insecure people in crisis levels is estimated at 80 000 people up to the end of the lean season 2020/2021.

While the easing of Covid-19 lockdown measures in the second half of 2020 brought some relief to the labour situation and the harvest outlook seems favourable, the very low crop production in 2020 and increased prices together with the deterioration of the Covid-19 situation again at the beginning of 2021 mean even with an improvement access issues and the needs gap will remain significant. In the three districts targeted by the EA, less than half of the targeted households could be assisted in 2020 which means the rest have experienced extremely hard times and will have difficulties in catching up.

Therefore, as projected by IPC already in 2020, the needs continue to lie in reducing food consumption gaps and protecting livelihoods of vulnerable people in the country. Priorities include immediate humanitarian assistance for all households in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3) or higher and the provision of agricultural inputs to farming households that cannot afford access to inputs, while longer term resilience building is also needed.

LRCS sees the need to support households with cash before the harvest season starts. In terms of longer-term livelihood support, LRCS has observed that at least some of the households would benefit from trainings and networking on access to markets with their surplus crops in order to create further income opportunities. Also, refresher trainings concerning climate smart agricultural practices are considered a need to further guide households in safeguarding their livelihoods.

Namibia

In Kunene region targeted under this EA there are 31 170 food insecure people at the moment and projected until the end of March 2021. A third of these people are facing emergency level food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). During 2020 30.8% of people in the region were employing emergency coping strategies. This was the highest proportion out of Namibia's regions.⁸

Regarded as one of the most vulnerable regions highly affected by climate change, the Kunene region is hit hard by drought which has inflicted severe impacts on the livelihoods of local communities who mainly depend on livestock for survival. This adversely affected the food security status of the subsistence crop and livestock farmers by reducing their access to food and potential income from sale of agricultural products. Livestock production is a critical component of livelihoods for the majority of Namibia's rural communities and has been severely affected by the drought. Vulnerability assessments and analysis conducted in the region in recent years indicate that the drought has impacted not only on food security but also other sectors such as water, health and nutrition.

The long-lasting drought implications on food security will be compounded by Covid-19 restriction effects in Kunene as the region's other major income source, tourism has been strongly affected. Many of those relying on making and selling crafts, as well as working in conservancies, have faced loss of livelihoods and income due to travel restrictions and these are expected to continue for a long time.

All in all, the food insecure people of Kunene require urgent humanitarian action in order to reduce food gaps, protect and restore livelihoods and prevent acute malnutrition. Some of the priority needs highlighted are related to water system management and livestock support to reduce the loss of livestock due to drought. To address the identified food insecurity needs, NRCS will continue its immediate support for basic needs and assistance to rehabilitate water sources to support livelihood and household water needs in Khorixas constituency.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

While the operational strategy remains the same since the beginning of the operation reflecting the persistent needs, prioritising has been introduced in line with available funding.

⁸ [Namibia IPC analysis issued in Sept 2020](#)

Botswana

No changes to the Botswana Red Cross intervention strategy have been introduced since the last update. Following the distributions of food vouchers to 300 households, BRCS is to finalise its operation by supporting the establishment or renovation of 100 beneficiary gardens implemented through a voucher modality allowing for flexibility and choice to the beneficiaries. The garden set up goes together with food security trainings and demonstrations on construction of water efficient back yard gardens for volunteers and beneficiaries. The actual figures are much below the original targets due to funding gaps.

Eswatini

BERCS operational strategy follows the original plan and communication in previous operation update. While the original targets are higher, BERCS has adjusted its operational figures to the funding available. Having provided cash-based assistance to 2300 households during the peak of the hunger gap in 2020, BERCS distributed cash to 1979 beneficiaries for the purpose of purchasing seeds in December. Trainings on climate smart agriculture were organised prior to the cash distribution and the seed fairs to capacitate the beneficiaries with related skills and knowledge. In the first quarter of 2021, BERCS will distribute cash for back yard garden materials to 1000 households, couple with trainings and support for the construction of gardens. BERCS is looking to distribute also one more month of multipurpose cash support to beneficiaries.

Lesotho

In Lesotho no changes are foreseen in the operational strategy since the last operational update. Targeting and activities remain the same: unconditional cash transfers, conditional cash transfers for community disaster risk reduction projects and agricultural inputs through vouchers coupled with trainings. In addition to the five rounds of unconditional cash transfers already distributed in 2020, an additional month of mobile cash transfers are foreseen also in 2021, and cash for work in community projects to get under way, provided that Covid-19 situation would allow such gathering and works.

Namibia

Namibian Red Cross does not see changes in their operational strategy since the previous operational update. So the National Society continues with the plan to provide cash for basic needs to 1204 families (EPoA target 2,500) in Khorixas constituency for 6 months, and to ensure access to water for animals and households, the operation includes the rehabilitation of 15 strategically located water points that will benefit at least 200 households (1,000 people).

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Botswana



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 300 HH (approx. 1500 people)

Male: NS is working to collect detailed breakdown information.

Female:

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihoods support	1,550 HH (7750 ppl).	300 HH (1500 people)

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households receiving food vouchers	300 HH (1500 ppl).	300

Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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# of households receiving garden tools and seeds.	1000 HH	0
# of households receiving livestock feed vouchers	250 HH	0
# of PDM and Post-Harvest Monitoring done	n/a	1
Output 1.4: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with CEA messages	7750 ppl	5000
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>BRCS finalized its food voucher distributions in December, having supported 300 households with vouchers for six months. BRCS carried out focus group discussions with beneficiaries to gather feedback from the communities on the assistance provided. Key lessons gathered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communities were pleased with the voucher modality, which restricted the use of the assistance to essentials: food and hygiene, excluding harmful substances (alcohol, tobacco). - Beneficiaries recommended to have a wider selection of suppliers to choose from. NS agrees and the new electronic voucher system could potentially be easily used also with a wider selection. - Triangulation of beneficiary selection through community validation sessions will be essential in avoiding misunderstandings and exclusion/inclusion biases. - Regular post distribution monitoring after each distribution round will better inform the change/impact of the intervention. <p>BRCS set up six demonstration gardens during June-August 2020. Plans to construct beneficiary gardens have been delayed due to procurement challenges. BRCS faced a lack of interest by suppliers to participate in a tender that was advertised twice, most arguing the tender not being lucrative as commodity prices had increased, or because of unavailable stocks due to travel restrictions and the difficulty and cost to access South African markets to procure and transport into the country and again intra country deliveries. BRCS envisions costly distributions in-country as Botswana is currently facing an increasingly difficult situation with Covid-19.</p> <p>To accompany the garden set-up, the national society will undertake livelihoods trainings promoting adaptive practices like water efficient home gardening, climate smart crop production and small stock management, to about 400 people in the 10 villages. The season is suitable for it as most farmers are still yet to plough following heavy rains and the hope is to impact knowledge to best assist and support their farming plans for the season.</p>		

Strengthen National Society		
Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved NS Capacity to respond timely and appropriately during emergencies.	n/a	n/a
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that participated in the operation	50	175
Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Senior management team, Board members and Branch committees that participated in the OCAC process	35 ppl	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The National Society improved its response capacity with the support of this operation by developing an electronic information management and voucher system that assists BRCS in more efficient data collection especially on rapid assessments and or beneficiary selection and registration. The paperless data collection has assisted the National Society also in keeping compliance to the existing COVID-19 protocols. Due to availability of the above the Society continue to improve on its information management capacity and the establishment of the SharePoint system is underway.</p>		

Overall number of volunteers that have participated in the operation has arisen to 175, including volunteers who were part of the in-kind food distributions and gardens set up for branches and the adjacent training. BRCS expects the number to increase following the pending activities of livelihoods training and garden material distributions. With three ongoing Emergency Operations BRCS did not carry out OCAC activities in the reporting period but is looking to do so still in the remaining time of the intervention.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Quality planning and implementation ensured	n/a	n/a

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Provided support for initial operational start-up	n/a	2

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination and stakeholder engagement meetings done	n/a	7

Progress towards outcomes

During the reporting period IFRC finance officer visited BRCS to support with financial management documentation, including procurement documentation to be recorded fully in line with IFRC requirements, as well as to make plans with the NS on the management on a new ECHO-funded operation.

BRCS invested in the capacitation of field officers and district staff and volunteers, for work to be undertaken primarily at district level and in close cooperation with local authorities. This has broadened the working relations and rapport at the district and accountability of both branches and NS offices at district level.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Increased Government support to NS	n/a	n/a

Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of initiatives supported by Government	n/a	narrative

Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved funding for emergency appeal from cooperates and national institutions.	n/a	1

Output S3.2.3 National Societies are supported in resource and partnership development (from both domestic markets and foreign sources).

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Developed resources mobilisation strategy	1	narrative

Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of reports submitted timely	12	10

Progress towards outcomes

No updates since previous operational update.

Livelihoods and basic needs



People reached with multipurpose cash: 14,379

Male: 6661

Female: 7718

Out of whom 167 household heads (113 females and 54 males) are living with disabilities

People reached with cash for seeds: 13,918

Male: 6625

Female: 7923

Out of whom 199 household heads are living with disabilities

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihoods support	5,000 HH	3948 HH

Output 1.2: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached through cash transfers	5000 HH	2300 HH
# of PDM carried out	4	4

Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families supported with backyard gardens	1000 HH	0
# of households supported with seeds	2000 HH	1979 HH
# of people reached through training sessions	500 HH	1979 HH

Progress towards outcomes

BERCS finalised its 4 rounds of mobile cash transfers to 2300 households during the previous reporting period. In the reporting period September-December 2020 BERCS decided to split the distribution of farming seeds and gardening inputs into separate activities, while they were originally foreseen to be carried out simultaneously. BERCS prioritised the distribution of farming seeds to match with the season and decided to distribute the backyard garden inputs later in the first quarter of 2021. This way BERCS wanted to avoid creating competing priorities for the households between farming and gardening activities, as gardening activities could be undertaken also later in the season. A new indicator was therefore created above for seeds separately from the garden inputs.

Cash for seeds were finally distributed to 1979 households in the beginning of December. The modality of distribution was conditional mobile cash whereby the beneficiaries were transferred a mobile cash contribution of E770 SZL after their participation in training on crop production, and they could purchase their seeds at a fair organised by BERCS inviting suppliers to be present adjacent to the trainings. The trainings included the following topics: seed selection, land preparation, pest management, maize management and harvesting, with attention given to drought resistant crops and water retention techniques. BERCS is looking to monitor the seed crops in the first quarter of 2021. Heavy rains in the beginning of the year have delayed the plans somewhat. Out of the seed beneficiaries 331 households had received also the multipurpose cash earlier in 2020.

The same conditional cash transfer modality is foreseen to be utilised in the distribution of gardening inputs foreseen for 1000 households.



3-4: Beneficiaries with their seed inputs after receiving cash for seeds in December. (Credits: BERCS)



Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved NS Capacity to respond timely and appropriately during emergencies.	n/a	n/a

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that participated in the operation	50	22

Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on CEA	n/a	22
# of assessments carried out	n/a	2
# of volunteers who have signed Code of Conduct	n/a	tbc

Progress towards outcomes

BERCS trained originally 22 volunteers for the intervention as reported in previous updates. During the reporting period 18 volunteers (14 female, 4 male) were involved supporting the trainings and seed distributions.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Quality planning and implementation ensured	n/a	

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge deployment to BERCS and IFRC support missions	n/a	5

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination and stakeholder engagement meetings done	n/a	3
Progress towards outcomes		
During the reporting period no IFRC or surge missions were done to Eswatini owing to the Covid-19 travel restrictions. Finnish Red Cross delegate was deployed bilaterally in the country to support BERCS in its ECHO-funded intervention benefitting the coordination of the two sides of BERCS' operation.		
Community meetings and consultations were carried out again during the registration of 2000 households for the seed distributions during the reporting period. BERCS maintains close communication with the National Disaster Management authorities and the Food Security cluster to coordinate food security activities.		

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Increased Government support to NS	n/a	n/a
Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of initiatives supported by Government	n/a	narrative
Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of reports submitted in a timely manner	12	10
Progress towards outcomes		
No additional updates since last operational update.		

Lesotho



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 8309

Registered verified beneficiaries: 2101 female adults, 2068 male adults, 846 children 0<5 years of age and 3006 children 5-17 years of age. Of the beneficiaries, 222 live with a disability.

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihoods support	4600 households (23,000 people) with cash 2760 households (13800 people) with agro-support	2005 households (8309 people)
Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)		
Indicators:	Target	Actual

# of households receiving garden tools and seeds	2760 HH	2005
Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
# of households receiving unconditional cash	4600 HH 1-3months 2600 HH 4-6months	2005
# of households receiving conditional cash (Cash for Assets),	2,000 households (10,000 people) upon details from registration	0
# of PDM and PHM carried out	2	1
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>During the reporting period September-December 2020 Lesotho RC carried out seed and garden input distributions to 2005 at seed fairs organized in November, where beneficiaries were able to purchase agricultural inputs using vouchers. The NS brought the suppliers close to the beneficiaries organizing multiple small fairs in each three districts. Each beneficiary received vouchers worth Maloti 1,170.00 and the available field crops included for instance maize, beans, peas, wheat pumpkin and potatoes that are high value in production and enhance household nutrition. LRCS cooperated with the Ministry for Agriculture and Food Security to develop the specifications for both field crops and vegetable seeds including spinach, beetroot, mustards, rape and cabbage and shade net for all beneficiaries. The suppliers were contracted following a procurement process and recommendations from Ministry of Agriculture according to livelihoods zones. The Ministry of Agriculture is also to monitor the sustainability of the process of planting and harvesting for food security utilizing the help of LRCS trained Lead Farmers. The seed fairs enabled also networking between farmers and suppliers, linking the farmers to the input market.</p> <p>The seed fairs were preceded by relevant awareness raising and skills trainings to accompany to seed inputs, aimed to strengthen community resilience. These trainings were partially mentioned in the previous operational update but can now be reported in detail:</p> <p>Lead Farmers trainings: Lead farmers were selected from all communities through participatory community selection process to act as liaison and resource/support persons and examples between the LRCS and the other farmers. Each Lead Farmer is expected to cascade the training concepts to 10-15 other farmers and help them by monitoring. Trainings were conducted in July-August on conservation agriculture and climate change adaptation including topics such as crop rotation, organic manure, keyhole farming, land preparation, pest control the selection of drought tolerant seeds and crop management, facilitated by sectoral experts. Conservation Agriculture is a farming system aimed at producing high crop yields while reducing production costs, maintaining soil fertility and conserving water. It is a way to achieving sustainable agriculture and improving livelihoods. The training included illustrative demonstrations in fields as well as in home gardens to make it practical, and participants were asked to contribute best practices with their indigenous knowledge. Lead farmers shared many success stories during the operation. What was consistently expressed as an important outcome for them was the amount of new knowledge and skills that they had acquired and which they much appreciated. Many female participants strongly emphasized that for the first time they had been exposed to learning. They also appreciated that the new skills in vegetable growing will improve nutrition and food security for their families as well as resuscitating their livelihoods activities. The trainings were organised at the communities to ease attendance. This was a benefit also in the time of Covid-19 assembly and movement limitations.⁹ The role of a Lead Farmer and the trainings attracted larger interest than targeted, exceeding the target of 200 lead farmers by additional 111. The lists of lead farmers were shared with the Ministry of Agriculture as resource and support persons.</p>		

⁹ Please see LRCS social media post about Lead Farmers' training here:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1646073195566528&set=pcb.3114623851920094>



Figures 2-3 Simulation exercises on conservation agriculture during Lead Farmers training. (Credits: LRCS)

Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Training: In order to strengthen community resilience against shocks LRCS organised community-based disaster risk reduction trainings at both district and community levels, respectively for District Disaster Management Teams (DDMT) and Community Based Disaster Response Teams (CBDRT). The objective of the trainings was to enable the teams to respond in time and effectively when disasters hit. Early warning and Early Action were emphasized. The CBDRT trainings were facilitated by DDMT. Topics covered in both trainings were: disaster management concepts, disaster management cycle, vulnerability assessment, capacity assessment, early warning, Risk Communication, Gender Based Violence. Mainstreaming of DRR in all departmental response was also discussed during DDMTs training. The purpose was to ensure that every official is aware that directly or indirectly disaster risk reduction affects them. Also, LRCS volunteers in the three districts received training in similar concepts. For each district, 4 CBDRTs, 40 volunteers and the entire DDMT were reached. Trainings were conducted at community level abiding with national Covid-19 limitations and they were facilitated in collaboration with the Disaster Management Authorities. The opportunity was used also to reinforce and raise awareness on Covid-19 messaging. Altogether 298 persons were trained in the three districts (154 female, 144 male).

Food preservation Workshops: In August, LRCS trained 209 volunteers, lead farmers and other beneficiaries (125 female, 84 male) on food preservation. The selected beneficiaries were trained on how to prepare, preserve and bottle food for future use. The aim of the training was to equip them for being sustainable, independent and resilient in their day-to-day livelihood's activities. This is important in the eradication of poverty as well as in maintaining good health through good nutrition intake on daily basis. The following recipes were demonstrated: Pickled tomato, Pickled beetroot, Vegetable Archer, Tomato jam, Marmalade (Orange jam), Food drying. The selection of these recipes was with the intention of helping the beneficiaries to preserve the crops and vegetables grown at their local gardens and easily accessible food within their reach. Thus, preserved food can be consumed during difficult times and can also be sold to generate income for families. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security assisted LRCS with its nutritionists to facilitate the workshops¹⁰.

Table: Total number of participants reached on various trainings conducted in three districts

Type of training received	Segregation by District and Gender			Total
	Mokhotlong	Botha Bothe	Thaba-Tseka	

¹⁰ Please see LRCS social media posts on Food preservation workshops with more photos here: <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1673696356137545&set=pcb.3203362099712935> and here: <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1686111174896063&set=pcb.3251811288201349>

	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Lead Farmers Training	45	42	33	55	55	81	311
Food Preservation	21	34	24	33	39	58	209
DRR trainings for DDMT	14	24	11	24	10	14	97
DRR trainings for VDMT	35	39	57	30	17	23	201



It was not possible to conduct the intended conditional cash activities – the rehabilitation of community assets and/or constructing community assets such as gravel roads, construction of irrigation dams, drinking water supply systems, pastures restorations and forestry areas in the targeted communities – due to COVID-19 containment measures. The lockdowns and other movement restrictions exacerbated the food insecurity situation by severely affecting people’s livelihoods and proceedings of cash for work activities leading LRCS to suspend them. However, LRCS launched homestead construction of hand washing facilities (tippy taps) and all beneficiaries were encouraged to join in.

4 LRCS Food preservation workshop. (Credits: Lesotho Red Cross Society)

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved NS Capacity to respond timely and appropriately during emergencies.	n/a	n/a

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# staff salaries contributed	15	9
# of volunteers and staff trained on Level One Cash	150	15
# of volunteers and staff trained in climate smart agriculture	25	18

Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Senior management team, Board members and Branch committees that participated in the BOCA process	15ppl	27

Progress towards outcomes

There were 3 staff members and 15 volunteers trained on Climate Smart Agriculture during the lead farmers training described above.

LRCS Department of Human Resource and Administration organized a two-day Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) workshop for three districts of Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Qacha's Nek on the 7th to 8th December 2020. There were 23 participants, and four Headquarters (HQ) representatives. The participants comprised of Divisional Secretaries, Divisional Chairpersons, members, as well as representatives from the Divisional branches. During this workshop, participants were grouped in their Divisions to carry out an assessment of core organizational capacities and then to prioritise the issues. While the three branches had different ranges of priority actions, the need to improve budgeting and cost efficiency came up in the priority list of all three. As an output, the Divisions then developed prioritised Branch Development work plans. The following actions points were agreed as a general way forward in the BOCA process:

- ✓ The divisions to start implementing their plans in second quarter of 2021
- ✓ The divisions to disseminate their plans to the branches
- ✓ National Society Headquarters BOCA facilitator and the other BOCA facilitators to help in monitoring implementation progress

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
NS is compliant with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance	n/a	narrative
Progress towards outcomes		
LRCS is paying a great deal of attention to community engagement and accountability in its intervention to ensure the assistance provided meets the needs and priorities of the communities assisted and the communities can influence the plans. LRCS has set up community complaint and feedback mechanisms as reported earlier. These were in use also during the seed fairs. Assistance is also well coordinated with national stakeholders, with the Ministry of Agriculture and the disaster management authorities participating at the trainings and seed fairs and overseeing the monitoring of agricultural activities where the LRCS provided inputs. Indigenous knowledge was also gathered during the trainings to ensure maximum utilization of local capacities.		

Namibia



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 6346 people (1204 households)

Male headed households: 553

Female headed households: 651

Number of households with people living with disabilities: 215

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihoods support	3,600 households (18,000 people).	1204 HH

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households receiving food support cash/in-kind	2,500 HH (12,500 ppl).	1204 HH

Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households receiving garden tools and seeds	3,600 HH	0
# of households benefitting from rehabilitated water points	200 HH	0

Output 1.4: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with CEA messages	7750 people	1568 households ~7800 people

Progress towards outcomes

The NRCS registered 1,568 households in the targeted area and selected 1,204 of them (female headed 651, male headed 553) to benefit from the cash for basic needs. The households include altogether 6346 members, of whom 57% children as per the Age groups table on the right.

Number of household members per age group				
0-5	6 - 12	13 - 17	18 - 59	60 and more
1560	1217	849	2301	419

The identification and selection were carried out using participatory community-based methods: NRCS together with local stakeholders visited all the growth points within Khorixas constituency to engage and interact with local communities affected by drought. The team held discussions with regional and constituency administrative authorities, focus group discussions with the affected communities, administering prepared questionnaires through the KoBo system, and interviewed key informants which included traditional leaders, formal and informal traders to gather baseline primary information on the ground. This assessment process was further supplemented with physical visits and observations in selected areas/growth points.

The following criteria was used for selection:

Most Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Less Vulnerable	Not Vulnerable
1. Income or Any Benefits - (No)	1. Income or Any Benefits - (Yes)	1. Income or Any Benefits - (Yes)	1. Income or Any Benefits - (Yes)
2. Source of Income/benefits – (Casual, Crafts/None),	2. Source of Income/benefits – (Government Pension/OVC/Disability/Employment),	2. Source of Income/benefits – (Government Pension/OVC/Disability/Employment),	2. Source of Income/benefits – (Government Pension/OVC/Disability/Employment),
3. Meals – (1- 2 meals per day)	3. Household Size – (6 and More)	3. Household Size – (4 – 5 people)	3. Household Size – (1 – 3 people)
	4. Meals – (1- 2 meals per day)	4. Meals – (1- 2 meals per day)	4. Meals – (3 and more meals per day)

NRCS distributed cash to 1204 households for three months in Khorixas in the last quarter of 2020¹¹. Distributions are continued in 2021 for two more months, totalling five months. NRCS was planning on 6 months of support, but unfavourable exchange rate fluctuations depleted the budget considerably.

The monthly grant is 750 Namibian dollars consisting of the national food basket value of NAD 600 and an additional NAD 150 to cover transport to the nearest town for distribution. The grants are distributed in cash to beneficiaries who have been selected and accorded a beneficiary bar code card.



NRCS together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform carried out also an assessment to identify the 15 water points that will be rehabilitated under this intervention to support particularly livestock management in the drought affected area. Works will be undertaken in 2021 and NRCS will also train community water management committees in cooperation with local authorities to look after the water points. A separate indicator was created for the water point rehabilitation activities. As reported in previous update, garden support was deprioritised in Khorixas and will not be undertaken.

Community Engagement and Accountability

¹¹ Please see social media posts here: <https://www.facebook.com/NamibiaRedCross/posts/3516763331735406> Photos
<https://www.facebook.com/NamibiaRedCross/posts/3512982802113459> Video
<https://www.facebook.com/NamibiaRedCross/posts/3512339178844488> Photos

NRCS set up a Helpdesk at the encashment site where both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries were able to submit their complaints or feedback. Two dedicated NRCS volunteers were stationed at this desk receiving and duly responding to community complaints. Feedback received concerned 1) not being selected to benefit from the operation despite being registered. These complaints were addressed by explaining the selection criteria and reasons for exclusion based on verification information received from stakeholders. 2) NRCS not covering all villages in the area. The NRCS team made repeated announcements on the radio and also asked the stakeholders to disseminate the information on the scheduled visit of NRCS team in the respective growth points. It turned out that some areas do not have good radio network coverage and hence did not get the information/announcements. However, the NRCS ensured maximum coverage of most villages in the Constituency in their vehicles. 3) Lost beneficiary card. Cases of beneficiaries who lost their cards were encountered, particularly during the first cash distribution. In these cases NRCS staff at the ODK verification point used the master card and the beneficiaries obtained their cash grants. The NRCS team then ensured that these beneficiaries were issued with new beneficiary cards before the next cash distributions.

During each cash distribution, an exit survey was carried out inviting beneficiaries to provide their perceptions of the intervention, including what they intended to spend their funds on, challenges encountered and fears. In response to some beneficiaries' concerns, NRCS strengthened its key messaging on the purpose of the cash support to the beneficiaries at distribution sites.

NRCS plans to conduct a comprehensive post-distribution monitoring after the final cash distribution to monitor how beneficiaries have used their cash grants, how the cash assistance was accepted, and further understand the effectiveness of this intervention in improving the livelihoods of the severely affected communities.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved NS Capacity to respond timely and appropriately during emergencies.	n/a	n/a

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that participated in the operation	50	11
# of trainings given to volunteers	2	1

Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on CEA	n/a	11

Progress towards outcomes



6 NRCS volunteer ensuring Covid-19 regulations at registration points are adhered to. Credits: NRCS

The NRCS Khorixas office mobilized so far 11 volunteers to be part of the operations. On 29th Oct 2020 the local volunteers joined by Regional Lead and 3 volunteers from Opuwo office were inducted on the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. The induction key components were introduction to the project's operations, and the exercise covered the following topics: Projects activities, Community engagement, Beneficiaries targeting criteria and selection, Use of Kobo Toolbox to collect data, Beneficiaries registration work plan and routes.

Trained volunteers played an integral role as the faces of the cash assistance in the Khorixas Constituency by owning the process. Together with the NRCS-HQ staff, the volunteers were responsible for ensuring that announcements are made in the radio specifically in the local vernaculars (Damara and Otjiherero). They were also responsible for conducting home visits collecting information from households with questionnaires administered through KoBo tool, listening to rumors and community concerns. The volunteers' knowledge of the local context helped also in identifying growth points within the constituency that

were used as main sites for community engagement, considering the vastness of the area. Volunteers will also be engaged in the training of water management committees in 2021.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Quality planning and implementation ensured	n/a	n/a

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge deployment to NRCS and IFRC support missions	n/a	2

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination and stakeholder engagement meetings done	n/a	narrative

Progress towards outcomes

NRCS has benefitted greatly from British Red Cross delegate presence in country and support to its livelihoods and cash programming during 2020. BrRC support to the development of the NS' cash preparedness will continue in 2021. Further, the NS received information management support from the IFRC Regional Delegation when preparing its data collection tools, having thus enhanced its capacity for speedy data collection.

From the onset, the NRCS team ensured that all local stakeholders were well informed about the drought relief intervention activities in Khorixas Constituency. As per the norm, the stakeholders were first introduced to and inducted on the fundamental principles of the Namibia Red Cross Society and then sensitized on the operation plans. The NRCS team introduced the selection criteria for discussion. The stakeholders also played an important role by assisting with the final verification of the identified beneficiaries, to avoid inclusion and exclusion bias. Stakeholders also played a key role in further explaining the selection criteria to the communities, particularly to those who were not part of the final list, collecting complaints and attending to rumours circulating in the community.

Regular update meetings with stakeholders are held after every cash distribution for the NRCS to provide a brief update on the number of beneficiaries paid out during the particular distribution period, present challenges encountered, deliberate on possible solutions and mapping the way forward.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Increased Government support to NS	n/a	-

Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of initiatives supported by Government	n/a	1

Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Improved funding for emergency appeal from cooperates and national institutions.	n/a	0

Output S3.2.3 National Societies are supported in resource and partnership development (from both domestic markets and foreign sources).

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Developed resources mobilisation strategy	n/a	1

Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of reports submitted in a timely manner	12	10
Progress towards outcomes		
No specific updates since the last operational update.		

D. Financial Report

There appears notable variance in SF11 National Society Development. The implementing National Societies have spent more on operational costs than expected during 2020. This is offset by the larger under-expenditure on the part of the IFRC on coordination costs in SF12 Effective International Disaster Management and is explained by the exceptional Covid-19 year whereby the IFRC could not effect technical support or monitoring missions in the implementation countries and relied more heavily on National Society monitoring and local technical expertise engaged by the National Societies.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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 (NGO's) 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.**
