

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

*8 January, 2000*

*appeal no. 36/99*

*situation report no. 8*

*period covered: 21 October to 22 December 2000*

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*The security situation in Angola and the region continues to evolve and remains unpredictable, and the potential for an ongoing influx of new arrivals is an ongoing reality. The Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) and the Federation continue to deliver high-quality assistance and services to a growing refugee population, but this operation continues to be critically hampered by limited donor support and insufficient funds. The NRCS are also anxious that a meeting take place in the near future to address the most pressing shelter and relief needs of over 4,000 particularly vulnerable refugees.*

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### ***The context***

The situation remains bleak in the ongoing conflict in Angola, with instability in other areas of the Great Lakes region also causing significant population displacements. The conflict has resulted in increased numbers of refugees fleeing into Namibia seeking protection and shelter. On arrival refugees are transported from the transit areas and Rundu, the main entry point, to Osire refugee camp located approximately 671 km from Rundu and 250 km from Windhoek. In November, 2000, according to the official figures from UNHCR and the office of the camp administrator operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the camp population reached 16,733 -- an increase of 1,398 new arrivals during the period under review.

The Namibia Red Cross Society, supported by the International Federation, launched an appeal in December 1999 to address the urgent humanitarian needs of refugees, focusing on the water and sanitation, shelter and preventative health sectors. The NRCS and the Federation were requested by UNHCR and the Namibian government to assume full responsibility for overall camp management. Maintenance and care assistance is provided in the sectors of food and non-food distribution, logistics and warehousing management, reception, screening, tracing activities, provision of primary health care, community services and education.

## ***Latest events***

With the unpredictable nature of the conflict in southern Angola, the overall security situation throughout the region remains of concern. The reporting period was also punctuated by an unfortunate misunderstanding between the Namibia Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Home Affairs, with two visiting American Red Cross Society staff members denied entry into the camps. They had planned to conduct an assessment on reproductive health as part of the African Initiative, focusing on uplifting the standards for women. Reacting to this situation, the Namibia Red Cross Society withdrew most of its staff members from Osire, leaving one staff member and an ambulance driver to ensure a minimum degree of services and management. The situation was effectively resolved following discussions and mutual clarification.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

The NRCS and the Federation continue to provide quality maintenance and care to the refugees in all sectors, including reproductive health, education, community services.

### **Tracing and Reception •**

Red Cross messages are being distributed and collected on a daily basis. The table below summarizes the monthly statistics for Osire Refugee Camp.

Collected/Received:	Distributed/Outgoing:
21 October - 31 October	21 October - 31 October
155	82
1 November - 30 November	1 November - 30 November
124	200
1 December - 12 December	1 December - 12 December
-	228

Due to the persistent conflict in Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, and the DRC there is a lack of access to the remote villages and towns and tracing messages are not reaching the intended families, thus making it difficult to trace the families of those affected by the conflict.

### **Logistics, Food distribution management, and Warehousing •**

The NRCS Food Management and Logistics Unit at Osire refugees camp is responsible for the stocking and distribution of food and non-food items to all the refugees in Osire camp. A particularly challenging logistical activity is the provision of assistance to newly arrived refugees transferred to Onambatu from the Oshikango border post, located some 800 kms from Osire. In order to improve the delivery of assistance to these beneficiaries a stock of emergency food and non-food items will be maintained at the Onambatu transit camp.

New arrivals crossing at the Rundu border are received and assisted at the Kasava transit camp. All new arrivals are issued with non-food items and emergency food. A total 470 new arrivals were served with food and non-food items during the period under review.

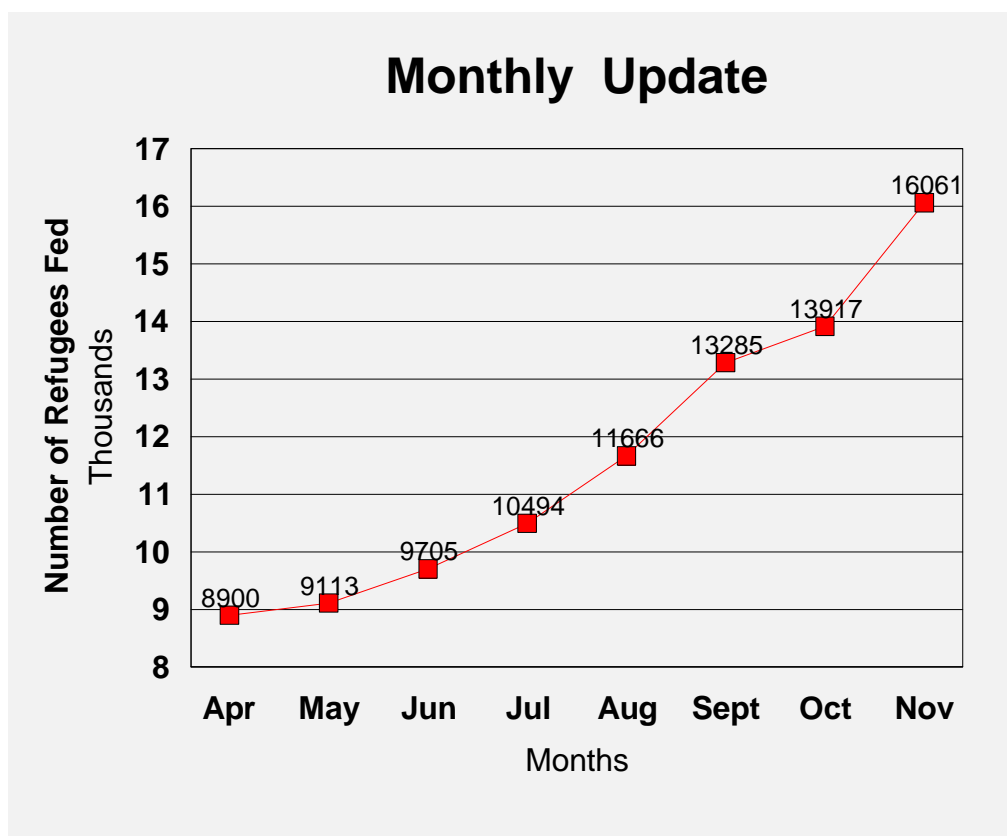
WFP, NRCS and UNHCR also issued new ration cards, and new ration cards continue to be issued to new arrivals.

**Non-food item distribution •**

The table below summarizes items distributed and the number of beneficiaries served during the reporting period:

Total no. of Ben.	Items Issued	Quantities Issued
899	Pots: Large Medium Small	66 137 213
899	Mattress: 3/4 Single	272 205
899	Stoves: Double Single	96 111
899	Buckets	237
899	Eating Utensils: Plates Cups Spoons	0 0 800
470	Blankets	427

The graph below reflects the increase in refugees fed since April, 2000.



**Paraffin distribution**

November was a critical period for both UNHCR and the Red Cross regarding the financial capacity to respond to the basic needs of the refugees. Paraffin shortages were experienced at the camp for two months. The American embassy in Namibia provided timely assistance by funding the purchase of paraffin to support the refugee needs. A total of 60,951 litres of paraffin was delivered and 59,030 litres were distributed to 15,036 beneficiaries in the camp. Each beneficiary is entitled to 4 litres of paraffin at the camp, a ration that meets the Sphere minimum standard.

**Health Care •**

The training of the trainee nurses has begun, with the trainees taking part in the immunization of 40 mothers and children. The training will continue for the next three months. 14 nurses participated in a workshop for an expanded programme on immunization, control of diarrhoea diseases, acute respiratory tract infection and physical examination of patients. There is a tremendous reduction in the incidence of diarrhoea cases, from 298 in September 2000 to 105 in November, 2000. The leading causes of morbidity remained the same with the leading cause being respiratory infection followed by diarrhoea. For the month of November only 6 deaths were recorded, giving a crude mortality rate of 0.31/d/10000, and under 5 mortality rate of 0.996/d/10000 which is higher than the previous month. Despite this, mortality rates remain within the Sphere standards.

**Supplementary feeding programme/ community based growth monitoring**

The attendance of the supplementary feeding program is increasing as tracing mechanisms are now in place. The community health workers are working closely with the community and the feeding centre volunteers. The output from the work of the health workers is encouraging and promising, and further positive signs are expected. Growth monitoring of children under five years is done by the health workers among the community and needs to be strengthened. Records keeping and the use of tools for health education is being encouraged on daily basis.

Block	Weighed	Not Weighed	Total
1 - 20	294	110	404
21	585	0	585
Tents	836		836
Total	1,715	110	1,825

Reproductive health continues to be an issue, and there is a need to train the Traditional Birth Attendants who conduct deliveries in the camp. Candidates have been identified pending training by the Ministry of Health.

**Immunization**

A campaign to verify immunization, nutrition as well as the vitamin A status and update the records has been undertaken progress.

Anti gem	BCG	OPV	DPT	Measles	TT
Total	15	70	70	10	13

The attendance rate is lower as compared to the previous months, a campaign has been launched to improve the attendance by involving community health workers in a door to door exercise.

**Water, Sanitation, and Shelter •**

**Shelter**

The camp is experiencing a critical shortage of shelter due to the lack of funds. Reception centres are filled to capacity, provoking overcrowding with families or relatives, and in churches and classrooms. A total of 4,426 refugees are currently without shelter. With the recent influx of refugees and new arrivals who require shelter, UNHCR have managed to purchase 2,000 iron sheets for 143 shelters. The

refugee committee members together with the Red Cross construction team have worked together to identify 150 tents being used for roofing, and have exchanged them with iron sheets. The recuperated tents will be given to the new arrivals, thereby providing shelter for an estimated 1,200 beneficiaries. However, with the rainy season in process the shortage still needs to be urgently resolved.

### ***Sanitation***

A total of 600 latrines have been constructed and are in use, but the latrine construction activity has been curtailed due to the lack of financial support. With the current influx of refugees and increased camp population there is need to construct 400 family latrines to alleviate the sanitation conditions in the camp.

### ***Water***

during the period under review there were many improvements in the supply of water to the refugees in Osire Camp. Ten (10) new water points with six taps apiece were added to the system, and all the taps in the existing system were replaced with user friendly taps. The system is run from two water tanks (95,000 litre capacity each) powered by six solar powered pumps. Refugees receive in excess of 20 litres person per day, surpassing the Sphere minimum requirement of at least 15 litres person per day.

There are also 31 water points fitted with user friendly hand pumps. The day to day maintenance of the pumps is done by a team of refugees who have been trained to carry out maintenance work.

### ***Education •***

The selection of students to be sponsored was completed, although with the education sector suffering from a serious lack of funding there are many more applicants than places. There are currently 1,915 children enrolled at the Osire Primary School, supported by 27 teachers. There is a need to increase the capacity of the school since a significant number of school age children have been left out due to a shortage of facilities. In addition, some 510 refugee students from Osire are being supported by UNHCR in secondary schools around the country. An additional 300 students are at the language learning institute supported by the Rossing Foundation in Windhoek.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Previous reports have emphasized the fact that a large portion of the recorded contributions is based on the valuable British Red Cross in-kind donations of tents, and this has appeared to inflate the coverage of the appeal. In order to provide quality services additional assistance is required in terms of shelter (800 tents) and the supplies to construct 400 family latrines. There are approximately 4,426 refugees currently living without adequate shelter and proper sanitation facilities.

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

The operation continues to enjoy effective co-operation with key stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Home Affairs and UNHCR. Embassy's in Windhoek are in constant contact with the NRCS, in many cases through PNSs. Regular meetings are held with the Government and UNHCR at the 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.

Head ai  
Relationship Management Department

Head  
Africa Department

**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			01/05/01	
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
ECHO		129,000	EUR	200,892	14.07.00	WATER IMPROVEMENT & EXPANSION
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	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				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
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 CLOTHES
<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
UNHCR		536,399	USD	951,304	03.04.00	CARE & MAINTENANCE OF REFUGEES
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				951,304	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PNA506						