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Mozambican Refugees and International Assistance

This issue of *Refuge* focuses on one of the largest and most tragic and complex refugee populations in Africa, the Mozambicans. Over a year ago, the Centre for Refugee Studies, together with the Government of Malawi, organized one of its most ambitious conferences to date to discuss durable solutions to the Mozambican refugee crisis in Malawi and the other asylum states. The conference, *First Country of Asylum and Development Aid*, was held in Blantyre, Malawi from June 8-12, 1992. It attracted a diverse delegation of academics and practitioners from the surrounding region, as well as Canada, the USA and Europe. As a forum for those concerned and working with Mozambican refugees in the various countries of first asylum, the meeting was highly successful. However, the complexity and magnitude of the issues discussed were such that there were clearly no easy solutions. In the end, many left feeling frustrated from the process, and impotent to address the enormous and seemingly impossible challenges of pursuing a developmental approach to refugee assistance, ameliorating the burden to

host countries, preparing for the return of 1.5 million refugees and 3.5 million internally displaced (see Table 1a), and re-integrating the displaced and the former military elements into a

country destroyed by over a decade of civil war.

The following year brought a number of events which gave room for unprecedented optimism. Interna-

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