



RED CROSS NEWS

March 2010

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(For more information see the back of this Newsletter)

Editorial



Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter. I wish you all the best for 2010.

This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to the people of Haiti. Now it's time to get back into the annual humanitarian cycle that of mobilizing the power of humanity. May you find courage and strength and continue the good course to fight vulnerability.

Humanitarian work cannot be an individual effort. With your help and support it will even be better. To make it even better, I would like to appeal to all of you to be partners. This appeal goes out to our extended family as well – the many people out there who contribute in other ways to making the Society a friend in need. We would also like to hear from you and how our association has impacted on your lives or those around.

Yours in humanity

Saara lipinge

NRCS launched historic Zambezi River Basin Initiative

The Namibia Red Cross – the national humanitarian organization on the 25th of September 2009, launched a historic, long-term and cross border initiative to support hundred of thousands of chronically vulnerable people living along the Zambezi river basin in the seven countries.

The Zambezi River Basin Initiative - a joint programme between the Angolan, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe Red Cross Societies – will support more than 600, 000 people living in villages and towns along the river basin over at least the next eight years.

“ In recent years, we have witnessed a dramatic increase in the numbers of floods along the river basin,” said Farid Abdulkadir, the IFRC's Disaster Management Coordinator for the Southern Africa zone.

“For many communities, these events are now annual crises – leaving them in an almost perpetual cycle of disaster, displacement and recovery,” continued. “ The Zambezi initiative aims to break this cycle; to help communities be prepared for these disasters, and to encourage them to take steps to reduce the devastating impact that they have on their lives”.

The Zambezi Initiative aims to go beyond simply addressing preventing the impacts of disasters. It seeks to address the broader vulnerabilities of communities as well, including HIV, exposure to water and vector borne diseases, and the compounding aggravation of weakened community structures.

The Initiative was launched after the publication of the IFRC's 2009 World Disasters Report. The report focused on ‘Early warning, early action’ – representing a call to governments and policy makers to adopt a more proactive and preventative approach to disaster management.



Namibians open their hearts to Haitians



Left to right: Secretary-General of the NRCS Dorkas Kapembe-Haiduwa, D-Naff representing artists, Mandela Kapere NYC Secretary General and Johanna Cloete from the Auas Rotary Club.

The Namibia Red Cross Society appeals for financial donations from members of the public, financial institutions and other sectors to contribute to the assistance offered to the inhabitants of Haiti in the West Indies, who have been left destitute by an earthquake that hit that country on Tuesday, the 12th of January 2010.

The earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale has caused devastation to infrastructure and human life in the cities of Port-au-Prince, Carrefour and Jacmel in the West Province, with an estimated population of 2.2 million. There have been reports of thousands of people dead, while some are trapped in the rubble and many more missing. The victims need assistance of basic necessities in the form of shelter, food, water and medical supplies while rescue work is still underway.

The death toll is 210 000 with many more people still trapped in collapsed buildings and unaccounted for.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent has revised its initial appeal of 10 million Swiss

francs to 105.7 million Swiss Franc on behalf of the people of Haiti in an effort to bring basic and immediate health care to 30,000 people.

Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) Secretary-General Dorkas Kapembe-Haiduwa at the official launch in the capital says that the NRCS being part of the movement, committed to restoring human dignity, feels obliged to seek assistance from the Namibian public that can contribute to the alleviation and minimising of suffering among our brothers and sisters who have been hit by this devastating catastrophe.

“We would like to give an opportunity to most Namibians who feel touched by this unfortunate event to step in and assist”, says Kapembe-Haiduwa.

“Climate change is real and does not only affect us but the whole world. We have heard about similar catastrophic occurrences but this one is just too big to comprehend. No one man or country can cope with it. Knowing the Namibian public, Namibia will also give its hand”, she adds.

“This is not the first time that the Namibia Red Cross Society has sourced funds for other nations affected by disasters. In 2004 the National Society managed to solicit N\$ 212 000 for the Asian Tsunami”, The Secretary-General praised.

The Namibia Red Cross partnered with MTC, Democratic Media Holdings and Auas Rotary Club in this fundraising drive and an SMS service has been developed where members of the public can contribute by sending the word “Haiti” to 2005. SMS costs only N\$5.00.

Donations can also be made into the following account:

Namibia Red Cross Society
Standard Bank
Katutura Branch
Acc No. 241964164
Branch code: 082972



Namibia Red Cross Volunteers assisted during elections

The Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) deployed 408 well-trained volunteers and staff to man 34 First Aid posts in the general elections that took place from 27-28 November 2009 across the country.

The teams were deployed in Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Hardap and Karas, as these were areas where its assessment has indicated that the intervention of

its teams is most likely to be needed. Notwithstanding working in these areas, they were able to deploy rapidly to any other location at the shortest notice.

The NRCS first aid teams responded to any humanitarian or other emergencies in an independent, neutral and impartial manner. They were also offering basic first aid on election days at the designated polling stations. NRCS volunteers helps the frail move through

the voting process; treat dehydration, fainting, epileptic attacks, headaches, sore feet and occasional cuts and bruises among others.

The teams coordinated with officials of the Ministry of Health and Social services in the event that casualties arises and need to be evacuated after basic first aid has been administered, deploying NRCS standby cars whenever necessary.

Help us by making a donation today.

Your donation makes a difference! Donations can be in any form, cash or in kind. Together with you, NRCS acts locally and globally to respond to humanitarian challenges everywhere, everyday!

Act now, donate today!
Your donations makes a difference!

Please note that you may also make a donation directly to the Red Cross head office or your nearest Red Cross branch office.



NDF officers trained in IHL

In partnership with the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delivered the IHL module to 38 Namibian Defense Force officials in the capital on the 27th of September 2009.

The module is designed for officers preparing for promotions to the senior ranks of the armed forces and it focused on the history of International Committee of Red Cross; protection of prisoners of war; protection of wounded and sick; protection of civilians; conduct of hostilities, with an emphasis on Law of Armed Conflict.

The ICRC also conducted training for over 60 junior military staff at the Sona Military School, 40 Km outside Windhoek on the fundamental of IHL, with a focus on rules that apply during the conduct of hostilities. It focussed on the protection these rules offer to civilians and those not able to continue participating in the fighting.

In both modules, the officers gained a thorough foundation in IHL and explored the challenges that modern military commanders face and their responsibilities to comply with IHL.



NRCS honours a remarkable humanitarian

The Namibia Red Cross Society paid tribute to the work and achievements of its former Board Chairperson Dr. Helena Ndume by awarding her a humanitarian award for outstanding service and dedication.

Dr. Ndume who has become a household name in Namibia for the work she does in restoring sights to thousands of Namibia's aged blinded by cataracts, was awarded an award at a recent Annual General Assembly that took place in the Capital last year.

"This is the one of the best distinction that anyone, among us can aspire to," said Mr. Toivo ya Toivo, the former NRCS board chairman. "The world needs more people like Dr. Ndume, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others".

Dr. Ndume - a specialist in Ophthalmologist, served as the NRCS board chairperson. Sight restoration - mostly commonly associated with the miracles performed by Jesus in the Bible is part of Dr. Ndume's daily routine. And to the many that she treats and inspires everyday, she is seen as a 'miracle doctor'.

Dr. Ndume studied medicine at the University of Leipzig in Germany, and returned to the university to specialize in Ophthalmology after completing her medical internship at the Katutura Hospital, Windhoek in 1990/1. Upon completion of her ophthalmology studies she also spent six months in India, where she learnt about and treated thousands of people suffering from tropical diseases found mostly in the developing world. Today, she is one of only six of Namibia's ophthalmologists.



International Volunteer Day

celebrated in Eenhana

Organised by the Red Cross branch in Eenhana, the International volunteer day for 2009 was celebrated in Ohangwena Region. Hundreds of Red Cross volunteers and other local volunteer including NAPPA volunteers and the local population joined hands in celebrating the day. The youth was one of the targeted audiences on that International Volunteer day.

The participants started by a march to raise awareness around the role of volunteers worldwide. This activity was followed by a number of sport activities.

“The International volunteer day is a good opportunity for people in all regions to consider the great work done

Below: Daniel Nghilundwa and Maiya Shikongo were crowned as Mr and Miss Red Cross Volunteer during the International Volunteers day on 5 December 2009.



by the Red Cross volunteers and their contribution to meeting the needs of vulnerable people,” says Usko Nghaamwa Governor of Ohangwena Region.

Mr Nghaamwa invited the government, private sectors, civil society, media and other stakeholders to support this work. Volunteers from all nationalities, ethnicities and beliefs are taking on various challenges in the communities, volunteering to make a difference.

“Volunteers are inspiring example of how the power of humanity can be harnessed to make a difference to the lives of vulnerable people in our community. On International Volunteer Day we celebrate all of our volunteers, who come from all walks of life and diverse communities. They remain the champions of our work towards the Millenium Development Goals”, said the Governor.

That day saw the crowning of Maiya and Daniel as Miss and Mr Red Cross volunteers respectively. The two will lead local volunteers in their efforts to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity.

The International volunteer day was also celebrated in the capital where a number of volunteer host organizations including Namibia Red Cross Society, VSO, UNV, Peace Corps, National Planning Commission, Aids Care Trust and many others were involved.

In Windhoek, the day started with a community work characterized by the planting of trees at Kilimandjaro and Kabila settlement areas. This activity was in the framework of ensuring environment sustainability, one of the Millennium Development Goals. Around 200 trees that were planted will not only serve to protect the soil against erosion, but also as land fertilizers and food for domestic animals.



Photo corner

Right: NRCS staff and volunteers together with NCCI, NYC, Rotary Club, MTC and NBC hosted a concert on Saturday, 30 January 2010 to raise funds for the Haiti victims. At the concert well known artists like Gazza, The Dogg, D-Naff, and Tunakie performed.



Left: NRCS staff members that participated in the World Aids Day commemorated on 1 December 2009 where Global Alliance for access, prevention, care and support were promoted.

Right: 10 OVC's from Katima Mulilo received school uniforms donated by the Kanono Association – a farming project established by the NRCS. The project also donated maize to 10 Home Base Care patients.



Left: (from left to right) The new Board of the NRCS, Mr. G Ndafenongo, Mr. E L Mwenda, Mr. S Garosab, Mrs. I Kandingua, Mr. C Tjivikua, Mr. C Ndongi, Mr. W Ndevashiya and Mr. Toivo Ya Toivo. Not present is Mr. M Mwinga and Dr. C Swarts-Opperman and Prof. P Katjavivi (Chairman).

NRCS exhibition marks the

60th Anniversary of Geneva Conventions

At a ceremony held on the 12th of August 2009, exactly 60 years after the Geneva Conventions were signed, Namibia's Prime Minister Nahas Angula, declared open a dual photo exhibition, Our World – At War and Humanity in War, at the National Gallery of Namibia.

Mr Angula expressed his government's delight at being "part of this historic worldwide campaign and commemoration." The Geneva Conventions are the cornerstone of International humanitarian law, also known as the law of Armed conflict.

Thomas Merkelbach, the Head of the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Harare, which covers the organizations's activities in Namibia, noted in his opening remarks, that,

in accordance with its international mandate, "the ICRC is working with States in the Southern African Development Community and around the world to improve adherence to and respect for international humanitarian law." In addition, he pointed out that public opinion has played a significant role ensuring that impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law can no longer be taken for granted.

Dorkas Kapembe-Haiduwa, the Secretary General of the Namibia Red Cross Society, informed the audience in her welcoming address that the legacy of Henry Dunant, who founded the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, lives on in the activities of her National Society, which has continued to respond to the needs of communities. She stated

that the Namibia Red Cross had recently provided aid for over "over 40, 000 households in floodprone regions of Kavango and Caprivi, while 6, 600 people benefited from our HIV/AIDS home-based care project. "These results were achieved with support from partners both locally and internationally.

The exhibition is part of a series of events organized by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the battle of Solferino, which led to the Movement's creation, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Conventions.

How to become a member of the Namibia Red Cross Society

Namibia Red Cross Society welcomes individuals as well as organizations that are socially corporate responsible to become members of the Namibia Red Cross Society so that together we can mobilize the power of humanity.

Membership of the National Society is open to everyone without any discrimination based on race, sex, religious beliefs, language, class or political opinions. All citizen of the country can become members or volunteers of the National Society participate in its activities and are elected to positions of responsibilities. You can be a member of Namibia Red Cross Society by registering and paying a small sum of annual or lifetime subscription fee to your local branch of NRCS. Membership fee is one of the major sources of income for branches. By becoming a member, you will be contributing to the support and maintenance of various programmes and activities managed by NRCS at local level.

If you are unable to serve as a volunteer but would like to support and contribute to the work of the NRCS, register as a member today. Members may be active, subscribing or honorary members.

Active Members:

Active members/volunteers are those persons who have agreed to give service to the National Society and are registered as such by the local branch.

Subscribing Members:

Subscribing members are those persons who pay the annual subscription determined by the General Assembly.

Youth Members:

Youth members shall be those young persons who are between the ages of 6 to 25.

Honorary Members:

Honorary members are those persons who have been so designated by the governing Board in recognition of exceptional services to the National Society.

Life Members:

Life members shall be those persons who pay a life membership as determined by the General Assembly.

Duties of Members

Members have the following duties:

- To adhere to and disseminate information about the Fundamental Principles;
- To promote the work of the National Society;
- To recognize and obey the statutes of the National Society;
- To pay the annual subscription fees; and
- To participate actively in the work of the National Society.

Haiti: International Red Cross Red Crescent team focus on recovery

Two weeks after a devastating earthquake hit the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, the Red Cross Red Crescent has provided 2.5 million litres of clean, safe drinking water and distributed at least 550 tonnes of life-saving relief goods. Currently the Red Cross Red Crescent is providing safe water to at least 100,000 people per day.

But the focus must now shift to thinking about and planning for early recovery and reconstruction if Haitians are to rebuild their lives and livelihoods and move on to a safer, more resilient future, says the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The response to the magnitude 7 earthquake on 12 January has been one of the largest in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's 150-year history, with specialist teams, equipment, food and shelter materials being sent to the stricken city from all over the world.

Volunteers from the Haitian National Red Cross Society - many of whom lost loved ones and their homes in the disaster - were among the first to respond and have been working

tirelessly ever since. They are being supported by more than 300 disaster response and recovery experts from 22 countries, including those in Latin America.

Mauricio Bustamante, who is managing the IFRC's Haiti response from its Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama, said that the challenge for the coming weeks would be to establish and maintain supply lines for the operation, and to ensure a smooth transition from relief to early recovery efforts.

"This has been a challenging two weeks for the Red Cross Red Crescent logistics teams, but we have achieved a lot," he says.

"PADRU was able to send seven charter planes full of relief goods and equipment to the area in the first week of the operation, and there has been great cooperation across the Movement and with other agencies. Everyone has been focused on one thing: helping the people of Haiti".

"Now we have to concentrate on the main future challenges - early recovery and reconstruction - so that those

affected can recover, and that the rebuilding process will help to protect communities against future natural disasters such as hurricanes," he adds.

In the two weeks since the disaster, 43 Red Cross Red Crescent charter flights have been sent to the area; more than 500 people are being treated daily in health facilities including a 70-bed field hospital; more than 26,000 people have received relief items such as tarpaulins, tents, hygiene parcels, kitchen sets and jerry cans. This figure is expected to double by the end of the week. 30,000 emergency health kits and 30,000 shelter kits have been distributed, and trained volunteers are providing psychosocial support.

In addition, 21 Emergency Response Units - the largest such deployment in a single country in Movement history - are working on the ground, and the IFRC is sourcing construction materials that can be used to help people rebuild their homes, in full consultation with the affected communities.



NRCS Tracing Department hailed for its outstanding work



The Burundian Community in New Zealand recently commended the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) for reuniting Marie Josianne Kwizera, a Burundian national and her two children with her husband Jean-Paul Bizoza in New Zealand.

It will be recalled that Marie Josianne Kwizera had fled Burundi in 2004, in an effort to join her husband who was then living in Namibia. Kwizera

could not trace her husband as he had emigrated from Namibia to New Zealand the same year.

In a letter addressed to the NRCS, Jean-Paul Bizoza, the Burundian Community Legal Representative said inter alia "...On behalf of the Burundian Community in New Zealand, I would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Nicanor Godfried, NRCS Tracing Coordinator for his invaluable contribution in

successfully handling the tracing request of Ms Marie Josiane Kwizera, Brian and Bliss Bizoza."

The chaos and confusion that accompany war and natural disasters often separate families, and the Namibia Red Cross (Restoring) Family Links programme helps such affected people in Namibia re-establish contact with their loved ones. It encourages anyone affected to contact the Society for assistance.

Calendar of World Events

		March
8th	-	International Women's Day
21st	-	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
22nd	-	World Day for Water
24th	-	World Tuberculosis Day
		April
7th	-	World Health Day
25th	-	Africa Malaria Day
		May
8th	-	World Red Cross Day
15th	-	International day of Families
18th	-	World AIDS Vaccine Day
		June
5th	-	World Environment Day
14th	-	World Blood Donor Day
16th	-	African Child Day
17th	-	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
20th	-	World Refugee Day
24th	-	Battle of Solferino Day
		July
11th	-	World Population Day
		August
12th	-	International Youth Day
		September
8th	-	World First Aid Day
16th	-	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
21st	-	International Day of Peace
		October
1st	-	International Day of Older Persons
1st Monday	-	World Habitat Day
2nd Wednesday	-	International day of Natural Disaster Reduction
16th	-	World Food Day
17th	-	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
		November
6th	-	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
20th	-	Universal Children's day
		December
1st	-	World AIDS Day
3rd	-	International Day of Disabled Persons
5th	-	International Volunteer Day
10th	-	Human Rights Day
20th	-	International Human Solidarity Day

Know where we are:

Please visit your nearest Red Cross branch office and become part of the effort to assist the most vulnerable in our society.

Namibia Red Cross Society Head Office
2128 Independence Avenue, Katutura
PO BOX 346
Windhoek
Namibia
Tel: +264 61 235 226
Fax: + 264 61 228 949
www.redcross.org.na

Namibia Red Cross Regional Branches Physical Addresses:

1. Caprivi Region

Trans-Caprivi Highway
Katima Mulilo Tel: 066 – 254315

2. Kavango Region

Nkarapamwe Street
Rundu Tel: 066 – 256213

3. Kunene Region

Oranda
Opuwo Tel: 065 – 273135

4. Ohangwena Region

Hifikepunye Pohamba Street
Eenhana Tel: 065 – 263177

5. Omusati Region

Ombalantu Traditional Authority
Outapi Tel: 065 – 251539

6. Oshikoto Region

Onandjokwe Lutheran Hospital
Ondangwa Tel: 065 263286

7. Khomas Region

Erf 2128 Independence Avenue
Katutura Tel: 061 – 235226

8. Otjozondjupa Region

Omulunga Location, Kasupi Street
Otjiwarongo Tel: 067 – 300 900



Namibia Red Cross Society

A humanitarian organisation established through Act 16 of 1991 of the Namibian Parliament

Fundraising for Vulnerable Communities

WIN WIN!!

FOR ONLY **N\$100**

Prizes includes

1. Toyota Yaris 5 door
2. HP Laptop,
3. Canon Camera 7.1 Pixels
4. Vacuum Flask.



Postponement of Namibia Red Cross Society Raffle competition draw to 08 May 2010

The Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) would like to inform members of the public who participated in the Raffle competition in support for vulnerable communities, that the draw date has been postponed from the 30th of November 2009 to the 08th of May 2010.

The reason for the postponement is due to the slow sales of the tickets.

The funds to be generated from the sales of the tickets will be used in giving the most needed support to the vulnerable members of the community. The Namibia Red Cross Society on a daily basis gives support to members of the society in the form of blankets, shelter, food and clothing.

Most of these people have been made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS and disasters such as fires and floods. The Namibia Red Cross Society is also assisting orphans and vulnerable children annually by buying them school uniforms and other school materials.

It is against this background that the Namibia Red Cross Society calls on members of the public throughout the country to support us in this noble cause of restoring the dignity of the most vulnerable members of our society and in turn win exciting prizes.

The competition is running throughout the country and our volunteers and staff are involved in the sales of tickets at shopping malls, offices and homes.

SUPPORT HUMANITY AND WIN EXCITING PRIZES

Enquiries: Rosemary Nalisa Tel 061-235226 Fax 228949 Mob 0811280467 email: enquiries@redcross.org.na