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MEMORANDUM: Bosnia and Hercegovina: the Humanitarian Aid Gap this Winter

UNHCR planning is based upon an estimated 1.35 million relief recipients in Bosnia and Hercegovina during the winter months--September to April.

Numbers and locations are sketchy, but we estimate that 75 percent of the people in need are in seven cities: Sarajevo, Banja Luca, Bihac, Gorazde, Mostar, Tuzla, and Zenica.

UNHCR estimates that Bosnia and Hercegovina will need:

180,000 metric tons (mt) of food this winter.

New or repaired shelters for 160,000 people. Survival aids (e.g., blankets) for 600,000 people. Plastic sheeting (to cover damaged windows/walls) throughout Bosnia and Hercegovina, including 140,000 apartments in Sarajevo.

No estimates for medical needs are available. The tonnage would be modest, however, compared to food and shelter needs.

Best Case (security is not a problem, winter weather is not atypically harsh):

Deliveries may approximate, but probably not meet, the estimated daily requirement of nearly 900mt of food. Shelter and medical needs will not be met. (On the best day this summer, food deliveries totalled less than half that amount.)

The UNHCR's goal of an enlarged truck fleet (capacity of 2,200mt) will not meet expected needs. (Assuming such factors as: 2-3^{city} turn-arounds on truck convoys, in-country distribution needs, snow-clogged roads, etc).

Trade-offs will be necessary (e.g., between food and medical supplies).

Worst Case (security does not improve, weather is harsh):

The average daily food deliveries would probably not be more than a few hundred mt--only enough for a few tens of thousands of people.

Death rates will rise from malnutrition and exposure.