

Namibia

Main objectives

Enhance the capacity of UNHCR and implementing partners to respond to the continuing influx of refugees to effectively address their care and maintenance needs, while progressively helping to restore their coping mechanisms; conduct training of UNHCR and implementing partner staff to ensure delivery of required services; ensure that protection, assistance and management practices take sufficient account of women, children, and adolescents, sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), HIV/AIDS, and the environment; mobilise support for UNHCR's objectives and mandate; provide institutional support to the Government of Namibia to maintain an open door policy towards refugees; ensure security in, and around the refugee camp and arrange for the separation of military elements from civilians.

Impact

- Through regular contact and co-operation with the Government, new arrivals and asylum-seekers were received and referred to UNHCR for advice and assistance before being transported to the Osire camp. Unlike previous years, there were no reports of *refoulement* in 2002.
- The establishment of a new hospital in the camp drastically reduced the number of medical referrals to other hospitals. 95 per cent of children were immunised, and the mortality rate dropped to five per 1,000 per year. Similarly, the nutritional level of refugees in the camp was improved from 1.4 per cent (acute malnutrition) to 13.4 per cent (the global nutrition rate).
- The incidence of water-borne diseases fell after the contaminated water system was cleaned. The camp residents had access to 15 litres of clean water per person per day.
- Approximately 90 per cent of the children in the camp (some 8,000) were enrolled in schools. The number of classrooms increased by 150 per cent during the year (though over fifty classes



are still taught in the open air). Electricity was installed in all classrooms. Girls accounted for almost 50 per cent of the school population.

- Refugees received monthly rations, construction materials and domestic items. Special items such as crutches, footwear and wheelchairs were distributed to refugees with special needs, and other vulnerable groups.
- In the absence of income generation activities by the Government, refugees were trained in art, craft, and small-scale business administration.

Working environment

The context

The Government maintained its open door policy and admitted people entering the country overland in search of asylum. Police and immigration officials

at the entry points were co-operative and there were no reports of *refoulement*.

The peace agreement signed on 4 April 2002 in Angola had a positive impact on the refugee situation in Namibia. The security situation along the border between the two countries improved and the curfew imposed since 2001, at certain border points was lifted. The number of security-related incidents along the border areas decreased and people crossed the border in relative tranquility. Nevertheless, Kavango, Caprivi and Ohangwena regions in the northeast and northwest of Namibia remained under the UN security phase two.

In 2002, 2,651 new arrivals sought asylum in Namibia (84 per cent Angolans and 16 per cent from the Great Lakes Region). At the end of the year, the population of Osire refugee camp and Kassava Transit Centre was 19,445 (48 per cent females and 52 per cent males). In general, Angolan refugees accounted for 95 per cent of the camp population. The remaining five per cent originated from 15 other African countries.

As stipulated in the 1999 Namibian Refugee Act, free movement of refugees in the country remained restricted. Refugees and asylum-seekers residing in the Osire refugee camp and Kassava Reception/Transit Centre could not travel freely to other parts

of the country. Any travel outside the camp for education, health or a simple visit required a written permit from the camp administrator (who was a government representative).

Constraints

The Government did not favour local integration of refugees for fear, of security risks, and of increased competition with the local population in an already hard-pressed labour market.

The unexpected withdrawal of UNHCR's main implementing partner from the refugee operations at the end of 2001, created some confusion. However, this was resolved with the co-operation and immediate availability of three new implementing partners in 2002.

The delay in procurement and delivery of vehicles until late December 2002 hampered the work of the implementing partners. Some of the hired vehicles or used public transport, which resulted in unforeseen expenses.

Funding

Although the programme was fully funded, the late disbursement of funds caused delays in implementing some activities, such as the

Persons of Concern

Main Origin / Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Angola (Refugees)	21,600	15,600	50	63
Returnees (from Botswana)	1,010	1,010	-	-
Asylum-seekers	770	770	31	34
DRC (Refugees)	530	530	-	-

Income and Expenditure (USD)

	Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
AB	5,028,137	2,285,889	2,392,057	4,677,946	4,527,942
SB	69,875	0	10,875	10,875	10,875
Total	5,098,012	2,285,889	2,402,932	4,688,821	4,538,817

¹ Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments. The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

completion of the new water supply system in the camps. A government donor financed the construction of a 24-bed hospital and a kindergarten at Osire refugee camp. Medical equipment for the hospital was supplied by some implementing partners and a private company. A church funded the construction of a school library and financed the construction of the Women's Centre in Osire camp.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

A total of 2,651 new arrivals were registered in Osire refugee camp in 2002. Of these, 2,234 Angolans were accorded refugee status on a *prima facie* basis. The backlog of asylum claims and the shortage of staff at the Ministry of Home Affairs caused delays in determining new cases. In September, with the intervention of UNHCR, an independent organisation was contracted by the Government to carry out individual interviews. Some 150 asylum-seekers were interviewed and recommendations were submitted to the Namibia Refugee Committee. Some 81 cases were examined by the Committee, 48 cases were granted refugee status, five were rejected and the rest required a further interview. UNHCR organised two training sessions on international refugee law for newly recruited immigration officers, implementing partners, police and government officials.

To provide physical security to refugees and humanitarian workers, the Government assigned 50 police officers to the camps.

A total of 49 cases (five Angolans, 10 Burundians, 33 DRC Congolese and one Rwandan) voluntarily repatriated to their countries with UNHCR's assistance. Following a tripartite agreement between the Governments of Namibia and Botswana and UNHCR in Windhoek in April 2002, a group of 1,010 Namibians (predominantly of the San tribe), who had been refugees in Dukwe camp in Botswana since 1998, repatriated to the Caprivi region of Namibia. Food rations for three months were provided by WFP as their home regions were affected by drought.

During the reporting period, 13 people were resettled (seven Angolans, two Burundians, two DRC Congolese and two Rwandese).

Assistance activities

Community services: A women's association was established in the Osire refugee camp and a centre was constructed to increase women's participation in camp activities. Women accounted for 80 per cent of food distribution work and participated in camp management. UNHCR conducted a camp-wide census of unaccompanied minors. Some 36 unaccompanied minors were identified and their needs were addressed. Cultural groups performed at special celebrations and more than 65 youths participated in a "cultural recreation day". Conferences and cultural activities were organised weekly during school holidays. Several trainings on HIV/AIDS were organised in the camp and an expert provided by an NGO trained 25 refugees. Refugees suffering from HIV/AIDS were counselled and assistance was provided. Disabled and older refugees were identified and given special care and attention.

An awareness campaign on SGBV was organised among refugees and humanitarian workers. A code of conduct was introduced for all UNHCR and NGO staff. The Government took disciplinary action against employees implicated in SGBV at the camp. An SGBV committee was established in October which met every month to discuss reported cases of violence. Refugees were informed of the committee's functions and duties and encouraged to co-operate.

Sports organised in the camp included soccer, basketball, volleyball, boxing, karate and athletics. Refugee coaches were hired to train boys and girls. Osire United Football Club participated in the regional soccer league and won bronze medals.

Domestic needs/household support: Relief items such as kerosene, soap, blankets, jerry cans, cooking stoves, vaseline, mattresses and sanitary materials were distributed to new arrivals.

Education: Over 1,500 children (girls and boys in roughly equal numbers) were registered at two kindergartens in the camp and 20 female refugee teachers looked after them. Some 5,450 students attended primary school at Osire camp and over 100 students attended primary school at the Kassava transit centre. A total of 147 refugee teachers were recruited. Three physically handicapped, primary school students were assisted.



Angolan refugees in Osire camp, near Windhoek. *UNHCR*

Educational materials and school supplies for over 400 students at Osire Junior Secondary School were supplied by an implementing partner. Assistance was also provided for 30 students taking distance learning courses. Since the Osire camp did not have senior secondary education facilities, students were sponsored to attend national schools outside the camp. Over 600 secondary students (451 boys and 154 girls) enrolled and attended 31 schools in the country. Some 50 students were enrolled at vocational training centres (16 in Okahanja, 33 in Windhoek, and one in a polytechnic in Windhoek). The Foreign Language Training institute at Osire had a total of 1,344 (566 male and 778 female) students.

Food: WFP continued to provide basic food assistance and supplementary food items to refugees. Some 3,700 metric tons of food were distributed to refugees on a monthly basis. The average ration had an energy content of 2,100 kilocalories per person per day. Although the ration was better than the previous year, malnutrition amongst children under the age of five persisted. Over 750 refugees were admitted to the supplementary feeding centre.

Forestry: Tree-planting efforts continued in Osire camp during 2002. Almost 600 seedlings received from the Forestry Department were planted. Another 750 seedlings (fruit and forest trees) were distributed to refugees to be planted in their yards.

Health/nutrition: Preventive and curative health services were provided to refugees, with special emphasis on the needs of young persons, mothers and children. In addition to the existing health clinic at Osire camp, a new 24-bed hospital commissioned in July 2002 was completed. The preventive health department trained and utilised the services of a

team of 40 health promoters. The team conducted health education and training sessions on: HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, reproductive health, nutrition and breastfeeding, immunisation, personal hygiene and sanitation. The five major diseases reported in the camp were respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea, malaria, intestinal worms, and skin diseases.

The crude morbidity rate for the year was five per thousand per year and the crude birth rate was 265 per 10,000. There were 96 deaths in all (62 under the age of five and 34 above the age of five).

Income generation: The authorities were reluctant to implement income-generating activities for refugees as they felt that new skills and refugee income would threaten the local population. The refugees did, however, benefit from training provided by UNHCR in art, crafts, and small-scale business administration.

Legal assistance: The Ministry of Home Affairs was the main government counterpart for UNHCR. Through its Commissioner for Refugees, the Ministry was responsible for screening asylum claims, registration of refugees and camp administration as well as ensuring law and order in the camp.

Operational support (to agencies): In 2002, UNHCR worked closely with the Government, UN agencies, embassies and its implementing partners in order to ensure an effective delivery of assistance to the refugees. In addition, the donor community received regular briefings, and frequent visits to the refugee camp were organised.

Sanitation: Refugees received health education training in the camp. Refugees were encouraged to dig family pits for the disposal of refuse. A clean-up campaign every fortnight was organised by the health staff, in collaboration with the camp administrator and refugee leaders. The total number of latrines increased by 74 per cent from 2001 to 2002. The ratio of usage improved to 10-15 persons (two to three families) per latrine.

Shelter/other infrastructure: Refugee families were provided with adequate living space, community facilities and access to services. 960 houses in Osire

camp and 30 houses in Kassava settlement were in need of repairs. At the beginning of the year, lack of prioritisation of resources led to delays in the procurement and delivery of construction materials. All tents in stock, including 276 donated by UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie, had to be distributed to the refugees as an interim measure. By the end of the year, more than 380 houses were repaired in Osire and another 45 in Kassava.

Transport/logistics: UNHCR transported over 1,700 new arrivals from the Rundu/Katima entry points to Osire refugee camp in 2002. Temporary accommodation was provided to refugees at the Kassava Transit Centre. Transportation of refugees/asylum-seekers from Windhoek to the camp and back was organised when required. A total of 1,010 Namibian returnees from the Botswana border were transported to their places of origin. Goods and services were delivered throughout the year. Due to the financial constraints, there was a delay in the delivery of new vehicles to replace old ones. In the meantime, some implementing partners hired vehicles or used public transport for their work.

Water: During the reporting period, refugees received their water supply from 38 boreholes installed with hand pumps. However, the ground water was determined by the Namibian Water Authorities to be contaminated. Water had to be pumped into large surface tanks, chlorinated and distributed by pipes to all sections of the camp. The residents were supplied with 15 litres of clean and treated water per person per day.

Organisation and implementation

Management

In 2002, UNHCR operated in Namibia with six international staff, 18 national staff, one JPO and two UNVs. UNHCR maintained offices in Windhoek, Osire, Oshakati and Rundu.

Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with the Government, UN agencies, UN country team, embassies and its implementing partners to ensure effective delivery

of assistance to the refugees. The Ministry of Home Affairs was the main government counterpart for UNHCR in 2002 and implemented protection-related activities through its Commissioner for Refugees. UNHCR also worked with three NGOs who undertook activities in the education, health, water, sanitation, transport and logistics, shelter and community services sectors. UNHCR continued to collaborate with WFP for the provision of basic food commodities and supplementary food items.

Overall assessment

In 2002, UNHCR and its three new partners managed to deliver better services than in previous years. The Office was fully staffed in 2002. There were tangible improvements in the protection of refugees and persons of concern. There were also improvements in all services in the refugee camps, including health and nutrition, water and sanitation, education, community services and shelter.

Angolans, who made up 95 per cent of the Namibian refugee population, are expected to repatriate in the course of 2003 and 2004. UNHCR's presence will be required in the future, albeit at a reduced level, in order to continue to provide protection to the remaining refugee population in the country. In this respect, UNHCR will continue to work on capacity-building at the Ministry of Home Affairs, responsible for refugee affairs in the country.

Offices

Windhoek
Oshakati
Osire
Rundu

Partners

Government Agencies
The Ministry of Home Affairs
NGOs
Africare
African Humanitarian Action
Jesuit Refugee Services

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects			Prior Years' Projects		
	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total	notes	Annual Programme Budget	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	661,725	10,875	672,600		46,825	
Community Services	37,522	0	37,522		18,960	
Domestic Needs/Household Support	286,828	0	286,828		131,760	
Education	866,515	0	866,515		518,570	
Food	96	0	96		35,581	
Forestry	3,922	0	3,922		3,055	
Health/Nutrition	212,132	0	212,132		112,392	
Income Generation	3,134	0	3,134		2,858	
Legal Assistance	182,763	0	182,763		52	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	515,265	0	515,265		102,811	
Sanitation	31,181	0	31,181		0	
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	122,273	0	122,273		5,845	
Transport/Logistics	163,215	0	163,215		69,592	
Water	58,584	0	58,584		6,523	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	532,635	0	532,635		(895,937)	
Sub-total Operational	3,677,789	10,875	3,688,664		158,888	
Programme Support	541,677	0	541,677		0	
Sub-total Disbursements/Deliveries	4,219,466	10,875	4,230,341	(3)	158,888	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	308,476	0	308,476	(3)	0	
Total	4,527,942	10,875	4,538,817	(1) (3)	158,888	
Instalments with Implementing Partners						
Payments Made	3,507,997	0	3,507,997		23,139	
Reporting Received	2,975,362	0	2,975,362		919,076	
Balance	532,635	0	532,635		(895,937)	
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		914,206	
Refunded to UNHCR	0	0	0		(4,492)	
Currency Adjustment	0	0	0		(58,657)	
Outstanding 31 December	532,635	0	532,635		(35,896)	
Unliquidated Obligations						
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		309,099	(5)
New Obligations	4,527,942	10,875	4,538,817	(1)	0	
Disbursements	4,219,466	10,875	4,230,341	(3)	186,720	(5)
Cancellations	0	0	0		122,379	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	308,476	0	308,476	(3)	0	(5)

Figures which cross-reference to Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(5) Schedule 5