

Annex 1

Current initiatives

There appear to be conspicuously few current initiatives specifically related to the subject of this Review. The only specific work known to the author looking at 'site selection' and the role of NGOs, identified during the writing of this Review, is PhD research being undertaken by Tom Corsellis, principal contributor to this Review, in conjunction with Oxfam. In part, this *lack of* activity in the sector has been the motivation for the Review. However, those which come to light include the following:

- Emergency settlement project by UNDP/Ford Foundation - Wisconsin Disaster Management Center.
- A number of organisations and individuals are looking into the impact of refugees on the environment. This may be a reflection of the fact that concern about the importance of environmental considerations appears to be the one sector in which there is general acceptance and discussion between humanitarian agencies, host authorities and donors, of long term thinking. It is a particularly challenging subject for DP THS planning and its relevance to the concept of sustainability, as used in this Review, can not be overstated.

Despite this, the recently published UNHCR 'Environmental Guidelines' (UNHCR, 1996), mention THS location selection only briefly. However, there does appear to be funding available to UNHCR, largely from the Japanese government, for environmental research. Current research includes the 'Towards Sustainable Environmental Management in Refugee Affected Areas' (TSEMPRAA) project of UNHCR which seeks to learn from environmental management from past UNHCR experience. Ten country reports are currently being edited on Nepal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Congo-Zaire, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Guinea and Cote D'Ivoire. UNHCR is also preparing a compendium of lessons learned, and new environmental training materials.

Discussion of environmental protection and management is not integrated into current manuals and technical literature for NGOs. It is hoped, that

research such as TSEMPRAA will help to establish sophisticated THS option and location selection.

Research by Roger Black at the University of Sussex in the UK has considered the relationships between forced migration, environmental change and sustainability issues. The research is critical of simplistic approaches to the 'damage' caused to the environment by refugee settlements, and contends that a wider understanding of economic, political and social dynamics of refugee situations which influence outcomes for the environment and natural resources is required by practitioners⁴⁰.

UNHCR is currently developing a new Emergency Handbook, to replace the 1982 edition. It has not been possible to discuss the content, particularly in relation to this Review. The publication is expected to be available in 1998.

The Steering Committee For Humanitarian Response (SCHR) and InterAction are developing a set of standards in core areas of humanitarian assistance in order to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters, and to improve the accountability of agencies to their beneficiaries, their membership and their donors. Standards are to be based on the recognition and elaboration of a set of rights, drawn from existing law, conventions and practice, relevant to all with a legitimate claim to be assisted by the humanitarian community in disaster situations. These basic rights will be highlighted in a humanitarian charter for people affected by disasters.

The Sphere Project is a collaborative process, initiated in July 1997, by a consortium of humanitarian organisations. It involves NGOs, interested donor governments and UN agencies. UNHCR, DHA, UNICEF and WFP have stated their support for the project and are participating in the dialogue.

As part of the project, Sphere will set out minimum standards in four essential sectors. These are: water & sanitation, nutrition & food security, shelter & site selection, and health services. To prepare the technical standards, a network of experts for each sector is reviewing existing protocols and norms developed by agencies throughout the world. They will produce an agreed set of technical standards describing the goods and services that should be available to meet the rights identified in the humanitarian charter⁴¹.

The project also aims to take the expression of standards forward by demonstrating acceptable implementation procedures with descriptions of best practices from a variety of situations around the world. These practical illustrations of humanitarian response in diverse geographic and cultural settings will incorporate appropriate approaches to complex issues such as gender equity, environmental impact and livelihood sustainability.

In time, the Sphere Project should provide a forum for NGOs to further define cooperation and coordination amongst themselves.

Apologies to anyone who has, or is currently undertaking work in this area which is not known to the author.

Acronyms

DHA	Department for Humanitarian Affairs
DP	Displaced population
ECOMOG	ECOWAS Monitoring Group
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ERC	Emergency Relief Coordinator
FFW	Food for work
GA	Government Agents
GIS	Geographical Information System
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GoM	Government of Mozambique
GoN	Government of Nepal
GoS	Government of Somalia
GoT	Governement of Tanzania
IASC	Inter Agency Standards Committee (UN)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally displaced population
IGNU	Interim Government of National Unity
INGO	International non-governmental organisation
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NPFL	National Patriotic Front of Liberia
NSE	Non-state entity
OLS	Operation Lifeline Sudan
PCMT	Project Cycle Management Tool
PMY	Project Management Tool
POP	People oriented planning
REST	Relief Society of Tigre
SCHR	Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response
SELF	Special Emergency Life Food
SPLM/A	Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army
SRRA	Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association
TRO	Tamil Relief Organisation
THS	Temporary human settlement
TPLF	Tigrean Peoples' Liberation Front
TSEMPRAA	Towards Sustainable Environmental Management in Refugee Affected Areas
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

End Notes and References

1. "Peter Walker, IFRC in RedR Newsletter No 42. Spring 1997.
2. Planning Settlements in Arid Lands: report of an ad hoc expert group meeting on human settlement planning in arid and semi-arid areas; UNHCS, Nairobi, 1984.
3. R Zetter "Shelter Provision and Policies for Refugees: a state of the art review" - too numerous to explore further here, interested readers are referred to the Zetter paper, which, in this context, goes on to discuss the elements of urban experience which could be replicated in the upgrading and consolidation of refugee settlements and which can be incorporated into refugee planning needs.
4. Red Cross and NGO Code of Conduct, RRN Network Paper 7, ODI, London, September 1994.
5. POP at work. Using POP to improve UNHCR programming. UNHCR, Geneva, 1994.
6. Economic impact of the Bhutanese Refugees in Jhapa, Nepal. UNHCR November 1995. It should be noted that because the study was undertaken by economists from the refugee population, the Government of Nepal claimed the report was biased in favour of the positive impacts. Governments have been known to downplay any positive developmental impacts which may be attributable to a refugee population on the basis that it contradicts their arguments for additional international financial assistance.
7. UNHCR Handbook for Emergencies Geneva 1982.
8. At the time of writing, proposed UN Reforms suggest that UNHCR's mandate may be extended to include responsibility for IDPs as well as refugees.
9. See: Guidelines for the protection of refugee women, UNHCR, Geneva 1991 for a fuller discussion of this issue.
10. Only two countries remain non-signatories to the Charter. These are the USA and Somalia.
11. Refugee Children: Guidelines on Protection and Care; UNHCR Geneva 1994.

12. The Environment for Children; Satterthwaite et al, UNICEF and Earthscan, New York, 1996.
13. In the context of this review, the 'environment' is taken to mean the built environment - i.e. the physical environment constructed or modified for human habitation and the natural environment, in which the temporary settlement is located (adapted from Satterthwaite et al; The Environment for Children. UNICEF and Earthscan New York 1996).
14. Agenda 21: Report of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio, June 1992.
15. It should be noted that in many developing countries, chemicals which have been banned elsewhere are still readily available at low prices and their use is permitted. Examples would be DDT and Lidane.
16. John Cosgrave: Refugee Density and Dependence: 'Practical Implications for Camp size' Disasters Volume 20 Number 3. The term external resources refers to resources of the camp hinterland, which includes amongst others, renewable natural resources.
17. R Zetter: A State of the Art Review of Shelter Provision and Settlement Policies for Refugees: in studies on Emergencies and Disaster Relief No. 2: Nordiska Afrkansinstitutet 1995.
18. K Jacobsen: Refugees' Environmental Impact: The Effect of Patters of Social Settlement.
19. A disaster is defined in the Code as a 'calamitous event resulting in loss of life, great human suffering and distress and large scale material damage'.
20. Assisting in emergencies: A resource handbook for UNICEF, UNICEF 1986.
21. 'Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development: The Debate Continues' an article in RRN Newsletter 5, June 1996.
22. Eriksson J. et al "The International Response to Conflict and Genocide: Lessons from the Rwanda Experience, Steering Committee of the Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda. Study III Humanitarian Aid and its Effects", Copenhagen, 1996.
23. UNHCR contingency planning guide for field workers.

24. It may also be useful to understand what is meant by 'planning'. A plan refers to a detailed scheme or method for attaining an objective. Planning is the act of preparing a plan and as such, is very closely related to the term 'process'.
25. R Zetter: A State of the Art Review of Shelter Provision and Settlement Policies for Refugees: in studies on Emergencies and Disaster Relief No. 2: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet 1995.
26. Hugo Slim: 'The Continuing Metamorphosis of the Humanitarian Practitioner: Some New Colours for an Endangered Chameleon' in Disasters Vo. 19 Number 2, 1995 (110-126)
27. Macrae and Zwi et al 'War and Hunger: Rethinking International Responses to Complex Emergencies; Zed Books and SCF, London 1994, in Hugo Slim's article.
28. In this Review, the definition of coordination will be the same as that used in Study III of the Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda, defined as '*orchestration of effort*'.
29. Arguably the presence of water is the most significant determinant of the location of a temporary human settlement. See GPR No. 1 for discussion of this.
30. See RRN Network Paper No. 20, 'People in Aid Code of Best Practice', February 1997.
31. For a more detailed discussion of Satellite imaging and possible resource centres, see RRN Newsletter No. 5, June 1996.
32. © Red R 1995, "Engineering In Emergencies: a practical guide for relief workers.", London. Used by permission
33. UNHCR; Contingency Planning: A Practical Guide for Field Staff; Geneva, August 1996.
34. Interested readers can refer to RRN Network Paper No. 18 1996 by John Bennett and Mary Kayitesi-Blewitt.
35. See Section 6.2 in Study III of the Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda and also 'The Rwandan Refugee Influx into Goma in mid-July 1994: An Assessment of the Performance of Contingency Planning and Early Warning Arrangements Within the International Humanitarian Aid System.' Prepared by John Borton, ODI, January 1995.

36. The effectiveness of early warning systems has been of limited value and cannot be relied upon to predict all emergencies.
37. Operations planning differs from contingency planning in that some uncertainty has been removed; a phase where a response is planned in the face of a more tangible situation.
38. J Shoham, J Rivers & P Payne: 'Hartisheik' June 1989. A report commissioned by SCF (UK).
39. See K Van Brabant 1994:10-11 in RRN Network Paper No. 4.
40. A book called: 'Refugees, environment and development' will be published in 1998 by Longman.
41. The Author and Principal Contributor to this review are involved in the SPHERE working group looking at site selection. The Group is under the chairmanship of P Wijmans, LWF field director in Cambodia.

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