

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

14 JUNE 1994

SITUATION IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA - BRIEFING NOTE

Structure relating to infrastructural works of rehabilitation and reconstruction in the former Yugoslavia

Recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina may allow the international community to move at an early stage out of the emergency relief phase and into rehabilitation and reconstruction activities which will ensure peace and stability in the longer-term. Although the humanitarian emergency crisis is not at all over, efforts, whenever conditions permit, to restore normal conditions of life for the civilian population must be encouraged. This phase will include inputs from a range of actors including governments, international financial institutions, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and others. It will involve the provision of large scale financial and material resources.

In this context, various initiatives are under way by governments, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. This situation calls for a systematic and integrated approach so as to maximize results and avoid duplication. It is useful, at this juncture, to identify relevant entities that are currently involved in carrying out or coordinating restoration of essential services and other projects of an infrastructural character in the area of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

1. Since 1992, UNPROFOR civil and military personnel, UN agencies and programmes as well as NGOs operating under the auspices of UNHCR have been actively involved in repair, maintenance, improvement and extension works aimed at ensuring the survival of the population in Bosnia Herzegovina and in Sarajevo in particular. In the framework of the meetings of the High Level Committee on cooperation convened by UNPROFOR during 1993, the parties have reached a series of agreements concerning restoration of the supply of gas, fuel, electricity, water and other essential services.

On March 1 1994, UNPROFOR established an Interim Coordinating Body to act as temporary focal point of various organizations operating in Sarajevo in the restoration of essential services as well as for those offering their assistance henceforth. A comprehensive report has been prepared and channelled to the newly appointed Special Coordinator for Sarajevo.

2. As a result of a meeting of the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group at the technical level in September 1993, the International Management Group was established under UNHCR's umbrella. This group consists of experts appointed by the European Union or seconded by countries that are among the main contributors to assistance efforts in former Yugoslavia. The group has several field offices in Bosnia. Its present task is to gather information, prioritize needs, mobilize resources and coordinate international action in the fields of shelter, infrastructure and energy. The group is mainly funded by the European Union (ECHO), which also has provided a 10 million ECU line for projects recommended by IMG-IBH. The group could play a useful role as an advisory body, especially since it would be part of the different structures, i.e., Sarajevo (UN) Mostar (EU) and the remaining part of B.H. The main problem remains the institutional framework under which it should operate.

3. Security Council resolution 900 (1994) calls for the appointment in Sarajevo of a Special Coordinator : Mr. Eagleton (US). He is responsible for coordinating initial efforts for restoration projects. The Special Coordinator prepared a Plan of Action for Sarajevo in close consultation with the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all relevant local authorities, presented to donors at a Vienna Conference on 24 - 25 May. A possible pledging conference may be organized in New York in late June.

The Action Plan requested the international community to contribute a total of £532 million to restore essential services to the city - to provide running water, electricity and gas for heating and cooking, to revive public transportation, to repair schools and hospitals and to restore communication links to the outside world.

An ad-hoc mechanism of coordination will be set up. Following a bottom up approach, seven Action Groups have already been designated, each responsible for one or more of the 14 essential sectors :

Electricity	Public Transport	Telecommunications
Water	Airport	Public Health
Gas	Railways	Education
Solid Waste	Roads and Bridges	Housing
Urbanism	Essential Production	

Each group is chaired by a full-time manager, member of the Eagleton office.

UN agencies, major NGOs, experts from UNPROFOR and experts from the Governments and interested parties are represented in this action group. These action

groups are not implementors. They established priority projects to be financed by multi/bilateral funds. These action groups will report to a Coordination Committee on their activities and problems. The Coordination Committee will ensure that work is not duplicated, that resources are mobilized as efficiently as possible, and that local authorities are properly involved in the process.

This information will be incorporated in a fortnight document to be distributed to all interested parties to explain what is being done and where they can best fit.

At the international level, an Advisory Committee will be set up to receive the report, from the Coordination Committee and sustain the rehabilitation programmes. It will be formed of donors and agencies.

4. UNDP is studying the situation in former Yugoslavia with a view to identifying its role in the post conflict environment. It appears that UNDP is considering the designation of a resident coordinator for the entire area of the former Yugoslavia.
5. Following an inter-agency mission, UNHCR and DHA jointly launched a Consolidated Appeal for a total amount of \$532 million (July - December 1994). This fund will be devoted mainly to on-going humanitarian emergency programmes.

Duplication of work between this Consolidated Appeal and the Action Plan for Sarajevo will be avoided by a total transparency of action.