

NAMIBIA: ANGOLAN REFUGEES

**appeal no: 36/99
30 December 1999**

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 2,128,000
TO ASSIST 12,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 6 MONTHS***

Summary

The recent influx of Angolan refugees from southern Angola into northern Namibia has placed an additional burden on Government resources, already strained by a pre-existing refugee population. In consultation with the Government and UNHCR, a Federation Regional Disaster Response Team will be deployed to support the Namibia Red Cross (NRC) in providing humanitarian assistance to refugees in Osire camp. Care and maintenance assistance will be provided in shelter, non-food items, health, water, sanitation, social services, and tracing. Given the uncertainty of the situation and the potential for a further influx of refugees, the programme is also intended to support NRC capacity building efforts as well as the updating of contingency plans.

The Disaster

The renewed conflict between the Angolan Government army (FAA) and UNITA has resulted in a significant refugee influx from southern Angola to northern Namibia. The influx began in early December, and over 8,000 refugees have arrived to date. Taking into account the existing refugee caseload as well as the expectation that a significant number of refugees will continue to seek safety from the ongoing military action in Angola, this appeal makes provision for an eventual refugee caseload of 12,000.

The newly arrived refugees established temporary shelters in the Namibian border town of Rundu, and are being initially accommodated and registered at a transit centre 65 kms from Rundu before being transported to the Osire refugee camp, located 671 kms from Rundu and 250 kms from Windhoek, the Namibian capital. Another two transit centres will be established along the border to receive, temporarily accommodate, and register newly arrived refugees. With the fighting continuing, the possibility of repatriation remains remote. The current refugee population in the Osire camps stands at 7,440, with daily influxes of between 50 to 100 persons.

The Osire camp was first established in 1992, and the physical and sanitary conditions are poor. Originally established for some 2,000 refugees, the new influx of Angolan refugees has overburdened camp facilities, with a resulting overcrowding of tents, overwhelmed health services and facilities, a lack of

sufficient water, and inadequate latrine coverage. The threat of an outbreak of disease or epidemics is a considerable concern. The rains which just started add to the already poor health and sanitary conditions. Food supplies, the responsibility of UNHCR and WFP, appear sufficient at present. A nutritional survey is planned for early January.

The majority of the refugees appear to be women and children, with an exceptionally high number under 5, as well as pregnant women.

The Response So Far

Government Action •

The Government and UNHCR (as lead agency) are co-ordinating the operation. The refugee camp in Osire has been in operation since early 1992, but has only limited facilities which are now overwhelmed. UNHCR and the Government are providing transport from the transit areas to Osire Camp. The Ministry of Health have provided one nurse at the refugee camp while the normal district health facilities are available for referrals. UNHCR has collaborated with the Christian Council of Namibia (CCN) to administer the relatively small refugee operation, but with the recent influx both the Government and UNHCR have welcomed Federation and NRC intervention to reinforce the operation.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action •

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With the exception of food, the NRC and the Federation will undertake responsibility for all sectors of assistance, including the transporting of health supplies which are provided by the Ministry of Health and distributed through their health representative and assisted by Red Cross personnel. The Namibian Red Cross branch in Rundu has been heavily involved from the outset in providing assistance to newly arrived refugees in co-ordination with UNHCR. Tracing services are being provided by the NRC, with support from the ICRC.

At Osire, where the Namibian Red Cross established a clinic in the early 1990's, a Red Cross volunteer group consisting of refugees (some of which were formally Angola Red Cross volunteers) has been established. First Aid training has been given to 12 volunteers and first aid kits have been provided to reduce the workload on the clinic which has only one Ministry of Health nurse providing all the health services to the refugee community and to local people in the area. The National Society has deployed two full time staff in Rundu and Osire respectively to monitor the situation and to coordinate assistance activities.

Other Agencies Action •

In-kind assistance has been provided or pledged by the British Red Cross, local diplomatic representatives, and NGO's. However, apart from CCN, there are no other operational agencies active in the refugee transit or camp areas.

Co-ordination •

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government, will continue to co-ordinate the refugee operation under a standard tripartite agreement between the NRC and the Federation.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

In addition to the initial assessment already carried out by the NRC and Federation team, a more detailed and in-depth assessment of needs will be carried out in close co-ordination with UNHCR and the Government targeting the particularly vulnerable refugees.

Immediate Needs •

The immediate needs are for shelter, including plastic sheeting and family tents, kitchen sets, blankets, and used clothes. Health facilities need to be expanded, including additional health staff in Osire, and an ambulance for referrals, and physical expansion of the existing clinic. In terms of water and sanitation facilities, the water supply system with a present capacity of 3-5 litres available per person per day must be expanded to 20 litre's. Similarly, communal or family latrine construction will be expanded. The procurement of vector control materials and training will be carried out.

Anticipated Later Needs •

Health education and awareness raising, expanded educational facilities for children, Maternal and Child Health Care (MCH) outreach and follow-up will be required, as well as support to a reproductive health programme.

Further capacity building among Namibia Red Cross staff and volunteers, on-site training and formal training will be required.

Red Cross Objectives •

The NRC and Federation plan to:

- meet the immediate needs of the refugees by deploying a Regional Disaster Response Team to provide management and infrastructure needs in the refugee camps.
- Provide adequate shelter, clothing and blankets, health, water, and sanitation services, vector control, and social services with tracing for 12,000 refugees.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: January - March, 2000 •

The Federation and NRC team will be deployed by January 15. Procurement of supplies, expansion of the health clinic, vehicle and communications deployment, water supply expansion, latrine construction, vector control spraying, and distribution of non-food and shelter items will be carried out. The water supply project, including the drilling of new boreholes, has already started. Construction of the Red Cross center in Osire and Red Cross staff accomodation in Osire and Rundu will also be undertaken. The health education activities will also be initiated.

Phase Two: April - June, 2000 •

The health education campaign will be intensified, and a survey of educational needs will be carried out.

Capacity of the National Society •

The National Society has a variety of ongoing developmental programmes in the country, but has limited disaster response experience. Disaster Preparedness (DP) training and an annual disaster simulation in Harare has however been well attended by National Society staff and volunteers. Recent senior staff changes have somewhat reduced managerial capacity at the central level. The Regional Delegation will both directly support the operation as well as provide logistics, finance, and administrative support and training to the NRC.

Present Capacity of the Federation in Southern Africa Region •

Recent events in Zambia and Zimbabwe this year have underlined the need for a strengthened Regional Disaster Response Capacity. Some success has been achieved, particularly the use of Regionally recruited human resources and the provision of logistics support from the Harare Regional Delegation for ongoing operations. The lessons learned and additional capacity gained will be instrumental for the proposed Namibia refugee operation.

Evaluation •

In addition to ongoing monitoring activities, periodic evaluation will be carried out 3 and 6 months after the operation commences.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

The budget for family tents and associated transport costs has already been fully met by the British Red Cross/DFID.

Conclusion

Immediate support is required to assist this new refugee influx into Namibia. Meeting the needs of the refugees while reinforcing the capacity of the Namibia Red Cross are the Federation's primary objectives. This will be accomplished via a tripartite agreement between the NRC, the Federation, and UNHCR, based upon this appeal.

Margareta Wahlström
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Disaster Response & Operations Coordination

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Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARY
Namibia: Refugees from Angola

APPEAL No. 36/99
IN CHF

ANNEX 1

RELIEF NEEDS

Non food items

Family Tents (700)	1,125,000	
Plastic sheeting/Tarpaulins	30,000	
Rubbhall (one)	20,000	
Blankets (5,000)	80,000	
Jerry Cans (500)	4,000	
Clothes	75,000	
Prefabricated units (7) - staff accommodation	53,000	
Construction of wat/san boreholes & latrines, vector chemicals & spraying equipment	280,000	
Extension of Clinic in Osire - prefabricated units (3)	25,000	
Extension of Rundu Transit - prefabricated units (3)	25,000	
<u>Medical items</u>		
Cholera kit, stretchers, first aid kits, sundries	15,000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		1,732,000

Capital expenditures

Telecommunications equipment/Computers	17,000	
<u>Transport, storage & vehicles costs</u>	80,000	
<u>Personnel</u>		
Expatriate staff	77,000	
National staff	98,000	
<u>Administrative, office & general services</u>		
Travel & Communications	26,000	
Assessment/Survey mission/Evaluation	5,000	
Printing Costs/Information/Visibility	3,000	
Other administrative services	10,000	
Secretariat operational support	80,000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		396,000

TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND	2,128,000
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LESS PLEDGES ANNOUNCED	0
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NET REQUEST CASH & KIND	2,128,000
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