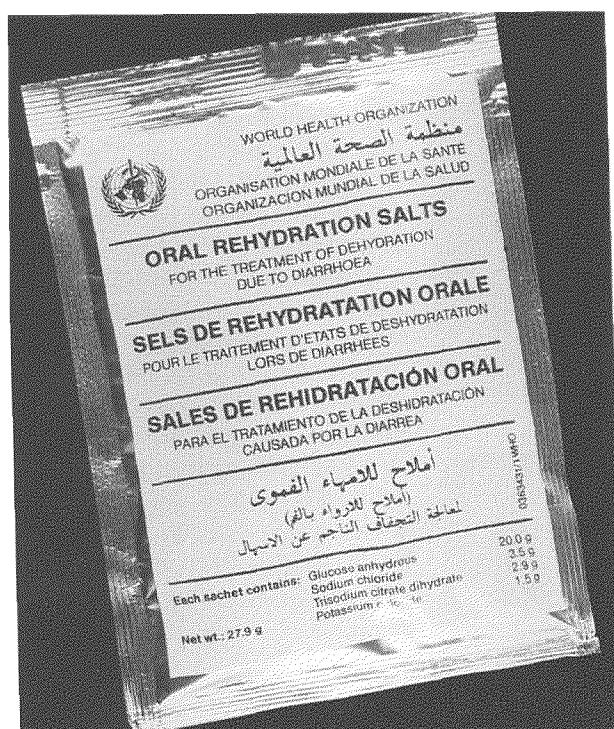
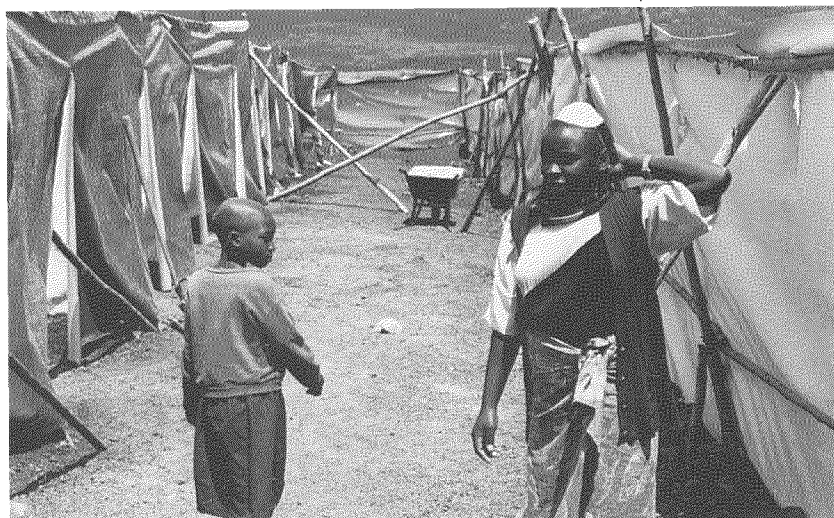


A WHO epidemiologist has been working in Ngara since June 1994, where he established a sentinel station to monitor health conditions in refugee camps and across the border in Rwanda.



Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) for the treatment of dehydration due to diarrhoea, developed in the early 1970s, is estimated by WHO to save the lives of approximately 1 million infants and children every year around the globe. (WHO)



Goma, Zaire (September 1994). Communal defecation site for refugees in Kibumba camp I. (WHO)

Since November 1994 another epidemiologist and supporting staff have participated in cholera prevention and control activities in Benaco camp, in addition to offering technical support in the areas of prevention and control of tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS, as well as in family planning. WHO has also cooperated with district medical officers in Ngara and Karagwe in strengthening national capacities.

Zaire

The WHO team developed close collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF, local Zairian health authorities and with medical teams from the French Army (from July to August 1994) and with the Japanese Army (from September to December 1994). During the initial crisis, from July to August 1994 as a result of the exodus of Rwandese into eastern Zaire, the team made a major contribution to epidemiological surveillance, including development of therapeutic protocols for cholera, dysentery and meningitis and daily collection and analysis of data, especially on cholera, dysentery and meningitis. It also participated in the coordination of activities of nongovernmental organizations providing health care in the camps.

During the last four months of 1994, when the acute crisis was over, WHO organized a disinfection campaign in collaboration with the Japanese team to rid the camps of flies, mosquitos and lice. It also provided technical advice to UNICEF in strategies for the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI); support to UNHCR for medical coordination of control of tuberculosis, AIDS, diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections; and training courses for local health workers and staff of nongovernmental organizations.

Since September 1994 an epidemiologist has been posted on a long-term basis in southern Kivu to ensure epidemiological surveillance and to advise on changes to be introduced in the health services.

(For more information on emergency and humanitarian activities in Africa, see Chapter 5.)