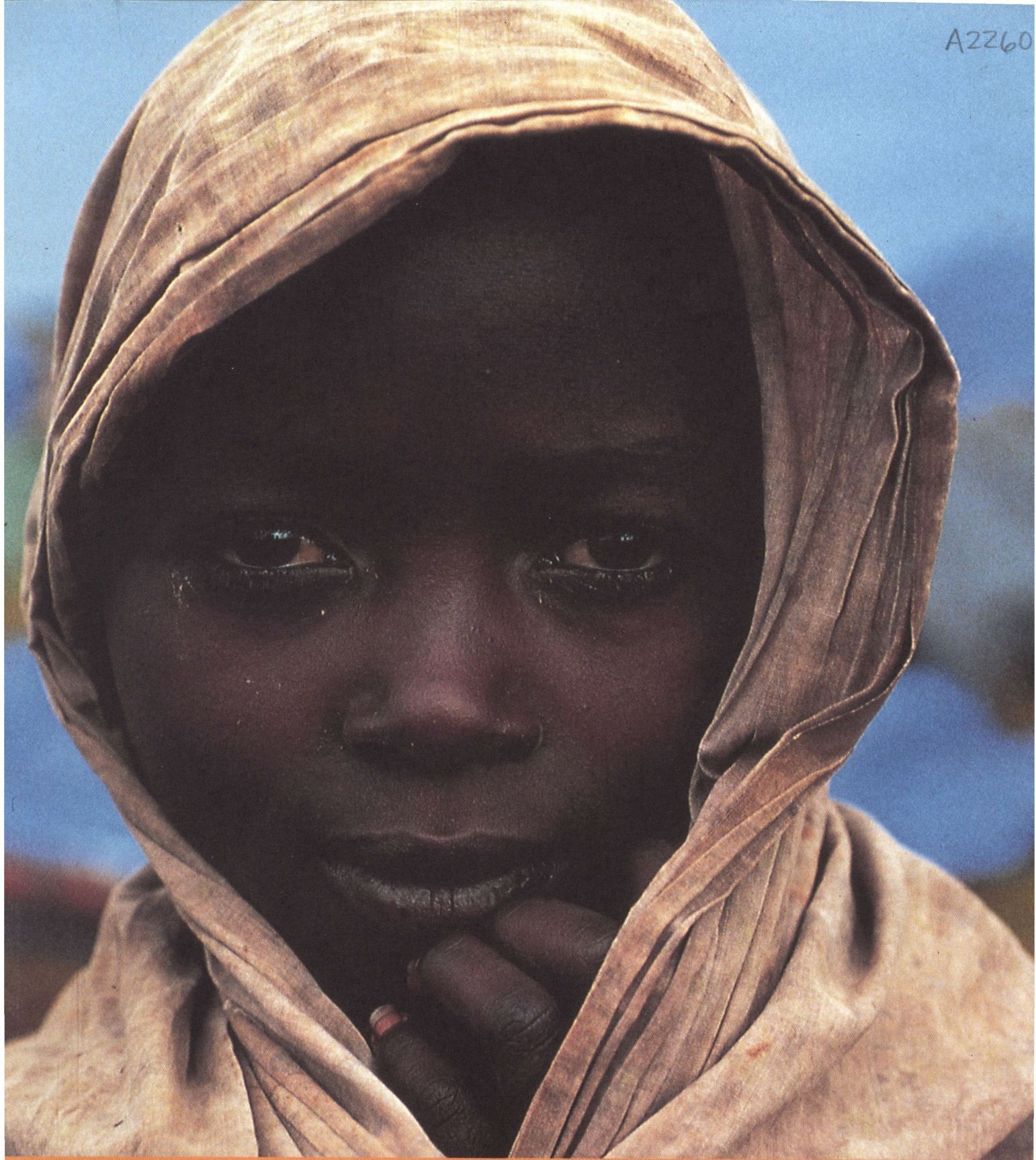


A2260



CEE: VIII/57

EMERGENCY AID

Published by Save the Children with support from ECHO, European Community Humanitarian Office, November 1995

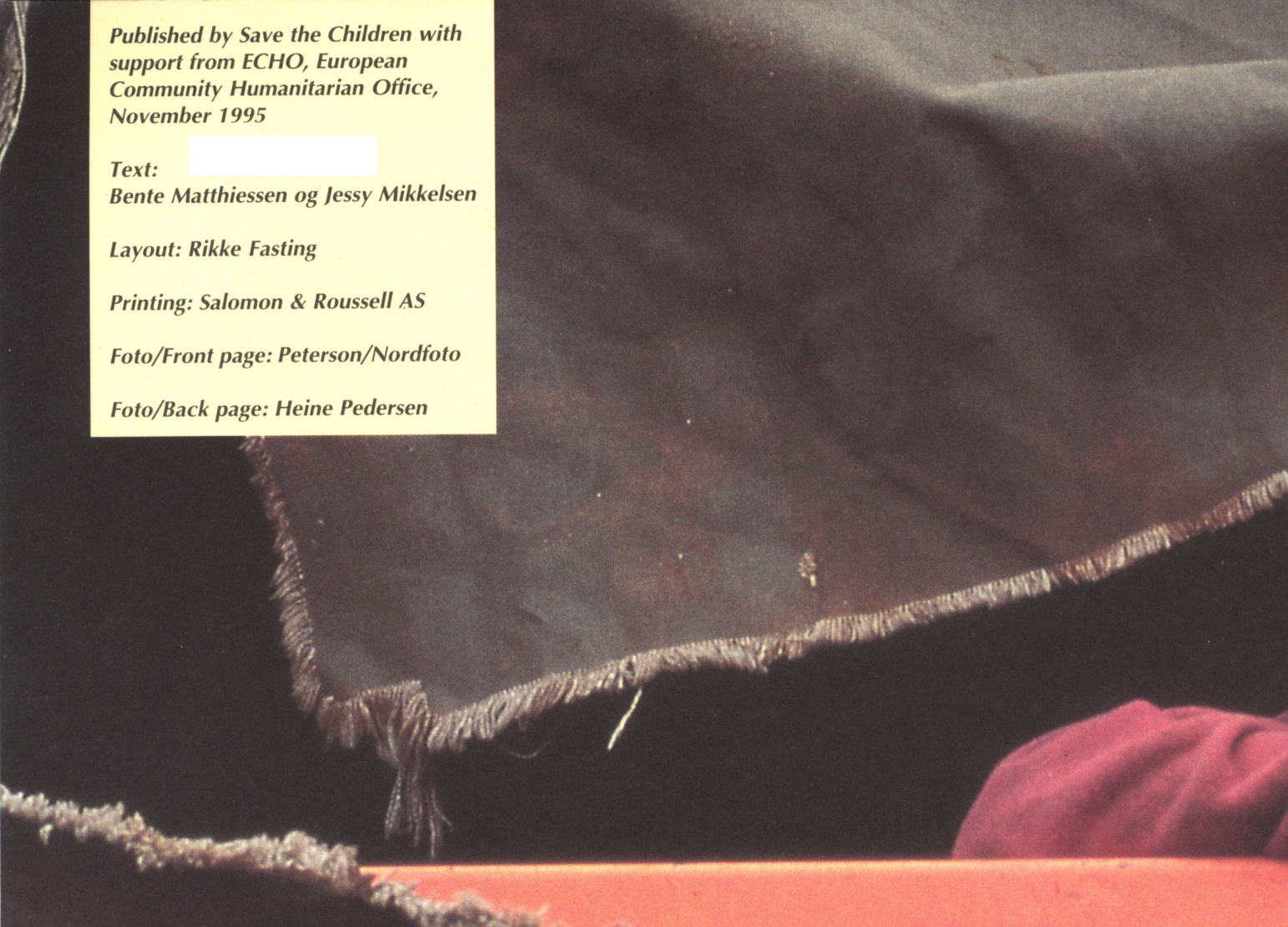
Text: [REDACTED]
Bente Matthiessen og Jessy Mikkelsen

Layout: Rikke Fasting

Printing: Salomon & Roussell AS

Foto/Front page: Peterson/Nordfoto

Foto/Back page: Heine Pedersen



Save the Children and ECHO in Emergency Aid Areas

The phrase emergency aid is often used when an immediate aid effort is particularly urgent. For example, when a lot of people are in acute life-threatening danger as a result of epidemics, famine, war, floods, drought, earthquakes, hurricanes or similar catastrophes.

At Save the Children, we also consider an aid effort to be emergency aid if the aid is aimed at relieving inhumane conditions, even if the victims are not in acute danger.

Save the Children helps anywhere where help is urgently needed. A distinction is made between development programmes and emergency aid programmes. These two concepts are linked, because in practice emergency aid is often followed by development aid.

This booklet reports on three areas which receive or have received emergency aid from Save the Children. The areas are in different parts of the world with different cultures.

The examples differ in many ways. Differing needs are involved, and, of course, the emergency aid varies according to the needs.

But, sadly, the examples have one thing in common: the problems are man-made. It is not nature, but man who is the direct cause of the tragedies.



Photo: C. Steele/Magnum Photos

Save the Children and ECHO (European Community Humanitarian Office) have worked as partners since 1992, when the co-operation concerning relief aid to the former Yugoslavia started. Save the Children bought and supplied relief aid packs, and ECHO was in charge of the distribution. Since then, the co-operation has been extended, and now includes emergency aid operations in other places amongst which are Kirghizia, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Save the Children is getting involved in more and more emergency aid operations designed to relieve man-made catastrophes. The examples in this booklet are just a few among many.

The emergency aid to the former Yugoslavia is conventional survival aid. The civilian population is being provided with the basic necessities for living, mostly in the form of food.

The emergency aid to Rwanda is first and foremost help in reuniting families. Before they can return to a normal existence, children first have to be reunited with their families. Aid given to institutional children in Kirghizia is also a form of emergency humanitarian aid. The children are not faced with immediate life-threatening danger, but they are living in conditions which are far from decent. They are in need of aid.

...Emergency aid.

Children in war zones



Photo: Jonas Lindqvist/Pressens Bild

It can be difficult, if not impossible, for us in Denmark to comprehend how political situations in other parts of the world can develop so disastrously that the disputes lead to war or civil war.

Unfortunately, it is often the case today that we are witness to situations around the world, even in the western world, which escalate irretrievably into armed conflict. We can see how situations are deteriorating all over the world, but as passive television viewers (spectators) we cannot do anything about it.

What we can do is to prepare a massive emergency aid effort so we are ready when war comes. Ready to help. To help the victims of the horrors of war. The innocent victims. First and foremost the children.

Photo: Zaire/Press



The former Yugoslavia



The civil war in the former Yugoslavia is one of the most unpleasant chapters in recent European history. The war has led to months-long sieges of towns, shelling of a hungry and freezing civilian population without electricity, gas or water, hospitals without medicine, etc. Several million people have been displaced.

Save the Children got involved in the relief work in 1992. Amongst other things, the aid has included transporting injured children out of the war zone for treatment in Danish ho-

spitals, and supplying clothing and baby care products for babies and young children.

First and foremost, Save the Children has produced and supplied family packs because it was recognised that supporting the whole family gives the children the best protection against the terrors of civil war.

The relief aid operations were carried

out in co-operation with ECHO, which was in charge of the distribution of the packs.

The family packs contained both hygiene products and food. The food combination was adapted to the nutritional requirements of the children.

Between 1992 and 1994 more than two million family packs were delivered to families in Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia, which makes this Save the Children's most extensive operation to date.

Photo: Unicef

Family pack

A typical Save the Children family pack contains: 2 litres of edible oil, 250 grams of dried yeast, 2 kilos of feta cheese, 4 kilos of tinned meat, 1 kilo of milk powder, 2 kilos of sugar, 500 grams of soap, 500 grams of powdered orange juice, 1 kilo of raisins, 1.3 kilos of margarine and 250 grams of chocolate drink powder.

The contents of one family pack can last a family of three for 2-4 weeks as long as there is a separate supply of flour, rice, beans or something similar. The pack protects the family from starvation for a period.

At the same time, like all other emergency aid, it is a sign of hope. The war's victims have not been forgotten. An international relief effort is under way, a relief effort which can encourage faith in a normal existence in the future.

If possible, Save the Children tries to strengthen hope by, for example, supplying toys for the children along with the emergency aid.



milk powder
chocolate drink
raisins
margarine
soap
tinned meat
powdered juice
yeast
feta cheese
edible oil

Displaced children

The UN High Commission for Refugees in Geneva estimates that there are around 49 million displaced people in the world (1994).

A distinction is made between refugees (who have left their homeland) and the internally displaced (who have been displaced within their own country).

There are around 23 million refugees and around 26 million

internally displaced people in the world. More than half of these people are children!

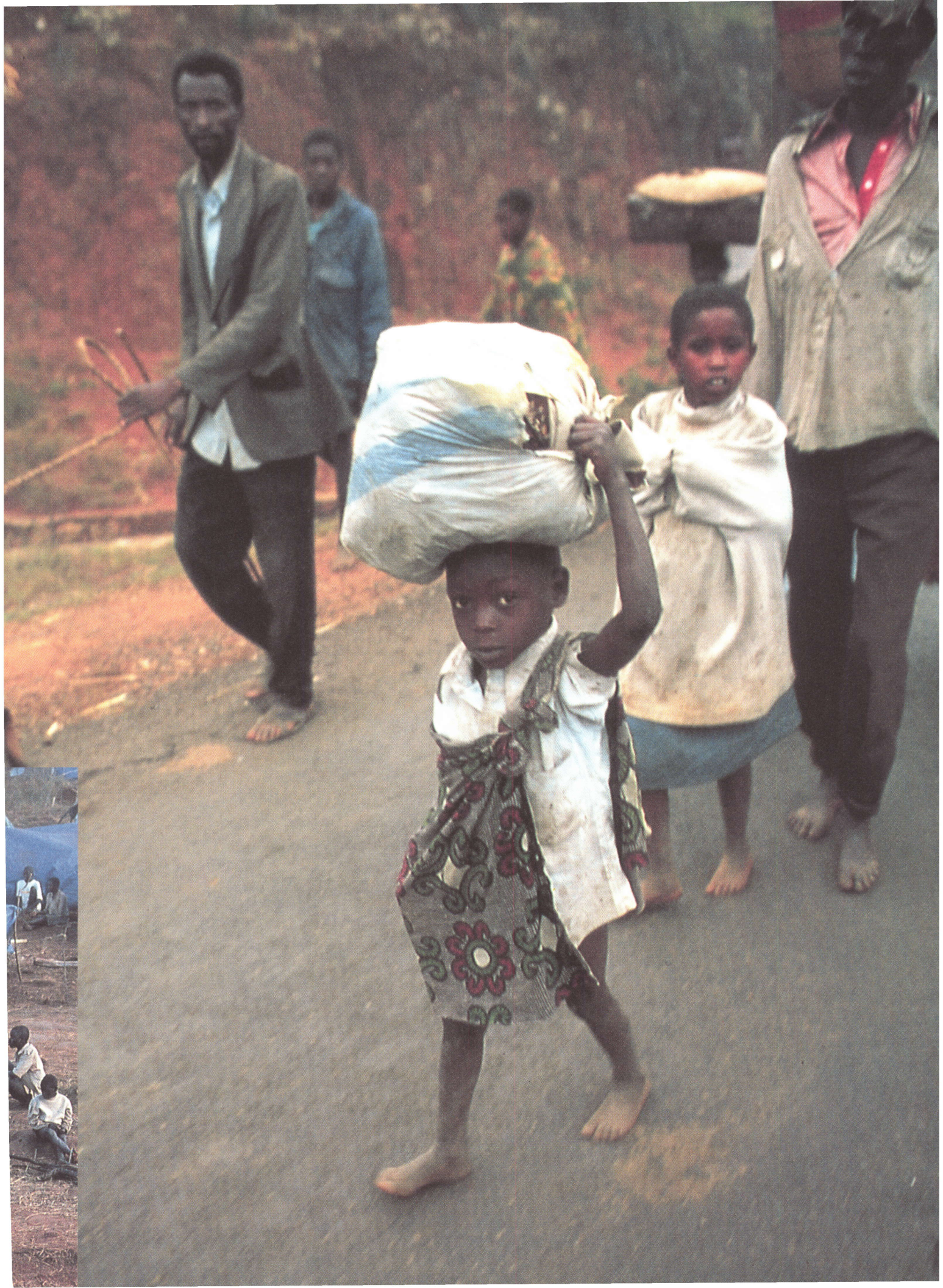
A very large proportion of the displaced children in the world, live in Africa, a continent which to an alarming degree is the stage for both war and famine.

A large proportion of the children are orphans. Many have been separated from their families while fleeing and live in uncertainty about the fate of their parents and siblings.

Sudan, Mozambique, Somalia and Ethiopia are among the African countries which receive or have received emergency aid from Save the Children. The aid goes both to refugees and to internally displaced children. Save the Children provides food and medicine, but it also helps to reunite split families. This too is important, not least for the children.

Photo: Mark Peters





Rwanda

In the summer of 1994, the civil war in Rwanda had the character of an orchestrated genocide. The war's terrors led to an enormous flood of refugees into the neighbouring countries. Save the Children's emergency aid consisted at first of tarpaulins which could provide shelter for the refugees in the rainy season.

After that, the effort was concentrated on around 100,000 children who were orphaned or separated from their families during their flight from the country.

Save the Children is trying to trace the parents of these children at the same time as finding permanent solutions for the children whose parents have been killed.

In Rwanda, Save the Children found that many children, especially young girls, suffered serious traumas after having witnessed the annihilation of their families. Save the Children is therefore also giving high priority to work of a social and psychological nature for these children.



Photo: Nordfoto

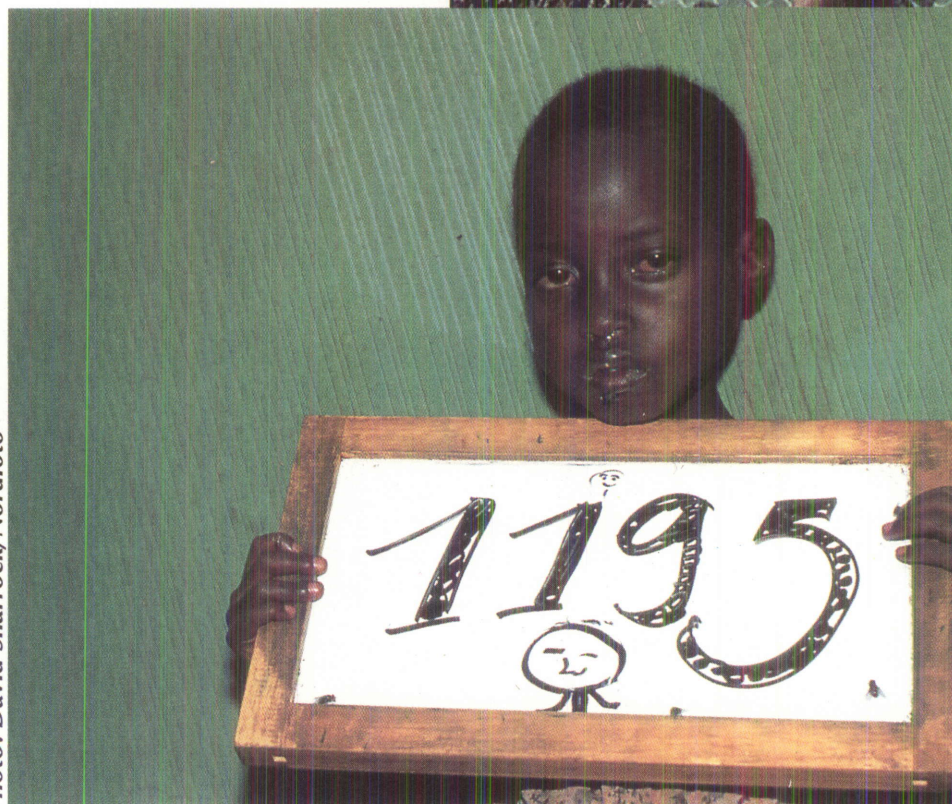
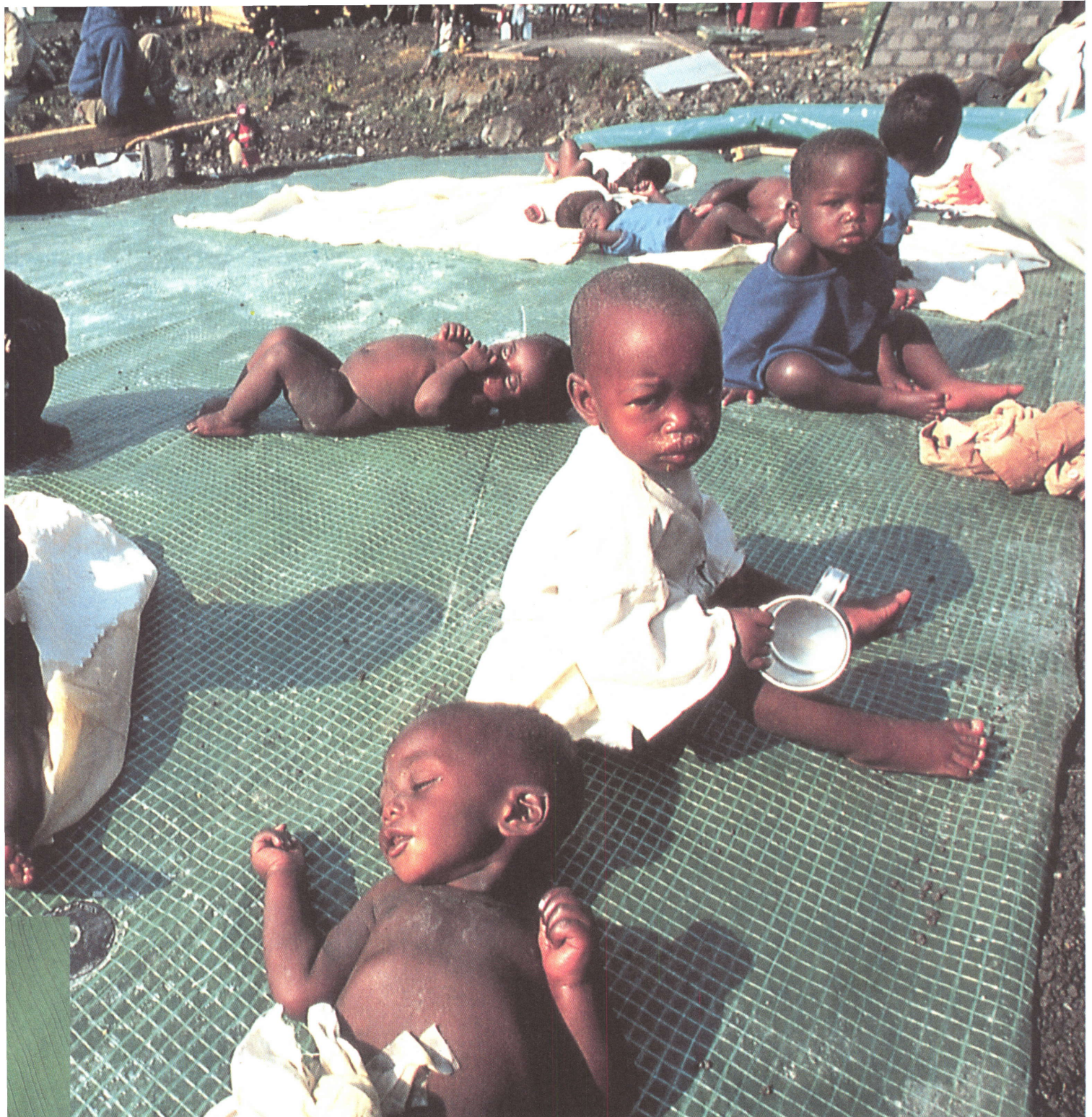


Photo: David Sharrock/Nordfoto



A health worker and co-ordinator has been sent out by Save the Children to help find the the families of many unaccompanied children.

Institutionalised children

The breakdown of the political systems in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union at the end of the 1980s created chaotic conditions in many of those countries. The result was several armed conflicts, growing poverty, shortages of goods and shortages of food.

At the same time, it has become apparent how wretched the conditions were, and are, for the weakest members of society, such as institutionalised children, who in many cases still live in inhumane conditions.

Save the Children sees it as a major task of emergency aid to improve the conditions for these children. For many years, aid was directed at the countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union which are closest to us.

Save the Children was deeply involved in improving conditions for institutionalised children in Romania at the beginning of the 1990s. During the course of 1994, aid was extended even further, when Georgia and Kirghizia became the destination of Save the Children's emergency aid work for institutionalised children.



Photo: Charlotte Bøgh

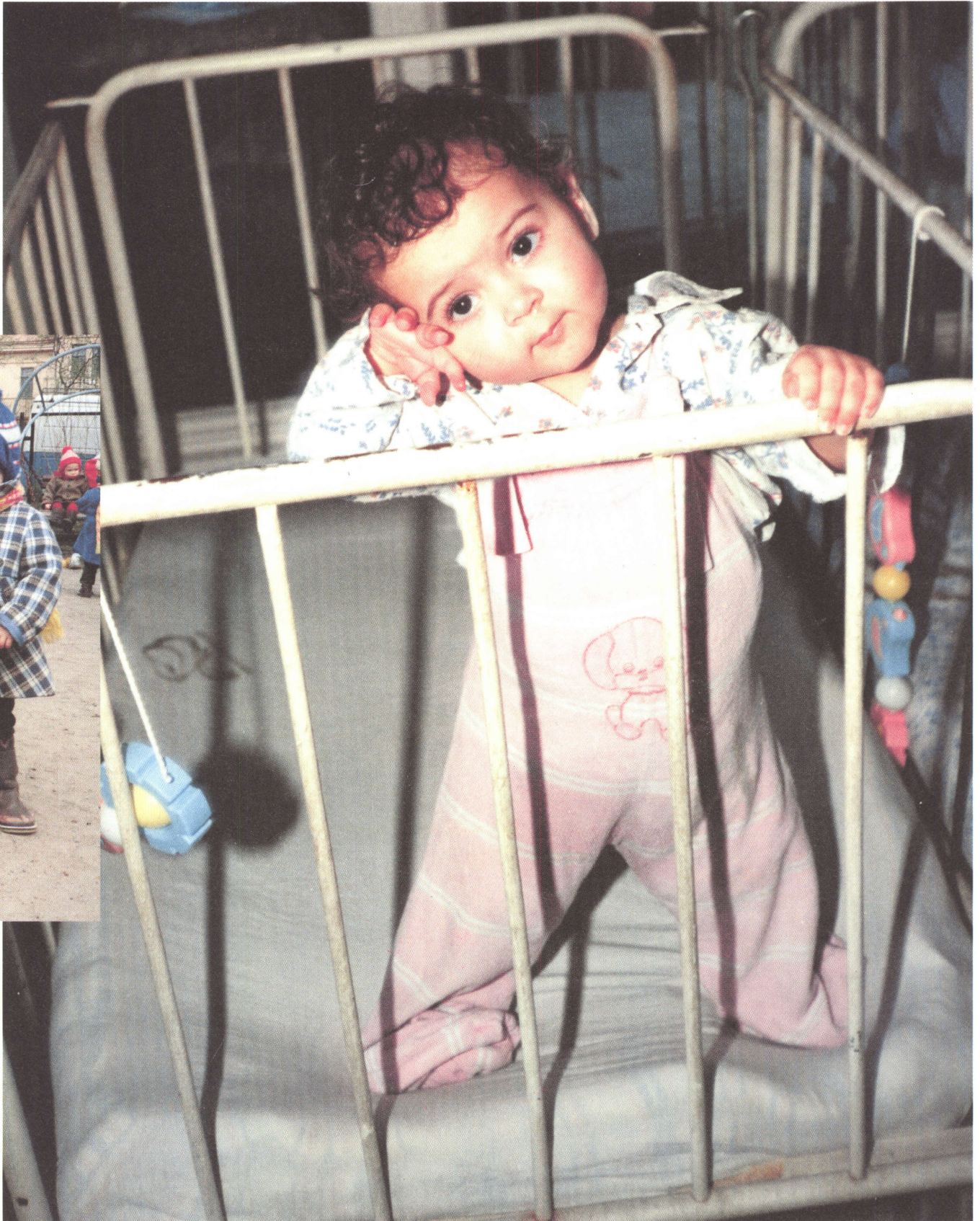


Photo: Hanne Jensbo

Kirghizia

The institutional buildings in Kirghizia are characterised by decay. They are not heated in winter and have not been maintained for years, so water gets in through holes in the roof and the brickwork. The hygiene standards are catastrophic. The children's nutritional condition is bad and they lack clothing and shoes, especially for the cold winters.

As in other former Soviet republics, nothing is done to look after the weakest children, such as the seriously mentally disabled and bedridden children.

Save the Children got involved in the emergency aid work in 1994. Initially, second-hand clothes were collected for institutions in far-flung parts of the country. The demand soon proved to be so large that a massive effort was started with the aim of taking emergency aid to all residential institutions in Kirghizia.

In this way, it was actually possible to care for all of the approximately 2,300 institutionalised children in the country. The emergency aid consisted of winter clothing, soap, disinfectants, vitamins, milk powder and protein biscuits.



Photo: Charlotte Bøgh



Photo: Charlotte Bøgh



Photo: Charlotte Bøgh

Financing

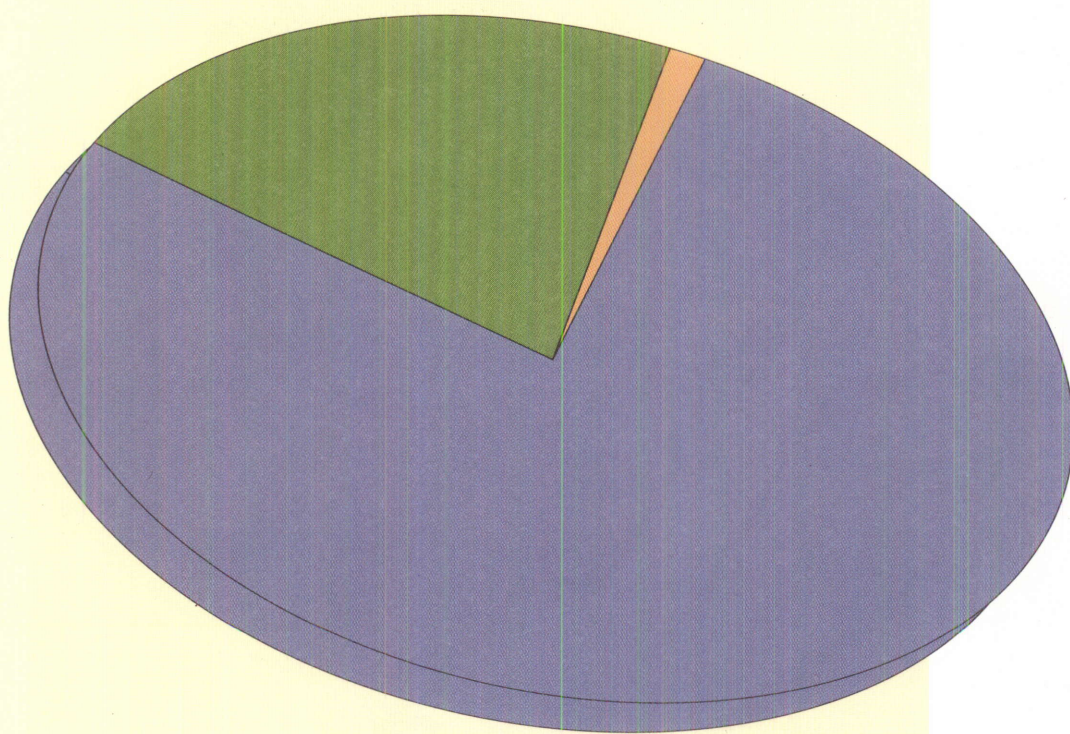
Relief aid work demands major economic resources. It is necessary to buy clothes, medicine and food, which have to be transported to the emergency area. The relief aid workers must be paid too.

It takes an effective administration to plan an emergency operation. However, Red Barnet

and Echo in principle seek to minimize this expense. Consequently, the administration expenses amounted to 3 % in 1994.

Ever several years, Save the Children has provided more than DKK 500,000,000 of emergency aid. This is a large sum, larger than it would be

possible for an humanitarian aid organisation to collect in Denmark. Even though Save the Children is supported by around 50,000 Danes, who give the organisation generous financial backing, the emergency aid activities could not be maintained without support from the Danish state and the European Union (EU).



Out of Save the Children's expenditure of DKK 180 million in 1993, DKK 141 million was used for emergency aid.

The financing of Save the Children's emergency aid work in 1994 came mainly from ECHO (78%) and DANIDA (21%).

EU (ECHO): 78 %

Foreign Ministry (DANIDA): 21 %

Collected funds: 1 %

The former Yugoslavia

In 1992-94, Save the Children spent DKK 450 million on emergency aid work in the former Yugoslavia alone.

Besides forming part of the co-operation involving the delivery of family packets, ECHO has also been the authority which has covered the majority of the costs in connection with the emergency aid operations.

With such massive help for the former Yugoslavia (and for Eastern Europe in general), the EU demonstrates an important economic and humanitarian commitment.

This is an important sign to Save the Children, for whom an overriding consideration was that the emergency aid to the former Yugoslavia should be financed by EU funds in order to maintain joint European responsibility.

Naturally, the Danish state also contributes to the aid work. This is important because Denmark maintains the balance between the very large need for support for developing countries and the immediate emergency aid for Eastern Europe.



Photo: Charlotte Bøgh

Kirghizia

The total costs covering the supply of winter relief aid for all institutional children in Kirghizia amounted to DKK 3,374,250 in 1994.

ECHO funded the main part of the costs, namely DKK 3,343,050. The remaining amount was obtained through collections arranged by Save the Children.

Rwanda

As a basis for Save the Children's work in Rwanda, the organization arranged a large scale collection campaign, "Save the Children in Rwanda". On 3 December 1994, the campaign culminated in "Cirkusbygningen" in Copenhagen, where a long list of Danish artists performed in a show for the benefit of the collection. The campaign brought in DKK 4,095,330, which will be used in the work for recreating safe and normal settings for the war-stricken children. Moreover, Save the Children got DKK 5,000,000 from DANIDA.

Photo: Iben Danielsen



Epilogue

There will always be areas in the world where there is a need for emergency aid. When emergency situations arise, it is necessary that a quick relief effort with the most basic requirements is granted. But after this it is important to start a rehabilitation of the area and to start long-term development activities, otherwise there is a risk that the development in the country will stop. Therefore Save the Children has an objective that emergency aid operations are followed up by programs for rehabilitation and development.

In this way, Save the Children has established 34 nursery schools, in the former Yugoslavia. The aim has been to create a safe setting with warmth, play, security and predictability in order to give the children a chance to be in control of their own life, which have been severely marked by the civil war.

The nursery schools form a setting where children can feel free and provide the normality of everyday life as much as possible. At the same time Save the Children carries out emergency aid activities in the former Yugoslavia, where the



Photo: Unicef

need is still very critical. Among others, emergency aid goes to the children in the nursery schools.

Save the Children wants to follow up the work in Rwanda, in order to secure a normal life for war-stricken children. Among other things, this is done by finding foster-families for children who have lost their parents and other relatives. Save the Children continuously checks that the children feel well in the new family. Moreover Save the Children offer advice and support to the foster-families in their care for a child who is often marked by experiences connected to the war.

In Kirghizia Save the Children also starts a longer term effort. Two institutions for handicapped children will be esta-

blished. The institutions are supposed to function as models as to how conditions for handicapped children can be considerably improved. The staff is trained in interrelations with the handicapped children, in order to strengthen the children's weak points and give them a meaningful and deserving life.

The leading principle in Save the Children's assistance to the recipients is how to help themselves, and this naturally implies a close co-operation with the local population and local organizations- and institutions. They know their own country and they know what efforts are needed. When Save the Children's task is finished, it is therefore possible for the locals to continue the work themselves. ■

EMERGENCY AID WORKS



 **Red Barnet**

Brogaardsvaenget 4
DK-2820 Gentofte
Tel: (+45) 3968 0888
New address from 1st February 1996:
Rantzausgade 60
DK-2200 Copenhagen N
Tel: (+45) 3536 5555