



# CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES REFUGEE

Vol. 17 • No. 4

October 1998

## VIOLENT DISPLACEMENT AND POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION: AFGHANISTAN, UGANDA, AND RWANDA

### Editorial

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Today there are many Afghanistans, Bosnias, Burundis, Cambodias, Croatias, Democratic Republics of Congo, Rwandas, Somalias, Sudans, and Ugandas, where tens of millions of people are violently displaced. The uprooted, including the societies, are emotionally and culturally traumatized and decimated, physically devastated and economically impoverished and marginalized. More often than not, the faces and plights of the uprooted do not capture the attention of the media.

The causes of violent displacement are complex and related: wars, violence, violations of the right to socioeconomic development, violations of other fundamental human rights, chronic deficit of legitimacy, hotly contested concepts of society, and the quest for hegemony. The roots of the crises are located in past and present history of the societies, and the interplay of domestic, regional and international factors.

Afghanistan, for example, has experienced a ravaging war for nearly two decades. The protracted war has

claimed over a million lives, permanently disabled some 300,000 Afghans, generated over a million internally displaced people and some 6 million refugees.<sup>1</sup> The overwhelming majority of the refugees sought asylum in Pakistan and

Iran. Some of those who repatriated under conflict, especially between 1992 and 1998, have fled again, mostly within the turbulent country.<sup>2</sup> The physical, psychological and psychosocial consequences of the war, uncer-

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