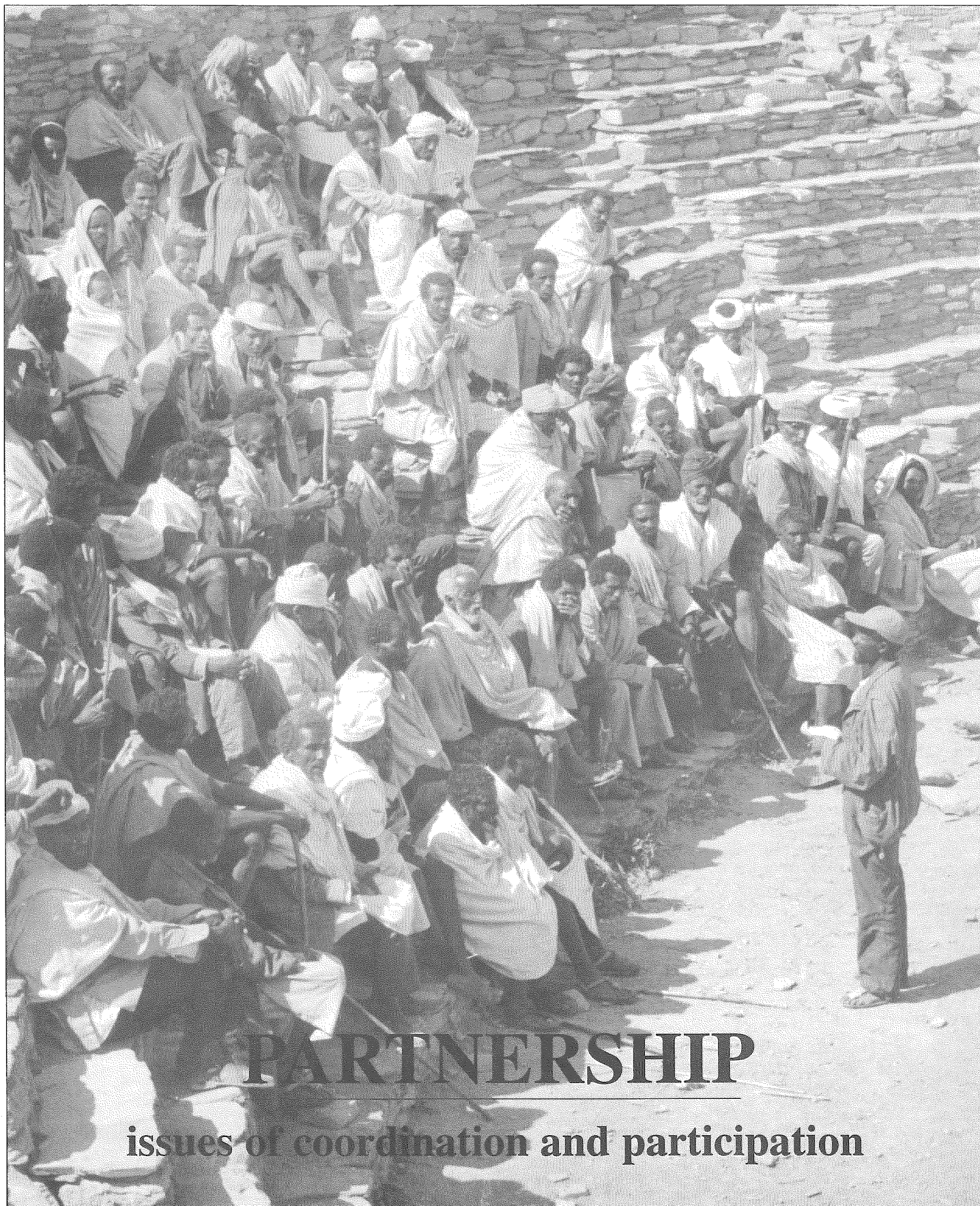


RPN

REFUGEE PARTICIPATION NETWORK 17

August 1994

Published by the Refugee Studies Programme, Oxford, UK.



PARTNERSHIP

issues of coordination and participation

PARTNERSHIP

The Refugee Participation Network (RPN) is published by the Refugee Studies Programme, University of Oxford. It aims to provide a forum for the regular exchange of practical experience, information and ideas between researchers, refugees and people who work with refugees. The RPN is currently mailed to over 2,070 members in 110 countries. Subscription is voluntary. If you would like to become a member, please complete and return the application form on page 38. Any queries or correspondence should be addressed to the Editor at the address below:

RPN
 Refugee Studies Programme,
 Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles,
 Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.
 Tel: +44 (0)865 270267
 Fax: +44 (0)865 270721
 E-mail: rsp@vax.oxford.ac.uk

Please note new telephone number.

Material and information contained in this publication are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Refugee Studies Programme. RSP reserves the right to edit all submissions.

This issue of the RPN was edited and designed by Marion Couldrey.

The printing is by Oxfam on environmentally friendly paper.

ISSN 0965-7460

Cover photo: meeting of farmers' association in northern Ethiopia. Photo by Jon Bennett.

Advertising rates

If you would like to advertise in the RPN, please contact the Editor at the above address. Current rates (excluding VAT) are:

Full page: £170
 Half page: £ 85
 Quarter page: £ 45

Sponsorship of the RPN

We are happy to discuss full or part sponsorship of individual RPN issues. (See the Letter from the Editor for forthcoming themes.) Sponsorship 'packages' may include advertising space, use of agency logo, etc. Please contact the Editor.

<i>Letter from the Editor</i>	3
Practical aspects of UNHCR-NGO partnership <i>by Shirley C DeWolf</i>	4
NGO coordination at field level <i>by Jon Bennett</i>	8
Yugoslav refugees in camps in Egypt and Austria 1944-47 <i>by John Corsellis</i>	11
Refugees speak out <i>the voices of Mozambican refugees</i>	16
Refugee participation <i>by Robin Needham</i>	17
Bricks, biscuits and barrels of pigs' feet : Liberian women refugees and credit schemes <i>by Naima Hasci</i>	20
Peace and the children of the stone <i>by Eyad El Sarraj</i>	23
Reflections on... coordination and participation <i>an interview with Daniel Mwaisela, Refugee Section, Ministry of Home Affairs, Tanzania</i>	25
Dear Editor : letter on 'fuel aid' for refugees	27
PARinAC : Oslo Plan of Action	28
Agency information : ICRC & UNHCR	29
<i>Conferences: announcements and reports</i>	30
<i>Courses</i>	31
<i>Reviews</i>	32
<i>Publications</i>	35
<i>Join the Refugee Participation Network</i>	38
<i>RSP: news and activities</i>	39

Letter from the Editor



Over the past year, there has been extensive consultation between UNHCR and NGOs in countries all over the world; this process, called 'PARinAC: Partnership in Action', has involved considerable discussion of the nature and potential of partnership. This RPN focuses on two aspects of partnership: *coordination* between NGOs and between NGOs, the UN and local governments; and the *participation* of refugees in the design and implementation of assistance programmes. If you would like to respond to any of the views expressed, I would be happy to answer or publish your letters.

The theme of the next RPN (due out in December) will be *environment and displacement*. Do you have research findings, field experience or personal experience relating to this theme which would be of interest to others working with refugees? Articles and reports of most use are those with a practical focus, preferably no longer than 3,000 words. Or write a letter to share your experience or comments. It does not matter if English is not your first language; we will edit any material submitted. If possible, please send photographs to accompany articles or reports; they will be returned to you. **Material for the next issue should be submitted by 4 November.** Articles do not necessarily have to be tied to our theme (see 'Peace and the children of the stone' in this RPN, for example); we welcome material on any relevant issue.

I would like to draw your attention to our requests for copyright waiver (see below) and for subscriptions and/or document exchanges (see back page); these are important for improving our information exchange facilities. Thank you.

Marion Couldrey, RPN Coordinator/Editor

Request for copyright waiver

If you have ever contributed unpublished materials to the RSP library or if you plan to contribute such materials in the future, please read this!

Part of the RSP's work is to encourage the development of research and teaching in other universities, particularly in the poorest host countries around the world. A major problem which faces researchers/teachers in these countries is the lack of library resources. To help resolve this problem, the RSP is seeking funding to reproduce the unpublished documentation it holds on to microfilm or digitised format so that it can be easily transferred.

Before the RSP can proceed, we need to sort out the problem of copyright holders. This constitutes a major undertaking: we need to write to seek permission from some 8,000 authors!

Will you help us to reduce that number and so save costs?

If you have ever contributed unpublished materials to the RSP's library (or if you plan to do so in the future), we would be extremely grateful if you would write to Sarah Rhodes, our Documentalist, to say that you have released your copyright to the RSP for the purposes described above. Please use the form below if you wish.

The RSP expects to charge some libraries for access and to make access free to others unable to afford to pay. Any funds raised in this way will be used to maintain and expand the RSP library. If any contributors to the RSP library object to the dissemination of their unpublished materials on this basis, we shall exclude them from holdings distributed electronically. *Thank you for your help - and to those who have already responded.*



Name (CAPITALS) _____

Address _____

I hereby release my copyright to the RSP for all my unpublished material held by RSP, for the purpose of reproduction on to microfilm or digitised format. (Please note: we will assume that this copyright waiver applies to all your future unpublished materials received by RSP unless you specify otherwise.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return form to: Sarah Rhodes, Documentation Centre, RSP, QEHL, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.

PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF UNHCR-NGO PARTNERSHIP

by Shirley C DeWolf

In March 1994, a conference was held in Addis Ababa as part of PARinAC (Partnership in Action): the 1993-94 UNHCR-NGO consultative process. This paper was written as a contribution to the process, highlighting the need to facilitate greater consultation of and participation by refugees and internally displaced people.

We came from Changara District [southern Tete Province, Mozambique] in 1984... There was fighting in our area but the people in our village continued to work their fields even after we heard that others were starting to leave. The church clinic had no medicines and after some time the priest had to move away because he was in danger. Renamo kept coming to demand food until our stocks were finished. Then they burned our houses. We ran away with nothing. We stayed several days hiding in the forest and two of the children died. We went to another village and the people gave us food. We stayed there for about a month and did some odd jobs to help them. But we did not want to bring more hardships to those people so we thought we had no choice: we had to go for help to Zimbabwe. We all walked to the town of Guro [still in Mozambique]. There we found people being given food at a certain place... But the food soon finished... So we got a ride in the empty food lorry as it was returning and it dropped us near the border. From there we walked to Fombe [in Zimbabwe]... where we found many others from Mozambique... Then a Zimbabwe army lorry came and took us to Morris Depot. We lived at Morris for a few months and the army was giving us food and clothes. After some time they said the water supply was becoming contaminated from too many people and cattle using it, so they moved us to the camp at Nyangombe... We have now been here for ten years. We are grateful to the Zimbabweans for their help but we are weary of being cared for like children: it is unnatural. You have not known us as we really are.

Testimony of the Tzenze family in Nyangombe Camp, Zimbabwe.

The experience of this Mozambican family cannot be very different from that of many people in Africa who find their rights violated and their safety threatened and who are left finally with no recourse but to abandon their homes to become internally displaced, eventually seeking assistance in neighbouring countries as refugees. Looking at the Tzenze testimony it is interesting to note the following:

- They never considered leaving their home until they no longer had a home to live in.
- They turned initially to their neighbours for help and also, when they first reached Zimbabwe, to villagers there.
- The local institution best positioned to help, the church, ended up as vulnerable as the people it was serving.
- From the time their rights were first violated, during their period of displacement within Mozambique and until they reached the official refugee camp in Zimbabwe, they did not have any direct contact with NGOs or intergovernmental humanitarian agencies.
- The first institutional aid to reach them was from their own government and from the army in the country of asylum, both of which were able to operate in areas where NGOs were not venturing.
- Contrary to aid agency claims that ten years in a refugee camp has created a 'dependency syndrome', these people are anxious to escape dependency which they find uncomfortable and dehumanising.

With the Tzenze family in mind and many others like them, let us consider three questions that relate to the practicalities of our partnership.

1. Who is best placed to offer what sort of assistance to the internally displaced and refugees?

The story quoted above would indicate a support structure which has at its centre the internally displaced and refugees; spreading out from this core are, in turn, neighbours and traditional leaders; village-based institutions; army/camp and field workers; local NGOs, home and host governments; and finally, as an outermost layer, international NGOs and intergovernmental agencies. PARinAC is taking place between the two outer layers described above. In order to ensure that it makes sense in the field, PARinAC has to be viewed within the context of and indeed as a response to the whole structure.

At the centre of the action are the internally displaced and refugees. The best protectors of their rights are the people themselves: they have vested interests in ensuring that their rights are safeguarded and they are directly on the spot when violations occur. But when the situation gets out of hand and they need back-up assistance, this basic initiative is often trampled underfoot by zealous rescuers. Too often uprooted people have to tolerate help that robs them of their right to self-direction, afraid to speak out lest they should lose the material aid on which they depend for survival.



Mozambican schoolgirl in Chambuta Camp, Zimbabwe
Photo: Christian Care

When people are most vulnerable they are especially careful in whom they place their trust. In Mozambique there is a saying: *dumbanenge* - in a crisis trust your own feet. And when your feet cannot hold you up any longer, trust those who share your vulnerability and who understand the risks from their own experience.

Neighbours and traditional leaders in the community are almost always the first to attempt to absorb the burdens of human rights violations and displacements and they always pay the greatest price for their assistance. Their role is also the most easily overlooked. Aid agencies sometimes try to compensate them for food losses and to use them as a source of information but rarely are they considered as integral to the partnership and their lead role given full recognition.

Village-based groupings have largely been ignored as a support base by aid agencies and governments, perhaps because they are made up of people within the target group receiving aid and are therefore considered to be powerless. The collective capacity of violated people to become part

of the solution to their problems is not only an indispensable resource but also an indispensable right.

Government, NGO field workers and army personnel are, unless deployed by the antagonists, an easily accessible support resource for the internally displaced and refugees. The emotional pressures on these personnel which arise from living within a difficult situation yet being seen as outsiders require greater attention than we have given them. The workability of PARinAC depends a great deal on the cooperation and mutual trust established between people at this level.

The institutions in the two outer layers are best placed to raise financial support, secure commodities, negotiate with governments, pressurise for adherence to agreements that protect human rights, provide training opportunities and gather and disseminate information at all levels. Enhanced cooperation between these more remote outer levels is undoubtedly necessary. But we must be wary: a closer-knit, more efficient and mutually responsive working relationship between NGOs, UNHCR and other intergovernmental agencies can solidify us into a block, reinforce our institutional self-sufficiency, make us more sensitive to the

dynamics between us than to the softer voices of the uprooted people and thereby render us less responsive to all other support levels.

2. What are the practical limitations to partnership that we need to work around?

Local NGOs operate by consent of and normally in a spirit of teamwork with the governments of their countries. National loyalties urge them to support and build the capacity of their own government departments working for the protection of people's rights, rather than to give priority to their partnership with UNHCR and other international agencies.

When the government itself is the perpetrator of human rights infringements, local NGOs giving protection to the abused are also targeted and may require the support of the outer circle of international agencies. Outside assistance should serve as far as possible to strengthen local NGO network initiatives in dealing with the adverse conditions which threaten them. Governments that are party to agreements with UNHCR and other international bodies for refugee care and repatriation often find themselves

running around in circles to meet the foreign standards and demands of these agencies at the expense of their longer standing relationships with local NGOs. This is a frequent source of contention between international and local agencies and governments trying to work together.

Inter-agency rivalries are familiar to all of us and, while this is proverbially put down to competition for funds, it may have more to do with our need for space in a crowded arena to develop individuality and creativity in our work which is given its due recognition.

However, at the fundraising and commodities purchasing levels of support, monetary forces do influence the form that our partnership takes. In order to raise funds from the international community for a repatriation exercise, UNHCR is obliged to design a detailed plan on paper in which flexibility to respond to a fluctuating situation with a wide range of change agents as partners is limited. Often such a plan must be finalised before refugees themselves and their local support communities are able to tap their own information sources and visualise their own plans.

3. How can PARinAC effectively span the various support levels so as to provide a more integrated resource for internally displaced people and refugees?

As agency partners we work together in volatile and sensitive situations. If we build a partnership machinery that is too cumbersome to give quick response, we may cause tragedies. If we are uncoordinated, we present a confusing menu of offers and faces and work methods. If we are to be true to our conviction that our services must be a response to the initiatives of the uprooted people themselves, our planning and activity must always be one step behind them. The following questions are offered as discussion starters in seeking broad guidelines for action.

Vision

Vision must find a way of expression and must be heard. Speaking to a government delegation from Maputo, refugees in Tongogara Camp told them:

We have spent the last few years being exposed to various countries in this region and learning many organisational and technical skills. We may not have schooling but we have good ideas and enormous enthusiasm. If you people give us the support we need, we can get Mozambique back on its feet in two years.

They then insisted that the government delegation report back to them about how they were using the refugees' ideas in their research. *What resources outside of PARinAC do we need to pull in to help give greater breadth and depth to our vision?*

Information

Information is a powerful commodity which has often been used to lessen or heighten the influence and importance of one layer of the partnership over another. It is also often subject to either deliberate or unwitting distortion by the news media. No one is more wary of this than the uprooted people themselves: one of the most destabilising aspects of refugee life is to be cut off from your trusted 'grapevine' and to be unable to verify the information that reaches you



*Mozambican refugee women in Tongogara Camp, Zimbabwe, holding a workshop on peace and reconciliation and their role as returning refugees in bringing this about in Mozambique
Photo: Christian Care*

from various angles. All participants in the partnership have information which is vital to the composition of an understanding sufficient to prevent serious mistakes from being made. In practice, however, uprooted people set up their own information networks and rely only secondarily on official communiqués from UNHCR, governments and others. In practice, field staff have access to second-hand information from the communities within which they work and often find themselves kept dangerously uninformed by their headquarters concerning the wider context of processes and possibilities to which their ground work relates. In practice, local NGOs often do not have access to the wider contextual information available to international bodies by means of the electronic media. *What misconceptions do we need to get rid of in order to open ourselves more fully to the information others have to offer? How can we support each other better in gaining full access to the information each of us needs at our various levels?*

Policy and decision-making

Most of the participants in PARinAC are based in societies which have endorsed the statutory role of UNHCR in spearheading programmes for the protection of refugees. Our discussion on sharing therefore requires an initial indication from UNHCR concerning to what extent it is able to go, within the confines of its mandate, in sharing policy formation and operational decision-making with other agencies and local communities. Taking the lead in assuming responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights cannot, however, be delegated to an international body, even if that body is of our own making. Africa is the greatest refugee producing continent and Africans have suffered the most from uprooting. The lead responsibility to change this situation belongs to Africa. *What decisions concerning human rights protection have we as African nations relegated to international bodies for which we need to resume more responsibility? What areas of decision-making should be entrusted to UNHCR within the spirit of PARinAC?*

Material and financial resources

Agreements signed between UNHCR and selected operational partners in the implementation of a refugee support programme are a useful way of ensuring that UNHCR's coverage is expanded and that capable implementing NGOs have the funds they need to provide their services. It sometimes, however, leaves those NGOs without signed agreements unclear as to what is their operational relationship with UNHCR. The potential of local communities in this area of partnership must not be ignored. Last year's first post-war maize harvests in Mozambique were substantial. The producing communities have been anxious to find markets for their surplus and in

some areas stockpiled maize is now rotting. The World Food Programme has appealed for local purchasing by those international donors which are supporting the resettlement but some countries continue to bring in maize from their own countries. The concept of partnership which extends beyond the intergovernmental agencies and NGOs is missing. *Where are the common points where wastage of materials and funds occur in our support programmes?*

Expertise and experience-building

Some years ago, a team of Zimbabwe Government and Christian Care field staff visited Mozambican refugees who had returned to their home country despite the war and had resettled in the relative safety of the Beira Corridor. We were delighted to see that in establishing their new village they were putting to use the various skills they had acquired while in the refugee camps in Zimbabwe: carpentry, brick laying, well digging, etc. But their criticism was:

You Zimbabweans let us learn how to do the labour but you kept the planning to yourselves. We know how to dig latrines but not how to site them in relation to water points. You gained experience from our situation as refugees which should have been ours.

The same criticism has often been levelled at international organisations by local NGOs who feel that African refugee situations are used as training grounds for their expatriate staff at the expense of local capacity building. *What expertise does UNHCR lack which local NGOs and support communities can offer them? What expertise do local NGOs and support communities feel that UNHCR and other international agencies should be sharing more openly?*

Conclusion

The February 1992 *Reference Document on Relationship between UNHCR and NGOs* states that 'partnership is not an end in itself but a means to maximise the use of available resources and expertise to achieve the common UNHCR/NGO goal of providing appropriate services to refugees'. Unless PARinAC results in making our services more appropriate and more accessible to people like the Tsenze family when and where they are in trouble, the time and effort and resources we spend on improving our agency relationships are unnecessary and wasteful.

Shirley C DeWolf is Coordinator for Refugee Services at Christian Care in Zimbabwe.

Editor's note: see page 28 for information on the final PARinAC Plan of Action.

NGO COORDINATION AT FIELD LEVEL

by Jon Bennett

When a disaster strikes, aid organisations attempt to get delivery systems set up quickly on the ground to deal with the inevitable human tide of suffering that follows. Rarely is much immediate thought given to coordinating their actions with the multitude of other agencies doing similar work. Indeed, coordination can be a value-laden concept. For some it has overtones of 'control' while others fear being swamped by interminable layers of bureaucracy. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in particular have traditionally resisted formal cooperation among each other, though this may be changing. The last decade has seen a discernible shift in favour of closer, more routine coordination among those who deal with the ever-increasing demands of humanitarian assistance.

This change of attitude is, in part, a necessary response to the sheer scale of the operations underway. NGOs collectively spend an estimated US\$9-10 billion annually, reaching some 250 million people living in absolute poverty. International governments increasingly channel resources, especially for emergencies, through their favoured NGOs rather than through allegedly less accountable governments of the South. In several emergencies of the late 1980s and early 1990s, short term money available to NGOs - albeit mostly to international NGOs - exceeded even that of the UN¹. NGOs are now the frontline forces of 'neutral' intervention and are more closely linked to the UN, EC and donor governments than ever before. This could not have been foreseen in the days when NGOs simply filled the gaps at a grassroots level. As the number of crises demanding our attention increases, so too does the number of new NGOs willing to meet that demand. The international safety net of voluntary assistance has never been so buoyant.

However, the phenomenal increase in the number, size and financial status of NGOs in the 1980s and 1990s has to a large extent happened without close inspection of their actual performance. For all their laudable success, some NGOs have been guilty of poor practice, wastage and a lack of professionalism which to a large extent has gone unchecked. They tend to throw a veil of secrecy over actions that would not stand up to public scrutiny and rarely are NGO programmes evaluated independently. Critics of NGOs have pointed to lack of accountability, mutual competitiveness and poor coordination as perhaps the three most serious charges levelled at the so-called Third Sector. Alarm has also been expressed about the fact that some NGOs have crowded out governments by offering better resources and salaries and, in some cases, have made little secret of their wish to replace government structures. Another serious charge is that Northern NGOs have singularly failed to transfer skills to any significant degree to their Southern counterparts.

Some of these issues can be addressed by transferring decision-making to the field, to the recipients as well as to the givers of aid. Much has been said about involving refugees, for instance, in the decisions that affect their lives, yet very few lasting structures have been created to ensure

that this is not simply rhetorical good sense. Field-based NGO coordination structures are potentially a way forward, for they can be 'owned' not only by the multitude of small local NGOs rarely seen on our television screens but also, with careful nurturing, by at least some of the voiceless majority they serve. The level of genuine participation will depend on how such structures are set up and who controls them. There have been some encouraging examples in Central America and Africa, although local coordination bodies, like their national NGO membership, suffer from lack of resources and the sometimes overwhelming dominance of Northern NGOs.

NGOs in the South in particular are demanding that far more attention is paid to building local capacities, even during emergencies where the tendency has been to bypass developmental principles in favour of rapid responses dominated by Northern capital and Northern agencies. The so-called relief to development continuum is still only at the blueprint stage and, quite naturally, one suspects that this has more to do with the rhetorical requirements of competing UN agencies than a clear notion of how to build sustainable structures from short-term interventions. The signs are, however, that donors will be increasingly receptive to channelling money through Southern NGOs in the future as part of an attempt to bolster local institutions, the guardians of civil society.

As a contribution to this process, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) has looked specifically at NGO coordination bodies and their role in promoting a more efficient 'space' in which NGOs can collectively exert influence, especially during an emergency. Eight case studies were selected and comparisons made between each.² Although the size and sophistication of NGO coordination bodies vary considerably, a number of common themes emerged. In Lebanon, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Mozambique, for instance, the NGO coordination bodies have been instrumental in bringing the NGO community into close dialogue with UN agencies. They have also developed local codes of conduct for NGOs, including very specific guidelines for health, agriculture and food delivery programmes. Most importantly, the coordination bodies have mapped out where and in what sectors the NGOs work, thus minimising the duplication of projects.



Representatives of coordination bodies from around the world participating at the ICVA seminar on NGO Coordination in Humanitarian Assistance held in Oxford, April 1994

Photo: Jon Bennett

A coordination body is usually set up in the capital or regional centre of the country in question. Invariably, a 'lead agency' takes the initiative to gather NGOs and discuss a common programme of action for a particular problem facing the country. The Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT), for example, was set up to deal with NGO inputs into Cambodian refugee settlements in Thailand, though later they also coordinated NGO responses to Burmese and Vietnamese refugees. A small secretariat is usually paid for by the members, with supplementary grants from bilateral government donors, independent foundations and the UN. A General Assembly of NGO members will often elect its own Executive Committee to oversee all aspects of the secretariat's work. In some cases, however, the coordination body is itself an NGO with its own field programmes. The danger that a membership agency might begin to compete with its members for funds was faced by the Christian Relief and Development Agency (CRDA) in Ethiopia in the mid-1980s and very soon the members closed CRDA's string of clinics, preferring it to be restricted to a purely consultative body. Interestingly, CRDA, now 25 years old, retained a level of 'power' over its members by being the recipient and allocator of resources from donors.

Traditionally, however, an NGO coordination body is primarily the centre for information exchange and the first point of contact for NGOs arriving in a country. More proactive organisations will attempt to map out needs in a particular area, persuade NGOs usefully to assign themselves different tasks and oversee the whole picture of

NGO intervention. As such, they have become increasingly important for the UN and others anxious not to have to deal individually with the multitude of NGOs, large and small, that arrive during a particular emergency. This intermediary role can be instrumental in ensuring that NGOs have a collective voice in formulating policies and priorities at a national level. For instance, the LINK NGO Forum in Mozambique now sits on the national Humanitarian Assistance Committee, one of the various structures set up to implement the peace process. LINK also assists the UN in its allocation of funds channelled through the Trust Fund for Humanitarian Assistance in Mozambique.

Sadly, indigenous NGO coordinating bodies have often been ignored by international NGOs anxious to set up an efficient structure during an emergency. There have been notable exceptions. In Lebanon, for instance, one of the most impressive coordination structures is the Lebanese NGO Forum (LNF), entirely managed by a consortium of 14 Lebanese NGO associations with a collective membership of hundreds of local community based organisations. Throughout the Lebanese war, this loose coalition provided a counterbalance to the notion that sectarian groups were fundamentally irreconcilable. The LNF comprises Catholic, Muslim, Druze and Orthodox groups with one common agenda: the provision of assistance to a population torn apart by war. The foundations for reconstructing civil society lie precisely in such coordinated initiatives.

In a parallel and perhaps even more politicised context, Latin American NGOs were assisted greatly by the

International Conference on Refugees, Displaced and Repatriates of Central America (CIREFCA), a process that provided an international forum for analysing, discussing and looking for solutions to the problems of forced migration. Though not a coordination body itself, CIREFCA provided the impetus for the establishment of national NGO coordination structures ('Concertación' in El Salvador, for instance, and 'Coordinación' in Guatemala). CIREFCA brought together UNHCR, governments, international donors and subsequently NGOs and organisations of the uprooted themselves. Principles and criteria for refugee returns in Central America were drafted and the changing circumstances of uprooted people were monitored. A political space was created for NGOs and refugees which helped them become organised independent actors able to negotiate with governments.

Governments vary in their attitudes towards NGOs and hence towards their umbrella bodies. In some countries there is vehement opposition to any form of collective NGO action, however innocent. This may be because of a real or perceived fear of civil unrest or opposition being orchestrated through civil institutions such as NGOs or it may simply be that the government feels that it alone has the mandate to coordinate NGO activity. By contrast, some governments have given their full support to the setting up of NGO coordination bodies. For instance, the Mauritius Council of Social Services (MACOSS) receives a grant from the Ministry of Social Security and National Solidarity and has a government official on its board. The key to a successful partnership is open dialogue wherein the coordination body provides a useful service and interface with the NGO community, rather than a threat to the authority of the state. A coordination body could offer its services to the government as a channel for communicating with the NGO community at large and should always ensure that copies of its publications, database, statutes, etc, are given to the government and that the government is invited to comment on these and any other activities undertaken by the NGO community.

The thorny problem of NGO relations with national governments is well illustrated by what happened in Kenya in 1992. The Kenyan Government introduced the NGO Coordination Act which was to regulate and prioritise NGO inputs into the country at large in the wake of the Somali refugee crisis. At field level, UNHCR had already assigned NGO lead agencies as their contractual partners for assistance to refugees but the government was increasingly concerned about the autonomy enjoyed by a growing number of national and international NGOs setting up offices in the country. The NGO response to the Act was, not surprisingly, one of alarm. Backed by a powerful coterie of government and multilateral donors, they managed to delay - and in some cases cancel - certain provisions of the

Act. Where NGO coordination had previously been poor, suddenly NGOs under attack found very quickly a need for coordinated action. Interesting parallels can be drawn with security alerts in Afghanistan which elicited impressive levels of NGO cooperation through the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) in the last few years. A general threat to NGOs is not a prerequisite for coordination but it certainly helps!

The mechanics of setting up an NGO coordination body and the comparative advantage such an organisation has as a democratic representative of collective NGO views is something that ICVA has been particularly interested in exploring. A Handbook on how to set up such bodies is now available [see Editor's note below] and training programmes will soon be underway. Behind these initiatives lies the belief that if NGOs as a community have something unique to offer, then a greater degree of NGO coordination at field level is crucial to realising that potential. The UN's own coordinating role in emergencies will be better served by having a representative NGO umbrella body to which it can relate. Coordination 'owned' by NGOs is not a bureaucratic imposition designed to stifle the independence and imagination of individual NGOs; it is a tool for increasing the effectiveness of a collective endeavour. The challenge is to design a structure conducive to strengthening cooperation without limiting the freedom of any one participant.

Jon Bennett is Director of the ICVA UK office and of the ICVA Coordination Programme at 84 Sandfield Road, Oxford OX3 7RL, UK.

1. Bennett J *Meeting Needs: NGO Coordination in Practice*, 1994, Earthscan, London (forthcoming).
2. Ibid.

Editor's note: see page 37 for details of *NGO Coordination at Field Level: A Handbook* by Jon Bennett.

Relationship between NGOs and local governments

Several of the articles in this RPN raise questions concerning the relationship between NGOs and local governments. We suggest that one issue of the RPN in 1995 should focus on this issue. Please consider what you might be able to contribute, both to the RPN and to our Documentation Centre: articles, reports, legislation, etc. *We would particularly urge you to send us copies now of the current legislation regarding NGOs in your country.* If you work for a government, we would be interested to receive your comments on the realities and problems of the government-NGO relationship. Please send your information as soon as possible to the Editor. Thank you.

YUGOSLAV REFUGEES IN CAMPS IN EGYPT AND AUSTRIA 1944-47

by John Corsellis

In 1942 John Corsellis joined the Friends Ambulance Unit, a voluntary agency providing humanitarian employment in war-time to a thousand young pacifists. Two years as a hospital orderly and in the agency's Overseas Relief Office were followed by eight months work in refugee camps in Egypt and Italy. John Corsellis moved to Austria in May 1945 and worked in camps there for two years before returning to the UK.

The Yugoslav refugees of 1944-47 were among the first of the war and post-war refugees. They participated fully in the running and management of their camps and their experiences and the 'mistakes and successes' of the agencies that looked after them offer many lessons. In this paper, based on research funded by the Rowntree and Cadbury Trusts, John Corsellis allows a variety of primary sources to tell their own story. Material is drawn from his own diaries, unpublished memoirs and letters, official papers, tape-recorded interviews and various books and pamphlets.

Humanitarian agencies often lament their own lack of an institutional memory and their tendency is to re-invent the wheel each time they are called upon to respond to a new refugee emergency. .. it is only through an analysis of past mistakes and successes that progress can be made. (Barbara Harrell-Bond)¹

Background

By the beginning of 1944, Marshal Tito's Government of National Liberation had gained control of parts of the Dalmatian coast but could not feed the inhabitants. To save them from starvation, the Allies evacuated 25,000 Croats to Egypt, accommodating them for 18 months at El Shatt camp.

Between April 1941 and May 1945, Slovenia was occupied first by German, Italian and Hungarian troops, and later by Germans and Hungarians alone. For four years the country was subjected to two largely separate but simultaneous wars: the Axis against the Allies and Communists against Catholics. The Allies won the first conflict, the Communists the second. Of the Catholic Slovenes who lost, the majority stayed at home and survived under Communism as best they could. But 17,000 who felt most threatened fled to Austria and settled in a camp just across the border at Viktring. Three weeks later 11,000 of them in uniform were sent back - forcibly repatriated - by the British Army and brutally murdered by the Communists.² The 6,000 civilians remained at Viktring until the end of June, when they were sent to four other camps in south-west Austria.

The Croat refugees and the camp in the desert

The camp was set up and run for the first four months by the British MERRA, Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration, with help from voluntary society personnel. On 1 May 1944, UNRRA entered the field and officially absorbed MERRA. UNRRA reports from that year describe the camp³:

El Shatt was located in the Sinai Desert just across the Suez Canal from the town of Suez, and the entire camp area covered some 100 square miles. For reasons of efficiency the El Shatt settlement was broken into five separate camps, each one maintaining some degree of self-sufficiency corresponding to a small village in Yugoslavia.

The entire population, which reached a peak of slightly less than 25,000, was housed in British Army tents. The housing unit consisted of two large tents placed end to end, and each unit could accommodate approximately 18 persons. Permanent structures were confined to administration offices, storehouses, recreation halls, mess halls, bath houses, and medical buildings. Some degree of permanency was given to the housing unit by the laying of a cement or tiled floor. ...

Each camp had its own school buildings, its administration headquarters both for the Yugoslavs and UNRRA staff, its recreation hall, staff quarters, community store, store houses, work shops, repair shops, infirmary, and laundry. ...

Administration was divided between UNRRA representatives and the refugees themselves. UNRRA personnel handled supplies, maintenance, and generally supervised all camp activities. Most of the administration, though, was handled by the Yugoslavs since the operation of such a large community necessitated dealing with thousands of minor problems daily. ... the Yugoslavs were extremely independent and took a great personal interest in camp administration.

Yugoslav refugees in camps in Egypt and Austria 1944-47 continued

On arrival the refugees were grouped by the village from which they came, and family units were always kept intact. ... At the Registration Centers the refugees were inspected; they and their clothing were disinfected. They were issued stamped fibre identity (numbered) discs, registered, and assigned to tents.

In addition to the UNRRA and the Yugoslav administrative bodies, there were independent agencies taking an active part in the running of the camp. The British private voluntary agencies worked through COBSRA (Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad) which designated which agencies should send representatives to the camp and specified the type of personnel needed in order to avoid duplication.

On the whole the agencies fulfilled a definite need, although from time to time there was some dissatisfaction because of the large turnover in personnel. People mysteriously appeared and disappeared with a frequency reminiscent of a popular transit hotel.

The outstanding feature of El Shatt camp was its medical services. ... One of the finest features was the training of a large number of Yugoslav girls to be nurses. ... Considering the condition in which the refugees arrived and considering

that there was an undue proportion of the very old and the very young, the health record was excellent and the mortality rate low. Diets, milk rations for the children, child clinics, periodic inspection, sanitary precautions and the interest of the medical staff in the people were responsible for this record.

There were numerous work projects at the camp and when the camp reached its peak of efficiency practically everyone who was physically able and who had the time was employed. Because of the high esprit de corps of the refugees, there was never any difficulty in finding people to do the work.

Practically all of the children of school age attended school. There were nursery schools for children of working parents or orphans, kindergartens, elementary schools, secondary schools, nursing schools, trade schools, administrative training schools, as well as an apprentice system in all the workshops. There was a People's University for adults and high school graduates, where languages and other courses were offered.

There was special attention given to refugee welfare, both by the UNRRA personnel and by the Yugoslavs themselves. Refugees had their own theatre, put on plays, often written by themselves, gave concerts, dance recitals and pageants.

The problems of welfare were closely integrated with those of morale. On the whole, morale was good.

... Considering what the refugees went through and the desolate and discouraging surroundings of the Sinai Desert, their adjustment was a tribute to their self-sufficiency. ... When the refugees had the tools and equipment to keep them busy

both at work and at play, the camp functioned as smoothly and quietly as a new gas refrigerator.



*Improvised shelter at Viktring camp; roof and walls made from bark stripped from local trees
Photo: Collection of Prof Uros & Mrs Roessmann*

On the whole, the dual administrative policy worked out well. The refugees were .. responsible for all problems of refugee administration. They appointed the various camp committees who in turn set up the District Committee system. Tent leaders were chosen by the tent occupants. Should the people be dissatisfied with their representative, complaints were brought to the attention of the next highest committee and changes were made.

The presence of such a refugee administrative set-up removed from the shoulders of the camp staff a thousand and one petty problems that crop up daily.

In August 1944, William B Edgerton, a relief worker with one of the independent agencies, the American Friends Service Committee, arrived at El Shatt and started sending letters back to his wife⁴:

Some of the more recent arrivals had lived in the forests and in caves and had been hunted by the Germans for years before they finally escaped, and a great many came over with nothing at all, hardly enough clothes to cover themselves. In spite of their difficulties and their lack of training, they have done marvels with the little they have.

In camp 3 there are a carpentry shop, a shoe shop, a sewing tent, a soft-toy shop, and a metal-working shop, which are manned by as many of the skilled artisans as we can provide tools for and by as many young apprentices as they can take care of ... The shoemakers will take shoes that have been discarded as completely valueless by somebody and then sent down here, and they will cut out the bits of leather that are still good and make a whole new pair of shoes out of scraps ...

The metal workers are now making drinking cups out of scraps of tin and knitting needles out of wire, with which we are trying to set up home knitting all over camp to make clothes for winter. In the dress-making shop the women will take absolutely anything and out of it they will make absolutely anything ...

I must not give the impression that these people have managed to create a little paradise here on the desert with their resourcefulness ... Their extreme lack of everything ... only makes what they do accomplish more impressive, standing as it does against such a background. And always you are haunted by an awareness of what these people have been through.

Professor Edgerton then described a visit to the Camp 3 schools:

There were eight classes going on at once in a single large room. Three small blackboards had to be used by turns in the eight classes. Small children sometimes used overturned benches as blackboards. There are no textbooks whatsoever. The pupils learn to read from mimeographed copies of the camp newspaper ...

It is interesting to compare these official and unofficial accounts with those written by Vladimir Dedijer, 'friend, confidant, critic, historian of Tito'⁵:

From the very first days in the camp, the people began to organize their own people's authority, their own mass organizations. Certain English officers attempted to prevent the refugees from administering their own camp life. One .. swore the first day that he would 'break this arrogant communist spirit'. All his attempts failed and he was replaced. At tent, area, and camp meetings the refugees chose the leaders of the tent, area, and camp committees, as well as the members of the refugees' central committee. In the camp was formed a Partisan guard which maintained order in the camp and which had the right of search and entrance recognized even by the allied authorities. People's courts were also formed. They even had the right to order imprisonment.

The English officers, who expected to find a group of helpless refugees, were greatly surprised when the day following their arrival in the Sinai Desert they published the first issue of *Naš list* [*Our paper*], the organ of the refugees' central committee. Soon afterwards they published *Žena u zbjegu* [*Women together*], which was 50 pages long, *Omladinska revija* [*Youth review*], and *Omladinska riječ* [*The word of youth*].

The Slovene refugees in Viktring, Austria

In 1945, two officials from the Friends Ambulance Unit visited Viktring and sent a report back to their headquarters in London:⁶

... a quite astonishing camp ... A group of Slovenes numbering about 6,000 .. had fled across the border carrying in their horse-drawn vehicles many of their household possessions and other assets. Included in the group were doctors, teachers and local government officials, making up the nucleus of a self-contained community. This group created a fantastic shanty-town built of bark, branches and every conceivable material. ... Inside .. the camp was remarkably well-kept by the refugees themselves, most of whom seemed to be engaged industriously in building, cooking, laundry or some similar occupation. We also learnt that they had their own Secondary School already in operation!

At the end of June 1945, the Slovenes were sent from Viktring to four permanent camps in Austria. Two months later the two FAU agency workers at Lienz, the largest of the four camps, wrote a memorandum:⁷



It is assumed that the authorities will at this time be making plans for the administration of refugee camps during the next few months. The Slovenes would presumably be disposed of in these general plans. These notes suggest that the Slovene problem is substantially different from that of other groups .. and that therefore a different policy should be adopted in their case. ...

The first seven weeks ..Under exceptionally difficult conditions the refugees ran the camp themselves with the minimum of equipment, and ran it well enough for its inmates to compare life at Viktring favourably with that at the camps to which they were later sent. Apart from having responsibility for the general administration of the camp and the collection and distribution of food, they registered all the inhabitants, prepared complete nominal rolls for their transfer to four separate camps, and ran a secondary school for 140 students with a comprehensive curriculum in a neighbouring farm house.

The Slovenes at Lienz: administration The Slovenes maintain their own office with a registration system containing comprehensive details of every Slovene in the camp. They have a representative in each barrack in which their nationals live to look after their interests, and this work is coordinated by a committee of five men, each responsible for four or five barracks. ... Their general committee meets at least once a fortnight and consists of chairman, secretary and the chairmen of the six sub-committees, for Registration and Housing, Food, Education and Recreation, Labour and Employment, Welfare, and Hygiene and Health.

Education and Recreation The kindergarten and elementary school, at which attendance is compulsory, are staffed by qualified teachers. The secondary school, which provides a full classical and modern syllabus, has received warm praise from Mr Baty, Deputy Director of Education, Allied Commission. A domestic science school has recently been started to cater for the 150 girls who do not attend the secondary school, with a class on agricultural subjects for

Workshop scene in camp

Photo: Collection of Prof Uros & Mrs Roessmann

youths. Adult education includes language courses for English, French, Russian, Italian and German. Sports and gymnastics for school classes and adults are organised by an ex-Olympic Games athlete.

Labour and General The establishment of workshops has only been hindered by the lack of tools. However a carpentry shop and a forge have started and have been producing their own tools as far as possible. The enthusiasm for work is very great and there are few trades for which trained men cannot be found.

Conclusion The administration of the Slovenes at Viktring and Lienz shows that they have enough competent leaders and skilled workers, and are a unified enough community, to be able to run their camp by themselves. If they are in the future concentrated in a camp or camps in which they would be in a majority, the most satisfactory course would seem to be to attach one or more liaison officers in an advisory rather than directory capacity. This would contribute greatly to the preservation of that individual and communal self-respect which is usually the first casualty in the refugee camp.

The memorandum was in fact written by me: my colleague generously added his signature. We were urging the authorities to adopt a refugee-centred policy in line with the best doctrine of today, as recommended by organisations such as the Oxford University Refugee Studies Programme.

Of course no notice of the memorandum was taken by the British Army, although it may have had some influence on UNRRA policy later.

The relevance of my material to - and the lessons to be learnt by - current Refugee Studies should by now be apparent, and also to the future prospects of the new republics of Croatia and Slovenia. It suggests that, if left to themselves apart from some economic aid, both states may surprise the world with the energy and competence with which they tackle national revival and reconstruction.



Refugee children outside living barracks
Photo: Collection of Prof Uros & Mrs Roessmann

References

1. A C Bramwell, ed *Refugees in the Age of Total War*, 1988, xiv (preface by B Harrell-Bond), Unwin Hyman, London.
2. N Tolstoy, *The Minister and the Massacres* (London 1986) and A Cowgill, T Brimelow and C Booker, *The Repatriations from Austria in 1945* (London 1990).
3. S K Jacobs to L Archer, Acting Chief of Mission, UNRRA, 25 May 1944: UNRRA Archives, New York, PAG 4/1.1.3.5.6.2.40, El Shatt Camp 270 and MERRA 630.
4. UNRRA Archives, New York, PAG 4/1.1.3.5.6.2.40, El Shatt Camp 270.
5. V Dedijer, *War Diaries*, Vol 3 (Univ of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1990), 226-7.
6. FAU Archives, Friends House Library, London.
7. J Corsellis and J L Strachan, *Notes on Slovene Refugees in Austria*, dated 30.8.45, typed memorandum in author's possession.

E-MAIL DISCUSSION NETWORK FORCED MIGRATION

The Refugee Studies Programme has initiated a discussion network for E-Mail users, entitled 'Forced-Migration'. This discussion list (which now has more than 150 members) intends to encourage greater exchange of information and to promote discussion on refugee and forced migration issues.

The aims of the group are as follows:

- * To increase understanding of the causes, consequences and experiences of forced migration worldwide.
- * To exchange information concerning ongoing research around the world.
- * To inform the members of teaching and training opportunities.
- * To inform the members of forthcoming conferences and other academic events.
- * To provide the members with up-to-date information on refugee crises in their respective countries.
- * To link academics from a wide variety of disciplines.

If you have an E-Mail address and you would like to join our discussion group, follow these instructions:

1. Send a message to:

mailbase@mailbase - for JANET users in UK
mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk - for overseas users

2. In the text of the message, and not in the subject field, you should write the following:

Join forced-migration first name last name
For example: Join forced-migration John Smith

REFUGEES SPEAK OUT

The following quotations are comments made by Mozambican refugees during a peace and reconciliation workshop held in Zimbabwe.

When I fled I left a small store that I had built, with a zinc roof. That is my wealth. That is the place I must return to, no other.

What does it mean to be a father when you cannot provide a home for your family? What does it mean to be a mother when someone else cooks for your family every day?

When someone dies in this camp there are only two or three people there to mourn, sometimes none of them relatives. There is no dignity in this kind of living and dying.

We are willing to follow the official plans for going home but we want to be sure we will be assisted to go home and not to another camp as we have seen happening to people who have already been repatriated.

Will I have any support for using the skills I have acquired here? Will there be schools and clinics and grinding mills and stores and ploughs for us to use in rebuilding our homes?

We need peace in order to live. Even if the rains should come, we cannot grow any food. The land is being wasted; people's talents and skills are being wasted.

As youth, we could rebuild this nation if you would give us the chance.

In 1992, while Renamo and the Mozambican Government were meeting in peace negotiations in Rome, Christian Care in Zimbabwe facilitated a workshop involving refugees, Mozambican church leaders and the Commission on Peace and Reconciliation of the Christian Council of Mozambique. The purpose was to identify hindrances to the Mozambican peace process and to find ways in which repatriating refugees could be agents of peace and reconciliation in their own country. When Bishop Dinis Sengulane of the Commission put questions to the refugees to draw out their own observations and opinions, there was a great deal of anguish and discomfort until one of the refugees stood up and shouted: *What right do you have to come here from Maputo and ask us for our opinions? We have been internally displaced in Mozambique and refugees in several countries over many years and we have learned the hard way that no one wants to know what the refugee thinks.*

The bishop wisely changed his direction and asked: *If I were Mr Chissano or Mr Dhjakama sitting in this chair, what would you like to say to me about Mozambique?* and the people were invited to role play. For the rest of the day, they came to their feet one by one and poured out their anger, their hopes and their vision while the bishop took notes. At the end of the day he read back to them what they had said and the refugees declared: *We want to sign that and send it to Rome!*

And so they did. They held a joyful ceremony to sign their statement and they sent their representatives to the post office to fax the document to Rome. Many said later that this was a milestone in their lives as Mozambican citizens: it was at this point that they broke away from seeing themselves as victims of the war to becoming a genuine part of the solution.

Thanks to Christian Care in Zimbabwe and the Mozambican refugees for the above.

REFUGEE PARTICIPATION

by Robin Needham

The world has acquired a fairly stereotyped impression of refugees. Unfortunately, these stereotypes also affect those of us who work with refugees and prevent participation by refugees in decisions that affect them and their future.

Firstly, refugees are assumed to be completely helpless and crying out for any assistance that can be given to them. A condition such as this is seen to require direct action and intervention, independent of the participation of, or consultation with, the refugees themselves.

Secondly, refugees are treated as statistics and numbers. The operation of working with them is regarded as a logistical exercise. Refugees are recipients for objects and items. Successful progress in a refugee operation is measured in terms of x houses built, y tons of food provided, z patients treated. There is little consideration of social factors or refugee values because the whole basis of so many refugee relief efforts rests on objects, not on people; on what is available, not on what is needed.

Thirdly, 'he who pays the piper, calls the tune'. The donors are usually the ones calling the tune so the agencies serving refugees see themselves as being more accountable to the donors than to the beneficiaries. It is the donors who - to a great extent - dictate the nature of response by consciously or sub-consciously expecting their will to be done. Basic needs may be being met but whose basic needs? The donors, the assisting agencies or those of the recipients?

Fourthly, assisting agencies sometimes develop a highly specialised but rather inflexible approach to the provision of that assistance. Specialisation and models developed in community health care, food distribution, camp layout and services, etc, in one refugee assistance programme become the blueprint for the work of that agency in any and all other refugee settings.

Fifthly, many agencies and donors provide high-tech, high-profile, capital-intensive, photogenic types of assistance such as sophisticated field hospitals, imported machinery and equipment, new technology and 'appropriate' housing and sanitation. Many of these appliances and applications are beyond the knowledge and experience of refugees and thus widen the cultural and social gap between the intervenor and the refugee.

Sixthly, the decision-making apparatus in many international organisations or voluntary agencies does not have the provision for a major local input. Overall policy and programming is decided in Geneva, London or Washington and directives are handed down in such a way that questioning them is often difficult or unwise. Policy formulated at these levels may commit an organisation to a

course of action that can become outmoded or impractical in the light of subsequent developments.

Seventhly, many agencies have no history of real provision for a participatory approach within their own organisations; power sharing with or participation by those outside the agencies - such as beneficiaries - is consequently unthinkable.

These various constraints to the participation of refugees have led refugee assistance programmes to be described as:

.. the last bastion of the ultra-paternalistic approach to aid and development. It is hard to think of another area where the blinkered nonsense of the 'we know what is best for them' approach survives so unchallenged. (Malloch Brown)¹

Aengus Finucane, the Executive Director of CONCERN, the Irish NGO, has said:

Health services, food, shelter, and education can be described as basic physical needs. But the basic human need of refugees is the restoration of dignity. Dignity is the vital ingredient missing when basic physical needs are delivered in a mechanistic and impersonal way. Respect for human dignity is too often the first casualty of emergency responses to assist refugees. A less sophisticated level of service may be the only thing that makes good sense. But there is no excuse for a 'frontiersman' approach which fails to respect the dignity of the refugee. Small technologies may be beautiful. But a small or lessened place for human dignity is always and everywhere inappropriate.²

The ultra-paternalistic approach described by Malloch Brown means that participatory mechanisms in refugee programmes and camp administrations are often overlooked by the intervenors, whatever their role.

In truth, there are too many barriers, both physical and mental, within the system that preclude effective refugee participation. But the lack of participation by refugees in decisions that affect them and their livelihoods is a fatal error. Why? Because it deprives refugees of the use of their own coping mechanisms which are so important in helping the refugees to re-establish identity, self-esteem and

dignity. And what does this type of deprivation cause? Deep down there develops what Tyhurst calls 'social displacement syndrome'³. This manifests itself in a mixture of depression, anxiety, apathy and hypochondria, which in the early stages are often considered essentially benign in that they may be slight to the point of not exceeding any limits of normality. These stresses do not require treatment by powerful drugs but rather 'the best results are obtained by mobilising the patients socially and inter-personally' (Tyhurst). Left unattended or neglected, these mild disorders can manifest themselves in much stronger psychoses and anti-social behaviour such as severe personality disorders, regression to infantile states and aggression.

It is vitally important for all of us who work with refugees to understand the mental health stresses and strains of being a refugee and take appropriate steps to address them. A refugee suffers from guilt, nostalgia and 'living in the past'. A refugee is a survivor. However horrifying the pre-flight conditions and however traumatic the flight, by crossing a border and arriving in a camp the refugee has survived when many of his or her family, relatives, friends and thousands of countrymen and women either did not survive or elected not to flee.

After the initial period of euphoria on reaching the safe haven has passed, refugees are often overcome by a sense of guilt that they have survived while others died, or guilt that they abandoned relatives and friends who were unwilling or unable to escape with them. A sense of grieving for home sets in: 'home' in the widest sense, meaning community, traditions and culture that have been left behind. This can lead to a nostalgia fixation and then to nervous depression and a failure to adapt, or a willful resistance to adapt to new surroundings. In its severest form it can generate 'pronounced, strong withdrawal behaviour; decreased working efficiency or refusal to work' (Zwingmann).⁴

Adaptation difficulties and disorientation - frequent manifestations of being a refugee - are often unwittingly exacerbated by those who seek to help. Refugees are prevented from adapting adequately to new surroundings. The expectations of others - host governments, international organisations, relief officials, donors, the media - condition



Photo: Jon Bennett

this adaptation. Prolonged residence in a refugee camp living like a refugee causes a refugee to adopt the role of a refugee. If a refugee is perceived and expected by others to be poor, helpless, ignorant and dependent for long enough, then eventually the refugee will take on that role.

Refugees also suffer from problems of personal identity and inadequacy. The organisation and structure of camp life is authoritarian and impersonal. Every aspect of life is contrived on a mass scale, taking little notice of individual variations. There is an almost total lack of privacy. In this stage, with no clear idea about the future and no sense of social belonging, a refugee can easily lose awareness of himself or herself as a mature social being. People who were self-sufficient before flight now have no source of livelihood, no income, no power and no control over their lives. This hurt sense of pride caused by a sudden fall down the social ladder due to circumstances beyond one's control occurs individually or collectively. Previously independent, self-sufficient and proud people are now entirely dependent on others.

Living in such unnatural social conditions causes in some individuals an impairment of interpersonal and social skills. The failure to maintain social status is felt as a humiliation, giving rise to lack of self-esteem and a sense of shame. The inferiority complexes which arise from this cause some refugees to appear arrogant and sullen, while others boast

loudly of the old times when life was good. Relationships in often highly traditional and structured societies break down. Traditional coping mechanisms and methods of dealing with stress and anxiety are no longer effective. Traditional leaders and elders are discredited or powerless or have lost status. The effects of these various stresses are often manifested by the apathy shown by refugees towards attempts to involve them in activities such as public works.

Apathy is a behaviour pattern often found in refugees. The individual and the community become disinterested, passive and dull with a serious deterioration of motivation. Hope has been given up. The only motivation seems to be that of complaining to authorities about the physical living conditions within the camp, in particular singling out problems with food, water and shelter. In fact these physical complaints mask deeper psychological stresses which are, in the main, compounded by camp life. Refugees try to cope with these stresses by following what is essentially a conservative strategy. There is 'a profound distrust of innovation, new forms of organizing their lives, since these are challenges to the expressive meaning of both personality and structural traditions'. (DeVoe)⁵

The best way to help overcome the mental health stresses of being a refugee is for all of us in the refugee assistance business to pay more than the cursory lip service to participation. In the refugee relief and development business, the term 'participation' is widely used but little understood.

What is 'participation'? I am not going to provide a prescriptive list of ideas. Each refugee situation demands its own response and raises its own challenges and opportunities for participation. David Drucker, in an article on community management, provides some interesting observations on the nature of participation:

The fact is that 'participation' is fundamentally an act of partnership. Partnerships take time and effort to establish and can only succeed and continue to flourish where there is mutual trust. Trust is not too easy to come by; it has to be solicited, worked for, have exaggerated demands made upon it at first - thus testing its reality and solidarity - and it must be gradually earned and given life... True partnership is what is required, and this demands new directions, new skills, new activities and new roles if the age-old fixed expectations and patterns of interlocking behaviour are not to frustrate the new aspirations of development. (Drucker)⁶

At every stage and at every level of refugee assistance, there has to be a more comprehensive understanding of the refugee experience. Those of us who work with refugees

simply have not had the kind of life experiences that refugees have been through. We have to gain a fuller understanding of the refugee experience in order to hope to answer the question: does what we are doing really meet the needs - all the needs - of refugees? Through paying greater attention to refugee participation, we may find that we can begin to answer this question and, at the same time, work towards providing a better quality of life for the many millions of refugees around the world whom, in one capacity or another, we all seek to serve.

This paper was prepared for the Addis Ababa PARinAC conference held in March 1994 [see page 28] and is based upon research undertaken by Robin Needham (now Director of CARE-Ethiopia) at the Centre for Development Studies at Swansea, UK.

References

1. Malloch Brown, Mark 'Refugees: the African Dimension', paper given at symposium *Assistance to Refugees: Alternative Viewpoints*, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, UK, March 1984.
2. Feldstein B, Frelick G and Frye E 'Training International Refugee Relief Health Workers', *Disasters*, Vol 7 (1), pp 26-28, 1983.
3. Tyhurst L 'Psychosocial First Aid for Refugees', *Mental Health and Society*, Vol 4, pp 319-343, 1977.
4. Zwingmann C A 'The Nostalgic Phenomenon and its Exploitation', *Uprooting and After*, Zwingmann C A and Pfister-Ammende M (ed), Springer Verlag, New York, 1973.
5. DeVoe D M 'Framing Refugees as Clients', *International Migration Review*, Vol 15 (1), pp 84-88, 1981.
6. Drucker D 'Ask a Silly Question, Get a Silly Answer', *Community Management: Asian Experience and Perspectives*, Korten David C, Kumarian Press, pp 162-3, 1986.

The Bernard van Leer Foundation

The Bernard van Leer Foundation is an international philanthropic and professional institution based in The Netherlands. It concentrates on the development of low-cost, community-based initiatives in early childhood care and education for socially and culturally disadvantaged children from birth to eight years of age. The Foundation produces a regular newsletter: contact the Bernard van Leer Foundation, PO Box 82334, 2508 EH The Hague, The Netherlands.

The RPN would like to thank the Bernard van Leer Foundation for its generous financial contribution to the RPN and for its ongoing interest and support.

BRICKS, BISCUITS AND BARRELS OF PIGS' FEET : Liberian women refugees and credit schemes

by Naima Hasci

Participation means that people are closely involved in the economic, social, cultural and political processes that affect their lives... It enables them to gain access to a much broader range of opportunities so that they may realize their full potential and contribute to the development of their community. (UNDP Human Development Report 1993)

This may seem a tall order. Is refugee assistance ever regarded as a matter of human development? How can greater participation be used as an overall relief and development strategy when humanitarian assistance to refugees is relief-oriented? In most cases, the success of refugee programmes is hampered by the lack of a human development dimension. The danger is that human development will become yet another catch-all-phrase unless it can be operationalised creatively in relief and development efforts. A small UN agency, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are trying to meet this challenge by funding a particular project supporting Liberian women refugees.

Background

In the aftermath of the Liberian war, an estimated 13,000 refugees were brought to a site near the village of Budumbura, 25 km from Accra, Ghana, where the Refugee Reception Centre was established in September 1990. The site is surrounded by 100 acres of fertile land, of which 50 were allocated to the refugees for farming. As most of the Liberian refugees came from urban areas, they had no farming experience but were very eager to participate in the Project's income generating and health education activities.

The project is designed to tap the skills of refugees. It strives to recognise, encourage and support the potential of the refugee women as teachers, traders, entrepreneurs, health workers and so on. The model dispels the old myth that refugees are a helpless homogeneous mass with identical problems and needs. According to the refugee women interviewed, the transition from relief to development begins when the refugees' socio-economic background, their specific skills, experiences and initiatives are taken into account as an integral part of the project identification, design and implementation. For them a successful refugee project must be participatory and empower them to become socially and economically productive.

The key to this approach lies in the degree of dialogue between project staff and beneficiaries, the level of flexibility in the project design and the willingness to recognise the women's ability to find solutions to problems defined by themselves. Hence, participation is about listening, learning and looking for creative ways to ensure that people are agents of change rather than objects of preconceived relief and development activities. With these issues in mind, the following observations echo the voices of the refugee women in Budumbura.

The 'hand-outs' myth

Contrary to the myth that refugees are helpless and reluctant to participate in project activities, the women were enthusiastic, energetic and eager to get involved. What has made this project so popular is also the project team's willingness to be guided by the women's evolving needs and to make the beneficiaries the central piece of the relief and development puzzle.

The project co-directors, Doug Nethercut and Diana Dubois, describe how the refugees reacted to the credit component:

We were pleasantly surprised at the degree of enthusiasm on the women's part to be actively involved in all the activities of the project. We have been quite impressed with their entrepreneurial drive and business know-how. Many of these women were urban dwellers with all kinds of skills in petty trading.

When the project called for the building of a women's centre and a dormitory for five female-headed households, the women were given the opportunity to be trained as builders and carpenters. The participants of this on-the-job training course received a communal lunch and a small stipend.

Refugees, community health workers and decision-makers

For most women the transition from relief to development seemed to start with the women's community centre where they gather for their various meetings and workshops on issues such as savings and loans, micro-enterprise development, masonry and community health care.



*Women's Center, Budumbura, Ghana
Photo: Naima Hasci*

In the area of family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, ten refugees were trained as community health workers (CHWs). They visit refugee families, disseminate information and promote improved sanitation and hygiene practices in the refugee camp. In consultation with the community elders, the CHWs assess the needs and identify areas of problems. On Wednesdays, the CHWs meet to evaluate their work and make any changes necessary. One CHW, Oma, shares her team's findings and makes suggestion on ways of coordinating the family planning activities with the environmental sanitation activities:

We need to train people about proper sanitation. For example, although the family planning programme seems to be running smoothly, people are being careless with the disposal of the contraceptives. The children find these things on the road and use them as toys, filling them with water and playing with them as water balloons; or even worse, drinking out of them.

As the women put into practice what they have learned in the community health care courses, the weekly meetings serve as a forum for further group consultation and coordination of health activities with project staff.

This dynamic process of training, consultation and flexibility in responding effectively to the communities fosters greater participation. It is a process which encourages the women's efforts to make informed decisions as they address day-to-day problems. By holding weekly meetings with the women, the project staff ensure that the

women have access to adequate training and resources to do their job.

Providing credit to refugees women - a risky business

In collaboration with the Women's World Banking - Mutual SuSu Assistance (WWB-MASU), UNIFEM/ IRC have ventured into an area that has traditionally been considered risky business: providing credit to poor women. For many bankers, providing credit to the poor is already an unsafe venture and providing credit to refugees is unthinkable. The WWB-MASU credit officer recalls her experience when she presented the UNIFEM/IRC proposal to her colleagues:

They just laughed at me. Some of them did not even want to consider the idea of giving a loan to refugee women. They thought I was mad and they joked about the idea for months. Until they saw it working... and working well.

The savings and loans scheme with its micro-enterprises component has proved to be the most exciting project component for the women. Although they participated in all the project activities with enthusiasm, they felt that more of this kind of assistance should be provided. As one of the women, Neilly, put it:

The training in basic book-keeping, business planning and management has been most useful. It builds on our skills and gives us something meaningful to do. I was a baker at home and now I make biscuits and take them to the nearby market where I can sell them at a profit... At first I made doughnuts. But they require too much oil so I switched to biscuits and now I make more profit.

A bank for modest businesses

Every Thursday afternoon, the WWB-MASU van brings banking services to the Women's Centre. This unusual extension banking service provides opportunities for savings, loans, business and financial advice to the refugee women. Could this really be the beginning of the journey from relief to human development?

Credit schemes, however, can be tricky development models. While some see them as a way of encouraging people to get involved in income generating activities, others look on them as a burden to some of the beneficiaries who

Bricks, biscuits and barrels of pigs' feet continued

may struggle to raise the membership fees. The women earn money by making cement bricks, baking biscuits and selling pigs' feet and are happy to have the opportunity to deal with a bank that meets the needs of their modest businesses.

Philomena explains the services provided by an institution like WWB-MASU:

To give loans to rural women is already considered financially risky and hardly any bank will venture into this business... Women often need just a small amount to start their petty trade business and we provide a safety net for this category of clients who otherwise would not have easy access to the traditional banking institutions.

For the majority of the Liberian refugee women entrepreneurs who participate in the scheme, it has made a big difference to their confidence, self-esteem and hope for weaning themselves away from refugee life altogether. The project staff are now working with the women and the bank to find ways of extending the credit scheme to include those who want to join the scheme but lack the money. Doug, one of the project co-directors, explained:

The credit component is fairly new and the project has put down US\$1,000 at WWB/MASU as a collateral but now that it has become so popular, we will have to find ways of including everyone who wants to join.

Credit for the future

As the women succeed, more women and men want to join the credit scheme. Over 65 women have completed a course in micro-business management skills, including some women from the nearby village of Budumbura. As a result of the success of this project and a similar project in the Ivory Coast, UNIFEM is undertaking an African Women in Crisis (AFWIC) umbrella programme to assist refugee and displaced women from southern Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia and other countries. In collaboration with UNHCR and other agencies, this programme uses development-oriented strategies which maximise women's skills and capacities, reduce their future vulnerability and promote their active participation in programme development and implementation.

Dr Naima Hasci is a Senior Associate Member of St Antony's College, Oxford University, UK, and a Research Associate at the Refugee Studies Programme.

Journal of Refugee Studies



Edited by Dr Roger Zetter

Refugee Studies Programme, University of Oxford

The *Journal of Refugee Studies* provides a major focus for refugee research. Selected papers include:

Ronald Kaye *Setting the Agenda: British Refugee Policy and the Role of Parties*; **Gaim Kibreab** *The Myth of Dependency among Camp Refugees in Somalia 1979-1989*; **Agnes Callamard** *Refugee Settlements and Local Impacts: Mozambican Refugees in Malawi*; **Nicholas van Hear** *The Socio-Economic Impact of Involuntary Mass Return to Yemen in 1990.*

	1994	1994 & 1995
	Volume 7	Volumes 7 & 8
	4 issues	8 issues
Institutions	£54/\$102	£108/\$204
Personal	£27/\$51	£54/\$102
Third World		
Institutions	\$51	\$102

Free sample copies are available for inspection. Please write to Journals Marketing Department (RPN), Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, UK.

Published by Oxford University Press in association with The Refugee Studies Programme, University of Oxford.

OXFORD JOURNALS



INFORMATION FOR THOSE ESTABLISHING LIBRARIES ON FORCED MIGRATION

As more universities establish teaching programmes on issues related to refugees/forced migration, the RSP receives requests to help in obtaining such literature for libraries. While we can send pro forma invoices for materials we publish, we are not able to supply them for other publishers. We suggest you make use of a reputable book collecting/searching agency.

PEACE AND THE CHILDREN OF THE STONE

by Eyad El Sarraj

In an interview in RPN 7 (February 1990), Dr Eyad El Sarraj talked of the 'fearless children of the stone' and his plans for the new Gaza Community Mental Health Programme. Four years later, we return to the children of the stone and look at the burdens they will have to carry with them into the future. The article was written shortly before the ending of the Intifada.

Introduction

Five years into the *Intifada*, the parties to the conflict are beginning to negotiate a peaceful settlement. But after peace prevails, when every nation remembers its heroes who sacrificed their lives, the Palestinian children who were in the forefront of the *Intifada* should be seen as the real peacemakers.

Images of the children of the *Intifada* throwing stones are the subject of many posters, postcards, articles and books. But for all that, very little insight has been brought to bear on the children's motives in assuming such a role. At the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, we decided to talk with the children themselves and to observe them in action on the street and at home. In addition, many children were brought to the programme by their families for treatment of the effects of trauma. Finally we conducted studies in the field, employing psychological surveys to understand more about their role, the extent of trauma and its effects.

The language of the Occupation

The most valid description of Palestinian children is that they are angry and defiant. They are also tense and vigilant. For many of them, throwing stones is a way of transferring that anger onto the Israeli soldiers who are the target. These children have learned the language and the meaning of the Occupation. If every child has not been humiliated by the Israeli soldiers or told that his or her life is worthless, the environment sends this message loudly and clearly.

Sami, a twelve year-old boy, was brought to the Programme by his mother after he tried to kill himself by starting a fire. His legs were badly scarred and he looked hostile, angry and depressed:

I wanted to kill myself because my father did not bring me a new pair of trousers for the feast. He said he did not have any money. Why should he have children then if he could not have a job?

Children are well aware of the differences between living conditions in their dirty camps and in the newly built Israeli settlements. These differences tell them that Jewish children living in the settlements deserve big, clean playgrounds

and swimming pools, while their refugee camps have open sewer systems and rubbish piled high at every street corner. The buildings and the streets of the settlements are clean and the grass is watered even when there is a water shortage in the camps. Palestinian children observe settlers zooming by in fast, well-protected cars that project an aura of power and security, in contrast to their own feelings of vulnerability.

The language of the Occupation sends the message that life is not worth living, that children born in the settlements are the treasured children while children born in the Palestinian camps, villages or towns are despised. This environment drives home the message that the Palestinians are born to be the hewers of wood and drawers of water both for the settlers and for the Israeli economy. The children witness their fathers' and older brothers' humiliation as they stand in line at the 'slave market', hoping to be offered one of the few jobs available building yet another Israeli settlement.

Time and time again the message is sent to Palestinian children that they are dirty because they are unworthy, that they are poor because their parents are weak and helpless. In a Gaza Community Mental Health Programme survey it was found that 85% of the children's houses had been raided by Israeli soldiers, mostly at night, and that 56% had witnessed the beating and humiliation of their fathers. Such experiences leave their mark on children's perceptions of themselves and the world around them. 'If my father could not protect himself', children wonder, 'how on earth is he going to protect me?'

The inevitable reaction is a mixture of fear, frustration, helplessness, anger and, perhaps most tragically, rejection of the father. Children sometimes find themselves identifying with Israeli soldiers as symbols of power. At the very least, they are driven out of their homes to look for heroes to replace their fathers who failed the test.

The making of a hero

The streets are the natural playgrounds for the children of Gaza. To be a child in Gaza is to be enticed by its streets, incited by the graffiti on every wall and irritated by the Israeli soldiers patrolling on foot or in their jeeps through your own territory. A gathering crowd of activists preparing for a confrontation with the soldiers fills the air with

Peace and the children of the stone continued

apprehension and excitement. Now it is not a game any more. The toys are real jeeps and the enemy is real soldiers. This is where you can avenge your father's humiliation. This is what you can do to conquer your fear. This is where you will join the heroes, perhaps even becoming one yourself.

Throwing stones becomes a way of rejecting the definition of self imposed by the Occupier. In the psychological sense, throwing stones is a form of recognising and identifying the problem, a very crucial step in the making of the *Intifada* child. Through this behaviour, children decide both to assert themselves and to exercise their right to a free and a better life. Marwan, a 13 year old boy from Gaza, describes this process:

I went home after school one day to find a big crowd in my uncle's house. I was told that my seventeen year old cousin was shot dead by the Israelis. Since then I began to ask and to understand more about the *Intifada*. Now if they do not come, I go to look for them. We have to fight them and free our country... If I only could get a gun, I would shoot them all.

Throwing stones became essentially a form of therapy, not only for Palestinian children but also for the entire Palestinian nation. Years of helplessness and frustration gave way to active resistance and defiance. The collective sense of injured pride and humiliation was transformed overnight into a state of self-respect. Internal division,

recriminations and communal violence were replaced by solidarity, unity and cohesion. All became one against a common enemy.

For a rare moment in the history of the conflict, the Palestinians tasted victory when they effectively took control of their lives by the act of rebellion against the Occupation. Indeed, the Palestinian morale was such that it allowed them to enter the peace talks as equals.

Trauma

Victories, however, do not come cheap. The Palestinians have to endure yet more pain. Their collective memory is still alive with the dismemberment of Palestine, their mass exodus into bitter and cold exile, the Suez War, the October War, the invasion of Lebanon and life after military occupation. Now the *Intifada* promises salvation but accompanied by pain. Palestinians wish to see the pain as that of the birth of a new life. But it is hard. For every act of rebellion or defiance, the Israelis react with even more oppression and harshness. The children are particularly hard hit. From the shoot-to-kill policy to the breaking bones policy, to the night raids and beating, the children have to face the new challenge of a new time. They simply cannot afford the luxury of childhood and have to assume the worries of adulthood.

The 'children of the stone' are not made of stone. They suffer pain and fear. The extent of their exposure to traumatic events is horrific even at the statistical level. According to the Programme's survey of 2,779 children, 92.5% had been exposed to tear gas; 42% had been beaten; 55% had witnessed beating; 4.5% had had their bones broken or other severe injuries; 85% had been exposed to night raids; and 19% had been detained for short periods of time.



Children at the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme
Photo: Barbara Harrell-Bond

Issa is a seven year old boy from Bureij refugee camp. His mother said that he had completely changed in the previous nine months. He complains of headaches, wets his bed at night and is aggressive towards his sisters. She said that Issa finds it difficult to sleep and frequently wakes up in the night shaking with terror. Issa was normal until the night when soldiers

burst into the house and beat his father and elder brother. Issa says:

I am always afraid of the soldiers. They beat my friends at school and my teachers many times. I run away when I see them coming. I want to beat them but they are very strong and they have guns. They kill.

The future

What will become of you, the children of the stone? What kind of students are you and will you ever go to university? What kind of parents will you be, warm and happy, or neurotic and abusive? What teachers will we have, what lawyers, what leaders?

It is difficult to imagine the future of these children, even in peace, since they have never tasted peace themselves. It is certain, however, that many will continue to harbour the pain, the guilt and the anger. It is also certain that some will turn against their own children and against themselves. Some will also turn against the world, the world which preached decency, justice and democracy, only to stand by and watch the slaughtering of justice, democracy, decency and the children. And if the children of the stone sacrificed themselves, will this sacrifice bring peace and salvation after all?

Dr Eyad El Sarraj is Director of the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme.

Acknowledgement of funders

We would like to thank the following organisations for their generous financial assistance during 1993 and 1994, and for their continuing interest and support:

Austcare
Bernard van Leer Foundation
Danish Refugee Council
The European Community
Lutheran World Federation
Save the Children Fund (UK)
UNICEF

We are happy to discuss full or part sponsorship of individual RPN issues (see the Letter from the Editor on page 3 for forthcoming themes). Sponsorship 'packages' may include advertising space, use of logo, etc. Please contact the Editor.

Reflections on... coordination and participation

An interview with Daniel Mwaisela, Deputy Head of Refugee Section, Ministry of Home Affairs, Tanzania, conducted during his recent visit to Oxford as a participant in the RSP International Summer School.

What are the main groups of refugees with whom you are working?

The current estimated caseload is 700,000. Their countries of origin are: Rwanda - 350,000, Burundi - 250,000, Mozambique - 72,000, Zaire - 30,000, Somalia - 4,000, others - 5,000 (from Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Iran, etc).

What are the ways in which you coordinate the work of the Ministry with the work of the NGOs and UNHCR?

On a personal level, I was sent by my government to act as a counterpart coordinator in running the programme to assist about 400,000 newly arrived refugees from Burundi (October 1993 - January 1994) and about the same figure from Rwanda in May 1994. I stayed in the affected regions (ie Kigoma and Kagera respectively) doing the following: monitoring progress of implementation, coordinating between government agencies involved in the programme and UNHCR/NGOs, ensuring that refugees/asylum seekers live according to the law governing their status, issuing government policy statements concerning refugee issues and being a key advisor to the regional authorities on refugee issues.

At a national level, we have the National Coordination Committee; its meetings are chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. UNHCR is the Secretariat. The committee draws its members from different line ministries (Agriculture, Health, National Resources), UN agencies, donors and NGOs.

What are the problem areas for coordination, either between your Ministry and the UN/NGOs or between the NGOs/UN themselves?

If I may answer this question by drawing on our the experience from the programme we have for newly arrived Burundi and Rwandese refugees, I found that the problem

INTERVIEW continued

areas for coordination are mainly a result of every actor's wish and desire to see that all the essential needs of the refugees are supplied in good time. The needs are immense, ranging from supplementary feeding, medical structures, provision of basic food and non-food items, health and sanitation, management, shelter, security/protection, storage, logistics, etc. If this wish and desire are not handled in a coordinated way, the programme might end up achieving nothing, with an overlapping of activities, creating a chaotic situation and uneasy relationships. When this happens then indeed it is the refugee who suffers most. Therefore the major function of any coordinator is to be continuously sensitising the actors to realise that we are a family and that this is not the place for dogfighting or conflicting interests.

How would you describe your relationship with a) international NGOs and b) local NGOs? Is it easier to work with the local NGOs than with the international NGOs?

At an institutional level, the relationship between the actors is very good as each of them (government, UN agencies, NGOs - local or international) is aware of their duties and aware that they must work as a team if they are to have any success. Fortunately all the actors share a common desire which is inherent in their respective institutional frameworks that refugees be assisted to live in safety and dignity. These factors make coordination work a lot easier. At a personal level, when working with international NGO personnel we often share nothing in terms of background, culture, language, etc, and the smooth communication and understanding that ought to be there are somehow impeded by these factors - and this leads sometimes to unnecessary uneasiness or misunderstanding. This is more likely to happen during the early days of the emergency as everybody is busy trying to adjust to the situation. Unfortunately this is the very time when things are supposed to move pretty fast in order to arrest the emergency situation. It is the duty of coordinators to ensure that the actors meet frequently in order to improve their understanding of each other's perception, obligations, capacity, accountability, etc.

If you solely take the point of having more in common (ie language, culture, loyalty to the government, familiarity with how it operates, priorities, etc), then it is easier to work with a local NGO, especially during the early phase of an emergency when time is too short to start learning from each other. Unfortunately in many developing countries the capacity of local NGOs is very limited and therefore they cannot adequately deal with a major crisis. It is therefore desirable to have the presence of both, hoping that in the process each will build up the other's capacity. In reality it rarely happens because it is not part of the agenda

of any of them. I wish it was because it would be to the advantage of the refugees if we remembered the old adage that it is easier to get help from a neighbour than from somebody who is far away and who has many other concerns which could be of a higher priority.

What would you suggest for improving coordination?

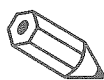
I believe that the level of coordination that exists now is the upper limit one can achieve given the objective conditions prevailing on the ground. Maybe actors need to be a little bit more transparent in their operations and objectives. Also, there is a need to improve communication links between actors to improve information sharing.

Are the refugees themselves involved in the management and planning for the camps? How are they consulted and how do they participate?

Obviously during the initial period we cannot expect much from a person who is so distressed and whose major concern is survival. That notwithstanding, establishing refugee representation in the camps is one of the immediate tasks for any administrator. During the early phase, the practice has been to appoint representatives from the elders (men and women), religious leaders or by recognising the leadership structure (if it still exists) which they had before becoming refugees. In the next, more stable phase, general elections are conducted and these representatives are normally involved in any major issue pertaining to distribution, security, sanitation, meetings, etc. They are the focal point for reaching the community. Indeed they are part of the management committee which involves the government, UNHCR and NGOs. In stabilised programmes, the refugee community is organised in a pyramid shape (villages, wards and settlement); at all strata, the refugees select their own leaders and at the settlement level you have the settlement chairman who presides over the settlement development committee.

Do you have any other comments on these issues?

Only that I would wish to highlight the lessons learned from this RSP International Summer School. Through the lectures, I was exposed to experience from different parts of the world and it became clear to me that a lot is being done to assist refugees. Still, there is a long way to go before we achieve equal treatment of refugees regardless of where they are or where they came from. The refugee regime must be free from national interests because it is a humanitarian issue; otherwise double standards will continue to be the order of the day. Too bad.



Dear Editor

COOKING FUEL POLICIES AND ASSESSMENTS ARE NOT ENOUGH!

I write to bring the subject of 'fuel aid' to the attention of your readers in light of the Rwandan crisis. The subject is one in which I have been involved at a practical and theoretical level for some years.

The fuel needs of refugees are paramount for two main reasons. Firstly, many basic foods are not fully digestible, especially for children, without adequate cooking. We need to provide appropriate 'fuel aid' in a timely and direct manner to ensure that the food currently provided is genuinely nutritional. Secondly, we must ease the progressive environmental devastation which results because displaced persons are at present expected to satisfy their cooking fuel requirements from their immediate surroundings. A retrospective analysis of humanitarian relief efforts to Ethiopia in the 1980s provides evidence of the necessity of meeting cooking fuel needs in humanitarian crises. One of the most critical insights gained from an analysis of relief efforts to Ethiopia during this period was that the need for cooking fuel was as great as the need for food itself. Villages were abandoned and people carried food to other nearby villages in search of cooking fuel; food, seed and cooking fuel in situ would have sustained village life and avoided some of these forced migrations.

In their policy handbooks, UNHCR and Oxfam, among others, ask fieldworkers to collect information on the fuel needs of the recipients of aid and UNHCR notes that '...special arrangements may be thus necessary to supply cooking fuels...' (UNHCR, 1982). Since 1986, one of the first points in an Oxfam checklist for refugee situations is to assess what fuel is used for cooking and, if wood, whether there is an adequate supply close by and whether it will last (Oxfam, 1986).

As we begin to assess the need for adequate cooking fuel in humanitarian crises, we should first evaluate past experience. Firstly, the number of humanitarian crises in which cooking fuel assessments have been conducted are very few. Secondly, agencies almost never seek donor support to meet assessed cooking fuel needs. In those cases where assessments have resulted in fuel delivery, we can analyse the type of fuel delivered and the relative merit of the fuel chosen. However, we have too few examples from which to draw meaningful conclusions.

An initial review of the literature suggests that efforts to resolve cooking fuel needs in humanitarian crises have been limited to concern with improved stoves and tree planting. Such efforts may ameliorate the situation but are insufficient when one considers the amount of fuel needed. At present, there are an estimated 120,000 refugees in camps in northern Kenya alone, requiring some 3,600 tonnes of wood per month solely for household cooking. However, it is known that if carbonaceous briquettes of adequate density were used for cooking purposes instead of wood, the absolute tonnage of fuel needed would be reduced significantly.

A valid geographical approach, however, is to go back and look at areas where large groups of displaced persons used to be and where they are now. What this shows is that enormous environmental damage is caused by the sudden influx of large numbers of people into ecologically fragile regions, especially when the demand for cooking fuel is met by using the standing fuel stocks in these regions. The damage is obvious but the existence of such wide scale environmental damage has not prompted humanitarian agencies to address the fuel needs of aid recipients.

We must begin to assess the energy and fuel requirements of recipients in as many humanitarian crises as possible, review the evidence, formulate policies and structure delivery methods. Evidence should be acquired, at least initially, by conducting small-scale experiments to test various means to measure and to fulfil cooking fuel requirements. Notwithstanding such data gathering and policy formation processes, we must acquire and transport appropriate fuel to the Rwandan refugees now. From past successful experience (Sarajevo 1993), carbonaceous briquettes of adequate density are easy to use, distribute and transport and are of immediate help to recipients.

I hope this letter will raise interest in the topic and I look forward to seeing these issues pursued in subsequent issues of the RPN.

Yours sincerely

E LaMONT-Gregory MSc Oxon
School of Anthropology, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6PE, UK

Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action

The global NGO and UNHCR Conference which took place in Oslo, Norway, from 6 - 9 June 1994 was the culmination of a year-long series of consultations and regional meetings in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Europe, as well as national consultations in Canada, Japan and the United States, organised by UNHCR and ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies). The objective: to discuss the operational relationships between UNHCR and NGOs and the criteria for building a more constructive and concrete partnership for the future.

The Oslo Plan of Action reflects the changing roles of NGOs and UNHCR: their greater involvement not only in strictly humanitarian efforts but also in efforts related to human rights, early warning, prevention, reconciliation and peacekeeping and peacemaking.

Today the magnitude and nature of the refugee problem call urgently for new approaches. We are confronted by the suffering of victims of conflict and human rights violations, and concerned about protecting them. With all of us moving into the uncharted waters of a new international era, there was a particular need to map together a strategy and plan of action for a reinvigorated NGO/UNHCR partnership. (Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees)

The Declaration and Plan of Action are presented in a 46 page report with 134 recommendations, providing a common agenda for UNHCR-NGO partnership in five priority areas:

a) Refugee Protection

To ensure, through an open process of consultation and involvement in the formulation of policies, that the protection and assistance needs of asylum-seekers and refugees are met; to reinforce the mechanisms for monitoring and information-sharing in potential or unfolding refugee crises; and to advocate more effectively on behalf of refugees and asylum-seekers.

b) Internally Displaced Persons

To develop, in cooperation with the United Nations, other agencies and institutions and with governments, a comprehensive approach to the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, based on clearly defined legal and operational criteria.

c) Emergency Preparedness and Response

To ensure a better coordinated approach to emergencies involving refugees and internally displaced persons through all stages, from early warning to operational responses, including training and funding.

d) The Continuum from Relief to Rehabilitation to Development

To formulate and implement, early in refugee emergencies, comprehensive strategies and programmes for solutions which combine a concern with immediate humanitarian needs with longer term planning for rehabilitation and development.

e) NGO-UNHCR Partnership

To reinforce the partnership between UNHCR and NGOs, particularly at regional and local levels, through a number of concrete measures, including the strengthening of local capacities and increasing training. This would facilitate follow-up and implementation of the Oslo Plan of Action. Refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons should be considered joint partners with UNHCR and NGOs in all programmes and activities of concern to them.

For more details, contact:

ICVA, Case Postale 216, 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 732 6600. Fax: +41 22 738 9904.

or: UNHCR, Case Postale 2500, CH-1211 Geneva 2 Depot, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 739 8193. Fax: +41 22 739 8789.

AGENCY INFORMATION : ICRC & UNHCR

RPN 16 (March 1994) looked at the role of Amnesty International in working with refugees. In this RPN we look at the different mandates of the ICRC and UNHCR: how they coordinate responsibility for refugees and how their traditional roles are changing in reaction to current international circumstances. The information below is taken from statements written by the two organisations.

The role of the ICRC

The ICRC's mandate is to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict, whether international or otherwise. This mandate includes assistance in the medical field, protection of prisoners of war and of security detainees, and provision of food and other relief supplies to victims in times of conflict.

Assistance is always given directly to victims, be it in their places of residence, in a temporary shelter or in a long term refuge.

In addition, the ICRC has always maintained a tracing service. Furthermore, the ICRC contributes to the implementation and development of international humanitarian law and is involved in a large-scale effort to spread knowledge of the rules it contains, as a means of preventing violations.

The role of UNHCR

The protection of refugees and the seeking of durable solutions to their problems are the two main functions of UNHCR:

Firstly, UNHCR seeks to promote the adoption of international standards such as freedom of movement and protection against being returned to a country where a refugee may have reason to fear persecution.

Secondly, UNHCR seeks to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees and reintegration into their country of origin or, where this is not feasible, to facilitate their integration in the countries of asylum or their resettlement in third countries.

UNHCR has a major role in coordinating aid to refugees, returnees and displaced persons.

ICRC - UNHCR : Traditional division of responsibilities

[Note that this refers only to the coordination between the ICRC and UNHCR and does not attempt to address the roles of governments and other actors.]

With regard to refugees and displaced persons, the ICRC and UNHCR divide responsibilities as follows:

- * *UNHCR has exclusive competence for the protection of refugees in countries of temporary or first asylum;*
- * *ICRC has primary competence in regard to persons displaced within a country or outside its borders as a result of a conflict or internal violence;*
- * *ICRC and UNHCR have complementary competence for the protection and assistance of refugees and displaced persons concentrated in border areas which are subject to military operations.*

Changing roles

In recent years, however, UNHCR has been requested by the Secretary-General and other sections of the United Nations to operate beyond its traditional mandate. For example, UNHCR has responded in Yugoslavia and more recently in Rwanda to such a request to become involved in humanitarian assistance for persons displaced as a result of conflict or internal violence. Although this area remains broadly the primary responsibility of the ICRC, UNHCR is increasingly involved in this activity as well, and in areas where UNHCR and the ICRC are both operating, responsibility tends to be shared.

In essence, there is now no clearly demarcated sphere of exclusive competence for either UNHCR or the ICRC. This blurring of traditional lines of competence is caused by the enormous challenge faced by the international community to respond to rapid mass movements of persons to places of relative sanctuary.

If you would like further information or if you or your family are asylum-seekers requiring assistance, please contact:

ICRC: your local ICRC delegation or the ICRC headquarters at 19 avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

UNHCR: your local UNHCR office or the UNHCR Secretariat at Case Postale 2500, CH-1211 Geneva 2 Dépôt, Switzerland.

Tel: +010 41 (0)22 739 8111. Fax: +010 41 (0)22 739 8822.

CONFERENCES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEVELOPMENT-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT AND IMPOVERISHMENT

Population displacement, resettlement policies and development project guidelines
Oxford, UK : 3 - 8 January 1995

The focus of the conference will be on analysing ways to prevent impoverishment which often results from the internal displacement of people following large scale development projects.

Contact: Dr Harrell-Bond, Refugee Studies Programme, QEH, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)865 270298. Fax: +44 (0)865 270721.

E-Mail: RSP@VAX.OX.AC.UK

WAR, EXILE AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Zagreb, Croatia : 30 March - 1 April 1995

This conference will focus on various problems concerning refugees and displaced persons in general and confront different experiences - scientific and practical - in dealing with them. It will cover the following topics:

- * presentation of recent research projects on refugees
- * contacts and conflicts: everyday life of refugees in new cultural settings
- * theory and methodology regarding ethnography of exile
- * cultural activities as therapy

Contact: Maja Povrzanovi, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Kralja Zvonimira 17, PO Box 287, 41000 Zagreb, Croatia.

Tel/fax: +38 5 41440880. E-mail: maja@maief.ief.hr

EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda : 3 - 8 April 1995

This international conference will look at all aspects of education and training, focusing on the following major themes:

- * vocational training
- * emergency teacher training
- * education of girls
- * social and psychological factors
- * adult education

Contact: Barry Sesnan, PO Box 9802, Kampala, Uganda.

Tel: +256 41 530465. Tel/fax: +256 41 541562.

Note: cancellation of conference

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN - TODAY AND TOMORROW

Gaza : 9 - 12 December 1994

Please note that this conference has been cancelled.

REPORTS

SECOND NGO CONFERENCE ON LANDMINES Geneva, 9 - 11 May 1994

Over 120 representatives from international NGOs attended this conference, the purpose of which was to update and expand the international Campaign for a ban on the use, production, stockpiling, sale, transfer and/or export of anti-personnel mines. There are one hundred million uncleared landmines claiming some 15,000 victims each year and leaving large areas of land uninhabitable. The following themes were discussed in depth during the conference: humanitarian mine clearance, victim assistance, promoting the ban and containing the opposition, and broadening the campaign. A report is being prepared.

Contact: International Campaign to Ban Landmines Secretariat, c/o Jody Williams, Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, 1347 Upper Dummerston Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301, USA.

Tel: +1 802 254 8807. Fax: +1 802 254 8808.

REFUGEES AND INTERNAL SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

Colombo, Sri Lanka : 10 - 11 July 1994

This conference was hosted by the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies which was inaugurated in February 1993 to promote interaction among South Asian scholars and other scholars of South Asia, to encourage research on strategic and security issues in the region and to foster links with other institutes on such issues.

This was the first of a series of conferences. All countries of South Asia were represented except Bhutan. Presentations were made on: forced migration worldwide (by Dr Van Hear of RSP), ethno-nationalism in the region, Tibetan refugees, successive waves of people from East Pakistan/Bangladesh to India, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in Tamil Nadu, Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, and Bangladesh as both a refugee producing and refugee receiving country.

Subsequent discussion took a broad view of the concept 'security', taking in not just the internal dimension but also the bilateral, regional and international perspectives.

The proceedings are to be published in a book (eds Muni and Baral), due out in late 1994.

Contact: RCSS, 4-101, BMICH, Bauddholaka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

Tel: +94 1 688601. Fax: +94 1 688602.

COURSES

Refugee Studies Programme: courses for 1995

THE MANAGEMENT OF STRESS IN HUMANITARIAN WORK

Five day short course : 27 - 31 March 1995

The occupational stress inherent in humanitarian efforts is a workplace issue that can no longer be ignored. Aid workers, particularly those in emergency situations, are at risk for exposure to distress, death and violence. It is imperative that relief and aid organisations increase staff support and development. Addressing these issues is the focus of this five-day workshop.

Course content:

- Cumulative Stress · Stress Prevention and Management
- Crisis and Trauma · Critical Incident Management
- Crisis Intervention

Course participants: This workshop is aimed at providing humanitarian workers with an understanding of how they can take care of themselves and their families and support their co-workers and/or staff more effectively.

Course facilitators: *Laurie Sullivan* and *Sheila Platt* both have diverse experience in delivering psychological support services to a variety of employee populations and have worked with UNHCR and UNICEF staff in several humanitarian crises around the world.

This workshop is limited to 30 people.

Fees: £250 (not including accommodation or meals) for waged participants; £100 (not including accommodation or meals) for unwaged participants (limited places).

THE LAW OF REFUGEE STATUS

Weekend workshop : 20 - 21 May 1995

This comprehensive workshop on the scope of the refugee definition gives participants the opportunity, through a mix of lecture and working group exercises, to grapple with the difficulties of the application of legal norms in the context of factual scenarios based on actual refugee claims.

This third annual course is led by Professor James Hathaway of the Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, Canada. Professor Hathaway is Associate Director (Law) of York University's Centre for Refugee Studies in Canada.

Cost: £90 (including lunch; excluding accommodation and other meals).

1995 INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Four week residential course : 3 - 28 July 1995

The main objective of the Summer School is to provide a broad theoretical background to the subjects of forced migration and assistance, against which participants can then examine, discuss and review the role of assistance in practice. It offers an occasion for study, reflection and interaction in a setting removed from the day-to-day pressures of work.

An underlying theme of the course is that the systematic study of humanitarian crises will improve the planning, efficiency and effectiveness of aid programmes. Such study aims to provide an understanding of the experience of forcible displacement in its many aspects - political, legal, cultural, socio-economic, psychological and organisational - through a multi-disciplinary and comparative approach.

Resource persons at RSP courses comprise academics, policy-makers and fieldworkers with experience and knowledge in this field in the regions of Africa, Europe, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean and South East Asia. They include RSP staff and representatives of NGO and UN organisations.

The Summer School is specifically designed for experienced managers, administrators and fieldworkers involved in programmes of assistance and/or policy-making in the humanitarian field. It also provides researchers with an opportunity to relate their research to the field of practice. Participants will have the opportunity to extend their stay for two weeks for field trips and/or supervised study/project development.

Cost: £1,950 for the four week Summer School, inclusive of bed and breakfast accommodation from 2 - 28 July inclusive. The optional two week extension will cost a further £650 for the period 29 July to 11 August, inclusive of bed and breakfast accommodation.

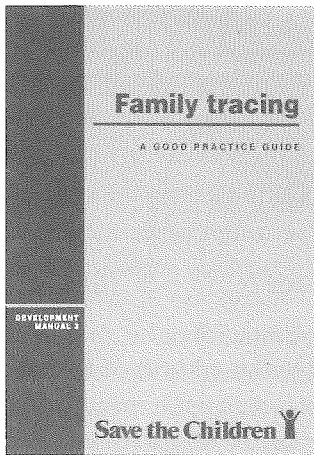
Deadline for enrolment and payment of fees is 15 May 1995.

Prior registration is required for all courses.

For further information and application forms, contact:

*The Education Unit, Refugee Studies Programme, QEH, University of Oxford, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)865 270723 Fax: +44 (0)865 270721
E-Mail: RSP@VAX.OXFORD.AC.UK*

REVIEWS



Family tracing: A good practice guide SCF Development Manual 3
by Lucy Bonnerjea, *Save the Children*. 1994. A5 paperback. 122pp. ISBN 1-870322-77-0. £4.95 (& 15% post/packing). Available from: *Publication Sales, Save the Children*, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD, UK. Tel: +44 (0)71 703 5400. Fax: +44 (0)71 703 2278.

Family tracing is a guide for professional and non-professional refugee workers, NGOs and governments setting up family tracing and reunification programmes in situations of social crisis and conflict. The manual is built on experience acquired in several third world countries and deals, even if briefly, with most of the issues and problems which a family tracing programme is likely to encounter.

It begins with the definition of unaccompanied children; stresses the importance of undertaking family tracing as a national policy; advises how to structure the registration process (even providing a model for the forms); and underlines the importance of education, explaining and listening skills in dealing with traumatised children (referring to Manual 2 [see *RPN 16*] and UNHCR's Refugee Children guidelines). The manual also deals with the issues of preparation of documentation, training of interviewers, planning for the future, aftercare, economic and social issues, follow-up processes and cooperation between tracing teams and community leaders. This guide positions 'family tracing as a bridge between relief and development and sees the family living as an indicator of progress for children and an achievable aim in development'. Although it is meant for workers in the third world situation (it only touches on the European experience dating from the Second World War), much of its content is applicable in the recent European crisis situations. Perhaps the next issue of the manual should contain a chapter dealing with specific problems arising from the situations in Eastern Europe where SCF has more recently been active.

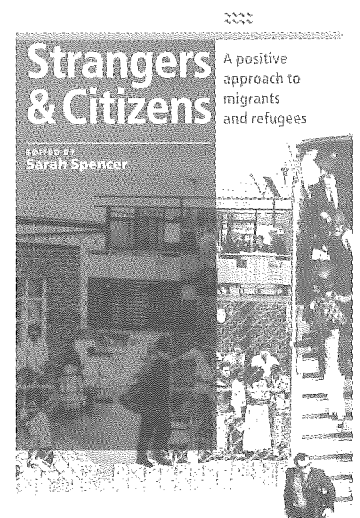
Reviewer: Vesna Domany Hardy, UK Coordinator for Unaccompanied Children in Exile from former Yugoslavia

Strangers and Citizens: A positive approach to migrants and refugees

edited by Sarah Spencer. 1994. 398pp. Paperback. ISBN 1-85489-051-4. £14.95. Published by Rivers Oram Press, 144 Hemingford Road, London N1 1DE. Tel: +44 (0)71 607 0823. Fax: +44 (0)71 609 2776.

Strangers and Citizens is a collection of papers by specialists in Social Policy, Law, Geography and Economics, brought together by the Institute for Public Policy Research to consider the social, political and economic implications of immigration in an age of increasing migratory pressures. The book reviews current and future migration and ways of tackling the causes of refugee flows; discusses theories of immigration, international law and human rights; assesses the economic impact of migration; reveals the discrimination inherent in existing British immigration controls; and strongly urges a change in approach in developing British government policy.

The themes running through these papers are certainly ones that demand constant reiteration - the need to establish a pro-active immigration policy to replace the current adhoc, reactive approach; the need for acceptance of a multi-cultural way of life and for a greater recognition of the skills and resources that migrants and refugees bring with them and the positive contributions they can make to the economy; and the need for all policy to satisfy international standards of human rights. The basic contradiction between the British immigration policy which is discriminatory in its restrictionism and the simultaneous call for harmonious race relations is well brought out by Ms Spencer. While there are significant directives to policy-makers in this book, there is also an important stress laid on the need for systematic research to address the paucity of hard empirical data on migrants. If popular stereotypes - whereby refugees are regarded as draining public resources, increasing unemployment and causing conflict - are to be exploded, it can only be on the basis of such data. And, finally, it is only on the basis of such data that policy should be framed.



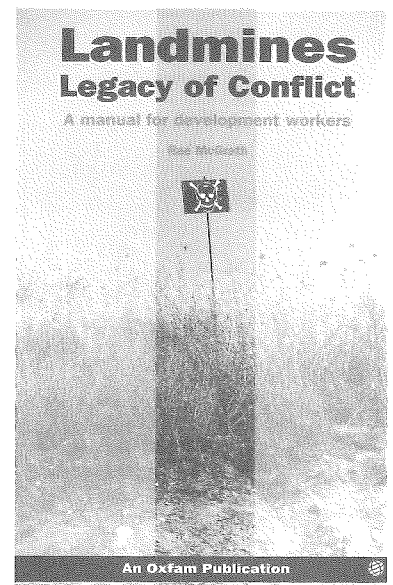
Reviewer: Shaila Srinivasan, Ethnic Minority Business Service, Oxford, UK

Landmines: Legacy of Conflict A manual for development workers

by Rae McGrath, Mines Advisory Group. 1994. 86pp. Paperback. ISBN 0-85598-264-0. £7.95. Published by Oxfam Publications, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)865 311311.

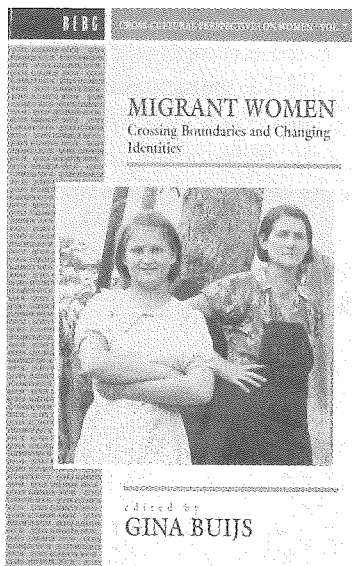
Landmines are an ever increasing problem for millions of people around the world, be they refugees, displaced persons, people living on their own land or relief and development workers. *Landmines: Legacy of Conflict* is especially addressed to the latter but is appropriate for anyone concerned with the issue of landmines.

The manual lucidly introduces the reader to issues such as the types of landmines most frequently used, the way they are used and their effects on the human body, how to avoid landmines, what to do if you find yourself in a minefield, the education of the community and local and global solutions. The appendices give a description of how mines work and how to protect vehicles against their effects as well as giving a short overview of statements on landmines by humanitarian organisations.



Having had a certain amount of training concerning landmines and other unexploded ammunitions and having been in areas infested with mines, I can recommend anyone faced with the threat of landmines to read this manual - and to take it with you on the journey. This book could save your life and the lives of others by providing a basic understanding of the subject and enabling you to cope with many of the problems posed by landmines.

Reviewer: Flemming S Nielsen, RSP Visiting Study Fellow



Migrant Women: Crossing Boundaries and Changing Identities

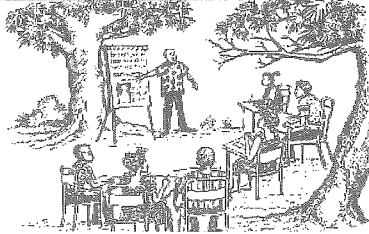
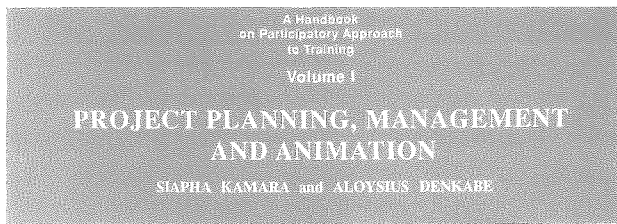
edited by Gina Buijs. 1993. 205pp. Paperback. ISBN 0-85496-869-5. £12.95. Published by Berg Publishers Limited, 150 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JJ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)865 245104.

Migrant Women: Crossing Boundaries and Changing Identities is a compilation of case studies on migrant women from around the world. Contributions to the book were made mostly by women who presented Seminar Papers to the 1990 Oxford Women's Series held at Queen Elizabeth House (Oxford, UK) under the auspices of the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research on Women.

Mass movements of people have become a common feature of our daily lives. However, little attempt has been made to identify the gender-specific experiences of migrant women. This book examines the experiences of women who have fled both economic hardship and political circumstances. It is concerned with the dynamics of change in gender relations which have been brought about by migration.

The contributors to this book study women's reactions to migration as well as their process of adaptation and examine how responses differ with each migratory population. Migrant women are forced to adopt new roles and identities which were traditionally male-dominated in the society of origin. Some women react positively to these changes in traditional gender roles and appreciate their freedom of movement and economic and social independence. However, other women find migration traumatic and interpret it as an ultimate betrayal of everything in which they once believed. As a coping strategy, women may attempt to re-create their cultural and social background and have idealized perceptions of their society of origin. The book also addresses marriage in a new society and women who migrate without men. *Migrant Women* is a useful and readable publication for anyone interested in the consequences of migration on women.

Reviewer: Lee Schreckengaust, RSP Visiting Study Fellow



A Handbook on Participatory Approach to Training
by *Siapha Kamara and Aloysius Denkabe*. 1993. *Paperback*.
Available from: *Freedom Publications, c/o PO Box K 601, Accra*
New Town, Ghana.

Volume I: *Project Planning, Management and Animation* 35pp.
ISBN 9964-91-593-4.

Volume II: *Gender in Development* 35pp. ISBN 9964-91-594-2.

This two volume trainers' handbook is based on training courses run by the CUSO-CCPD Training Programme for NGOs in northern Ghana, where Liberian social activist Siapha Kamara has been the

programme's Coordinator since 1988. His co-author on these two volumes is the Ghanaian trainer and educationalist, Aloysius Denkabe. Together they have produced a basic but useful guide to the participatory training of development workers.

At the heart of their definition of participatory training is the principle of learning by doing. Trainers are encouraged to avoid the chalk and talk of the classroom setting. Instead the principle of the active trainee is set out, in which the trainer's role is to facilitate experience-based learning from a mix of field exercises and small group work at village level. Volume I takes the reader through the various exercises and discussions which allowed trainees to practice and explore the basics of project planning, management and animation. Ways of getting to know the project community through data collection and village profiles are covered, along with exercises in monitoring, evaluation, proposal writing and methods of understanding and encouraging group formation. Volume II continues the process with examples of training exercises in gender analysis and gender-orientated extension work, showing how trainees drew up gender-based activity profiles for men and women, girls and boys. Outlines of the trainees' subsequent discussions which explored the different roles, responsibilities and rights behind the activities are also included.

These two volumes are deliberately aimed at NGO extension workers and seek to present the principles of participatory training for development in simple terms. The result is a basic checklist of how to organise the themes and exercises of particular training sessions. Much of the handbook's material is obviously taken from the completed flipcharts of the CUSO-CCPD courses and is accompanied by a series of cartoons and well presented diagrams. Neither volume breaks new ground in method or approach and there is an absence of notions like sustainability, partnership and empowerment - but perhaps these may follow in further volumes. In the meantime, these two volumes would be a useful point of reference to those designing training courses for front-line field workers with little formal education. The language is simple and common sense prevails. Refreshingly, there is no attempt to mystify the art of training into an obscure science.

Reviewer: Hugo Slim, Senior Lecturer in Developmental Practices at Oxford Brookes University, UK

RSP VISITORS PROGRAMME

The Visitors Programme brings together students, practitioners and senior academic researchers, some of whom are also refugees, from different regions and different disciplines. Study Fellows follow the Foundation course of study. Research Fellows use RSP's resources for independent or supervised study and the development of course materials for teaching in their own universities.

RSP is part of Queen Elizabeth House, the University of Oxford's International Development Centre, and all applications for attachment are reviewed by the QEH Affiliations Committee. On the basis of their *curriculum vitae* and references, successful applicants may be designated Visiting Research Fellows or Visiting Study Fellows. The latter are examined in ten modules of RSP's multi-disciplinary Foundation courses.

For further information and application forms, please contact:

The Education Unit, Refugee Studies Programme, QEH, University of Oxford, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)865 270723 Fax: +44 (0)865 270721 E-Mail: RSP@VAX.OXFORD.AC.UK

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletters, journals and magazines

Refugee Concern Magazine is a newsletter published by Refugee Concern Hong Kong. Issue 2 (June/July 1994) covers matters such as the detention of Cambodian refugees, the role of UNHCR and the repatriation process. There is no subscription charge although donations are welcomed. *Contact: Refugee Concern Hong Kong, Kowloon GPO Box 71510, Kowloon, Hong Kong.*

Disasters: Preparedness and Mitigation in the Americas is the newsletter of the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination Programme of the Pan American Health Organisation, Regional Office for the Americas of the WHO. *Contact: The Editor, Disaster Preparedness in the Americas, Pan American Health Organisation, 525 Twenty-third Street NW, Washington, DC 20037, USA. Tel: +1 202 861 6096. Fax: +1 202 775 4578. Internet: DISASTER@PAHO.ORG*

International Islamic Relief Organisation Newsletter is published by the IIRO in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. It includes comment, articles, conference reports, etc. *Contact: IIRO Newsletter, PO Box 1285, Jeddah 21431, Saudi Arabia. Tel: +966 2 6512333. Fax: +966 2 6518491.*

NGO Summit Newsletter gives information on the events and themes leading to the World Summit for Social Development, 11-12 March 1995, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Up to five copies sent free of charge. Publication schedule: 1994 - August and December; 1995 - February, May and September. *Contact: ICSW (International Council on Social Welfare), 380 Saint-Antoine Street West, Suite 3200, Montreal, Canada H2Y 3X7. Tel: +1 514 287 3280. Fax: +1 514 987 1567.*

ARCWP Newsletter is published quarterly by Aid to Refugee Children Without Parents Inc, a volunteer non-profit organisation dedicated to helping Vietnamese refugee children without parents. *Contact: ARCWP, PO Box 21066, San Jose, CA 95151, USA. Tel: +1 408 226 7031. Fax: +1 408 226 1253. E-mail: ARCWP@netcom.com*

Enfants réfugiés du monde No 1, February/March/April 1994. This is the first of a quarterly newsletter by the organisation of the same name and focuses on the children of Lebanon. Cost: FrF15.00. In French only. *Contact: ERM, 34 rue Gaston Lauriau, 93100 Montreuil, France. Tel: +33 48 59 60 29. Fax: +33 48 59 64 88.*

Development Update (No 1, January-February 1994) will be published every two months by the United Nations Department of Public Information. It aims to update readers worldwide with essential information on the major UN

conferences and events scheduled during 1994 and 1995. In English only. *Contact: Development Update, UN Dept of Public Information, S-1040, New York, NY 10017, USA. Fax: +1 212 963 4556.*

Go-Between is the bimonthly newsletter of the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, providing news from the UN and NGOs. It also includes features on different areas of interest and publishes abstracts of new publications. *Contact: Go-Between, UN-NGLS, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Fax: +41 22 788 7366.*

Bosnia Relief Watch is a short newsletter/sheet giving the latest information on the situation in Bosnia and of Bosnian refugees. It is compiled by Refugees International and sent by fax or mail. *Contact: Refugees International, 21 Dupont Circle NW, Washington, DC 20036, USA. Tel: +1 202 828 0110. Fax: +1 202 828 0819. E-mail: ri@clark.net*

Torture is a quarterly journal on rehabilitation of torture victims and prevention of torture, published by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). Cost: US\$25 (DKK 150) per volume. On request, it is free of charge to health professionals and others with an interest in rehabilitation of torture survivors and prevention of torture. *Contact: ICRT, Borgergade 13, PO Box 2107, DK-11014 Copenhagen K, Denmark. Tel: +45 33 76 06 00. Fax: +45 33 76 05 00.*

Waterlines is a quarterly magazine written by and for engineers and fieldworkers working to provide low-cost water supplies and sanitation facilities in developing countries. Vol 13 No 1 (July 1994) reflects on the current Rwandan crisis and focuses on effective emergency response with articles written by engineers from UNHCR, the Red Cross, Oxfam, SCF and Medecins Sans Frontieres. Subscriptions £15 (US\$28) for individuals; £19 (US\$37) for institutions. *Contact: Intermediate Technology Publications Ltd, 103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, UK. Tel: +44 (0)71 436 9761. Fax: +44 (0)71 436 2013.*

Geographically-specific publications (including research findings)

The Marsh Arabs of Iraq *Minority Rights Group. June 1993. 24pp. ISBN 1-897693-20-6. Published by the Minority Rights Group, International Secretariat, 379 Brixton Road, London SW9 7DE, UK. Tel: +44 (0)71 978 9498. Fax: +44 (0)71 738 6265.* This occasional paper looks at the history of the Marsh Arabs, the recent repression and the international response. It also covers the issues of: environmental degradation; the role of the Iraqi government

PUBLICATIONS continued

in relation both to environmental protection and human rights; and 'ways forward'.

The Kurdish Tragedy by Gerard Chaliand. July 1994. 115pp. ISBN 1-85649-100-5. Paperback. (Hardback also available) £10.95/US\$17.50. Published by Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF (tel: +44 (0)71 837 8466) or via Humanities Press International Inc, 165 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716, USA (tel: +1 908 872 1441). Gerard Chaliand was commissioned by the UN to report on the situation of the Kurds following the Gulf War. His book provides a history of the Kurdish communities and documents their precarious situation in recent times. It contains a detailed analysis of the political situation of the Kurds in contemporary Iran, Iraq and Turkey.

Something like home again: the repatriation of Cambodian refugees US Committee for Refugees. May 1994. 65pp. ISSN 0882-9282. Published by USCR, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20036, USA. Tel: +1 202 347 3507. The report examines the history of the displacement and return of Cambodians during the period 1975-88 and the peace accords and repatriation plans of 1989-92. It then focuses on current repatriation (options, facts and statistics) and reintegration (including 'quick impact' projects by sector and statistics on internally displaced persons). The report ends with findings and recommendations.

Ethnic Conflicts and Refugees in the Former Soviet Union by Daniel Heradstveit, for the Norwegian Refugee Council. 1993. 69pp. ISBN 82-7411-033-1. Available from NRC, PO Box 6758, St Olavs plass, 0130 Oslo, Norway. Tel: +47 22 11 65 00. Fax: +47 11 65 01. This research report was commissioned by the NRC in 1992. Part I is an A-Z of the conflict areas for ready-reference purposes; Part II analyses the principal dimensions of the conflicts in the Caucasus and Central Asia; Part III concentrates on the refugee situation but is also a further analysis of the causes and possible outcomes of the conflicts. The appendices include statistics and maps.

The Somali Conflict: Prospects for Peace by Mark Bradbury. Oxfam research paper. October 1993. 149pp. ISBN 0-85598-271-3. Published by Oxfam (UK/Ireland), 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)865 311311. This paper looks at the background to the Somali war and then has three sections on: Mogadishu - peace-enforcement; Kismayo - peace-making; and Somaliland - peace-building. The appendices list agencies and individuals involved in peacemaking in Somalia and Somaliland and also give the text of the Somaliland Peace Charter and the Jubaland Agreement.

Prepared for returning? An evaluation of Norwegian Refugee Council's vocational training programmes for refugees in Malawi by Siegfried Pausewang and Elin Attramadal Pausewang. 1993. 36pp. ISBN 82-7411-036-6. Available from NRC, PO Box 6758, St Olavs plass, 0130 Oslo, Norway. Tel: +47 22 11 65 00. Fax: +47 22 11 65 01. Commissioned by the Norwegian Refugee Council, the report starts by looking at the political situation in Malawi, land tenure, the family structure, refugee camps and possibilities for repatriation. The researchers then focus on: the running of vocational training centres, general problems of implementation, economic limitations, problems of specific training programmes, tree planting and environmental protection, the problem of participation and land and the issue of women. A summary and recommendations are also given.

African Refugees: Development Aid and Repatriation edited by Howard Adelman and John Sorenson. 1994. 264pp. Hardback. ISBN 0-8133-84660-5. Published by Westview Press Inc, 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80301-2877, USA; and Westview Press, 36 Lonsdale Road, Oxford OX2 7EW, UK. The first section of this book presents a legal framework for defining and assisting refugees. The second deals with the issue of relief by considering specific cases, general problems faced and particular relief efforts. Subsequent chapters address issues of forced migration, resettlement and repatriation, conflict with local populations, integration of refugees and sustainable development.

Pastoral Care of Refugees in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa *Proceedings of consultative meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia, 5 - 9 January 1993* 20 countries sent representatives, including refugees, pastoral workers, members of international Catholic organisations, representatives of UNHCR, religious and lay people. The 228 page report of proceedings publishes country reports and surveys, plus the Final Document of the meeting. Most of the sections are in English; some are in Portuguese. The Final Document is in English and Portuguese.

Pastoral Care of Refugees, Displaced People and Migrants in Western and Northern Africa *Proceedings of consultative meeting held at Yopougon, Ivory Coast, 17 - 21 January 1994* At this meeting, the root causes of forced displacement were reviewed and discussed in detail. The 267 page report includes presentations on special themes, country reports and the Final Document on findings and recommendations.

Copies of the reports are available for US\$10 each. Contact: Elisabetta Scarpa, Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, Palazzo San Calisto 16, 00120 Vatican City, Europe. Fax: +39 (06)698 87111.

General publications

NGO Coordination at Field Level : A Handbook by Jon Bennett, *International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)*. 1994. 53pp. ISBN 0-9523739-0-4. £3.00 (US\$5.00). Available from ICVA NGO Coordination Programme, 84 Sandfield Road, Oxford OX3 7RL, UK. Tel/fax: +44 (0)865 69206. In this handbook, the results of studying a number of coordination bodies worldwide are distilled into suggestions for setting up a field-based coordination mechanism. The handbook provides chapters on getting started, the first year, expanding and consolidating, financial security, regional and international perspectives and troubleshooting. The appendices include suggested statutes for an NGO coordination body and a suggested draft protocol agreement between NGOs and the host government.

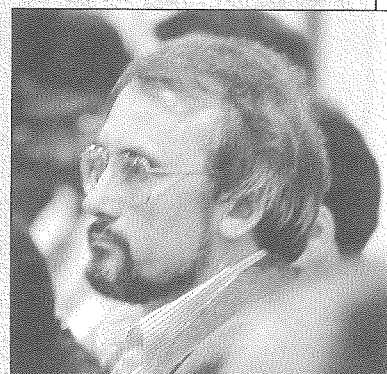
The Reality of Aid 94 : an independent review of international aid ICVA/EUROSTEP/ACTIONAID. Edited by Judith Randel & Tony German, *Development Initiatives*. May 1994. 162pp. ISBN 1-872-502-288. £10.00. Available from ActionAid, 3 Church Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1PW, UK. Tel: +44 (0)373 473128. Country by country, this report looks at the priorities for aid, the way it is managed and who benefits. It draws together trends and comparisons between donors' approaches to poverty alleviation, environment, women and the place of commercial and political interests in the allocation of aid. This is the second in an annual series.

Refugee and Immigrant Resource Directory Third Edition 1994. 255pp. ISBN 0-938737-28-7. US\$47.50. Published by The Denali Press, PO Box 021535, Juneau, Alaska, USA 99802-1535. Tel: +1 907 5866014. Fax: +1 907 4636780. This guide to resources for the refugee and immigrant communities in the US includes 2,270 national, regional and local (and selected international) entries. Two appendices contain a glossary, chronologies of refugee and asylum programmes, review of immigration and naturalisation legislation, tables and charts on current and historical trends in immigration and refugee admissions plus data on the world refugee situation.

1994 World Refugee Survey US Committee for Refugees. 176pp. ISBN 0-9365-48-05-11. US\$10.00 plus US\$3.00 shipping/handling. Published by USCR, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20036, USA. Tel: +1 202 347 3507. The Survey includes statistics and country reports, plus articles on former Yugoslavia, asylum in Europe, anti-personnel mines and the legal and political context of the Palestinian refugee issue.

Dereck Cooper

We are very sorry to have to report the death of Dereck Cooper on 15 July 1994 after the sudden onset of cancer.



After taking degrees at the Universities of Lancaster, UK and Houston, USA, Dereck gained his doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin.

He taught at colleges and universities in the UK and the USA before taking up a position in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the American University in Cairo, where he developed Refugee Studies within the Economics and Political Science Department. The programme ran seminar series and a number of research projects involving Sudanese and other African students, some themselves refugees. Dereck's own work was on urban refugees and in particular displaced Sudanese in Cairo, a project on which he was working at the time of his death. He had published on migration and refugee issues, as well as on education and social services provision.

Dereck spent a short period at the Refugee Studies Programme in Oxford in 1993-94 where he oversaw the Education Unit. He was due to take up a lectureship in sociology at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, in September 1994.

Dereck was held in much affection by his colleagues and was greatly respected. He will be badly missed.

Publications to advertise?

If you produce or know of any publications which might be of use to RPN readers, please send a copy of the publication to the Editor (address on inside cover). Please remember to include details of any price/subscription charges plus the address and telephone/fax numbers for obtaining the publication. Deadline for next issue of RPN is 4 November 1994. Any publications sent to the Editor will be kept in the RSP Documentation Centre for reference. A list of publications advertised in the RPN since 1993 is available on request from the Editor.

Join the Refugee Participation Network...

The Refugee Participation Network is a network of over 2,070 individuals and organisations in 110 countries. It brings together researchers, policy-makers, refugees and those working on the ground with refugees. Its aims are:

- * to improve information exchange on refugee issues
- * to provide policy-makers with field data
- * to provide a voice for refugees
- * to foster the development of local networks

The *RPN Newsletter* is published three times a year, carrying articles and reports, book reviews, letters and updates on publications, forthcoming conferences, etc. We can also provide you with a *Directory* of network members in your country or in other specified countries to help you improve your local networking and information exchange.

The *RPN* is mailed free of charge but we urge all those who can afford it to pay a subscription of £20 (US\$30) a year especially if you are a Northern institution or agency. Please see back page for more details. If you can afford £40 (US\$60), you will be covering the subscription for someone less able to pay.

If you would like to join, please complete and return the form below.



Yes, I would like to join the Refugee Participation Network!

I would like to make a contribution of: £20 £40 other

Please make cheques payable to RSP/QEH. Tick if you require a receipt:

Name _____

Position _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Town _____ Country _____

Tel/Fax/E-Mail _____

Main area of work experience (eg education, health, etc) _____

Special interest group (eg refugee women, children, etc) or second area of experience _____

Geographical area of interest _____

Type of organisation (eg NGO, international agency, refugee-based, etc) _____

Return form to: Refugee Participation Network, RSP, QEH, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.

RSP: NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Research

Dr Chaloka Beyani has recently published the following papers:

* 'Uncovering Reality: Excavating Women's Rights in African Family Law', *International Journal of Family Law*, 7(3), 1993, pp 314-369 (joint article);

* 'The Prerequisites of Education', *Education Rights and Minorities 1994*, Minority Rights Group International, pp 14-17;

* 'Towards a More Effective Guarantee of Women's Rights in the African Human Rights System', *Human Rights of Women*, ed R Cook, University of Pennsylvania Press, pp 285-306.

Dr Beyani has also given a number of lectures during the past four months, including the following: 'Humanitarian intervention and role of NGOs' at the Liaison Committee of Development NGOs, European Community, Brussels (April); 'A post apartheid agenda in southern Africa' at the Catholic Institute of International Relations and the Liaison Committee of Development NGOs, European Community, Brussels (June); and 'The right to family life in international law' for the Families Across Frontiers conference organised by the International Society of Family Law, University of Cardiff Law School, Cardiff, UK (June).

Dr Nicholas Van Hear travelled to Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore in March 1994, in connection with his ESRC-funded research on the forced mass exodus of migrant and minority communities. He visited research institutions and other organisations concerned with forced migration in the Southeast Asia region. A brief visit to Sri Lanka was made in July 1994 to present papers on 'Forced migration in global perspective' at conferences on refugees and security and on ethnicity and forced migration in South Asia. Research visits to Europe and North America are planned for autumn 1994 and spring 1995.

Findings of the first phase of the investigation (1992-93), which focused on the Middle East and Africa, are currently being published. A preliminary report on field research in Yemen and Jordan in 1993 was published in *RPN 15*, September 1993. A fuller version of this report appears as 'L'impact des rapatriements forcés vers le Jordanie et le Yemen pendant la crise du Golfe' in Ricardo Bocco and Mohammad Djalili (eds) *Moyen-Orient fin de siècle. Migrations, démocratisations, médiations: enjeux locaux et internationaux*, Presses Universitaires de France, Paris (forthcoming 1994); an abridged version will appear as 'Displaced people after the Gulf crisis' in Robin Cohen (ed) *The Cambridge Survey of World Migration*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

The consequences of mass repatriations in the wake of the Gulf crisis for Yemen and Jordan are developed more fully in 'The socio-economic impact of the involuntary mass return to Yemen in 1990', *Journal of Refugee Studies* 7, 1, 1994 forthcoming; and in 'The impact of involuntary mass 'return' to Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis', accepted for publication in the *International Migration Review*. Middle East and West African cases are compared in 'Forced mass repatriation of migrant workers in longer term perspective' in Tim Allen and Hubert Morsink (eds) *When refugees go home*, UNRISD/James Currey, London, 1994 forthcoming. A wider comparative perspective is offered in 'Mass expulsion of minorities: an overview' in the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 6, 3, 1993; this paper is a contribution to a special issue on *Ugandan Asians twenty years after the expulsion*, guest-edited by Dr Van Hear.

Assistance to Refugees in the Middle East:

In July 1994, RSP presented the draft final report on this research study to the Multilateral Working Group on Refugees in Bristol, UK. The work has been financed by the Commission of the European Union as part of its contribution to the Middle East Peace Talks.

Teaching

During the third term (Trinity term) of the RSP's Foundation Course 1993-94, Professor John Berry (Queens University, Canada) taught 'Psychological Acculturation and Adaptation of Forced Migrants'; Dr Emily Copeland (Harvard University, USA) taught 'Refugees and International Relations'; and Dr Wendy Walker-Moffat (Berkeley, USA) taught 'Women Refugees: South East Asia'.

The annual RSP International Summer School (4 - 29 July) welcomed 31 participants from 24 countries and drew on a multi-disciplinary range of academics and senior practitioners as resource persons.

RSP organised two short workshops in May 1994. Professor James Hathaway from the University of York, Canada, led a workshop on **The Law of Refugee Status**. Resource persons at the workshop on **Making Relief Developmental** were Dr Mark Duffield (University of Birmingham, UK), Dr Valpy Fitzgerald (Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, UK), Eric LaMont Gregory (School of Anthropology, University of Oxford, UK) and Dr Toni Hagen.

See page 31 for information on forthcoming RSP courses.

RSP: NEWS AND ACTIVITIES continued

Documentation

The RSP's **Documentation Centre** now has over 18,000 documents covering areas such as psycho-social issues, education, human rights, refugee law, relief administration, international affairs, and public health and nutrition. The majority of the collection is 'grey literature' (unpublished) and the Documentation Centre receives material through its close links with a large network of individuals and organisations: refugee councils, NGOs, aid and news agencies, UNHCR and so on. This section of documentation includes over 350 current periodicals and newsletters, field research reports, conference and seminar proceedings, pamphlets, occasional papers and 130 PhD and MA theses.

Cataloguing of the books on to the Oxford University Library Information System (OLIS) will begin in the near future so as to be remotely accessible via the Oxford system and via JANET and INTERNET.

An archivist has recently been appointed to box, index and conserve the Paul Weis papers which will then be available for consultation in the RSP Documentation Centre.

Important: if you have ever contributed unpublished materials to the Documentation Centre, see page 3.

For more information on the Documentation Centre's services, contact **Sarah Rhodes, Documentalist**, at: *Documentation Centre, Refugee Studies Programme, QEH, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.*
Tel: +44 (0)865 270298. Fax: +44 (0)865 270721.
E-Mail: RSP@VAX.OXFORD.AC.UK

Subscriptions... Subscriptions...

Many members write to express their appreciation of the RPN. They want the RPN to continue and so do we. But we need money to keep it going. Several organisations provide generous grants but we receive relatively few contributions from members. We have to fundraise for every issue of the RPN and for the part-time Editor's salary. Our annual budget is £22,500 (US\$33,800) and we endeavour to be as cost-effective as possible.

We are determined to keep the RPN free of charge for the benefit of people unable to pay. Many RPN members cannot afford subscriptions or live in countries without hard currencies. We are glad to have you as members and would like to suggest an alternative way in which you can contribute towards our work (see below).

But many of our members - **especially Northern institutions and agencies** - could probably afford an annual voluntary subscription of £20 (US\$30). Could you? Could your organisation? Do you have a budget line for subscriptions?

Some institutions receive several copies of the RPN yet pay nothing, despite the fact that we invite a contribution of £20 from all new members. Others may have paid £20 when they first joined; years later, they are still receiving and benefitting from the RPN. The suggested £20 is supposed to be an **annual** contribution. We hope soon to set up a system of sending out annual reminders to all those who have made a contribution; in the meantime, we hope that this will jog your memory and your chequebook!

Document exchange

Does your organisation produce a newsletter, journal, reports or working papers? If the answer is yes, then we would like to receive them in exchange with the RPN. Our Documentation Centre is interested in receiving documents which provide international information on topics of interest to researchers and workers in the field of forced migration, such as:

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| * newsletters | * journals | * project reports | * working papers |
| * annual reports | * statistics | * conference proceedings | |

Documents dealing solely with the internal matters of an organisation are not usually suitable; annual reports and internal working papers/reports, however, can often prove invaluable to researchers and field workers.

Some 116 RPN members already contribute documents in exchange for receiving the RPN. **The RPN is a network for information exchange and every member can play an important role in sharing experience and information. Please help us with this.** If you are interested in document exchange, please contact the RPN Editor or Sarah Rhodes of the Documentation Centre (see inside cover or above for address).