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**Executive Board  
Annual Session**

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# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information\**



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2009) — NAMIBIA 200061

### Assistance to Refugees and Asylum Seekers Residing at the Osire Settlement in Namibia

Number of beneficiaries	6,500
Duration of project	24 months (1 January 2010–31 December 2011)
WFP food tonnage	2,278 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	1,318,431
Total cost to WFP	1,896,367

\* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information**

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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## ABSTRACT

1. The civil war that broke out in Angola in 1974/75 caused an exodus of refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom – up to 23,000 – fled into Namibia. When the civil war ended in 2002, the Government of Namibia, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government of Angola signed an agreement that enabled voluntary repatriation. Between July 2003 and December 2005, 11,300 Angolan refugees returned home.
2. At present, 6,500 refugees and asylum seekers remain in the Osire refugee camp and receive WFP food assistance through protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200061. The Angolan refugees' reluctance to repatriate is generally based on fear of persecution or discrimination and on loss of family ties and lack of economic prospects in their areas of origin.
3. A joint assessment mission (JAM) in June 2009 reaffirmed the conclusion of earlier missions that most refugees and asylum seekers living in the Osire settlement were dependent on food assistance for survival and did not have the skills or inputs to support themselves.
4. An official policy of confinement, with consequent limited access to arable land and work opportunities, further aggravates the vulnerability of the refugees. The 2009 JAM concluded, however, that nearly half of the refugee population showed potential for increased self-sufficiency if they had greater freedom of movement and access to a broader range of basic services.
5. The Government of Namibia contributes to the provision of shelter, education and healthcare, and ensures the security of refugees at Osire. WFP and UNHCR are in discussion with the Government to identify and implement durable solutions such as local integration and voluntary repatriation.
6. WFP food assistance targets food-insecure groups; a three-month ration is also provided for individuals who integrate or repatriate voluntarily. WFP also supports a small caseload of malnourished children and debilitated adults through a supplementary feeding programme. In line with Strategic Objectives 1 and 3, WFP assistance will: i) protect the livelihoods of 6,500 refugees and asylum seekers in Namibia through food assistance to meet their basic food and nutritional needs; and ii) support voluntary repatriation and local integration by providing a three-month ration to ensure smooth transition.
7. In 2010, WFP and UNHCR will assess levels of self-reliance in the absence of external food assistance among refugees and asylum seekers in the Osire settlement and the potential for reducing WFP's level of assistance.