

Relief, Recovery and Development

The words relief, recovery and development are sometimes used in a way that falsely divides the African crisis into separate parts: the famine is dealt with first, then the recovery, then long-term development. In fact, relief activities must increasingly be used to contribute to recovery and development.

The world is tempted to put this famine behind it, a temptation which must be resisted. As we stated earlier, millions of Africans remain at risk. **Compared with \$1.575 billion provided in 1985, it is estimated that some \$1.4 billion in emergency aid will be needed in 1986: of this, some \$650 million remains to be pledged as of March 1986.** The world must remain alert for any worsening of famine conditions and must be prepared to respond quickly so as to avert a recurrence of mass starvation. Procedures and systems linking government with both UN institutions and the voluntary organizations must be developed so as to ensure early-warning information and emergency preparedness. Particular attention should be paid to the special role played by television in generating a world-wide response to this famine.

It is necessary at the same time to move ahead with the process of recovery. The people of Africa want to resume productive, self-sufficient lives, though this is no easy task. The drought has greatly accelerated the destruction of the environment; whole populations have been displaced from their traditional lands; productive resources — tools, seeds, animals — have vanished. Many of the survivors of the famine, and particularly the children, will bear its scars for the rest of their lives. For there to be any hope of a return to normalcy, African governments and the international community must demonstrate flexibility and responsiveness in supporting the complex process of recovery.



Feeding centre in Sudan