

Chart related to the document «Minutes of the international meeting of the directors of operations and the Rwanda programme managers, 22 June 1995

Indicators	November 1994	December 1994	May 1995
1. Impunity Decision and establishment of an international tribunal	Decision + Establishment —	Decision + Establishment —	Decision + Establishment —
2. Camp control Separation of political leaders Separation of militia and former FAR Training in the camps	Decision — Decision — Activities in the camps	Agreed in principle + Reality — Agreed in principle + Reality — Former FAR leave	Agreed in principle + Reality — Agreed in principle + Reality — Activities outside camps
3. Food aid targeting: Population census Group distribution Family distribution	- Decision + - Reality: —	Decision + Reality —	Decision + Reality + (Feb 95) In part
4. Refugee security International intervention CSZC	Decision —	Decision — Letter of intention +	Decision — Creation and Reality + Mixed results
5. Diversion Registration and pressure	Situation — Thefts nutr centre	Situation — Looting nutr centre	Situation +
6. Direct access populations Human rights sector protection agents	Situation — Reality —	Situation — Reality —	Situation — human rights position created + (Jan 1995)
7. team security General situation (including problems linked to FAZ)	Not targeted Situation + —	not targeted Situation + —	Kibumba targeted Situation + -
8. Press "Go public"	Done	Maintained	Maintained but showing wear
9. Policy Security Council, European Union, States	Done	Maintained	Maintained
10. Coalition : Statement Activities Recognition	Done Under study No	Discussions No	Done Activities but slowed Yes
11. Level of assistance Staff + salaries	Not considered	Discussion of reduction	Staff reduction



 MSF programme



CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1994-1995

The main purpose of this chronology is to help the reader by reconstructing MSF's actions and public statements in regional and international news reports of the period. It is intended as a tool for this specific document, and not as an academic reference.

International	The Great Lakes	MSF
<p>1994</p> <p>18 June France announces it will go to the United Nations Security Council to call for “humanitarian military intervention in Rwanda, to be called “Opération Turquoise” with or without the support of other countries”.</p> <p>22 June Security Council Resolution 929 authorises «Operation Turquoise» under chapter 7 of the UN Charter: “protection of civilian populations and humanitarian aid.”</p> <p>3 July UN authorises France to create “safe humanitarian zone” called the “zone Turquoise” in the south-west of Rwanda (Cyangugu, Gikongoro, Kibuye).</p>	<p>From 6 April Rwanda: Genocide of Rwandan Tutsi and massacre of Rwandan Hutu opposed to the genocide.</p> <p>29 April Tanzania: 170,000 Rwandans fleeing their country arrive in Tanzania and settle at the Benaco site.</p> <p>9 June Tanzania: Manhunt openly witnessed by MSF staff at the Benaco camp.</p> <p>15 June Tanzania: Refugee protest to stop the expulsion of Jean-Baptiste Gatete, known as one of the organisers of the genocide. UNHCR staff taken hostage – Humanitarian staff leave the camp.</p> <p>4 July Rwanda : The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seizes control of Kigali and Butare – mass exodus of Hutu to the north-west (Ruhengeri, Gysenyi) where an interim government is situated.</p>	<p>17 June MSF France Press conference in Paris: “you can’t stop genocide with doctors”. The Benaco refugee camp described as a “humanitarian façade” and a “sanctuary for genocide.”</p> <p>Early July Resignation of MSF Holland’s emergency pool coordinator in Tanzania, Arjo Berkhout.</p> <p>4-10 July: Exploratory mission led by MSF Belgium, MSF France, and MSF Holland in the Zone Turquoise, surrounding Gikongoro: joint MSF France/MSF Holland programme planned; MSF Holland later withdraws.</p>

International	The Great Lakes	MSF
<p>1994</p> <p>20 July The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announces the arrival of 500,000 refugees at border posts in Bukavu and Kamanyola (south Kivu). Airlift set up near Goma.</p> <p>22 July American president Bill Clinton declares it the «worst humanitarian crisis for a generation” and announces a “concrete plan of action.”</p>	<p>6 July Rwanda: Government of national union created.</p> <p>13 July Zaire: Thousands of refugees arrive in Goma.</p> <p>14 July Rwanda: RPF seize control Ruhengeri - Rwandan intermediary government flee to zone Turquoise.</p> <p>14 - 17 July Zaire: Between 500,000 and 800,000 Rwandans settle in and around Goma.</p> <p>16 July Zaire: Withdrawal of Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR) to Goma.</p> <p>19 July Zaire: First cases of cholera reported in Goma.</p> <p>22 July Rwanda: the government calls for the return of the refugees: «those who didn't take part in the massacres have nothing to fear.”</p> <p>24 July Zaire: 80,000 refugees arrive in Bukavu,</p>	<p>15 July MSF Holland and MSF Belgium agree on a joint intervention in Goma - MSF France chooses to remain on standby for Bukavu.</p> <p>18 July MSF Holland's humanitarian affairs department (HAD) sends message to the teams: “We should continue our activities in the camp but at the same time we should continue to press publicly for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.”</p> <p>19 July MSF Belgium Press conference: Call for the refugees to return to Rwanda - MSF Holland takes the same position.</p> <p>22 July MSF Holland announces 10,000 cases of cholera and 800 deaths in Goma – medical needs are covered.</p> <p>24 July Part of the MSF France team based in</p>

International	The Great Lakes	MSF
<p data-bbox="148 293 209 327">1994</p> <p data-bbox="244 584 363 611">21 August</p> <p data-bbox="244 618 635 674">The last French soldiers leave Zone turquoise.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1032 363 1059">25 August</p> <p data-bbox="244 1066 639 1249">UNHCR declares the camps in Zaire to be in a «virtual state of war» as a result of militia and FAR violence against the population, and threats against NGOs. UNHCR no longer supports voluntary repatriation to Rwanda from Goma.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1541 392 1568">6 September</p> <p data-bbox="244 1574 635 1666">RPF begin deploying 2,000 combatants in the towns of Gikongoro, Kibuye and Cyangugu.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1700 392 1727">7 September</p> <p data-bbox="244 1733 635 1825">Human Rights Watch report on Human rights abuses committed by RPF troops in June and July.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1859 445 1886">16-17 September</p> <p data-bbox="244 1892 635 1948">UNAMIR declares more than two million people are displaced within Rwanda.</p>	<p data-bbox="675 712 798 739">22 August</p> <p data-bbox="675 745 1066 837">Tanzania: group of refugees attacked in Benako who were candidates to return to Rwanda.</p> <p data-bbox="675 871 798 898">23 August</p> <p data-bbox="675 904 1066 996">Zaire: Militiamen attack 200 refugees from the Kibumba camp as they prepared to return.</p> <p data-bbox="675 1288 823 1314">2 September</p> <p data-bbox="675 1321 1066 1505">Zaire: Zairian authorities declare they no longer support the ex-Rwandan authorities, and that Rwandan refugees in Zaire have to leave by 30 September. Riots break out in several camps in Zaire.</p>	<p data-bbox="1106 331 1497 387">release: “Rwanda: 3rd exodus confirmed.”</p> <p data-bbox="1106 427 1222 454">19 August</p> <p data-bbox="1106 461 1497 553">MSF Belgium and MSF France Press release: “French troops withdraw from Rwanda leaving chaos behind them.”</p> <p data-bbox="1106 1288 1291 1314">Early September</p> <p data-bbox="1106 1321 1497 1505">Desk managers visiting the field confirmed that MSF France wanted to limit operations to emergency refugee care - MSF France and UNHCR sign a memorandum of understanding until 31 October.</p> <p data-bbox="1106 1859 1278 1886">Mid-September</p> <p data-bbox="1106 1892 1497 2018">MSF France starts running the Kamanyola camp (Zaire- Burundi border) but later evacuates it for security reasons.</p>

International

The Great Lakes

MSF

1994

19 September

UNHCR declares there are 2.1 million Rwandan refugees abroad: 270,000 in Burundi, 500,000 in Tanzania, 1.33 million in Zaire (850,000 in the region of Goma, 450,000 in the region of Bukavu, 30,000 in the region of Uvira).

23 September

UNHCR states it does not encourage Rwandan refugees to return home "based on the reports of violence there" (Gersony report, unreleased) – the United Nations Secretary-General calls for a further inquiry.

24 September

UNAMIR denies having information on the RPF massacres.

27 September

the United Nations Secretary-General demands a halt on all communications on the risks faced by refugees returning to Rwanda.

29 September

UNHCR and the United Nations call for Zairian authorities to restore order in Rwandan refugee camps.

24 September

Operation "Homeward" to repatriate displaced people in Gikongoro, overseen by UNAMIR.

23 et 24 September

The various MSF section coordinators meet in Kigali to analyse the situation in the camps and review MSF's position.

Late September

MSF France starts running the Kabira (Bukavu) camp - MSF France coordinator in Goma call to headquarters: the team was disgusted with the situation in the camps.

30 September

Katale (Goma) camp: scouts assassinated by militiamen – threats against expatriate staff and evacuation of aid organisations (including MSF Holland) at the request of UNHCR - President of MSF France declares at Board meeting "we are going to have to take a position on our presence in the Goma camps."

International

The Great Lakes

MSF

1994

3 October

United Nations Security Council adopts the UN experts Commission, which established that a genocide was committed against Rwandan Tutsi.

21 October

In a Press release UNHCR speaks of its concerns regarding the deteriorating security conditions in refugee camps and denounces the FAR's threatening presence, the leaders grip on the population and the terror inflicted upon refugees preparing to repatriate.

24 October

Three-way agreement signed by UNHCR, Zaire, and Rwanda on the repatriation of refugees.

6 October

Rwanda: Rwandan authorities seize total control of former safe humanitarian zone in south-west Rwanda.

5 October

The MSF operations directors decide to send a three-person team, *'the Troika'*, to evaluate the situation in Rwanda, Zaire and Tanzania.

7 - 16 October

The Troika from MSF's International council visits the field.

11 October

MSF Holland's Humanitarian Affairs department sends a memo to the teams: arguments in favour of continuing operations; should MSF publish a report?

14 October

The Troika and field coordinators meet and decide to reassess the situation in six weeks time, after continued lobbying in the international community.

28 October

MSF France Board votes for the withdrawal of the French section from all refugee camps in Rwanda, Zaire and Tanzania, within one month.

International

The Great Lakes

MSF

1994

8 November

UN Security Council vote Resolution 955 on creating an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda and a special force to re-establish security in the camps in Zaire and Tanzania, recommended by the United Nations Secretary-General.

2 November

In a common **Press release** in Goma **15 NGOs (including MSF Belgium, MSF France and MSF Holland)** announced their support for UNHCR, and their deep concern over deteriorating security conditions. They threatened to withdraw from the camps if security did not improve for expatriates and refugees.

5 November

MSF Belgium volunteers in camps in Zaire write to the Board about their disgust with the situation They suggest the withdrawal of MSF from certain camps.

6 November

MSF Belgium's coordinator in Goma writes to the Board opposing the withdrawal of MSF from the camps

7 November

In a **Press release, MSF United States** «calls on the United Nations Security Council to take immediate action in the Rwandan refugee camps.» The president of MSF France announces the decision to withdraw from Rwandan refugee camps, in the daily newspaper *Ouest France*.

8 November

MSF Belgium Board decides "to leave the door open on a possible withdrawal" of its own section from the Zaire camps - MSF France ceases programmes in the Goma region - Agence France Presse announces that MSF is willing to stay in the camps on certain conditions.

10 November

10 November: **MSF Holland publishes the report "Breaking the cycle"** describing the situation in the camps in Zaire and Tanzania.

14 November

Press release MSF international, MSF US and MSF UK: "MSF withdraws from camps in Bukavu, as a sign of protest."

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<p>1994</p>	<p>17 December Paul Kagame, Rwandan Defence Minister, calls for the peacekeepers to be sent to the Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire.</p>	<p>First 2 weeks of December MSF France prepares to leave camps in Tanzania -16 cases of cholera in the Benaco camp.</p> <p>20 December MSF Press conference in Nairobi announcing the withdrawal of MSF France from the camps in Tanzania.</p> <p>22 December On the <i>BBC</i> and in <i>The Guardian</i>, a UNHCR spokesman accuses MSF of leaving camps to spend the Christmas holidays at home.</p> <p>31 December Effective withdrawal of MSF France from the Rwandan refugee camps in Tanzania.</p>
<p>1995</p>	<p>18 - 25 April At least 4,000 displaced people massacred in Kibeho, south-west Rwanda by RPF soldiers.</p>	<p>24 January In conjunction with the publication of "Populations en danger", MSF denounces the impunity enjoyed by those who committed genocide against the Rwandan Tutsi.</p> <p>7 February MSF Belgium announces its withdrawal from the camp in Kibumba for security reasons, threats to expatriates and fraud during Rwandan refugee census - MSF Holland affirms general improvement in camps where their teams are working.</p> <p>9 February MSF International's Secretary-General publishes article in New York Times: "Médecins Sans Frontières is leaving Rwandan refugee camps."</p> <p>3 - 4 March MSF regional inter-sections meeting in Kigali on the different positions held by MSF regarding refugee repatriation.</p> <p>23 March Common Press release by 18 NGOs, including MSF, announcing the urgent need for food in refugee camps in Zaire.</p> <p>Late April MSF Holland programme manager visits teams in Zaire camps, opposed to the withdrawal</p>

International**The Great Lakes****MSF****1995****17 May**

At an International Great Lakes programme manager meeting, MSF Belgium confirms it did not anticipate withdrawing from the camps in the near future.

22 June

The operations directors and the MSF Great Lakes programme managers discussed the possibility of leaving the camps. They concluded that each section should make its own decision - The MSF Belgium Board discusses a possible withdrawal from the camps.

5 July

MSF Belgium Board would leave the decision to withdraw from the camps up to the Project Committee.

18 July

The MSF Belgium project committee asks the Board for approval to leave the camp in Kahindo.

27 July

MSF Holland publishes the report "Deadlock in the Rwandan refugee crisis" on the situation in the Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire and Tanzania.

2 August

MSF Belgium Board decides to withdraw the Belgian section from the camp in Kahindo in four months.

9 August

MSF Holland Board votes for the withdrawal of MSF Holland from the camps in Tanzania and Zaire (except for Uvira).

28 August

MSF Holland's departure announced after the news was leaked by a journalist in Nairobi.

December

MSF Holland withdraws from the Katala camp in Zaire and Ngara in Tanzania, and MSF Belgium withdraws from the Kahindo camp in Zaire.