

## Case Study



### Case B

A recent and sudden influx of refugees from Stupendia has resulted in some 25,000 new arrivals residing along the Dementia border in precarious circumstances. The refugee population appears to comprise a preponderance of women and children, but a full demographic and socio-cultural analysis has not been conducted. Some refugees have brought their cattle and other animals with them. Authorities of Dementia, which is a signatory to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, have granted refugee status to the entire group.

Since the arrival of the refugees, the Stupendia-Dementia border has been plagued by security problems (guerrilla incursions and occasional abductions), compounded by the presence of tse-tse flies and by a cholera epidemic. Local District and village clinics and agricultural extension workers are ill-equipped and under-staffed, and have requested personnel and material assistance from the central Government. The Refugee Commissioner in the capital city has appealed, in turn, to the UNHCR Representative.

Recalling the preference to move refugees a so-called "reasonable distance from the border", the Regional Commissioner of the nearby Province has graciously offered two tracts of land to be transformed into refugee settlements. One of the areas is hilly and rocky, and near a river. The other is situated in a valley near excellent farmland owned by local farmers.

## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Questions



### Case Study B

1. *Which technical interventions and considerations should be made, both along the border and in planning for a new refugee settlement?*

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2. *Which assistance might TSS be expected to provide in this situation?*

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3. *What are some local technical options worth exploring?*

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## Notes

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# Analysis



## Case Study B

1. *Which technical interventions and considerations should be made, both along the border and in planning for a new refugee settlement?*

- Demographic survey
- Nutrition survey along border
- Socio-cultural-economic needs/resources assessment
- Immediate medical, sanitation, and veterinary assistance along border
- Development of multi-sector plan of action, both along border and for the new settlement
- For new settlement, surveys (water, soil, infrastructure, site suitability), and analysis of land tenure and land rights
- Assessment of refugee and national community development structures

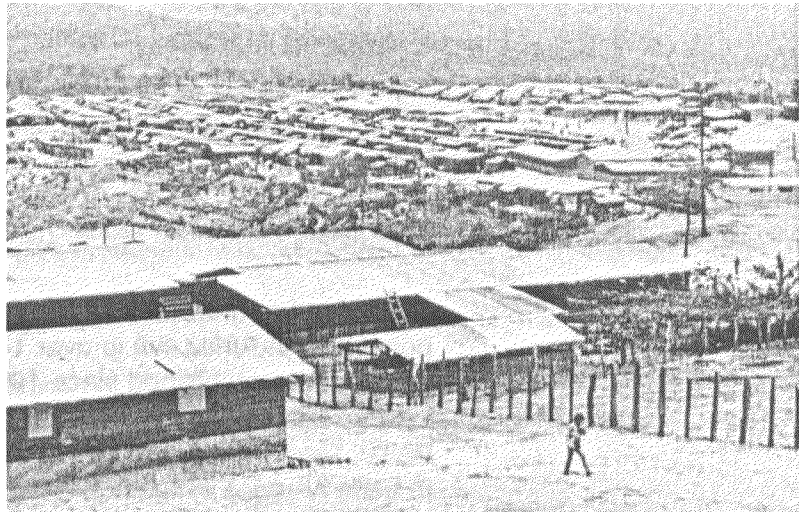
2. *Which assistance might TSS be expected to provide in this situation?*

- Missions of TSS Headquarters staff to border areas and to potential settlement sites, to conduct needs/resources assessments and to provide technical advice in various sectors
- Assistance in the planning and design of the new refugee settlement, in conjunction with FO staff
- Arrangement of local or international consultants through TSS consultancy roster
- Subsequent review/monitoring of the refugee settlement project

3. *What are some local technical options worth exploring?*

- Utilization of Government technical staff from capital city or Province: agriculture, water, land use planning, community development, health
- Use of local drilling company or well-diggers
- Contracting with locally-based agronomists who know the country and the land
- Identification of a local implementing agency experienced in technical issues, for construction of the refugee settlement, development of infrastructure, and community development/ rural development activities

## Refugee aid and development



UNHCR/J. Courtin

Ugandan returnees from Sudan

### What does the term imply?

Refugee aid and development as a dimension of assistance came into focus in 1979 to respond more effectively to the needs and impact of growing numbers of refugees in developing countries. Just as emergency assistance is planned bearing in mind the post-emergency stage, so assistance projects aimed at durable solutions are frequently conceived in a wider, development aid context.

To define the concept, we might use the following formulation:



The term *refugee aid and development* implies a policy and operational approach towards durable solutions through development-oriented assistance in countries of asylum and origin.

This development-oriented approach is vital in low-income developing countries where large numbers of refugees weigh heavily on fragile infrastructures. It follows that UNHCR's assistance programmes geared towards durable solutions have to take account of principles and objectives which are similar to those of development activities.

So much for the theory — what of the practice?

UNHCR's efforts to promote development-oriented projects have followed *three main directions*:

- focus on durable solutions in major programmes (such as those in Pakistan, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Malawi and Mexico)
- measures to facilitate reintegration within home countries following movements of voluntary repatriation (as in Ethiopia and Laos)
- preparations for the handover of refugee settlements (e.g. in Tanzania and Uganda).

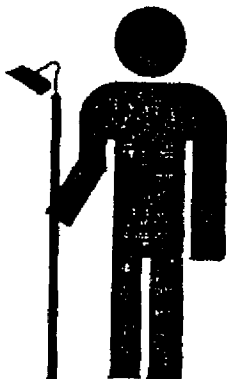
### **Benefits for the host population**

Benefits for the host population are an important feature of many of the development-oriented projects implemented to assist refugees, which also serve to strengthen the local infrastructure, and bring economic and environmental benefits to the host population. Nor does the spiral stop there. The refugees will in turn benefit from increased facilities for local settlement and self-sufficiency.

### **Who are UNHCR's partners in development-oriented assistance?**

The nature and scale of this generally large-scale form of assistance demands a joint effort with development agencies. It gives a good opportunity for inter-agency co-operation. Other members of the UN system most frequently involved are:

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



### **Development-oriented assistance in action—some specific examples**

The following examples will give a more precise idea of the kind of activities covered by this assistance.

In **Pakistan**, major income-generating projects have been implemented in areas of high density Afghan refugee population. These multi-sectoral projects cover activities in reafforestation, watershed management, road construction and irrigation. The actors involved are UNHCR, the World Bank and the Government of Pakistan.



In **Sudan**, a major agricultural development project has been conceived for Southern Kassala, where there are large numbers of Ethiopian refugees. This project covers a wide diversity of agricultural and income-generating activities. It is implemented jointly by UNHCR, the World Bank and the Sudanese Government.

## What steps are involved?

There are three essential stages to bear in mind. What follows is a brief summary of action to be taken. It can be used as an outline checklist.

### **Stage 1**    *Planning*

- Definition of operational principles geared to development needs during all phases of refugee assistance.
- Identification of aid and development components in various UNHCR assistance projects, particularly local settlement assistance.
- Joint planning with development agencies of projects to benefit both refugees and the host country, in complement to UNHCR's ongoing programmes.
- Selection of suitable development agencies.
- Discussion of co-financing of multi-year projects.
- Negotiation of Memoranda of Understanding and other specific agreements.

### **Stage 2**    *Implementation*

- Arrangement for linkages to existing or planned development projects in refugee locations.
- Implementation of projects (UNHCR, non-UNHCR or joint undertakings).
- Involvement in monitoring process (by UNHCR specialized local staff and through participation in inter-agency missions).

### **Stage 3**    *Phasing out*

- Arrangements for transition to development agency for longer-term development aid beyond the scope of UNHCR's involvement.
- Gradual phasing out of UNHCR assistance.