



NAMIBIA: MARIENTAL FLOODS

No. MDRNA001
23 January 2007

FINAL REPORT

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 3 March to 31 May, 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 90,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 3 March, 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. Refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRNA001.pdf> for the DREF Bulletin.
- An [interim final report](#) was issued on 12 September 2006.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached financial report>](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Background and Summary

On 22 and 23 February 2006, heavy rains in central Namibia caused three rivers to swell in the Mariental constituency's catchment areas, raising the water levels of Hardap Dam beyond its capacity. Due to the risk of the dam collapsing because of the increased water pressure, Namibia Water – a local water supply parastatal – opened the gates of the dam and released its water into the 'Fish River' situated between the dam and Mariental town, located 273 km south of Namibia's capital, Windhoek.

The river flooded Mariental town, which has a total population of 14,000 residents, displacing 2,100 people (330 households) and submerging 122 houses, 80 small businesses properties, destroying 30 irrigation schemes as well as damaging water and sanitation (WatSan) systems. Over 300 households needed urgent shelter and



An aerial view of the flooded Mariental town.

were hosted at community halls which some found shelter from relatives and friends on the upper land in the outskirts of the town. Water sources were contaminated while stagnant water presented mosquito breeding sites.

Namibia: Mariental Floods; DREF Bulletin no. MDRNA001; Final Report

Following a joint assessment by the government of Namibia and Namibia Red Cross (NRC), an alert was issued 24 hours after the emergency. The NRC supported 330 of the most affected households through the provision of health services, shelter, WatSan facilities and other non-food items (NFIs). The Ministry of Agriculture, Hardap Regional Council and Mariental Municipality coordinated the response operation. The government provided food aid to over 2,000 people for a period of three months. Military and police teams conducted search and rescue operations and facilitated the evacuation process.

In order to enable the NRC to respond to the needs of those affected by floods, the Federation allocated CHF 90,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) towards the emergency operation. Within one week of the emergency, the Federation Regional delegation in Harare deployed a regional disaster response team (RDRT) member from Zambia Red Cross Society and a regional WatSan officer to provide technical support to the NRC for one month. The RDRT member assisted in the distribution of relief items such as tents, jerry cans and blankets from the Federation regional warehouse relief stock.

Coordination

The NRC, in close cooperation with a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) supporting the emergency response, facilitated the establishment of a good coordination mechanism. At national level, the operation was coordinated by the government through the Emergency Management Unit (EMU) under the office of the Prime Minister. The Regional Management Unit (REMU) coordinated activities in the Hardap region. The NRC was represented at both levels. Weekly coordination meetings were held to coordinate and facilitate the relief operation in the most efficient and effective way by all stakeholders.

The agencies that were involved in the flood operation included: Mariental Municipality; NRC; EMU; REMU; Ministry of Health (MoH); Ministry of Local Government and Housing; faith-based organization groups (FBOs) and the Farmers Association of Hardap scheme. EMU mainly focused on distributing relief food to the affected households.

The Federation regional delegation in Harare coordinated the procurement of relief items, deployment of RDRT members and production of regular updates.

Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements and impact

Objective 1 (Water and Sanitation): 14,000 residents (2,330 families) in Mariental town and the Hardap scheme have access to sufficient quantities of safe water for drinking, cooking, personal and domestic hygiene.

Achievement

The NRC distributed 1,287 jerry cans, 60,000 water purification sachets (aqua tabs) and 100 water purification tablets for a period of 14 days. After 14 days of the emergency, water supply and sewerage systems were restored and access to safe water improved.

Objective 2 (Health): The vulnerability of the affected communities to health related risks in the Hardap scheme and Mariental town have reduced.

Achievements:

- The NRC distributed 324 hygiene packs to the most vulnerable households;
- With support from the MoH officials in Mariental, 20 Red Cross volunteers received training in basic health and hygiene promotion. The volunteers carried out public health campaigns covering prevention of waterborne diseases, safe use of water, hygiene and sanitation practices for a period of one month;
- The information, education and communication (IEC) materials obtained from MoH, on prevention of diarrhoea, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as well as HIV were distributed to the public at large;
- Approximately 1,440 condoms were distributed to the public;
- Psychological support was provided to individuals who showed signs of trauma and depression.

Objective 3 (Shelter): To provide temporary shelter to 330 households in Mariental town and the Hardap scheme area.

Achievements:



Some of the displaced families sheltered at a community hall received relief items from the NRC.

37 households in need of shelter were provided with 27 tents (each tent could accommodate up to six people).

450 blankets, 10 tarpaulins, 630 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) and 89 mosquito repellents were distributed to the affected families. The ITNs were distributed to avoid mosquito nuisance as Mariental is not regarded as a malaria endemic region.

Impact:

The swift response by the NRC/Federation averted loss of life and alleviated suffering of the affected population.

The relief items provided were culturally and socially acceptable to the beneficiaries and thus restored the dignity of people affected by the emergency.

National society capacity building

Having made a significant progress in strengthening its organizational capacity over the last two years, the NRC is now able to respond to disasters rapidly and efficiently as well as to meet the needs of the vulnerable communities. During this operation, the national society engaged at local level with different authorities, stakeholders and communities to strengthen the capacities of the targeted branch to respond to the needs of the beneficiaries.

For further information please contact:

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All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

[Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRNA001 - NAMIBIA - FLOODS

Final financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/12
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2006/12
Appeal	MDRNA001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		89'968				89'968
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		83'944				83'944
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		83'944				83'944
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		83'944				83'944
D. Total Funding = B + C		83'944				83'944

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		83'944				83'944
E. Expenditure		-83'944				-83'944
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		89'968					89'968	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	4'950		2'590				2'590	2'360
Clothing & textiles	40'590		8'708				8'708	31'882
Water & Sanitation	6'270		22'112				22'112	-15'842
Utensils & Tools	1'320		5'473				5'473	-4'153
Other Supplies & Services			5'471				5'471	-5'471
Total Supplies	53'130		44'354				44'354	8'776
Transport & Storage								
Storage			376				376	-376
Distribution & Monitoring			12'217				12'217	-12'217
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14'620		4'114				4'114	10'506
Total Transport & Storage	14'620		16'708				16'708	-2'088
Personnel Expenditures								
Regionally Deployed Staff			1'050				1'050	-1'050
National Staff	11'370		465				465	10'905
National Society Staff			2'131				2'131	-2'131
Total Personnel Expenditures	11'370		3'645				3'645	7'725
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	200							200
Total Workshops & Training	200							200
General Expenditure								
Travel	1'300		11'134				11'134	-9'834
Office Costs			127				127	-127
Communications			351				351	-351
Financial Charges			2'169				2'169	-2'169
Other General Expenses	3'500							3'500
Total General Expenditure	4'800		13'781				13'781	-8'981
Program Support								
Program Support	5'848		5'456				5'456	392
Total Program Support	5'848		5'456				5'456	392
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	89'968		83'944				83'944	6'024
VARIANCE (C - D)			6'024				6'024	