



## Office of the Resident Coordinator

## Namibia • Floods

### Situation Report #5 – 21 April 2011

#### I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The UN is actively supporting Government's response to the flood emergency in northern Namibia.
- Water levels are gradually receding; however, significant humanitarian needs persist.
- A CERF application and Flash Appeal have been completed and submitted.

#### II. Situation Overview

UN support to the response efforts of the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) have intensified, with the deployment of support officers from various agencies. Over the past week, the UN has deployed a Coordination Officer to northern Namibia, based at the Flood Emergency Management Coordination Office (FEMCO) in Oshakati. In addition, a Registration Officer from UNHCR, a Nutrition Specialist from UNICEF, a logistician from WFP, and other UN staff have been deployed for the next weeks to support the Government's response to flood-

affected communities.

While there have been heavy rains reported across the country, water levels are now receding. According to the Hydrological Services in the Ministry of Agriculture, flows are subsiding in the Kunene, Cuvelai, Upper Kavango (Rundu) and Kwando rivers. Water levels are expected to reach their seasonal peaks in the Lower Kavango (Andara), Zambezi and Chobe rivers in the coming days.

**People affected by flooding in northern Namibia**

Region	Population	People Affected	Percentage of total population affected
Oshana	244,971	42,981	18
Oshikoto	261,997	18,576	7
Omusati	278,662	95,522	34
Ohangwena	316,804	48,992	15
Kunene	109,392	2,000	2
Kavango	235,965	1,210	1
Caprivi	98,917	19,201	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,546,708</b>	<b>228,482</b>	<b>15</b>

Source: Joint rapid assessment, respective Regional Councils and Ministries. Data partial and incomplete.

#### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

GRN, under the auspices of the Secretary to Cabinet, held a National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) Meeting on 14 April 2011, where the results of the Joint Rapid Needs Assessment was presented and approved. A decision was also taken to form a committee to assess the feasibility of rolling out the cluster approach for humanitarian responses in Namibia. Feedback from this committee is not yet received.

The results of the Joint Rapid Assessment indicate that the areas of immediate concerns are sanitation, loss of livelihoods, water, food and nutrition. The effects of the floods on the sectors of health and education can only be fully assessed in the coming weeks. About 80 per cent of relocation centre managers, who were the respondents in the assessment, identified sanitation as a major concern, while 58 per cent identified loss of livelihoods, 33 per cent identified water, and 32 per cent identified food and nutrition as a concern. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), through its Directorate for Disaster Risk Management (DDRM), continues to take the lead in the response by providing logistics, food, shelter and health services. They are closely supported by the Namibian Red Cross Society (NRCS), especially in the management of the relocation centres and the supply of non-food items (NFIs).

The United Nations in Namibia has been supporting the response through the provision of especially technical support coming from agency regional offices. As mentioned above, an Emergency Coordination Officer has been deployed to support FEMCO, while a UNHCR Senior Registration Officer has conducted a rapid assessment of the registration process. A Nutrition Specialist has also been seconded by UNICEF, as part of the support to the Ministry of Health. Further support is being provided by WFP in logistics, while WHO continues to support through its programmes in northern Namibia. While IOM is not resident in the country, it has deployed two staff members, through the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, to carry out an assessment of camp coordination and camp management. The result of their assessment will be available in subsequent reports.

#### IV. Coordination

Coordination meetings continue to take place, both at the operational level with FEMCO in northern Namibia, and at the national level with the OPM/DDRM. The Office of the UN Resident Coordinator continues to provide support to these coordination processes.

#### V. Funding

Both a Flash Appeal and an application to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) have been submitted by the Namibia UN. The CERF application is seeking funding to support GRN in the areas on health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection and the provision of NFIs. The Flash Appeal focuses on the key sectors of Logistics, Food Security/Agriculture, Health/Nutrition, Protection, Shelter/ NFIs/CCCM, WASH, Education & Coordination. For more information please visit the Financial Tracking Service [website](#).

*All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an e-mail to: [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org).*

#### VI. Contact

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