

To:
From: eGram Gateway
Subject: ZIMBABWE: TIBAIJUKA'S REPORT:Id=1025163
Sent: 21 July 2005 22:24:32 GMT

DETAIL

2. 

3. Dr Tibaijuka's report (83 pages plus annexes - by fax to AD(S)/IOD) is strongly critical of GoZ actions. She describes the Operation as carried out "in an indiscriminate and unjustified manner, with indifference to human suffering... with disregard to several provisions of national and international legal frameworks... a disastrous venture [with] enormous humanitarian consequences." "It has rendered people homeless and economically destitute on an unprecedented scale." About 700,000 people have lost their homes or their livelihoods or both, with the poor and disadvantaged worst affected, pushed deeper into poverty and made even more vulnerable. Another 2.1 million have been indirectly affected. The sources and methodology of her numbers are explained with care (page 31). She notes that the mission had unimpeded access and freedom of movement and received good cooperation on all fronts from the GoZ, including a warm welcome from Mugabe.

4. The report's key assessments and recommendations (page numbers in brackets) are:

Humanitarian (8)

GoZ should immediately halt any further demolitions.

GoZ has discouraged the UN (including WFP) from providing food direct to the victims of the Operation, and has obstructed delivery of assistance to people affected. The GoZ should facilitate humanitarian operations within a pro-poor, gender-sensitive policy framework that provides security of tenure, affordable housing, water and sanitation.

But (noting the background of acute food shortages) GoZ has limited capacity to address the needs of those affected. GoZ Operation 'Garikai (Reconstruction) may not materialise and will not meet the immediate needs of those affected.

The UN should therefore work with GoZ to mobilise immediate international humanitarian assistance. The UN Country Team's estimates for the numbers needing help (food, water, health, HIV, children) should be increased.

The international humanitarian response suffers from a lack of an overall agreement with GoZ on the nature and scope of assistance. The UN has still been unable to conduct with the authorities any comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian needs resulting from the Operation.

The UN should help the GoZ to revive dialogue and trust with civil society and to promote dialogue with the international community to help return Zimbabwe into the international fold.

Accountability/legal issues (9)

GoZ is "collectively responsible" for what happened. But there seems to have been no collective decision making on the Operation, which was implemented on the basis of improper advice and by over-zealous officials. Those responsible should be held to account.(77)