Introduction

**National context**

Namibia gained independence from South Africa in March 1990. Mining, fishing and cattle farming are the main industries in this country and there is a large income disparity between rich and poor. Approximately 80 per cent of the land is desert or dry savannah, and 68 per cent of the population is rurally based and engaged in subsistence farming. Namibia is currently home to approximately 7,500 Angolan refugees. The country is also affected by drought, food deficits and malaria, and an estimated 20 per cent of the population is infected with HIV/AIDS. There is a secessionist movement in the Caprivi Strip (northern Namibia) which is causing continued unrest.

The Namibia Red Cross (NRC) was established through an act of parliament in 1992. It was recognized by the ICRC and admitted as a member of the International Federation in 1993. The statutes were last updated in 1999. The last general assembly and national elections were held in May 1999. The NRC is a small society, reflecting the country’s small population, but is growing and very active. The society has a network of six regional offices and each region has a regional committee. Activities have been prioritized in the four regions with the lowest level human development. The NRC volunteer base is made up of youth volunteers (who form the society’s main human resource in disaster preparedness), water project volunteers and branch committee members. Youth volunteers are also active in fund-raising and providing social services in the community. The NRC is well represented by both youth and women in all its structures. The society developed a five-year strategy which will be approved by the central committee at the annual general meeting to be held in May 2000. This document covers development from 2000 to 2004 and focuses on progress in programme activities, institutional development and resource development. The society conducted a CAPI self-assessment exercise in October 1999.

**National Society priorities**

The mission of the NRC is to develop working partnerships with identified vulnerable communities to foster human dignity by addressing the basic needs of people in accordance with Fundamental Principles of the Movement. The NRC used the International Federation’s Strategy 2010 in its recent planning process. The National Society works in partnership with several government ministries for the provision of safe water,
HIV/AIDS education, disaster preparedness and social programmes. There are no problems concerning its autonomy or independence. The national society has a good image and enjoys growing confidence in the Namibian community and excellent relationships with the media.

The NRC focusses on the following programmes:

- **Disaster relief:** Following an influx of approximately 8,000 Angolan refugees into northern Namibia in December 1999, the NRC with support from the International Federation is providing assistance to the beneficiaries. Red Cross activities are being implemented under the umbrella of UNHCR.

- **Disaster preparedness:** The NRC has developed an action plan for disaster preparedness. In 1999, preparedness planning and training was carried out with support from the International Federation and ICRC. The disaster preparedness officer maintains NRC cooperation with the national emergency management unit and the regional offices serve on the regional emergency management units.

- **Health/water and sanitation:** The NRC maintains an integrated disaster preparedness and community-based health care approach in its project implementation, with active community participation. A water rehabilitation programme aims to provide safe water to rural communities, thus reducing the incidence of water-borne diseases. Beneficiaries of the Opuwo water rehabilitation project were 7,800 in 1997. Initiated in 1992, 114 water points have been rehabilitated and 12 water points serviced. An innovative health education campaign will be implemented during the next three years, to complement the installation of an extensive water-point rehabilitation. Through implementation of the youth health development project, the Namibia Red Cross also actively campaigns on the dangers of HIV/AIDS.

- **First aid:** The NRC teaches first aid to miners, industry, mariners, tour guides, government institutions, schoolchildren and the general public at large. Income generated through first-aid training ensures the financial independence of the first-aid department. In 1998, 1,330 participants received first-aid training.

- **Social welfare:** The NRC runs five day-care centres, one each in Ondangawa and Grootfontein, and three in Windhoek for single mothers who cannot afford the fees at commercial centres. More than 300 children are being cared for at the five centres. The society also runs a street children’s shelter in Rundu. Market gardening and paper maché products are encouraged as home industries in the northern branches. Active youth volunteers participate in a range of social service activities.

- **Youth:** Young people make up the bulk of NRC volunteers. The Windhoek, Ohangwena and Caprivi branches all have youth clubs. While youth volunteers assist with general project implementation, they also run their own projects including quarterly street collections, providing first-aid services at soccer matches and public events, and providing social services in the communities.

- **Institutional development:** There are branch development and management/financial development programmes.

- **Information and dissemination:** Courses are provided to the ministries and other authorities and to the general public. A number of information campaigns are carried out to disseminate the Movement’s principles.

- **Tracing and message service:** The tracing services handled 47 incoming Red Cross messages (RCMs) and 160 outgoing RCMs in 1998. Most of the work of the tracing department involves refugees at the Osire refugee settlement. Requests for tracing are high in Rundu on the Angolan-Namibian border.

**Priority programmes for Federation assistance**

To support the NRC priorities, the Federation will focus on disaster response by providing quality humanitarian relief assistance and services to all the refugees in Osire refugee camp, through distribution of food and non-food items; providing health, and water and sanitation services, and general camp management to the entire refugee the camp. In addition, an emphasis will be placed on strengthening the capacity of the NRCS staff and volunteers in order to meet the demands necessary for reaching Sphere standards in service provision and to constitute a resource base for NRCS.
1. Disaster Response
Assistance to Angolan Refugees

Background and progress to date
The continued conflict between the Angolan government army (FAA) and UNITA has perpetuated the flow of refugees from Angola into Namibia increasing the number of refugees into Osire refugee camp and a considerable number who remain adjacent to the Namibian side of the border.

Cross border attacks (allegedly by UNITA rebels) in the Rundu area, continue to cause concern and instability. The planting of land mines in this area frequently causes casualties amongst the civilian population.

In late 1999, the Namibia Red Cross Society was asked by the UNHCR to assist with the refugee operation in Osire camp with support of the International Federation Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. At a later stage the Red Cross took over full management of the camp and is responsible for all sectors: water and sanitation, shelter, health education, logistical support including the distribution of food and non food items, and tracing and social services.

Assistance under the current care and maintenance phase is being provided at the same time as the team has to meet the challenge of providing reception services for influxes of between 100 and 300 refugees per week who are arriving at transit centres and the camp in poor health.

Goal To provide quality humanitarian relief assistance and services to all the refugees in Osire camp, through distribution of food and non-food items; providing health, and water and sanitation services, and general camp management to the entire refugee the camp. To strengthen the capacity of the NRCS staff and volunteers in order to meet the demands necessary for reaching Sphere standards in service provision and to constitute a resource base for NRCS.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 Settlement: To provide all refugees with shelter and to settle them as quickly as possible, at allocated plots within Osire camp to ensure their overall well-being and access to humanitarian services.

To achieve objective 1 the NRCS will allocate the arriving refugees (after registration) to plots and be given welcome kits shortly after their arrival in the camp.

Objective 2 Distribution: All refugees living in Osire camp receive food and non food items at regular intervals and in accordance with Sphere minimum standards (2,1000 kcal/person/day).

Activities required to achieve objective 2 are:
• The NRCS, supported by the Federation, will provide and train the required number of staff and volunteers in management of food and non-food items, including reception, storage, distribution and reporting.
• The NRCS will conduct timely and well organised distributions of food and non-food items to the refugees.
• The NRCS will receive, take responsibility for, and keep safe, food and non-food items prior to, during and after distribution.
• The NRCS will report on food and non-food items (quantities) received, distributed and returned according to UNHCR/WFP and Federation standards.
• The Federation will provide advice, support, and monitoring of food and non food distributions through physical presence at distributions.

Objective 3 Community Services: All refugees in Osire camp have access to community services which have been identified with refugee participation.
Activities required to achieve objective 3 are:
- The NRCS will support the development of community services through arranging meetings with refugees and identifying relevant areas of interest and need.
- The NRCS will present a comprehensive set of ideas to UNHCR for funding.
- The NRCS will maintain a minimum of staff or volunteers to support community services.

**Objective 4** Health: All refugees at Osire camp have access to health services according to Sphere minimum standards.

Activities to achieve objective 4 are:
- The NRCS will provide the required number of qualified registered health personnel, staff, as well as volunteers to operate part of the Osire Health Clinic according to the tripartite agreement between the NRCS, the Federation and UNHCR.
- The NRCS will operate Osire Health Clinic in conjunction with the Ministry of Health according to Sphere minimum standards, and provide In Patient Department, Out Patient Department, Reproductive Health Care, Mother and Child Health Care, Community First Aid and Health Education.
- Community based first aid and health education/promotion will be made available to all refugees.
- The Federation will conduct periodical (every two months) visits to the camp by qualified health specialists from the Regional Office.

**Objective 5** Water: To ensure that sufficient and safe potable water supplies are available to all refugees in Osire camp for drinking, cooking and personal and domestic hygiene, according to Sphere minimum standards.

Activities required to achieve objective 5 are:
- The NRCS will provide the required number of qualified staff and trained volunteers to operate and maintain all aspects of the installed safe water management system in and around Osire camp.
- The NRCS will operate and maintain a safe water system for the Osire camp with a minimum 15 litres of safe water per day according to Sphere minimum standards.
- Expanding the water system until the required number of water collection points are installed.
- Conducting water testing at regular intervals.
- Treating the reticulated water system with disinfectant as required.
- The programme will co-operate closely with the health programme to monitor occurrence of diseases connected to water consumption.
- The Federation will conduct periodical (every two months) visits to the camp by qualified water/sanitation specialists from the Regional Office.

**Objective 6** Sanitation: All refugees at Osire camp have access to sanitary facilities and live in a clean environment according to Sphere minimum standards.

Activities required to achieve objective 6 are:
- The NRCS will train and provide required number of staff and volunteers in Osire camp to run community and environmental sanitation activities according to Sphere minimum standards.
- The NRCS will construct required number of toilets at right locations.
- The NRCS, supported by the Federation, will train 10 sanitation workers per 1,000 refugees and 10 vector control workers per 1,000 refugees.

**Objective 7** Management: To increase the human resource capacity of the NRCS for it to be able to fully supply/allocate trained staff and volunteers to the ongoing operation and who will constitute a resource for the Society in general.

Activities to achieve objective 7 are:
- The NRCS will conduct two training programmes of one week for 20 staff and volunteers in camp management to ensure the continuation and delivery of quality services.
- The Federation will provide advice, support and monitoring of regular camp management activities at Osire refugee camps through a permanent physical presence on site.
**Objective 8** Training: Selected staff and volunteers from the region are further trained in Sphere minimum standards through workshops and “hands on” experience in Osire refugee camp and, in addition, in disaster relief management by the end of 2001.

To achieve objective 8, the Federation Regional Office in Harare (supported by the Federation Secretariat in Geneva) and in close collaboration with NRCS, will plan and conduct three one-week Sphere training workshops at Osire for 20 regionally selected participants and a workshop in disaster relief management for 30 participants.

**Expected results**
- All refugees in Osire camp are settled in their own dwelling and have access to humanitarian services in the camp which meet the Sphere standards.
- Food and non-food commodities are received, stored, and distributed in a safe, efficient and effective manner which is documented to donors.
- All refugees living in Osire camp receive food and non-food items at regular intervals and according to Sphere minimum standards.
- All refugees living in Osire camp have access to support from the community services programme.
- Meetings have taken place with refugees representing the camp community, ideas for community services have been identified in this process and some of them implemented with support from the programme.
- NRCS has provided and implemented appropriate health interventions at Osire camp according to Sphere minimum standards.
- All refugees at Osire camp have access to health services according to Sphere minimum standards, and make use of the services when necessary.
- Health education sessions have been attended by the majority of refugees and proves to have an impact on behaviour.
- The health status of adult and child refugees is maintained within the acceptable (Sphere) standards.
- NRCS maintains staff with appropriate qualifications and experience necessary for continuing safe water provision.
- Safe water for drinking, cooking, and for personal and domestic hygiene is provided by the water system of the camp according to the Sphere standards including quantity, accessibility, and water quality control.
- NRCS maintains staff with appropriate qualifications and experience necessary for continuing sanitation services according to the Sphere standards.
- All refugees at Osire camp have access to sufficient number of appropriate toilets, sufficiently close to their dwellings to allow them rapid, safe and acceptable access at all times of the day and night.
- All refugees at Osire camp have means to protect themselves from disease vectors and nuisance pests.
- NRCS is able to manage Osire refugee camp according to the Sphere standards with sufficient staff and volunteers who have the necessary qualifications and who also, through the experience and training received, constitute a sustained human resource base which the Society can draw from.
- 20 selected staff and volunteers from the region have been fully trained on Sphere minimum standards through a mix of “hands on” experience and workshops at Osire refugee camp. 30 volunteers have been trained in disaster relief management by the end of 2001.

**Indicators**
- Duration of refugees staying at reception centre before they are allocated a plot at the camp.
- Duration of distribution of food.
- Number of kcal of rations distributed and the nutritional status of refugees remains within acceptable (Sphere) levels.
- Food and non-food storage facilities are kept safe and clean.
- Quality, veracity and timeliness of food distribution reports.
- Refugees receive non-food items no later than one month after items arrive in Osire camp.
- Number of refugees who participate actively in the planning and implementation of community services.
- Morbidity rate in camps is declining.
- Mortality rate reduced to less than 1/10,000/day.
- Under 5 mortality rate reduced to no more than 2/10,000/day.
- Epidemics and diseases are properly controlled.
- Vaccination coverage rate.
- Amount of soap available per person per month.
- Number of refugees taking active part in organised first aid and health education.
- Amount of water per person distributed per day.
- Number of water points per 250 people.
- The maximum distance from any shelter to the nearest water point is 500 meters.
- Amount of faecal coliforms per 100 ml at the point of delivery.
- Total dissolved solids are no more than 1,000 mg per litre.
- Incidence of water borne disease declines.
- Number of people per latrine.
- Latrines are no more than 50 meters away from dwellings.
- Separate toilets for women and men are available in public places.
- Latrines are kept clean.
- Distance of latrines and soakaways from water sources.
- Number of refugees taking active part in community and environmental activities.
- All necessary positions are filled and back up personnel are readily available.
- Professional support and advice is available at the camp at any given moment.
- Number of volunteers and staff from the region who have received thorough training and experience on Sphere minimum standards and 30 in disaster relief management before June 2001.

**Critical assumptions**

- Overall commitment by the Federation to continue supporting this programme financially and with sufficient qualified personnel and equipment.
- Continued commitment by the NRCS to participate in this programme and make available sufficient, suitable NRCS staff members and volunteers are made available to operate the various sections of the programme.
- Continued funding from UNHCR for parts of the programme, especially the long term components, forthcoming and assured.
- No overwhelming natural disaster will occur which would absorb the few resources of the NRCS to the exclusion of the systematic implementation of the project.
- The logistics section of the NRCS well staffed with appropriate qualified personnel.
- Resource persons from Federation Regional Office in Harare and from Secretariat made available when required.
- WFP continues to supply sufficient quantities of food.
- NRCS commits to finding alternative funding sources within Namibia.

**Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements**

Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out on a day to day basis by Federation staff and UNHCR technical officers. Health and water and sanitation units will be evaluated as well through regular visits of the Regional delegates.
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<th>PROGRAMME</th>
<th>Disaster response</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td>Shelter &amp; construction</td>
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<td>Clothing &amp; textiles</td>
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<td>Food &amp; seeds</td>
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<td>Water</td>
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<td><strong>Sub total supplies</strong></td>
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