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International Conference on the Plight of Refugees,  
Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 44/136 of 15 December 1989, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, held at Oslo from 22 to 24 October 1988, and reaffirmed the need to continue the implementation of the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa adopted by the Conference (see A/43/717 and Corr.1 and Add.1). In that resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, (a) called upon the international community to provide increased assistance to the countries of southern Africa to enable them to strengthen their capacity to provide the necessary facilities and services for the care and well-being of the refugees; and (b) urged all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake the measures as required of them under the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action.

2. The General Assembly also decided to consider the question at its forty-fifth session on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General. The present report has been prepared in response to that decision.

## II. ACTION TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

### A. Responses received from Member States

#### Australia

1. Australia's Special Assistance Programme for South Africans and Namibians disadvantaged by apartheid is a regional programme, which, inter alia, goes towards assisting South African and Namibian refugees and returnees. Examples are:

(a) Bursaries and training programmes for refugees (\$A 756,000 in 1989/90);

(b) \$A 520,000 provided in June 1989 as emergency assistance for resettlement of South African refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania;

(c) \$A 115,000 was recently provided to the Australian Council of Churches for dormitories for the Hoachanas School in Namibia. This assistance is for Namibian returnees and is provided through the Namibian Council of Churches' Repatriation, Resettlement and Reconstruction Committee;

(d) Australia funds several other Australian non-governmental organizations that provide assistance, mainly in the form of training, to South African or Namibian refugees. One particular organization was provided with funds totalling \$A 933,000 for several education and training programmes for South African refugees in 1989/90;

(e) \$A 187,000 was recently provided via the non-governmental organizations APHEDA to assist with the establishment of the new national co-ordination committee in South Africa. This body, which is organized largely by the churches in South Africa, and is broadly supported by liberation movements, will have responsibility for the repatriation of refugees.

2. In 1989/90, refugee and relief assistance totalling \$A 8.53 million was provided to southern African countries. While the level of support reflects Australia's recognition of the increased burdens placed on these countries by large numbers of refugees and displaced people, it should be noted that some of this assistance was also directed to local people:

	<u>\$A million</u>
<u>Mozambique</u>	
18,000 MT maize plus freight plus internal costs. This food was distributed by Care Australia and World Vision Australia (WVA)	4.692
300 MT vegetable oil (to WVA)	0.557
AGPAKS and staff support subsidies (WVA/CARE)	0.466
<u>Malawi</u>	
5,000 MT maize (channelled through the World Food Programme (WFP) for Mozambican refugees)	1.732
Clothing for refugees and provision of water supply for vegetable gardens for refugees and Malawians (AUSTCARE)	0.501
<u>Namibia</u>	
Construction of a hostel for returnee children at Katutura township (CAA)	0.250
<u>United Republic of Tanzania</u>	
Flood relief - food and seeds (WFP)	0.068
<u>Zambia</u>	
Supplementary foods for refugees (WFP)	0.170
Provision of assistance to help counter a cholera epidemic	0.025

\$A million

Zimbabwe

Assistance to Mozambican refugees in Chambuta Camp (WVA)	0.070
Total refugee/relief assistance to southern Africa	<u>8.529</u>

3. A total of \$A 1.1 million was provided in 1989/90 as project subsidies through Australian non-governmental organizations for projects covering both refugees and indigenous people in southern Africa:

Australian dollars

Botswana	85 000
Malawi	353 187
Mozambique	90 000
United Republic of Tanzania	74 105
Zambia	35 430
Zimbabwe	<u>470 065</u>
Total non-governmental organizations project subsidies	<u>1 107 787</u>

Finland

The following assistance was granted by the Government of Finland during 1989 and the first half of 1990 in response to the request for assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa:

Finnish marks

Repatriation, through UNHCR, of Mozambican refugees	2 000 000
Repatriation, through UNHCR, of Namibian refugees	10 500 000
Mozambican refugees, through the Finnish Red Cross	400 000
Namibian refugees, through the Lutheran Church of Finland	6 429 000
Mozambican refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania, through the Lutheran Church of Finland	430 000
Mozambican refugees in South Africa, through the Lutheran Church of Finland	215 000

Finnish marks

Africa (annual programme) through UNHCR	3 000 000
Mozambican refugees in South Africa, through UNHCR	1 000 000

Germany, Federal Republic of

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany views the solution of the problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa in the context of political developments in the region.
2. Developments in southern Africa during the past year have shown clearly that a true solution of the refugee problem has to be preceded by a cessation of the violent conflicts that brought it about. The implementation of the United Nations settlement plan for Namibia has furnished impressive proof that the united support of the international community can enable refugees to return to their homeland even after an absence of years. The programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to which the Federal Government gave generous financial support, offered all Namibians the opportunity to return to their homeland in peace and without incident.
3. The political change emerging in South Africa has moved the return of the exiled followers of the African National Congress (ANC) closer to reality. It is to be hoped that the talks between the Government of South Africa and the ANC will soon succeed in creating the conditions for a return of all South Africans presently in exile. The continuing civil war in Angola and Mozambique, on the other hand, is creating new refugees daily. The community of nations has to keep urging an end to these wars. The parties to the civil war remain called upon to find ways to settle their conflicts by political means.
4. The Federal Government continues its aid programmes for refugees in southern Africa. Foremost among these are measures to aid vocational and advanced training as well as vocational integration after repatriation. They are accompanied by humanitarian assistance designed to ease the lot of the refugees and by development-oriented programmes.
5. Specifically, the Federal Government supports measures benefiting refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa by contributing to both the regular budget and the special programmes of UNHCR, with funds from its bilateral and multilateral development co-operation budgets, with humanitarian aid funds and by means of special programmes for student refugees from that region. In 1989, the Federal Republic of Germany thus helped the successful implementation of the UNHCR programme for the repatriation of Namibian refugees to their homeland with a voluntary contribution of DM 5 million.
6. Under bilateral programmes in 1989, the Federal Government made available food aid worth DM 11.45 million for refugees from Mozambique and Angola. In the same

year, private agencies provided DM 1.1 million for refugee-related measures in Malawi, Swaziland and Namibia. In the multilateral sector, the resettlement of Mozambican refugees in Ukwimi, Zambia, is being supported through UNHCR, in the amount of DM 3 million during the period 1988-1990.

7. Under the humanitarian aid programme, refugees in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe in 1989 received funds amounting to approximately DM 8 million, which were channelled through various organizations, among them UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In addition, the German Otto Benecke Foundation carried out a programme, in the Federal Republic of Germany and abroad, worth DM 10.87 million in 1989 for the vocational and advanced training of refugees from Mozambique, Angola, South Africa and Namibia. For the period 1990-1994, DM 36 million is envisaged for this programme, which serves to enhance the refugees' chances for self-sufficiency in the countries of asylum and their subsequent reintegration into their homelands.

8. The Federal Government will continue its efforts to make an adequate contribution to the solution of the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa.

#### New Zealand

1. New Zealand contributes to a number of multilateral programmes that assist southern African countries to provide facilities and services for the care and well-being of, among others, refugees, returnees and displaced persons in these countries. Up to 50 per cent of New Zealand's contribution of \$NZ 31.3 million to the eighth replenishment of the International Development Association of the World Bank will be spent in least developed countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Since 1986, New Zealand has contributed \$US 100,000 yearly to the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). New Zealand was the first country to contribute to the Special Commonwealth Fund for Mozambique and is currently its fourth largest donor, contributing \$100,000 during 1989/90. New Zealand has also made a substantial contribution to the Nassau Fellowship Programme since it was established in 1985. Its 1989 contribution was \$100,000. New Zealand also contributed \$20,000 in 1989/90 to each of the two United Nations trust funds set up to provide training for black students.

2. New Zealand is a small country with limited capacity to operate bilaterally in Africa. Its bilateral aid programme (\$NZ 1.4 million in 1989/90) is concentrated on long-term economic development of the front-line and neighbouring States of southern Africa. It seems sensible that New Zealand channel most of its refugee funds through multilateral agencies. New Zealand is also of the view that such funds will be best utilized if donors avoid earmarking funds for specific purposes. This will enable the international system to operate effectively, which will in turn mean that resources will be flowing to those in greatest need.

### Spain

1. Spain has contributed 50 million pesetas for financing the repatriation programme of exiled Namibians carried out by UNHCR.
2. In addition, Spain will provide during 1990 financial assistance of 60,000 rand to facilitate the return to the Republic of South Africa of ANC refugees and others now in exile.

### Sweden

1. Half of Sweden's bilateral development assistance currently goes to sub-Saharan Africa. This is a clear reflection of the priority the Government of Sweden attach to that region.
2. For fiscal year 1989/90, an amount of around SKr 550 million was allocated for refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa, out of which:
  - (a) Around SKr 190 million was emergency assistance to Mozambique, which has been channelled directly to the Government of Mozambique as well as through the United Nations system (UNICEF, UNHCR) and through Swedish non-governmental organizations;
  - (b) Around SKr 50 million was emergency assistance to Angola, which has been channelled directly to the Government of Angola, as well as through the United Nations system (UNICEF, UNHCR) and through Swedish non-governmental organizations;
  - (c) Around SKr 60 million went to the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and non-governmental organizations for repatriation and rehabilitation of Namibian refugees;
  - (d) Around SKr 250 million went to the liberation movements, ANC and the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), non-governmental organizations, e.g. churches and scholarship programmes, and to the United Nations trust funds for southern Africa.

### Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

1. In 1989, the USSR continued to provide humanitarian and other types of assistance to refugees and displaced persons in southern Africa. The cost of such assistance amounted to approximately \$4.7 million.
2. Specifically, the USSR participated in operations to transport Namibian refugees studying in the USSR and Eastern European countries to Namibia by means of Soviet air and sea transport at a cost of \$2.9 million. Medicine, tents and blankets costing approximately \$385,000 were provided in the form of disinterested aid to the population of Namibia.



3. At the present time, 122 Namibians and 49 members of the ANC are being trained free of charge in the Soviet Union. The cost of their training in 1989 has amounted to about \$1.5 million.

4. Two transport vessels and two transport aircraft together with their crews have been loaned on a non-reimbursable basis up to the end of 1990 in the form of emergency assistance to the population of Mozambique, which has suffered from attacks by RENAMO bands and natural disasters.

#### United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1. The United Kingdom has continued to respond promptly and generously to the consequences of the continuing emergencies in the region. The United Kingdom joins others in paying tribute to friendly Governments in the region for their efforts to assist those seeking refuge from problems in their country of origin.

2. The United Kingdom strongly supports the efforts of the international organizations such as UNHCR and ICRC in assisting refugees both morally and financially. It also supports the work of non-governmental organizations, which complements the activities of the international organizations.

3. In 1989, the United Kingdom provided £9,659,000 to assist refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa. This included £3,253,000 for refugees in Malawi, £710,000 to ICRC for its work in Angola, food aid valued at £2,950,000 for Mozambique and £2,746,000 to voluntary agencies in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. In the first half of 1990, £7,897,000 was provided, £3,000,000 to UNHCR for refugees in Malawi and £4,897,000 to voluntary agencies in Mozambique.

4. The United Kingdom also committed almost £2,000,000 to projects under the auspices of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, including several in southern African countries, and will continue to contribute at that rate in 1990. Also in 1989, the United Kingdom responded to appeals by UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) for refugees returning to Namibia, with contributions of £500,000 and £650,000, respectively.

#### B. Action taken by the United Nations system

##### United Nations Secretariat

1. In addition to the activities of general co-ordination, the Secretariat takes action in those situations involving large numbers of displaced persons which require the Secretary-General to co-ordinate the work of a number of agencies, or which have a dimension requiring a political approach.

2. The Secretariat has instituted an inter-agency African Emergency Task Force, which monitors and assesses the situation in countries where emergencies have led to the creation of large numbers of displaced persons and/or refugees. It facilitates co-ordination on the implementation of programmes.

3. During the period under review, an inter-agency needs assessment mission was dispatched to Mozambique to review the emergency situation, which continued to generate large numbers of displaced persons. The mission produced a detailed report, reviewing the emergency needs sector by sector, which formed the basis for an appeal to donors by the Secretary-General. In April 1990, the Secretary-General convened a donors conference at United Nations Headquarters, as a result of which some \$US 150 million in new resources was pledged for emergency programmes in Mozambique.

#### United Nations Children's Fund

4. In accordance with UNICEF's mandate, which calls for it to assess needs and provide assistance for the relief, rehabilitation and development of children and families, UNICEF has utilized the framework of its country programmes to respond to the needs of displaced families within southern Africa. These activities have been pursued within the wider framework of co-operation with national Governments, and of collaboration within the United Nations system. In order to assess the magnitude and severity of the problem of internally displaced children, a region-wide study is under way covering Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda. It will focus on children and women displaced primarily by man-made causes such as armed conflict or communal violence or by a combination of man-made and natural causes.

5. During the transition period to Namibian independence, UNICEF, working as part of UNTAG and through UNHCR, organized immunization and related health activities for the Namibian returnees and others. It also enabled women farmers to resume food production activities with seeds and tools, joined a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Government of Sweden team helping with curriculum development, supplied school materials and engaged in other rehabilitation measures. The UNICEF country programme continues to focus on health (national immunisation programme recently launched), household food security and nutrition, education and emergency aid.

6. Over 70,000 Mozambican refugees in Zimbabwe benefited from UNICEF assistance in the provision of essential drugs and the construction of latrines and boreholes, as well as the provision of school supplies and other materials for primary schools in certain refugee camps. An important aspect of this assistance is the provision of skills training for the refugees not only to prepare them for their return to their own country but also to provide some income-generating activities within the camps, such as gardening (vegetables grown are used for supplementary feeding for children and expecting/lactating mothers), sewing and knitting, basket work, carpentry and metalwork. In Malawi, where the official current count of Mozambican refugees is 810,000 (April 1990), UNICEF is seeking funds to maintain the expanded programme of immunization to Mozambican refugee children.

7. The focus of UNICEF assistance to Angola has been the provision of essential services to people displaced because of war and drought in Cuanza Sul, Benguela, Huambo and Moxico provinces, and to communities attempting to resettle and re-establish normal life. The assistance centres on activities supporting basic

health and education services and the construction of shallow wells. In Benguela Province, a new project was prepared aimed at improving family agriculture and food security among the displaced and rural war-affected population. A revised UNICEF emergency appeal, which is encompassed within the parameters of the general emergency appeal issued by the Secretary-General on 27 April 1990, is to be launched shortly in order to provide support in the areas of household food security, supplementary feeding centres, health services, water supply, food and nutritional surveillance, planning and management, and the building of administrative capacity to manage the emergency.

8. In Mozambique, UNICEF assistance in providing short-term relief and survival assistance in 1989 has been delivered mainly in Manica and Zambesia provinces, but also in Tete, Inhambane, Maputo and Niassa. Items provided to displaced people included seeds, cloth and clothing, soap, maize grinders, chicks, fishing boats and construction materials in order to assist communities in the restoration of war-damaged community centre facilities. The major provision of vital medicines and medical supplies was completed in the first quarter of 1989, and amounted to material and logistical support worth \$US 3.4 million over a period of some 18 months. UNICEF emergency programme involvement in projects to support the rehabilitation of food security among displaced families, which began in 1985 for the resettlement of returnees from Zimbabwe in Mossurize and Manica districts, has assisted some 20,000 Mozambican returnees since 1985 and 13 new villages have been established. The project has provided building tools and materials for construction of schools, houses and health posts, supported family farming development, training of community health workers and agricultural extension staff, micro-irrigation development and the rehabilitation of water-supply systems and eight wells.

9. Another project in the Mozambican highland district of Ile, in Zambesia, is being implemented to assist some 28,000 displaced people in 13 centres around the district capital, to reconstruct war-damaged infrastructure, to assist land allocation and resettlement and to re-establish family-level food and artisanal production. A revised UNICEF emergency appeal, covering the requirements for 1990-1991, was recently launched with health, education and water supply for displaced population and emergency relief as major components. As in the case of Ethiopia, the UNICEF appeal here was part of a comprehensive emergency appeal for Mozambique prepared in close co-operation with the Government and launched by the Secretary-General on 26 April 1990.

10. The goals identified by UNICEF, WHO and other United Nations agencies for the decade of the 1990s are particularly pertinent in the southern African region, focusing as they do on primary health care, nutrition and household food security, clean water and sanitation, and basic education, especially for women and girls. In giving children and women in Africa its highest priority in the decade of the 1990s, UNICEF pledges to support SADCC-member countries in their efforts to achieve this goal.

United Nations Development Programme

11. UNDP continues to take action in countries of southern Africa where displacement poses a serious threat to development, by pursuing different approaches that are determined by the requirements and circumstances of each situation.

12. As recommended by the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action and endorsed by the General Assembly, UNDP resident representatives, who are frequently resident co-ordinators of the United Nations system, serve as focal points within the United Nations system in the identification, formulation and implementation of rehabilitation, recovery and development programmes in southern Africa.

13. In order to implement the multi-sectoral actions envisaged by the Oslo Conference, a programme for rehabilitation and development assistance to countries hosting refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa has been developed and submitted for donors' consideration. The aim of the programme is to provide integrated assistance to populations affected by destabilization and to integrate them into economic and social development activities at the regional, national and local levels. The strategy is to integrate development investment with humanitarian assistance while pursuing a policy of rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. The programme framework includes community rehabilitation and development; rehabilitation and development of food production and food security; support for health, education and rural public works activities. In implementing the above projects, UNDP will co-operate closely with the executive heads of UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as with non-governmental organizations.

14. UNDP continues to identify, formulate and implement projects and programmes related to rehabilitation, recovery and development. For example, in Angola, UNDP supports the Southern Reconstruction Programme Phase II, which contributes to the establishment of a sustainable base for the implementation of the southern region reconstruction plan. The project focuses on four priority areas, namely, agriculture, industry, transport and human resources development. In Mozambique, the UNDP Emergency Unit continues to play an important role in serving as liaison between the Government, the United Nations system and the donor community. In Malawi and Zambia, UNDP continues to assist in implementing refugee-related programmes and projects.

15. For 1990-1991, UNDP and UNHCR will collaborate on a joint work programme including: developing a joint strategy for resource mobilization; integrating management training approaches for emergency and longer-term development phases, developing a common UNHCR and UNDP data base on refugee-related matters, as well as the inclusion of the problem "the uprooted" in round-table and consultative group meetings.

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

16. UNDRO has for several years assisted the Governments of countries in southern Africa in mobilizing international relief for displaced persons or returnees,

notably in Angola and Mozambique. In the former, UNDR0 participated in a joint government/United Nations inter-agency assessment mission, from 12 to 21 February 1990, which identified the priority emergency requirements of displaced people in southern Angola. On the basis of the mission's report, the Secretary-General launched an appeal in May 1990. Furthermore, UNDR0 provided technical assistance to the Government's focal point for data processing on the emergency operation, which involves the computerisation of information on the emergency situation.

17. UNDR0's presence in Mozambique dates back to the first international appeal for relief assistance in 1987. In co-operation with the Office of the United Nations Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations, UNDR0 mobilized humanitarian assistance by issuing situation reports on a regular basis. During 1989-1990, UNDR0 put a small aircraft at the disposal of the Government and United Nations relief personnel. Another component of the UNDR0 programme is the management of an emergency stockpile at Maputo with relief goods for displaced persons.

18. Apart from mobilising and co-ordinating international relief assistance for Angola and Mozambique, UNDR0 has also made available technical assistance to Lesotho, Malawi and Zimbabwe in order to strengthen their capacity to cope with natural disasters and other emergencies. Early in 1990, UNDR0 carried out a mission to the three countries in order to discuss with the responsible authorities their natural disaster preparedness plans and procedures, identify further training needs and prepare work programmes and project proposals.

19. In order to develop a concerted programme tailored to the specific needs of internally displaced persons throughout southern Africa, UNDR0 has proposed establishing a joint Organization of African Unity (OAU)/United Nations plan of action. Through an OAU/United Nations mission or missions to southern African countries, pilot projects to assist national authorities in meeting the immediate needs of internally displaced persons and in promoting their return to their places of origin and/or their integration into the host communities would be identified. Such projects would form part of a regional OAU/United Nations plan of action for internally displaced persons, which would relate emergency relief assistance to the development of long-term solutions. It is proposed that the mission(s) should consist of representatives from the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, UNDR0 and other relevant agencies and organizations. The draft plan of action would eventually be presented to the Inter-Agency African Emergency Task Force for review.

#### International Labour Organisation

20. During the past year, ILO continued to provide technical assistance to the countries of southern Africa with a view, *inter alia*, to strengthening their capacity to cope with the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their countries. This assistance was provided within the framework of General Assembly resolution 44/136 as well as the ILO updated Declaration Concerning Action Against Apartheid in South Africa and Namibia.

21. The activities undertaken included technical co-operation projects in the field of vocational training and vocational rehabilitation, management and development of small-scale enterprise, labour-intensive public works, workers' education, labour administration, employment promotion, conditions of work, occupational safety and health, and assistance to women and the other vulnerable groups. The ILO Southern African Team for Employment Promotion also continued its advisory services to the individual southern African States and to their subregional groupings, such as the Southern African Labour Commission, on contingency employment plans to absorb migrant workers repatriated from South Africa.

22. Within the ILO anti-apartheid programme, 13 projects have been under implementation to assist the victims of apartheid, including South African and Namibian refugees and members of the liberation movements, recognized by OAU, based in the front-line States. The activities covered training fellowships in diverse areas, workshops and seminars and projects in vocational training, vocational rehabilitation, labour administration, workers' education, rural development, problems of migrant workers, small enterprise development and employment planning.

23. In the wake of Namibia's independence, a number of technical co-operation activities were also formulated geared to assisting Namibia with its reconstruction efforts and the reintegration of returned Namibian refugees. Employment promotion, human resources development, labour administration and assistance to employers' and workers' organizations were identified by an ILO mission to Namibia in September 1989 as among the priority areas for ILO action. A study on labour and discrimination in Namibia to update an earlier one was undertaken, which reviewed, *inter alia*, the labour situation, employment conditions, labour relations and labour matters requiring immediate attention. A three-man ILO mission visited Namibia in April 1990 for consultations with the new Namibian Government on possible ILO technical assistance including employment creation and promotion of equality. A number of crash training programmes with funding from the European Community were planned by the ILO Advanced Vocational and Technical Training Centre at Turin to meet some of the specific immediate training needs required by an independent Namibia. The Namibian Minister of Labour, Public Service and Manpower Development visited ILO in May 1990 to discuss possible areas for ILO assistance to his country. ILO has formulated specific project proposals to assist the Namibian Government with income-generating schemes in resettlement areas; rural employment planning; promotion of employers' organizations; assistance to Namibian trade unions; vocational training; revision of labour laws; survey of disabled persons; training of labour administrators; strengthening of the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Manpower Development; the abolition of Namibia's internal migrant labour system; the elimination of discriminatory provisions from various legislative texts; promotion of tripartism; and the development of sound systems of labour relations.

#### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

24. The most significant recent activity undertaken by FAO specifically relating to the strengthening of the capacity of countries in southern Africa to care for

refugees, returnees and displaced persons has been the assistance given to Namibia since late 1989 in resettling returnees during the transitional and immediate post-independence periods.

25. The assistance was provided under two projects, both funded under FAO's regular programme resources and implemented within the framework of the UNHCR-co-ordinated Rehabilitation and Resettlement Programme for Namibia. Under one of the projects, seeds, hand tools and other agricultural inputs worth \$US 400,000 in total were supplied for the returnees. The second project provided, at a cost of \$US 183,000, the services of an expert to advise on the agricultural aspects of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Programme.

26. The FAO Global Information and Early Warning System continues to monitor the food supply situation, cereal import and food aid requirements in southern African countries, with special emphasis on those countries where the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons needs urgent attention. As large-scale refugee movements disrupt agricultural activities in the areas from which the refugees flee and also put a severe burden on economic and administrative structures in the areas that host the affected population, continuous monitoring of developments is necessary to ensure that agricultural crisis resulting from displacement of people does not lead to hunger and malnutrition.

#### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

27. Within the framework of activities to help refugees in southern Africa, UNESCO set up an inter-sectoral task force on Namibia. This task force had the goal of preparing programmes within the mandate of UNESCO, to be implemented after the independence of Namibia.

28. On this basis, an inter-agency mission, composed of representatives of UNHCR, UNICEF and UNESCO, travelled to Angola and Namibia from 19 April to 9 May 1990, in order to identify the refugees living in Angola and to prepare their return to Namibia, as well as the return of schoolchildren, who were to be placed in Namibian schools.

29. In order to ensure follow-up and to implement the decisions of the inter-agency mission, a UNESCO staff member was in Windhoek from July 1989 to March 1990.

30. In July 1990, another inter-sectoral mission travelled to Namibia in order to assist the newly independent country with educational matters, including school construction, teacher training and reform of the educational system.

#### World Health Organization

31. In May 1989, the WHO Director-General appointed a Co-ordinator in the Relief Operations Unit of the newly established Division of Emergency Relief Operations at WHO headquarters.

32. In the same month, two consultations took place with UNHCR and UNICEF. Subsequently, a mission was organized in Angola and Namibia to determine health arrangements during the departure, transition and arrival phases of the return of refugees to Namibia.
33. In June 1989, WHO established a liaison office with UNTAG through the Regional Office for Africa. A liaison officer was assigned by the Regional Office, and has been working in close consultation with UNHCR and the other organizations concerned.
34. Together with FAO, UNICEF, UNESCO and UNHCR, WHO participated in an emergency planning mission to Namibia from 28 July to 23 August 1989 to determine rehabilitation measures for returnees during the transition period. The strategy developed for the strengthening of health services included elements for the provision of essential education, supply of drugs, support to an expanded programme on immunization, development of human resources for health and collaboration with specialized health services, particularly in the northern region of the country, where there has been an estimated 6.6 per cent increase in population through returnees.
35. In close collaboration with the Namibian Council of Churches, WHO supported the planning and monitoring of health care arrangements in the reception and resettlement phases of repatriation.
36. Special emphasis was given to early reintegration of returning Namibian health care professionals. Early temporary registration for returnee doctors and nurses was ensured through close collaboration between WHO, UNTAG and the South African Health Administration.
37. In July and August 1989, WHO made a detailed inventory of the health infrastructure in 19 of the 24 health districts in Namibia.
38. In September 1989, WHO and UNTAG provided logistic support to the Namibian immunization campaign. Through these efforts a higher coverage rate was obtained than had originally been expected.
39. In August/September 1989, health was assessed by a WHO/UNDP mission as one of nine UNDP sector reviews undertaken in Namibia. This mission identified the most critical issues facing Namibia: human resources development, and reorientation and restructuring of the fragmented Namibian health system.
40. Early in 1990, and prior to independence, WHO was requested by the Namibian Minister of Health designate to organize, as a matter of urgency, a series of technical missions to Namibia. Their main objective was to develop alternative health policy options on the basis of primary health care for the incoming Government, with emphasis on equity and the needs of children.
41. Subsequent technical missions undertaken by WHO analysed the health situation and made recommendations to the incoming Government on issues relating to health sector restructuring and management; physical rehabilitation; mental health; AIDS



prevention and control; blood transfusion; community water supply; maternal and child health; diarrhoeal disease control; and the expanded programme on immunization.

#### International Fund for Agricultural Development

42. Southern Africa has benefited from the IFAD Agricultural Management Training Programme, which aims at improving the smallholders sector. The Programme will enable a number of returnees to acquire the necessary dexterity to become self-reliant and productive.

43. Where IFAD has been unable to reach refugees, returnees and displaced persons directly, collaboration with non-governmental organizations that possess operational ability has helped IFAD to do so indirectly. The outreach capacity of non-governmental organizations has proved useful on several occasions under difficult circumstances, especially in cases where uprooted people have been involved. Thus, a number of non-governmental organizations have become collaborators in IFAD projects, particularly in Africa, both as consultants and co-financiers. Such collaboration was envisaged in the agreement establishing IFAD, section 2, article 8, of which states that "the Fund shall co-operate closely, inter alia, with NGOs". Broad guidelines for this co-operation were established by the IFAD Executive Board in 1984.

44. In search of a better approach to the problem of how to assist uprooted people during the initial emergency period, as well as over the longer term, to become productive and self-reliant, IFAD and UNHCR entered into a co-operation agreement in 1988, thus establishing a creative linkage between the humanitarian and development approaches. IFAD and UNHCR, which seeks to provide protection and render assistance to refugees and returnees and find durable solutions to their problems, share many common objectives. Their target groups are largely the same, particularly in Africa, where most uprooted people are to be found in rural areas. With common goals and a common target group, IFAD and UNHCR can co-operate usefully in mobilizing resources for the identification, preparation, appraisal and implementation of projects for people in southern Africa.

#### Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

45. During 1989-1990, UNHCR's continuing interest in and follow-up of the results of the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, held at Oslo in August 1988, was reflected in the Office's normal activities and programming in the countries concerned.

46. With respect to emergency preparedness, the revision of the emergency preparedness profiles for Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe was completed, while that for Mozambique was begun in the second quarter of 1990. In continuation of its training programme intended for relief assistance officials, the multi-sectoral emergency management training seminar was held once again at

Madison, in the United States, in the last quarter of 1989. This seminar was attended by several officials from non-governmental organisations, Governments and UNHCR. Besides, through the activities of the Tripartite Voluntary Repatriation Commission (UNHCR, Mozambique and Malawi) various discussions were held with a view to laying the background for a systematic and orderly repatriation of the large numbers of Mozambican refugees in the neighbouring countries, whenever the conditions permit.

47. With regard to needs assessment and delivery of assistance, in spite of severe financial constraints, the Office made every effort to ensure that the minimal life-sustaining needs of refugees and returnees in the southern African region were provided through careful prioritization of budgets, which were finalized together with implementing partners and the concerned agencies. It must, however, be said that the programme of assistance for some 208,000 Mozambicans who had returned to their country of origin as at the end of 1989 was severely hampered, as less than a third of the total needs were financed. A new appeal for Mozambican refugees in the region and returnees for the period January to December 1990 has been launched, in the sum of \$US 32.4 million.

48. In addition to the Mozambican returnees' programme, UNHCR assisted in the repatriation of some 43,000 Namibian refugees during the period, in fulfilment of its obligations under Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Since then, UNHCR has participated in a United Nations multi-organizational mission that identified further needs for a rehabilitation programme for Namibia. The total requirements for this programme will form the subject of an appeal to be launched by the Secretary-General.

49. In Malawi, UNHCR continued to co-operate with the Government, UNDP and the World Bank in determining the additional financial burden placed on the economy as a result of the refugee presence in the country. This assessment formed part of the agenda at the 1990 Paris Club meetings on Malawi. A more detailed account of this matter is contained in the UNHCR report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/149 (A/45/444).

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