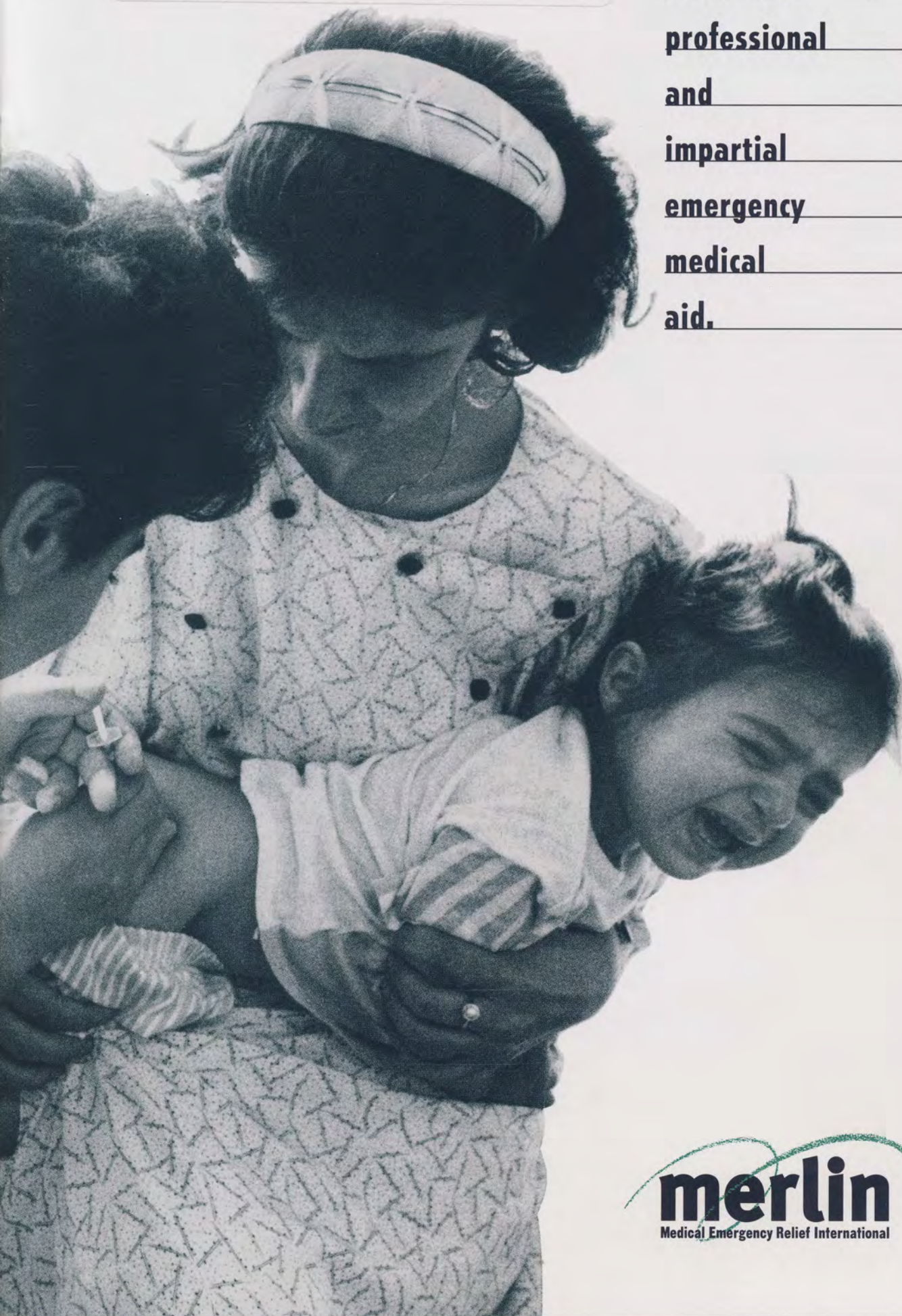
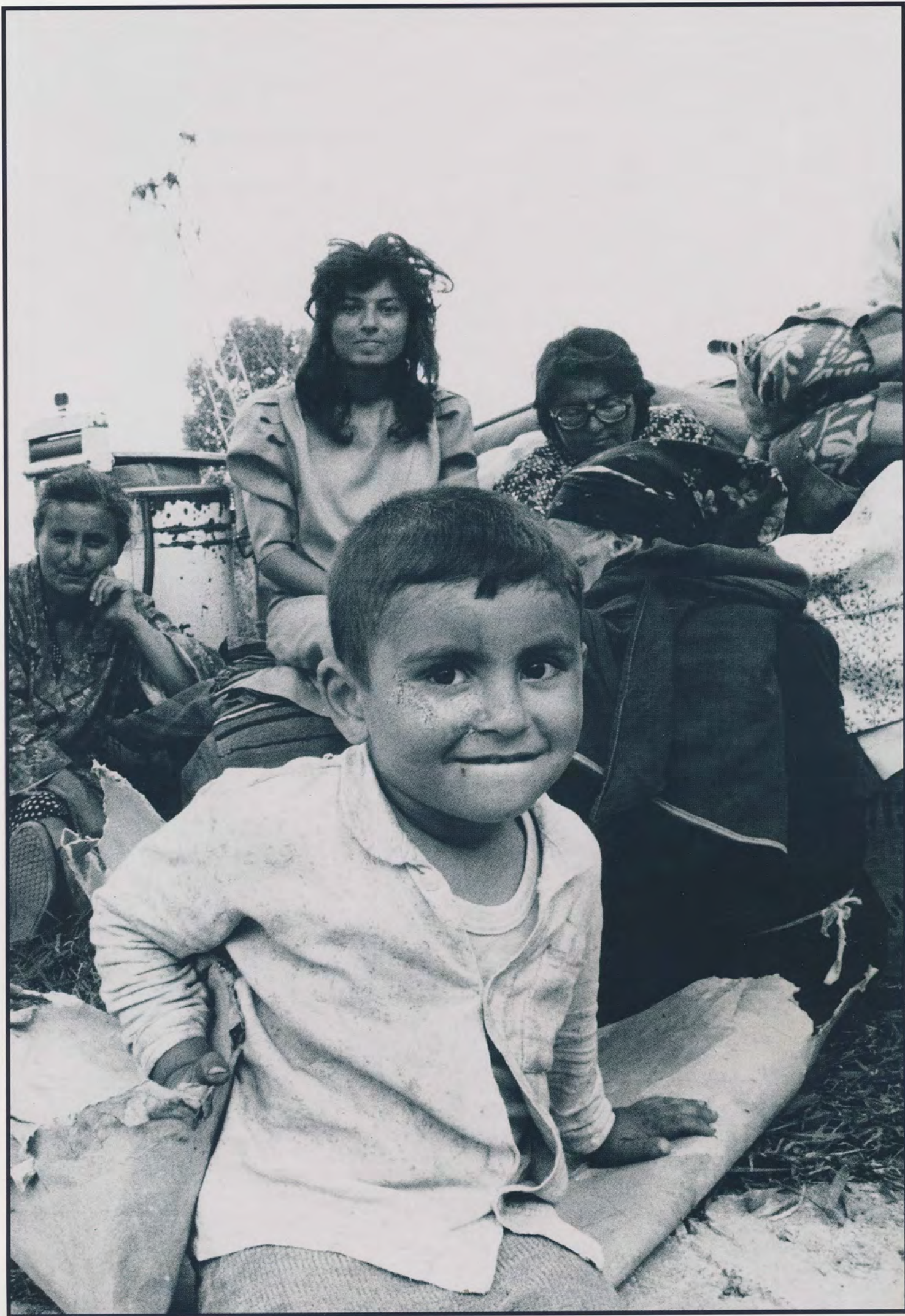




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Providing _____
immediate _____
professional _____
and _____
impartial _____
emergency _____
medical _____
aid. _____





Our priority is emergency relief.

'Humanitarian Aid', 'Victims of Conflict', 'Ethnic Cleansing': the new jargon. Politicians, economists, journalists, churchmen, the military, aid workers, bandits at checkpoints - everyone is using it.

Does anyone really know what it means?

As I write, 33 wars are being fought. People like you and me are dying, being forced from their homes, terrified, left with nothing.

Bosnia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Angola, Burundi. Problems that share the same complex factors - the indifference of a wider world, political posturing, the military game, the media, strategic interests, human rights.

What can we do?

When ideology fails, one fundamental premise remains; the respect of the individual.

Politicians fight wars on political grounds: War is the pursuit of politics by other means. There are winners and losers.

Doctors, nurses, health workers, people that care do not see it that way. In Bosnia, for example, there is no 'them' or 'us', only aggressors and victims. They are not 'endangered populations'. They are people in danger. Human beings, like us.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have a clear role. They provide the most cost-effective and flexible mechanism for Governments to give humanitarian relief. However, large aid budgets rarely come without an agenda and therefore independent funding remains essential.

In the context of health, it is not difficult to recognise the needy, they are in our newspapers each morning, on our televisions each night. The parameters are clear, well defined and readily applied. Development aid is no longer enough, relief is required now, not next year.

The essential ingredients of an emergency response:

- Objectivity.
- Independence of action.
- Resources.
- Speed.

In MERLIN we focus on need: professional in method; action with integrity; naive maybe but right. We need your support.

- MERLIN is an humanitarian organisation, set up to provide medical relief in the first phase of international emergencies, when the local infrastructure has broken down and people are at their most vulnerable.
- We act regardless of race, religion or political affiliation to support peoples affected by war or natural disaster, anywhere in the world.
- Our teams in the field are staffed by volunteers committed to an humanitarian ideal and with expertise in medicine or logistics.
- MERLIN always works within existing local health structures. Where appropriate, we also try to work with other aid organisations to provide the most effective assistance.
- Our priority is emergency relief.



Dr Christopher Besse MRCP.

Assisting people who have no access to



medical aid.

1994

MERLIN is a new British charity; Medical Emergency Relief International.

We make British medical expertise available wherever people are suffering.

In 1993 we spent £1.3m in the field. This year we aim to double this, undertaking 18 evaluations and programmes to assist people who have little or no access to medical aid. In these situations a rapid response is frequently essential. A small independent agency such as MERLIN is the ideal organisation to provide it. By the end of 1994 we intend to be doing just that.

To achieve these goals MERLIN needs:

- To raise a 10% core of its £2.81m programme costs.

MERLIN's programmes are largely funded by organisations such as the Overseas Development Administration, World Health Organisation and United Nations Humanitarian Commissioner for Refugees as they accept that non-governmental organisations are the most cost-effective way of providing aid.

We also need to maintain flexibility and some independence of action. Therefore, it is vital that we raise sufficient funding to cover the cost of the support team which plans programmes, recruits volunteers and runs operations. Our independent funding also enables the leverage of public funding. Last year we constrained this core element to just 9%, an achievement we expect to repeat in 1994.

In 1993 donors gave over £170,000 to MERLIN.

This year, we need to raise a minimum of £285,000.

- To increase the range and number of volunteers.

MERLIN's programmes depend on finding volunteers with the skills and motivation to undertake humanitarian work. We do not demand extensive operational experience as the core team already has this. However, we do require professionalism and commonsense. In turn the work provides an opportunity to develop other skills, the resourcefulness, diplomacy and teamwork which are integral to humanitarian work.

As well as trained medical staff, we require logisticians and administrators able to coordinate supplies, transport and communications in the field.



merlin
medical emergency relief international

MERLIN. The first year.

MERLIN programmes carried out in 1993.

All our programmes are preceded by an evaluation. From this we determine which medicines are required, how the people can be reached and what political or social issues need to be considered. We then match MERLIN's skills to the specific requirements of the programme.

Nagorno Karabakh.

- MERLIN vaccinated 10,000 children against potentially fatal diseases as part of a UNICEF immunisation programme administered by MERLIN. The programme included the distribution of medical supplies.
- We provided medical aid to victims of war in the region.
- We established a new vaccine distribution network and were heavily involved in teaching the methodology of emergency vaccination.

Azerbaijan.

- MERLIN deployed mobile medical units and reinforced existing dispensaries to reach the displaced and refugee people in the north west region of the country. The programme lasted for six months.

Georgia.

- MERLIN oversaw the delivery and distribution of medical supplies to Tbilisi in response to the wounded during the recent civil war. The programme was completed on behalf of the ODA.
- We established the priorities and methodology to undertake a further aid programme.

Bosnia.

- We carried out an emergency programme for the beleaguered people of Sarajevo.
- We selected nutritionally balanced rations working with the World Health Organisation and the Rowett Institute of Nutrition.
- We procured 370 tons of emergency food rations which we delivered in under two weeks to the UN air bridge into Sarajevo.

MERLIN also completed a number of evaluations, including:

Afghanistan.

- We carried out an assessment mission looking at the hospital infrastructure in Kabul, the public health priorities amongst the Tajik refugees in the north and the treatment of the trauma victims in Kandahar.

Kosovo.

- We evaluated the possibility of working alongside UNICEF for an emergency vaccination programme.

Macedonia.

- We carried out an assessment of the priorities for a home for the disabled in conjunction with the Sue Ryder Foundation.

Sudan.

- We evaluated the possibility of working alongside the World Food Programme and UNHCR and assessed the feasibility of undertaking a medical programme within the severe security constraints.

Zaire.

- We evaluated the medical priorities following the massacres and displacement of the population in North Kivu and prepared a contingency plan, should the situation deteriorate.



Step by step...

The evaluation and consequent programme in Azerbaijan are typical of the type of work undertaken by MERLIN.

Azerbaijan.

- Starting date 22 December 1993.
- Duration of project approximately six months.

Evaluation.

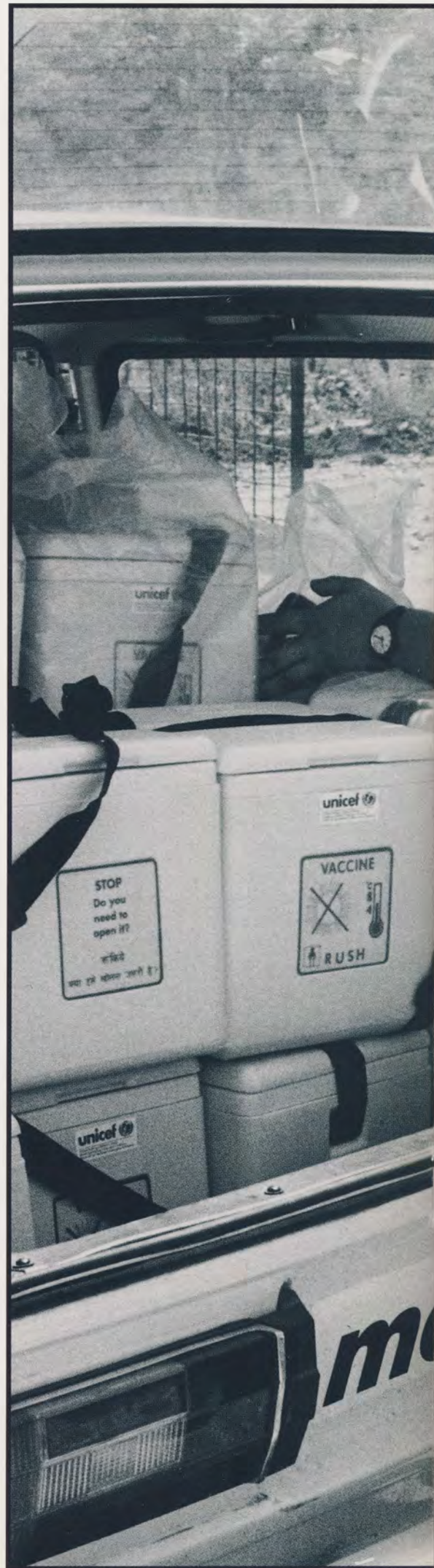
During the evaluation we discovered an urgent need for medical aid in the north west; all aid and donations had been focused on the south.

More than 800,000 people had lost or been forced to leave their homes because of the war. Always one of the poorest republics of the Soviet Union, the ongoing conflict had increased the problems of hunger, disease and poor shelter to a critical level.

Pockets of displaced and refugee groups were found throughout Azerbaijan. They had no access to medical facilities and were living without clean water, proper shelter or sanitation. What money they had was spent on food rather than medicine.

Aims.

MERLIN's priority was to make medical care accessible to those suffering most as a result of the conflict. Mobile clinics and local dispensaries would be used to provide medical care directly to the people who needed to be treated.





..to stability.

Activities.

MERLIN's efforts were focused on the mobile clinic and eight dispensaries in the Chanlar, Jevlagh and Barda regions.

The mobile clinic travelled out to the small settlements in the countryside, providing a point of contact for the people who otherwise have no access to free or adequate medication. As well as treating patients, the clinic advised on basic health care.

The dispensaries targeted were already in operation but the standard of treatment was poor and there were few supplies available. MERLIN staff visited these dispensaries regularly to deliver medical supplies and to help train local doctors. This is a vital part of our work so that, when the programme is over, a basic health care system is in place. MERLIN will work closely with other relief organisations, ultimately handing over to them if continuation of the programme is required.

The MERLIN team.

Our volunteers in the field include a medic, two nurses, one logistician and an administrator. National doctors and nurses form part of the mobile team.

Funding.

TOTAL SPEND: £400,370

The breakdown.

% of total.

Medical Goods	49%
Logistics	2%
Transport	22%
Equipment	3%
Personnel	19%
Misc (storage, training etc)	1%
Contingency reserve	4%

This project was primarily funded by ECHO with an additional £30,916 given by the Overseas Development Administration to cover the cost of three vehicles (included under Transport).

MERLIN accounts.

Merlin accounts 1.1.93 to 31.12.93. Income and expenditure.*

Income	£	£
Donations	170,500	
Fundraising events	11,718	
Interest received	2,314	
Specific programme funding	1,164,400	
Total income	1,348,932	
Expenditure		
Operational Costs:		
Direct Programme costs	1,135,642	
Programme direction	19,862	
Operations coordination	25,893	
	<u>1,181,397</u>	94.2%
Support costs:		
Personnel	24,564	
Public relations and promotion	14,758	
Operating costs	23,420	
Legal expenses	1,528	
Depreciation	4,284	
	<u>68,554</u>	5.8%
Total expenditure	1,249,951	100%
Excess of income over expenditure	98,981	

* N.B. Unaudited

Major donors in 1993.

The Baring Foundation
 The British Government (ODA)
 The Bulldog Trust
 Glaxo plc
 UNHCR / George Soros Foundation
 UNICEF
 The World Memorial Fund

MERLIN would like to thank the above organisations for their support through 1993.

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