

RPN

Refugee Participation Network

Issue
18

January 1995



Burning Issues

Includes articles on:

- Population movements and the environment
- Fuelwood Crisis Consortium in Zimbabwe
- UN Resolution 46/182
- Environment of refugee camps : Kenya
- Internally displaced of Peru
- Development in a refugee situation : Rwanda

and reports on:

- Saharawi refugees
- 1989 Comprehensive Plan of Action
- Ugandan refugees in UAE
- Internally displaced in the forests of Guatemala

*Launch of Spanish
translation of RPN
- see page 3 -*

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<i>Letter from the Editor</i>	3
-------------------------------------	---

Articles

Population movements and the environment	4
<i>by Steve Lonergan</i>	

Are there environmental refugees?	7
<i>by JoAnn McGregor</i>	

Stoves, trees and refugees : the Fuelwood Crisis Consortium in Zimbabwe	9
<i>by Gus Le Breton</i>	

<i>Letters to the Editor</i>	13
------------------------------------	----

The environment, cooking fuel and UN Resolution 46/182	14
<i>by E LaMont-Gregory</i>	

The environment of refugee camps : a challenge for refugees, local populations and aid agencies	17
<i>by Thomas Hoerz</i>	

The internally displaced of Peru : the option of return for communities in Huanta Province, Ayacucho	20
<i>by David Westwood</i>	

Development in a refugee situation : the case of Rwandan refugees in northern Tanzania	24
<i>by Richard Reynolds</i>	

Reports

Floods hit Saharawi refugees in south west Algeria	28
<i>by John Howe</i>	

Stateless persons and the 1989 Comprehensive Plan of Action	29
<i>by Tang Lay Lee</i>	

Plight of Ugandan refugees in the United Arab Emirates ...	30
---	----

Speak out...	
The People's Communities in Resistance in Petén	31

<i>Conferences</i>	33
--------------------------	----

<i>Courses</i>	34
----------------------	----

<i>Book reviews (repatriation.. Rwanda.. mental health..)</i>	35
---	----

<i>Publications (including research findings)</i>	37
---	----

<i>Join the RPN</i>	41
---------------------------	----

<i>RSP news and activities</i>	43
--------------------------------------	----

Letter from the Editor



This RPN originally started out to look into various aspects of environment and displacement, including the role of largescale development projects as one of the causes of environmental displacement. However, the letter in RPN 17 on the subject of 'Fuel Aid' generated such interest that three articles on the subject were submitted by readers and so these have become the main focus; three more articles included relate more generally to the overall theme.

In January 1995, the Refugee Studies Programme hosted an international conference on 'Development Induced Displacement and Impoverishment'; RPN 19 will report on this conference in some detail and thereby cover other important aspects of environment and displacement.

The last article in this RPN presents a more developmental approach to planning 'relief' programmes for refugees, in relation to Rwandan refugees.

*The theme of RPN 19 (May 1995) will be the relationship between NGOs and host governments. Since the 1980s, governments and other international donors have been encouraged to see NGOs as the main conduit for development and humanitarian funds. In some cases, host governments have been bypassed or marginalised; some have responded by imposing stricter laws governing NGO activities. In other cases, NGOs have worked effectively alongside the host government. What is your experience? Please contribute your views by sending me your letters, reports or articles. **Deadline for contributions is 13 March.** Articles and reports of most use to other readers are those with a practical focus, preferably no longer than 2,500 words. It does not matter if English is not your first language; we can edit material submitted. We also welcome your contributions on any other theme relating to forced migration.*

With best wishes for 1995.

Marion Couldrey, RPN Coordinator/Editor

Launch of Spanish translation of the RPN : January 1995

It is with great pleasure that we announce the launch of a Spanish translation of the RPN: the result of a year's collaboration between the Refugee Studies Programme in Oxford, UK, and HEGOA in Bilbao, Spain.

We have long been aware that there is a shortage of resources such as the RPN in Spanish for those working in the field of forced migration in Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain. We are also aware that we have few members in those areas of the world. A year ago, HEGOA distributed copies of the RPN (in English) plus a questionnaire to some 400 agencies in these regions in order to gauge the level of potential interest in a Spanish translation. The results were extremely encouraging; the European Community subsequently agreed to provide launch funding; and we are now about to publish the first translation (of RPN 18).

If you have field offices or partner organisations in Spanish-speaking countries who would be interested in receiving a trial copy, please contact Carlos Puig at HEGOA (details below) or Marion Couldrey at RSP (address opposite). We are also keen to receive articles, reports and letters in Spanish.

HEGOA - the Institute of Studies in International Development and Economics - was founded in 1987 and is attached to the University of the Basque Country in Bilbao, Spain. It is a non-governmental institution which promotes not only academic research but also the need for a wider participation of civil society in the debate on the future of development. HEGOA's work includes:

Documentation Centre: specialises in issues of development and international cooperation as well as the dynamics of international economics. **Research:** involves more than 20 teachers at the University and others linked to HEGOA plus

a number of teams researching nutrition, hunger and development; women and development; and education for development. **Training:** undertaken both within the University and via external courses, seminars and conferences. **Education for Development:** involves a team of researchers working on issues such as the treatment of development in its various aspects within formal education. **Consultancy in Cooperation for Development:** collaborates in initiation of programmes of cooperation between institutions and NGOs of the North and South; also has a technical unit for evaluation and follow-up for projects of cooperation.

Carlos Puig will be coordinating the Spanish RPN and can be contacted at:
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The RSP and HEGOA would like to express their thanks to the EC for providing the funding necessary for launching the Spanish RPN which we hope will be of use and service to Spanish speakers working with displaced people around the world.

Population movements and the environment

by Steve Lonergan

'...throughout the world, there is copious evidence that the carrying capacity of many life-support systems is being overloaded to a breaking point, and where such systems have collapsed, the options for the poor are stark: either to flee, or to stay put and starve.' (Tolba, 1990¹)

Population displacement due to environmental degradation is not a recent phenomenon. Historically, people have had to move from their land because it had been degraded (through natural disasters, war or over-exploitation) and could not sustain them. What is more recent is the potential for mass movements caused by population growth, resource depletion and the irreversible destruction of the environment. Environmental disasters such as floods, droughts and earthquakes are displacing more and more people every year. People and governments of many nations are altering the physical environment in a way that makes it more vulnerable to disruption. For example, rapid rates of population growth and high levels of consumption in affluent states have resulted in the overutilisation and degradation of the land.

As deforestation, desertification, global warming, and other threats appear, a new category of displaced people is being recognised: the environmentally displaced.

Causes of environmentally induced population displacement

Examples of environmental change as a proximate cause of population displacement can be divided into five categories, as follows:

1. Natural disasters - these include floods, volcanoes and earthquakes. They are usually characterised by a rapid onset, and their human impact (destructiveness) is a function of the number of vulnerable people in the region rather than their severity, per se. Poor people in developing countries are the most affected because they are the most vulnerable. It should be noted that the severity of natural disasters - in terms of their human impact - has increased over the past 40 years (28 million affected in 1960s; 64 million in 1980s).

2. Cumulative changes - generally slowly occurring geophysical processes which are accelerated through the interaction with human activities. They include deforestation, land degradation, erosion, salinity, siltation, waterlogging, desertification and climate warming.

3. Accidental disruptions or industrial accidents - inevitable byproducts of the industrial revolution. Chemical manufacture and transport, and nuclear reactor accidents are among the causes.

4. Development projects - including dams and irrigation projects and forced resettlement programs. In India, 20 mil-

lion persons have been uprooted by development projects.

5. Conflict and warfare - environmental degradation is both a cause and effect of armed conflict. There is an increasing use of the environment as a 'weapon' of war.

Causes of environmental degradation

Since population displacement is posited as an effect, it is important to identify the causes of environmental degradation. Such causes can be classified into three groups, with socio-economic 'filters' acting at one - or more - levels.

1. Structural problems or root causes - for example, a narrowly focused economic system; non-adaptive institutional structures; and inadequate planning systems.

2. Socio-economic filters - impoverishment; conflict; and population growth.

3. Underlying causes - unnecessary and inefficient use of resources; inadequate controls on the use of the environment; poor protection of indigenous lifestyles; lack of choice over resource use; disempowerment of women; and population displacement.

4. Surface causes - mining of renewable resources; rapid extraction of non-renewable resources; and discharges of harmful substances to surface and groundwater.

5. Symptoms - land degradation; resource depletion; water pollution and so on.

Environmental effects of population movements

Population movements can be viewed as both an *effect* and a *cause* of environmental degradation. The ecological impacts of large refugee movements have only recently received serious attention but it is increasingly acknowledged that large influxes of people can have significant environmental implications for the receiving region. Any modification of ecosystems can produce a variety of disturbances, the degree of which depends on both the intensity of the interference and the fragility of the existing ecology itself². Refugee movements tend to produce uncontrolled modifications which can lead to serious disruptions of ecological systems, and the ecological impact of mass movements can be very severe. Many nations' refugee influxes in the past decade have destabilised the local ecology and have caused a rapid depletion of scarce vegetation³.

The use of wood by refugees for fuel and home construction requires millions of trees, often in sensitive areas susceptible to ecological damage. The cattle refugees often use for sustenance also have great impacts on ecosystems, trampling small trees and bushes and overgrazing the land. Many refugee camps are now surrounded by vast stretches of

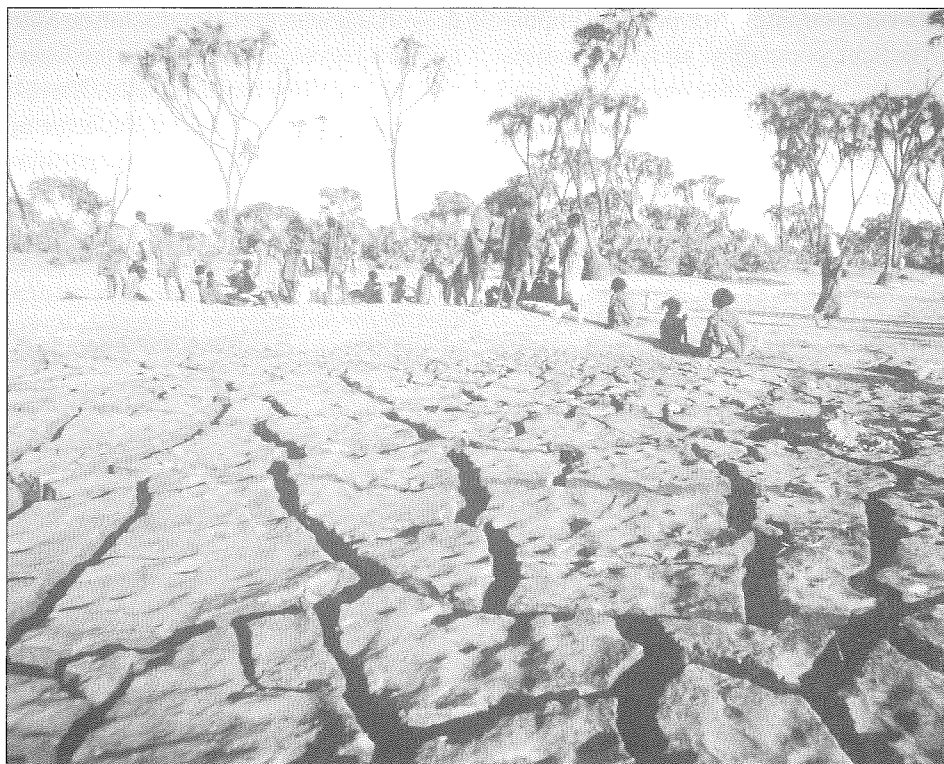
barren land no longer capable of supporting life. The environmental stresses caused by population displacements are overwhelming the capacity of some developing nations to deal with them.

Rural to urban migration also results in ecological problems in urban areas. Migrants often locate on the fringes of urban areas where environmental services are poor, placing a greater burden on the environment. Governments are finding it increasingly difficult to provide adequate water and sanitation services to these areas. As cities grow, water must be transported from greater distances, and the production of waste - human, industrial and municipal - in turn, affects water supplies. As Campbell notes, large cities are perhaps the most striking example of areas which have grown rapidly out of proportion with their ecological settings and where 'resource consumption and degradation has taken a serious toll on the health and safety of all residents, as well as future development prospects for urbanised Third World countries'⁴.

Present environmental policies and policy prescriptions

There exist a range of policies which focus on reducing the human impact of environmental stresses, although most apply to (or can be afforded by) developed countries only, whereas the problems identified above are concentrated in the poorest parts of the world.

Ultimately, policies which are relevant to the growing concern with environmentally-induced population movements must be directed towards alleviating the cause of those movements: the degradation of the natural environment. Environmental degradation is both a cause and effect of population displacement. Addressing environmental degradation also means addressing the 'root' and 'underlying' causes noted above. Because of the complex nature of environmental change, developing policies to deal effectively with populations displaced by environmental stresses must range from local level initiatives to international agreements.



Tigray, Ethiopia. Photo: Jon Bennett

Other problems are apparent as well. These include:

- a. Many anti-growth advocates promote greater restrictions on immigrant admissions because of the strain they place on the environment/resources of the receiving state.
- b. There is an ongoing debate over the use of environmental restrictions on development assistance. Development agencies worry that environmental initiatives may be inconsistent with other development initiatives. This sentiment is echoed by many recipient governments, who claim that 'environmental imperialism' is dominating the economic agenda of overseas development assistance.
- c. There is also a debate on whether emphasis should be placed on the rights of individuals or on the collective right to sustainable environment, a right which includes future generations

Policy prescriptions fall into three general categories. The first deals with the symptoms of the problem; the second with the causes; and the third with institutions. They are, admittedly, quite gen-

eral but should provide a focus for future discussion on the issues presented above.

1. Recognise the plight of the environmentally displaced and include them within the criteria for assistance. This has been the focus and objective of many writings. Although they cannot be described as 'Convention Refugees' under the strict definitions of the 1951 Convention on Refugees, they can, for instance, be allowed into Canada as 'quasi-refugees' under this government's 1976 Immigration Act⁵.

2. Place a major emphasis on promoting sound environmental policies, reducing the degradation of the natural environment and the rate of resource depletion that creates environmentally displaced populations. While this is a lofty and seemingly unattainable goal, it should be clear that it is not simply a matter for environmental agencies but must be addressed by all agencies. Such an emphasis might include:

- a. careful assessment of aid projects to determine which are environmentally sound (What is essential is that the links

between local empowerment and impoverishment, population, and environmental degradation, are recognised and acted upon. This means that development projects do not merely *use* local knowledge and expertise in setting up projects, but that these projects are constructed on existing social organisations. CIDA - Canadian International Development Agency - is already attempting to do this, by adopting principles of sustainable development in its programmes.)

b. a focus on environmental education and training, including agricultural co-operatives, to promote sustainable agriculture

c. promotion of research in:

identifying the most vulnerable regions of the world

determining the role of environmental degradation and resource depletion as a causal factor in population displacements

assessing the environmental impacts of displacees on receiving regions (particularly cities in the developing world)

3. **International responses** should include:

a. resolving the Third World debt crisis (which many believe is a major cause of the rapid rates of resource depletion in developing countries in recent years);

b. putting greater pressure on international lending institutions such as the World Bank not only to consider the environmental and social impacts of projects but also to assess their implications for population displacement specifically (A case in point is the recent assessment of the Sardar Sarovar project in India, in which the Bank had an independent review of the project based on environmental impact concerns. In recent months, the Bank has shied away from any projects which involve displacing significant numbers of people.);

c. considering the relationship between foreign trade, development assistance and environmental practice;

d. working with the Commission on Sustainable Development, IDRC, the International Institute for Sustainable Development and others to put the issue of environmental degradation and population displacement on the international agenda.

Dr Steve Lonergan is director of the Centre for Sustainable Regional Development, University of Victoria, Canada.

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3. Crisp J, 1990, 'Human rights and refugees', *Refugees*, 77, July-August, pp 31-4.

4. Campbell T, 1989, 'Urban development in the third world: environmental dilemmas and the urban poor' in H J Leonard (ed) *Environment and the Poor: Development Strategies for a Common Agenda*, Washington, Overseas Development Council, p 166.

5. See paper on p 7-8 by JoAnn McGregor on the use of the term 'environmental refugee'.

Freedom for Aung San Suu Kyi

An international movement supported by more than 100 Nobel Laureates and leaders in all walks of life now campaigns exclusively for complete freedom in her own country for the Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. With the name '**Campaigns for Human Rights**' and a Board of Directors consisting of eight Nobel Laureates, this movement is absolutely determined that other governments and corporations should cease economic support for the military in Burma which oppresses Aung San Suu Kyi and the rest of the Burmese people.

The Secretary of this movement is Israel Halperin, Professor of Mathematics, University of Toronto, Toronto, M5S 1A1, Canada.

The Refugee Studies Programme strongly objects to the use of the term 'environmental refugee'. The excerpt below and the article opposite explain why.

Excerpt from the Ditchley Conference Report No D94/10, by Sarah Collinson, on the Ditchley Foundation's conference on 'International Migration and Population Pressures', September 1994, UK.

Discussion focused on the more catastrophic forms of environmentally-generated migration with an immediate element of compulsion. It was noted that the most serious crises of this kind arise when environmental degradation, concentrated populations and poverty combine with civil strife, leaving only a small margin for disaster. Although there was some support for applying the term 'environmental refugee' to people forced to move in such circumstances, the overall consensus seemed to be that the concept of refugee should be reserved for people whose migration is forced by political or man-made factors.

It was argued that the use of the term 'environmental refugee' would not only dilute the refugee concept but would do nothing to clarify questions of institutional responsibility in relation to prevention and response. Where movement is forced by a combination of environmental and political factors, existing refugee instruments and institutions should suffice; in other cases, a flexible policy framework was likely to continue to prove most appropriate.

Are there environmental refugees?

by JoAnn McGregor

'Environmental refugee' is a term used to describe people displaced through natural and man-made disasters and environmental degradation¹. Different types are generally distinguished. One type comprises those temporarily displaced as a result of sudden environmental change which is reversible (those who flee natural disasters and industrial accidents). A second type includes people permanently displaced through long-term or irreversible environmental change, such as those forced to move by dam construction or sea level rise (some authors also include desertification). A third type is defined as those who leave in search of a better quality of life as environmental degradation has eroded their resource base, for example through salination of the soil or deforestation.

Ambiguity of the term 'environmental'

The use of the term 'environmental' can imply a false separation between overlapping and interrelated categories. For example, the implication of using the term 'environmental refugee' is that political, economic and environmental causes of migration can be separated. In practice this is seldom the case, as argued repeatedly in recent literature on disasters which highlights the role of human agency either in causing the disaster itself or in causing populations to be more vulnerable to disasters².

People may become vulnerable when their coping strategies have been undermined directly or indirectly by the state, or their recovery prevented by failure to provide insurance and relief, as in the Dust Bowl disasters in the United States in the 19th and early 20th century³. War itself also commonly interferes with people's strategies for coping with environmental variability. In the case of drought, for example, famine most commonly occurs in those countries affected by wars⁴.

On the cause of the 1987-88 Ethiopian famine, Clay *et al*⁵ note the correlation between famine areas and specific government policies. In Tigray and Eritrea, famine prevailed in areas outside government control and under military attack; in Tigray and Wollo, famine occurred in areas of forced resettlement; in northern Bale, Hararghe and Shoa, famine occurred as a result of the government villagisation programme; and in Wolega, Illubabor and other administrative regions, the forcibly resettled were themselves unsettled and local production was disrupted.

Studies of migrants' actual decisions to flee show that they are commonly much more complex than a simple 'environmental' push as implied in studies of the effects of climate change. Migration is usually only one of a variety of survival strategies pursued by families either simultaneously or consecutively with other strategies such as selling assets, wage-labour, eating bush foods or undertaking short distance migration.

Pankhurst's study of livelihood changes in the 1987-88 drought in Ethiopia shows how coping strategies other than migration were undermined by state restrictions on travel, declining opportunities for both rural and urban wage-labour and increasingly unfavourable terms of trade as grain prices rocketed. He reveals how aid itself placed pressure on peasants to migrate.⁶

'Environmental refugees' as a legal category

Environmental problems ranging from natural hazards to pollution by chemical toxins or radioactive waste can cause human displacement. Many such forced migrants, however, fall outside the categories protected by instruments of international refugee law, both in terms of the text and intent of the drafters, and in terms of much current practice, particularly by Western states.

Originally intended to deal with refugees from communism following the Second World War, the current refugee definition can be used to limit refugee status to those outside their country of origin with a well-founded fear of persecution, the latter being defined in narrow political terms. Such a definition is inappropriate for the root causes of flight in

many developing nations, as a narrow political interpretation of 'persecution' can exclude those suffering economic and social persecution or the effects of war, as well as victims of natural disasters in countries where the state offers no protection. Migrations attributed to climate change would be similarly excluded.

Some legal theorists are arguing for the definition of a refugee to be rooted in human rights. If this approach is to be more widely adopted, those forcibly displaced across international boundaries for 'environmental' reasons could be eligible for international assistance and protection according to whether suffering amounted to a first order violation of human rights.

Alternatively it can be argued that, as disasters and environmental change themselves or an individual's vulnerability to them are commonly the result of human actions, rather than 'acts of God', the state has a duty to protect its citizens from them. If the state is negligent or indifferent to meeting its obligations to protect its citizens' basic needs, this breach of the contract with the state could be grounds for international assistance⁷.

In practice, UNHCR has long assisted a broader group than those included by the narrow Convention definition in its mandate. By 1992, UNHCR recognised such groups to include 'internally displaced', 'war displaced' and even 'other need groups'⁸. However, it is important to note that the class of beneficiaries has been expanded *without* any corresponding broadening of states' legal obligations⁹. Which groups are and which are not included is highly political....

Are there environmental refugees? *continued...*

Legal and institutional problems arise because refugees currently receive protection which goes beyond the assistance given to disaster victims. Legal obligations on the part of refugee-hosting states are well defined. Barriers against refugees being sent back (*refouled*) to the persecuting state are at the core of refugee protection. In contrast, states' responsibilities with respect to those in humanitarian need are much less well defined.

Whilst it is important to highlight environmental problems and their association with migration pressures, in so far as the term 'environmental refugee' conflates the idea of disaster victim and refugee, its use brings with it the danger that key features of refugee protection could be undermined and the lowest common denominator adopted.

[Adapted from (eds) Richard Black and Vaughan Robinson *Geography and Refugees: patterns and processes of change*, Belhaven Press, 1993, pp 159-162.]

Dr JoAnn McGregor, former editor of the RPN, is currently undertaking research looking at the experience of forced migration and its role in local social, political, economic and ecological change in two rural areas of southern Africa: Matabeleland in Zimbabwe and Maputo province in Mozambique.

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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 QEHA 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.

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OXFORD JOURNALS



Stoves, trees and refugees : the Fuelwood Crisis Consortium in Zimbabwe

by Gus Le Breton

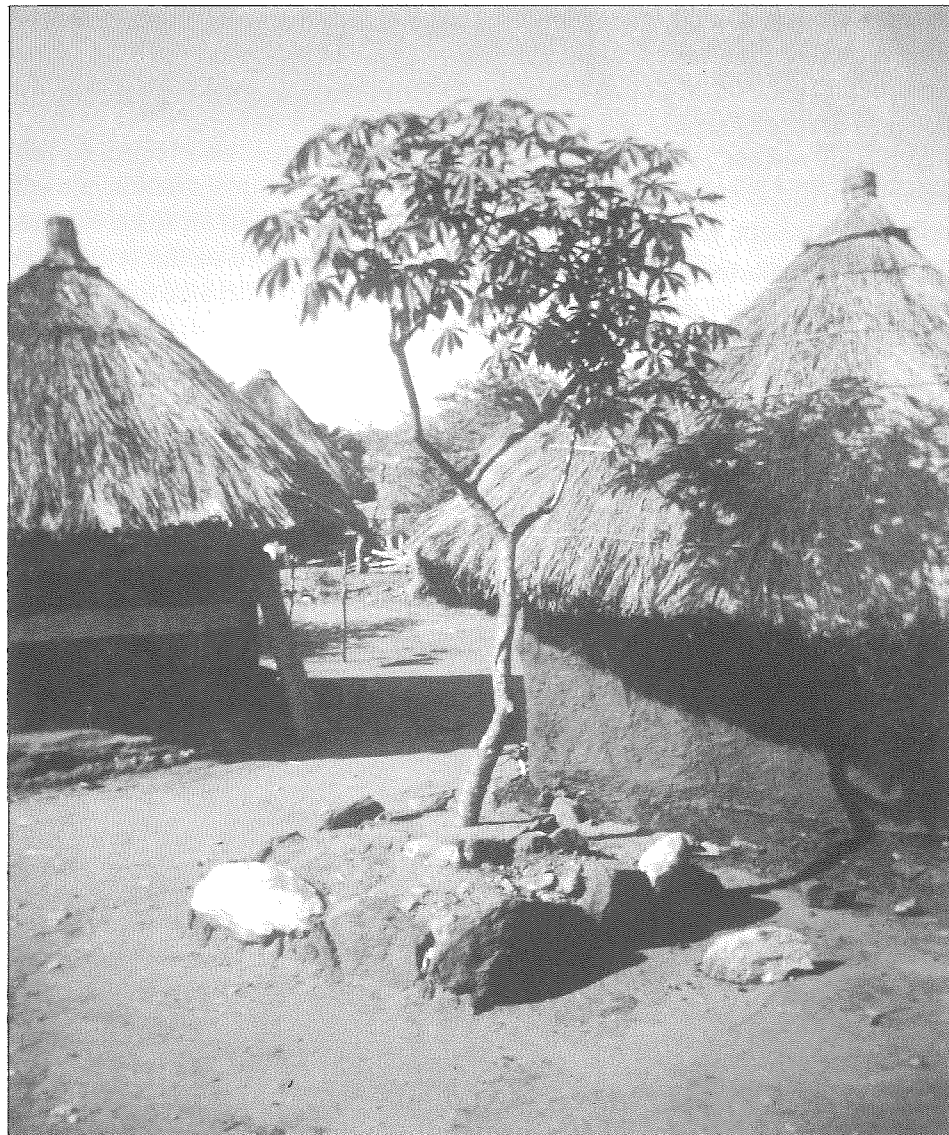
It took us eight years in Zimbabwe to begin addressing the problems of environmental degradation around refugee camps.

When the first influx of Mozambicans came in 1984, there was little time to think of anything but food and shelter. The camps were deliberately located in the remoter corners of comparatively well-wooded communal lands, with as much firewood as the refugees could possibly consume, and their environmental impact simply was not an issue.

No-one today would describe these areas as well-wooded, least of all a local Zimbabwean living within their vicinity.

It did not take long for the degradation process to begin. By 1986, there were some 60,000 refugees in these camps and UNHCR had allocated a small budget for firewood provision. Perhaps if the budget had been bigger, with more attention paid to the logistics of transport, and perhaps if the firewood had been supplied in conjunction with a strict set of regulations regarding firewood harvesting by the refugees, the problem could have been avoided. Perhaps. In fact, once the transport bills had been paid, the quantities of firewood delivered represented a negligible proportion of the total consumption, and tended to be viewed as an unexpected bonus when distributed. It made almost no difference at all.

The problem escalated. Trees disappeared and with them the topsoil. Environmental rehabilitation became the most talked-about non-event in the refugee programme and we all wondered when it would stop. In 1991, there were close to 100,000 refugees (a figure that subsequently rose to nearly 150,000). Women refugees were recorded making



Treeplanting around refugee homesteads. Photo: Gus Le Breton

20km round trips to collect wood. When one was weighed with a 90kg headload at the entrance to Tongogara camp, somebody finally realised that the situation had got out of hand.

Birth of the Fuelwood Crisis Consortium

It was an NGO involved with elderly refugees that made the first tentative moves. Desperate to reduce the burden of fuelwood collecting on their beneficiaries, they began investigating the option of fuel-saving stoves. Their problem was that, whereas giving stoves to the elderly but not to any of the other

refugees was clearly futile, they had no mandate to extend their coverage. As it was a problem affecting all the organisations in the refugee programme, it seemed sensible, if not immediately practicable, to formulate a collaborative response. After a difficult labour, the Fuelwood Crisis Consortium (FCC) was born, a consortium comprising over 20 agencies: almost all the refugee-assisting agencies, as well as some of the governmental and non-governmental bodies involved elsewhere in environmental management.

By late 1991, we had the structure and the momentum to do something. The

question was what. The cost of transporting either firewood or an alternative fuel source was prohibitive, and we were evidently going to have to maximise the existing resources. Fuel-saving stoves were receiving unfavourable press at the time, being based on the notion of a gap between fuelwood supply and demand that did not always exist. In this case, however, it did. Deforestation around a refugee settlement, particularly where, as in Zimbabwe, refugees are strictly forbidden to clear land for cultivation, arises from the need for fuel and for construction materials. Happily, most of the timber for construction was being supplied by UNHCR and a number of consumption studies clearly showed that it was fuelwood shortages that were causing the problem.

After three months of field trials involving a number of different locally available stoves, the refugee participants selected a portable single pot stove called the Tsotso. Already the most widely-disseminated stove in Zimbabwe, the Tsotso is capable of achieving substantial sav-

ings in excess of 30%. However, where normally an owner would have made a financial investment in the stove, we were hoping to achieve similar results though distributing the stoves cost-free.

Afforestation and regeneration

Although having already broken the fundamental rule of stove dissemination (ie do not give them out for free), we were quick to hoist aboard another lesson from past experiences: demand management is more successful when directly linked to supply enhancement. With firewood supply already ruled out on the grounds of expense (the total cost of supplying sufficient firewood for all the refugees' needs was calculated to be in the region of US\$3.5 million per year), the alternative was afforestation and controlled regeneration of remaining woodlands.

Tree planting around refugee camps is fraught with problems. Refugees have little incentive to participate; if they did, they would be doing it already. Natural regeneration is the more attractive option but assumes woodland has not been

degraded beyond a certain point. In this case, FCC opted for a judicious combination of the two.

The balance between meeting the needs of the refugees and those of the local Zimbabweans was heavily weighted in favour of the locals. It was accepted that the bulk of the deforestation had been caused by refugees in an attempt to meet their needs but it was also recognised that very few of these needs could be immediately addressed through afforestation because of the limited time available. The locals, on the other hand, had all the needs that had previously been met from these forests, and would continue to have them long after the refugees had returned to their homes.

The first stage was a participatory appraisal exercise with both refugees and locals to determine species preferences and to define a broad afforestation strategy. The refugees, whilst admitting poor motivation for involvement in this programme, felt they would benefit, after repatriation, from training, and could provide the bulk of the seedlings required



Refugee preparing maize porridge (*sadza*) on Tsotso stove. Photo: Gus Le Breton

for transplanting. In all, 120 refugees were trained over a year in appropriate forestry techniques, and the camp-based nurseries in which they were being trained produced more than 200,000 seedlings.

The management of the remaining woodlands and their enrichment through transplanting was almost entirely conducted by the local communities. An institutional management structure was established, based on the community's lines of authority, and areas were set aside, fenced and designated as regeneration sites. Techniques used to encourage regrowth included the use of appropriate harvesting techniques (coppicing, pollarding and pruning), water harvesting through the digging of semi-circular trenches around trees, and the interspersing of existing woodlands with nitrogen-rich legumes (leucaena and acacia sp).

Extensive support was given to the local schools. A textbook on the raising of indigenous trees was distributed, accompanied by training for all teachers in the use of the book. Material inputs for the raising of nurseries and the transplanting of seedlings were provided, and some 40 school nurseries were developed which, between them, resulted in the transplanting of over 100,000 trees.

Impact of stove distribution

Within the camps, nearly 17,000 stoves were distributed to individual households and institutional cooking points. A cadre of refugee women were trained as stove monitors and their target was to visit each individual stove owner on a monthly basis to encourage use of the stove. Their efforts were supported, surprisingly effectively, by a group who, blending traditional dance and educational drama, played regularly to enormous audiences.

An independent study carried out by students from the University of Zimbabwe revealed a 29% reduction in fuelwood consumption over the two years of the programme. The exact figure should be treated with caution (as should all fuelwood consumption studies) but it

clearly shows that there were significant reductions in consumption as a result of the stove's distribution.

Lessons learned

The Consortium's programme began winding down in April 1994, two years after its inception. It was already clear that the programme's timeframe had been far too short but we felt we had to adhere to the original schedule. By this stage, there were a number of salient lessons that we had absorbed. These included:

i) Fuel-saving stoves can reduce consumption. However, in view of the many other uses for woody products, it is by no means guaranteed that this translates directly to lower levels of deforestation.

ii) The most effective way to limit consumption of fuelwood for cooking is undoubtedly to have all cooking undertaken centrally on large fuel-efficient stoves. Our experience shows that daily consumption per capita is reduced by at least 80% under this regime, although of course it has its own (some would say insurmountable) problems.

iii) Whilst it is difficult to involve refugees in tree planting activities outside the camp, they are certainly able to undertake extensive tree planting within them. This is most successfully achieved if efforts are focused on the individual homesteads and with quick-growing fruit trees (eg paw-paw). These can also make a valuable nutritional supplement.

iv) There is an inherent contradiction in the concept of rehabilitating deforested areas around refugee camps. The first part of this is that, whereas it is the refugees (and, indirectly, the organisations that support them) which have caused the deforestation, it is the locals that must live with the results and who must therefore take the initiative to reforest them (if such an initiative is to be sustainable). Following on from this, it is often the case that locals are more interested in tree planting for commercial gain (ie through woodlots and fruit orch-

ards) than for environmental rehabilitation.

It therefore becomes necessary at an early stage to attempt to reconcile the differing requirements of income generation and environmental rehabilitation in such a way that the immediate needs of the local community are met without compromising the long term objectives of rehabilitation.

v) The improved management of existing woodlands yields far swifter results than the planting of new trees. If active management strategies are employed from the outset, there is a great deal that can be done to offset deforestation. Simple strategies include the regulation of foraging so that it occurs in different areas on a rotational basis, thus allowing each area time to regenerate between harvests. Similarly, if certain areas, strategically dotted throughout the surrounding lands, are designated 'no cutting zones', they can be used as the genetic banks for the eventual regeneration of the entire location once repatriation has taken place.

vi) The existence of an artificial incentives policy is thoroughly counter-productive to refugee afforestation efforts. Where refugees are employed as labourers, they should be waged; where refugees are participating in a training programme, they should not be waged. This would allow for refugees to be employed as nursery attendants, tree guards and forestry extension workers without interfering in the training programme.

vii) The ecological welfare of the land surrounding a refugee camp is of extremely low priority to newly-arrived refugees. The transitory nature of their situation, the fact that they often have limited access rights to these lands, and of course the fact that they are often in poor health, malnourished and traumatised, initially combine to reduce environmental issues to irrelevancy. It therefore requires a concerted effort early on to ensure that refugees are aware of the social costs that will soon accrue to them once their surrounding natural resource base is exhausted.

viii) Where literacy levels are low, traditional methods to raise awareness, notably drama, music and storytelling, tend to have the greatest impact. However, for best results, it is essential that awareness campaigns, like skills training programmes, are tied to adult literacy efforts.

Return of the refugees

Although the peace agreement in Mozambique was signed in 1992, the repatriation programme did not begin in earnest until early 1994. Initially reluctant to return to the uncertainties of life in their home country, the refugees were slow to register and it seemed as if the exercise would not be completed until mid-way through 1995. But then the process accelerated and suddenly the refugees have almost all gone. We could not match their happiness but the sudden opportunity for post-repatriation environmental rehabilitation was one we joyfully seized.

In July 1994 we began a three month study to assess the extent of the environmental damage resulting from the refugee settlements. Comparing before and after aerial photographs and verifying these with soil and vegetation surveys on the ground, we were able to estimate, albeit loosely, the quantities of woodland degraded.

We then undertook a lengthy Participatory Rural Appraisal exercise in each of the affected communities to enable them to articulate their own future needs from their natural resource base and together to draw up the strategy for meeting these. Matching these to government plans for the future of the areas, we have now drawn up a five year rehabilitation programme.

Conclusion

The Fuelwood Crisis Consortium completed its mandate in September 1994 and has been replaced by SAFIRE, the Southern Alliance For Indigenous Resources. SAFIRE is a similar collaborative initiative, drawing on the same pool of resources and experience as the Consortium. This time, however, we

hope we have created a lasting organisation, one that will complete the rehabilitation of refugee-impacted areas in Zimbabwe and retain its knowledge and experience for use in refugee situations elsewhere in the world.

A young child was once overheard by his startled parents to say that 'the problem with homogeneity is that it makes the milk taste funny'. Personally, I am as wary of generalisations and certainly do not believe that all our experiences are relevant to every refugee situation. But some of the lessons we learnt are relevant.

One is that we, as refugee assisting organisations, can work together for the better (few of us in Zimbabwe would have agreed with that in 1991!). Another hometruth, as old as Confucius, is that the longer we leave it, the harder it becomes to solve.

Most importantly, though, is the hard fact that those of us who support refugees have the moral responsibility to address the environmental impact they inevitably have. We would surely rue the day when a nation closes its borders to refugees on the grounds of ecological degradation.

Gus Le Breton was programme manager for the Fuelwood Crisis Consortium from its inception and is now programme coordinator for SAFIRE, the Southern Alliance For Indigenous Resources.

SAFIRE is commencing a five year rehabilitation programme in the refugee-impacted areas of Zimbabwe and has also been asked by the Zimbabwean Government to undertake natural resource management programmes in other parts of the country.

Notices

The Jesuit Refugee Service, Blantyre, Malawi, is looking for experienced teachers with Portuguese language skills to work in Mozambique.

From April 1995, all UK telephone and fax numbers will have the number 1 added. For example, the RPN phone number will change from 0865 270730 (+44 865 270730 for overseas callers) to 01865 270730 (+44 1865 270730). The new numbers are already operational and will become obligatory from mid April.



Nursery in Nyangombe refugee camp. Photo: Gus Le Breton

Dear Editor

RPN 17 (August 1994) published a letter from E LaMont-Gregory entitled 'Cooking fuel policies and assessments are not enough!'. This generated considerable interest among readers. Extracts from two subsequent letters to the Editor are given below: the first is from Bernard Ross in Burundi; the second, from E LaMont-Gregory, is in response to the first. Many of the points made below are expanded in the following article on pages 14-16.

November 1994

To the Editor

We agree that the issue of fuel needs in humanitarian crises has often been insufficiently dealt with in the past. Although it is undoubtedly an important consideration, in crisis situations such as we have recently witnessed in Rwanda and surrounding countries, initial efforts and all available resources have rightly been concentrated on the supply of food, shelter, clean water and sanitation. Relative 'niceties' such as environmental protection unfortunately have to take second place to the immediate problems of keeping people alive. As a major partner of UNHCR here in Burundi, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is well aware of the environmental damage caused by a sudden, concentrated influx of refugees. We have been able to supply firewood to some 200,000 refugees since almost the beginning of the present crisis and now, as we move on to the consolidation stage, we are able to address such issues as fuel conservation.

It is certainly clear that a major intervention is urgently needed. We are supplying, albeit from sustainable sources, some 100 tons of wood per day and estimate that refugees are foraging in local forests for perhaps the same amount again. A conservation project is at present underway, concentrating initially on the introduction of windshield stoves and improved cooking methods such as using lids, pre-soaking beans, chopping firewood into smaller pieces, etc. We are confident that with these methods we will be able to keep environmental damage to a minimum, although it has to be said that an influx of people of such magnitude will invariably do some damage to the environment.

Various alternative fuels have been considered but we feel it is important to use local domestic cooking practices as a starting point, experience telling us that the more culturally foreign the interventions (eg solar cookers), the less likely their successful, long term adoption by refugees. Therefore we are aiming to keep our activities as technically simple as possible but are still confident that very significant savings in firewood can be obtained by measures which cost little, are acceptable to the refugee communities and, importantly, are replicable by the refugees on their return to Rwanda.

Use of the carbonaceous briquettes has been considered but rejected for this stage of the project, for reasons including: high manufacturing cost, the difficulty of establishing adequate supply lines for both manufacture and delivery, and the large numbers of refugees involved (200,000 in camps of up to 55,000 refugees each).

Such briquettes are of interest, however, and it may be useful to establish a pilot project to establish the degree of user-acceptance and the practicability of such a measure. If any readers have advice on this, or any other related topic, I would be very pleased to hear from them at the address below.

Yours faithfully,

Bernard Ross

(Firewood Conservation Project, FICR, PO Box 324, Bujumbura, Burundi)

December 1994

To the Editor

It is unfortunate that the provision of adequate cooking fuel is one of the 'niceties' and not an integral part of the emergency phase of relief operations, since most basic foods are not fully digestible without adequate cooking. Thus, those who require semi-liquid foods, such as babies, young children and the elderly, are often the first casualties in humanitarian crises. In addition, the high incidence of deaths in malnourished children under five from acute respiratory infections in refugee camps should cause the international relief provision establishment to consider the health implications of fuelwood.

Wood, crop residues and dung release large amounts of respirable particulates and pollutants resulting in exposure levels which exceed recommended levels by factors of 10, 20 or more. According to the World Health Organisation, acute respiratory infections are the chief killers - after diarrhoea - of children in developing countries and cause more episodes of illness than any other disease. Exposure to raw biomass smoke from cooking fires is also known to cause eye problems and to harm newborns; effects on the health of women, the traditional meal preparers, are also substantial.

In Burundi the conservation of the lives and health of children ought to be as important as the conservation of wood.

Yours faithfully,

E LaMont-Gregory

(School of Anthropology, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6PE, UK)

The environment, cooking fuel and UN Resolution 46/182

by E LaMont-Gregory

The majority of refugees today are to be found in arid and semi-arid areas of the poorest countries of the world. The concentration of large populations in such areas leads to a tremendous strain on these fragile environments and on the meagre resources available. On the other hand, such environments are hostile to refugees and can affect their health and well-being. Under normal circumstances, populations are free to move in search of more environmentally friendly areas of relocation. In the case of refugees, such liberty of movement is not usually available. Here lies the particular environmental confinement within which refugees must be cared for and assisted.¹

It is a familiar story. In the developing world where biomass - in the form of woodfuel and charcoal - is the primary cooking fuel for most households, forest resources in and around the most heavily urbanised regions have been depleted to meet the demand for traditional cooking fuels. This phenomenon is no different from the situation in which large concentrations of refugees collect fuelwood for cooking and wood for construction in the immediate surroundings of their settlements or camps.

Unfortunately, humanitarian assistance providers have not become sufficiently aware of the necessity to meet the cooking fuel needs of recipients in emergency situations as an integral part of 'first phase' emergency programming. As Bernard Ross points out in his letter to the editor in this *RPN* [see page 26], environmental protection is thought of as one of the 'niceties' that is only addressed after the emergency phase of disaster relief has passed.

However, it is no longer wise for aid providers to ignore the environmental or health consequences of fuel availability and consumption in disasters. When humanitarian assistance providers do formulate plans to meet the cooking fuel requirements of the recipients of aid, these same providers seem to be aware neither of the health implications of their choice of fuel nor of the provisions of UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182 which affirms that international disaster assistance should serve long term preventive, as well as relief, functions. In particular, the resolution states that 'emergency assistance should be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long term development'.

The silence of the children

Current strategies to meet the cooking fuel requirements of recipients in the Rwandan crisis are focused upon the exploitation of local biomass resources: ie wood and grass². The collection of dung for cooking fuel has also been contemplated. Significant health consequences associated with using these fuels seem to be entirely overlooked.

The argument usually advanced for providing woodfuel is that the providers have to take refugees' normal domestic practices as a starting point and that, therefore, in central Africa, where most rural households use fuelwood and agricultural residues almost exclusively, wood and crop residues should be provided as cooking fuel. It is worth noting, however, that in the urban sector of central Africa the situation is very different: the vast majority of households use charcoal and not wood as their principal cooking fuel³. In addition, part of the concept of social mobility in this region is attached to the ability to acquire cleaner cooking fuels and move up the fuel chain from wood to charcoal.

Biomass fuels such as wood, crop residues and dung release large amounts of respirable particulates and pollutants when burned in their raw state. According to the World Health Organisation, human exposure levels to these pollutants exceed recommended levels by factors of 10, 20 or more and have been identified as a significant cause of health problems. Studies in North America, Europe and Japan indicate that acute respiratory infections in children can be caused by urban environmental pollution at levels 30 times less than the lev-

els to which children are normally exposed in developing countries from open wood, residue and dung fires⁴. In fact, after diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections are the chief killers of children in developing countries and cause more episodes of illness than any other single disease. It simply is not proper to argue the maintenance of traditional practices as a reason for exposing children to known health risks. Caring for the environment includes caring for the quality of the air that children breathe.

Children and other 'at risk' groups must also be in an environment that provides them with adequate nutrition. The primary reason for assuring that there is adequate cooking fuel is to ensure that the food provided is properly cooked. Many basic foods are not fully digestible without adequate cooking; this is especially true of the semi-liquid foods required by babies, young children, the ill and wounded and the elderly⁵. In this regard, it must be remembered that nutritional assessments based purely on the quantity of food delivered can be misleading.

The association between exposure to raw biomass smoke, acute respiratory illness and the death of malnourished children has received very little attention by humanitarian assistance providers. In 1992 Moore *et al* found mortality rates among the highest ever documented for a civilian population in camps near Baidoa, Somalia. 74% of children under five died in eight months⁶. Similar under five mortality rates have been documented in Ethiopia, Sudan and recently in Katala, Zaire⁷. In each of these crises, wood was the principal cooking fuel and diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malnu-

trition were contributing factors to the alarmingly high rates of under five mortality.

Cooking fuel and UN Resolution 46/182

The provision of smokeless fuel is a must in the developing world and, in accordance with UN Resolution 46/182, humanitarian assistance providers should work to introduce the means for the production of smokeless fuel both on health and environmental conservation grounds. The woodfuel crisis in the developing world is not new. In fact, there are many national and international agencies working on this problem. However, in spite of a decade of wood energy activities in Africa, charcoal manufacture remains highly inefficient and employs techniques that are incompatible with the carbonisation of alternative and more sustainable biomass supplies.

Crop residues can and ought to play a significant role, not only in meeting cooking fuel requirements in disasters but also in providing a sustainable means for the manufacture of clean burning cooking fuel. The most frequent argument against the use of crop residues is that they should be put back into the ground to improve soil fertility. Certain residues should be put back but some residues are better used for other purposes. Crop residues such as chick pea stalks, coffee husks, cotton stalks and coconut shells do not decompose in soil and should not be dug back into the ground. The use of carbonised crop residues for fuel is one of the alternatives that should be explored as more and more forest resources are removed for agricultural purposes, the primary cause of deforestation in the developing world.

The fallacy of improved stove fuel savings

Most programmes to address the fuelwood shortage have concentrated on demand management strategies (ie improved stoves and cooking practices). Current evidence suggests that recent

claims of fuel savings with improved stoves have been systematically overestimated⁸. Most efficiency claims involving improved stoves are based on rather simple comparisons between the fuel consumed using traditional cooking methods and an improved stove in performing a specific task conducted under laboratory conditions.

These simple comparisons do not however take into consideration the ways in which fuelwood or charcoal is actually used in daily life and ignore that fact that their use is not limited solely to cooking purposes. The evidence that savings of up to 40% can be attained with an improved stove has not been replicated in any field trials. A recent survey of fuelwood consumption in three refugee camps in Tanzania reported that the amount of fuel used on either a three stone fire or with an improved stove were identical: 2.4 kg per person per day⁹.

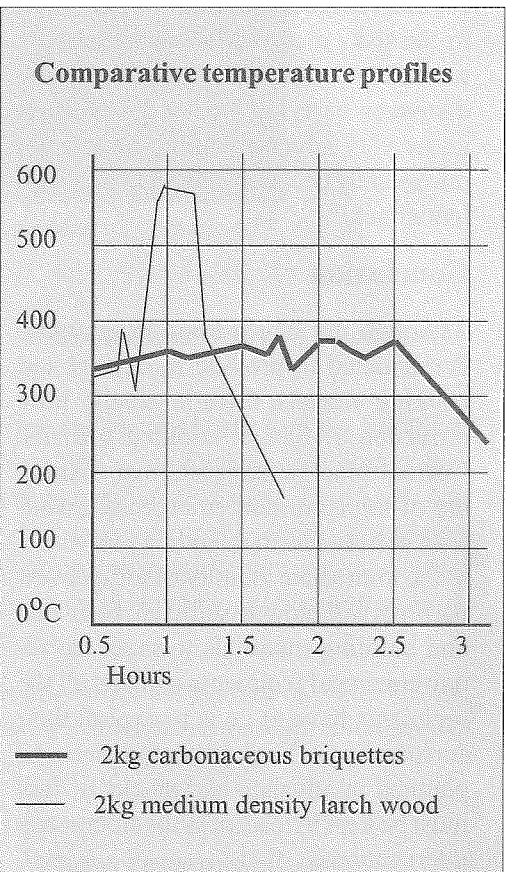
The cooking fuel issue must be expanded to incorporate the concept of improved fuel. Improving the efficiency of the stove and efficiency in wood use do not eliminate the negative health effects of exposure to raw biomass smoke.

The relative advantages of the elemental carbon briquette, on the other hand, especially in its densified form, in comparison to wood is demonstrable in field studies. One piece of essential evidence, in this regard, is the amount of fuel needed to maintain an open cooking fire for three hours.

Two to three hours is the normal cooking time for the beans that are a staple among the population of Burundi and many other African countries. When two kilograms of **medium density wood** are ignited, the temperature at pan height above the fire quickly rises to approximately 580° centigrade. This temperature is maintained for some ten minutes after which the temperature falls precipitously to around 400° degrees. Over the next 45 minutes the temperature of the wood fire falls steadily below the minimum cooking temperature of 200° centigrade. In approximately one hour the wood is completely exhausted. To main-

tain the minimum cooking temperature for three hours requires approximately 6 kilograms of medium density wood on an open fire.

The temperature at pan height above a **densified carbonaceous briquette** fire, on the other hand, quickly rises to the minimum cooking temperature of 200° and then over the next half hour reaches a plateau of approximately 360°. The plateau is maintained for about 2 hours and then the temperature falls gradually over the next 1 hour until the temperature descends below that required for cooking on an open fire - 200° centigrade. The densified carbonaceous briquettes will not have been completely consumed for about another hour.



(Lump-wood charcoal - the traditional urban fuel of central Africa - is more efficient than wood but less efficient than densified carbonaceous briquettes.)

Women and children suffer most from a shortage of fuelwood

Women are the primary fuelwood gatherers. When the fuel needs of recipients are considered by humanitarian assist-

ance providers, especially in the African context, fuelwood is invariably the choice. Few attempts are made to deliver fuelwood to the camps; most strategies are directed to supplies near the camps from which the recipients gather the supplies they need. As the settlement matures these trips involve greater distances and consume more and more time and energy.

No consideration of the health effects of such traditional fuelwood gathering or of the health effects of exposure to raw biomass smoke in a refugee settlement has ever been documented, although the consequences of fuelwood gathering on the health status of women and children is starting to find its way into the medical and refugee literature¹⁰. In addition to the risks incurred through exposure to smoke, women and children walk long distances carrying heavy loads often under very adverse conditions and not infrequently becoming the victims of violent attack¹¹.

Conclusion

Although the World Food Programme is mandated to provide food, fuel and cooking utensils, there is usually little provision of fuel or cooking utensils. Current practise suggests that managers of humanitarian emergency assistance believe that the standing fuel stocks in the immediate vicinity of refugee settlements will provide sufficient fuelwood and building materials to meet the requirements of recipients and that all the recipients have to do is to exploit their surroundings. Fuel provision must be planned in advance and stocks of fuel must be kept in readiness for emergency interventions.

None of this will occur, however, until humanitarian assistance providers realise that fuel, especially cooking fuel, is a life-saving intervention that is essential to reduce the alarmingly high rate of mortality in the under five age group and other at risk populations and until realistic strategies are implemented to effect fuel delivery from the beginning of a crisis.

The provision of cooking fuel should be addressed in accordance with UN Resolution 46/182. Past successes and failures should be fully recorded and analysed and evidence should be gathered as to the best means to achieve the provision of cooking fuel in humanitarian crises.

Adequate supplies of safe, smokeless cooking fuel must be made available as an integral part of 'first phase' emergency programming if we are to save the most vulnerable members of the recipient community.

E La-Mont Gregory is based in the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.

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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 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)

The environment of refugee camps

A challenge for refugees, local populations and aid agencies

by Thomas Hoerz



'Stove for work' activity: digging microcatchments for rainwater collection in greenbelts. Photo: GTZ

Thomas Hoerz is coordinator for RESCUE (Rational Energy Supply, Conservation, Utilisation and Education), a UNHCR/GTZ household energy project in the Dadaab area, Kenya, close to the Somali border.

RESCUE was initiated in late 1992 when UNHCR realised that providing food, shelter and medical care was not enough to care for a large number of refugees staying in a fragile environment for more than just a few months. No matter how sophisticated the supply machinery is, the basis for welfare and survival remains the natural environment. This holds true not only for the refugees but also for the local (Kenyan Somali) population. Survival in a pastoral economy is strongly dependent on an intact environment. It is therefore not surprising that the local population and administration were worried that the large number of refugees might cause damage to the environment and that the survival of the local population might also be threatened.

The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation agreed to finance an environmentally-oriented project in areas hosting refugees and asked GTZ to come up with a proposal. The outcome was RESCUE, an improved stove dissemination project with a strong afforestation component.

Whose environment?

Although host governments try - if they have the choice - to settle refugees in thinly populated areas, there is nearly always an indigenous population which depends, to varying degrees, on the products of their natural environment. For Dadaab, which is situated in the semi-arid Garissa District of East Kenya, this means the survival of a mostly nomadic Somali-speaking local population. This

populations's environment needs protection and rehabilitation. The pattern of protection and rehabilitation measures need the input of locals before, during and after the stay of refugees. Any intervention to protect and rehabilitate the environment must finally be the responsibility of the indigenous population as interventions need to continue for several years after camps are dissolved.

Whose responsibility?

The words 'UNHCR has destroyed our environment - now they have to do something about it' are often heard in Dadaab market. 'UNHCR's responsibility is the protection of refugees and the provision of basic needs such as water, food, shelter and medical care' is very often the answer. No-one talks in terms of the environment as the responsibility of the refugees. They are reduced to recipients

The environment of refugee camps *continued...*

of free handouts: figures in the supply logistics. The potential of refugees in terms of know-how and labour combined with their responsibility to 'replace' the off-take from the natural environment could be the key to solving the worldwide environmental crisis in refugee hosting areas.

Sharing responsibilities for the environment

1. Host governments and local administration:

As the officials responsible for the long term development of the area, governments and local administrations should develop guidelines to provide the framework. Their expertise (eg in forestry departments) needs to be used and strengthened to enable them to play a meaningful role in protection and rehabilitation even after the refugees have left. Government officials at all levels should communicate their national, regional and local needs to refugee organisations.

2. UNHCR:

UNHCR could act as the catalyst for environmental interventions, by fundraising, identifying of potential implementors and networking of partners involved (refugees, local population, host governments and NGOs). The provision of energy for cooking or the replacement of gathered energy like firewood must form part of the aid package: cooking fuel is as important as the food itself.

3. Implementing organisations:

Their main task is the development of concepts in close consultation with the other actors and the proper use of funds for implementation. They will also play a major role in fundraising with the backing of UNHCR.

4. Local population:

This group - which is concerned most and for the longest - needs to articulate priorities for the protection and rehabilitation of their environment. Their active participation can ensure sustainability.

5. Refugees:

It should be clear to any refugee that consumption of natural resources cannot be granted for free. Depending on individual ability, the work force and skills of refugees could be harnessed for large scale protection and rehabilitation activities.

Project area and target population

The project area was defined by UNHCR as three camps of the Dadaab area, namely Dagahaley, Ifo and Hagedera. These are the so-called consolidation camps which will exist when all the other camps are dissolved, provided the current trend of repatriation continues to reduce Somali refugee numbers in Kenya.

The target population was initially the population of these three camps. However, as the unfavourable environment and related problems are shared by both the local population and the refugees, it became clear during the early stages of the project that the local inhabitants (approximately 10,000) had to be included in the programme as key players in organising a sustainable programme of recovery.

Even though the Dadaab camps have passed the emergency period, problems related to basic needs remain pressing, results have to be achieved fast, the lifespan of implemented measures is short and one is tempted to forget about sustainability. Merging the demands of GTZ principles on sustainable and well planned development and the demands of quick results and relief to the target group and environment at times is not easy.

The RESCUE approach

When RESCUE started its operations in mid 1993, a thorough research and planning phase had established the main assumptions of the project:

1. The most effective interventions to cope with the magnitude of deforesta-

tion in the Dadaab camps would be training in energy saving methods and dissemination of fuel efficient stoves.

2. The disseminated stoves could not be given for free: a certain value had to be attached to them. It was assumed that stoves given for free would end up in markets in Kenyan cities or would not be used.

3. The replanting of trees, given the limited funds, would have to concentrate on pilot afforestation (to determine the appropriate technology and costs), awareness building and training.

4. Without the active participation of the local population and the refugees, there would be no basis for sustainability.

5. Emphasis should be laid on those interventions that benefit returnees in their home country (mainly Somalia) like training, awareness building and the supply of portable stoves.

Education

One way to reach the target group is through school children, who are easy to reach in the classroom and ready to absorb new ideas. Methods of fuel saving cooking will eventually be part of the standard curricula in Dadaab and refugee schools.

Distribution of stoves

RESCUE has adopted two schemes for distribution which have proved to be successful:

* Stove for trees:

For every five seedlings planted around homesteads, the family receives a stove of their choice, provided the trees are planted properly, regularly watered and well protected for at least one month.

* Stove for work:

For three days of labour in the greenbelts (of which there are 10 hectares), workers can obtain a stove.

Results

- Over 9,000 prefabricated stoves have been distributed.
- Nearly 9,000 energy saving stoves at zero material costs have been built in local and refugee households.
- More than 110,000 trees have been planted by refugees and locals around homesteads.
- Over 10,000 participants have been trained in workshops in energy saving methods and in the use and construction of efficient stoves.
- Four tree nurseries with a present output of 320,000 seedlings annually are operational.
- A production centre is operational and will produce some 15,000 improved portable stoves in the next two years.
- A total of 37 acres has been fenced (live fences) and planted with trees.

The idea of live fencing with *Commiphora africana*, a thorny tree which is very common around Dadaab, was developed when the need for an effective and ecologically sound fencing method for greenbelts, tree nurseries and refugee camp block arose at the same time. (The security situation had deteriorated with frequent cases of rape at night.)

- Schools and agencies have been provided with seedlings and advice on how to 'green' their compounds.

Impact

During the next phase, RESCUE will put more emphasis on monitoring the impact of its project. Distributing seedlings and checking them during the first month is not enough. An estimated one year of care is necessary, until the trees are fully established. For stoves, their rate of use can at present only be esti-

ated. A number of indicators will provide RESCUE with data to measure impact:

- rate of stove use
- survival rate of trees planted in home compounds after six months
- survival rate of trees in green belts

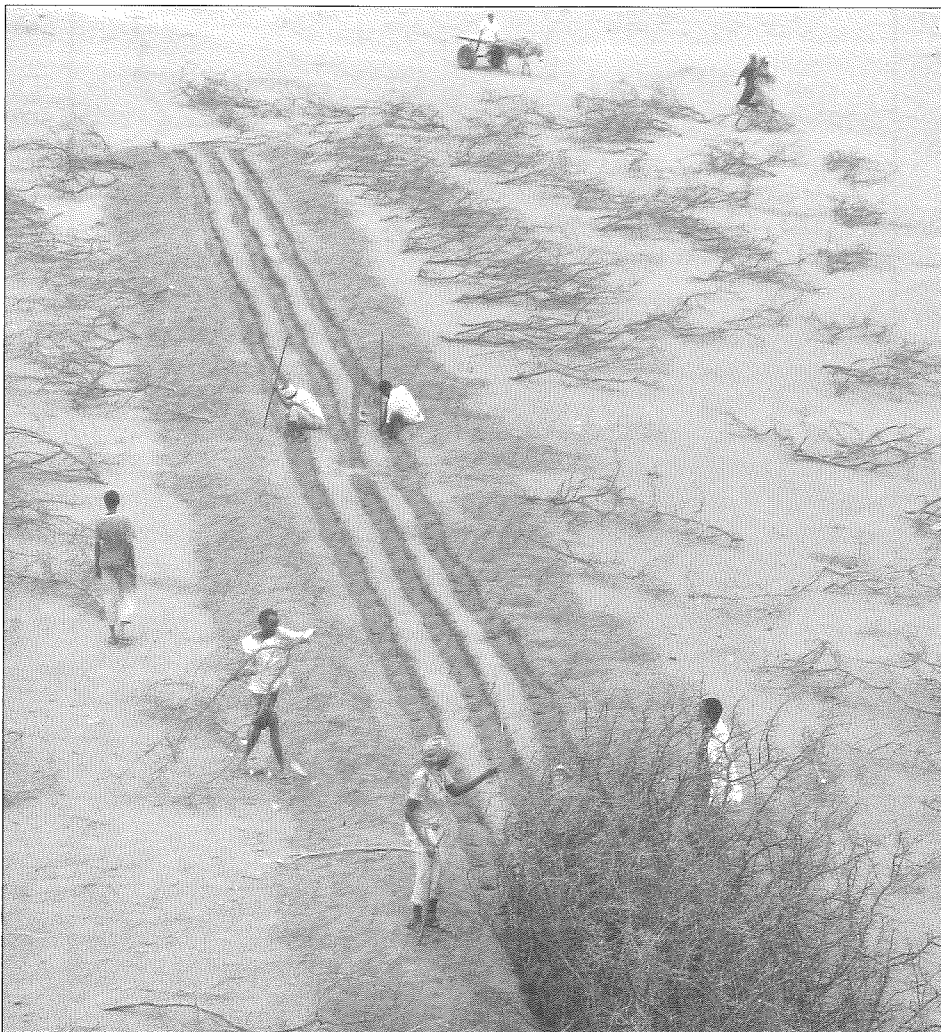
Even though the fuel saving potential of the stove types used is known, and we are sure that some firewood is saved, measuring the consumption of a random sample of users will give a definitive result. Based on 0.7 kg of consumption per day and per capita, the overall savings are estimated to be 15% or 11.5 tons of firewood daily.

Outlook

So far, RESCUE's project has only been slowing down the degradation process around the camps. **To slow down further or to reverse the negative trend, four strategies will be followed:**

1. A continuous effort to improve further in quantity and quality the use of improved stoves and energy saving methods.
2. Supply of fuel by either providing fuelwood from commercial plantations or by gathering dead wood from an enlarged collection radius of under-exploited woodlands around Dadaab. This would require motorised support as well as security from Kenyan police or army.
3. A project to engage in massive afforestation with a target of 800-1,200 acres annually for a minimum of three years.
4. The question of ownership of the stove production unit, the tree nurseries and the greenbelts to be resolved.

Even though RESCUE is still far from reversing the negative trend, we believe it can be done. In similar situations, only an early joint effort by all groups responsible and the 'four pronged approach' can prevent a major environmental disaster. So far, resource protection projects in refugee hosting areas have concentrated on only one or two options; the integrated approach has yet to be tested and implemented.



To protect refugees against bandit attacks at night, live fences are planted in the dry season. During the rainy season, they take root and grow. Photo: GTZ

The internally displaced of Peru :

The option of return for communities in Huanta Province, Ayacucho

by David Westwood

World Vision, with the help of a grant from the Disasters and Refugees Unit of the British government's Overseas Development Administration, has been supporting the process of return for the communities of Uchuraccay, Purus, Ccarhuace, Cunya, Iquicha and Cuyuchaca, in Huanta Province of the Department of Ayacucho.

The project, run in partnership with a local NGO, is currently assisting 485 families to resettle upon their land by providing them with agricultural inputs to enable them to plant for the next harvest and by providing them with emergency food aid until then. It is also training the community leaders in leadership and management, and selected members of the communities in preventative health care and in improving sanitary conditions.

Introduction

For thirteen years now the government of Peru has been involved in a bloody struggle against the guerrillas of the *Sendero Luminoso*. Recent advances made by the army against the guerrillas, starting with the capture of Abimael Guzman in 1992, have opened up the possibility of return for the displaced.

Ayacucho, the birthplace of *Sendero*, has taken on a symbolic value in the battle between the government and the guerrillas, and is the most violent Department, boasting the highest numbers of victims in the country - 38% of the total. In terms of actual attacks, it ranks second only to Lima. Due to the activity of *Sendero Luminoso* and the high levels of violence, most of the communities living in the Andean highlands of Huanta Province, in the Department of Ayacucho, moved away to the nearby Huamanga Province, or further afield to places like Huancayo, Junin and Lima.

There the displaced communities experienced conditions of extreme poverty,



often having great difficulty finding work, and relying on a minimum level of support provided mainly by local NGOs and churches (it is estimated that this assistance does not touch even 10% of the total internally displaced population).

The effects of displacement on the affected population

The effects of this massive internal migration upon the displaced population have been great. The family based rural economy upon which the communities depended has been shattered. The social organisation within the few communities which chose to remain on their land has been dismantled and replaced by the militarised Self Defence Committees which are not geared up to continue pro-

ductive activities but rather to protect the communities. Those who became displaced were effectively forced from a subsistence economy into a free and competitive market system for which they were ill equipped.

The very elements which gave them their basic cultural identity and knitted them into a community - their culture, their language and their links with the land - effectively became substantial obstacles to their survival. Ill-equipped for the urban labour market, the men find work as street vendors, carriers and labourers, while the women wash clothes or work as cleaners or street vendors. The average family income, often involving more than one member of the family working for over 10 hours a day, fluctuates between US\$1 and US\$2 per day.

The option of return

Over the past two years, however, the incidence of attacks in Ayacucho has diminished and the security conditions have improved. The military and the Self Defence Committees have successfully been able to force *Sendero* out of the area. There are various significant indicators that show that the security situation has significantly improved; the process of demilitarisation of the region has now started; tourism has begun to recover; and there has been a growth in the trade sector and in the production of building materials in the region. The Catholic Church has now also been able to start a basic health programme in the Province, in cooperation with the Peruvian government.

There continue to be, however, four basic conditions which need to be met before major obstacles to the wholesale return of the displaced to their lands are completely overcome.

First of all, the process of pacifying the countryside needs to be completed; fear was, after all, the main reason that the people left the land in the first place. While the demilitarisation of the Department has begun and the last recorded *Sendero* attack in the area was in June 1992, the communities do not feel safe yet and fully expect to be continuing the Self Defence Patrols for another two or three years.

Secondly, a process of democratisation needs to take place within the communities themselves. In the areas where the war was strongest, the complete withdrawal of civilian authority left the area entirely in the hands of the military. The Self Defence Committees are neither democratic or organised with any productive activities in mind. They now need to give way to civilian type community organisation structures.

Thirdly, there needs to be a large government investment programme in the rural areas of the highlands which would make economic activity a viable alternative, given the massive disruption of the rural economy over the past 13

years. The provision of credit, appropriate technology and training are also important necessities for the development of the returnee communities. This would inevitably mean a shift away from the current government neo-liberal economic policy which is very much geared towards the city to the detriment of agriculture.

Fourthly and finally, there is also a need to create minimum conditions for the marketing of production, which would making it worthwhile for the farmers to grow a surplus. While they want to return to their lands, they do not want merely to return to subsistence agriculture but to develop their communities through closer links with the cities and trade: 'if we had machines we could weave and export...to the USA dozens of items, and thus have some additional income for the community' (Adrian Naupa, President of the Self Defence Committee from the community of Purus).

Given the high costs of transport, the low prices and the lack of resources available to the communities, any surplus production (more than that which meets the immediate needs of the community for food, seeds for the next sowing sea-

son and some excess to exchange for basic goods) is considered a waste.

The government response

In 1993, a few days prior to the arrival of an ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) mission to Peru to look into the question of the internally displaced, and in the midst of a period of massive media coverage of the theme, the government announced an initiative to help the process of return for the displaced in Ayacucho. The government initiative aimed to assist a total of 165,300 displaced across the country, 46% of which were to be found in Ayacucho.

For the government, the problem of the displaced had assumed a highly political dimension: the continued displacement of the population continued to highlight the fact that *Sendero* was still holding sway in the countryside. To facilitate the return of the displaced to their communities would therefore serve two purposes: firstly, the occupation of the lands by the population would tie in with the strategy of physically consolidating the hold of the government on the land reclaimed from *Sendero*; and secondly, it was a propaganda statement in that it



A group of women and girls gathered for the return to their community in Purus.
Photo: World Vision

The internally displaced of Peru *continued...*

visibly demonstrated that *Sendero* as a military force was defeated and things were beginning to return to normal. The political dimension of the government response is therefore very obvious and is reflected in the fact that, in spite of the existence of numerous organised groups of displaced, they had no participation in the elaboration of the response.

The focus of the programme is on the Ayacucho Province where a large percentage of the displaced wanted to return to their lands, at the expense of areas of high concentration of the displaced, like Lima and Ica, where the vast majority of displaced wanted to stay and be properly integrated into the cities.

The dilemma for the displaced

Given the availability or the expectation of government assistance, many families are now willing to take the risk and return to their lands: 'The President of the Republic announced that the option to return to the countryside was now legal. For us it was the incentive to become enthusiastic about returning because we would find some type of help.' (Adrian Naupa) In the towns they have not been able to find employment and they suffer the contempt of the city folk who look down on them as campesinos, lacking education, culture and Spanish.

The assistance they hoped for was to enable them to restart their agricultural activities, repair their houses, rebuild their villages and help see them through until they were able to harvest for themselves. Their attitude is summed up by the Vice President of the community of Cunya, Teofilo Rimachi Nunez, when he said 'we will die more comfortably and for free back in our community'.

Back in the highlands of Ayacucho, they at least have the possibility of improving their situations, although they will face an extremely precarious existence especially at the start; they have little in terms of personal possessions and will have a long wait until they are able to reap the benefits of their own harvests.

Nevertheless, they feel this is where they belong:

We thought about returning because we are country folk who live off the produce of our lands, which sustains the whole family, and we manage a bit more with our animals: by selling them, we educate our children. With the wool from the same animals we make our clothes. All this we left behind when we abandoned our village in 1983 without harvesting our crops; our houses were burnt, they took our animals and we left in only our clothes, fleeing for our lives, and we have been in many places with nothing, in Ayacucho, Huanta, la Selva and San Jose de Sentillana...

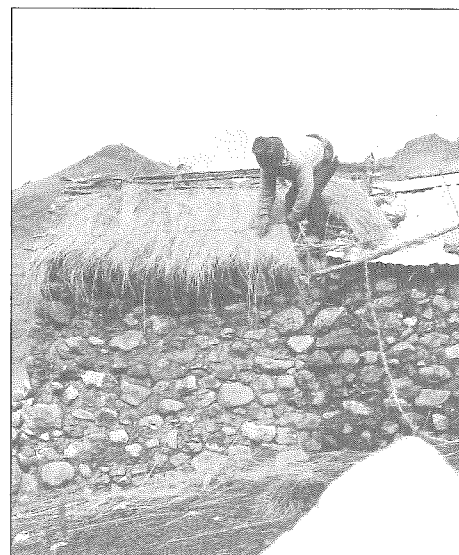
This is why we are getting ready to return, because you suffer in other places, because as campesinos from the farms we cannot provide for ourselves as the work is different, for those who have studied. (Adrian Naupa)

Other sectors of the displaced have, however, decided to stay in cities and desire to be properly integrated into their new environment. As far as they are concerned, there are no guarantees of security if they return to their communities - the threat of violence from *Sendero* and the military are still very real. These communities are still very aware that the government promises of help have yet to materialise; the government response through its Repopulation Project offers very limited resources which are insufficient to promote the type of sustainable development which it claims as its objective.

Meanwhile in the cities, the displaced have been able to start to organise themselves, and feel that they have a greater opportunity for survival given the access to the improved health and educational opportunities available to them and, importantly, to their children in the cities.

The roles for the actors involved

In view of the extreme scarcity of government resources, there has been increasing coordination and participation



Mending the roof after returning to a rural community. Photo: World Vision

amongst various international organisations (such as UNHCR, UN-DHA and ICVA) and also amongst religious groups, with a view to responding to the urgent needs of all of these displaced communities. The Peruvian government has now also made official requests to the UN for an allocation of resources for displaced peoples.

What, given the nature of the problem, is the best way to proceed? The Regional Forum for the Displaced held its Second Regional Workshop on Repopulation on 1 October 1994 in Ayacucho and came up with the following recommendations:

1. The organisations of the displaced themselves must continue the process of organising themselves in order to make themselves heard more. They should articulate themselves at the various levels of government in order to carry their demands to the various levels of authority; and they should work alongside the NGOs in the design and execution of projects, as well as discussing with the various financial institutions in order to press for the availability of credit. Finally, there needs to be links maintained between those communities who stay and those who return.

2. The NGOs should share information and coordinate their responses so as to avoid any duplication of effort and

to maximise the effectiveness of the responses. They should work more with the organisations of the displaced, strengthening their leaders and designing appropriate projects in coordination with these organisations. The NGOs should play their part in disseminating information about the plight of the displaced at local, national and international levels.

3. The Church should act as a mediator between the organisations of the displaced and the government, and put pressure on the government to fulfil the promises it has made. It should also seek to fulfil its pastoral role, building solidarity with the displaced and the victims of violence, especially in the rural zones.

4. The government should start to back the decisions of the displaced communities themselves, rather than promote one particular alternative. The government needs to recognise the organisations of the displaced which have emerged and include them in its policy making and planning processes. Likewise, there is a need to decentralise decision making with regards to the policy on the displaced. The provision of training and credit, especially for those returning, is crucial, as well as the construction of adequate road systems and the guarantee of security. Meanwhile, providing employment is a major priority for the benefit of those who stay.

Those who choose to return face not only continued insecurity but also a lack of financial resources, technical assistance and agricultural inputs, all necessary if they are to have a chance of success.

Those who choose to stay have to face continued marginalisation from public institutions and local government, living with the handicap of illiteracy, lack of Spanish and work skills of limited use in the urban setting.

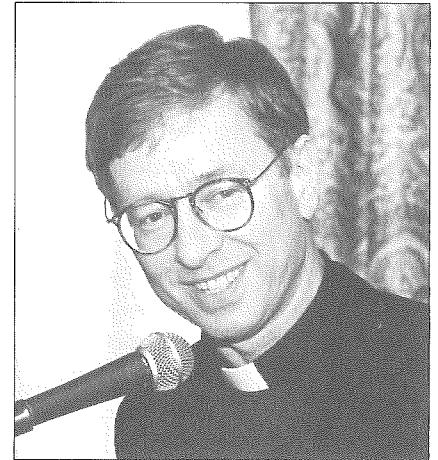
Neither group has an easy road ahead.

David Westwood is Latin America Project Officer for World Vision UK.

Pedro Arrupe Tutorship in Oxford

The Revd Richard Ryscavage, SJ, has been appointed as the first Pedro Arrupe Tutor to be attached to Campion Hall and to the Refugee Studies Programme, Queen Elizabeth House, as a Research Associate.

This new position, jointly sponsored by Campion Hall, the RSP and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), was established in 1992 to honour Fr Pedro Arrupe, the former Superior General of the Society of Jesus. It was on his initiative that the JRS was born in 1981.



Fr Ryscavage holds an MA and LD in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Massachusetts. For the past eight years he has worked for the Office of Migration and Refugee Service (the largest refugee-resettlement agency in the US), from 1991 serving as its Executive Director.

As the Pedro Arrupe Tutor, Campion Hall, and Research Associate of the RSP, Fr Ryscavage will be an active member of both communities, participating in research, teaching conflict resolution and mediation, organising workshops and seminars, and undertaking representational work for the RSP in refugee and human rights fora. He will also be travelling widely, consulting the JRS in three areas: organisational structure, training and research.

Oxford University Gazette 13 October 1994



Agricultural activity restarts about ten years after the campesinos were forced to abandon their land in the community of Cunya, Peru. Photo: World Vision

Development in a refugee situation

The case of Rwandan refugees in northern Tanzania

by Richard Reynolds

The standard response to large influxes of refugees has been to set up refugee camps and provide the refugees with basic needs such as food, water, shelter and health care. These initiatives can be termed 'emergency responses'. Typically, UNHCR is given the lead agency role; various local and international NGOs with experience in these particular fields are then appointed to implement programmes under the emergency response. The approach is 'relief' orientated; speed and numbers serviced are the priority rather than development issues.



Fetching water from nearby reservoir: Benaco, Tanzania, June 1994. Photo: Richard Reynolds

This standard response to the Rwandan crisis and the influx of an estimated 450,000 refugees into an isolated part of northern Tanzania resulted in the setting up of a large refugee camp near Ngara called the Benaco camp. However, unlike many other refugee situations (Sudan, Thailand and Mozambique), UNHCR in its emergency phase also started to consider activities, under the title 'community services', that were more development than relief orientated.

Christian Outreach and Tear Fund, two UK based NGOs under the umbrella of Christian Outreach (CO), developed during this phase a programme aimed at involving refugee communities and individuals to a greater degree in the running of various community services. The following paper will outline this more developmental approach, how it aims to improve the position of refugees and an initial assessment of the programme's performance.

The emergency phase

UNHCR, acting through its implementing partners, started setting up various programmes in this emergency phase. The Tanzanian Red Cross (TRC), CARE and Concern took responsibility for camp management and all distributions; Oxfam and UNICEF managed the water supply, and the MSF agencies, TRC, IRC (International Rescue Committee) and IFRC (International Federation of the Red Cross) managed health and sanitation within the camp.

These programmes were set up with a heavy expatriate staffing, little community involvement and an emphasis on serving large numbers of people as quickly as possible. Given the scale of the problem and the logistical difficulties of the region, the programmes were well implemented and effective in meeting basic needs. Although the population had been traumatised by the killings in Rwanda, their state of physical health was reasonable and these emergency response programmes sought as much to maintain this situation as to improve it.

Community services programme

UNHCR appointed a community services field worker to coordinate agencies interested in implementing community projects in the camp. CO, having expressed an interest in this area, recruited a consultant to develop a programme.

As a result of the evaluation of the situation by the consultant, CO has adopted a combined approach of community and business development, a decision based on its experience in the refugee camps of eastern Sudan. The former concentrates on group and community development while the latter focuses primarily on individuals. The provision of social services to particular sectors of the community has also been included.

The camp, which at that time had an estimated population of 250,000 people¹, was clearly too big to be managed as a whole and UNHCR therefore identified three sites to which people would be re-located in groups of about 80,000. It was decided to focus the attention of CO's work in the third site, known as Musuhura Hill.

Since the term 'community services' is rather vague and essentially means any activity outside the traditional relief and health fields, it is important that a strong level of coordination is achieved. UNHCR has therefore appointed a lead agency as coordinator for community services in each of the three camps. The unusual part of this is that agreements with new agencies are made through the coordinating agency. This means that the lead agencies have a much stronger control over activities of additional agencies.

1. Community development

The community development approach is based on facilitating a large number of communities to choose what they need. In a refugee situation people, often over night, lose their country, home and livelihood, and are told or ordered where to live, what to eat and what they can do. Refugees suddenly become disempowered and dependent on others. There is very little room for either individual or community choice in emergency situations. This programme seeks to redress that by helping communities

to be involved in influencing some of the factors affecting them.

The Rwandan situation is unusual in that in many cases whole communities have fled together. Therefore some existing community structures are in place. While these tend to be very feudal and non-participatory in nature, they do represent community groupings and provide some stability to the populations.

The programme has chosen to exploit this by focusing on the smallest community structure in Rwanda. This is known as the *cellule* and in the camp these are typically made up of communities of about 500 people. There are approximately 200 such communities in each of the three camps.

Each community will be assisted in identifying the problems it faces, prioritising them and then planning how the community can seek to resolve them. A fund will then be made available to each community in order that it can have access to resources to meet the needs identified. In addition a separate fund will be available for each community to employ a number of staff in any services that the community wishes to run. For example, this could help a community which has listed a community centre as a priority to provide literacy classes or a pre-school administered and staffed by people of its own choice.

However, on further investigation and discussion, it was decided that as well as working on a community wide programme, groups would be targeted in each *cellule* for support. Groups were defined as any group of people (three or more) who demonstrate a level of organisation and have been able to start some activity together. Economic activity was excluded from the programme due to UNHCR guidelines. The type of groups that will be approached include a small group of parents who have set up a secondary school for their children. Such a programme could be supported with funds for materials and building materials but would remain very much that group's project.

A system of visits and guides for project proposals were devised in order to assist the community mobilisers in ensuring that communities and groups were empowered through the process rather than just viewing the programme as an easy option for gaining funds.

One of the big difficulties for this programme is the need for it to produce results fast and yet at the same time maintain a developmental approach. The Rwandan staff and particularly the community mobilisers are the key people in this process. CO has been fortunate in that the growth of Musuhura Hill has been slower than the other two camps. At the same time, the quality of Rwandan staff means that it is realistic to expect the mobilisers to understand and adopt a developmental approach.

2. Business development

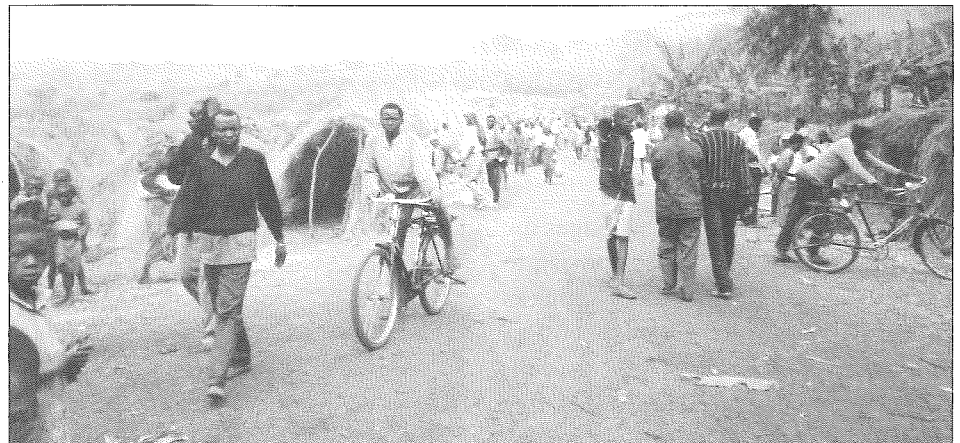
Business development will focus primarily on credit and vocational training. Refugees want and need to work. It surprises many people unfamiliar with refugee camps that a flourishing market starts almost from day one. For example, one young man obtained \$10 from doing an interview with a journalist. Over the next two weeks he was able to buy one and then two crates of soft drinks and start selling hot cakes and tea. These businesses vary from the trading of refugee goods² to service and small manufacturing businesses such as tailoring and shoe repairs. In order to develop the business sector and its associated job creation opportunities, pro-

grammes were targeted at vulnerable groups as well as existing businesses. However, UNHCR guidelines meant that CO was unable directly to assist existing businesses. As a result, the following two programmes have been initiated:

2.1. Credit for single parents: This programme will specifically target single parents and provide them with micro-loans (\$10) to help them supplement their rations with income from petty trading. Three different types of group credit schemes based on the Rwandan savings and credit system known as *ikimina's*, will be piloted with 30 groups over three months before a decision is made as to which type of group credit is adopted. The key criteria will be a repayment level of 90%, although this is combined with an analysis of the benefits of such a programme on the recipients. While the administrative costs of the programme will be covered by the agency, the level of such costs will be lower due to the use of peer pressure and a group loan system.

2.2. Vocational training: This will seek to provide training opportunities, particularly to young men in the camp. This will equip them with valuable skills but also provide them with something to do. Many of the youth have been involved in the violence in Rwanda and there is a need for their energy to be diverted into productive activities.

It was decided that the best approach to training was to use the existing businesses as trainers through some form of



Tanzania/Rwanda border, 1994. Photo: Richard Reynolds

Development in a refugee situation *continued...*

apprenticeship programme. This means that the training is focused on the skills that micro-enterprises need to run a business in terms of both hard and softer skills. Such an approach also has the advantage of providing some assistance to existing businesses in terms of materials and tools that are paid in exchange for training.

3. Educational and social services

A programme has been developed for the construction of 20 schools in two of the camps. A system of prefabricated classrooms has been developed: the wall frames and roofs are constructed in a central workshop and can be assembled by communities on site. The walls are made of reed mats made by refugee women in the camp.

While the schools programme has been developed by UNESCO and UNICEF, CO plays a role in organising the schools and ensuring that the teachers are paid.

The final programme focuses on setting up a network of refugee social workers to meet the needs of unaccompanied children and their foster parents. It is estimated that there are 9,000 unaccompanied children in the Benaco camps. The majority of these are being looked after by other families or relatives while a few live as street children.

As an alternative to institutionalising these children, the programme will encourage placement of street children with suitable families. The social workers will seek to support and advise all foster families and to monitor closely each situation to ensure that the needs of the child are best served by the family which has assumed the caring responsibility.

Conclusion

This type of programme challenges the typical view that the relief approach to the early stages of the refugee influx is sufficient. While it is obviously critical to deliver relief services, it is also important to remember that refugees, like all poor communities, are disempowered.

They need to be given opportunities to maintain their dignity by being involved in the decision making processes that affect their situation.

The critical need to move from a relief mode to a more developmental one as early as possible in the emergency phase becomes even more apparent when the time frame is considered. In refugee situations the future is always uncertain but it is important to consider the longer term as well as the immediate future. It would appear that the Rwandan Patriotic Front is set to dominate Rwanda. In such a case, the return of the mainly Hutu Benaco refugees seems unlikely, at least for several years. In such a scenario it is critical that a long term approach to refugee work is adopted, geared to self reliance and community participation. If this does not happen, the refugee population will, over time, become increasingly dependent and later attempts to initiate development approaches will, as a result, be more likely to fail.

Richard Reynolds, a PHD student from Cranfield University (UK), doing field work in Durban, undertook two consultancies to northern Tanzania for Christian Outreach and Tear Fund in June and November 1994.

1. Officially the population was 330,000 by mid June 1994 but estimates from nutrition surveys indicated a much lower figure of 250,000.

2. Refugee goods are those goods that have been distributed to the population. These are often sold because either people do not want them, preferring something else, or people have additional rations due to leakages in the distribution system.

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 or a good book shop.

Subscriptions to the RPN

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 (see page 36) but we receive relatively few contributions from members.

Our budget for 1995 is £21,077 (US\$32,669) and we endeavour to be as cost-effective as possible. (A copy of our budget is available on request.)

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; if you would like to contribute towards our work in an alternative way, please see the notice about document exchange on page 43.

But many of our members 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. Others may have paid £20 when they first joined but have paid nothing since. The suggested £20 is supposed to be an annual contribution! We have now set up a system of sending out annual reminders to all those who have made a contribution since August 1993. If you made a contribution before that date, perhaps you might like to consider renewing?

We hope you continue to enjoy the RPN. Thank you for your support.

*This issue of the RPN is
part sponsored by UNEP.*



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

UNEP

The role of UNEP

UNEP was established in 1972 as the watchdog of the environment: collecting data and promoting/providing advisory services, policy guidelines and information exchange on environmental affairs. It also serves as coordinator, reporter, reviewer and assessor of environmental programmes within the United Nations system.

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development established sustainable development as the way forward and set out an ambitious action plan: Agenda 21. Over the last two years, UNEP has reorientated its programmes to respond to this direction and to the new and enlarged responsibilities given to the Programme under Agenda 21.

The new strategy is based on the underlying theme of the interdependence of the application of sound science, the mobilisation of social consensus at all levels and the development of effective public policy. Programmes have been clustered around major focal areas. International consensus building, including that related to environmental conflict resolution and environmentally displaced people, is a wide and increasingly important field. National environmental management support involves capacity building in its fullest sense and at all levels, and includes the development of concepts and tools and the testing of methodologies. Environmental assessment remains a key part of the UNEP programme, together with information for decision making, disaster prevention, preparedness and response and the continuum process from environmental disaster through rehabilitation to sustainable development.

UNEP's mission is 'to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations'.

Recent UNEP activities

* In February 1994, an international workshop was held in Almería, Spain, sponsored by the Government of Spain and UNEP and organised by the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention to Combat Desertification (INCD). The workshop on desertification and migrations produced *The Almería Statement* which, among other things, postulated a 'right to remain' for those who wish to do so but are unable to sustain themselves on their land without support. Copies of this statement are available from INCD, UNEP or RSP in Oxford.

* UNEP held an international workshop on social aspects of dryland management in December 1993. The summary of the workshop's proceedings are available from UNEP, as well as an edited version of selected presentations called *Listening to the People: Social Aspects of Dryland Management*.

* UNEP and UNRISD are cooperating on the preparation of a study of migration and desertification, called *Linkages between Dryland Development and Migration*. This publication should be available from UNEP and UNRISD later, in summer 1995.

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Floods hit Saharawi refugees in south west Algeria

55,000 without shelter

by John Howe

Since 1975, 165,000 Saharawis have been living in exile, awaiting Moroccan military withdrawal from Western Sahara and a fair referendum on the fate of the region.

Despite a ceasefire in 1991 and plans for a referendum in January 1992, the Saharawis have continued to wait as the UN peace plan has stalled, mainly on the issue of voter eligibility.

A report in November 1994 by the UN Secretary General indicates that the latest scheduled date for the referendum (February 1995) will be further postponed.

Quite unnecessarily, nature sometimes reminds desert people that it is cruel by sending them too much water all at once. Many died in a series of flash floods in Mauritania a few years ago. In 1994 it was the turn of the Saharawi refugees who suffered severe storms on 8-9 October and again on 29-30 October when 30mm fell in little over 24 hours. The high winds that accompanied the storms simply blew tents away and scattered their contents, depriving some 55,000 people of shelter at the beginning of winter. The El Ayoun camp was totally destroyed, its permanent buildings - schools, hospitals and administrative structures built of soluble mud brick - washed away by torrents of water pouring off the nearby escarpment. Eight lives were lost.

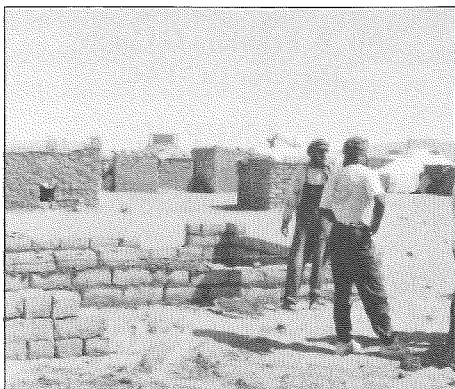


Photo: Western Sahara Campaign



Photo: Western Sahara Campaign

One reason why the Saharawi refugees from the Moroccan occupation of their country live in the bleak *Hammada*, south of Tindouf in Algeria, is the relative abundance there of good underground water. From an aircraft, the structures of gigantic river systems are clearly visible: branching clusters of watercourses which look in surprisingly good repair. But on the ground, although there is nearly always some form of vegetation somewhere nearby, it feels so utterly arid that the idea of a torrent of water seems, and usually is, just a long-fantasy induced by thirst.

The problem of course with water in the Sahara is that there is not nearly enough, and what there is is usually deep underground and often too salinated to drink. As a consequence, desert-dwellers are largely controlled by available water supplies: their location, quality and abundance, and the need to use them wisely and prevent them from evaporating or becoming polluted.

The Saharawis have pitched their camps as close to the water as possible: on low ground in the dry river beds, where there is some slight shelter from the wind, where it takes less digging to get to water, where there may even be a dusting of vegetation in spring (although less

than in the pretty *oueds* of Western Sahara with their acacia, carob and fragrant camomile). Some of the camps have been there for twenty years and there are numerous permanent buildings made of sun-dried mud brick, a low-cost material which suits arid climates but which disintegrates in water.

Polisario - the Saharawi liberation movement formed in 1973 and still being stretched on the rack of the endlessly-delayed UN peace plan - has appealed for material and financial aid to help with the rebuilding and with rehousing the civilians. Algeria, which shelters these refugees, has given them generous support over the years but is currently suffering its own political and economic difficulties. International agencies react fastest to the plight of people whose lives are under immediate threat but are slower in cases of hardship merely made harder. So help is certainly needed.

For more information, contact:

Western Sahara Campaign Northern Office, Oxford Chambers, Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX, UK (tel/fax 0113 245 4786) or, in other countries, the nearest Polisario Office.

Stateless persons and the 1989 Comprehensive Plan of Action

by Tang Lay Lee

A stateless person is legally defined in the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons as 'a person who is not considered as a national by a State under the operation of its law'. In other words, she/he is a de jure stateless person. A person who remains the national of a country but who is refused protection by its government is a de facto stateless person.

The Final Act of the Stateless Persons Convention exhorts parties to the Convention to extend protection to such de facto stateless persons provided they renounced their nationality for clearly valid reasons.

The Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees was adopted by 80 countries at the International Conference on Indo-Chinese refugees held in Geneva on 13-14 June 1989. It broke the impasse between Vietnam, the first asylum countries in South East Asia and resettlement countries. For more than a decade after the Vietnam War ended in 1975, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Thailand played host to refugees from Vietnam. The USA, Canada, Australia, the UK and other Western countries resettled more than 1.5 million people from Vietnam.

However, by the mid 1980s, the resettlement countries were reluctant to accept more refugees from Vietnam. Hence, the CPA provided for a stop to illegal departures from Vietnam, refugee status determination of those who arrive in first asylum countries, resettlement for the successful Vietnamese asylum seekers and repatriation of those who failed in their applications.

The Comprehensive Plan of Action is far from comprehensive. Among other things, it does not cover stateless persons. Their existence was not anticipated. They are unable to repatriate to Vietnam even though they have been denied refugee status. They are not Vietnamese nationals and are stateless, either *de jure* or *de facto*. It is an issue which will not go away even though the refugee status determination procedures are over.

In Hong Kong, about 25,000 people remain in the detention centres resisting repatriation. There is great concern that these stateless persons may be neglected

or forgotten in the process of camp clearance in the closing phase of the CPA.

At first, about 200 in the Hong Kong detention centres claimed that they were nationals of the Republic of China (ROC), commonly known as Taiwan. About 4,000 people in the detention centres now make the same claim. Even if they can prove their claim, they cannot enter or reside in Taiwan because its domestic laws severely restrict the residence of nationals from abroad. Vietnam will not take them back unless they drop their claim to ROC nationality and say they are Vietnamese.

In this day and age of human rights, their right to a nationality, an effective nationality, is at issue.

After World War II, there were masses of refugees and stateless persons in Europe. While refugees had fled persecution, stateless persons also faced many problems. They were not entitled to housing, jobs, welfare or education in the same way as nationals of the host country. Neither could they easily obtain papers to facilitate travel. The UN came to their rescue and also acted to alleviate the plight of refugees and stateless persons for the future.

The Refugee Convention was signed in 1951 to protect the rights of refugees, including stateless refugees. Stateless persons were assisted by the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons 1954 and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness 1961.

Under international law, Vietnam is only obliged to admit her nationals. No similar obligation extends to non-nationals.

Even if Vietnam does admit them, she is under no obligation to treat them as nationals. There is no guarantee of admission or proper treatment because Vietnam is not a signatory to any of the Refugee or Stateless Conventions. China signed only the Refugee Convention but reserved her rights on the issue of settlement of disputes.

Some parties to the CPA, including the United Kingdom (representing Hong Kong) and Australia, are signatories to the Stateless Conventions as well as to the Refugee Conventions.

UNHCR is studying this issue anew because the break up of the former Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia has led to fresh problems of statelessness. It is proposing that a separate international agency be set up to protect the rights of stateless persons. However, the stateless persons under the CPA cannot wait for that to happen.

Since these stateless persons are in Hong Kong, the primary responsibility lies with the United Kingdom as a signatory to the Stateless Conventions. An urgent resolution is needed, particularly in the light of 1997 when Hong Kong will be returned to China. All the parties to this international settlement, together with the UK, must resolve these issues of statelessness in the spirit of burden-sharing of the CPA. Only then will the CPA be recorded in history as a politico-legal achievement of our times.

Tang Lay Lee is working with the Jesuit Refugee Service Asia Pacific on legal research projects.

[See abstract of *In Whose Best Interest* on p 38.]

Plight of Ugandan refugees in the United Arab Emirates

In June 1973, under an agreement concluded between the respective rulers of Dubai and Abu Dhabi (prior to federation) and the High Commissioner for Refugees, two parties of Ugandan refugees arrived in the Emirates.

They came direct from the Red Cross camps set up in Belgium, Spain and Italy after Idi Amin's expulsion order of 1972 which affected mainly Asians and persons of undetermined nationality. There were originally eight families in Abu Dhabi and eleven in Dubai, totalling 96 persons. At least three families (22 persons) moved to Australia and the UK for resettlement after about four years. The remaining families have expanded to a total of about 100 people.

These refugees are stated to be of Iranian, Pakistani, Omani and Yemani descent with African inter-mix, whose Asian forefathers had emigrated to East Africa at the end of the last century when the construction of the railway system by the British offered job opportunities. They were initially accommodated in temporary reception centres; the Central Accounts Section in Dubai then supervised the construction of an apartment building for those in Dubai. In Abu Dhabi the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided rented accommodation.

Both parties integrated fully into the new society and maintained their own livelihood. Identification papers were provided by each Emirate. These IDs have now become less widely recognised, particularly for new job seekers. Policies concerning immigration, passports and nationality had been federalised. Federal government departments only recognise national passports and therefore the issue of national status has become a federal matter on which to date no decision has been taken. Refugees who have long been in government employment or have been running their own business may face serious problems if a solution to their national status is not found.

During 1978-79, after UNHCR pursued the subject of travel documents with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the majority of refugees were issued with UAE temporary passports which enabled them to travel abroad for family visits, medical treatment, Haj, etc. The temporary passport during its six month validity also served as a viable ID. Since 1979, the Ministry of the Interior has refused to renew or issue more temporary passports, claiming that the Council of Ministers or the Supreme Council of Rulers should decide on their national status.

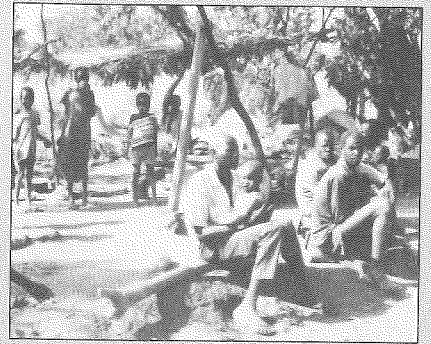
The Zanzibaris, totalling an estimated 2,500 persons, are another minority group in the UAE. They came to the UAE before the Ugandans and without any formal or prior agreement but they do not suffer documentation problems. The Zanzibaris operate through their own government-recognised association and due to its active representation they are able to obtain national UAE passports on an individual basis for travelling abroad for education, hospital treatment and other special considerations. Several have in fact obtained full UAE nationality having proved themselves to be of Omani or Yemani descent.

Ugandan refugees have had to rely on UNHCR, the sympathetic Central Accounts Section and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to intervene on their behalf for a solution which does not yet seem to be forthcoming.

For more information, contact:

Mr M Rafi Baluch, Chairman of the Ugandan Refugees Welfare Committee, c/o Ugandan Refugees Liaison Office, P O Box 516, Dubai, UAE.

WELCOME TO ARINGA COUNTY



By the roadside, Aringa County, November 1994. Photo: Barbara Harrell-Bond

Since the war began in southern Sudan, northern Uganda has become the place of refuge for at least 200,000 people. In April this year Aringa County, whose population is largely Muslim, offered land for the settlement of 60,000 people who have had no land on which to grow their food.

The process of moving the people began in November but, because of delays, 1,600 people were simply dumped by the side of a remote road, with insufficient water, no shelter from the cold and no medical services. After 10 days of such exposure, people were already dying.

The Imam of the mosque at Yumbe got to hear of this. Since most of the Aringa residents had themselves been refugees in Sudan, they knew what this suffering meant. Although themselves suffering great poverty, the Muslim community did what they could. They gathered two large bags of oranges and went to the roadside.

In his speech of welcome and sympathy, Ally Keuiga, the Chairman, reminded the Sudanese that 'God is very important. We hope that you will build your churches very quickly.'

Speak out...

The People's Communities in Resistance in Petén

Petén is a region in the north of Guatemala most of which is made up of tropical forests. In the 1960s and 70s, the government decided to colonise part of the north of the country, and thousands of rural day labourers, many of them landless peasants, migrated to Petén where they started to form organised communities. In the 70s, the government and army launched an increasing number of attacks against them, directed at the degree of cooperative organisation achieved by the population and against the protests and legitimate demands made by the peasant farmers (*campesinos*) when they were threatened with the confiscation of their lands for not paying the money due on the credit which had been granted them.

From 1981 onwards, hundreds of families sought asylum in Mexico, and others took refuge in the jungles of Petén. The latter gradually formed themselves into groups and started new communities in the forest itself. In the years which followed they were prey to harassment, attacks and even aerial bombardment by the army. In October 1993, the 'People's Communities in Resistance in Petén' made their first public appearance in Guatemala City. The delegation gave a series of interviews from which the following is taken.

When the repression started, we decided not to go to Mexico, since the same would have happened again and it is here in our own country that we should be fighting, insisting on the need for real peace and democracy... for the benefit of all the poor in Guatemala.

In those days villages tried to develop a means of organisation which would improve their way of life, their working conditions and their economic life as well. It was then that we realised that this cooperative way of doing things did not suit the government and the army at all. They chose to think that it was a result of communist influences. The people themselves were not even thinking of such things. What they wanted was a better lifestyle and a way of avoiding their work putting money into the pockets of the rich landowners. Nonetheless, as a result, many of the cooperatives and villages were massacred without cause.

Life in Petén

Our best way of growing things is to sow a little bit here and a little bit there. In this way, if the army destroys one part, we still have the other part. But of course this way too we protect the environment by not felling too big an area and we look for the places with a shorter growth of wood, so as to avoid the tall hardwood trees. The maize is harvested and then we look for a place to store it. If the plots are close by, then we make a point of storing the harvest away from

where it was grown. We do not leave it there. We carry it a long way away to prevent the army from coming and burning the harvest, which has happened from time to time. Occasionally they have found these storage places and burnt them, or the maize has not been harvested and they steal it and pile it up and burn it.

In our educational work, we had no materials... or we had very few and the pencils we did have we had to break into pieces so that each child and each person had a little bit. We did not have enough exercise books either. We had to tear out the pages. We survived a long time like that. There was a time during the 1991 offensive when we could not get any materials at all. We had to use the leaves of plants. And we drew the letters with sticks. That is how the people learned to read and write. When there were no leaves, we cleaned up a patch of soil and there you could scratch letters or numbers.

For the moment the schools only go as far as second grade, because the teachers are not that much more advanced. They need more training. Perhaps next year they can get some more training and go on to third grade.

In our preventative health care campaigns, at first it was an effort to understand what it was all about, but we coped and gradually everybody took part. Adults and children came to understand why these things were neces-

sary. In order for it to work, the whole population has to take part. And it has meant that we have had fewer illnesses, food has been of a better quality, we do not leave food around uncovered, and when we have vegetables - since usually they are quite scarce - the children are given first priority. Whatever it is, if there is not enough for everybody, children and old people and pregnant women get priority. We have not got a qualified doctor. We have not got quantities of medicines nor money to buy them. It is the situation we are in which has made us find ways of protecting ourselves against illnesses.

The future

In the long run I think we will be leaving where we live now but not until we have guarantees of safety from national and international organisations, chiefly from the church, human rights organisations and possibly the UN and the OAS. When we get these we will be able to leave for some other place, not too far from where we are now, in the same area, a more open place where there are more roads, where you can see houses and where everything is more open. We would have to take everybody's opinion into consideration.

But there are many people now who are weary of being in the forest.

[translated by Hugh Martins]

Trained volunteers are sought to accompany the return of Guatemalan refugees and assist with various training, documentation and administrative tasks. Contact RPN Editor for details.

International Association for the Study of Forced Migration

As reported in RPN 16, the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) was established in January 1994 to bring together researchers and practitioners working in the field of forced migration (including refugees as well as internally and other displaced persons). Specific aims of the Association are:

- * To advance scholarly knowledge of forced migration;
- * To advance the understanding of appropriate and effective practice concerning forced migration;
- * To facilitate networking and better communication among those involved with refugee and other forced migrant issues;
- * To disseminate scholarly and practical information concerning forced migration.

The next IRAP Conference

A major focus of the Association's activities is its Biennial Conference (IRAP) which aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum for intellectual exchange and communication between academic researchers, refugee professionals and policy makers.

The next IRAP conference will be held in April 1996, and negotiations are under way concerning a venue. Further details will be sent to all members of the Association and other interested parties. It is also intended that the Association will organise other conferences and meetings both in the UK and elsewhere.

Discount on publications

As a special benefit to members, IASFM has negotiated a reduced rate for members for the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, the major international journal on forced migration studies published by Oxford University Press. In addition, the Association plans to establish a newsletter for members: however, initially, communication of Association business will be via *RPN*.

Join now!

Membership is open to all who subscribe to the objects and rules of the Association, subject to the payment of dues. Given concern that programmes and policies concerning refugees and other forcibly uprooted

people are rarely made with their participation, the Association strongly encourages membership of persons who have had such experience, and encourages all members to adopt methods and policies which involve the consultation of those affected by forced migration. Membership covers the following benefits:

- * A discount of 20% on subscription to the *Journal of Refugee Studies*
- * Receipt of information about the Association's activities (initially via the *RPN* newsletter)
- * In a conference year, a reduction of US\$15 (£10) on the IRAP conference fee.

Funding has been sought to establish a full time office for the Association. In the meantime, the Association is seeking to build up a strong membership base from which to launch its activities. Charitable status has been applied for under UK law.

Application for membership of IASFM

I wish to become a member of IASFM. I subscribe to the objects and rules of the Association (available on request).

Individual membership: US\$30 or £20 sterling. Please do not send cash or cheques in other currencies.

I enclose a cheque/bankers order for payable to 'International Association for the Study of Forced Migration', to include the right to reduced subscription to the *Journal of Refugee Studies* and a discount on the IRAP conference fee.

Name:..... Position:.....

Institution/Organisation:.....

Address:.....

Tel:..... Fax:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

Please return this form and remittance to: Sarah Collinson, Acting Treasurer, Association for the Study of Forced Migration, Royal Institute for International Affairs, Chatham House, 10 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE, UK.

Note: At the discretion of Officers, and on a case-by-case basis, membership fees may be waived for those living in countries with non-convertible currencies. This does not affect membership rights. A copy of the Association's rules can be supplied on request. These are subject to revision at the next IRAP conference.

Conferences

Announcements

International Boundaries and Environmental Security

Singapore : 14 - 17 June 1995

Contact: Martin Pratt, IBRU Conference Desk, International Boundaries Research Unit, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK. Tel: +44 0191 374 2486. Fax: +44 0191 374 2456.

5th Sri Lanka Conference

Durham, New Hampshire, USA : 10 - 13 August 1995

Contact: Deborah Winslow, Program in Anthropology, Horton Social Science Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824, USA.
E-mail: dwinslow@christa.unh.edu

Action for Equality, Development & Peace

Beijing, China : 4 - 15 September 1995

Fourth World Conference/NGO Forum on Women

Contact: Marie-France Belay, c/o Webster University, 13-15 route de Collex, CH-1293 Bellevue, Switzerland. Tel: +22 774 2452. Fax: +22 774 3013.

Report

Empowerment: the key at Cairo

For two weeks in September, more than 180 government delegations, along with another 3,000 NGO representatives gathered to grapple with one of the most urgent issues facing the world today - global population control.

Unlike the first population conference held ten years ago in Mexico City, the Cairo symposium revolved around the empowerment of women. The prevailing conception governing population policy during the 80s viewed women merely as passive recipients of contraception. This time, one message was clear: population control must **begin** with women. Their needs must be taken seriously; their voices must be heard. As actors, they will choose, define, control and interpret their evolving role within the international development regime.

In this way, the Cairo Plan of Action may be seen as a document with far-reaching implications, with women potentially setting an example for others who are marginalised. The realisation that those who are most affected by policy should be active participants in its formulation is a paradigm which extends beyond population and may be applied to a number of vexing issues, including refugee assistance programmes. Like women, refugees must be given an opportunity to step from the margins and inform policy makers on how best to define and meet their needs. Bureaucracies should - indeed must - listen to and learn from the powerless, the poor and the exiled. Active and full participation is at the core of successful policy.

At the conclusion of the conference, after the polemical views had been softened through compromise, the consensus was hailed as a triumph. But the real challenge has yet to begin: to take these political commitments and implement them within the policies of the respective countries.

by G J Chavaria and D C Sepulveda, Visiting Study Fellows, RSP

For more information on the Cairo consensus, see *ICPD Programme of Action* (see chapter IX on 'refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons') or *Press summary of key action recommendations from the International Conference on Population and Development: Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994*, published by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
Contact: UNFPA, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017-5880, USA. Tel: +212 2975000. Fax: +212 297 4911.

University of Jaffna : Department of Psychiatry

The RSP has close links with this clinic which works with people affected by violence in northern Sri Lanka. In 1987, Dr Sivapathasundaram, a consultant paediatrician, was shot dead by the Indian army inside the Jaffna hospital. In July 1994, a memorial lecture on child trauma was given in his name.

The Jaffna clinic is currently undertaking in depth one year training of counsellors and some shorter Introduction to Counselling courses. It recently started a programme with the University's education department to increase teacher awareness of problems among students and eventually to train teacher counsellors to tackle the problems in the schools themselves.

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 of 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
- Crisis and Trauma
- 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
13 - 14 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.

The workshop commences with a discussion of the differences between various common conceptions of refugees and the more constrained notion of refugee status incorporated in the Refugee Convention.

It proceeds to examine the historical backdrop to the modern refugee definition, then looks at the five key elements of the Convention definition of refugee status: alienage; genuine risk; serious harm for which the state is accountable; nexus to civil or political status; and, lastly, the need for and appropriateness of international protection.

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 and is author of the treatise 'The Law of Refugee Status'.

This workshop is limited to 45 people.

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

1995 International Summer School

Four week residential course
3 - 28 July 1995

The Summer School aims 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. It aims to provide an understanding of the experience of forced displacement in its many aspects - political, legal, cultural, socio-economic, psychological and organisational - through a multi-disciplinary and comparative approach.

Resource persons comprise academics, policy makers and fieldworkers with experience and knowledge 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.

Prior registration is required for all courses.

For further information and application forms, contact:

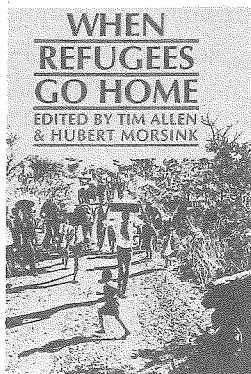
*The Education Unit, Refugee Studies Programme, QEH, University of Oxford,
21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.*

Tel: +44 (0)1865 270723 Fax: +44 (0)1865 270721

E-mail: RSPNET@VAX.OXFORD.AC.UK

Book reviews

When Refugees Go Home



Edited by Tim Allen & Hubert Morsink. 1994. 305pp. Pb ISBN 0-85255-222-x. £12.95. Co-publication of UNRISD, James Currey Ltd and Africa World Press. Available from: James Currey Ltd, 54B Thornhill Square, Islington, London N1 1BE, UK; or Africa World Press, PO Box 1892, Trenton, NJ 08638, USA.

UNHCR marked 1992 as the beginning of the 'decade of voluntary repatriation'. Although repatriation is hailed by UNHCR as the most desirable of the three durable solutions to a refugee situation, it has failed to attract the attention of the academic community. Indeed,

as a category, 'returnee' has been persistently overlooked. Arising from a conference in Harare in March 1991, organised by UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development), *When Refugees Go Home* is an attempt to remedy this situation and, in the words of its editors, 'put returnees on the map'.

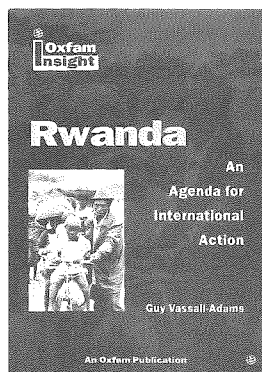
In their introduction, Allen and Morsink note that previous research on repatriation has been concerned primarily with the international legal principles, the political motivations and the logistics of large-scale return. *When Refugees Go Home*, in contrast, investigates the long-term psychological and socio-economic consequences of repatriation movements in Africa, including Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Namibia, Algeria and Mozambique.

Lamenting the paucity of substantive, independent research and frustrated by the lack of 'detailed knowledge of local situations', each contributor appears committed to understanding in depth the local context of large-scale repatriations. The book's greatest strength is its identification of areas of repatriation which are in urgent need of research, such as the problems confronted when refugees return to countries of origin which are plagued by unresolved security or political problems. This is increasingly important since, as Barry Stein points out, most repatriations today occur 'without any change in the regime of the conditions that originally caused flight'.

When Refugees Go Home is undoubtedly a significant contribution to the conspicuous gap in knowledge concerning the many difficulties posed by repatriation. Given this persistent oversight and the complexity of the subject, however, its ability to fill that gap is necessarily limited. If *When Refugees Go Home* is to fulfil its editors' vision and 'put returnees on the map', it will need to promote greater substantive and empirical research into the subject. Given UNHCR's enthusiasm for promoting repatriation and 'pursuing every opportunity to facilitate it', it is vital that policy makers, programme planners and academics subject the poorly understood concept of what it means to 'go home', in both theory and practice, to serious critical analysis.

Reviewer: Danielle Sepulveda, Visiting Fellow, Refugee Studies Programme

Rwanda: an agenda for international action



By Guy Vassall-Adams. 1994. 64pp. ISBN 0-85598-299-3. £3.95. Available from: Oxfam Publications, Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1865 313168 Fax: +44 (0)1865 313235

This remarkable book is a comprehensive introduction to the history and migrations in Rwanda and an elaborate account of the failings of emergency response to the Rwandan tragedy with recommendations for their improvement.

The three main topics are: a historical review of the Hutu and the Tutsi presence in Rwanda and neighbouring countries; the tragedy of Rwanda from April 1994; and recommendations for the recovery of Rwanda.

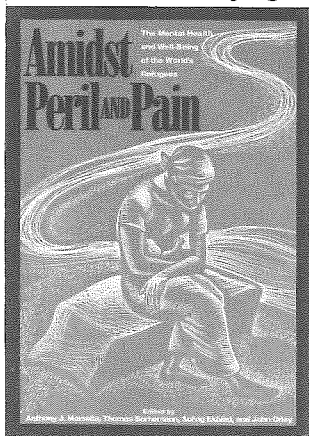
The crisp historical review traces the origins of the Hutu and the Tutsi antagonism from the period of pre-1960 independence until the period of the Hutu and the Tutsi conflicts which escalated after independence, resulting in migration inside Rwanda as well as to neighbouring Uganda and Zaire. The horrifying story of the genocide, which begins with the

killing of the Rwandan and Burundi presidents on 6 April 1994, gives a first hand account of the massacres. The despair of the aid agencies in the field at the conscious disregard of the international community is supported with alarming facts of the lack of proper intervention on behalf of UN agencies and the misappropriate reactions of its member states. The author's recommendations to the government of Rwanda and the international community are, at least, a comforting sequence. The recommendations deal with Rwanda's recovery, promotion of peace in the region, prevention of violent conflict in Burundi and, most importantly, a redefinition of the UN legal instruments in order to enhance effectiveness in emergency situations.

Reviewer: Lejla Somun, Visiting Fellow, Refugee Studies Programme

Book reviews

Amidst Peril and Pain: The Mental Health and Well-being of the World's Refugees



Edited by Anthony J Marsella, Thomas Bornemann, Solvig Ekblad and John Orley. 1994. 390pp. Hb ISBN 1-555798-223-6. £39.95. Published by American Psychological Association. Available from: APA Order Dept, PO Box 2710, Hyattsville, MD 20784, USA; Eurospan, 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8LU, UK.

Amidst Peril and Pain offers an interdisciplinary, international perspective on mental health problems and interventions as part of the growing effort to understand the challenges that the well-being of refugees poses to individuals, countries in turmoil and nations of asylum.

The aim of the book is to discuss current knowledge about refugees' mental health, psychosocial research, services and policies in various regions of the world. The understanding of refugees' well-being is placed in an historical, political and economic context. The book also offers recommendations regarding policies and actions.

The book is divided into five parts:

I. The Foundation Section: the current crisis and the relief versus development argument; the history of human migration and refugee movements; an overview of mental health problems and the need to approach them at the national, governmental and intergovernmental level; and policy issues in development of mental health programmes and services.

II. Regional Challenges: South-east Asia, Latin America, Kurds, Afghans and Palestinians.

III. Adjustment: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; dependency behaviour; and refugee children.

IV. Mental Health Services: the links between mental health and primary health care services; the Swedish response to mental health and psychosocial problems; the use of indigenous leaders;

and the importance of mental health training programmes.

V. Looking to the Future: mental health problems in terms of consequences, institutional responses and research agenda; and the link of mental health problems with socio-political concerns and ethnocultural diversity.

Amidst Peril and Pain is the result of the International Conference of Mental Health and Well-being of the World's Refugees and Displaced Persons held in Sweden in 1991. The chapters in the book reflect contributions from experts from Western and non-Western countries; as such, each chapter stands on its own in terms of merit but attempts to bring the chapters together under a section are not always successful.

Also, in the section covering geographical challenges, Africa is not included, a weakness the editors acknowledge, despite it being one of the most affected continents in terms of numbers of refugees and extent of the psycho-social tragedy. Despite these weaknesses, the book is worth reading because of the variety of topics, styles and perspectives it offers.

Reviewer: Giorgia Donà, Research Officer, Refugee Studies Programme

Acknowledgement of donors

The RPN is funded mainly by grants from institutions and agencies involved in development and humanitarian work; the rest of the funding is provided by voluntary subscriptions from members. We would like to thank all donors and in particular the following organisations for their generous support of this RPN and for their commitment to the RPN in 1995:

Austcare/Australian Council For Overseas Aid

Danish Refugee Council

International Planned Parenthood Federation

Lutheran World Federation

Save the Children Fund (UK)

The European Community

United Nations Environment Programme

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UNEP has provided part sponsorship for this issue on environment and displacement; see page 27 for more details on UNEP's work.

Publications

Publications are arranged in alphabetical order under four headings: Newsletters, journals and papers; General; Children; and Research findings.

*Publications marked with * relate to this RPN theme of environment and displacement.*

Newsletters, journals and papers

* **Asian Disaster Management News** is available both in hard copy and on E-mail. This quarterly newsletter is published by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for disaster managers both in governmental, non-governmental and private institutions and agencies. *Contact: Gunilla Gustafs, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Asian Institute of Technology, PO Box 2754, Bangkok 10501, Thailand. Tel: +66 2 524 5378. Fax: +66 2 524 5360. E-mail: (Internet) adpc@cs.ait.ac.th*

Asian Migrant is a quarterly newsletter printed by the Scalabrini Migration Center in the Philippines. Subscription: per year P220 (Philippines) or US\$22 all other countries. *Contact: Asian Migrant, PO Box 10541, Broadway Centrum, 1113 Quezon City, Philippines.*

Burma Debate is a new publication of the Open Society Institute and is dedicated to providing an ongoing forum for commentary and analysis of issues concerning Burma. Published six times a year. Vol I No 1 looks at 'constructive engagement' and humanitarian assistance, and includes an interview with Aung San Suu Kyi. *Contact: PO Box 19126, Washington DC 20036, USA. Fax: +1 301 983 5011.*

Disasters: the journal of disaster studies and management Volume 18 No 3 (September 1994) is a special issue to mark the 75th anniversary of SCF (UK) and focuses on children and childhood in emergency policy and practice 1919-1994. Guest Editor: Hugo Slim. *Contact: Journals Marketing Manager, Blackwell Publishers, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, UK. E-mail: JNLSAMPLES@CIX.COMPULINK.CO.UK*

* **Environment Bulletin** is the quarterly newsletter of the World Bank Environment Community. *Contact: Environment Department, World Bank, Room S-5055, 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC 20433, USA.*

Immigration Newsletter is published quarterly by the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild Inc, a network of immigration lawyers, law students and legal workers engaged in the legal and political aspects of immigration law and practice. Range of subscriptions. *Contact: 14 Beacon Street, Suite 506, Boston, MA 02108, USA.*

* **Natural Resource Perspectives** is a new series of individually authored papers drawing on the Overseas Development Institute's work on policy and organisational issues in natural resources management. Approximately five papers to be produced annually. Numbers 1 and 2 (November 1994) look at: 1. 'Redesigning for risk: tracking and buffering environmental variability in Africa's rangelands' by Roy Behnke and Carol Kerven; 2. 'Public sector agricultural extension: is there life after structural adjustment?' by John Farrington. *Contact: ODI, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS, UK. Tel: +44 (0)171 487 7413. Fax: +44 (0)171 487 7590. E-mail: (Internet) gn@apc.org*

Peru Update is the regular bulletin of the Peru Support Group. Range of subscriptions. Shortened version also available in Spanish. *Contact: Peru Support Group, Fenner Brockway House, 37-39 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0ES, UK. Tel: +44 (0)171 620 1103. Fax: +44 (0)171 2619291.*

Refugee Voices aims to 'give voice to the voiceless by letting refugees speak for themselves'. The newsletter depends on donations. *Contact: Refugee Voices, 3041 4th St NE, Washington DC 20017-1102, USA. Fax: +1 202 832 5616.*

Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Newsletter is published quarterly. Free. *Contact: Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Project, University of Minnesota, 330 Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA. Tel: +1 612 625 5535. Fax: +1 612 626 0273.*

The Health Exchange is a bi-monthly magazine exploring issues, ideas and practical approaches to health improvement in developing countries and providing a forum for health workers and others to share viewpoints and experiences in this area. Subscriptions: £22 standard; £15 for unemployed, students and subscribers in developing countries on local salaries. *Contact: International Health Exchange, Africa Centre, 38 King Street, London WC2E 8JT, UK. Tel: +44 (0)171 836 5833. Fax: +44 (0)171 379 1239.*

The Urban Age is published quarterly, focusing on international migration and cities. Available in English, French and Spanish. Free to developing country subscribers; US\$40 for developed country subscribers. *Contact: The Urban Age, Room S4-031, The World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC 20433, USA. Fax: +1 202 522 3224.*

General publications

*** Interim Guidelines for Environment-Sensitive Management of Refugee Programmes** UNHCR. July 1994. 26pp. Contact: Programme Policy Unit, Division of Programmes and Operational Support, UNHCR, CP-2500, CH-1211 Geneva 2 Depot, Switzerland. Looks at environmental reporting, surveys, monitoring and studies; environmental criteria for selection and design of a refugee site; environmental-oriented projects and programming; and organisation of technical and operational support.

Racism and Migration in Western Europe edited by John Wrench and John Solomos. 1993. 293pp. ISBN 0-85496-332-4. £34.95. Contact: Berg Publishers, 150 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JJ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1865 245104. Fax: +44 (0)1865 791165. In contemporary European societies, the question of racism, linked to the politicisation of migration, is a major issue in social and political debate. The situation in countries as divergent as Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands and various Scandinavian societies shows evidence of mounting racism and hostility to migrants. This book provides an overview of the processes that have led to the present situation and explores some of the options for the future.

Storm and Sanctuary: the journey of Ethiopian and Eritrean women refugees by Hélène Moussa. 1993. 284pp. \$18.95. ISBN 1-895247-08-x. Contact: Artemis Enterprises, RR/2, Box 54, Dundas, ON L9H 5E2, Canada. Moussa follows the journey of 16 women refugees from childhood to settlement in Canada in an attempt to show the interconnections between history, past experiences, uprooting, flight and adaptation to the host society.

The Human Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies). October 1994. 26pp. Contact: ICVA, Case postale 216, 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 732 6600. Fax: +41 22 738 9904. NGO statement to the 45th session of the Executive Committee of UNHCR, with particular focus on the impact of the PARinAC process.

Children

Building on people's strengths: early childhood in Africa Bernard van Leer Foundation. 1994. 64pp. ISBN 90-6195-030-9. Contact: Bernard van Leer Foundation, PO Box 82334, 2508 EH The Hague, The Netherlands. 'Investment in the well-being, education and skills development of children is fundamental to the economic prosperity, the political stability and the environmental integrity of any area, including Africa.' This publication seeks to influence policies and practice for children in Africa and is aimed at policy makers, decision makers, planners and those who implement programmes.

Also available from Bernard van Leer Foundation: **Why children matter: investing in early childhood care and development** 1994. 32pp. Introduction to early childhood development issues, including examples of programmes around the world.

New faces, new places: learning about people on the move A resource for 4 to 7 year olds. Save the Children. 1992. Contact: Publications, SCF, Mary Datchelor House, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD, UK. Tel: +44 (0)171 703 5400. Contains handbook for teachers plus four topic booklets relating to Africa, Vietnam, Palestine and Kurdistan. All with stories, pictures, photos, ideas for activities, etc.

In Whose Best Interest? by Maryanne Loughry and Ruth Esquillo, Jesuit Refugee Service - Asia Pacific. October 1994. 62pp. US\$7.00 plus mailing. ISBN 974-89024-7-1. Contact: JRS/Asia Pacific, 24/1 Soi Aree 4, Phaholyothin 7, Bangkok, Thailand. Subtitled **Refugee camp workers comment on the treatment of Vietnamese Unaccompanied Minors under the Comprehensive Plan of Action**, this publication reviews the CPA through the eyes of camp workers who have accompanied the most vulnerable of Vietnamese asylum seekers, the unaccompanied minors. The camp workers have worked with minors in the asylum camps of Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines throughout the CPA. It describes the situation of the minors and uncovers the issues that have arisen for them. The publication introduces the CPA and the situation of the unaccompanied minors before looking in detail at different aspects of camp experiences, such as living conditions, education, caregiving, repatriation and resettlement. Conclusions and an extensive bibliography are also included.

Representing unaccompanied refugee children in the asylum process by Vicky Guedalla. Published by the Children's Legal Centre. December 1994. 8pp. £2.50 single copies; bulk discounts available. Contact: Children's Legal Centre, 20 Compton Terrace, London NI 2UN, UK. Tel: +44 (0)171 359 9392. Fax: +44 (0)171 354 9963. This new information sheet has been published following the introduction in the UK of new procedures to deal with children's asylum applications. It outlines principles designed to inform legal representatives acting for children and provides step by step advice from first referral through to appeals. Includes all relevant references and information on current UK government policy. Aimed at social workers, Panel Advisors and other professionals; also includes a special section for social workers.

Research findings

A Betrayal of Hope and Trust: detention in the UK of survivors of torture *Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. October 1994. 8pp.* Contact: Information Office, Medical Foundation, 96-98 Grafton Road, London NW3 3EJ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)171 284 4321. This is a survey of survivors of torture and organised violence detained between January 1993 and October 1994 and examined by doctors of the Medical Foundation. It details the Foundation's concerns about the detention of asylum seekers who display a high degree of distress; for many it amounts to a re-experiencing of the situation from which they fled. The study looks at the outcome of their application for asylum, draws conclusions about the effects of detention on survivors of torture and makes recommendations for changes to Home Office practice to safeguard the health of asylum seekers.

Demobilization and Re-integration of Ex-combatants in Mozambique: pilot study by Joao Paulo Borges Coelho and Alex Vines, for the Refugee Studies Programme. November 1994. 70pp. Contact: RSP, Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1865 270722. Fax: +44 (0)1865 270721. Report also accessible via E-mail: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/law/human-rights/under/RefugeeStudiesandUpdates>. The report assesses both the extent to which the Demobilization Programme (set up as part of the peace process) was followed and achieved, and the ways in which it effectively contributed to the sustained and peaceful post-transition environment in Mozambique, leading up to the general election.

Mozambique: feasibility study *International Alert. October 1994. 49pp.* Contact: International Alert, 1 Glyn St, London SE11 5HT, UK. Tel: +44 (0)171 793 8383. Fax: +44 (0)171 793 7975. E-mail: INTALERT@GN.APC.ORG This study is a report of a factfinding mission in September 1994. After the introduction, which summarises the background to the conflict in Mozambique, the study looks more specifically at: the conflict; transition and the peace process; present and future: areas of potential conflict (including section on repatriation and resettlement); the role of INGOs working in Mozambique, according to Mozambicans; and presents general conclusions and International Alert's recommendations for action.

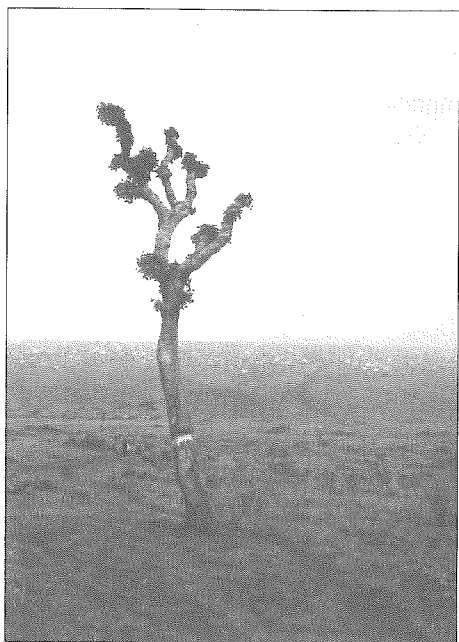
Nearest Place of Safety: the erosion of the right of asylum and the response of the voluntary sector by Ruth Mason and David Forbes, Quaker Council for European Affairs. October 1994. 66pp. Contact: QCEA, 50 Square Ambiorix, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. Part 1 provides a general background to asylum in Europe. Part 2 offers a detailed analysis of the official asylum process, including housing and social provisions in seven countries: Belgium, Britain, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. Part 3 consists of an overview of the challenges facing those working as NGOs in the field in four of these countries. Finally, Part 4 explores variants of the practice of sanctuary or unofficial asylum as seen especially in Germany, Switzerland and Sweden.

Palestinians in Lebanon: painful present, uncertain future by Dr Rosemary Sayigh. 1993. Contact: PO Box 113/5445, Beirut, Lebanon. The situation of the large Palestinian refugee community in Lebanon has always differed legally and structurally from that of the other host countries. This difference has widened with the Oslo Accords which postpone discussion of the refugee issue

until three years after the start of implementation of the agreement. Given current political conditions, the settlement of most of the refugees in the host countries appears inevitable. Several factors have combined to depress Palestinian income and living standards in recent years: structural unemployment; the ending of PLO salaries, indemnities and services; and a sharp decline in UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) services. Emergency international aid sent to Lebanon as a war zone has also been cut back. The resulting impoverishment of the Palestinian community is bringing about unprecedented hardship, particularly in the area of medical care. Education is also in crisis. Local (Palestinian/Lebanese) social institutions that work in and around camps face dwindling external support and increasing government control. Sayigh concludes that this is a case that urgently calls for monitoring and support from concerned agencies.

* **Refugee Inflow into Ngara and Karagwe Districts, Kagera Region, Tanzania: Environmental Impact Assessment** by CARE. Authors: Environmental Resources Management and Richard Black. Commissioned for the Tanzanian Government, UNHCR and the Overseas Development Administration. November 1994. 73pp. £25 plus postage. Contact: Lizzie Bell, CARE, 36-38 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7AF, UK. Fax: +44 0171 379 0543. A principal objective of the study was to perform, in an 'exemplary' way, a rapid environmental assessment of a crisis situation. The study offers guidance on what to expect in terms of impacts, how to investigate them rapidly and how to identify management responses that are flexible and cost-effective under the constraints of such emergency situations. This report presents its conclusions under five main headings: introduction; methodology and available data; results of the assessment; implementation and management of mitigation measures; and

guidelines for rapid environmental appraisal of refugee situations. The guidelines are intended for use by the emergency response team at the outset of the crisis; the team should include an environmental specialist with expertise on the resource areas likely to be under particular pressure. The study emphasises how application of the guidelines at an early stage of the crisis will help to anticipate environmental problems and negative impacts.



Almost total deforestation surrounding Benaco Camp, Tanzania. Photo: CARE

Rehabilitation, Refugees, Resources: aspects of basic education planning in Mozambique by David Woodward, Tomé Eduardo and Gunnar Berlin, World University Service (UK). February 1994. 101pp. Contact: WUS, East and Southern Africa Programme, 20 Compton Terrace, London N1 2UN, UK. Fax: +44 (0)171 226 0482. The purpose of WUS' study was to explore not the well-recognised need to replace the school buildings destroyed in the war but how to finance the recurrent costs of the expansion in primary education that is necessary to hold Mozambique on the path to peace and development. The report describes the imbalances

within the education system in Mozambique and calculates the resources needed to maintain primary enrolment or to raise it to meet the needs of returning refugees and a country wanting to develop. The results, that at first appear overwhelming, are addressed in an ambitious plan that shows how sufficient resources can be generated on a sustainable basis both to meet the needs of returning refugees and to begin to tackle issues of quality within the system.

Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa : State of the art literature review by Sidney Waldron and Naima A Hasci, for the Refugee Studies Programme and the Swedish International Developmental Authority (SIDA). 1994. *Not yet in print but available on E-mail: details as for Demobilization and Re-integration report listed above.* This report is divided into six main sections. After the introduction, section 2 provides a historical review and a discussion of the political and economic factors which predicated and directed the forced migrations into and out of Somalia since 1978. Sections 3 to 5 examine the literature concerned with the emerging themes of refugee studies as they have been manifested in Somalia. Section 4 concentrates on events within Somalia since 1991. Lastly, section 6 presents a comprehensive set of recommendations, with the objective of generating much-needed debate on the significance of these events.

Do you have publications to share or advertise?

The RPN's main objective is to promote the exchange of information between its members.

All too often, useful information is kept in a filing cabinet instead of being shared with other people working in the same field. You probably do not have the time to inform every NGO or individual of a relevant new piece of research undertaken or your latest project report. Let us help...

If you produce or know of any publications which might be of use and interest to other RPN readers, please send details (and preferably 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 the next issue of the RPN is 13 March 1995.

Any publications sent to the Editor will be kept in the RSP Documentation Centre for reference purposes.

RPN on E-mail

Abstracts and full text of articles in the RPN are now available on E-mail. You can access them either via the RSP's **Forced Migration discussion network** or via **World Wide Web** on:

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/law/human-rights/REFUGEE/rpn>

Join the Refugee Participation Network...

The Refugee Participation Network is a network of over 2,070 individuals and organisations in 110 countries, bringing together researchers, policy-makers, refugees and those working on the ground with refugees. Members receive the *RPN Newsletter* which is published three times a year and includes articles and reports, book reviews, letters and updates on publications, forthcoming conferences, etc. Themes are advertised in advance and members are encouraged to contribute.

Membership is free but we urge all of you who can afford it to pay a voluntary subscription of £20 (US\$30) a year. A subscription of £40 (US\$60) would cover the subscription of someone less able to pay. (If possible, please pay by sterling cheque or draft drawn on a bank in the UK.)

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



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

I enclose a voluntary contribution of: £20 £40 other

Please make cheques payable to Refugee Studies Programme. Tick if you require a receipt:

Name _____ Job title _____

Organisation _____

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Town _____ Country _____

Tel _____ Fax _____ Email _____

We produce directories of members to facilitate networking. *Please tick any of the following that might apply to you:*

1 Organisation

Researcher/academic	RE	_____	Inter-government agency	IA	_____
Student	ST	_____	Government	GT	_____
Journalist/media	JO	_____	Trust/foundation	TR	_____
Refugee	RG	_____	Library/documentation	LI	_____
Non-governmental (NGO)	NG	_____	Educational institution	EI	_____

2 Work

Education	ED	_____	Mental health	MH	_____
Community development	CD	_____	Protection/asylum	PR	_____
Income generation	IG	_____	Emergency relief	EM	_____
Agriculture	AG	_____	Camp administration	CA	_____
Health and nutrition	HN	_____	Resettlement	RS	_____
Environmental displacement	ET	_____	Development-induced displacement	DD	_____

3 Region of work/interest

Africa	AF	_____	Middle East	ME	_____
Asia	AS	_____	North America	NA	_____
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Latin America/Caribbean	LA	_____	Worldwide	WL	_____

Return form to: RPN, RSP, QEH, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK. Fax: +44 (0)1865 270721

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

Such documents 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 form below for address).

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, 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 very much for your help - and particular thanks to all those who have already responded.



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Signature _____ Date _____

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

RSP news and activities

Teaching/Courses

During Michaelmas term (October-December 1994), students on the RSP's **Foundation Course** attended the following courses: 'Introduction to the study of forced migration' taught by Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond and Dr Madawi Al-Rasheed; 'International refugee law' by Dr Andrew Shacknove; and 'Group and individual responses to violent change' by Dr Judith Zur.

From 5-9 September, RSP ran an intensive one week course on **Humanitarian aid in complex emergencies** which attracted 27 participants including government officials, NGO workers, academics and consultants from 14 different countries. In addition, 51 students from four European universities collaborating with RSP in a new degree course in Humanitarian Aid took part in the course.

The presenters were:

Dr Paul Richards, Landbouwniversiteit Wageningen, the Netherlands;
Randolph Kent, Department for Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva;
David Fletcher, WFP, Rome;
Daniel Fink, Comité International de la Croix Rouge, Geneva;
Justice Michael Kirby, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, Australia;
Rae McGrath, Mines Advisory Group;
Jon Bennett, ICVA;
Capt Damian McKinney, Royal Naval Staff College;
Dr John Seaman, SCF UK;
Dr Giorgia Donà, Cambridge University;
William Thompson, International Rescue Committee;
Dr Steve Wright, OMEGA Foundation;
Dr Ken Wilson, Ford Foundation, Zimbabwe;
Prof Reginald Green, University of Sussex;
Prof Barry Stein, Michigan State University; and
Dr Judith Randel, Development Initiatives.

See page 34 for information on forthcoming RSP courses.

RSP Annual Human Rights Lecture

On Wednesday 16 November 1994, Erskine Childers, former Senior Advisor to the United Nations, delivered the annual RSP Human Rights Lecture in Oxford, UK. The lecture was entitled *The United Nations in a World of Conflict: Assuming our Responsibilities*.

Mr Childers spoke of the escalation of conflict in the 1990s and of the sixty wars currently being fought around the world. The UN's capacity to deal with the situation was undermined, he argued, by constant accusations of a 'swollen bureaucracy' and an 'ever-expanding budget'. In fact, the UN addresses the entirety of world problems with a bureaucracy smaller than that of a medium-sized North American city and a budget that is a fraction of world spending on arms.

He concludes that:

Overall, the signs are more promising than ever before for getting the UN the democratic base among citizens that it needs. Non-governmental organisations which only a few years ago disdained the UN as only another impenetrable bureaucracy now for the first time realise that they need it and must help influence and improve it.

Something is stirring too in the academic forest; but here it is not a question of a first time but of an awakening from a long drowsiness. I do not apologise for appealing here to academic communities to restore that high level of interest, research and policy analysis which marked their response to the world organisation in its early years.

... the example of this University supporting a Refugee Studies Programme, the quality and incisiveness of whose research has to be respected among national and UN officials, is exactly the kind of engagement that we need from academia about all-gain truly global policies and institutions that can bring hope to a world gripped in dangerously tight chain reactions.

It is simply not safe to leave world peace and justice in the hands of governments alone. If the 50th Anniversary of what is already our children's United Nations is to be of real use, let it be the year when we really begin the assumption of citizens' rights and responsibilities in the effective discharge of its mandates.

[full text available from RSP Documentation Centre]

Senior Appointments to be made at RSP

The University of Oxford will be making two senior appointments at the Refugee Studies Programme in 1995. Details will be available shortly.

If you are interested in receiving further details, please contact Mary Carr, Office Coordinator, at:

*Refugee Studies Programme, Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles,
Oxford OX1 3LA, UK. Fax: +44 (0)1865 270721.
E-mail: RSP@QEH.OX.AC.UK*

Directory of RPN Participants

This worldwide directory of RPN members was last updated and published in early 1993. It lists all RPN members alphabetically by country with their regional and disciplinary interests plus field of work and was designed to encourage networking on a local basis.

However, it inevitably goes out of date almost as soon as it is printed, as the RPN membership grows and changes continually. It is also expensive to mail as it is almost twice the size - and weight - of the newsletter.

We have therefore decided to produce it on an ad hoc basis by country and on request, printed direct from the computer mailing list. It may not be as attractive as the original worldwide directory but it will certainly be up to date!

Copies for up to three countries will be provided free of charge to members on request.

To order copies, please contact Marion Couldrey at the address on the inside cover of this RPN.

Back issues of the RPN

The following original back issues are available:

No 17 (August 1994) *Partnership: issues of coordination and participation*

No 16 (March 1994) *The Cost of Conflict*

No 13 (June 1992) *Who's In Charge? management issues in refugee assistance*

No 8 (May 1990) *Do traditional healers have a role in refugee health care?*

No 4 (March 1989) focuses on *Afghan refugees and education*

Network paper 2d (May 1988) 'Geographic bias in refugee treatment within host countries' by Kerry B Connor

£2 each. Free if you work in a country without a hard currency or for other extenuating circumstances! Photocopies available of all other issues (full list to be published in RPN 19).

Documentation

The RSP's Documentation Centre now has over 20,000 documents. Cataloguing on to the Oxford University Library Information System (OLIS) will begin soon so that the Centre's holdings may be accessible via the OLIS and via JANET and INTERNET.

In August 1994 the Documentation Centre was evaluated by Dr Agneta Pallinder. Her main recommendations included: a more proactive and systematic acquisitions policy for grey literature; upgrading preservation measures by purchasing closed acid-free boxes for unpublished documents and by raising funds to scan the originals; improving ways of exploiting the collections (ie electronic access to the catalogue, developing a document delivery service, adding the books to OLIS, securing copyright permission to scan the grey literature); and of course increasing staffing levels to undertake such projects!

During the process of securing extra funding, staff and space, the Documentation Centre will take on selected projects as suggested in the Report.

Copies of the Report can be obtained from Sarah Rhodes, Documentalist, at: *RSP, Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.*



Progress on the Weis archive

Sarah Flynn was appointed in June 1994 to arrange, catalogue and package the papers of Paul Weis, which had been bequeathed to the Documentation Centre.

Weis, a distinguished refugee lawyer who died in 1991, was himself a refugee, arriving in Britain from Austria in 1939 after a brief sojourn in Dachau concentration camp. His subsequent career reveals a devotion to the rights of refugees under international and national law; he worked not only for the International Refugee Organisation and subsequently for UNHCR (becoming director of the legal division in 1961) but also, even in retirement, for various other national and international bodies. He was the author of a book, *Nationality and statelessness in international law*, and of numerous articles.

His career, lasting for over 50 years, resulted in a substantial archive of drafts, correspondence and other papers, originating both from his professional activities and from his writing, as well as a collection of several hundred books and pamphlets.

To date, over 100 archive items have been catalogued out of a probable total (once sorting and arrangement are complete) of over 400. At the same time, Weis' library is already being added to the Documentation Centre's holdings. The archive will be available for research by the end of June 1995; by then it will be catalogued in full on an on-line database, supplemented by a version of the catalogue on paper with a biographical introduction.