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Emergency appeal operation update

Namibia: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRNA008

GLIDE n° DR-2013-000062-NAM

Operation update n°2

31 July 2013

Period covered by this Ops Update: 28 June to 28 July 2013

Appeal target: CHF 1,372,054

Appeal coverage: 12% [<click here to go to updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- An **Emergency Appeal** was launched on 28 June 2013, following the National State of Emergency issued by the Government of Namibia in May.
- CHF 150,000 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society to start up activities and provide immediate assistance.
- A first **Operation Update** was issued on 15 July 2013, outlining the donor response so far.



NRCS volunteers collecting data during food security assessment from the Himba community using proportional piling. Photo: Sophie Dunn

Summary:

A national state of emergency was issued by the Government of Namibia on 17 May 2013, requesting for international assistance for the estimated 331,000 people in rural communities classified as food insecure (14% of the total population of Namibia).

To support the government call for emergency assistance, the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) launched an appeal to intervene in four of the worst affected regions. This Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the NRCS and provides support to take appropriate and timely action by delivering assistance in the following sectors; water and sanitation, food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

During the reporting period, an in-depth needs assessment of water, sanitation and hygiene was undertaken by the WASH cluster's Rapid Assessment Team in four regions. Similarly, a Household Economic Security Assessment is underway with the support of the British Red Cross Household Economic expert. In preparation for the assessment, training was conducted on Household Economic Security assessment to strengthen the capacity of the National Society in this area.

As a result of the support from the HES expert, the needs are being further analysed. Food sources, income sources and expenditure of each wealth group (poor, middle and better off) in each of the four regions are being explored and the impacts of each hazard on the food and income sources across the wealth groups. In addition to the needs assessments, emergency response activities have started including training on Malnutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), and identification of sites to start the feeding programme. 33 NRCS volunteers and NRCS staff have been trained on malnutrition and IYCF.

So far, funding towards the appeal has been received from the Japanese Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross Societies. UNICEF has entered into a bilateral partnership with the Namibia Red Cross to provide funding and technical support and ECHO has confirmed funding support towards the appeal.

The situation

The drought situation in Namibia continues and it could still worsen, as the relief activities are still in its initial phase not yet reaching many of the affected regions. The government is drawing up a large scale response of distribution of maize meal, however implementation is just starting.

Cases of cholera were reported in Kunene region along the border with Angola. These are now said to be under control. After identifying the cholera cases, the volunteers embarked on sensitization of the community on how to prevent cholera and also distributed water purification tablets to some communities. A screening centre was opened at the border between Namibia and Angola to screen people who are entering into Namibia.

Discussions with the authorities in Kunene indicate that initial response of government's food aid only targeted communities in the villages. However, it has been reported that people in urban areas especially those in informal settlements in Kunene are equally affected by the drought, therefore the local authorities of Kunene have appealed to the government to include people in urban areas on the beneficiary list of government's food aid.

WASH assessment has been completed in the four regions of Kunene, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Kavango. The main aspect to note from the WASH assessment is that due to high food insecurity and malnutrition, and as only a few people practice household water treatment, the risk to water and sanitation related diseases from possible water contamination at household level is high. Particular concern are regions with lowest access to water and sanitation, and prone to diseases like cholera, including Kunene, Ohangwena and Kavango regions.

Findings of both the WASH and Household Economic Security assessments are being analysed and compiled for wider dissemination to support programme design by all stakeholders. More info on the assessments have are in the progress section.

Coordination and partnerships

The NRCS continues to co-ordinate with all the stakeholders and the Government, both at national and regional levels. The government is inviting NRCS in the developing work plans and discussions are underway for signing partnership agreement with the government.

The IFRC Regional office is in regular contact with OCHA, DFID, USAID and EU in particular to update them on the situation and to identify areas of collaboration.

During the reporting period the IFRC Regional Representative for Southern Africa visited Namibia to reinforce the commitment of the NRCS to respond to the current emergency. Meetings were held with UN Resident Coordinator, USAID and the EU Ambassador.

Other coordination measures remain the same as reported in the Emergency Appeal.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

During the reporting period, an in-depth needs assessment of Water Sanitation and Hygiene was undertaken by the WASH cluster's Rapid Assessment team in four regions. Similarly, a Household Economic Security Assessment is underway with the support of the British Red Cross Household Economic expert. In preparation for the assessment, training was conducted on Household Economic Security assessment to strengthen the capacity of the National Society in this area.

Following an alert, an RDRT (Regional Disaster Response Team) delegate has been posted in Windhoek and will provide surge capacity support in operationalizing this response.

So far, CAD 55,000 has been pledged from Canadian Red Cross and SEK 700,000 from the Swedish Red Cross. The British Red Cross has provided support to undertake a Household Economic Security Assessment, and a WASH assessment is being undertaken by the Rapid Assessment Team of the Global WASH cluster. UNICEF has entered into a bilateral partnership with the Namibia Red Cross to provide funding and technical support of USD 532,000 for training, screening and referrals of malnutrition and emergency WASH response. ECHO has confirmed a funding support of Euro 300,000 to the appeal for emergency response activities.

Progress towards outcomes

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods	
Outcome 1: At least 2,000 Orphan and Vulnerable children, disabled and elderly people have improved access to sufficient nutrition food in the targeted areas for up to six months	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned activities
<p>Integrated needs assessment and baseline completed</p> <p>Provide cooked meals at the four regional soup kitchens to 2,000 of the most vulnerable individuals in the four regions for six months (two times a day).</p> <p>Strengthen and establish a total of four kitchen gardens for supporting feeding scheme</p> <p>4 regions = 4 kitchens = feeding 2,000 in total (500 per kitchen)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing of methodology and questionnaires for integrated WASH, Food Security and Nutrition assessment • Household Economy Security technical support • 40 volunteers are trained to assist government for targeting and food distribution (10 in each affected area) • Support 2000 individuals (500 most vulnerable individuals each in the four regions). • Procure cooking materials for each kitchen in each region. These will include 2 big pots, one stove with two plates, 500 plates, 5 washing dishes and 500 spoons per region. • Procure foods items for soup kitchen (Maize meal 176.4 MT, Beans 3.15 MT, Fish 1.6 MT, Beef 1.6 MT, cooking oil 1.6 MT and vegetable 5.25 MT) • The ratio was calculated using standard calculator. • Train 40 volunteers (10 per region) in food preparation • 10 volunteers cook and provide meals to beneficiaries per region • Establish one community group (fifteen members per group) per garden that will work on the gardens entailing beneficiaries of the feeding schemes. If necessary, gardening activities will start November and December during rainfall season. The community groups will also benefit from the tanks to be provided all though the gardens will be next to river or water points. • Give one training and follow up support to each community groups on gardening (soil preparation, compost making, planting, pest and diseases control, watering and harvesting) • Procure vegetable seeds for the gardens (including Cabbages, Tomatoes, Lettuce, Rape, Carrot, Beetroots, Spinach, Onion and Green peppers), 350 kg per community group. • Procure tools that will be used in the gardens (8 watering cans, 8 digging forks, 8 rakes, 3 spraying cans, 5 spades, 3 wheelbarrows, 15 gloves, 2 generators, 4 roles of steel wires, 2 roles of soft wires, 2 roles of diamond wire, 56 poles, 2 gates, 25 cement, 4 black pipes, 4 tanks and tank stands each garden) • Procure other gardening inputs such fertilizers and weed killers • Support soil preparation, planting, weeding, disease and pest control and harvesting by NRCS volunteers and Government extension workers
<p>Achievement:</p> <p>The Household Economic Security Assessment is underway in four regions, and has so far been completed in one region (Kunene region). Initial findings highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasture has been severely affected as a result of the rains ending earlier than usual (and in some places not coming at all). 	

- Livestock in all communities have been sent for their long distance grazing earlier than usual (May/June instead of July) and livestock grazing is taking place further away from the homesteads than last year.
- Moving the livestock early was a coping strategy – in order to preserve the water in the homesteads for human consumption.
- Cattle prices have dropped by more than 50% compared to July 2012.
- The communities worst affected are those who traditionally have limited access to crops and livestock, such as the Dhemba. They do not have enough livestock for sale that would be required to replace the lost food and income from their traditionally limited crops.
- Maize meal is available in Opuwo and in small quantities in all visited locations (except Devet). However, all communities reported buying their maize meal in Opuwo.
- Poor households in all tribal groups reported an average monthly income of N\$1000. However, the cost of the minimum food and non-food basket is approximately N\$1,300. Poor households are therefore unable to afford the minimum basket at the moment and will probably take children out of school, and consume less in order to cope on their current income.

Soup Kitchen Start-up: Consultations were undertaken in Opuwo town (capital of Kunene region) with stakeholders and some beneficiaries to identify the locations for starting this intervention. Two locations have been identified in Opuwo town to set up the soup kitchens and volunteers are being trained to manage them. These two kitchens will target 400 individuals and will focus on assisting children under 5 years, lactating and expectant mothers.

Outcome 2: At least 80 per cent of under 5 children have access to community based nutrition and during the drought emergency in four northern regions of Namibia

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>80% of households with mothers and caregivers of children under 5 years of age receive nutrition education and counselling and hygiene promotion</p> <p>100% of children under 5 years from the target regions, identified as being severely malnourished are referred to health facility services for management and treatment</p> <p>Community demand for maternal, infant and young child nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a minimum of two TOTs in C-IYCF, acute malnutrition screening and WASH hygiene promotion (PHAST) for 350 volunteers • Cascade C-IYCF, acute malnutrition screening and hygiene promotion to health volunteers in Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshikoto and Kunene regions. Target 80% (280) of 350 volunteers over 12 month period. • Develop a household monitoring and record keeping template for use by 350 trained health volunteers • Develop and set up strong referral linkages to existing health facilities implementing the Nutrition, Assessment, Counselling and Support (NACS) programme. • Develop a referral tool that links pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children to health facilities for treatment and management of severe acute malnutrition. • Orientate Government Health Committees including the Regional Aids Coordinating Committee (RACOC) and Constituency Aids Coordinating Committee (CACOC) in the target regions on the expanded scope of practice of health volunteers

Achievement:

A five-day training for 33 participants on Nutrition and Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF) was conducted for NRCS staff and volunteers from 22-26 July 2013. The objective of the training was to train NRCS staffs and volunteers on the identification of malnourish children, Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening and how to feed malnourish children. It also involved discussing modalities on cascading the information and knowledge gained from the training, to discuss target areas and area of integrations with Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's staff and facilities, as well as to agree on how the regions will complement each other and support required from UNICEF. The training was jointly facilitated by NRCS and UNICEF staff. The trained staff and volunteers will be deployed to their regions to start up implementation of planned activities.

Outcome 3: Reduced food insecurity among 4,000 affected rural households through inputs, support and training.

Outputs (expected results)	Planned Activities
<p>4,000 households provided with seeds and 150 lead farmers trained in good farming practices and provided with fertiliser</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out continuous assessments of food security, nutrition and livelihoods • Identify 150 lead farmers (37 per region) • Distribute maize and pearl millet (mahangu) seeds to 4,000 and 2,000

	<p>households respectively and fertilizers to 150 lead farmers. (25 kg of maize seed, 25 kg of mahangu seed per household and 50kg of fertilizer per lead farmer) for a field of up to 4 ha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of tools to 4,000 households (each household will receive one hoe). • Community sensitization and training on best agricultural practices • Identification of drought tolerant crop varieties • Train 150 lead farmers in conservation agriculture and usage of drought tolerant, early maturing crops varieties and introduction to livestock and rangeland management • Four training in seed selection and preservation for 300 follower farmers conducted by lead farmers. • Conduct a training on post harvesting and storage handling training for 150 lead farmers • Seed multiplication demonstration • Monitoring of progress for the targeted farmers by NRCS regional officer and extension technicians. DRR and Monitoring and Evaluation coordinators will conduct quarterly field visits for monitoring purpose.
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Achievement:

Activities relating to outcome 3 on reduced food insecurity are yet to start.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion	
Outcome 4: 11,000 families have access to safe and clean water for emergency domestic and livestock consumption.	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned Activities
<p>85% of target beneficiaries reports access and use of safe drinking water</p> <p>Increased access to water for livestock.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of water purification tablets to 11,000 households • Distribution of jerry cans to 11,000 households • Training of 11,000 households on use of water purification tablets at time of distribution and in follow up home visits. • Distribution of plastic water tanks (5,000L) for 24 community groups, Directorate of Water Supply, Sanitation and Coordination will be filling water in the tanks • Rehabilitate 5 water points
Outcome 5: Increased hygiene knowledge for community members in the targeted areas	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned Activities
Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training 350 volunteers in hygiene promotion using PHAST. • Community education on hygiene promotion • Provide hygiene kits to volunteers
Outcome 6: To provide access 450 individuals to sanitation facilities in relocation areas of San communities in Oshikoto region for	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned Activities
85% target population reports access and regular use of sanitation facilities provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 15 volunteers in emergency latrine construction • Consultation with affected population to determine latrine design and location • Construct 22 latrines at a camp for 450 relocated individuals • Awareness raising on the use of the latrine by NRCS volunteers

Achievement:

A WASH assessment has been undertaken which will be used to develop a refined plan of action. The main findings are indicated below:

Water

- High breakdown of existing water points due to over-utilization.
- Dried up water point's, particularly traditionally dug wells, springs and small ponds in the river beds exacerbate limited access to water supplies hence, high competition for water between livestock and humans.
- Many rural schools are in critical need of water due to dried up hand dug wells.

- High migration of people away from water sources in search of grazing, results in increased number of people travelling large distances per day to the nearest water source.
- Increased numbers of people resorting to sourcing water from unprotected sources (open dams, rivers) hence increased exposure to water and sanitation related diseases e.g. bilharzia cases have been reported among school children along river Kunene
- Increased tension among communities due to increased competition for limited water resources.

Sanitation

- The four assessed regions have the lowest level of sanitation coverage in the country with Ohangwena being the lowest (5.4%), followed by Kavango (11.6%), Kunene (21%) and Oshikoto (31.9%).
- Low sanitation coverage in all the regions, with particular concern to rural schools and communities living in flood prone areas as they could be more vulnerable to diseases on the onset of rain season expected in four months.
- There are limited activities on health and hygiene education in all the four regions, hence the low knowledge and practices on hygiene within communities, creating a situation where people are unable to protect themselves against preventable diseases.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Considering the limited presence of humanitarian agencies and funding in Namibia, and the fact that NRCS is one of the very few actors directly responding towards the current drought emergency, it is considered crucial to take a proactive role to highlight the situation of the affected population to the various humanitarian stakeholders both within and outside Namibia.

To this end, the official launch of the appeal for Namibia was attended by the Office of Prime Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, and the various embassies, and it was shown on evening news and reported in all national newspapers, also followed by various TV interviews.

Regular updates by the IFRC and NRCS are also being provided on ReliefWeb.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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