

# Newsletter

Relief and Rehabilitation Network

Number 1

March 1994

## Editorial

*Welcome to the inaugural mailing of the Relief and Rehabilitation Network! We are confident that with the active participation of its members, the RRN will, over the next few years, provide an effective and valued mechanism for professional information exchange in the field of disaster relief and humanitarian aid. Naturally, it gives us pleasure to have brought to fruition an idea conceived two years ago.*

The Newsletter contains information of professional interest to RRN members organised under the six headings **Feedback**, **News Items**, **Update**, **Training Courses**, **Conferences** and **Publications**.

We are committed to operating a Network which both serves and 'belongs' to its members. **Feedback** will therefore provide RRN members with the opportunity to comment on the contents of previous mailings and express their views on the operation and future development of the Network. For this inaugural mailing, **Feedback** is devoted to an explanation of the origins of the RRN, its objectives and our plans for the future.

**News Items** provides information on selected topics likely to be of interest to RRN members and, where appropriate, relevant addresses. In this issue, the section contains information on: US NGO experience in relation to war risk insurance cover; an initiative by the EC Humanitarian Office (ECHO) to set up a European post-graduate degree course on International Humanitarian Aid; an initiative supported by Oxfam and NOVIB to establish a support network for relief workers returning from conflict-affected areas; a description of the recently established Refugee Nutrition Information System operated by the UN ACC/SCN in conjunction with several international and local NGOs; and finally, a piece describing the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction which is approaching its half-way point.

**Update** provides summary information on current and potential humanitarian emergencies, drawing on a variety of UN, donor and academic sources. The section is aimed at RRN members who don't have access to such sources and who would like to be kept aware of the status of these areas and the relief operations being implemented.

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### Newsletter Team:

John Borton,  
RRN Coordinator

Véronique Goëssant,  
RRN Administrator

Relief and Rehabilitation Network  
Overseas Development Institute  
Regent's College, Regent's Park  
Inner Circle, London NW1 4NS, UK  
Tel: (44 71) 487 7413  
Fax: (44 71) 487 7590  
E-mail: 10074:SKK1133 (Dialcom)  
Internet: [odi@gn.apc.org](mailto:odi@gn.apc.org)

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*Please note that this version  
has been mocked up for the  
website and does not quite  
reflect the final version as it  
was printed.*

*Editorial (continued)*

**Publications** summarises the contents of selected new books and reports and indicates other publications and journals likely to be of interest to members. A listing of recent articles carried by the journal *Disasters* will be a regular feature of this section.

**Conferences** provides information on forthcoming conferences and meetings relevant to RRN members. Where possible, recent conferences and meetings will be reported on.

As well as this Newsletter, the mailing contains three Network Papers. Two of the papers present particular experiences of drought relief operations implemented in the Southern African region in 1992-93, and the third is an account of the humanitarian aid operations in Bosnia in the former Yugoslavia.

The first paper prepared by Tine Dusauchoit describes an innovative information system, the Celula Inter Secções, established by MSF in Mozambique in 1992 into which several other NGOs feed information. The system grades districts according to their nutritional and health status, highlighting those requiring immediate attention.

The monthly bulletins generated by the system are utilised by agencies involved in large-scale emergency operations in Mozambique in their resource allocation decisions. Potentially the CIS model, or variants of it, may usefully be established in other

emergency programmes where NGOs are operational in most parts of the affected area.

The second paper prepared by Derrina Mukupo describes the Programme to Prevent Malnutrition (PPM) in Zambia. The Programme was the result of a deliberate policy by the new government to by-pass the existing relief distribution mechanisms which they considered ineffective and too closely associated with the previous regime.

Consequently, the PPM relied almost entirely on NGOs and mission hospitals to distribute 250,000 tonnes of maize, largely in the form of food-for-work schemes, in conjunction with local Area Committees. Though the PPM structure was set up rapidly, the indications are that it was an effective mechanism. Despite being the product of an unusual situation, the experience may contain lessons for joint government/NGO relief operations elsewhere.

The third paper prepared by Mark Duffield describes the characteristics and effects of the conflict in Bosnia, the operation of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the organisation of the humanitarian aid operation and the issues these raise. The operations in Bosnia are very much UN-led, but NGOs, many of them specially formed to respond to the situation in the former Yugoslavia, are playing an important role. For those RRN members whose only source of information has been through extensive international media coverage, the paper provides an excellent entrée to the operations, highlighting the similarities and differences with humanitarian aid operations in Africa.

# Feedback

## The Origins of the RRN

The idea of establishing this Network was formed over two years ago. Initial results of research at ODI on the changing role of NGOs in relief and rehabilitation operations (see Publications) and a review of the readership structure of *Disasters* (published quarterly by ODI in conjunction with Blackwells publishers) indicated the need for a mechanism facilitating the exchange of professional information and experience between relief

workers from different agencies. Our perception was, and continues to be, that despite the enhanced role of international and local NGOs in the provision of relief and rehabilitation assistance, the exchange of such professional information is frequently hampered by a combination of institutional factors, language barriers and the absence of suitable mechanisms for professional information exchange between busy individuals working in difficult and often remote locations around the world.

Drawing on ODI's experience in operating four existing networks (linking practitioners and researchers in agricultural research and extension, rural development forestry, pastoral development and irrigation management), a draft funding proposal was prepared in early 1992 and submitted to EuronAid. EuronAid was selected as it was the most suitable pre-existing group of European NGOs involved in emergency operations, composed of a mixture of directly operational NGOs and those funding local partners. The proposal requesting funding for a three year period was approved by the General Assembly of EuronAid member agencies in May 1993 and shortly thereafter by the Food Aid Unit within DGVIII.

### Setting Up the RRN

Since the autumn of 1993 the process of obtaining the names of personnel nominated by NGOs, sending out the Registration Forms and entering the completed forms onto a database has been underway. Because of difficulties in identifying an appropriate third member of the RRN Team this first mailing has been produced by the Coordinator and the Administrator. Because of the limited staff capacity the RRN Team's efforts have been focused upon establishing the initial RRN membership through the EuronAid member agencies and those with observer status. So far 132 members have been nominated by 17 of the 25 member agencies and the four agencies with observer status. Completed Registration Forms have been received from 75 members. A breakdown of the 132 on a country basis is enclosed with this mailing so that members may be aware of other RRN members in their country.

Following this first mailing, efforts will be made to increase awareness of the RRN and its objectives among a wider group of agencies including other international and local NGOs, UN agencies, donor organisations, agencies of developing country governments and individuals with a professional involvement in relief and rehabilitation programmes. It is anticipated that the number of RRN members will grow substantially as a result. It is also planned to readvertise the post of RRN Research Fellow within the next few weeks.

### The Operation of the RRN and Future Plans

Each year RRN members will receive four mailings in either English or French. The March and September mailings will consist of a Newsletter and Network Papers of which there will usually be three in each mailing. Each June and December, members will receive a 'State of the Art' Review on a selected sector or activity within the relief and rehabilitation field. The Reviews will be prepared by a recognised specialist in that particular field and will explain, in a form readily accessible by non-specialist field personnel, what is generally agreed and what is not agreed in how to plan and implement certain types of intervention and what are the common pitfalls in undertaking those types of intervention. The first State of the Art Review, to be completed and translated by June, will be on Water and Sanitation - a sector indicated as an area of interest by the majority of those members who have so far returned their Registration Forms. The second State of the Art Review to be sent out in December will be on Supplementary Feeding Programmes. Subsequent Reviews will probably include health care, logistics, agricultural rehabilitation and evaluation methods for emergency programmes, but we are open to suggestions from members on the subject of the Reviews to be prepared in 1995 and 1996.

### The Need for Feedback from Members

The principal objective of the Newsletter, Network Papers and State of the Art Reviews is to inform members of the experiences of other agencies working in different contexts and to keep them abreast of developments in the field of relief and rehabilitation. However, we sincerely hope that the process will not just stop there and that members will comment on the contents of the mailings and thereby help to improve understanding and practice in this field. For instance, do members agree with all the points made in the first three Network Papers? If not, then we would like to receive your comments which will be collated and summarised in the **Feedback** section in subsequent Newsletters.

Similar points apply to the design of the RRN and the mailings. In establishing the principal elements of the RRN and in producing this first mailing we have had to make many decisions without the benefit of direct input from the members. We are therefore anxious to receive the views of members on this first mailing and our plans for the future. Do you like the content,

layout and style of this Newsletter? Do you have any suggestions for future Network Papers and State of the Art Reviews? If so we would be happy to receive them and share them with other members in this **Feedback** section.

## News Items

### **ECHO Initiative to Establish a European Degree Course In International Humanitarian Aid**

At the initiative of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), a new European graduate degree on International Humanitarian Aid is being established by a group of five European universities. The group is made up of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany); la Universidad de Deusto (Spain); l'Université d'Aix-Marseille (France); l'Université Catholique de Louvain, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (Belgium); and the University of Oxford, Refugee Studies Programme (UK).

The degree is being organised in the framework of the ERASMUS programme which enables students to follow part of their courses in a foreign university. The course, the first of which is scheduled to begin in the 1994-5 academic year, will be multi-disciplinary and involve joint curriculum development, student and staff mobility and two months of practical training via an internship programme.

Course modules on areas such as law, logistics and medicine/epidemiology are currently being prepared by pairs of universities working together.

For more information, contact:

ECHO  
3 rue de Genève  
1140 Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: (32 2) 295 44 00

### **Support Network for Relief Workers Returning From Zones of Conflict**

NGO and UN agency personnel are increasingly being called upon to work in conflict zones where they may witness severe human rights abuses and war injuries; have to live and work under conditions of constant insecurity; and cope with the frustration of not being able to achieve what they feel they should be achieving. Though statistics on the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder and 'burnout' among relief workers are not maintained by relief agencies it would seem that the number of such cases is increasing rapidly. Many agencies have not equipped themselves to deal with such conditions among their personnel. Consequently, there is little awareness of the symptoms, and personnel suffering in this way may attempt to minimise or suppress the condition for fear of appearing 'weak' or jeopardising their continued employment. The conditions of contract within many NGOs are not generous in relation to long term conditions which impair the productivity of their personnel. Often, the individuals concerned may opt to leave the agency and return home where they continue to suffer the condition in private, isolated from their former colleagues and friends within the agency and geographically distant from others experiencing similar conditions.

On a pilot basis a cooperative support network for NGO personnel working in, or returning from, zones of conflict is being established simultaneously in the Netherlands and the UK with support from NOVIB and Oxfam. The Rainbow Network as it is called is currently developing and testing appropriate mechanisms and forms of support for agencies and their personnel in addressing the conditions of post-traumatic stress disorder and 'burnout'. Among the approaches being considered are:

- 1 programmes of rest and recuperation either within the region or in the country of origin of the affected individuals;
- 2 the provision of appropriate counselling;
- 3 the provision of training in stress management and personal 'coping strategy';
- 4 the provision of advice to agencies on the preparation and training of personnel before taking-up posts in zones of conflict and appropriate forms of support during and after their posting;
- 5 the possibility of loaning computers and modems to returning personnel to enable them to communicate with others in the Network, to share their problems with a sympathetic, but geographically distant, group and to reduce their sense of isolation.

Where appropriate these programmes will offer a confidential service to those individuals choosing not to inform their employer of their condition or that they are seeking help in addressing it.

The initiative is still in an early stage of development and it is not clear how it will develop over the coming months. Nevertheless, those interested in learning more about it should contact:

Daryl Barker, Coordinator  
Rainbow Network  
Hondstong 26 1964 LH Heemskerk  
The Netherlands  
Tel/fax: 31 2510 43007

### **US NGOs Attempt to Improve Their War Risk Insurance Cover**

Following a recent mine incident in Somalia when a staff member of a US NGO was seriously injured and lost a leg, it was discovered that there was a loophole in the insurance cover provided to US NGO personnel working in war zones outside the US. Even though the NGO in question had war risk coverage, the insurance company claimed that they were not liable as the individual was working at the time of the incident and the claim should therefore be covered by the US Worker's Compensation Insurance which covers the costs arising from injuries sustained while working. However, the latter did not include cover for war risk! On investigation, InterAction the US NGO umbrella

organisation, discovered that other US NGOs were faced with similar loopholes and is currently exploring ways of filling this gap together with the US NGOs operating in war affected areas.

Recognising that this problem threatened the continued operation of US NGOs in humanitarian aid operations in several areas, the US Agency for International Development (AID) stepped in with a special indemnification programme to bridge the gap in insurance cover for a limited period. AID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has offered NGOs implementing OFDA-funded programmes in seven high risk countries, a ninety day programme involving US\$2 million set aside for any claims not covered by existing insurance policies and the Worker's Compensation Scheme.

Though the position of non-US NGOs is likely to differ from the dual cover situation of US NGOs, this experience suggests that other NGOs operating in war-affected areas should be closely examining the small-print on their existing insurance policies.

For further information, contact:

Lauren Landis  
InterAction  
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Suite 801  
Washington DC 20036 - USA  
Tel: (1 202) 667 8227

### **ACC/SCN Sets up a Refugee Nutrition Information System in Conjunction with International NGOs**

A system producing reports every two months on the status of refugees and internally displaced populations has been established by the UN Administrative Committee on Coordination/Sub-Committee on Nutrition (ACC/SCN) which is the focal point for harmonising policies on nutrition within the UN system. The decision to set up the system, which currently focuses principally on Sub-Saharan Africa, was taken in February 1993, following a series of discussions with UN agencies, the ICRC and some of the larger international NGOs; and the preparation of a pilot report. By collating information from a wide range of UN agencies, NGOs and other sources and presenting

the information in a clear, summary format, it is hoped to increase the effectiveness of the response in those cases where the situation is particularly severe.

Information is provided to the ACC/SCN secretariat by a variety of UN agencies and NGOs. The agencies contributing information to the most recent report (February 1994) included Action Internationale Contre la Faim, Amar Appeal, Amnesty International, Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), GOAL, Iraqi Civilian Aid, ICRC, MSF-Belgium, MSF-CIS (Mozambique), MSF-France, MSF-Holland, Oxfam-UK, SCF-UK, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. Technical support is provided to the ACC/SCN Secretariat by Jeremy Shoham of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The system receives financial support from NORAD, USAID, UNHCR and WFP and in-kind support from UNICEF and SCF-UK.

The reports are compiled every two months, the first of which was produced in September 1993. Thus far, reporting has concentrated on Sub-Saharan Africa where the total refugee/displaced population now stands at over 16 million of which 1.3 million are severely malnourished. The most recent report described the situation in 17 different areas of Africa. Information on the situation in southern Iraq has also been included in the first three issues.

Those wishing to receive the reports or discuss the possibility of their agency contributing nutritional and health information to the system should contact:

Refugee Nutrition Information System -  
ACC/SCN - c/o World Health Organisation  
20 Avenue Apia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27 - Switzerland  
Telephone: (41 22) 791 0456  
Fax: (41 22) 798 8891

### **The IDNDR - for the uninitiated**

In 1987, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution designating the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and the Decade formally began on 1st January 1990. The Decade is now almost half way through and in just a few weeks time a large international conference will take place at

Yokohama, Japan, and this will form an important component of a mid-term review of the Decade (see **Conferences** section). Despite the Decade having almost reached its half-way stage, many personnel within NGOs involved in disaster mitigation and relief activities seem to be barely aware of the IDNDR and its objectives. This article is intended to brief RRN members on the origins, goals and activities of the IDNDR.

The idea of a UN Decade on this particular subject was first suggested by Dr Frank Press, President of the US National Academy of Science, at the 8th International Congress of Earthquake Engineering in 1984. The idea was taken up by key individuals and bodies within the international scientific community and resulted in the 1987 General Assembly Resolution. An *ad hoc* international Group of Experts, chaired by Dr Press, was appointed by the UN Secretary General to help the UN prepare for the Decade. A definitive resolution was adopted by the General Assembly during December 1989.

The goals of the Decade are to:

- 1 Improve each country's ability to mitigate the effects of natural disasters;
- 2 Devise guidelines and strategies for applying existing knowledge;
- 3 Foster scientific and engineering endeavours to reduce loss of life and property;
- 4 Disseminate existing and new information about the assessment, prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters;
- 5 Promote programmes of technical assistance and technology transfer, demonstration projects and education and training tailored to specific hazards and locations.

Since the start of the Decade, considerable effort has gone into establishing a framework for these goals to be achieved. The principal elements of the framework are: a Special High Level Council composed of ten international notorieties including serving and former Presidents and Prime Ministers; a Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) composed of 25 international experts (principally research scientists) and a network of National IDNDR Committees. Currently, 130 countries have established National Committees, though not all have been very active. Both the Special High Level Council and the STC are serviced by the

IDNDR Secretariat in Geneva which is also responsible for carrying forward the programme of work agreed on by the STC. The Secretariat works in close association with the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs and reports to the Secretary-General through the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs. The Secretariat initially had a staff of three but this has been increased to 15 in the period leading up to the Yokohama Conference.

The range of activities planned or being undertaken within the IDNDR framework is very broad. The STC has selected a long list of 'international programmes and demonstration projects' including:

- 1 the development of techniques and mechanisms for improved warning of tropical cyclones;
- 2 the comprehensive monitoring of 'high-risk' volcanoes;
- 3 programmes for reducing earthquake vulnerability;
- 4 the improvement of international statistical databases on natural disasters;
- 5 educational and training activities;
- 6 mapping health emergency preparedness and response in Africa;
- 7 studies on the impact of disasters in large cities.

The more active National Committees have commenced a broad range of activities, the full extent of which are becoming apparent in the papers prepared by the National Committees for presentation at the Yokohama Conference. In addition, numerous international and regional meetings of IDNDR Committees and technical specialists have been held. In September 1993, for instance, ECHO hosted a meeting of the IDNDR Committees within EC member. In conjunction with the Osseratorio Vesuviano (Italy), the IDNDR Secretariat has been producing a Newsletter **STOP DISASTERS** every two months which is distributed free to anyone with an interest in the Decade programme.

Thus far, the IDNDR can certainly claim to have increased awareness of the need for disaster mitigation and the ways this might be achieved among UN agencies, the scientific community and multilateral and regional lending institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development

Bank.

However the following points may also be made:

That the Decade originated within the scientific and engineering communities continues to be reflected within the approach and range of activities being undertaken. The social sciences have, so far at least, been greatly under-represented in many IDNDR activities.

The emphasis of the Decade has been upon the mitigation of 'sudden impact' natural hazards (cyclones, floods, earthquakes, etc.). The position of 'slow-impact' natural hazards such as drought within the IDNDR was, until recently, ambiguous. As drought is the principal natural hazard type in Sub-Saharan Africa, this region has been largely by-passed by much of the IDNDR activity so far - a fact reflected in the number of countries that have not formed National Committees in the region and the low level of activity among many of those that have been established. However, this may be about to change as drought has been accorded a higher priority by the Scientific and Technical Committee, and has been allocated a Technical Committee session at the Yokohama Conference. In addition, as a result of a joint OAU/ECA/WHO disaster mitigation initiative, IDNDR-related activities will be developed on a regional basis in Africa.

As a result of the UN's emphasis upon links with member governments and the Decade's emphasis upon scientific and engineering 'solutions', the NGO community has not been closely involved in the IDNDR, though in some cases NGO representatives do participate in the National Committees. Consequently, the potential contribution by NGOs, in particular for instigating disaster mitigation initiatives at the community-level, has not been exploited.

The fact that the start of the Decade coincided with the end of the Cold War period was unfortunate. At a time when the international community's attention and humanitarian resources have been largely focused upon the mitigation of the effects of conflicts in Africa, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the IDNDR's focus upon the prevention and mitigation of 'natural' disasters has, at times, appeared of limited relevance. Perhaps reflecting this, many of the international programmes and demonstration projects selected

by the STC have experienced difficulty in obtaining sufficient funding.

Those wishing to find out more about the IDNDR or those wishing to receive copies of *STOP DIS-ASTERS* should contact:

IDNDR Secretariat  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Tel: (41-22) 798 8400  
Fax: (41 22) 733 8695

## Update

*This section attempts to provide summary information on current and potential humanitarian emergencies. The information sources used are not always comprehensive in their coverage and so some humanitarian emergencies, such as in the Trans-Caucasus, are not described here. More comprehensive coverage is planned for subsequent Newsletters.*

**Africa** - 1993/94 food aid needs are down to 3.08 million tonnes from actual imports of 4.4 million tonnes in the previous year, largely as a result of continued good rains in Southern Africa. Nevertheless, poor harvests in parts of the Horn and conflict/unrest in several countries in the region mean that 22 million people will require emergency food assistance in 1994.

**Angola** - Political and humanitarian initiatives in mid-late 1993 have increased access to areas under UNITA control and to besieged government-held cities. Several NGOs are now operating in UNITA-controlled areas. An estimated 3.2 million people are in need of some form of assistance. WFP is airlifting food to 14 cities. Efforts to establish overland routes are hampered by heavy mining and occasional attacks on UN/NGO convoys. Despite a substantial increase in the rate of distributions, the actual rates are still well short of requirements. Negotiations between government and UNITA are continuing in Lusaka.

**Burundi/Rwanda/Tanzania/Zaire** - Following the attempted coup d'état of October 1993 in Burundi and the ensuing inter-ethnic violence, approximately 800,000 Burundians crossed Rwanda (375,000); Tanzania (325,000) and Zaire (58,000). An estimated 250,000 remained in Burundi as internally displaced. The international community's response was insufficient and delayed in each case. The RNIS for February 94 judged the situation for the refugees and displaced in the region to be 'out of control'.

In Rwanda, the refugee influx of approximately 375,000 into the south of the country during October and November followed heavy fighting and large population displacements earlier in the year between the government forces and the Patriotic Front of Rwanda. Overcrowding in the 21 camps, poor sanitation, lack of water and inadequate food rations resulted in high excess mortality - MSF estimates more than 10,000 deaths. As a result of the more stable situation in Burundi, the start of the planting season and the poor conditions in the camps in Rwanda some of the refugees have begun returning.

In Tanzania, the Burundian refugees are scattered amongst 45 sites many of which are inaccessible. The absence of a proper registration and distribution system and inadequate food supplies are producing very high rates of malnutrition and mortality in some of the sites.

In Zaire, the refugees are spread between 17 sites in Eastern Zaire. Overcrowding, lack of food and



epidemics of cholera and dysentery are resulting in high rates of mortality.

Zaire also hosts some 300,000 Angolan refugees in Shaba and Lower Zaire, and 125,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Zaire. In Shaba region, ethnic violence has resulted in the displacement of approximately 300,000 people, half of which remain in transit camps/locations. Some food distributions have been undertaken by NGOs but delays in UN needs assessments, political difficulties the high costs of transport and inadequate funding from donors have severely delayed the provision of a general ration by WFP. Mortality rates are high.

**Eritrea** - Poor rains and crop pests have resulted in a crop approximately 60% less than the bumper 1992 crop. Food aid needs estimated at 250,000 tonnes. Response by donors so far is disappointing.

**Ethiopia** - National production equivalent to the average for the last five years but there are sharp variations in local production with northern Shoa, northern Wollo, Tigray and Hararghe experiencing reduced production and Arsi and Gojam experiencing near record production. Total cereal and pulse import needs are estimated at just over 1 million tonnes of which 450,000 tonnes will be needed as emergency food aid for the 3 million affected by the poor local rains and the 1.4 million displaced, returnees and ex-soldiers. Donor pledges had reached 300,000 tonnes by February.

**Kenya** - In the north, the refugee population is around 325,000 but camps are gradually closing as Somali refugees are repatriated. Food supplies for the camps are adequate and malnutrition rates are near normal for the region.

After the very poor 1993 'long rains', the 'short rains' were satisfactory in most areas except Eastern and the southern Rift Provinces. Projected national food import needs are over 1 million tonnes of which Government has arranged for commercial imports of 200,000 tonnes maize. Overall donor response so far has been disappointing.

**Southern Sudan/Uganda** - The Sudanese Government offensive in the south, including the bombing of civilian centres, and continued fighting between southern factions is causing major population displacements and areas of intense suffering. The information available is very limited but a total of 2 million people are estimated to be 'war-affected/displaced'. An estimated 100,000 Sudanese have moved into northern Uganda.

**Somalia** - The food security situation has stabilised and most agencies have halted dry-ration distributions and are concentrating on rehabilitation through food and cash-for-work programmes. The withdrawal of US and other western troops was completed during March leaving a much reduced UNOSOM force.

**Liberia/Sierra Leone** - The civil war in Liberia and the fluid security situation in neighbouring Sierra Leone have created almost 3 million internally displaced/refugees with spontaneous repatriations occurring to newly liberated areas and further displacement caused by movements of front-lines. The estimated numbers of refugees/displaced are: Liberia 1,750,000; Sierra Leone 300,000; Côte d'Ivoire 250,000; Guinea 600,000. The condition of these populations varies with some areas experiencing high rates of malnutrition. Overall, the security situation appears to be deteriorating rather than stabilising.

**Mozambique** - Peace and a good 1993 harvest have resulted in a dramatic reduction in the numbers requiring food aid: from 3.8 million in 1992 to 1.3 million in 1993 and this is expected to fall even lower in 1994.

Asia

**Afghanistan** - Factional fighting resumed in Kabul at the beginning of 1994 resulting in the flight of upto 100,000 civilians from the city to the north and east. Pakistan has closed its borders to prevent the displaced entering the country. Fighting is also taking place around the northern cities of Kunduz and Mazar-I-Sharif. Displaced camps have been opened around Jalalabad. MSF and the ICRC continue to operate medical and relief programmes in Kabul. The attention given to the situation by the international

media and the international community has been very limited. Given the high stocks of arms, the lack of interest from the West and the increasing involvement of neighbouring countries with the different factions, the outlook is bleak.

### **Middle East**

**Iraq** - Reports from southern marsh area point to serious nutritional and health situation among the Marsh Arab population as result of the Iraqi government's blockade and the marsh draining programme.

### **Europe**

**Former Yugoslavia** - The February cease-fire and subsequent US-sponsored peace agreement between Bosnian Croats and Muslims have reduced obstructions to convoys in the areas contested by these two parties. Following the February NATO ultimatum against Serbian artillery around Sarajevo, its withdrawal and the subsequent cease-fire, the city is beginning to plan rehabilitation activities and the resumption of services.

The cease-fire has spread to some other areas contested by Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Muslims. Improved convoy access during March is likely to lead to record deliveries.

### **Sources:**

WFP, Rome: Weekly telexes 4/2/94 and 18/2/94 and WFP News Release 94/16.

FAO, Rome: Food Outlook 1/2, 1994; FAO Food Supply Situation and Crop Prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa 1, 1994.

Centre for Defence Studies, London: International Security Digest Vol 1 Nos 3 and 4, 1994.

ACC/SCN, Geneva: Refugee Nutrition Information System No. 2 December 1993 and No. 3 February 1994.

Famine Early Warning System, Washington DC.: Harvest Assessment January 1994 and FEWS Bulletins SH-3, SA-8 and SA-9 February 1994.

MSF, Brussels: International Newsletter No. 8 February/March 1994.

# Training Courses

**Refugee Community Health Care**, 4-8 July 1994, International Health Exchange, London.

This five-day preparation course in appropriate health care for refugees and displaced populations (run by International Health Exchange in conjunction with SCF-UK, Oxfam and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine) aims to introduce health workers to concepts of community health care appropriate to refugee camps and settlements.

For more information, contact: The Training Coordinator, International Health Exchange, 38 King Street, London WC2E 8JT, United Kingdom, Tel: (44 71) 836 5833.

**Fifth International Course on Health and Disaster Preparedness**, 4-15 July 1994, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters.

The course will focus on rapid assessment of

health needs using recent standards and techniques; public health and epidemiology as applied to disaster preparedness and management; multisectoral implications of disaster preparedness and management; management of epidemics; international assistance; environmental and sanitation aspects of disasters; operational aspects of post-impact medical care, etc.

For more information, contact: CRED, Catholic University of Louvain, School of Public Health, Clos Chapelle-aux-Champs, 30, EPID 30.34, 1200 Brussels, Belgium, Tel: (32 2) 764 38 23.

**Counter-Disaster Staff Training**, 11 July - 18 August 1994, Cranfield Disaster Preparedness Centre.

This training programme will be divided into three parts: Analysis and Information; Planning for Prevention and Preparedness; and Emergency

Management and will be supported by three study options: Slow-onset disasters; Rapid-onset natural disasters; Transportation and industrial accidents and other civil emergencies. It will also comprise Planning and Management Simulation Exercises as well as a Personal Project.

For more information, contact: Director, Cranfield Disaster Preparedness Centre, RMCS, Shrivenham, Swindon SN6 8LA, United Kingdom, Tel: (44 793) 78 5287.

***Disaster Management Modular Workshop***, 22 August -30 September 1994, Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies.

This modular workshop will focus on: Vulnerability of communities (week 1); Disaster management and the role of NGOs (week 2); Emergency management and information systems (week 3); The management of complex emergencies (week 4); Establishment of National Disaster Centres (week 5). The workshop will start with a preparatory week.

For more information, contact: Administrator, OCDS, PO Box 137, Oxford OX4 1BB, United Kingdom, Tel: (44 865) 202 722.

***Working in Emergencies and Disaster Relief***, 5-9 September 1994, Centre for International Health.

This five-day course will focus on changes in the international system for the provision of assistance in emergencies; quantitative survey methods; rapid appraisal techniques; data processing, analysis and presentation, using EPI Info Software; personal safety in conflict areas; management of personnel, time and finances, etc.

For more information, contact: Eileen Darby, Short Course Coordinator, Centre for International Health, University of Wales, College of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XN, United Kingdom.

***Humanitarian Aid in Complex Emergencies***, 5-9 September 1994, Refugee Studies Programme.

This course for practitioners working in areas of military conflict aims to provide a comprehensive

overview of the issues involved. It will cover: Humanitarian law; Relationship between types of war and relief provision; Coordination of relief; Protection of vulnerable populations; Role of the UN; Repatriation and various aspects of the reconstruction of communities.

For more information, contact: The Education Unit, Short Courses Section, Refugee Studies Programme, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, United Kingdom. Tel: (44 865) 270 723.

***Food Security in Africa: Policy, Planning and Interventions***, 19 September - 9 December 1994, Institute of Development Studies.

This course aims to help planners and practitioners analyse the causes of food insecurity in Africa; take a critical look at plans, policies and interventions to alleviate food insecurity; and plan and prepare for attempts to tackle food insecurity in the future.

The course is organized around one week modules, covering different aspects of food security.

For more information, contact: The Course Administrator, Teaching Area, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 9RE, United Kingdom, Tel: (44 273) 60 6261.

***Disaster Management Courses***, Disaster Management Centre, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Disaster Management Centre offers educational programs on the management of situations created by disasters and emergencies in an international context. A series of self-study correspondence courses provides distance-learning educational opportunities for those who cannot travel. These include: Emergency health management after natural disaster and Epidemiologic surveillance after natural disaster.

For more information, contact: Judy Faber, Dept of Engineering Professional Development, Correspondence Course Office, Rm 315, 432 N. Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706-1498, USA, Tel: (1 608) 262 5441.

### ***European Courses for Practical Training in International Health***, EPICENTRE.

The program has been elaborated with the collaboration of the different European branches of Médecins Sans Frontières and AEDES. Training is coordinated by EPICENTRE. Training courses are divided into 2 levels. **Level 1** includes medical courses; health emergency preparation courses and logistics courses. **Level 2** comprises courses on nutrition/immunization; management of health services; epidemiological surveillance; logistics in emergency situations; populations in emergency situations; micro computers and public health; and *in collaboration with other institutions*, courses on surgery in emergency situations; investigation of epidemics; and water and sanitation in refugees situations. The duration of these courses varies from one, two to three weeks.

For more information, contact: EPICENTRE, 8 rue Saint-Sabin, 75544 Paris Cedex 11, France, Tel: (33 1) 40 21 28 19.

### ***Diploma in International Development, Third World Option***, Ecole de Logisticiens pour les Missions d'Urgence et de Développement, Bioforce Développement.

This diploma is a three-year course based in Lyon, France. The first year involves 1,000 hours of training and is organised around: technical studies; administration; human relations; preparation for work in a developing country; field trips for simulation of development problems, etc. The second and third years are devoted to working in the field, on missions in the Third World and complementary studies linked to the missions.

For more information, contact: Mr Patrice Blanc, Bioforce Développement, 44 Bld Lénine, 69694 Vénissieux Cedex, France, Tel: (33 78) 67 3232.

### **Conferences**

***PARINAC Global Conference*** - 6-9 June 1994, Oslo, Norway.

PARINAC stands for Partnership in Action, a joint UNHCR/ICVA process of consultations in different regions between UNHCR and NGOs to enhance dialogue and understanding between

UNHCR and NGOs; to facilitate closer collaboration and increase the combined capacity to respond to the global refugee problem and, where appropriate, the problem of internal displacement.

Regional conferences have already been held in Caracas, Kathmandu, Tunis, Bangkok and Addis Ababa, around four main agenda items: Protection, Internally Displaced Persons; Emergency Response; and the Continuum from Relief and Rehabilitation to Development.

The regional conference process leads to a final conference in Norway on 6-9 June 1994 which will produce the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action. For more information, contact:

Mr Santiago Romero-Perez  
Chief,  
NGO Liaison Section,  
UNHCR  
PO Box 2500  
1211 Geneva 2 Depot  
Switzerland  
Tel: (41 22) 739 8193

### ***World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction***, 23-27 May 1994, Yokohama, Japan.

The aims of the conference are to:

- \* Review the accomplishments of the Decade at national, regional and international levels;
- \* Chart a programme of action for the future;
- \* Exchange information on the implementation of Decade programmes and policies;
- \* Increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies.

The conference will be organised around Plenary Sessions, a Main Committee and Technical Committees. The Main Committee will discuss the interface between the public and private sectors and hear presentations of Regional Reports. The Technical Committees will focus on vulnerable communities; hazard resistant construction; the effects of disasters on modern societies; technological and natural hazards interrelationships; economic aspects of disaster reduction for sustainable development; warning systems and drought management. A programme of poster sessions and study tours will run throughout the week. In excess of 2,000 participants are expected to attend.

For more information, contact:

IDNDR Secretariat, United Nations  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland  
Tel: (41 22) 798 6894

## Publications

***A Framework for Survival: Health Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance in Conflicts and Disasters***, Cahill, K, (ed), 1993, Basic Books/Council on Foreign Relations, 340 pages, Price US\$ 25.00.

This book is an edited compilation of 20 papers presented at a two-day symposium in New York in September 1992. It contains many very good papers by familiar names including politicians/statesmen, academics, and staff from NGOs and UN Agencies. For instance:

Michel Veuthey The Contribution of International Humanitarian Law to the Restoration of Peace

David Owen Obligations and Responsibilities of Donor Nations

Jennifer Leaning When the System Doesn't Work: Somalia 1992

Rémi Russbach Casualties of Conflicts and Mine Warfare

Kevin Cahill The Clinical Face of Famine

Michael Toole The Public Health Consequences of Inaction: Lessons Learned in Responding to Sudden Population Displacements

Aengus Finucane The Changing Role of Voluntary Organisations

Philip Johnston Relief and Reality

Rony Brauman The Médecins sans Frontières Experience

Fazle Abed Coping with Disasters: From Diarrhoea to Cyclones

Larry Minear Making the Humanitarian System Work Better

Abdulrahim Farah Responding to Emergencies: A View from Within

Sadako Ogata The Plight of Refugees: Issues and Problems Affecting their Humanitarian Needs

Jan Eliasson The World Response to Humanitarian Emergencies

***Life, Death and Aid: The Médecins Sans Frontières Report on World Crisis Intervention***, MSF, 1993, Routledge, London, 158 pages, Price £9.99.

***Face aux Crises***, MSF, Hachette, Price Fr89.

This book is divided into two parts. Part 1 'From Abstention to Intervention' presents ten cases with punchy titles and organised within four categories:

Non-intervention:

Sudan - Speak no evil, do no good

Afghanistan - Off the agenda

Regional intervention:

Tajikistan: Free reign to the regional referees

The Caucasus: Policing the old empire

Liberia: Leave it to the neighbours

Peacemaking operations:

El Salvador: The guarantor of peace

Angola: Stewarding the ballot box, not the peace

Cambodia: Elections in the killing fields

'Humanitarian' military intervention:

Bosnia: The soft option

Somalia: Humanitarian aid outgunned

Part 2 'An International Response Marked by Paradoxes and Ambiguities' presents five contributions on selected topics:

- \* The paradoxes of armed protection;
- \* Peacekeeping operations above humanitarian law;
- \* The human rights challenge to sovereignty;
- \* Health-care reconstruction: the lost agenda;
- \* When suffering makes a good story.

This is a very topical book and an important contribution to the debate over the role of the UN and the rights and wrongs of armed intervention. Well worth reading. However, there is a tendency

throughout the book to direct criticism at the UN without also directing it at those rich country member states which often hamper the UN's response in emergencies by their belated or inadequate political, financial and military support.

**CROSSLINES: The Independent Newsletter on Development, Humanitarian Relief and Environment**

*CROSSLINES* describes itself as “a reporters’ newsletter that aims to provide critical insight and information on international development, humanitarian action and global trends. *CROSSLINES* is not a product of the United Nations or an NGO. It is a unique, self-funded report that draws on a growing network of concerned journalists and analysts including editors, producers and correspondents representing some of the world’s top media. We seek to focus on the activities, both positive and negative, of governments, donors, aid agencies, NGOs, companies, individuals and communities worldwide. *CROSSLINES* hopes to promote greater accountability among international organisations and also better, more consistent, reporting of those issues often neglected by the media”.

*CROSSLINES* is published 10 times a year. The articles are often reproductions of articles printed in the international press, though some are specially prepared. Useful contact lists are also provided. For instance the most recent issue included two articles on landmines and bomb disposal, accompanied by a contact list of 23 mine clearing agencies and organisations working to outlaw the production and export of landmines. An introductory subscription for the first year is offered at US\$60/£40/SFr90, thereafter voluntary relief workers can subscribe for \$50; professional/individuals \$100; institutions/libraries \$150. \$10 for postage to areas outside US and Europe.

Contact: *CROSSLINES* PO Box 171,  
CH-1211 Geneva 20,  
Switzerland.  
Tel: (41 22) 756-1984;  
Fax: (41 22) 808 5830

*Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies and Management*, Blackwell Publishers for the Overseas Development Institute.

*Volume 17 No. 4, December 1993* included:

‘An Exposure-Response Method for Assessing the Long Term Health Effects of the Bhopal Gas Disaster’, V. Ramana Dhara and David Kriebel.

‘The Bangladesh Cyclone of 1991: Why So Many People Died’, A. Mushtaque R. Chowdhury et al.

‘Restocking Refugee Pastoralists in the Horn of Africa’, Jon D. Unruh.

‘Environmental Influences on the Distribution of the Incidence of Cholera: A Case Study in Quelimane, Mozambique’, Andrew Collins.

‘Evaluation of Two Kurdish Refugee Camps in Iran, May 1991: The Value of Cluster Sampling in Producing Priorities and Policy’, John D.H. Porter et al.

‘Surveillance of the Health and Nutritional Status of Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh’, Marijke Wijnroks et al.

‘Reflections on Seven Years at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center’, Brian Ward.

*Volume 18 No. 1, March 1994* included:

‘Volcanic Disaster Mitigation in the Philippines: Experience from Mt. Pinatubo’, Jean C. Tayag and Raymundo S. Punongbayan.

‘Northern Sudan in 1991: Food Crisis and the International Relief Response’, Marion Kelly and Margaret Buchanan-Smith.

‘The Prevention and Mitigation of Famine: Policy Lessons from Botswana and Sudan’, Tesfaye Tekly.

‘Military Participation in Emergency Humanitarian Assistance’, Joel C. Gaydos and George A. Luz.

‘Post-Emergency Epidemiological Surveillance in Iraqi-Kurdish Refugee Camps in Iran’, Marzio Babilie, Pierpaolo de Colombani, Ranieri Guerra, Nevio Zagaria and Chiara Zanetti.

‘Post-Disaster Housing Reconstruction: A Longitudinal Study of Resident Satisfaction’, D. Neil Snarr and E. Leonard Brown.

'Flood Mitigation Problems in Vietnam', Ebel Wickramanayake.

Subscription rates are as follow:

	Individuals	Institutions
Europe	£48.00	£75.00
N. America	\$89.50	\$122.00
Rest of world	£53.00	£79.50

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***Non-Governmental Organisations and Governments: Stakeholders for Development***, OECD - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD, Paris, pp. 363, Price £24.

This is an excellent survey of the evolving relationships between donor agencies and development NGOs. It contains a stimulating overview by Ian Smillie 'Changing Partners: Northern NGOs, Northern Governments' and 14 case studies on OECD member countries, ie. Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Community.

***Humanitarian Aid Annual Report 1993***, Commission of the European Communities, Brussels (produced February 1994).

ECHO was formally established in April 1992 and a report-cum-brochure was produced on its first 9 months of operation during 1993. This new, distinctly unglorious, report covers the first full year of ECHO's operation. It contains summary information on every grant made during the year and an analysis of grants by country. During 1993 600 million ECU (approximately US\$720 million) was

allocated to the following areas:

Former Yugoslavia 63%; the ACP countries 16%; the Former Soviet Union 8%; Iraq 3%, the rest of Asia 3%; Latin America 2% and North Africa 4%. More than 80 NGOs have now signed Framework Partnership Agreements with ECHO and a similar agreement has been signed by the UNHCR.

The report provides interesting insights on developments in relation to donor coordination. Quarterly meetings have been instituted between ECHO and the heads of the emergency aid units of the 12 member states and links are being developed with USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Response. One intriguing paragraph raises the prospect of UN consolidated appeals incorporating all requirements rather than just those of UN and government agencies, noting:

"Although the consolidated inter-agency appeals issued by DHA are most useful in many respects, the Commission has requested that their scope be widened to non-UN requirements. DHA is positive towards the Commission request and has in fact tried to improve the consolidated appeals accordingly. However, at the same time DHA emphasizes that the technical difficulties in assembling 'global' requirements and pledges due to poor reporting by 'bilaterals' and NGOs".

Contact: ECHO Information  
Rue de Geneve 3  
1140 Brussels  
Tel: (32 2) 295 4400  
Fax: (32 2) 295 4572

***The Changing Role of NGOs in the Provision of Relief and Rehabilitation Assistance, ODI Working Paper Series Nos. 74-76.***

These three case studies were prepared as part of a larger study funded by the UK Overseas Development Administration. The objectives of the case studies were to attempt to quantify the relief and rehabilitation resources handled by NGOs since 1979 (or thereabouts) and to place this within the overall relief and rehabilitation activities of the governments, donor organisations and UN agencies, so as to analyse both the extent to which the role of NGOs in the provision of such assistance has increased and the ways in which the functions undertaken have changed.

**Case Study 1: Afghanistan/Pakistan** by Nigel Nicholds with John Borton, pp. 100, WP 74, Price £6.00.

Chapter headings include:

- \* The Political and Military Context;
- \* The Provision of Assistance to Afghan Refugees in Pakistan;
- \* The Cross-border Operations from Pakistan into Mujahideen-held areas of Afghanistan;
- \* The Characteristics and Roles of NGOs in the Provision of Relief and Rehabilitation Assistance to Afghans since 1979;
- \* The Coordination of NGO Activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

**Case Study 2: Cambodia/Thailand** by Charlotte Benson, pp. 103, WP 75, Price £6.00.

Chapter headings include:

- \* The Role of Multilateral Organisations;
- \* The Role of NGOs on the Thai-Cambodian

border;

- \* The Role of NGOs in Cambodia;

**Case Study 3: Northern Ethiopia and Eritrea** by John Borton, pp. 90, WP 76, Price £6.00.

Chapter headings include:

- \* A summary of the response by the international community;
- \* The respective roles of the RRC, the UN, the Red Cross Movement and NGOs;
- \* Activities undertaken and issues faced by NGOs;
- \* NGO consortia and coordination mechanisms.

Copies are obtainable from:

Publications Sales,  
Overseas Development Institute,  
Regent's College, Inner Circle,  
Regent's Park,  
London NW1 4NS, United Kingdom.  
Tel: (44 71) 487 7560

## Relief and Rehabilitation Network

**EuronAid**, the European Association of Non-Governmental Organisations for Food Aid and Emergency Relief was established in 1980 to provide logistics and financing services to NGOs using EC food aid in their relief and development programmes. Its offices are located in the Hague. The EuronAid member agencies are currently: ADRA Germany, CAFOD, Care Britain, Caritas Belgium, Caritas Germany, Caritas Italy, Caritas Netherlands, Caritas Spain, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Aid, Concern, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Diakonisches Werk der EKD, Diakonisches Werk der EKD/Bremen, Dutch Interchurch Aid, Lutheran World Federation, Oxfam Belgique, Oxfam UK, Prosalus, Save the Children Fund, Secours Catholique, Secours Populaire Français, SOS Sahel International, Tear Fund UK, Trocaire. AMI, Food Aid Management (USA), Help and the World Council of Churches have observer status. The **EuronAid Working Group on Training and Research** made up of representatives of six member agencies provides the reference group for the RRN.

The **Overseas Development Institute** was founded in 1960 as an independent centre for development research and a forum for discussion. The Institute is engaged in policy-related research on a wide range of issues which affect economic relations between the North and the South and which influence social and economic policies within developing countries. Besides the new RRN, ODI also maintains four other specialist networks of practitioners and researchers in agricultural research and extensions, irrigation management, pastoral development and forestry. Currently, ODI has over 30 staff in Research Fellow and Research Associate positions and some 25 support staff, including librarians and publications personnel.

**The RRN is supported by EuronAid with funds provided by the European Commission.**

For further information contact: Relief and Rehabilitation Network, Overseas Development Institute, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS, United Kingdom Tel: (+44 71) 487 7413 Fax: (+44 71) 487 7590 Email: 10074:SKK1133 (Dialcom) **Internet: [odi@gn.apc.org](mailto:odi@gn.apc.org) (Mark for the attention of RRN in subject line)**