

NAMIBIA: ANGOLAN REFUGEES

31 October, 2000

appeal no. 36/99

situation report no. 7

period covered: 1 September - 20 October, 2000

With the security situation in Angola and the region remaining of serious concern, the potential for an ongoing influx of new arrivals is considerable. While the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS), supported by the Federation, continues to deliver high-quality assistance and services to a growing refugee population, as well as focusing on capacity building efforts, the operation is threatened by limited donor support and insufficient funds.

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. To respond to the needs of the approximately 13,000 refugees located in the Osire Refugee Camp (approximately 671 kms from the Rundu border town and 250 km from Windhoek), 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 have also updated contingency plans.

Latest events

The situation remains bleak in Angola and parts of the Great Lakes region mainly due to persistent conflict which has triggered massive population displacements of people seeking protection and basic humanitarian assistance. The escalation of the conflicts have resulted in more refugees along the Angolan border fleeing into Namibia. Upon arrival, the refugees are transported from the transit areas and Rundu town to Osire Refugee camp. By 20 October, 2000 the camp population had reached 15,335, with the weekly influx to the camp ranging between 200 and 250 since the end of August.

The NRCS and Federation and now providing maintenance and care in the following areas: food distribution and warehousing, reception, screening, tracing of families/relatives, education, co-ordination of the health sector, water/sanitation and social Services. The Namibian Government has announced plans of relocating or supplementing the Osire camp with a new camp area in Mokata, located 650 km north east of Grootfontein. At the time of reporting, a team consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, UNHCR and WFP and the Red Cross were conducting a three-day assessment visit to the area.

Meanwhile, Osire camp has been experiencing relative calm, but in the middle of September, problems were encountered in the form of ethnic friction between the Ovimbundu and the Ngangelas. During a football match between two teams, formed on the basis of ethnicity, a pitch battle was fought between the two tribes and five people were admitted to the hospital.

Due to the persistent civil conflict, the situation is critical and unpredictable in the province of Kuando Cubango in southern Angola. The escalation of the conflict has resulted in the continuing influx of refugees along the Angolan border with Namibia, and in a growing number of internally displaced Namibians along the Trans-Caprivi highway. Landmine casualties were reported in the Kavango Region in September. The newly opened ICRC offices in Windhoek and Rundu will work closely with NRCS to provide assistance to victims.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The Red Cross continues to provide effective maintenance and care to the refugees at Osire camp in all sectors.

Tracing and Reception •

The Red Cross messages are being distributed and collected on a daily basis owing to the dedication of the tracing volunteers. During the period under review 291 messages were collected from Osire. After a stagnation in the replies to the many Red Cross messages which had been sent to Tanzania and Zambia, 52 replies were received in the camp. 2 tracing requests were opened and 66 tracing reunifications were effected (Rundu to Osire). The situation in the Northeast region is having a negative impact on the activities. The Kavango Regional Officer does not have access to villages due to the general insecurity and because of the landmines. This is hampering the flow of messages and There are 5 unaccompanied children in the camp. A total number of 23 men, who were arrested in Kavango between July and August this year and whose wives were sent to Osire Camp, have been released and are reunited with their families in the camp.

Logistics, food management and warehousing •

The logistics unit of the NRCS in the camp, tasked with the reception and distribution of food and non food items, continues to serve the refugees. Commodities such as mattresses, blankets, clothes, and tents are depleted quickly being distributed immediately.

The table below shows the age break down of the 933 people who received assistance from the unit upon arrival in September.

Category	Age	Total
Children: Female	0-17	259

	Male	0-17	274
Women		18-60 and over	156
Men		18-60 and over	244
Total # of Beneficiaries			933

The Swiss Government donated 451,000 tins of canned fish to the refugees in the camp through UNHCR whose permission is needed before the Red Cross can distribute the commodities.

The Namibian Catholic Bishops' Conference still continues to bring in donations such as clothes, blankets, and shoes. Other donations were also received from students from the University of Namibia, from the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia and other sources countrywide.

Distribution of non-food items.

The table below reflects items distributed and the number of beneficiaries.

Total no of Ben.	Items Issued	Quantities Issued	Total no. of items issued
3,392	Pots Large Medium Small	224 420 548	1292
1,324	Mattress: 3/4 Single	120 270	390
1,324	Stoves: Double Single	236 370	606
1,334	Buckets	1,324	1,324
1334	Eating Utensils: Plates Cups Spoons	1334 1334 1234	1334 1334 1234
2,520	Blankets	2,520	2,520

Distribution of food items

The figures below show the number of people who have received food each month since the NRCS took over food distribution in April, with a clear increase in the number of people which the camp has to cater for:

- April: 8,900
- May: 9,113
- June: 9,705
- July: 10,494
- August: 11,666
- September: 13,285

Food is distributed to two target groups: First, there is the general monthly food distribution for refugees living in the camp and, secondly, the case by case distributions attending to the refugees upon their arrival to the camp. During the general distribution for the month of October, a total of 13,917 people were served. Some change in the ration was done in consultation with WFP, UNHCR, the refugee committee and the Red Cross team in order to compensate for the fact that some commodities were in short supply. Instead of the beans and corn soya blend (CSB), increased quantities of maize meal (1,5 kg per month) and sugar (0,5 kg per month) were distributed. This did not affect the required calories per person per day as the camp population still received 2100 Kcal/per day in accordance with the Sphere standards.

Below are the total amounts distributed at the *general food distribution* during the period under review: 374,186.5 mt of maize meal; 21,817.75 mt of vegetable oil; 31,428.5 mt of corn soya blend, 28,987 mt of pulses/beans; 13,253.25 mt of sugar; 3,253.25 mt of salt; 21, 665 mt of fish; 27,297 pieces of soap; 26,899 rolls of hygiene paper; 3,886 sanitary pads.

The table below gives an update on the amounts of food distributed to *new arrivals* up to 1 September:

Commodity	April		May			June		July		August		
	Feeding Fig.	Food Quantities	Feeding Fig.	Food Quantities	Feeding fig.	Food Quantities	Feeding Fig.	Food Quantities	Feeding Fig.	Food Quantities	Feeding Fig.	Food Quantities
Maize Meal	299	3,588	468	5,616	417	2,230	530	6,360	1,021	12,252	640	7,680
CSB	"	448.5	"	801	1,003	1,504.5	"	795	"	1,531	"	960
Pulses	"	538	"	818	"	"	"	594	"	1,838	"	1,152
V. Oil	"	224	"	434	"	809	"	424 (lt.)	647	356	"	4,800
Sugar	"	135	"	50	623	280	"	159	1,021	510	"	288
Salt	"	45	"	6.5	703	105	"	79.5	"	204	"	96

Following is the total amount distributed to *new arrivals* from 1 September to 20 October:

- mealie meal 11,137.5 kg
- corn soya blend 577.5 kg
- pulses/beans 330 kg
- sugar 412.5 kg
- salt 123.75 kg
- vegetable oil 618.75 kg

The long awaited rubbhall donated by the Mozambique operation was finally brought to the camp and immediately erected. It will be used for storage of non food items.

Due to problems experienced with the ration cards, it was decided to change the format. A proposal was drafted by the Logistics Officer and submitted to UNHCR. Provided the system is approved and resources are available, the ration cards will be ready and in circulation by the next distribution in November, 2000. The following items need to be procured for the ration card to become operational. 1 camera (for passport photos), 1 desk top computer and colour printer, 1 scanner.

Below is a copy of the proposed ration card:

<p align="center">Beneficiary Information</p> <p><i>1. Lost cards should be reported immediately;</i></p> <p><i>2. This card remains the property of the UNHCR/ NRCS;</i></p> <p><i>3. Each and every beneficiary should be in possession of this card whenever receiving items from this camp. No cards will be served unless in possession of genuine owners;</i></p> <p><i>4. New cards will only be issued in cases where family number increases/decreases;</i></p> <p><i>5. Any alterations to this card will invalidate its legitimacy.</i></p>	<p align="center">BENEFICIARY'S CARD</p> <p>UNHCR</p> <p align="right">NRCS</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 50px; margin: 10px auto;"> <p align="center">photo</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p align="center">Name of Beneficiary (Head of Household)</p> <p align="center">.....</p> </div> <p>Status..... Card No..... Block No.....</p>
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- Total visits: 1,817
- Referrals: 44

Supplementary Feeding Programme/Community Based Growth Monitoring

The table below shows the attendees at the feeding centre, including those who were referred to the hospital due to severe malnutrition and those who died from it.

Sex	Current	Defaulters*	Death	Referrals	Total
Male	13	14	1	1	29
Female	9	15	1	1	26
Total	22	29	2	2	55

* *Defaulters = those who turn up only once or twice*

Following the decision to have the Community Health Promoters (CHP’s) more closely involved in the community, they now register all children in their respective blocks recommending those in need to attend the feeding programme. They also follow up on defaulters in order to ensure that all is done to encourage the necessary intervention. In addition, the feeding activities have further decentralised due to the training provided by the centre to mothers on how to prepare the corn soya blend for their children. These mothers can now prepare the food at home instead of having to frequent the centre.

Reproductive Health (RH)

A proposal on RH activities is under discussion with UNFPA. A workshop will be conducted where all the stake holders such as the refugee population, the Red Cross staff, the UNHCR and the Ministry of Health, will present their RH projects.

- Ante natal care visits: 126
- Family planning: 14
- Deliveries: 41
- Post Natal: 0
- CBGM/P: 1,618
- FBCM/P: 90

15 of the deliveries took place in the ambulance en route to the clinic. In addition to the often long distances between the refugee blocks and the clinic, this is a result of the fact that many of the expecting women are between 15 and 19 years of age. Since many of the young women are unused to the facilities, CHPs have intensified their education campaigns encouraging the population to visit the health centre regularly.

The health programme is planning to conduct ante natal care services twice a week and also to initiate post natal care services in the camp. Based on an identified need, services will also be expanded to included awareness raising on gender based sexual violence in the camp and involvement of nurses for counselling victims of such violence and of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Although children are being weighed as a means of supervising their health, the majority of children visiting the facility are not attended to due to the lack of scales and manpower for more than 500 children.

Immunisations

Antigen	BCG	OPV	DPT	Measles	TT
Total	23	95	72	11	22

The plan for the next few months calls for an increase in immunisation coverage by conducting daily immunisation sessions.

Health education

- Number of sessions held: 468
- Number of households reached: 1,484
- Number of beneficiaries: 5,255

The sessions dealt with general hygiene/sanitation and cleanliness preparing people for the hot season where diseases easily become the result of poor hygienic conditions.

Major constraints

Some of the constraints related to the health programme relate to the funding. For instance, funds are insufficient to hire a local artist to produce the information-education-communication (IEC) materials planned to supplement the delivery of services. Also, with the growing number of camp inhabitants, clinic facilities are overstretched with insufficient space to accommodate patients and staff and lack of equipment such as benches in the waiting area. The authorisation of the nurses to work in the camp would be a great step towards reducing the workload at the clinic and rendering more comprehensive services on a daily base.

Water/Sanitation and Shelter •

The implementation of water/sanitation (watsan) activities has been constrained due to the delay in the delivery of construction materials which is further hampered by the lack of funding and thus the impossibility to plan further purchase for the sector. However, some achievements were obtained during the period under review.

Water

The construction of the water tank platforms for two tanks was completed. Also, the ECHO project was completed with the laying of the pipeline and the commission of the system. In October, the water supply to the camp improved by providing 17.45 litres per person per day, a quantity which surpasses the recommended minimum (Sphere) standard of 15 litres.

The construction work is being done by trained watsan volunteers as part of enhancing the capacity and sustainability of resources. Pipes have been fitted to the water tank in order to increase the gravitational water to the camp. The capacity of each tank is 95,000 cubic meters and the work was completed between August and the middle of September. All the installed hand pumps are functioning well and are being maintained by the water maintenance team comprised of 6 women and two men. The camp is now able to provide water of sufficient quality and quantity thus ensuring a situation where the camp population is exempted from any serious health risks caused by water borne diseases or chemical contamination.

Sanitation

Because of the increased needs due to the growing population, delay in materials and a general lack of funding, the latrine coverage has now sunk below the Sphere recommendation of 20 people per latrine. The actual figure is presently 24. The latrine coverage measured according to the planned level is 82%. To maintain the current level, the staff are intensifying latrine usage and hygiene education throughout the camp by the watsan team and health promoters. To supervise the digging of rubbish pits, environmental cleaning campaigns are held every week and work towards community mobilisation in general. The matter has also been followed up with the UNHCR Field Officer.

Shelter

The delays in supplying shelter materials and construction materials makes even more difficult the provision of these items to the refugees. All the reception tents are full to capacity and new refugees are being accommodated at school classes upon arrival to the camp. These classrooms were constructed by Red Cross volunteers, but, obviously, were meant for educational purposes and can only be seen as a temporary solution to the urgent shelter problem.

Education •

Education is one of the new sectors in which the NRCS and Federation have become recently involved. Primary education is offered to school age refugee children on the basis of the Namibian system, in terms of its structure and its curriculum. At present 1,915 children are enrolled at the primary school in Osire camp. Secondary school students attend school around the country. For the current year, 510 secondary school students are funded by UNHCR. However, the number of applicants for secondary school sponsorships has increased as a reflection of the growing number of refugees arriving to the camp. The predicted number of refugee learners for 2001 is 800.

There is a main concern, though, regarding the lack of access to education for a large proportion of the school age children in the camp. This is considered a significant problem since educational institutions require academic results for enrolment purposes. One of the main factors which prevents access to primary school is the ruling that after the fifteenth day of the new school year, pupils are not allowed to register at the school, regardless of age. Therefore, any children arriving at the camp after that day are denied their right to basic education. Other factors contributing to this problem of access are the lack of classrooms and teachers. Ultimately, the access to secondary education for the refugee children will also have to be expanded, as the current number can not cover those who complete primary school in need for continuing their education.

Outstanding needs

Previous situation reports have emphasised the fact that a large portion of the recorded contributions is based on a valuable British Red Cross in-kind donation of tents (valued at CHF 1.1 million), but the programme in Osire lacks cash contributions and CHF 292,000 is needed to implement the planned activities including running costs of the operation (salaries, transport costs, accommodation, administration and supplies for the various sectors). Without these funds, the quality of services is threatened. In health, for instance, additional personnel and a physical extension of the building and equipment is needed at the clinic in order to meet the needs of the community. A field hospital for observation and emergency facilities is also needed and a proposal being considered.

Shelter is an ongoing problem due to the increased number of refugees arriving at the camp. Support is needed in cash or kind. 200 tents (or equivalent supplies of tarpaulin, poles, and nails for semi-permanent shelter) are required which would accommodate 14 people each and thus would cover approximately 2,800 refugees.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The operation continues to enjoy good co-operation with key stake holders, particularly the Ministry of Home Affairs and UNHCR. Embassies in Windhoek are in constant contact with the NRCS, in many cases through PNSs. Regular meetings are held with the Government and UNHCR at camp level 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			11/03/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				2,128,000	01/01/99	142.24%
BELGIUM - GOVT/RC		150,899	EUR	237,289	26.04.00	WATSAN PROJECT
ECHO		129,000	EUR	200,892	14.07.00	WATER IMPROVEMENT & EXPANSION
FINLAND - RC		50,456	EUR	80,674	17.01.00	
GERMANY - GOVT/RC		92,000	DEM	73,959	22.02.00	WATSAN PROJECT
GERMANY - RC		40,000	DEM	32,156	27.03.00	WATSAN PROJECT
ICELAND - RC		2,000,000	ISK	4,366	12.01.00	
MONACO - RC		50,000	FRF	12,290	31.12.99	
NAMIBIA - PRIVATE				1,430	01.07.00	
NAMIBIA - PRIVATE				240	31.08.00	
NETHERLANDS - RC		294,000	NLG	213,103	19.01.00	
NORWEGIAN - RC		22,341	NOK	4,412	14.12.99	
SWEDEN - GOVT		400,000	SEK	74,360	13.01.00	
UNITED STATES - GOVT. (PRM)		300,000	USD	472,200	16.03.00	
UNITED STATES - GOVT. (PRM)		75,000	USD	133,013	20.09.00	OSIRE REFUGEE CAMP
UNITED STATES - RC		35,000	USD	55,720	28.01.00	
ZIMBABWE - PRIVATE				171	31.05.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,596,275	CHF	75.01%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)						
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
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				1,430,691	CHF	67.23%
NOT REQUESTED IN APPEAL						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PNA506						