



Office of the Resident Coordinator

Namibia • Floods

Situation Report #3 – 4 April 2011

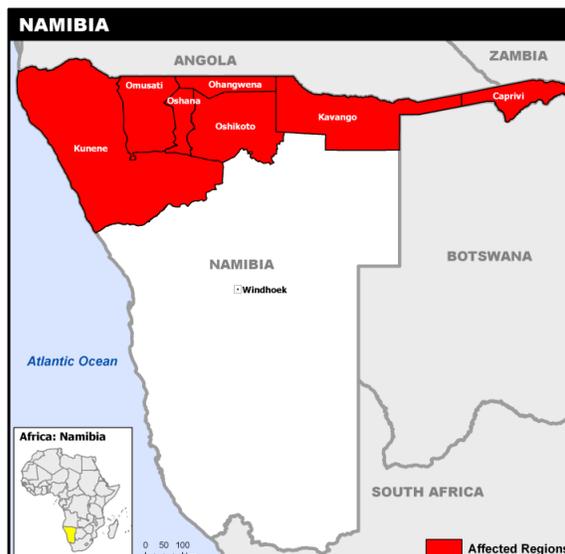
I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Water levels in northern Namibia are significantly higher than they were in 2009, when flooding affected an estimated 350,000 people.
- In the affected regions for which data is available, 20,000 people have been affected (in three regions) and 7,900 people have been displaced (in four regions). However, unconfirmed figures from the National Red Cross Society point to a total of more than 37,600 people displaced.
- According to the (Ministry of Education), 114,075 learners have been affected in six of the seven regions, with 324 schools impacted, 214 of which have been closed.
- A joint rapid assessment will be conducted to the affected regions from 05 to 09 April 2011.

II. Situation Overview

Seven regions in northern Namibia are now flood-affected: Kunene, Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto and Oshana. However, information on the full extent of the humanitarian situation is still unclear. Using water levels as a proxy indicator, the situation could be comparable to the one in 2009, when flooding affected an estimated 350,000 people. For example, in 2009 the highest water level reached at Oshakati in Oshana Region was 1.30 m, while on 28 March 2011, the water level had reached 1.54 m.

Flood conditions in northern Namibia are expected to be exacerbated by another flood wave coming from Angola, impacting mainly the western part of Ohangwena and Oshana. It is expected that the water levels in this region will rise again if new heavy rains occur. The forecast is for more rains in northern Namibia in the coming days, which would worsen the current flood situation further.



III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Current data on people affected and displaced due to flooding are partial and incomplete. At least 20,000 have been affected in three regions: 10,680 in Oshana, 6,000 in Oshikoto and 3,739 in Ohangwena. At least 7,900 people have been displaced in four regions: 2,952 in Oshana, 3,200 in Caprivi, 923 in Kavango and 834 in Ohangwena. However, unconfirmed figures from the Namibian Red Cross Society point to more than 37,600 people displaced and a much greater number affected by flooding.



CAMP COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT AND SHELTER

Needs: A registration system for people in relocation sites is required, as are camp coordinators, tents and tarpaulins to provide shelter for those displaced especially in the newly installed camps.

Response: There are at least 59 relocation sites, with the majority in Ohangwena and Omusati. To date, approximately 268 tents have been dispatched to Oshana region.



EDUCATION

Needs: According to the (Ministry of Education), 114,075 learners have been affected in six of the seven regions, with 324 schools impacted, 214 of which have been closed. The most urgent needs are large tents for schooling and the deployment of teachers.



FOOD SECURITY

Needs: The most urgent needs are maize meal, cooking oil and tinned food for those in relocation sites.

Response: A private company has donated two truckloads of tinned food while the bulk of the food needs is being covered by the government.



HEALTH

Needs: Data from the Ministry of Health indicate that 40 health facilities are inaccessible. There are also concerns about malaria – 399 cases in Omusati. There are also reported cases of cholera in Southern Angola on the border with Namibia, sparking fears of a spread.

Response: The National Defense Force has deployed to the affected regions to support the response and evacuation of affected populations.

Gaps & Constraints: The most urgent needs are; maintain the continuation of health outreach services, the deployment of health workers to referral health facilities, and mosquito nets. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on health and hygiene are also required for community education



LOGISTICS

Needs: The most urgent needs are helicopters and vehicles.

Response: To date, four helicopters have been provided by the Government of Namibia. The government has also deployed a number of trucks and vehicles to transport relief items.



PROTECTION

Needs: The most pressing needs are police security, lighting, generators and a referral mechanism related to protection and security incidents at relocation sites.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Needs: The main needs are water purification tablets, water bladders, toilets and jerry cans.

IV. Coordination

Agreement was reached on the need to conduct a joint rapid assessment from 05 to 09 April 2011, which will include representatives from line ministries, donor organizations, UN agencies and the Namibia Red Cross Society. A National Disaster Risk Management Committee meeting will be convened once the assessment teams have returned to Windhoek and analyzed the information gathered.

V. Funding

- Upon the declaration on a national state of emergency, the Government of Namibia allocated N\$ 30 million (an estimated US\$ 4.4 million) for the response. However, it has not yet been established how these funds will be allocated.

- USAID mobilized \$50,000 to support the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) to replenish relief stocks.
- The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) has successfully appealed for CHF 296,472 (US\$ 328,000) from its internal Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support NRCS in delivering immediate assistance to 2,000 families in the northern regions of Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati and Oshana, as well as in the southern region of Karas, which was affected by flooding earlier in the season. It is understood however that further funds are being sought to increase assistance levels.

VI. Contact

Please contact:

Windhoek: Millan Atam
Disaster Support Coordinator
millan.atam@one.un.org

Windhoek: Agnese Spiazzi
UN Reform Coordination Consultant
agnese.spiazzi@one.un.org