

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP**  
**14 JUNE 1994**

**SITUATION IN ZAIRE - BRIEFING NOTE**

**PROGRAMME AND ITINERARY**

The team, consisting of Messrs. Alan Simmance, Trevor Page and Adama Guindo, started work on Monday, 6 June 1994 with an initial meeting with the Resident Coordinator and members of his staff. The Terms of Reference for the team were finalized and agreed at this meeting (refer Appendix I).

On Tuesday, 7 June 1994 : the team met jointly with representatives of UN Agencies namely UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, WHO, UNHCR and WFP, followed by a series of individual follow-up meetings with agency representatives. All these agencies were also present at a meeting convened by the Resident Coordinator and representatives of donor governments and NGO's on Thursday, 9 June 1994. The principal donors - the European Union, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom and the United States - were all present as were the main NGO operational partners such as CRS, MSF (Belgium), MSF (France), Oxfam and World Vision. Other participants included the ICRC, IFRC, IOM and the Sovereign Order of Malta (whose representative in Zaire has also been separately interviewed).

The team leaves for a visit to North and South Kivu on Saturday, 11 June 1994 and then to Lubumbashi via Kinshasa on Thursday, 16 June 1994.

In Shaba Province, the team will visit the main centre at Likasi which still harbours displaced persons awaiting transportation to Kasai and will meet UN and NGO staff. It will then proceed to Kasai East and the main displaced person camps at Mbuji-Mayi and Mwene-Ditu, returning to Kinshasa for round-up discussions on Tuesday, 21 June 1994. Messrs. Simmance and Page will depart Zaire on either 23 or 26 June 1994 depending on the mission's progress.

**INITIAL IMPRESSIONS**

It would obviously be premature to attempt to reach any conclusions, however tentative, at this stage but the following initial points may be put on record :

1. The emergency situation has altered considerably since the issue of the consolidated inter-agency appeal in December 1993 and even more since the Inter-Agency Mission of

August/September 1993. For example, the number of the displaced remaining in Shaba Province has been reduced from 135,000 to approximately 75,000 according to one estimate and 57,000 by another. Most of the displaced in West Kasai have been absorbed into local communities, while in North Kivu, the majority of those displaced in early 1993 have returned home. On the other hand, recent tragic events in Rwanda have already begun to add a new dimension in Kivu and may do so dramatically in the days to come. In Kinshasa, despite a continuing high level of economic activity in the informal sector, the number of malnourished children continues to mount. According to the latest MSF (Belgium) nutrition survey there are 70,000 under-5s malnourished in Kinshasa this compares with 50,000 Under-5s in September 1993.

This only serves to emphasise that an emergency response to be appropriate must be immediate; otherwise the situation will have changed.

2. The team has received no information, despite having specifically raised the issue, to suggest there is any other emergency situation in Zaire requiring intervention by the international community other than those already identified in Shaba, Kasai, Kivu and Kinshasa (excluding refugee situations within the mandate of UNHCR).
3. Despite a high level of commitment and dedication, UN agencies in Zaire are not adequately equipped to react comprehensively and effectively in emergencies. The existing coordination structure has been useful and well appreciated but needs to be strengthened, particularly at provincial and operational level.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **DHA MISSION OBJECTIVE**

To re-assess the emergency situation in Zaire.

1. Review the emergency situation in Zaire and, in the light of changing circumstances, to re-assess the conclusions, and recommendations of the 1993 DHA Appeal;
2. Examine the need for a continuation of existing humanitarian assistance programmes and make recommendations for future action.
3. Assess the capacity of the UN system to :
  - (i) respond to emergencies;
  - (ii) coordinate assistance activities; and
  - (iii) undertake contingency planning to meet anticipated emergency needs. Propose an appropriate mechanism for the coordination of humanitarian assistance activities.