

## ***NAMIBIA: ANGOLAN REFUGEES***

*1 October, 2000*

*appeal no. 36/99; Six-month programme extension until 31 December, 2000  
situation report no. 6  
period covered: 1 August - 31 August, 2000*

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*The overall security situation in Angola and on the border remains of serious concern, with the very real potential for a further influx of refugees from Angola. The International Federation continues to support to the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) in its direct involvement in the refugee programmes as well as its on-going capacity building efforts. Further funds are urgently required to continue to deliver an adequate level of assistance to a significantly increased beneficiary caseload.*

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### ***The context***

The conflict in southern Angola continues to cause insecurity in the Angolan and northern Namibian border area, resulting in an ongoing influx to Namibia of people seeking protection and assistance. After arriving, the refugees are moved from the border town of Rundu to Osire Refugee Camp approximately 671 kms from Rundu and 250 km from Windhoek. With the continuous fighting, the possibility of repatriation remains remote and refugees continue to arrive. In August, with an average weekly influx of 331 since the end of July, the camp population reached 13,886.

The Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS), supported by the International Federation, launched an appeal in December 1999, initially intended to address urgent needs in the areas of water, sanitation, and shelter and preventative health. The NRCS and the Federation were subsequently requested by UNHCR to assume responsibility for over all camp management. Since then, the sectors of coverage have been expanded to include warehousing management, food distribution, reception of new arrivals and screening. The current situation in the camp is stable.

Due to the continuing influx, and because of the unstable situation in the border area which might force more refugees to cross into northern Namibia towards the end of the year, the NRCS, the Federation, UNHCR and the government are preparing contingency plans.

## ***Latest events***

The general situation in the Osire refugee camp remains calm, with no major problems experienced during the month of August. However, the continuing influx of refugees is straining the limited available resources, and insecurity in the border area continues to cause havoc and internal displacement of Namibians living along the border, especially in the north and north east of the country. Internal displacement is also mushrooming along the trans-caprivi highway. The NRCS' Regional Office in Kavango and the ICRC Office in Rundu continues to monitor the situation of internally displaced people and landmine victims.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

Maintenance and care continued, with assistance being effectively delivered in all sectors (described below), including reproductive health, education and much improved community services.

### **Tracing and reception •**

During the period under review, 404 Red Cross Messages were received from Osire and sent to the central distribution center in Harare. Eleven replies were received from the DRC. The tracing activities in the camp included information dissemination that was carried out by the Tracing Coordinator from the Windhoek Office.

A total of 1,008 refugees were received during the period under review. The majority of these originated from prisons around the country where people had been kept after the government had 'swept' areas for people who had gained illegal access to Namibia not declaring themselves refugees at first.

### **Health and Community Services •**

The health sector has generally improved its services with the increased capacity of the staff. Reproductive health, which had remained at a planning stage for a few months, has now reached full implementation through a short-term Reproductive Health Consultant supported by the Federation. The assessment on reproductive health was completed and the findings shared with all partners. However, continuation of services within reproductive health will only be possible with additional human resources. In order to address the problem, efforts are being made to have refugee health workers registered as nurses by the Namibian authorities.

The community health workers have undergone a refresher training workshop as part of the capacity building process. The antenatal care clinic was relocated to the hospital tent in order to decongest the clinic, a move welcomed by the refugee community.

During the month under review a total of 128 environmental health education sessions were held, reaching 3,142 people. The cholera contingency plan has been established in order to prepare for the onset of the rainy season. The three main operational problems which the health sector is facing are; shortage of necessary equipment, lack of appropriate IEC material, and the shortage of health staff. The Ministry of Health is being requested to provide the necessary equipment for the reproductive health section. Efforts are also being made to access IEC materials preferably in Portuguese or local languages spoken in Angola. The Red Cross Osire Team plans to produce the materials themselves by sector so as to ensure the right approach for the camp context.

With the recruitment of refugee nurses (when registered), the delivery of services will be strengthened because of their nursing skills as well as their knowledge of the language spoken by the patients. Currently, with only two nurses for almost 14,000 people, these human resources, as well as financial ones, are highly needed. The nurses have been covering an average of more than 300 consultations per day for several months -- a reasonable rate when compared to the Sphere standard recommendation of only 50 consultations per day.

*Morbidity and mortality*

The morbidity pattern remained almost the same with upper respiratory infection and watery diarrhea being the leading causes of morbidity.

- Total number of new visits: **1,758**
- Re-visits (re-attendants): **56**
- Total visits: **1, 814**
- Deliveries: **39**

*Reproductive Health*

Despite the campaign held in May 2000, cases of measles were recorded with one case confirmed and 3 cases suspected. An investigation team from the Ministry of Health has visited the facility. Two hospital tents have been erected; one will serve as a waiting area where health education will be given to mothers, and the other one is divided into three screening rooms and a reception area for maternal and child health clinic.

During the first three weeks of the month, the following visits were recorded: 54 antenatal care, 30 family planning, 39 deliveries, 526 CBGM/P.

*Immunization*

Antigen	BCG	OPV	DPT	Measles	TT
Total	28	128	100	11	66

*Feeding center*

The feeding center continues to teach mothers, and to prepare CSB for malnourished children. The total number of malnourished cases dropped dramatically, a result of the distribution of CSB and blankets. It was decided to re-allocate the community health promoters stationed at the supplementary feeding center for them to collaborate more closely with the CHP in the blocks. This was done to enable them to better identify people for the Feeding Center and to encourage people who have been recommended for treatment to follow the advice from the professionals.

The Community Health Promoters established a demonstration garden with the assistance of the Reproductive Health Consultant. This will serve as supplementary food for the feeding center as well as a teaching ground for the mothers who are encouraged to duplicate the lessons learned at their own plot.

The table below reflects the attendees at the Feeding Center:

Sex	Current	Defaulter*	Re-admission	Death	Total
Female	15	31	1		47
Male	22	40	1	1	64
Total	37	71	2	1	111

*\*Defaulter=those who turn up only once or twice*

**Community Services •**

A Community Services worker was appointed at the beginning of August and carried out an initial assessment of the social needs in the camp. The assessment identified major social problems and those potentially marginalised groups such as vulnerable groups, single headed families, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, albinos, old aged and the mentally disturbed people.

After the initial assessment, needs for wheel chairs, crutches, special clothing and counseling were identified. It was discovered that the disabled have been marginalized and special attention has been given to them since the arrival of the community services worker. Most of the problems identified have been resolved by the provision of wheel chairs and crutches. In addition, 10 people are being counseled by the social worker. Furthermore, Health Promoters are becoming involved in the social sector because of their close connection to the camp community. The mentally disturbed people were referred to Otjiwarongo State Hospital for treatment while the more serious cases were referred Windhoek State Hospital for further observation.

**Warehousing and Distribution Sector**

The unit continues to distribute food and non-food items evenly to all residents of the camp. A few set backs have been experienced, especially the delay in the deliveries of food from WFP and other items to the camp.

The logistics unit plans to introduce new ration cards to replace the current ones which can easily be tampered with. The process of re-registering beneficiaries is likely to start in September after further consultations between higher authorities at the NRCS and HCR.

The table below summarises food distribution to new refugees during the past 5 months.

Commodity	April		May		June		July		August	
	Feeding Figure*	Food quantity (kg)	Feeding Figure	Food Quantity (kg)	Feeding Figure	Food quantity (kg)	Feeding Figure	Food quantity (kg)	Feeding Figure	Food quantity (kg)
Maize Meal	299	3,588	468	5,616	417	2,230	N/A	N/A	1,021	12,252
CSB	“	448.5	“	801	1,003	1,504.5	“	“	1,021	1,531
Pulses	“	538	“	818	1,003	1,709	“	“	1,021	1,838
Vegetable Oil	“	224	“	434	1,003	809	“	“	647	356
Sugar	“	135	“	50	623	280	“	“	1,021	510
Salt	“	45	“	6.5	703	105	“	“	1,021	204

*\*Feeding figure=number of people reached*

The warehouse was finally connected to the main electricity supply during the reporting period. This will allow staff and other agencies to work after office hours in the warehouse. A rub hall was received from the Mozambique floods operation which will constitute an extra storage facility to reinforce the current warehouse especially improving security through creating more space for the various items.

During the period under review the following commodities (in kilos) were distributed, ensuring that the Sphere standard of 2,100 kcal per person per day is met:

- Maize Meal: 139,803
- Vegetable Oil: 6,451
- Corn Soya Blend: 16,851
- Pulses: 20,195

- Sugar: 5,628
- Salt: 2,404.5
- Fish: 8,441

### **Water, Sanitation and Shelter •**

Implementation in this sector continued at a rather reduced pace due to unforeseen problems in the supply of materials. However, activities have continued well in the areas where possible, as described below and materials are expected to arrive by end-September.

#### *Water*

The expansion and improvement of the water reticulation system in Osire Camp further advanced with the installation of one Oxfam-type tank with a capacity of 95 cubic meters. The project will be completed by the second week of September. All the hand pumps in the camp are currently functional. The yields are gradually reducing due to the start of the dry season, but the situation will be closely monitored. Also, with the Echo-funded water expansion now working and improvements to the water reticulation system, the provision of water for the camp population will be sufficient. The current supply is 19 liters per person per day, a quantity which more than meets the Sphere minimum standards of 15.

#### *Sanitation*

Latrine usage education has been intensified since some refugees came from remote areas, where the use of latrines is not common. The health promoters, a group of Red Cross volunteers, carry out hygiene education to improve health conditions for all refugees in the camp. This is considered crucial for the hygiene/health standards in the camp. Changes in behavior are becoming apparent; people no longer use the bush but pit latrines. Unfortunately, the latrine coverage has decreased. Although Sphere standards recommend 20 people per latrine, the figure for the camp has now increased to 23. This is not only due to the lack of supplies, but also by a continuing influx of refugees and the insufficient lack of financial support for the operation.

#### *Shelter*

A total of 200 tents were received from UNHCR to alleviate shelter problems. At the beginning of the month, refugees had to stay in the school classrooms and the distribution center under poor hygiene conditions. At the moment they are being accommodated in tents. A total of 167 tents have been distributed and 25 tents were transferred to the Rundu transit center.

A programme has been initiated to construct 400 semi permanent shelters with the help of ECHO funding through UNHCR. The Red Cross team has taken on the task of implementing the construction with the active co-operation of the refugees.

### **Education •**

This is another sector that the Red Cross has taken over under the umbrella of UNHCR. The camp has a primary school with 2,119 pupils in 17 make shift classrooms. There are over 427 students in high school spread around the country and 99 students in institutions of higher learning. The Namibia Red Cross Society has employed an educational officer whose main responsibility is to support the schools and the high school students.

Further to the above, The NRCS and the Federation are coordinating efforts in this sector by working with APSO (an Irish Overseas Volunteer Services group) which is providing a consultant to assess the educational needs at the Osire Refugee Camp Plans are also under way with UNHCR to construct a modern primary school.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The last situation report (no. 5) made clear that while the first appeal is, in principle, fully covered, a large portion of the recorded contributions is based on an important British Red Cross in-kind donation

of tents (a value of CHF 1.1 million). Without this contribution, the appeal coverage falls under 60%, and the operation therefore remains constrained by a lack of donor support, with an additional CHF 292,000 needed to implement the planned activities, including: CHF 74,000 for shelter and supplies, 127,000 for personnel, 18,000 for transport and storage, 18,000 for general and administrative costs, and 29,000 for Geneva-based support.

It is also important to take into account that when the Federation assumed responsibility for the camps, the refugee population numbered 7,000 to 8,000. With the current refugee population numbering in excess of 13,000, the Federation is attempting to deliver assistance with available resources to fifty percent more beneficiaries. Shelter is an ongoing problem due to the increased number of refugees arriving at the camp, and cash or in-kind support is required (in-kind supplies include 200 tents or the equivalent in tarpaulin, poles, and nails for semi-permanent shelters).

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The operation continues to enjoy good cooperation with key stake orders, particularly the Ministry of Home Affairs and UNHCR. Embassies in Windhoek are in constant contact with the NRCS, in many cases through their respective PNSs. Regular meetings are held with the Government and UNHCR, and coordination meetings at field level have been instituted in order to ensure the smooth running of the operation, to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote the sharing of resources available.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

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**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

NAMIBIA - ANGOLAN REFUGEES						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 36/99		PLEDGES RECEIVED			10/04/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				2,128,000	01/01/99	135.98%
BELGIUM - GOVT/RC		150,899	EUR	237,289	04/26/00	WATSAN PROJECT
ECHO		129,000	EUR	200,892	14.07.00	WATER IMPROVEMENT & EXPANSION
FINLAND - RC		50,456	EUR	80,674	01/17/00	
GERMANY - GOVT/RC		92,000	DEM	73,959	02/22/00	WATSAN PROJECT
GERMANY - RC		40,000	DEM	32,156	03/27/00	WATSAN PROJECT
ICELAND - RC		2,000,000	ISK	4,366	01/12/00	
MONACO - RC		50,000	FRF	12,290	12/30/99	
NAMIBIA - PRIVATE				1,430	01.07.00	
NETHERLANDS - RC		294,000	NLG	213,103	01/19/00	
NORWEGIAN - RC		22,341	NOK	4,412	14.12.99	
SWEDEN - GOVT		400,000	SEK	74,360	01/13/00	
UNITED STATES - GOVT. (PRM)		300,000	USD	472,200	03/15/00	
UNITED STATES - RC		35,000	USD	55,720	01/28/00	
ZIMBABWE - PRIVATE				171	31.05.00	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				1,463,022	CHF	68.75%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BELGIUM - GOVT/RC		6,087,250	BEF	234,797	10.07.00	CONSTRUCTION OF 13 BOREHOLES, 112 LATRINES
BRITISH - GOVT				1,125,000	01/10/00	TENTS
DENMARK - GOVT		248,466	DKK	51,000	01/11/00	for clothes, shoes, blankets, cholera kits
Finland	Delegate(s)			14,948	06/15/00	Year 2000
SWEDISH - RC		26,352	SEK	4,946	24.07.00	366 BALES OF SECOND HAND CLOTHE
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				1,430,691	CHF	67.23%
<b>NOT REQUESTED IN APPEAL</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				0	CHF	