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| KEY TERMS | |
| IDP | Internally Displaced Persons – UN speak for refugees. |
| Genocidaires |  |
| Zaire | AKA Democratic Republic of Congo |
| Mobutu |  |
| UNHCR |  |

**“The messiest and most complex humanitarian mission in modern history”**

**PART A**

Since the decolonisation of the Great lakes area (Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, Uganda, Tanzania), there had been sporadic outbreaks of ethnic and political conflict that had led to large refugee populations living in permanent camps in every nation.

**Key issues:**

Tutsi’s displaced from Rwanda following independence and ethnic persecution into the 1980s had helped Museveni seize power in Uganda, founding the RPF in the process.

Many Tutsis had also fled into Zaire where they were viewed with suspicion by Mobutu, the pro-Hutu president – however, many found kinship with the culturally similar people in Zaire’s Kivu region.

In total, there were nearly 500,000 displaced Rwandans living mainly in Burundi (majority), Zaire and Tanzania.

Burundi, which had a very similar Hutu-Tutsi divide to Rwanda had experienced atrocities (this time committed by the Tutsis against the Hutu), leading to an exodus of Hutu refugees into neighbouring countries, including Rwanda (250,000 by 1993).

**Circle of viewpoints:**

You are a Tutsi Rwandan who has been driven in to Burundi by violence and prejudice before 1993. You are now living in a nation where there are many Hutus but where Tutsis can still dominate. What impact are you likely to have in Burundi? Now consider that there are 250, 0000 of you.

You are a Burundian Hutu, driven out of your country in 1993 following the violence by Tutsis there. How are you likely to act? Which organisations might you join? Now consider that there are 250,000 of you.

We can go on… make up your own viewpoint and consider how it will contribute to the destabilisation of the region, as well as to the genocide itself. An obvious example already mentioned is the direct impact of the RPF on the coup in Uganda in 1986.

In total, there were 500,000 refugees in the region by 1993, living in camps from Rwanda to Uganda to Zaire to Burundi. Each group / camp was made up of distinct people who had been driven there by distinct events over a period of decades. They therefore had a huge range of grievances and aspirations – perfect fodder for the extremists, from the RPF to the Interahamwe.

Following the genocide and RPF victory, this “messy” situation would grow in scale to over 2 million IDPs from Rwanda alone. Not only did this pose a huge logistical challenge, it also created a massive ethical issue…?

**PART B – THE WORK OF THE UNHCR IN THE GREAT LAKES**

Answer the questions **using ‘Reading 2’** in note form. Once you have finished, delete the questions and insert one subtitle into each box. This is a strategy to promote understanding/memory.

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| Purpose and role of UNHCR?  What made their work unusually difficult in the Great lakes Region?  What additional ethical issues were there? |
| What happened on 28th April 1994?  Where else did refugees go?  How did this lead to further conflict?  What was the CNN effect? |
| Why was the situation in the Zaire camps uniquely problematic for the UNHCR?  Why did the UNHCR face increasing criticism?  Why did the measures recommended by the UNCHR fail to be implemented? |
| Why was it in Mobutu’s interest to continue the situation?  Why did Western powers once again fail to step up? |
| How did the UNHCR try to improve the situation in 1995?  Why was there no real resolution? |

**PART C – THE KIBEHO MASSACRE, APRIL 1995**

Using the sources on the website:

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| --- | --- |
| **Sequence of Events** | **Culpability?** |
|  |  |

**PART D – WAR IN ZAIRE**

The Democratic Republic of Congo [Zaire] had two wars directly related to the Rwandan genocide – the first ‘African World Wars’. This ended long era of Mobutu as the major player in the region and cost hundreds of thousands of lives. The country is still extremely unstable.

**Read the BBC article of the website. Keep this as a summary:**

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| **Timeline of Key Events** | **Link to Genocide** |
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