

# **ZAMBIA: ZAIRIAN REFUGEES**

4 March 1997

Information Bulletin No. 1

## ***The Context***

As a result of the rebel insurgency in Zaire increasing numbers of refugees have been crossing the border into Zambia. The total number of refugees registered by the Government as at 15 February was 3,400.

The majority of refugees are arriving by boat/barge at Mpulungu, the main port in Zambia on lake Tanganyika, (some 1,700 as at 15 February). A small number of Rwandan and Burundians have arrived but the vast majority are Zairian nationals. Preliminary surveys indicate that the arrivals represent a mixture of refugees and displaced Zairians in transit. Refugees are initially accommodated in a community centre which can hold 200 people.

Other refugees are crossing the border at many places from Zaire, into both Northern and Luapula Provinces. The initial Government policy has been to register and screen arrivals at the place of entry, and then transport them to a transit centre at Natende. They were then sent by road to the Government run refugee settlement at Maheba, in North Western Province. About 500 refugees have been resettled, but this practice has been suspended and is being reconsidered by the Government due to logistics difficulties and, most importantly, the cost: a reported USD8,000 so far.

Refugees are generally in good health and adequately nourished. On arrival they are screened for health, including children's nutritional status (weight for height) by Government health officers, assisted by ZRC (Zambian Red Cross) volunteers. Emergency medical supplies have been brought in for a population of 10,000, just in case an outbreak of cholera occurs. The standard WHO medical kit to cover 10,000 has also been pre-positioned. Twenty-two refugee deaths have been reported since October.

## ***The Response so far***

### **Government •**

The Government is responsible for the screening and registration of refugees at arrival points, with ZRC assistance, and for medical services through the established system. It is assisted by ZRC in monitoring numbers through the ZRC radio network. For security reasons, the Government is not consider incorporating refugees within the Zambian community. It recently

posted additional immigration officers to the area to deal with registration of a surge of new arrivals.

#### **Red Cross •**

Under a temporary agreement with UNHCR the ZRC agreed to establish and manage immediate reception centres with the Ministry of Home Affairs, including emergency food, water and sanitation, transport to the transit camp and monitoring of arrivals through its branch network: ZRC has strong membership in Kasama, Mbala, Mporokoso and Mpulungu in Northern Province, and Manasa, Nchilange and Mwense in Luapula Province.

The ZRC has been providing transport to the transit camp and camp services there (food distribution, water and sanitation, tracing), with the Government arranging transport to the refugee settlement and services thereafter.

The ZRC was able to cope well with the small numbers, and low rate of arrival of refugees until the start of February, 1997.

However, using just the branch structure and relying on volunteers is insufficient to allow ZRC to cope with increased numbers with the sudden arrival of hundreds of refugees at a time at the port of Mpulungu. In addition, most refugees who come by land are arriving at Nsumbu and Kaputa in Luapula Province, where the ZRC has a very weak presence.

Accordingly, the Regional Head of Delegation visited Zambia for planning meetings with the ZRC and UNHCR on 23rd to 25th February, accompanied by the Regional Water and Sanitation Delegate, who proceeded up-country to assess the situation with the Head of Programmes of the ZRC.

ZRC/Federation has decided to concentrate on camp services, using a contingency planning figure of 20,000 and covering distribution of food and non-food items (cooking utensils, blankets, emergency shelter materials of plastic sheeting, poles and tents, firewood), management of water and sanitation services (with installation if necessary) and tracing.

#### **Other Agencies •**

UNHCR is responsible for providing relief supplies, including food until registered numbers exceed 5,000 when this will go to WFP. Difficulties exist in the country if refugee numbers become large due to the severe shortage of transport, absence of food stockpiles and generally poor infrastructure.

Temporary medical cover is being provided by MSF. Irish Aid have agreed to assist the local Government with installation/ upgrading of water and sanitation facilities. Concern and Oxfam have also offered to assist if refugees enter areas where they are already working.

### ***Needs to be met***

The National Society's assessment will be complemented by the latest report of the Regional Water and Sanitation Delegate. To date, assessments undertaken by the Government/UNHCR/ZRC report that the general states of nutrition and health are satisfactory.

Immediate needs are for basic shelter, food, water and sanitation for current refugees, and in preparation for further arrivals (up to 20,000).

A Federation Relief Delegate is required immediately. This will be for a maximum of six months - depending on developments - with the main role to assist in the establishment of camp infrastructure, services, management structure and systems. If recruitment is delayed, the RD will try to identify temporary local cover.

The ZRC has been given a Toyota Landcruiser for the operation by the UNHCR. This will be used as a pool vehicle, based in the refugee transit camp. There is need for another two 4x4 vehicles for the Project Manager and Relief Delegate. These vehicles, with donors consent, will be transferred from the now-completed 1995/6 drought programme. One motorbike is needed for use in the camps, with provision for another as numbers increase.

The ZRC needs strengthening to increase its capacity to cope, and to concentrate on defined activities which can be managed and supervised. The urgent need is to establish a project infrastructure and staffing to provide camp services.

## ***Red Cross objectives***

- In co-ordination with Government, UNHCR and other agencies, to establish effective camp services in the transit/refugee camp at Natende, or wherever the Government decides, for up to 20,000 persons, including managing water and sanitation services, distribution of food and non-food items, health monitoring, and tracing.
- To closely monitor the situation through co-operation with other agencies as well as the Red Cross branches and prepare to contingency plans for ZRC's role and contribution in any future, large influx of refugees.

## ***Plan of Action***

Supplies of plastic sheeting, tents, household utensils and blankets will be procured in-country as far as possible.

UNHCR/ WFP will be responsible for provision of food. They will also, with the Government, be responsible for transport, both of refugees and of food.

If not installed by other agencies in time, the ZRC will install appropriate water and sanitation facilities for the expected numbers of refugees (10,000 to start, with contingency to increase coverage as necessary).

As far as possible, relief supplies will be delivered directly to Natende (or other final destination). If this is not possible, transport will be sub-contracted or by ZRC lorry, with costs for specific delivery journeys reimbursed to the ZRC.

Transport from the capital, Lusaka to Natende is by tarred road in reasonable condition, which takes up to eight hours. Thereafter, roads are either dirt or hardtop in poor condition.

Distribution will be made directly to refugee families by volunteers, under the supervision of temporarily-hired National Society staff. Only Government-registered families in the camp/transit centre will be supplied. Supplies will be signed for by beneficiaries and full records kept in respect of dates, recipients, cross reference with registration numbers, type and amounts of items, etc.

Day-to-day management will be by the Project Officer who will report to the ZRC's Head of Programmes. S/he will be responsible for local liaison/co-ordination with UNHCR and other agencies, and with ZRC branches for volunteer recruitment and mobilisation.

The Relief Delegate will be a counterpart to the ZRC Head of Programmes, but based in the field most of the time to support and train temporary staff in the introduction and use of effective management systems and camp procedures. S/he will take an active supporting role in contingency planning and liaison with local Government and other agencies, and in supporting efficient reporting and control of resources.

Funding, cash transfers and accounting will be through the standard Federation working advance system; procurement, reporting and evaluation arrangements will be co-ordinated through the RD with the assistance of its country-based Relief Delegate. The project will have a finance officer and secretary for administrative support.

Funding for this operation will at first be ensured through the Great lakes Operation.

A project agreement will be negotiated and agreed between the Federation and the ZRC for this operation. A final evaluation of the project will be planned and organised jointly by the Regional Delegation and the National Society at the end of the operation.

## ***Budget***

See attached.

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## BUDGET (CHF)

9 months from 1/4/1997 for total of 20,000 refugees

### 1. SUPPLIES

Plastic Sheeting:	200 rolls of 100m @ 50	10,000
Blankets:	4,000 @ 10	40,000
Tents:	200 @ 300	60,000
Clothing:		5,000
Health Education Materials:		<u>1,500</u>
	Sub-total	116,500

### 2. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Motorbikes:	2 @ 2,500	5,000
Laptop Computer & Printer:		3,000
Generator:		1,500
Office Furniture:		1,000
Water & Sanitation Facilities:		<u>10,000</u>
	Sub-total	20,500

### 3. TRANSPORT

Fuel		
3, 4x4 Vehicles:		6,000
2 Motorbikes:		900
Maintenance		
3, 4x4 Vehicles:		8,100
2 Motorbikes:		1,800
Insurance, Tax, Registration, etc.:		<u>2,000</u>
	Sub-total	18,800

### 4. PERSONNEL EXPENSES

Delegate:		60,000
Project Officer:		3,600
Other Officers:		13,500
Administration Support:		11,250
Drivers:		3,150
Cleaner/ Guards:		6,750
Volunteers Lunch Allowance:		31,500
Volunteer and Staff Insurance:		<u>3,000</u>
	Sub-total	132,750

### 5. ADMINISTRATION

Stationery:		1,800
Stores & Office Hire:		4,500

Services:		2,700
Evaluation, Audit:		<u>3,000</u>
	Sub-total	12,000
<u>Support from Regional Delegation</u>		21,000
<u>Support from Secretariat</u>		9,000
<b>TOTAL SOUGHT (CHF)</b>		<b>330,550</b>