



NAMIBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Namibia Red Cross Society underwent leadership change in January 2017. The Secretary General, Dorkas Kapembe-Haiduwa, ended her contract with NRCS in December 2016, and was replaced by Naemi Heita in January 2017. Under its new leadership, the organization remains committed to addressing vulnerabilities in a comprehensive and sustainable manner by mobilizing vulnerable communities to mitigate risks and bolster resilience to future shocks. NRCS supports a people-centered, needs-driven approach in line with the Red Cross Fundamental Principles. The National Society is committed to participating in joint needs assessments, combined data analysis, and planning and programming processes to deliver better outcomes to vulnerable communities for both humanitarian and development services. Programmes are designed to strengthen branches and ensure that efficiency and sustainability is maintained.

The year 2017 has its focus on reviewing the intermediate strategic plan 2015- 2016, to lay basis for developing another 5 year plan, 2017 - 2021 strategic plan. While the strategy is still under development, NRCS has developed a road map 2017 - 2018 to give strategic guidance to the National Society programming. The period under review was the final year of three year Single Stream Fund (SSF) Global Fund (GF) grants for HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Cumulatively the GF projects supported 542,450 people. The end of the grant in December 2017, in seven northern and central regions also resulted in significant staff reduction as the majority of Namibia Red Cross staff were directly supported by the three grants. Japanese Red Cross (JRC) provided support for HIV/AIDS programme in Grootfontein district benefited 80 OVC and 100 PLHIV clients.

The National Society continued to provide support to strengthen livelihood and food security in north eastern regions adding the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. In response to drought, NRCS concluded the implementation of an emergency appeal in Kunene and Kavango region. The drought response was supplemented by the bilateral support of Spanish Red Cross in two additional communities in Kavango, whereby they were provided with agricultural support and food distribution. Under the partnership and cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, NRCS has continued to enjoy support aimed at strengthening the National Society governance, communication systems and dissemination of the Red Cross Fundamental Principles.

Number of people reached through NRCS programs in 2017

Programme /Project	Region	# Benefited
HIV/AIDS and OVC	Khomas, Oshikoto, Kunene and Kavango, Otjozondjupa	23,000
Tuberculosis	Omusati, Zambezi, Ohangwena	331,620
Malaria	Oshana, Ohangwena and Zambezi	187,080
WASH	Kavango	28,000
Livelihood and Food Security	Kavango and Zambezi	147
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Kavango and Zambezi	550
Emergency Appeal and Drought Response - Cash transfer and food distribution	Kunene and Kavango	1,200

Expanding Volunteer Base

The National Society has a total of 3,800 volunteers of which 80% are youth (50% youth in primary and secondary schools level and 30% in tertiary institutions). NRCS remains committed to recruit members and volunteers through its local structures, an exercise that is driven by the regional governance committees. Omusati region is the most active in this venture, having a total 237 village with Red Cross units consisting of 557 members cumulatively. The programme was active in 2016, however scaled down in 2017 due to limited funding, low morale from the governing committees as well as lack of activities to continuously engage volunteers.

Partnerships

Our auxiliary role to the government of the Republic of Namibia is essential within country, it is therefore imperative that both the government and entire public understand the mandate of Red Cross as the only National Society in the country linked to a global Red Cross Movement.

NRCS vision is be the leading humanitarian organization delivering sustainable services complementing government humanitarian obligations guided by its independence and neutrality principles. The process of positioning and strengthening the NS to add value to the national programmes began in 2016, re-strategizing and maximizing on its various comparative advantages. Our strength is drawn from long term partnership established with the government, communities, business community, international organizations and partner National Societies within the Movement.

Budget

NRCS had a total income of 16,651 530. 48 NAD in 2017 compared to 36,076 460 NAD in 2016. The reduction in the government financial support as well as other partners has led to overall decrease in NS income for 2017. The end Global Fund programme has significantly reduced programme budget and the situation requires NS to venture into new funding partnerships to continue service delivery. Diversification of funding sources remains the National Society challenge, and the need for long term funding, as well and increasing the percentage of resources generated domestically. The latter is essential to minimize risks of service delivery termination before impact is realized in the targeted communities.

Geographical coverage

For the past 10 years, Red Cross has its administration offices in nine north-west and north-eastern regions of Namibia, however, the organization's presence is felt in all 14 regions as its services are not limited to physical presence. NRCS has opened a new office in Keetmanshop, !Kharas region, and it continues to strengthen the branch by attracting and train more volunteers to spearhead Red Cross work in the region.

PROGRAMMES

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Health and Care department strategic objective is to take a lead in mobilizing communities on health related issues (community health education on TB, Malaria, nutrition, maternal and child health, immunization, WASH, FA and HIV/AIDS) by having volunteers at local level in all programme sites trained in health. The programmes strives to improve the delivery of health services in the communities (all volunteers should possess basic knowledge on health related) through trainings and refresher courses. Health and Social Services Department aspires to provide life-saving care for a range of health priorities

to contribute to the building of resilient health systems. The presence of the Red Cross volunteers in many rural villages has resulted in expanded reach of the health services and strengthened community-based surveillance. In addition, health programmes mobilize communities to participate in national and regional immunization campaigns; provision of items such as bed nets, psycho-social support and home based care to people affected by HIV and AIDS through the network of volunteers; supporting orphans and vulnerable children, ensuring treatment compliance of people with tuberculosis; and distributing WASH items such as water purifiers, hand washing buckets to prevent outbreak of sanitation related diseases.

Community Mobilization and Awareness Creation

During the year 2017, the main 3 health programs funded by Global fund came to an end. The NS has registered positive contribution in areas such as TB treatment success; awareness raising and community sensitization made on TB, HIV and AIDS, Malaria; provision of rural water supply and first aid. This was made possible with the financial support from donors and partners such as Global Fund, Metje Foundation; GETF, Japanese Red Cross, KNCV Foundation and Namibia Red Cross Society own initiatives.

Major achievements recorded nationally are such as the attainment of 90% treatment success rate in TB treatment country wide of which NRCS has significantly contributed to in three regions of Omusati, Ohangwena and Zambezi. The Red Cross has continued to contribute to the reduction of HIV/AIDS through its prevention initiatives, although new infection among the youth remains a concern. The health and care program contributed to the success of Namibia reaching the elimination stage for malaria, through public education. Specific intervention successfully implemented in 2017 were the reprogramming of Global Fund supported projects in 2017 whereby resources were reallocated successfully to make a positive impact in capacity building and other programmatic needs.

Water Sanitation Hygiene Promotion (WASH)

Namibia is faced with sanitation challenges, it has the highest rate of open defecation in southern Africa of which 66% of people do not have access to improved sanitation facilities such as flush toilets or adequate pit latrines. NRCS in partnership with UNICEF and other key partners rolled out the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach in Ohangwena region in five villages to address problems of open defecation. One of the five villages, Ondingwanyama, was certified open defecation free. The village's claim to ODF was verified and certified according to the ODF protocols. A process to verify and certify the community as open defecation free has been carried out in accordance with set open defecation free protocols.

After the verification and certification process was completed a celebration for the ODF status was held in that community. The ODF celebration was held in Ondigwanyama village, on the 25th July 2017, as recognition of achieving the ODF status as the very first village to achieve such in Namibia.



Pit latrine model build in Ondingwanyama village with local materials: Second is the Ondingwanyama ODF committee awarded with certificate of hard working at an ODF certification event on the 25 July 2017.

Water provision in Kavango: The project that the NS has been implementing in Kavango region since 2014 with the financial support of Coca cola, has been completed successfully in August 2017. It was aimed at giving access to clean drinking water for 28,000 people in Kavango. In total, 28 bores were cleaned and disinfected, seven installed. For sustainable management of the water facilities, 28 Water Point Committees were formed and trained as per the requirement of the Rural Water Supply department. All the boreholes were handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture by the end of the project. Communities appreciated the support from the Red Cross and have committed to take care of their boreholes.

First AID (FA)

The First aid (FA) project is self-sustaining and supposed to be generating income to support operations of the national society. However the trainings depend on the demand and are rather erratic in most cases. For the period under review, 15 trainings were carried out in Otjozondjupa and Khomas Region and a total of 219 people were trained, and this has generated **NAD 198 477.00**. There is a need for aggressive marketing of first aid products so that the unit can fulfill its target of sustaining itself and financially supporting operations of the NS.

The NS cooperated with Global Road Safety Partnership in Geneva, for a first responder training for the transport sector in collaboration with the National Road Safety Council, and Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA). All together 120 drivers benefitted from the training. A total of 14 instructors were trained as Trainer of Trainees (ToTs) with assistance from the South African Red Cross Society.

Challenges

Despite efforts made to reach more communities with health awareness sessions, there is a need to strengthen mobilization targeting vulnerable groups such as young girls who continue to engage in risky sexual practices, exposing themselves to HIV infections.

There is increasing number of first aid providers in the market and this requires the National Society to strengthen its marketing strategies and ensure its services are at par with others to attract new clients and maintain old ones. The inability of the NS to get a Good standing Certificate remains a great challenge for the unit, as government agencies and some private sector require this document to enroll for training courses with the NS.

Disaster Risk Management

Disaster risk management is a core activity of the Namibia Red Cross society. Disaster are any serious disruption of the functioning community that results in widespread losses and disruption that exceeds a

community's ability to cope using its own resources. NRCS seek to be the first responder to disasters at the community level through its mobilized network of volunteers and stakeholders. Through the Disaster Risk Management interventions, Red Cross aims to minimize the impacts of disasters by ensuring that communities are well prepared to respond, support communities with emergency response by issuing early warning messages, conduct assessments providing non-food relief items, register affected people and continuously communicate and lobby for funding. The Red Cross provides restoration of family links services in hard hit circumstances, psychosocial support and facilitate the recovery.

Berseba Strong Winds

The National Society together with the Office of the Prime Minister, Directorate of Disaster Risk Management, carried out assessment in Berseba and this was followed by support 74 families. Affected families were supported with blankets, clothing and food stuff.

Shack Fires in Windhoek

Victims of shack fires continue to flock to the Red Cross office for support. During the year 2017, the National Society supported ... families with items ranging from blankets and clothing.

Drought Operation: October 2015- May 2017

The year under review was characterized with drought that has been intensifying consistently over the past five years. The most affected regions according to government household economic assessment, were Kunene, Kavango, Oshikoto, Omusati and Ohangwena. NRCS launched an Emergency Appeal in October 2015 which was later reviewed and extended to May 2017. The appeal started with soup kitchen in 2016 which supported a total of 1,185 people in Kunene (562) and Kavango (623) through daily meals provision—offered every day except Sunday. The soup kitchens funding was only enough to sustain operations until May 2016, and this coupled with little impact soup kitchens make compared to entire household support, NRCS transitioned from soup kitchen operations to food parcels distributions in both regions.



The food was donated through the “Namibians Helping Namibians” Campaign and Radio Kosmos “Maak oop jou hand/Open your hand Namibia”. These resources enabled NRCS to sustain operation until December 2016. The food parcels distribution was completed in December 2016 reaching 1,480 HHs (785 in Kunene and 605 HH in Kavango regions).

Through the Spanish Red Cross funded Drought Relief program for Kavango region, NRCS provided food parcels to 200HH beneficiaries' initially registered under the soup kitchen operations for a period of six (6) months starting January-June 2017 coupled with farmer support extended to December 2017. These parcels consisted of 12.5kg maize meal, 750ml cooking oil, 4x 410g tinned fish and 1kg iodized salt; to enable HHs meeting their basic food needs. UNICEF has provided Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes to the NRCS, which has enabled the Red Cross volunteers to conduct MUAC measurements regularly during food distribution at soup kitchens.

With support from IFRC, NRCS emergency response was again transitioned to Cash Transfers programming (CTP) an intervention that the NS had piloted in Kunene and wish to promote as an option for future emergency response interventions. Cash transfer benefited a total of 1,100 households from Epupa and Opuwo rural /urban constituencies. According to the government Household Economic

Assessment (HEA) the two constituencies were the most affected by drought. Each household had received monthly transfer of 700 NAD for five months. NRCS has good lessons learned from this operation, and plans to use this to lobby stakeholders to consider cash transfer for emergency response in the future. Despite the poor funding coverage of the Emergency Appeal, the evaluation noted tangible outcomes such as diverse foods items consumed by members of beneficiary household such as cereals, pulses, and meat/fish, oil seeds, milk/dairy products, vegetable and fruits. Providing feedback to NRCS Mrs Kavari tells the following story:

Mrs Kavari's community was heavily affected by drought. Mrs Kavari lives in a semi-urban setup of Opuwo rural few kilometres outside of Opuwo town. During drought, Opuwo rural communities lack manual works to do to earn money to enable them meet their daily household needs. This leaves members of Opuwo rural community vulnerable to the damaging effects of climate related disasters such as drought. Mrs. Kavari being a single mother fits in the selection criteria of the Namibia Red Cross Society to benefit from the Emergency Appeal actions. When she got here first disbursement she went shopping for food to settle her families immediate food needs. She did not spend all the N\$ 700 which she received from the Namibia Red Cross Society. Every time she received her monthly disbursement, she saved a portion of it which she used to purchase construction materials. At evaluation, she had bought enough materials and construction of her household was on-going. She hopes to finish the construction and provide a decent home for her two children. (Mrs. Uempa Kavari – casual labourer' story).

Floods Response

Due to Heavy in January-March 2017 within the Cuvelai River Basin in Angola and localized rainfalls in Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Omusati and Zambezi, caused flood in some communities living along the flood plains. In total 417 families were affected by floods in four regions. The table below highlights the total number of affected people per region:

Region	Number of Households displaced	Number of people affected
Oshana region	122	732
Omusati region	60	360
Ohangwena	44	140
Zambezi region	235	1410
Total	417 households	2,502

NRCS branches in collaboration with local authorities in Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Zambezi responded to the floods. A total number of 259 jerry cans (24 in Ohangwena, 235 in Zambezi), 355 collapsible jerry cans (120 in Omusati, 235 in Zambezi) were distributed. In addition, 42,100 water purification tablets (41,600 in Zambezi and 500 in Omusati) were provided to affected families, while 235 water dispenser buckets were distributed to beneficiaries' in Zambezi region. Hygiene promotion sessions were conducted in Ohangwena, Omusati and Oshana relocation camps, reaching a total number of 1,433 individuals.

In order to provide and meet shelter needs of the affected families in Omusati and Oshana, a total number of 182 family kits were distributed to families in relocation camps. A family kits consists of one tarpaulin, standard cooking utensils and three blankets.



Distribution of relief items in Omusati Region

Food Security and Livelihood Support

As part of a long term food security support, NRCS seeks to empower vulnerable communities, particularly those affected by disasters, in Kavango and Zambezi regions by strengthening their resilience to food insecurity. Families were supported with skills building; provided with agricultural inputs such as vegetable seeds, crop seeds, rehabilitation and construction of garden fences, hand dug wells to support community and individual gardens. The overall objective of such interventions is to enhance community capacity to increase production of food, diversify their livelihood, raise income to become food secure.

With continuous support from the Spanish Red Cross, the NS has evidently established sustainable food security and livelihood activities in 10 communities in (Zambezi 7 and Kavango 3) respectively. The programme started in 2014 in three different phases, and interventions have been continuing in these communities, positive impact has been observed on most families supported.



Distribution of seeds and food parcel in Omega Kavango region

At the time of reporting, at least five communities in Zambezi have been producing vegetables that yielded positive results and the income status of these families has significantly improved. Based on beneficiaries' testimonies, majority of households managed to buy assets such as cattle, car, canoes and televisions with money generated from vegetable production.

The challenge however, is observed from the application of knowledge gained from trainings offered to farmers especially on conservation agriculture. The program continues to support about 200 farmers and strictly monitoring 50 lead farmers who need to further demonstrate the effectiveness of conservation agriculture and good agricultural practice.

Restoring Family Links

The RFL programme continues to provide services mainly in Osire camp, Zambezi and Kavango regions on a smaller scale. There has been a general reduction in the demand of this service in Kavango and Zambezi regions. The RFL services have been mainly limited to the refugee camp. In 2016, the long serving volunteers who spearheaded RFL in Osire was permanently relocated to United State of America with his family. His absence has affected the programme activities in the camp, which caused a reduction in service demand. The number of Red Cross Messages received on quarterly basis has reduced significantly from 35 to 16 on average. NRCS plans to identify a volunteer in the camp to continue offering RFL services.

STRENGTHEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE NRCS MANDATE AND ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

Through the partnership development unit, NRCS managed to carry out numerous events aimed at building capacity of the public to understand Red Cross mandates focusing on promotion of International Humanitarian Laws (IHL), Fundamental principles and building partnership network. This is usually done by providing training to military personnel, parliamentarians, youth in schools and tertiary institutions. Trainings are complemented by campaigns or dissemination platforms such as the commemoration of international days such as International Humanitarian day and World Red Cross day.

Red Cross Information dissemination

IHL Trainings at the Karibib Military Academy: During the period under review the National Society in collaboration with the ICRC Harare Delegation held an IHL training for 22 military officers at Karibib from the 22 to the 24th of May 2017.

Posters on Humanitarian Values, membership and emblem protection have been printed and distributed and displayed at public places in the nine regions, and they are used in training sessions and activities carried out with volunteers, staff and board members. There are also plans to translate the posters in the local vernacular to facilitate for more understanding of the Red Cross humanitarian work among the Namibian public and stakeholders.

The NRCS with support from ICRC participated in the Blue Kunene Humanitarian Military Simulation in Kunene and Omusati from the 23rd to the 4th of September 2017. Over 50 NRCS staff and volunteers were involved in an emergency simulation. SADC military contingents that participated are from Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola and South Africa.



Blue Kunene SADC Military Humanitarian Simulation

The post exercise meeting was held in Windhoek to evaluate the humanitarian simulation exercise and document lessons learned for future exercises. The Ministry of Defense thanked the Red Cross for taking part in the exercise, and promised a certificate of appreciation.

Commemoration of World Red Cross Day

World Red Cross Day was commemorated in the //Kharas Region on the 12th and 13th of May 2017. The activities included a stakeholder gala dinner as well as a public dissemination outreach on the 13th. About 25 local leaders and stakeholders attended the gala dinner. NRCS shared information on plans to extend its humanitarian activities to the //Kharas Region and the need for the regional leadership and community to support the National Society. All the speakers welcomed NRCS presence in the region and pledged their support to the NS activities. The newly recruited volunteers disseminated information and distributed IEC materials on the streets of Keetmanshoop on the 13th of May 2017. The event was followed by the opening of the office in the town.



Councillors Hon Scholtz and Kharuxab



//Kharas Volunteers

International Commonwealth Conference for National IHL Committees

From 14th to 15th June 2017, approximately 80 representatives from 23 Commonwealth States met to participate in the Fourth Meeting of Representatives of National Committees on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) of Commonwealth States. The meeting was held in Swakopmund, Namibia. It was co-hosted by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the Namibia Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with support from the British Red Cross and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The meeting objectives were to use the framework of the Commonwealth to discuss IHL issues of particular interest to Commonwealth Member States and update on key developments in relation to IHL and its implementation, to provide a platform for peer to peer engagement between Commonwealth National IHL Committees and to promote increased contacts, sharing of best practice as well as cooperation among the Committees and to encourage Commonwealth Member States that have not established National IHL Committees to consider doing so.

The meeting built on the work of previous meetings of representatives of National Committees on IHL of Commonwealth States held in 2005, 2009 and 2013. It was officiated by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. Participants committed, amongst other actions, to the promotion of peer-to-peer engagement between National IHL Committees through the establishment of sub-regional and/or virtual platforms and the designation of a permanent focal point within National IHL Committees responsible for facilitating contact with other Committees.



The Minister of International Relations, Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah with the Head of the ICRC Harare Delegation Mr. Thomas Merkelbach and Minister of Justice Dr. Albert Kawana

Partnership Meetings

The National Society commemorated the 15th anniversary of its cooperation and partnership with the Spanish Red Cross on the 19th of September 2017. The commemoration event was held at the Spanish Embassy and was attended by the Minister of Environment, Rural Development, Agricultural Policies and Territory of the Regional Government of Extremadura, Maria Begoña García Bernal, Spanish Red Cross Board Member, Fernando Solis and the Advisor to the Minister for Communications Alfredo Garcia Vinuesa.



At the event the NRCS and the Spanish delegation pledged continued support to the Livelihood project in Namibia. The delegation also visited the Kavango and Zambezi Regions where the project is being implemented and met with the beneficiaries.

NRCS signs cooperation agreement with New Era

The Namibia Red Cross signed a cooperation agreement with the New Era Publication amounting to N\$177,343. 98 for placement of articles and adverts promoting the National Society's humanitarian work. There are plans to renew the cooperation agreement when the current one comes to an end.



NRCS SG Naemi Heita with New Era CEO, Dr. Audrin Mathe

Fundraising initiatives of 2017

Land Rover Campaign

The National Society in July 2017 partnered with Land Rover through the existing 50 year partnership between the car dealership and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) known as “Hope Crosses Any Terrain”.

The one month campaign collected clothes and sanitary pads for needy communities. Among the beneficiaries of the donated items are the Hope Village and the Osire Refugee Settlement where the National Society gave assistance of clothes and sanitary pads to women and girls.



The Chairperson of Namibia Red Cross Society, Adv. B. Gawanas and Novel Ford Marketing Manager, Ms. Hayley Allen, at the launch of the Land Rover and NRCS Partnership and far right is the Namibia Red Cross Secretary General, Ms. N. Heita receiving donation

Coin collection activities

The financial donations received through the coin collection activities at the airports amounted to N\$71,310.05. The National Society is investigating various avenues that can enable it to attract funding especially through the government streams in the areas of Health and Social Services as well as Water and Sanitation.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

Red Cross Youth Development

The youth exchange programme between the German Red Cross Society, Regional Branch of Westphalia-Lippe in Munster and Namibia RC continues. The new group of eleven German volunteers arrived on 14 September 2017 and had an orientation workshop from 18 to 21 September 2017. The volunteer's placement started on 22 September 2017. They are placed in Zambezi, Kavango East, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Omusati and Khomas regions. The Namibian six youth volunteers that were in Germany returned to their respective regions on 29 September 2017 and have developed plans to transfer acquired skills to the fellow local volunteers. The new group of seven Namibian RC Youth left for Germany on 26 Nov 2017. The exchange programme exposes youth to learning new culture, and the set-up of Red Cross programmes in the host countries.

New /Kharas Branch

NRCS office was opened in /Kharas region on 16 November 2017 and a volunteer was identified to take care of the office. The volunteer is helping with mobilization of the community to become Red Cross

members and volunteers, if enough members are recruited, the branch can then have an AGM to elect the governance of the branch.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The National Society has taken a strategic focus to position itself as a humanitarian partner of choice in the country, adding value and meaningfully contributing to the national programmes. To realise the latter, the NS has been working closely with the government to identify areas where it can use its comparative advantage to add value. The engagement will continue in the following year to ensure that partnership between the NRCS and the government is concretized. In the drought response efforts, the NS was supported financially by the sister national societies (American, Spanish, German, British and Japanese Red Cross). In addition the support received from IFRC and ICRC covered other strategic areas of the NS. Local partners such as Pupkewitz Foundation, Pick N Pay, Namibia Airports Company, New Era Newspaper, Cosmos Radio continued to support the work of the NS.

Securing long term partnership has proved to be a challenge for the NS, and this has affected the long term plans as most of the activities have been implemented in short term phases. Therefore there is a need for continued advocacy for long term partnership.

The Red Cross branches continue to enjoy close support from government line ministries and local authorities, community leaders and community based organizations. Through various coordination platforms, the Red Cross shares its mission and plans with its stakeholders.

LOOKING AHEAD

Moving forward, Namibia Red Cross is committed to addressing vulnerabilities in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. The National Society will mobilise vulnerable communities to mitigate risks and bolster resilience to future shocks. NRCS supports a people-centered, needs-driven approach in line with the Red Cross Fundamental Principles. The National Society is committed to participating in joint needs assessments, combined data analysis, and planning and programming processes to deliver better outcomes to vulnerable communities for both humanitarian and development services. Programmes will be designed to strengthen branches and ensure that efficiency and sustainability is maintained.

Namibia Red Cross will work in synergy with partners to combine and leverage complementary strengths and resources. In particular, the National Society will forge partnership with the government to bridge the gap in service delivery between government institutions and local communities. This is in support of the government decentralization policy. It is important to leverage the National Society's auxiliary role to develop and strengthen in-country partnerships to access more resources domestically.

The opportunity provided by technology for improved data gathering, information sharing and communication, particularly through mobile phone technology, is immense and will be explored. Operational innovation, knowledge management, effective communication and continuous staff and volunteers' skill development are critical requirements for a successful delivery of the National Society programmes.

In summary, the National Society will exploit its recognized mandate, special position in public, tested principles and values, experience and expertise, as well as international networks to deliver its services effectively.

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