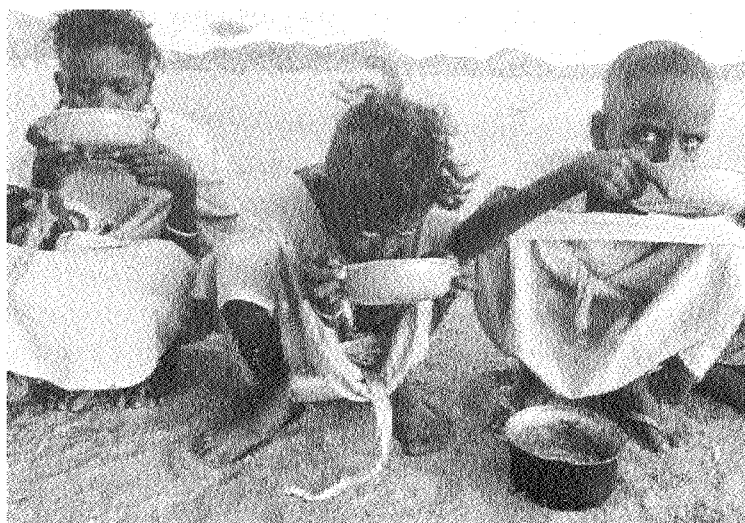


supply schemes and water tanker deliveries to the worst-affected areas, the expansion of health-care services including the supply of essential drugs, livestock preservation activities, and the provision of some seeds and hand tools to enable cultivation to resume in the next growing season. The cost of specific country non-food activities proposed in the appeal totalled US \$172 million.

The swift and generous response of the international community to the food needs of the region and the high level of coordination among United Nations agencies and SADC clearly

logistical constraints and in working to address them.

The drought-induced emergency cannot, however, be resolved by food assistance alone. Although 41 per cent of the non-food needs outlined in the original Appeal have been met, a recent review of the appeal found that additional assistance estimated at US \$50 million is required in such areas as water interventions, assistance to refugee populations, agriculture and livestock activities.



Children drinking enriched milk in a feeding centre

demonstrated that human catastrophe can be averted and an emergency such as the widespread drought need **not** result in a serious loss of life. Less than six months after the appeal was issued, 82 per cent of the emergency food needs and 78 per cent of the programme food needs of the region had been met. A SADC/World Food Programme Logistics Advisory Centre has been established in Harare and serves as an excellent example of the United Nations collaborating with regional entities in responding to emergencies. The Centre has provided very thorough reporting on the flow of food to and within the region and has minimised congestion in the ports. It has been active in identifying

The Drought's Impact on 10 countries in 1992

Population affected (millions)

Angola	1.40
Botswana	0.10
Lesotho	0.17
Malawi	5.70
Mozambique	3.15
Namibia	0.25
Swaziland	0.25
Tanzania	0.80
Zambia	1.70
Zimbabwe	4.60

Total	18.12
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L.RCS/L. de Toledo Photo

In view of the scale of the drought and its impact on the lives and economic conditions of some 130 million people in the region, the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will continue to work together to monitor the emergency needs of the region and plan for the delivery of relief supplies, in order to ensure the maximum use of all regional resources. The rains in this 1993 season have so far begun well in most of Southern Africa, and it is hoped that the joint effort will soon be able to focus on the recovery and rehabilitation needs of the region. ■



A closer look at:

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique is one of the world's poorest countries. Civil war has paralysed peasant and commercial farming, disrupted road transport and either cut off or restricted Mozambique's strategic rail corridors which serve its land-locked neighbours. Drought in 1992 brought three million people to the verge of starvation. In December, the Secretary-General proposed the establishment of a new United Nations peace-keeping operations, to help monitor an agreement ending a devastating civil war in the country. The force would be called the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

During the 1980s, agriculture was severely affected by drought. In 1984, floods devastated the province of Maputo, destroyed crops and

killed hundreds of thousands of people. Civil war broke out after independence, ravaging the country with repeated riots and the destruction of roads. The main corridor of Beirat, and the Cabora Bassa dam which produces the electricity exported by Mozambique, are both vital.

On 4 October 1992, in Rome, a General Peace Agreement was signed between the Mozambican Government and the National Resistance Movement (RENAMO). At the Conference on the implementation of the Peace Agreement, held in Rome on 15-16 December, Mr. Jan Eliasson, representing the Secretary-General of the U.N., said that: "The signing of the General Peace Agreement is not an end in itself but only the beginning of a new set of challenges - to move from war to peace, to move from destruction to development, to move from despair to hope". Although the drought appears largely to have broken, the effects are still widespread and the Government of Mozambique must now meet the massive challenge of ensuring the survival of an estimated 3.9 million people still in need of emergency assistance, and of laying the ground work for sustainable development and growth. The more than five million Mozambicans who have been displaced by the war will now begin to



*Nearly
one million
Mozambicans
have become refugees
in neighbouring
countries.*

UNHCR/A. Hoffmann Photo

resettle in their home areas. Some 1.5 million are refugees in neighbouring countries, while others have been internally displaced within their own district or province.

The immediate priority is to transform the emergency programme into the first phase of a reconstruction process, in which inputs provide the necessary relief while at the same time enhancing rural rehabilitation. The effects of the Peace Agreement are already striking. In the south of the country, travel by road is now secure. Other consequences of the peace agreement are the return of some refugees from neighbouring countries and the beginning of the process of displaced people returning to their home areas. However, many people still have reservations about returning to previously unsafe areas and are waiting to be convinced that peace has really been restored. Even though the peace agreement has opened up prospects for improving the situation, the drought has caused a substantial increase in the number of Mozambicans in need of emergency assistance. The movement of people in search of relief has grown since May, when an additional appeal for emergency drought aid was launched.

Of the 2.1 million people affected by drought alone and the 1.8 million affected by both war and drought, it was estimated that a vulnerable group of some 200,000 required therapeutic feeding.

Drought and famine conditions are often accompanied by various infectious diseases which are likely to spread as the situation worsens. The incidence of malaria has also been increasing in recent years. A cholera epidemic has struck six provinces, and 3,500 cases were confirmed in the first quarter of 1992. Drought conditions and dwindling water supplies cause people to congregate around water sources which could be breeding grounds for mosquitos. Some 135 trucks will have to be rehabilitated in order to deliver adequate food supplies to 10 priority drought-affected areas, and in particular to

displaced persons, returnees and demobilized soldiers. The drought has reduced domestic seed supplies. Additional drought-resistant seeds suitable to local environmental conditions need to be imported for the next crop season. ■

The Drought

The year 1992 will be remembered as a period when a region of 2.6 million square miles in Southern Africa was stricken by a devastating drought.

The severity of the drought may have been partly due to a combination of ocean temperature and air pressure anomalies, known as "El Niño" (Spanish for "the Christ Child"). This fluke weather condition brings about bands of low pressure, causing rain-carrying clouds to disappear. Such "warm" episodes occur about twice a decade and can last from 12 to 18 months; in one event in 1982-83, one million Ethiopians starved to death when the ravages of the drought were combined with a drawn-out civil war. A much weaker warm episode was recorded in 1986-87, followed by a less severe drought across parts of the African continent. Weather experts, who had been issuing warnings for months before the full impact of the situation was recognized by the world community, predict that this year's drought will be closer to the Sahel 1982-83 situation, and crop yields are anticipated to fall below 50% of the normal harvest. In a region which is normally self-sufficient in cereals, at least half of the shortfall in that commodity will have to be imported, at a cost of scarce foreign exchange in a year which will also see a lowering of Africa's export commodities.

Famine

Famines have occurred periodically in most, if not all, societies throughout history. Chronicles of ancient civilizations in India, Egypt, Western Asia, China, Greece and Rome record famines in these and other parts of the world. In the Middle Ages famine was a frequent occurrence in Europe. For example, historians estimate that during the 900 year period from the 10th Century to the 18th, there were 89 "general" famines in France and hundreds more "local" famines. Since then famines in Western Europe have become markedly less frequent as a result of agricultural innovation and the Industrial Revolution, though the 1846-51 "Great Famine" that occurred in Ireland was possibly one of the most catastrophic. The most recent "famine" to occur in Western Europe developed in the Netherlands during the winter of 1944 when a military stalemate between the advancing Allied Forces and the retreating German Army created severe food shortages in the main urban areas and significantly increased mortality.

For many, the word "famine" is defined by images of mass starvation, where whole communities are literally starving to death. Indeed, such is the power of the modern media, that some tend to define famine in terms of the horrific and widely screened film of the feeding camps in northern Ethiopia in late 1984. Such a perspective is problematic in at least three respects:

- it tends to view famine as a single event rather than as a process which culminates in significantly increased morbidity and mortality;

- it is rarely the case that whole communities starve to death. Rather it is usually only certain more vulnerable groups within the community that experience significantly increased mortality rates;



UNICEF/A. Vellan Photo

- famines need not be as stark and visible as in the extreme situation of the barren Ethiopian feeding camps. Widespread starvation can occur almost unseen to the outside observer, behind closed doors in peoples' homes even in agriculturally productive areas.

However, to accept that famine is a process rather than a single clearly identifiable event creates problems for those trying to differentiate famine from other more prevalent conditions such as chronic hunger which affects as many as a third of the world's population and causes the premature death of many among the world's poor. The safest approach is to define famine in the following terms:

Famine results from a sequence of processes and events that reduces food availability or food entitlements and causes widespread and substantially increased morbidity and mortality. (after Downing 1990).

Source: Disaster Management Training Programme - Module "Drought & Famine", 1992.