UNICEF Namibia

Drought Situation Report #1

Issued on 24 July 2013

Highlights

- Emergency Food Security Assessment conducted in April/May and Drought Emergency declared on 17 May 2013, affecting all 13 regions.
- More than 778,000 people are either severely or moderately food insecure, including 109,000 children under five at risk of malnutrition.
- Directorate of Disaster Risk Management (Office of the Prime Minister) has developed a draft National Drought Emergency Response Plan with support from OCHA, UNICEF and other UN agencies, NGOs and respective line ministries.
- UNICEF is appealing for US$7,400,000 in its Humanitarian Action for Children to support efforts to respond to the needs of women and children affected by the drought.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The President of the Republic of Namibia, Hifikepunye Pohamba, declared a national drought emergency on 17 May 2013. More than 778,000 people are either severely or moderately food insecure, including 109,000 children under five at risk of malnutrition. To date, the response by the government has targeted all 13 regions, including interim measures such as provision of maize meal to all regions, and water trucking to communities whose water sources are limited or depleted. Regional Councils have been registering the number of people requesting support and the Ministries of Agriculture, Water and Forestry have commenced the processes to implement the livestock subsidy recommendations set out in the Emergency Food Security Assessment report.

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Estimated Affected Population
(Estimates calculated based on figures from the Emergency Food Security Assessment [GRN/ WFP, May 2013] and 2011 Population Census [GRN, 2013])

Start of humanitarian response: 17 May 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Severe food insecure</th>
<th>Moderately food insecure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Affected Population</td>
<td>778,502</td>
<td>330,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Affected (Under 18) (assumed 44% of total)</td>
<td>345,000</td>
<td>145,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five (assumed 14% of total)</td>
<td>109,000</td>
<td>46,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 6 to 23 months (assumed 4% of total)</td>
<td>32,700</td>
<td>13,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assume male:female ratio of 50:50

According to information provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Services regarding malnutrition amongst children under 5 years of age, there has been an increase during the year in the number of admissions to health facilities for treatment of acute malnutrition and a total of 46 malnutrition related deaths. It is yet to be confirmed how many are child and how many are adult deaths. In Kunene region, 8 malnutrition-related child deaths have been reported since January 2013. Media reports about deaths due to malnutrition were released on 4 July 2013 (http://www.namibian.com.na/indexx.php?id=943&page_type=story_detail).

The impact of food insecurity, limited or no access to a consistent supply of safe water, loss of livelihoods due to livestock deaths and crop failure, is intensifying. The effect of the drought on people’s health is starting to emerge and will only worsen if immediate actions are not taken to prevent further morbidity and mortality.

Anecdotally, reports by school principals indicate that students are not attending school regularly. This may or may not be due to demands on all household members for income generating activities however it could be one of the reasons. Student attendance rates at school is another important indicator that will give further insight into just how wide spread the adverse effects of the drought actually are.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The National Drought Emergency Response Plan has been developed by the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management (DDRM) with facilitation from UN-OCHA and inputs from the relevant government line ministries, the Namibia UN Country Team and CSOs. To this end four sectoral working groups have been established:

- Agriculture
- Food security and livelihoods
- Health and nutrition
- WASH

UN-OCHA has deployed staff to Namibia to strengthen coordination within UN and with partners, and to facilitate the response planning led by DDRM.

On the 27 June there was a National Disaster Risk Management Committee meeting (NDRMC), which was attended by the Resident Coordinator for the UN, UN agencies, Civil Society Organisations, Religious leaders and representatives from Regional Council Offices across all 13 regions. The meeting was convened to discuss the National Drought Emergency Response Plan and the way forward on how to implement it and fund the financial gaps.

1 UNICEF is participating in all except Agriculture.
Under the leadership of the UNRC, a meeting was called on Monday 26 June to brief donors on the current drought situation and UN response. During the same week, UN agencies and USAID held a similar meeting to brief Civil Society Organisations.

Preliminary contact has been made with UNICEF Angola to strengthen cross-border coordination and resource mobilization efforts.

**UNICEF Programme Strategy**

UNICEF is supporting the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN)’s response plans in nutrition and WASH to improve access to clean water, hygiene practices, and community identification and treatment of acute malnutrition.

Priority interventions will include:
- Introduce community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) to ensure detection, treatment, and referrals for severe and moderate cases in the four most-affected regions.
- Establish a household nutrition assessment data collection system by training volunteers to screen for and report on incidence of acute malnutrition amongst children 6-59 months of age.
- Provision of micronutrient powder (MNP) for all children aged 6-59 months to prevent further deterioration of nutritional status and to complement Government’s distribution of food parcels.
- Support access to clean water through household water treatment, promotion of hygiene and sanitation at the community level.
- Install water tanks near schools to provide access to Government-trucked clean water.
- Build capacity of regional and district government bodies, NGOs, and CSOs in assessment of water and sanitation needs, immediate response, and reporting.
- Close coordination with UNICEF Angola to ensure exchange of cross-border information on trends, population movements and disease surveillance.

The urgency of the response allows scaling up and acceleration of several initiatives already under discussion or in early stages of implementation, including CMAM and Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). Working through line ministries and extending engagement with community structures gives stronger support to a sustainable approach and builds resiliency, as Namibia continues to face more limited rain shortfalls on a regular basis.

**UNICEF Action to Date**

UNICEF has partnered with the Namibian Red Cross (NRCS) to provide financial and technical support from UNICEF Namibia country office to improve community and household access to safe water through provision of water storage (tanks and household containers), water purification tablets and information about health and hygiene practices.

**Food Security**

**Needs:**
- Distribution of fortified cereal and protein rich food item/s to all affected areas – GRN is investigating sourcing pulses from the region to supplement the cereal ration.
- Clear criteria for eligibility for food support in the affected regions is needed urgently.

**Response:**
- While DDRM has distributed 40,000 bags of maize meal (12.5kg bags) to all of the 13 regions as part of their interim drought measures, WFP and UNICEF are providing technical assistance to the drought emergency response plan with respect to food relief, especially advocating for fortification of cereals that are distributed to affected regions.
- In this regard, UNICEF worked with the Namibia Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN), led by the former Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Hon. Nahas Angula. Following a NAFIN meeting on 1 July 2013, the NAFIN Chair requested DDRM to ensure all emergency maize meal supplies are fortified as per the standard. The Namibian Agronomic Board and Namibian
Millers Association will be ready to subsidise 75% of the start-up cost of fortification equipment to medium and small millers. Since the cost of fortification is negligible, it is an opportunity to ensure all maize meals are fortified before reaching the beneficiaries.

Gaps/constraints:
- Identifying, quantifying and targeting the most affected populations in need of food support is a priority.
- Sourcing additional food items such as pulses or beans to supplement the cereal provision
- The cereal (maize meal) being distributed by the government as food support is not fortified and this has significant negative implications for the nutritional status of both children and adults. Incentives required for small-scale local millers to fortify maize.
- Post food distribution monitoring and reporting remains a challenge

**Health and Nutrition**

**Needs:**
- Need to strengthen health facility nutrition surveillance for acute malnutrition trends and emerging micronutrient deficiencies
- Commence active case finding for acute malnutrition in the community using health and community volunteer networks where they are available
- Increase community awareness of and demand for nutrition services
- Implement national vitamin A supplementation for children 6 - 59 months
- Scale up MoHSS' Nutrition Assessment, Counselling Support (NACS) programme in the 89 facilities that are currently not providing this service.
- Train community volunteers and Health Extension Workers to manage moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition without medical complications in the community

**Response:**
- UNICEF finalised a partnership agreement with NRCS to implement and scale up WASH and Nutrition interventions in four highly affected regions; Ohangwena, Omusati, Kunene and Kavango.
- Ongoing support to MoHSS to strengthen the health and nutrition surveillance system
- UNICEF has procured anthropometric equipment for the MoHSS’ in-patient programme for managing acute malnutrition
- MoHSS has a health facility based programme for managing and treating cases of malnutrition. 280 health facilities out of a total of 369 are able to treat cases of malnutrition providing children reach the service in time.

**Gaps/constraints:**
- Delays in the collection and dissemination of data and information by the Ministry of Health and Social Services
- Nutrition and health surveillance needs to be strengthened
- Insufficient funds to implement essential nutrition activities
- Coordination mechanisms at all levels need to be strengthened in order to respond adequately.

**Water and Sanitation**

**Needs:**
- Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination have identified a need for an additional 7 water tankers to truck water to affected communities.
- Mapping of areas to better understand the critical water and sanitation needs.

**Response:**
- To date the Government has drilled a total of 12 new boreholes to supply water for livestock in 2 regions. There are plans to drill another 29 new boreholes in 12 regions. Rehabilitation of boreholes has also commenced.
- Water is being trucked by Government to regions with immediate critical needs.
- A WASH response plan has been developed by UNICEF in partnership with NRCS that includes activities to support better access to safe water at household and community level via installation of water tanks, distribution of jerry cans and water purification tablets to households and the promotion of health and hygiene messages.
- The National Drought Emergency Response Plan includes a detailed WASH section that describes short, medium and long term activities such as water trucking, borehole drilling and rehabilitation, pipeline extension, construction of earthdams, strategies to eliminate open defecation.
Gaps/constraints:
- Funding for additional water tankers and to implement the National WASH sector response plan
- Coordination and information sharing remains an overall constraint to all sectors including WASH.

Education

Needs:
- The School Feeding Programme continues however there are increasing reports of significant delays in the distribution of maize meal to schools
- Improved sanitation in schools continues to be a high priority (1 in 5 schools lack sanitation facilities, mostly in the northern regions)
- Possible reduction in student attendance at school however information is anecdotal
- Mapping of schools affected but not part of the school feeding programme
- Expansion of school feeding programme to affected schools not part of the programme

Response:
- UNICEF through Ministry of Education and NRCS will monitor the WASH situation in schools
- UNICEF through Ministry of Education EMIS updates will monitor impact on student attendance
- WFP is providing ongoing support to the MoE to improve the School Feeding Programme logistics and distribution system to ensure timely supply of meals to students.

Gaps/constraints:
- No official data on student attendance
- Some schools in affected areas do not have the school feeding programme
- Delays in food distribution to schools
- Funding to expand the school feeding programme to affected schools not part of the programme
- Sustainability of expansion relying on donor aid.

Protection

Needs:
- No reported protection issues to date however there are reports of increased cross border migration between Namibia and Angola that could have implications for child protection
- UNICEF monitoring situation with UNFPA as sector lead.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF will be seeking funds to provide additional supply items to support the response in the four most-affected regions, with a focus on:

- **WASH commodities**: Water tanks, Water purification, Water testing supplies, Jerry Cans, Hygiene kits.
- **Nutrition commodities**: Ready to use therapeutic foods, fortified blended foods, and micro-nutrient powders (“sprinkles”).

Human Resources

The total number of Country Office staff pre-emergency is 35. Within this team, staff have dedicated significant time to the initial response, with support from Regional Office. Additional support will be requested for Emergency Coordinator, Nutrition Coordinator, WASH Coordinator and 2 field-based WASH Officers.

Security

No security concerns at this stage.
Funding

UNICEF launched its humanitarian funding requirements to support efforts by the Government of the Republic of Namibia to respond to the needs of children and women affected by the drought.

UNICEF is requesting USD7.4 million to cover nutrition and WASH needs of the most vulnerable populations until March 2014 through the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (http://www.unicef.org/appeals/esaro.html).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received*</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>5,884,367</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,884,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>723,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>723,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Support</td>
<td>451,968</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>451,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group Coordination</td>
<td>432,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>432,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.4 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.4 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Funds received* does not include pledges.

**Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Namibia Red Cross Society has entered into a partnership agreement with UNICEF Namibia Country Office for the value of US $570,000. This was possible due to re-programming of existing grants from the Government of Japan and UNICEF Canada. The objective of this partnership is to build NRCS capacity to plan, implement and monitor emergency WASH and nutrition interventions in Ohangwena, Omusati, Kunene and Kavango.

Next SitRep: 5 August 2013

For further information, please contact

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