

Child Protection Flood Emergency Assessment

Namibia: 3 April 20089

Purpose:

The purpose was to:

1. Undertake an assessment of the child protection situation in the flood affected communities and relocation camps
2. Outline a framework for immediate and medium term response

Methodology:

The assessment took place on 2-3 April 2009

Name	Areas Visited
Joseph Shapaka from DAPP Omusati, and Elina Niinkoti from the Oshana MGECW Child Welfare Directorate	2 April: Visited Oshoopala and Ekuku relocation centres in Oshana region. Oshakati West had closed.
Joseph Shapaka	2 April: Met with DAPP volunteers from 4 constituencies in Omusati regions
Patrick Karanja UNICEF/RC, Dennis Matomola Caprivi Principal Social Worker, and Mr Mutjila the Chief Community Liaison Officer in MGECW	2-3 April: Visited Schuckmansberg, Lusese, Kabbe and Mpuyu relocation camps
Ndafu Hambira, Principal social worker, MGECW, in Ohangwena region	2-3 April: Visited Onaame, Ohangwena and Oshikongo camps

Child Protection Emergency Response Recommendations:

Based on the findings of the rapid assessment UNICEF should:

- Recruit a 3 month Child Protection technical assistant to be based in the flood affected regions. The main purposes are:
 - To rapidly assist the emergency flood response in the north- eastern regions, and build capacities to ensure child protection staff are equipped to respond to present and future emergencies.
 - To support child protection stakeholders, including social workers from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Woman and Child Protection Unit Commanders, and Namibian Police to ensure child protection core commitments are met in the flood emergency, and they are well prepared for a future emergency
- UNICEF should focus on working closely with FEMCO and the other emergency stakeholders to ensure that child disaggregated data is provided adjacent to all flood affected statistics.

Child Protection Emergency Recommendations:

At relocation camps:

- Environmental shortages are aggravating the situation and could be a catalyst to increasing the risks of abuse and harassment. In particular lack of adequate lighting, inadequate and mixed toilets and bathing facilities, unclean water, overcrowded tents and poor location combined with inadequate perimeter fencing. These issues need to be urgently addressed simultaneously with mobilising child protection stakeholders to ensure children and women are protected. In Caprivi region the total lack of sanitation and bathing facilities are an urgent concern.
- Health concerns such as unclean water, no sanitation, no hand washing facilities, no clean cooking facilities, food shortages (especially for ART patients) are of paramount importance.
- Should focus on raising awareness on child protection issues, and harassment of women and children, and build capacities of child protection stakeholders to regularly visit camps and follow up on any reported incidences
- Provide support to any children separated from parents/guardians, and ensure that child protection stakeholders are proactively responsive;
- Create child friendly spaces for children with tents, and equipment/materials to make user friendly – including mats, ECD materials, hand washing facilities, and access to food.
- Arrange adults escorts or transport to supervise children to schools to protect from harassment
- Provide emergency food distribution to the flood victims, setting up zoned off areas for cooking preparation.
- Ensure continue followed up visits by child protection stakeholders to the camps to ensure children are protected.

Assessment Findings:

Relocation Camps	# Unaccompanied Children	# children caring for self	Safe Spaces	# Reported abuse incidents	Child Protection Risks	Clean Water	Toilets	Bathing Facilities
Oshoopala (Oshana)	2	2	No	None	High	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Ekuku (Oshana)	0	0	Yes	None	Medium	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Oshikango (Ohangwena)	18	2	No	None	High	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Ohangwena	0	0	No	None	High	No	No	No
Onaame (Ohangwena)	-	-	No	-	High	No	No	No
Schuckmansberg (Caprivi)	144	0	No	None	High	Yes	-	-
Lusese (Caprivi)	0	0	No	None	High	Yes	No	No
Kabbe (Caprivi)	0	6	No	None	High	Yes	No	No
Mpuyu	0	0	No	None	High	No	No	No

* Means are inadequate either because too few, or not segregated.

Oshana region

According to the MIC report on 30 March 2009 approximately 26244 people out of a population of 203916 are affected by the floods. This includes approximately 13135 children.

Two relocation camps were assessed. The third camp Oshakati West was closed.

Location: Oshoopala Centre (Oshana Region)

Persons met: Camp coordinator, Red Cross Volunteers,

HH	Under 5s		Children 6-18 years		Adult		Total
	M	F	M	M	M	F	
454	129	124	165	179	328	517	1442

The camp is surrounded by a fence close to an urban area, but it is broken on the lower side. There is basic lighting around the camp, but not around the toilets which are dark at night. This could create conditions of harassment for women and children. Latrines are not separated by sex, and are inadequate in number. No incidences of abuse had been reported, but risks are present. Overcrowded conditions exist with up to six families sharing a tent, and fire hazards with cooking.

There is one case of two children separated from their parents/caregivers and looking after themselves. The oldest member is a girl of 15 years, with a slightly younger sibling – they were at school so no additional details could be given. There are no safe spaces created for children at the camp, and children walk 5 minutes to Ekuku camp to access their kindergarten. There is an empty tent at the centre designation for children, but none were using it. Children of school going age are attending school, but they are walking long distances in the dark from the tents to the schools and are at risk of harassment. There is no distribution of food at the relocation camps, and children are allegedly hungry because adults are not able to continue with their normal livelihoods. Some children are reported to rummage in dustbins in search of food. In some cases patients on ARVs have to disrupt their treatment because of not having adequate nutrition to accompany the medication. There are also a number of idle men at the camps, which raises the risk for harassment.

There were complaints that valuables of people were being stolen from tents when community meetings were called.

Child Protection Recommendations:

- Ensure adequate lighting to the facility including to the toilets, and the fence is repaired;
- Provide ECD equipment to create a child friendly space so that children can engage in informal activities.
- Separate toilets between genders to reduce risk of harassment
- Arrange adults escorts or transport to supervise children to schools to protect from harassment
- Provide emergency food distribution to the flood victims, setting up zoned off areas for cooking preparation.
- Ensure continue followed up visits by MGECW social workers to the camps to ensure children are protected.

Location: Ekuku Relocation Centre (Oshana Region)

Persons met: Camp coordinator from Oshakati town council, and volunteer kindergarten teacher.

HH	Under 5s		Children 6-18 years		Adult		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
-	40	60	110	103	169	210	692

The camp has no fencing, and no lighting. The toilets are segregated but all genders use the toilets, and they are inadequate in number. The toilets are also unsafe to use for children, many whom defecate in the open ground. There were no hand washing facilities.

A tent has been donated by Namibian breweries with electrical facilities for children. The facility is not child friendly and has no equipment or materials. Children from Oshoopala camp come to the ad hoc kindergarten, though it has no ECD materials. The preschool teacher requested chairs, chalk boards, swings, balls, books, colour pens, buckets, and dishes to wash hands. She asked for food as she said that the children are not being fed adequately otherwise.

There are reported incidences of violence between adults, and violence between children but no additional information could be provided.

There are no reported children separated from their parents/caregivers, and no cases of children caring for themselves. There were no reported incidences of abuse or sexual harassment, though the lack of lighting, mixed gender use of toilets, long distances walking in the dark to school, and lack of regular food are creating an environment of increased vulnerabilities to abuse.

Child Protection Recommendations:

- Ensure adequate lighting to the facility including to the toilets, and fencing is provided
- Provide ECD equipment to create a child friendly space so that children can engage in informal activities.
- Provide additional and separate toilets between genders to reduce risk of harassment
- Arrange adults escorts or transport to supervise children to schools to protect from harassment
- Provide emergency food distribution to the flood victims, setting up zoned off areas for cooking preparation.
- Ensure continue followed up visits by MGECW social workers to the camps to ensure children are protected.

Ohangwena Region:

There are 11 camps in the Ohangwena region created for flood victims. The areas affected by the floods are Endola, Omulonga, Engela, Ongenga, Oshikango, Ohangwena and Ondobe. According to the MIC report of 30 March 126 households have been resettled (1262 people), but 133703 people are flood affected including 66918 children.

Location: Oshikango Camp (Ohangwena Region)

Persons met: Red Cross Volunteer

HH	Under 5s		Children 6-18 years		Adult		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
	21	14	51	52	45	64	247

The camp is located close to the Angolan border, has no fencing or lighting. This is one of the largest camps in Ohangwena region. There are five latrines, one water point and four bath shelters. The bath shelters are shared by males and females, and are not safely located. There are no hand washing facilities.

There are 18 children from three families who are unaccompanied. During the day they return to their homes to their parents, and in the evenings sleep at the camps. There are two households headed by a 15 and a 12 year old child respectively. They were away so no additional information could be collected. There are no reported incidences of sexual abuse at the camp. The camp is adjacent to a construction site, and there is the risk of injury to children. There is no safe space or playing facility at the camp. The Red Cross volunteer said that their immediate needs are more food, clothing and school uniforms, mattresses, jerseys, blankets, stationery for school, shoes, and sanitary towels. There is also a problem of sick persons not being able to access health facilities because of inability to pay.



Picture 1: A crowded Oshikango camp

Child Protection Recommendations:

- Safely secure area to ensure children are protected, and provide adequate infrastructure including lighting, fencing, adequate and segregated toilets and bathing facilities
- Provide safe spaces for children for informal activities
- Ensure separated children are safely cared for and protected whilst separated from parents

Location: Ohangwena Camp (Ohangwena Region)

Persons met: Red Cross Volunteer

HH	Under 5s		Children 6-18 years		Adult		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
-	3	4	8	8	2	8	33

This camp has 23 children; there were 5 double orphans and 2 single orphans. The camp is close to the police office as well as the clinic. Four children go to a Kindergarten outside the camp and 17 attend normal school. The camp is too close to the main road and as a result the children's safety is at risk. They have problems with accessing clean water as they have to use water from the local *Oshana*. There were no lights, or fencing on the perimeter. There were no toilets or bathing facilities so the occupants used the bush, and no hand washing facilities.

There were no reported children separated from their caregivers/parents, and no children caring for themselves. There were also no incidences of sexual abuse or violence reported, though the environmental factors (such as lack of lighting, toilets, bathing facilities) may be a catalyst to reported incidences. There is no safe place at the camp for children to play at, or ECD equipment available.



Picture 2: Ohangwena camp, and children hanging around the camp with no safe places to engage in informal activities

Child Protection Recommendations:

- Health and sanitation issues are paramount at the camp as there are no facilities available;
- Provision of safe spaces and materials for children to play in
- Improvement of environmental factors such as lighting, fencing, and clean water.

Location: Onaame Camp:

HH	Under 5s		Children 6-18 years		Adult		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
	1	2	4	5	0	9	21



Picture 3: Mosquitoe nets and bedding inside a tent at Onaama camp. Flood victims have lost most of their personal belongings including clothing and bedding. There is limited privacy in the tents.

There was no one present at the camp. It had no lights, fencing, or water and sanitation facilities. The nearby Cuca shop owner said that most of the children were attending school, with the remaining

having gone to collect water from the Oshana. The adults appear to spend their time at the Cuca shop. There is a large yard with a big tree in which children occasionally play. There is no dedicated safe space for the children. It was not possible to verify if there were any incidents of abuse, or whether any children were unaccompanied. It was felt that the children are however at risk because of poor environmental factors, as well as the proximity to a Cuca shop.

Child Protection Recommendations:

- Health and sanitation facilities are absent
- Safe space to be created for children, and adult supervision provided to ensure children are not hanging around Cuca shops.

Caprivi Region

According to the REMU on 2 April 2009 approximately 10,000 people have been relocated in Caprivi region. There are approximately 23,000 people affected by the floods out of an estimated population of 99,000. These include approximately 11559 children.

There are also a number of villages (approximately 8) which are still surrounded by water, who have relocated themselves to higher ground. They are receiving food from REMU. Their needs have not been assessed.

Four relocation camps were assessed in Caprivi region.

Location: Schuckmansberg Relocation

Persons Met: Camp manager

HH	Under 5s		Children 6-18 years		Adult		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
	236	254	346	255	387	659	2137

The camp is located in an island which is cut off from Caprivi. It is between Zambia and Caprivi. The island has a school, village and a police station. The camp is located near the village. The school is functional. Water was a problem but this has been improved with a water pump provided for the private borehole. There are sanitation concerns with toilets being submerged from the high water table. This

information was collected by telephone call to the camp manager, because it wasn't possible at the time to access the area. You need to use a boat.

The camp manager said that there are 60 boys, and 44 girls separated from their parents/guardians. It was not possible to verify this because of the inability to visit the site. There are no reported incidences of abuse, and there are apparently no child friendly facilities available. There are more females at the camp as the males are generally staying behind to safe guard their personal belongings and look after livestock.

Child Protection Recommendations:

- A further verification assessment is required, but efforts need to be made to ensure the separated children are protected and cared for.
- Sanitation concerns are paramount, as well as related environmental issues such as lighting,
- Creation of a safe space for children to engage in non-formal educational activities
- Mobilisation of child protection stakeholders to assess camp needs

Location: Lusese Relocation camp

Persons Met: Camp manager from VDC and Red Cross

HH	Under 5s		Children 6-18 years		Adult		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
-	58	55	84	69	84	102	452

The camp is located in large patch of cleared ground. It is approximately 1.5 kms from the local school, though the school playground is close to the camp. There is no fencing or lighting around the camp, and no sanitation or washing facilities. Some women were returning from the flood waters where they had washed. There are no hand washing facilities. The camp had a 5000 litre tank which was connected to a borehole, but this was inadequate. As a result a 10,000 litre tank funded by UNICEF is to be installed.

There are no reported separated children from caregivers/parents, and no reported incidents of abuse. There are no safe spaces created for children, or equipment. The camp leader requested for playing equipment, ECD materials, and awareness training on maintaining hygiene and preventing HIV and AIDS. There are also more women than men at the camps, as the men are staying behind to look after their properties. The camp leader said that something needs to be done to support the younger children who are not attending school as they are sitting idle doing nothing.

Child Protection Recommendations:

- Install sanitation and bathing facilities, and educate people on hygiene and HIV prevention. Ensure condoms are available.
- Create safe spaces for younger children and provide materials

Location: Kabbe Relocation

Persons Met: Camp manager from VDC and Red Cross volunteers

HH	Under 5s		Children 6-18 years		Adult		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
-	51	78	126	82	60	140	537

The camp has been located in an area previously used to locate flood affected victims. As a result there is clean water available with a generator pumping water into a 10,000 litre tank. There are no toilets, bathing or hand washing facilities. There are no fences or lights. There are no play facilities for children, though a space was being cleared – they will need ECD materials.

There are six children from one child headed household (the eldest is a 17 year old boy). There are no reported incidents of children being separated from their parents.

Child Protection Recommendations:

- Prioritise assistance to vulnerable groups, such as Child Headed households to ensure that they receive protection, care and support
- Provide basic sanitation and bathing facilities.
- Provide safe spaces and materials for children to use.

Location: Mpuyu Relocation camp

Persons Met: Camp manager from VDC and Red Cross volunteers

HH	Under 5s		Children 6-18 years		Adult		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
-	42	33	71	92	69	118	425

A number of villages from Katima Rural, not normally flood affected, have relocated to Mpuyu relocation camp. The camp has no toilets, bathing facilities, or safe spaces for children to play. Access to clean water is problematic.

There are no reported incidences of abuse, or cases of children being separated from their families, or child headed households.

Omusati Region

The MIC report of 30 March estimates that 1104 households (4412 people) were resettled in Omusati region, with 253980 affected people (i.e. the entire Omusati population). Out of this approximately 127,117 children are affected including 33650 children under the age of five years.

Location: Omusati DAPP Offices

Persons Met : Four Omusati DAPP area leaders from Tsandi, Ogongo, Anamulenge, and Outapi constituencies.

All twelve constituencies in Omusati region are affected by the floods. The area leaders supervise approximately 5 volunteers in each constituency, and made a rough estimate of the number of people affected by the floods. They defined this as either having their property damaged, having been relocated, and/or lost their livelihoods.

They estimated that approximately 32100 children in four constituencies were affected by the floods.

Constituency	Children Affected		Total
	0-5	0-17 Yrs	
Tsandi	500	8000	8500
Ogongo	400	5000	5400
Anamulenge	600	8000	8600
Outapi	600	9000	9600
	2100	30000	32100

The villages affected by the floods in the four constituencies are as follows:

Tsandi Constituency: Omuthitu, Ongulumbashe, Olukulo, Olukuma, Omaanda, Onangalo, Omapale, Okakuyu, Eemwandi, Ombugu and Ampole

Anamulene Constituency: Omalya, Ehungaelo, Omupembe, Oshima, Omundjalala, Omupemba, Oshipaya, Ohamautwi, Oshondo, Oikokola, Oshiputu, Onawa, Okafitu Ka Kamba, Omufitu Wa Nauyala, Onkili, Onekukumo, Ouhwaala, Oulifilo, Oluvango, Onhokolo, Omholo, Oshikulufitu, Epyaliwa, Ombundamuti.

Outapi Constituency: Eputu 1 and 2, Oshitukufitu, Onahende, Onehani, Ompakoya, Omuulukila, Okahala, Okafa koishongo, Onambamba, Omushii, Omukoko, Okapanda, Ongali, Elowela, Oipanda Hangano, Oshinanhi, Okafitu kasisiya.

Ogongo Constiency: Omatelekelo, Ombafi, Omayuunda, Okapya, Iipanda, Okahwa Kangamba, Okahwa kagwedha, Okapanda, Olukulo, Onangombe, Okeeke, Okafimbi, Etapayela, Oikanga, Okafitu Kashau

Child protection:

The area leaders reported that they had not heard of any incidences of abuse, violence or exploitation, nor of any cases in which children were separated from their parents/ caregivers. In Omusati region there are no relocation centres as the regional policy is to relocate the household to a nearby area. In Ogongo constituency there are five separate households headed by children. In these households six children are between the ages of 15-17 years. The area leaders reported that most children are attending school, though many schools have been closed in the region (119 out of 269). There has been an increased risk of drowning because of the water.

There has been a significant loss in livelihoods with crops being destroyed, and considerable damage to property. Many roads are impassable, and health outreach points have been cut off. The incidences of malaria are increasing.

Child Protection Recommendations

- Undertake a more thorough assessment of the flood affected areas to ascertain extent of child protection issues. Given that there are no relocation points, and impassability of roads, it is hard to assess the situation affecting children.
- Provide focused support particularly to child headed households without guardians/caregivers.
- Raise awareness on child protection rights in the context of flood emergency, and build capacities of child protection staff (police and social workers) to respond.
- Undertake emergency preparedness and responsiveness training on child protection core commitments with DAPP area leaders and volunteers.

Coordination with UNDAC/ EU Assessment teams

Discussions were held with both the UNDAC and EU assessment teams carrying out their assessments in Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati regions, Kavango region, and Caprivi regions. It was noted that limited child specific information was being collected, and in particular no information was being collected on child protection core commitments. As a result a formal request was made to the UNDACT team to disaggregate flood affected victims by gender and age (0-5/ 6-17 years).

Contact was also made with FEMCO who have sent a child protection questionnaire (Annex A) to all the Regional Emergency Management Units. The results are expected early next week (6-9 April)

Annex A: SAMPLE SURVEY OF CHILDREN STATUS IN NORTH CENTRAL REGION

CHILD PROTECTION

How many children are staying in the relocation camps?

5	Below 5 years	Male	
		Female	
6	Aged 6 – 17 years	male	
		Female	
7	Number of adults	male	
		Female	
8	Number of orphans	Male	
		Female	

9	Are there children who are separated from their parents/caregivers/for longer than one day?	Yes	
		<i>no</i>	
	If yes above , why and how many (numbers)		
10	Are there any children caring for themselves (child headed)	Yes	
		<i>no</i>	
	If yes (above) indicate numbers and age of the eldest child or child taking care of the rest	<i>Number of children</i>	
		<i>Age of household head</i>	
11	Are there any reports of sexual abuse, violence or exploitation of children who are displaced or at reolcoation centres?	Yes	
		<i>no</i>	
	If yes (above) give details (you can explain on separate paper)		
12	Are there safe spaces and/or playing facilities for children?	<i>yes</i>	
		<i>no</i>	
	If yes explain details (for example behind house, play ground,)		
13	What are the key child protection issues/concerns at this stage of the emergency?		
14	Who are most at risk (young children, teens, boys, girls, other vulnerable groups?)		
15	What are the current response from key stakeholders (especially social workers and police) to improve the situation of affected children		
16	What else should be done?		

Annex B: Estimated Number of People and children affected by the Floods

Region	Total Population	Total Affected	Total Estimated Affected Children *						
			Children 0-5 years			Children 0-18 years			Total
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Oshana	203916	26244	1824	1653	3477	4999	4658	9658	13135
Omusati	253916	253980	17652	16001	33652	48383	45081	93465	127117
Ohangwena	228384	133703	9292	8423	17716	25470	23732	49203	66918
Oshikoto	117818	12184	847	768	1614	2321	2163	4484	6098
Caprivi	98789	23094	1605	1455	3060	4399	4099	8499	11559
Kavango	263080	5000	348	315	663	953	888	1840	2503
Total	1165903	454205	31567	28615	60182	86526	80621	167147	227330
Proportion of total population within particular age group (DHS 2006)			7.0%	6.3%		19.1%	17.8%		

* Using DHS 2006 proportionate estimates of percentage composition of particular age group disaggregated by gender

Total population and total affected information for Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, and Oshikoto come from MIC Sitrep 30 March 2009

Total population and total affected information for Caprivi comes from UNDAC situation report of 2 April 2009

Total affected information for Kavango is a rough estimate from the Kavango UNDACT team leader