

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

*29 March 2001*

*Appeal No. 36/99*

*Final Report*

### ***The context***

The continuing civil war in Angola created insecurity along the border between Namibia and Angola, and resulted in an influx of refugees into Namibia. The deterioration of security also resulted in reported attacks on civilians and tourists, and land mines continued to claim a significant amount of casualties. The persistent conflict has perpetuated an ongoing internal displacement of people. The conflict has affected close to 17,535 people who fled the fighting to seek protection and assistance in Namibia. To respond to the humanitarian needs and to support the Namibian Red Cross Society (NRCS), the Federation launched an appeal aimed at providing much needed assistance in terms of shelter, water, sanitation and preventative health to 12,000 refugees for a period of 6 months. The appeal was subsequently revised in March 2000 to cover the full 12 months, with added responsibilities for the Federation and NRCS.

The revision and extension of the appeal was necessitated by UNHCR who had expressed a desire to conclude a tripartite agreement with the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) and the Federation as the main implementing partners for the Osire Refugee Camp. The tripartite agreement was concluded in June 2000.

### ***Objectives, Achievements and Constraints***

**Objective 1:** Provision of shelter and the distribution of 700 tents.

**Achievements:**

A total of 700 tents was distributed to refugees between 1 January and 30 June 2000. The number of beneficiaries accommodated in the tents was 5,600 with an average of 8 people per tent. The tents were an in-kind donation from the Department for International Development (DFID) through the British Red Cross Society, which was timely and useful.

**Constraints:**

Even with the revised budget in force, shelter became a major problem towards the end of year due to the continuing conflict in Angola and the neighbouring countries in the region. Despite the procurement of more tents and building materials for permanent structures by UNHCR, the situation was not fully resolved. The Federation advocated especially for

UNHCR to provide more permanent building materials. A total of 4,446 refugees remained without shelter during the months of October, November and December, yet efforts to interest donors and support proved unsuccessful.

**Objective 2:** Expansion of the health clinic.

**Achievements:**

The clinic was expanded to include a maternity wing that was urgently required due to the limited space in the one existing building. Patients were denied privacy due to limited space, however, with the expansion of the clinic these pressures were alleviated.

**Constraints:**

Despite the expansion of the clinic, there was a need for an expanded out patient structure in order to match the population increase at the Osire Refugee Camp.

**Objective 3:** Construction of office and staff accommodation.

**Achievements:**

Two prefabricated office blocks and five living quarters were constructed for the staff implementing the relief operation. The office is used for the day-to-day co-ordination of the relief activities while the living quarters are used by relief staff based in the camp as well as visitors who come to offer support to the operation. The staff are expected to provide 24 hour assistance to the camp, thus, the building of the staff living quarters greatly eased their situation.

**Constraints:**

As the operation grew larger the staff accommodations were eventually not sufficient, despite the newly constructed living quarters.

**Objective 4:** Water supply expansion.

**Achievements:**

- The expansion of water supply programme in Osire refugee Camp was a complete success story. A total of 37 boreholes were drilled with combined funding from the German, Belgian, and Netherlands Red Cross. The boreholes were installed with user-friendly hand pumps coupled with on site community management training of 50 selected volunteers (refugees) to maintain the water points.
- ECHO funded the second phase of the expansion of the water supply system in the camp. This involved the installation of six solar powered pumps that pumps the water into two T95 Oxfam type tanks. Ten more water points were added with six taps apiece while the entire network was overhauled and replaced with user-friendly taps. The system capacity of the water supply in camp improved tremendously to cater for 25,000 people delivering the SPHERE minimum of 15 litres of water per person per day.
- The system successfully delivers more than 20 litres per person per day to population of approximately 18,000.

**Constraints:**

The relief operation was not spared from other factors such as the short supply of equipment and other related materials required for the expansion of the water supply system. This led to the extension of time required to complete the project.

**Objective 5:** Latrine Construction.

**Achievements:**

- A total of 600 family latrines were constructed bringing latrine coverage by the middle of the year to 90 percent in the camp compared to the earlier coverage of 5 percent before the Red Cross intervention. However, due to the ever-increasing population the latrine coverage dropped down to 68 percent by year end.
- 120 volunteers (30 of the volunteers are women) were trained in latrine construction.

**Constraints:**

Lack of funds coupled with the continued influx of refugees hampered plans to maintain the latrine coverage. At the end of the year scores of families were left without latrines bringing a health hazard to the refugee community.

**Objective 6:** Provision of health education and preventative health care in Osire Refugee Camp.

**Achievements:**

- The provision of health education was planned to complement the latrine construction. At the inception of the operation, health and hygiene practices in the camp were below the minimum standards required. The refugee population was sensitised on the use and the need of a latrine. On average a total of 468 health education sessions were conducted every month by a team of Health Promoters. These sessions reached 1,484 households representing 5,255 beneficiaries per month. The sessions dealt with general hygiene/sanitation, cleanliness and with preparing people for the change in weather patterns that affect people where diseases easily spread as a result of poor hygienic conditions i.e. hot season. 20 volunteers have been trained in the provision of health education to the camp population. The training involved data collection, techniques of health education dissemination, prevention of common communicable diseases and general health information to equip the participants in carrying out their duties. The camp has a reserve of Health personnel among the refugee population of whom 14 have been registered with Namibian Health Professionals board to practice within the boundaries of Osire Refugee Camp.
- During the period under review the Health Team organised successfully 5 immunisation campaigns.
- The programme also initiated a reproductive health project in conjunction with UNHCR and Ted Turner Foundation in training peer educators. A total of 45 participants were trained in information dissemination. An average of 126 ante natal visits were recorded per month.
- Maternal and Child Health Care activities were introduced and on average 500 children per month, attended the under-five-clinic.

**Constraints:**

The Namibian Ministry of Health is responsible for health care and services. Their resources were severely stretched, impacting on the work of the Red Cross in health provision and public health.

**Objective 8:** Vector Control.

**Achievements:**

A total of 1,500 houses (including tents) were fumigated against malaria and other disease causing pests. 38 rubbish pits were sprayed and camp surroundings were sprayed to reduce the spread of disease causing pests.

**Constraints:** Fumigation is effective only if it is applied periodically but lack of funds hampered the activity being repeated over time. Further, the camp did not have its own spraying equipment which would have been useful to carry out spraying activities.

**Objective 9:** Capacity building of the National Society

**Achievement:**

At the beginning of the operation the NRCS had limited capacity to respond or manage an operation. The relief operation provided an opportunity to improve the capacity of the National Society by formal training and on site training.

- Two staff members attended a course at Oxford University Summer School in forced migration. The course provided an insight of the plight of forced migrants and also prepared the staff members in the way to deal with refugees.
- Four staff members attended a Regional Disaster Response course in Harare organised by the Regional Delegation for Southern African in its efforts to improve the capacities of the national societies. The course was both academic training and simulated exercise in which participants were exposed to an emergency situation i.e. a refugee influx to gauge their preparedness in such an eventuality.
- Support was provided by the provision of three (3) counterparts to NRCS staff to ensure that the transfer of skills and on site training was conducted. Towards the end of the year it was reduced to one delegate. The Regional Delegation based in Harare provided sustained support due to the nature of the operation and through enhancing capacity building of the National Society.
- A SPHERE standards course was conducted at Osire refugee camp, which included members of UNHCR staff and a few selected refugee committee members. The aim of the course was to be acquainted with the minimum standards applied in Humanitarian Relief assistance. A total of 27 participants attended the course.

**Constraints:**

Due to the nature of the work, not all the NRCS staff members were available to attend formal training.

**Objective 10:** Capacity of the Federation in Southern Africa Region

**Achievements:**

At the inception of the operation, a team of three regional staff loaned from the Zambia and Zimbabwe Red Cross Society were involved in jump-starting the operation in Namibia. The team came from countries of similar experience and were instrumental in setting up the operation and provided the necessary capacity building of their counterparts in the areas of camp management, health, logistics and warehouse management, water, sanitation and shelter. The deployment of the Regional Disaster Response Team underscores the importance of the use and the strengthening of regional capacities in the Southern Africa Red Cross Societies (SAPRCS). This was further demonstrated by holding a Regional disaster response exercise by the Regional Delegation in Harare, Zimbabwe. The Regional Delegation supported efforts to improve the effective functioning of the operation.

**Constraints:**

No particular constraints observed.

**Objective 11:** Monitoring and Evaluation

**Achievements:**

As in every other project, evaluation plays a major role in the implementation of the project. Ten monitoring and evaluation visits were conducted by the Regional Delegation to ensure a well functioning operation. This provided an opportunity to review plans and strategies for the operation. The donors associated with funding of the Osire operation equally visited the project to acquaint themselves on the operations of the project. Representatives of Belgium, Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland and ECHO and the Red Cross Societies from USA, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland made visits.

## ***Conclusion***

The NRCS, not having had any previous experience working within refugee operations, had a steep learning curve during the year 2000. The difficulties encountered were almost all overcome without affecting the operation and delivery of aid to the beneficiaries. This is a great credit to the National Society and their supporting colleagues from the Federation.

A strong 'lesson learnt' was that when accepting to take over as a partner with the UNHCR from an NGO; early and expedite measures by the national society to ensure that the budget is adequate, is essential.

The sharp rise in the numbers of refugees which came into the camp after the NRCS took over proved difficult, particularly as there was no proportionate increase in either the UNHCR or the Federation budgets. This meant that many of the extra activities needed have not taken place and that there were times when there was inadequate shelter. It is considered imperative that forecasting and the requisite notification to donors is carried out at a timely stage in order to enable support to arrive in time to alleviate the situation.

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



<b>Appeal No &amp; title: 36/99 Namibia: Angolan refugees</b>						
<b>Period: year 1999, 2000, 2001 provisional</b>						
<b>Project(s): PNA506, PNA507</b>						
<b>Currency: CHF</b>						
<b>III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures</b>						
Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel	Expenditures	
<b>SUPPLIES</b>						
Shelter & Construction	1,278,000	218,977	1,125,000		1,343,977	(65,977)
Clothing & Textiles	155,000	19,173	4,946		24,119	130,881
Food/Seeds						
Water	280,000	471,703	234,797		706,500	(426,500)
Medical & First Aid	15,000	3,685			3,685	11,315
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools	4,000	3,481			3,481	519
Other relief supplies		14,317	65,948		80,265	(80,265)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,732,000</b>	<b>731,337</b>	<b>1,430,691</b>		<b>2,162,028</b>	<b>(430,028)</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles		457			457	(457)
Computers & Telecom equip.	17,000	66,179			66,179	(49,179)
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures		2,538			2,538	(2,538)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>69,174</b>			<b>69,174</b>	<b>(52,174)</b>
<b>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>194,445</b>			<b>194,445</b>	<b>(114,445)</b>
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>194,445</b>			<b>194,445</b>	<b>(114,445)</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>						
Personnel (delegates)	77,000	107,953			107,953	(30,953)
Personnel (local staff)	98,000	284,478			284,478	(186,478)
Training						
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>392,430</b>			<b>392,430</b>	<b>(217,430)</b>
<b>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts		9,709			9,709	(9,709)
Travel & related expenses	26,000	33,273			33,273	(7,273)
Information expenses	3,000	3,600			3,600	(600)
Administrative expenses	15,000	17,589			17,589	(2,589)
External workshops & Seminars						
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>64,171</b>			<b>64,171</b>	<b>(20,171)</b>
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>84,899</b>			<b>84,899</b>	<b>(4,899)</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS</b>						
Transfer to National Societies						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>2,128,000</b>	<b>1,536,456</b>	<b>1,430,691</b>		<b>2,967,147</b>	<b>(839,147)</b>
<b>Consumption rate:</b>	Expenditures versus income		98%			
	Expenditures versus budget		139%			

NAMIBIA - ANGOLAN REFUGEES						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 36/99		PLEDGES RECEIVED			03/27/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				2,128,000	01/01/99	144.65%
BELGIUM - GOVT/RC		150,899	EUR	237,289	26.04.00	WATSAN PROJECT WATER IMPROVEMENT & EXPANSION
ECHO - BELGIUM RC		129,000	EUR	200,892	14.07.00	
FINLAND - RC		50,456	EUR	80,674	17.01.00	
FINLAND - RC		30,637	EUR	51,199	04.12.00	
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				1,647,474	CHF	77.42%
<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 TENTS
BRITISH - GOVT				1,125,000	01/10/00	
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 HAN CLOTHES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				1,430,691	CHF	67.23%
<b>NOT REQUESTED IN APPEAL</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
UNHCR		536,399	USD	951,304	03.04.00	CARE & MAINTENANCE OF REFUGEES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				951,304	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PNA506						

