



PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : ETHIOPIA

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PROFILE SUMMARY

Summary of the profile

Summary

A border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia escalated into a major military confrontation in May 1998 and caused the internal displacement of some 177,000 Ethiopians (UNCTE 2 February 1999, p. 2). More people were displaced when the fighting intensified in February 1999. Most of the displacement occurred in the Tigray Region as a result of Eritrean shelling, but approximately 29,000 people were also displaced in the Afar Region further east (UNDP EUE 12 April 1999, p. 4). Children and women have constituted an estimated 75 percent of the IDPs (UNCTE 28 January 2000, p.34).

Ethiopia's major military offensive deep into Eritrea in May 2000 was halted by a permanent cease-fire agreement one month later, which facilitated the return of most IDPs on both sides of the border. The return process was further encouraged by the Security Council decision to establish the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), with a mandate to monitor the cease-fire, the signing of a permanent peace agreement by the two countries on 12 December 2000 and the establishing of demilitarized Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) (UN DPI 15 September 2000; UN SC 12 January 2001, para. 4). Although disagreements have remained about the borders of the TSZ, the situation has apparently been conducive for a gradual return to normality for civilians on both side of the border (UN SC 5 September 2001).

The cease fire in 2000 was followed by the deportation of allegedly some 60,000 Ethiopians from Eritrean territory. A large share of the latter group returned to the Tigray area, and became part of the same resettlement process that has involved the returning IDPs (GOE 17 November 2000). Reports that about 286,000 remained internally displaced by the end of 2000, and subsequently, that 80 percent of the displaced populations had returned to their areas of origin by July 2001, may indicate that up to 50,000 remained internally displaced by end-2001 (GOE 17 November 2000, UN February 2001, p.19; UNICEF 24 July 2001).

The Government's general policy has been to encourage IDPs to integrate into communities outside the conflict area – an approach that the UN considers "largely successful" (UN February 2001, p.12). However, some camp-like settlements were established in areas of high IDP density, especially at various locations along Tigray's northern belt (UNCTE 24 April 1999). Lack of access to their farmland, livestock and other productive assets as a result of fear of another outbreak of hostilities made most displaced completely dependent upon relief assistance. However, some IDPs benefited from living with relatives and others were able to maintain business activities (UNCTE

28 January 2000, SCF August 1999, UNDP EUE 8 January 1999). It was reported that some of the IDPs in the Afar region were able to keep their animals and household goods and continue their nomadic livelihoods, although the closure of markets had a negative impact (UNDP EUE 12 April 1999). People displaced in the Irob area in northeastern Tigray that was occupied by Eritrean troops appear to have been living under particular difficult conditions (A. Waters-Bayer 7 June 1999).

The war caused severe damage to the education sector. In Tigray it has been reported that 25 schools have been totally destroyed, and 40 schools severely damaged. Lack of basic amenities like drinking water supply and sanitation facilities also constrain the resumption of education activities (UN February 2001, pp.35-36).

Beyond basic humanitarian needs, the main protection concern is presently the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance in areas close to the border, especially between the trenches along the front lines. This is in particular a major problem in the ongoing return process. Major initiatives have been launched to de-mine areas of return, including a major World Bank funded project (UN February 2001, pp. 38-39; UN CTE 17 May 2001).

In addition to the displaceds' reliance on host communities, the Government has attempted to provide assistance to the IDPs through the existing infrastructure for delivery of public services. A major governmental actor is the Relief Society of Tigray (REST). The relief capacity of the regional government in Afar has been characterised as "relatively weak" (UNCTE 28 January 2000, p.37). Special emphasis is made to setup temporary health services in places in areas of return (GOE 17 November 2000). The Government expects that returnees will need two years to become "self-supportive" (GOE 17 November 2000).

The UN issued in August 2000 an updated appeal for rehabilitation and recovery of IDPs (UN CTE 22 August 2000). Donors had by the end of 2000 responded positively with regard to food assistance, while just about 15 percent of non-food requirements had been pledged (UN February 2001, p.7). The UN Appeal for 2001 outlined an optimistic strategy for support to a return and rehabilitation process facilitated by the Peace Accord, and building on existing long-term development programmes in the affected areas (UN February 2001). Only 41 percent of the appeal had been funded by end-October 2001, but the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has donated substantial emergency food aid to cover the needs of remaining and returning IDPs (IRIN 14 August 2001; UN November 2001, p. 14).

International NGOs have not played a major role in assistance to conflict-induced IDPs in Ethiopia, apparently because national structures in many cases has replaced direct partnerships between the UN and NGOs (UNCTE 28 January 2000, p. 37). However, several national NGOs are actively supporting the IDPs – often under a tripartite arrangement between a UN partner, the NGO and the Government (UN February 2001, p.16).

Please note that this profile only covers displacement caused by the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and does not include information about population movements as a result of the drought in Ethiopia.

(Updated November 2001)

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT

Main causes for displacement

Armed conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia displaced civilians living along the border (1998-2000)

- Areas up to 50 kilometers along the length of the border became closed military zones after outbreak of war in May 1998
- Populations at risk within a corridor of about 40 kilometres from the respective frontlines encouraged to evacuate because of renewed fighting in October 1998
- In May 2000, 15,000 persons fled their homes in northwest Ethiopia to escape retaliatory artillery bombardments by the Eritrean army

"Up to 600,000 people, mainly small farmers and nomads have been displaced on both sides of the border as a result of the fighting and areas up to 50 kilometres along the length of the border becoming closed military zones. Ethiopia has alleged that civilians have been tortured and forced to flee from their homes in the Badme area since Eritrea took control of the area in May 1998 and that Eritrea systematically destroyed property and looted churches in the disputed areas[...]. UN agencies estimate that over 300,000 people have been displaced in Tigray province as a result of the conflict and 245,000 people have been displaced inside Eritrea." (AI 21 May 1999, sect. 2.2)

"In late October [1998], the situation changed significantly following the Eritrean shelling of Shiraro [in Tigray]. Subsequently, the populations of several border towns began to evacuate as a precautionary measure, moving beyond the reach of artillery fire. Encouraged by the regional government, the people of Shiraro, Humera and Rama and to a certain extent also people from rural areas north of Enticho and Adigrat, started to move south of their respective home areas. With the hosting capacity of local communities having reached its limits by September, the new movements led unavoidably to the establishment of makeshift camps at various locations along Tigray's northern belt (the official displacement figure was 315,000 by mid-December).

[...]

In conclusion it is perhaps interesting to note that the zonal authorities told the mission that the need for precautionary evacuation was only given to the populations at risk (within a corridor of about 40 kilometers from the respective frontlines) as a recommendation. Whoever wanted to stay, was (at least initially up to December) permitted to do so at his or her own risk. This explains why by the time of the mission's visit towns like Humera and Shiraro were not totally evacuated. Furthermore, the zonal authorities told the mission that in West Tigray, but also in areas of Central and East Tigray considered to be exposed to the potential danger of air raids, civil defense measures were being implemented. More and more people have constructed bomb shelters by digging cavities into the ground which are then covered with heavy wooden

poles and topped with soil. The mission visited such facilities in Shire and Adigrat and was told the same measures were being undertaken in Axum, Adua and Mekele." (UNDP EUE 8 January 1999, pp. 1, 8)

"[In May/June 2000] An additional 15,000 persons in northwest Ethiopia fled their homes in May to escape retaliatory artillery bombardments by the Eritrean army in response to Ethiopia's military offensive. No further new displacement of Ethiopian residents occurred after the two governments agreed to a cease-fire in June." (USCR June 2001)

Background of the conflict

Background to the border dispute (1999)

- Border between Eritrea and Ethiopia never clearly demarcated
- Claims by Eritrea in 1997 that Ethiopian troops occupied an area within eastern Eritrea

"Eritrea became independent from Ethiopia in 1991. This followed the overthrow of the regime of Mengistu Haile-Mariam in 1991 by an alliance of the two liberation movements, the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), who formed new provisional governments in Eritrea and Ethiopia respectively [...]. Eritrea officially became a separate internationally recognized state in 1993, following a referendum in which more than 95% of Eritreans voted for independence from Ethiopia.

Eritrea's *de facto* border in 1991 was that of the Italian colony of Eritrea established in 1890. In line with the OAU principles on the integrity of colonial borders, this border was agreed to be a starting point, but both sides agreed that it was inconclusive and that some details needed to be clarified. The border had never been clearly demarcated and Italy had made several claims on Ethiopian territory prior to its full-scale invasion of Ethiopia in 1936 and five year occupation. There was no border demarcation throughout the subsequent British military administration in Eritrea, the 1952 federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia, or after the removal of Eritrea's federal status in 1962, which set off the Eritrean liberation struggle. In 1991 both Ethiopia and Eritrea accepted that there were inconsistencies in the border but full demarcation was not regarded as a high priority. After an incident in July 1997, in which Eritrea claims that Ethiopian troops occupied Adi Murang, in Bada, eastern Eritrea, a bilateral border commission was set up to address problems as they arose.

[...]

Generally, relations between the two countries were good. There were large numbers of each other's citizens working in each country, who were treated the same as nationals and there was almost free movement of people across the borders. Special arrangements were in place for the use of Assab port, now on Eritrean soil, by Ethiopia (now land-locked) through which most of Ethiopia's imports and exports came. Both countries used the Ethiopian *birr* as a common currency, until 1997 when Eritrea introduced the *nakfa*. The

introduction of the *nakfa* and subsequent switch to hard currency transactions between the two countries brought other economic policy differences to the fore and strained relations.

[...]

Ethiopia has a sizeable minority of people of Eritrean origin who, while voting for the independence of Eritrea in the referendum, retained their Ethiopian citizenship and considered themselves Ethiopian[...]. Many people of Eritrean origin worked in the Ethiopian civil service, in sensitive jobs in the telecommunications and aviation sectors, and were also prominent in business, particularly in Addis Ababa." (AI 21 May 1999, sect.1.2)

Chronology of the military confrontations in border areas between Eritrea and Ethiopia (May 1998 – June 2000)

- Border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia in the Badame area escalated into a major military confrontation in May 1998
- In February 1999 waves of people were driven from their homes because of renewed aerial and artillery attacks in the border areas
- Significant clashes on the Zelambessa frontline area in early September 1999, and armed skirmish between Ethiopian and Eritrean forces took place on the border near Bure on 23 February 2000
- Ethiopia launched a major assault against Eritrea on 12 May 2000

"In May 1998 a border dispute in the Badame area escalated into a major military confrontation between Eritrea and Ethiopia. By early June 1998, the conflict had grown worse and spread into the ZalaAmbesa and Alitena areas in the Debub Region and into the Bure area, west of Assab, in the Southern Red Sea Region. The international airport in Eritrea's capital, Asmara, was bombed, causing the international community to evacuate and the government to briefly close the airport. This conflict caused the first wave of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to flee their homes in search of safety.

Intense fighting started up again in February 1999 along the Mereb-Setit front (Badame area) and quickly expanded to the Tsorona area, then spread again to the ZalaAmbesa and Alitena border areas. Aerial and artillery attacks upon civilians living nearby drove additional waves of people from their homes, to both rural and urban centers of the country, including the capital, Asmara, in greater numbers. The displaced people continue to stretch the capacity of existing public services, facilities, and infrastructure.

Adding to the humanitarian crisis, Ethiopia started, and is continuing, to deport people of Eritrean heritage. Over 67,000 deportees have been registered since the eruption of the conflict in May 1998 of whom over 28,000 are Rural Deportees." (UN January 2000, p.1)

"In the aftermath of the heavy fighting that took place in the Badme area during February, the month of March [1999] began relatively quietly amid calls for a ceasefire and an end to the hostilities. Hopes for a quick settlement were raised for a while following the announcement by Eritrea at the end of February that it had accepted the OAU Framework

Agreement. Ethiopia later made clear it would not agree to any ceasefire nor engage in negotiations regarding the implementation of the OAU framework until Eritrea agreed to withdraw its troops from border areas around Egala and Zelambessa-Aiga, on the so-called central front, and Bada-Bure along the eastern border.

The relative lull ended on March 14 with reports that new fighting had erupted on the front line a little to the south of the strategically important town of Tsorona. According to international media reports, following an initial period of shelling using heavy artillery, fighting escalated quickly over a two-day period with the deployment of ground troops, armoured vehicles and warplanes. Given the apparent intensity and limited geographical focus of the fighting, there are concerns that heavy casualties were suffered. The focus later switched back to the western front close to the Mereb river where a series of skirmishes or clashes were reported by the media in the vicinity of the Eritrean town of Shembeko. This latest period of fighting appeared to come to a close with the Ethiopian government saying that it had successfully countered an Eritrean attempt to recapture territory it had lost around Badme during the earlier fighting in February. There have been no reports regarding the situation in the Bure border area, which is adjacent to the Eritrean Red Sea port of Assab." (UN CTE 14 April 1999, p.1)

"On February 23 [2000] an armed skirmish between Ethiopian and Eritrean forces took place on the border near Bure, some 70 kms from the Eritrean Red Sea port of Assab. The fighting was first reported by the Eritrean official media and later confirmed by the Office of the Ethiopian Spokesperson. The Ethiopian statement said that by attacking first and then blaming Ethiopia for initiating the engagement, the Eritrean government was attempting to deceive the international community. Eritrea claimed that Ethiopia was continuing a pattern of attacking whenever a peace envoy comes to the region.

The reports of fighting came after several months of quiet along the common border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The last significant clashes came on the Zelambessa frontline area in early September last year, and, according to Ethiopian radio reports, near the Jerbet river on the left flank of the Badme front in October. Even though there has been relative quiet along the border, the war of words between the two countries has continued unabated with Ethiopia pressing for the redeployment of Eritrean troops away from the remaining contested border areas and Eritrea accusing Ethiopia of preparing for yet another round of fighting. The enmity between the two governments became very evident during the UN General Assembly in October when the Foreign Ministers of the two countries made impassioned speeches condemning the other side and accusing the UN and international community of not doing enough to end the conflict." (UN CTE 10 March 2000)

"After two years of sporadic fighting followed by months of stalemate, Ethiopia launched a major assault against Eritrea on 12 May 2000. During this offensive, Ethiopia entered through the western flank and moved deep into Eritrea capturing Barentu, the strategic regional capital of Gash-Barka. A number of other towns in south and west of the country, including Shambiko and Tokombiya were also captured. Fighting then shifted to the central border town of Zalem Bessa. Although Eritrea has announced the withdrawal

of its troops from this contested city as part of its acceptance of the OAU Peace Accord, fighting continues in areas around Senafe, another city to the north of Zalem Bessa." (UNICEF 20 June 2000)

See also the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation (EPCPT), "Ethiopia/Eritrea: End in sight to a devastating war?" (December 2000) or Amnesty International "Ethiopia and Eritrea. Human Rights Issues in a Year of Armed Conflict " (21 May 1999) for more detailed information about the dynamics of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

End of war after signing of cease-fire in June 2000 and peace agreement in December 2000

- June agreement included immediate cessation of hostilities
- Decision to deploy UN peacekeeping force in a buffer zone extending 26 km into Eritrea
- Ethiopian troops to fully withdrawal from occupied areas when peacekeeping mission has been deployed
- Peace agreement signed on 12 December 2000 provides that the two parties shall permanently terminate military hostilities between themselves
- Provision for a neutral commission to decide on all claims for loss, damage or injury from either side

"ETHIOPIA-ERITREA: Peace deal signed

Ethiopia and Eritrea on Sunday signed a peace agreement, raising hopes that the two year-old border dispute may be at an end. The 15-point plan, brokered by the OAU in Algiers, provides for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in a buffer zone extending 26 km into Eritrea, and the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from areas occupied inside Eritrea since 6 February 1999. Demarcation of the border will follow later. The accord was signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries. Eritrean Foreign Minister Haile Woldetensae said the agreement was the 'first step, but not the end of the process', Eritrean radio reported. He said the road to sustainable peace would be full of obstacles and complications, but stressed his government's commitment to the agreement. His comments were echoed by his Ethiopian counterpart, Seyoum Mesfin. Quoted by Tigray radio in Mekele, Seyoum however said the agreement had created a 'conducive environment for the next round of talks', and described it as a 'political victory' for Ethiopia.

[...]

ETHIOPIA: Troops pull out of Tesseney

Ethiopia said on Monday it had withdrawn troops from the western Eritrean town of Tesseney, which it captured last week. Speaking the day after Addis Ababa signed the peace deal with Asmara, the Ethiopian government spokeswoman Selome Tadesse said the troops had 'successfully completed their mission' and had withdrawn 'to positions from which they can defend themselves and liberated Ethiopian territories on the western front'." (IRIN-CEA 19 June 2000)

Provisions of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities:

"2. Under the Agreement, which was circulated on 19 June 2000 as a document of the Security Council (S/2000/601), the parties have committed themselves to:

(a) Resolving the present crisis and any other dispute between them through peaceful and legal means in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charters of OAU and the United Nations; (b) Rejecting the use of force as a means of (c) Respecting the borders existing at independence, as stated in OAU resolution AHG/Res 16 (1), adopted in Cairo in 1964, and in this regard determining them on the basis of pertinent colonial treaties and applicable international law, making use, to that end, of technical means to demarcate the borders and, in case of controversy, to resort to the appropriate means of arbitration.

3. The Agreement commits the parties to an immediate cessation of hostilities and stipulates that, starting from the signature of the Agreement, all air and land attacks are to cease. The parties have also reaffirmed their acceptance of the OAU Framework Agreement and the modalities for its implementation.

4. Under the Agreement, the parties called upon the United Nations, in cooperation with OAU, to establish a peacekeeping operation to assist in the implementation of the Agreement and guaranteed to ensure free movement and access for the peacekeeping mission and its supplies, as required, through their territories and to respect its members, installations and equipment.

5. Under the Agreement, Ethiopia shall submit to the peacekeeping mission redeployment plans for its troops from positions taken after 6 February 1999 which were not under Ethiopian administration before 6 May 1998. This redeployment is to take place within two weeks after the deployment of the peacekeeping mission and is to be verified by it. For its part, Eritrea is to maintain its forces at a distance of 25 kilometres (artillery range) from positions to which the Ethiopian forces are to redeploy. This zone of separation is to be referred to as the 'temporary security zone'." (SC 30 June 2000, paras. 2-5)

"[O]n 12 December 2000, I [the UN Secretary General] witnessed the signing of the Agreement between the Government of the State of Eritrea and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (A/55/686-S/2000/1183), at a ceremony hosted by President Bouteflika in Algiers. Also in attendance were the United States Secretary of State, Mrs. Madeleine Albright, the Secretary-General of the OAU, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the Representative of the President of the United States of America, Mr. Anthony Lake, and the Personal Envoy of the President of the European Union, Mr. Rino Serri. [...] The Agreement provides that the two parties shall permanently terminate military hostilities between themselves, shall refrain from the threat or use of force against each other, and shall respect and fully implement the provisions of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000 [...]. The 12 December Agreement also provides for the early release and repatriation of prisoners of war and all other persons detained as a result of the armed conflict. At the same time, the text calls for an investigation to be conducted by an independent and impartial body to determine the origins of the conflict. The Agreement further envisages the establishment, [...] of a neutral boundary

commission which is mandated to delimit and demarcate the colonial treaty border based on pertinent colonial treaties and applicable international law. In addition, the Agreement further provides for the establishment of a neutral commission to decide on all claims for loss, damage or injury from either side." (UN SC 12 January 2001, para. 4)

Assessment of the situation in August 2001:

"The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea remains confident of the peace process, the head of UNMEE told AFP on Monday [27 August 2001], dismissing recent speculation of another war between the Horn of Africa neighbours.

[...]

'In our judgement the likelihood of another war at this point is almost nil,' UN special representative Legwaila Joseph Legwaila told AFP in an interview.

It has been nearly a year since UNMEE began operations here and there are now 3,865 peacekeepers monitoring a 25-kilometer (15-mile) wide buffer corridor, or Temporary Security Zone (TSZ), separating the Eritrean and Ethiopian armies.

'We have observed the positions of the redeployed forces. We know where they are, we know what they're doing, and one thing they are not doing is preparing for war. In fact the one thing they are doing is they are preparing for the demobilization of their forces,' said Legwaila. According to Legwaila, Ethiopia has to date demobilized 70,000 troops and is in the process of demobilizing 30,000 more." (AFP 27 August 2001)

The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ)

- The Security Council authorized in September 2000 the deployment of 4,200 troops for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)
- The Mission will monitor the redeployment of troops from both sides and monitor the temporary security zone (TSZ)
- Technical assistance in the area of mine action
- By June 2001 the strength of the military component of UNMEE stood at 5,631 military personnel
- UNMEE's mandate was on 14 September 2001 extended until 15 March 2002
- Disagreements about TZS boundaries but parties cooperating with UNMEE in accordance with the parameters established in the map

"The Security Council today [15 September 2000] authorized the deployment of 4,200 troops for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), with an initial six-month mandate to carry out a range of verification tasks, including monitoring the ceasefire between the two countries.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1320 (2000), the Council expanded not only the size but also the mandate of UNMEE, which was originally established at the end of July with a strength of 100 military observers.

The newly authorized troops will be responsible for helping to ensure that the parties adhere to their security commitments. In a simultaneous effort, the Mission will monitor the redeployment of troops from both sides. Ethiopian troops will be redeployed from positions taken after 6 February 1999 which were not under Ethiopian administration before 6 May 1998, while Eritrean forces will redeploy in order to remain a distance of 25 kilometres from the position of the redeployed Ethiopian troops.

Also as part of its mandate, the Mission will monitor the temporary security zone, and provide technical assistance to mine action activities there and in adjacent areas. In addition, it will coordinate with the humanitarian and human rights work of others in the zone and adjacent areas." (UN DPI 15 September 2000)

"As at 15 June [2001], the strength of the military component of UNMEE stood at 5,631 military personnel from over 40 countries, including 4,692 troops, 116 military staff, 216 military observers and 607 national support elements. The civilian component of the Mission was comprised of 221 international staff, 6 United Nations volunteers and 240 local staff. (UN SC 19 June 2001, para. 19)

"The Mission's observation posts, combined with the daily patrols conducted by UNMEE Military Observers, ensure the monitoring of the Temporary Security Zone and its adjacent areas. As at 31 August, the strength of the military component of UNMEE stood at 3,870 military personnel from over 40 countries, including 3,655 troops and 215 military observers." (UN SC 5 September 2001 , para.11)

"On 14 September 2001, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) until 15 March 2002." (UNMEE 15 September 2001)

The Temporary Security Zone

"The parties agreed in the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000 (S/2000/601) to create a Temporary Security Zone, which would be a demilitarized area between the armed forces of both countries. The redeployment of Ethiopian forces from the future Temporary Security Zone was verified by UNMEE on 7 March 2001, and was followed by the rearrangement of the Eritrean forces, which was concluded on 16 April. This allowed my Special Representative, Mr. Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, to declare the formal establishment of the Temporary Security Zone on 18 April, which marked a milestone in the peace process. The declaration of the Zone gave an additional momentum to the peace process and has made possible the return of civilians seeking to resume their lives in their places of origin.

Despite differing views concerning the exact boundaries of the Zone and its regime, in particular as it refers to the restoration of Eritrean militia and police, the situation on the ground has remained generally calm. The Government of Eritrea has commenced the return of its internally displaced population to their villages of origin in the Zone. Nonetheless, there is a growing concern at the possibility of incidents resulting from the

proximity between the Eritrean militia and police and the Ethiopian forces, in the area of the southern boundary of the Zone. Accordingly, UNMEE has deployed additional troops to particularly sensitive areas along the southern boundary." (UN SC 19 June 2001, paras.2-3)

"On 21 and 22 June 2001, UNMEE presented its final map of the Temporary Security Zone to the Eritrean and Ethiopian authorities, respectively. My Special Representative, Mr. Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, urged the parties to accept the map despite their objections to some parts of the boundary of the Zone as established by UNMEE.

Following the establishment of the final map of the Temporary Security Zone, Ethiopia stated that the map was unacceptable because of two "errors". It asserted that an 8-kilometre-wide pocket at the eastern end of Sector East should be returned to Ethiopia; and that the Zone should be uniformly 25 kilometres wide, which is not the case in Sector Centre, north of the Irob area. For its part, Eritrea has indicated that it could not accept the map as it was a departure from the proposals originally presented to the parties on 30 January 2001. In particular, the Eritrean authorities have indicated that the Zone could not be considered as "fully established" until their concerns regarding the southern boundary of the Zone had been addressed. However, while neither party has formally accepted the map, so far they have in fact based their operations on it, and have cooperated with UNMEE on the ground in the management of the Zone, in accordance with the parameters established in the map.

Despite the continued respect of the Temporary Security Zone by the parties, their disagreement over some parameters of the final map remains a source of concern. On several occasions, Eritrea invoked its disagreement with the southern boundary of the Zone in its refusal to cooperate on other issues related to the work of UNMEE. This position has delayed the resolution of a number of issues, including the restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNMEE in the northern areas adjacent to the Zone, the signing of the status-of-forces agreement, the convening of sector-level meetings of the Military Coordination Commission and the provision of information on the number of militia and police inside the Zone." (UN SC 5 September 2001 , paras.1-3)

The UNMEE [Internet Site](#) provides updated information about the operation.

POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES

Global figures

Estimates by humanitarian agencies suggest that approximately 50,000 remained displaced because of the border war by mid-2001

- Humanitarian agencies estimated in July 2001 that approximately 80% of the displaced populations have returned to their areas of origin

"Pending the collection of data from local authorities, humanitarian agencies estimate that approximately 80% of the displaced populations have returned to their areas of origin. The UNMEE peacekeeping operation continues, now in its seventh month, with the overall situation quiet along the TSZ and border areas. However, the humanitarian situation remains fragile, especially in areas where infrastructure has been destroyed or where people are unable to return because of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO)." (UNICEF 24 July 2001)

Government figures suggest that about 286,000 IDPs remained to return by end-2000

- 15,500 newly displaced in Western Tigray from hostilities in May 2000
- UN inter-agency technical mission to Tigray indicated that an estimated 15,746 households (25%) had returned to their places of origin by end-June 2000
- Reported in November 2000 that 363,901 remained displaced, apparently including about 77,000 Eritreans deported from Ethiopia to the same areas that host the IDPs between May and November 2001
- By end-2000 WFP estimated that 35,000 of the deportees were in need of assistance
- Reported in December that WFP mission to Tigray estimated return rates of more than 70 percent in Western and Eastern zones and 30 percent in the Central zone

"Although no additional internal displacement was observed since the end of the war, deportation from Eritrea has still continued.

[...]

The number of civilians displaced from the Zalambessa, Badme, Mereb and Humera areas is 330,000.

[...]

In Afar, only 33,901 people were displaced from their residential areas.

[...]

Up to mid -September 2000, the number of Ethiopians deported from Eritrea reached 77,579, of which 31,465 have been deported after the cessation of hostility in May 2000. About 33,000 more are also expected to be deported in the near future, making the overall number of deportees 110, 579.

[...]

As discussed above, the war has caused the displacement of 363,901 people (90,975 HH) in Afar and Tigray Regions. The number of deportees that are expected to come home in the near future and need assistance is estimated to be 33,000 or (16,500 HH). Thus, 396,901 people or 107,475 households are envisaged to be in need of emergency relief intervention." (GOE 17 November 2000)

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Category

Category of Victims	Tigray	Afar	Total
Displaced			363,901
a) Rural			
Number of people	246,500	28,477	274,977
Number of households	61,625	7119	68,744
b) Urban			
Number of people	83,500	5424	88,924
Number of households	20,875	1356	22,231

(GOE 17 November 2000, table 2)

It is indicated in a later document that the figure of 363,901 displaced includes vulnerable groups beyond those remaining internally displaced:

[Table 2:] internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Tigray and Afar regions of Ethiopia, including those now reestablishing their presence in their places of origin, those who returning from Eritrea, persons still displaced, communities hosting them and other vulnerable groups.

IDPs/Returnees- Number of Beneficiaries	
Region	Beneficiaries
Tigray- rural	246,500
Tigray-urban	83,500
Sub-total	330,000
Afar-rural	28,477
Afar-urban	5,424
Sub-total	33,901
Returnees/ Deportees	31,465
Total	395,366

(UN February 2001, p.19)

"Since the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, the situation has changed significantly for those persons [the IDPs], and many of them have had the opportunity to return to their places of origin. According to the Government of Ethiopia, approximately 30 per cent of them have started rebuilding their lives in their hometowns since last August." (UN SC 18 September 2000, sect.6)

"The findings of the UN inter-agency technical mission to Tigray carried out from 25 June to 1 July 2000 indicated that of the 315, 956 persons displaced in Tigray, an estimated 15,746 households (25%) had returned to their places of origin, a further 47% were expected to return and about 28% of the population were not in a position to return due to the deployment of mines in their places of origin particularly in the eastern and central zone. In the Afar region it is estimated that 33,901 IDPs are in need of assistance." (UN CTE 22 August 2000, sect. 5.7)

"Working with the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) and the DPPC, food aid [resourced by WFP] was originally provided to 272,000 beneficiaries. In mid 2000, this figure was increased by 15,500 to take into account newly displaced in Western Tigray, resulting from the renewal of hostilities in May 2000." (UN CT 22 December 2000)

"A recent WFP mission to Tigray estimated that more than 70 percent of the people who have been displaced by the border conflict in Western and Eastern zones and 30 percent of these IDPs in the Central zone have resettled so far. Low resettlement in the Central zone is attributed to the proximity of the IDPs' places of origin to front-line trenches, or their location in mined areas, or the fact that the houses belonging to these people have been destroyed." (WFP 22 December 2000)

See also "Cessation of hostilities facilitates return of Ethiopian IDPs (June-December 2000)"

Government estimated that 349,837 people were displaced by end 1999

- In January 2000 the UN used a target figure of 272,000 IDPs for basic food assistance
- Government estimate of 349,837 IDPs by the beginning of 2000 included those who have been returned from Eritrea since the start of the conflict

"The interventions outlined in the Relief Action Plan for the displaced build on the experience gained in providing assistance in Tigray and Afar since the outbreak of hostilities in May 1998. Thus the interventions planned for 2000 include: the provision of basic food assistance to 272,000 displaced [...]." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, p.iv)

"The border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea that first erupted into fighting in May 1998 continues, despite sustained efforts aimed at reaching a negotiated political settlement. The Ethiopian government estimates that at present 349,837 people remain displaced from the conflict area in the northern regions of Tigray and Afar [This figure includes those who have been returned from Eritrea since the start of the conflict]. Most have been integrated into host communities, but where local populations are not able to bear the burden of hosting, a recent SCF/UK survey indicates that in addition to a few camp-like settlements some of the displaced continue to live in make-shift shelters and caves.
[...]

WFP, through its food distributions to the displaced over the last year, and several international NGOs in their work with the displaced, have the impression that the government's figure of the total number of displaced is realistic. Registration of the displaced people in Tigray has been carried out by elected community representatives, many of whom are women, and government officials from among the displaced. Each community representative, who in some cases were elected prior to the conflict, registered members of the community who have been displaced. The lists are then screened by the community for accuracy before being finalized and submitted to the local authorities." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, pp. 29, 31)

Government figures suggest that the number of IDPs increased from initially 177,000 to around 315,000 between June and December 1998

- From late October 1998 onwards the government authorities evacuated people from the border zone
- Report by the Tigray authorities that some 40,000 Ethiopians had returned from Eritrea
- Reports of confusion regarding the actual number of IDPs because of mobility and inclusion of "expected" displacement

"The war against Eritrea pushed 150,000 or more people from their homes in Ethiopia's border regions. Ethiopian officials claimed that as many as 330,000 people were uprooted." (USCR 1999, p. 66)

"According to regional and federal government estimates, following the first round of hostilities in May and June 1998, around 177,000 people from the northern border area were forced to flee their homes and seek safety further south. [...] In the wake of rising tensions and sporadic shelling of border positions, from late October onwards the government authorities have been implementing the orderly evacuation of the border zone. This has created a new flow of displaced people, swelling the numbers in existing host communities such as Adigrat and Enda Sellasie but also creating for the first time a number of temporary shelters, mainly in the western zone of Tigray. Due to these precautionary evacuations, according to the contingency plan of the Tigray regional authorities released in late December the total number of displaced persons in need of assistance has risen to around 315,000. In addition, the Tigray authorities report some 40,000 Ethiopians returned from Eritrea who are eligible to receive assistance under the government's previously announced "relief-rehabilitation" package and a further 268,000 people who remain close to the border and who are considered to be "at risk" should full-scale war breakout. The UN Contingency Plan, finalised in October 1998, takes as a notional planning figure a possible half a million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the border areas of Tigray and Afar regions should the conflict flare-up again.

[...]

In the central zone of Tigray, there persists some confusion regarding the actual number of civilians currently displaced with various inconsistencies between figures reported locally and at the zonal and regional levels. One source of the confusion may be the

tendency of some authorities to include a certain element of anticipation in their reporting while observations on the ground can be made difficult due to the continuing movement to and from towns and villages close to the border area. The town of Rama, north of Adua, being one such example. Here as of mid-December, the town appeared moderately busy with a number of shops and hotels still open for business. While officially some 50,000 had evacuated from the town and surrounding wereda, according to the local authorities the actual number was much less than this as most rural people had indicated a preference to stay where they were for the time being. For Rama itself, some people were apparently commuting in daily to look after their property in the town." (UNCTE 2 February 1999, pp. 2,3)

Geographical Distribution

Three main areas of displacement along the Eritrea/Ethiopia border (2000)

- In Tigray Region's Eastern Zone the displaced are now located in Adigrat town and the surrounding rural areas
- IDPs from the disputed Yirga triangle (in the Western zone) are located in areas south of the triangle up to and including the town of Shire (Endasselassie)
- IDPs from the Central zone are presently residing in Adwa town and its environs
- Most IDPs in the Afar region are living near Bure and Elidaar

"More than 90% of the IDPs are to be found in a belt of land due south of the border that runs from Bereket on the Sudanese border in the west to Adigrat in the east. They lead a precarious existence on food handouts distributed by the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), a local NGO. The remainder of the IDPs are to be found along Ethiopia's southeastern border in Afar Region." (RI 22 June 1999)

"Currently, there are three main areas of tension along the 1,000 km border between Ethiopia and Eritrea: Badme and Sheraro, in the western border area known as the "Yirga Triangle" between the Tekezze and Mereb rivers (Western Zone of Tigray Region); Tsorona - Zalambessa - Alitena, in the central border section (Eastern Zone of Tigray Region) near the main road leading from Ethiopia to the Eritrean capital Asmara, and Bure in the eastern border section (Zone 1 of Afar Region) on the main road to the Eritrean Red Sea port of Assab.

In the Tigray Region's Eastern Zone, the displaced originate from the conflict areas in Irob and Gulomhedda weredas and are now located in Adigrat town and the surrounding rural areas. In the Central zone, most people have been displaced from the town of Rama and the surrounding areas and are presently residing in Adwa town and its environs. In the Western zone, most of the displaced originate from the disputed Yirga triangle and are presently in areas south of the triangle up to and including the town of Shire (Endasselassie); the balance have been displaced from Humera town and its environs and have moved further south to the villages of Bereket and Ba'eker.

In Afar, most of the displaced are living near Bure and Elidaar. They are being served by the government, Médecins du Monde, and the Afar Pastoralist Development Association (a local NGO), and also indirectly supported by UNICEF, WHO and other UN agencies.

In Tigray, there has been some shifting in displaced populations during 1999. Following the fighting in the Badme area in February 1999, many of those who had been displaced to Zeben Gedena from Sheraro town returned. The town is now bustling with activity, and has in fact become a host community for other IDPs who remain displaced from Badme and other areas close to the border. A new settlement, known as Wahla Ni'hibi, has been opened, and is a priority for providing shelter, water, health and sanitation services." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, pp. 30-31)

Origin of IDPs within the Afar Region (1999)

- Both figures of 24,000 and 29,275 IDPs reported within the region reported by March 1999

"Though a good main rainy season was reported last year, according to a recent article in the official *Ethiopian Herald* newspaper (April 17, 1999) the DPPB has distributed 2,180 metric tonnes of relief food to a total of 130,000 drought affected people in Zone 2 and Zone 4. While the latest update on needs issued by the Federal DPPC does not record any beneficiaries due to natural causes, the total number of people displaced by the conflict with Eritrea is given as 29,275. According to the regional DPPB in Asayita, the increase over the figure of 27,720 given in the February Afar Regional Contingency Plan was due to an additional episode of displacement which took place in March. Reportedly, the new caseload consists entirely of non-Afar urban dwellers from Bure ('now completely evacuated') and Manda ('mostly evacuated'), joining 16,290 earlier displaced persons of Afar ethnicity in Su'ula, a locality on the main highway some 15 kilometers south of Manda and some 50 kilometers north of Eli Dar. The DPPB told the mission that the other groups of displaced people, 'originating from both sides of the border' were to be found in Zone 2: Berhale (2,720), Afdera (3,710) and Dalol (5,000). Reportedly, some 290 people from Su'ula and 710 people from Afdera had moved in March to areas around Logia where possibly some of these 1,000 people might have used the so called 'Soger-Camp', which served in earlier times as part of the transit facilities for returnees and expellees coming from Eritrea (Assab).

[...]

In a recent 'urgent joint statement' issued both by the DPPB and APDA, it is stated that the Afar Region 'continues to hold some 24,000 displaced Afar in total'. This figure differs somewhat from the current official figure of 29,000. The statement went on to formulate a request for immediate assistance covering the sectors of shelter (2,500 palm mats and 300 blankets), food (supplementary food for 6,000 women and children), household goods (water containers and cooking utensils for 300 families) and medicines (for 20,000 people). (UNDP EUE 12 April 1999, pp. 4, 5)

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

General

People were displaced both spontaneously and in an organised manner (1998-1999)

- Many IDPs had to flee their homes empty handed at the outbreak of war in May 1998
- Organised evacuations as a precautionary measure after October 1998, enabling IDPs to bring household items
- People in remote rural areas less willing to move but prepared to evacuate if their villages are threatened
- Outbreak of fighting in early February 1999 was marked by an accelerated movement away from the border, both spontaneous and organised

"After the simmering border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea led to open confrontation in May 1998, significant numbers of people in the contested areas of Tigray Region became displaced. Many had to flee their homes empty handed, making them dependent on food and non-food relief support in their new residential areas. A number of locations between Badme and Shire (Inda Selassie) in West Tigray Zone and around Adigrat in Eastern Zone became reception areas for displaced people while additionally Adigrat and Adua (the latter in Central Zone) served as transit points for Ethiopians returning from Eritrea.

[...]

In late October, the situation changed significantly following the Eritrean shelling of Shiraro. Subsequently, the populations of several border towns began to evacuate as a precautionary measure, moving beyond the reach of artillery fire. Encouraged by the regional government, the people of Shiraro, Humera and Rama and to a certain extent also people from rural areas north of Enticho and Adigrat, started to move south of their respective home areas.

[...]

Since their departure was not conducted in a hasty manner, sufficient time had been available to plan and execute the move. The arrangements, however, had to be made by the evacuees themselves. Most people the mission spoke to in various locations of the Humera area confirmed that they had to pay for their own transport. Depending on the number of people, the number of household items taken along and the distance to the new location, any sum between 100 and 500 Birr had to be paid by a household for the evacuation. No government support was available for this purpose and also the "das" shelters had to be constructed and eventually paid for by the evacuees themselves.

[...]

Some two kilometers away from the old Zeban Gedena settlement, a camp consisting of "das" type grass-shelters has been established. The site itself houses an estimated 5,000 evacuees, while, according to local authorities, some 30,000 more are living in the general locality of Zeban Gedena. The circumstances of the evacuation and living

conditions in this new settlement are similar to those encountered in Ba'eker. People had to organize and pay for the move themselves. To various degrees people were able to bring along personal belongings, household goods and other assets, but still had to construct their own shelters using locally available wooden poles, grass and straw." (UNDP EUE 8 January 1999, pp.1, 3,6)

"On the ground, the last few weeks of 1998 were marked by the precautionary evacuation of further civilians living close to the border with Eritrea as the tempo of sporadic shellings and low-level skirmishing increased. According to reports, the towns of Humera and Shiraro are now largely empty of civilians and the population of Rama much reduced. In all urban areas, however, there was considerable movement back and forth as people returned to collect belongings and household effects and to oversee their business interests. People in more remote rural areas within the border zone appeared less willing to move in December, indicating that they were less at risk of military action and more able to move quickly out of harms way if their villages are threatened. With the capacity of local communities to host the evacuees having reached saturation point, special encampments are now being established in the western and central zones of Tigray. On January 25, the Government announced it had ordered the closure of all schools in the northern border zone for fear of further attacks." (UNCTE 2 February 1999, p.1)

"These evacuations began as early as October [1998] last year but with the rise in tensions between the two countries and the expectation of further hostilities, the immediate period leading up to the outbreak of fighting in early February was marked by an accelerated movement away from the border, both spontaneous and organised. The town of Adigrat, some 35 kilometers from the front lines at Zelembesa, appears to have been a case in point. With a population already swollen by up to 40,000 people displaced by the fighting last year, many people (20,000 according to reports from REST) chose to leave and seek safety further south after the outskirts of the town came under artillery bombardment early in February. While many have sought shelter with family and friends in nearby towns such as Wukro and Idigahamus, some have gone as far south as Mekele. Though not on the same scale, other towns close to the border zone have experienced similar movements." (UNCTE 10 March 1999, p.2)

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Exposure of civilians to the armed conflict and protection concerns during displacement

Reported that people were not exposed to violence after being displaced (2000)

"No reports were received of violations of the displaced populations. According to official sources, in the course of the last two years several thousand Ethiopians were returned to the Tigray region, which is their area of origin and have been well received. According to local NGOs, there is also a significant number of Ethiopians who were expelled from Eritrea in 1991 [Sic!]. Many are living in poor humanitarian conditions due to the lack of integration and resettlement assistance, including access to shelter, health, and income. Moreover, during the process some families were reportedly divided." (UN 25 October 2000)

Evacuations to reduce impact of conflict on civilian population (April 1999)

- Some displacement sites within artillery range
- Reports of people moved out of Adigrat town for fear of being attacked

"Throughout the course of the recent fighting very little information emerged regarding the humanitarian situation along the border. This was partly due to limitations on travel to the affected areas, which significantly reduced the flow of first-hand reports, but it was also felt that the precautionary evacuations organised earlier by the regional authorities had been effective in minimising the impact of the fighting on the civilian population." (UNCTE 10 March 1999, p.2)

"This town [Adigrat], capital of Eastern Zone, is the main area of displacement for those fleeing the central front (Zelambessa/Alitena). Adigrat lies within artillery range of the border, and has been shelled several times, most recently in the week before the mission when six people were reportedly killed and more than twenty others injured.

Where feasible, food distributions have been moved outside the town to minimize the risk of attack. The team encountered one food distribution (of food donated by the European Union through CISP and distributed by REST) just south of Adigrat town, and at least two others along the road between Adigrat and Adwa. Many of the recipients there said they had moved from their homes around Adigrat town for fear of being attacked." " (UNCTE 24 April 1999, p.6)

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

General

Displaced children and women particularly vulnerable (2000)

- More than 75 per cent of IDPs assumed to be children and women

"Out of the estimated 349,837 internally displaced people more than 75 per cent are assumed to be children and women. Among displaced populations, women, children and the elderly generally suffer the most. They often have fewer income generation opportunities, and thus are more likely to be impoverished, particularly in areas such as Tigray and Afar which are among the poorest parts of one of the poorest counties in the world. Women and children (including a number of orphans) who are separated from other family members and find themselves in a strange social environment are often traumatized and disorientated. They are consequently more vulnerable to abuse, marginalisation and discrimination. Situations of social dislocation, such as that prevailing in northern Ethiopia, pose particular dangers to women during pregnancy, childbirth, or post-partum recovery. These situations also expose women and adolescents to greater risks of sexual exploitation, abuse and violence. Displaced people, particularly women, are also more at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, since families are often split and increasing poverty and lack of other income generation opportunities forces many displaced women into prostitution." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, pp.34-35)

Thousands of displaced living in dismal condition on the streets of Dessie town (July 2000)

"These people are living on the streets. Many of them are very desperate," says Ina van Uffelen-Kerkdyk, a project coordinator for ZOA. "The displaced people seem to be a forgotten group right now."

Many of them are Ethiopians who lived and worked in neighboring Eritrea, formerly part of Ethiopia. Thousands were displaced in 1991 after Eritrea gained its independence after a civil war with Ethiopia. When hostilities again flared in 1998, another 13,000 were displaced.

Many have no family or other support systems to return to, and no hope of finding work in drought-stricken Ethiopia. So thousands are now living--and in some cases, dying--on the streets of Dessie, a crowded town some 400 km/250 miles north of the capital Addis Ababa.

On one busy street, a group of these people without a home sit next to crude shelters, made from burlap and plastic. They talk about their need for food, shelter, medical care, even blankets. When asked about her needs, one woman responded quickly, through an interpreter: "First is food and second is clothing."

So far, on this day in early June, she has shared one piece of bread with her three children. She is separated from her husband and has no relatives to help her. The street is her only home. Her shawl, wrapped tightly around her shoulders, is her only blanket.

When she and other displaced people arrived in the Dessie area, the Ethiopian government gave each adult household head 1000 birr (approximately \$200 Cdn./\$136 U.S.) and nine months of food assistance.

"You cannot integrate a person who came with nothing but 1,000 birr," observed one relief worker in Dessie. The government, however, doesn't consider displaced people as drought affected, and therefore they are not eligible for emergency food assistance." (MCC 13 July 2000)

Health

Capacity to respond to health problems of IDPs and returnees eroded by conflict (August 2000)

- Most health centers in the conflict-affected areas have been damaged
- Malaria and acute respiratory infections main causes of death among IDPs in Tigray
- High risk of measles outbreaks among the IDP population

"The vast majority of health centers in the conflict-affected areas have been damaged. The extent of the damage varies from complete destruction, as with the health centers in Zalambessa, to limited infrastructure damages due to improper maintenance. Furniture, medical equipment, supplies and drugs have been damaged or looted. In Tigray Region, health experts from the UN inter-agency technical mission in June 2000 identified 11 clinics and 8 health posts that were completely damaged and requiring immediate rehabilitation to serve returning IDPs and host communities, as well as four health station/health posts in Afar Region that require rehabilitation and support.

According to the UN technical mission, the top ten causes of morbidity among IDPs in Tigray were reported to be malaria (34%), acute respiratory infections (28%), intestinal diseases (12%), diarrhoeal diseases (9%), gastritis (4.3%), STDs (4%), common cold (3%), eye infections (2.2%), skin infections (2%), and ear infections (1.5%). Additionally, HIV/AIDS is considered to be one of the major problems for IDPs.

Epidemic surveillance needs to be strengthened and mechanisms for quick response need to be in place in such an environment.

Malaria is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. The displacement of the population together with the coverage limitations of the government's Malaria Control Programme has greatly increased the incidence of malaria in endemic areas. The initiation of specific support to the malaria control programme is essential. The returnee population in Western Tigray is also threatened by leishmaniasis, a disease carried by sand flies. There is a high risk of disseminating the diseases to new areas because of the population movement caused by the conflict.

Tuberculosis surveillance and treatment along the border zones and weredas in Tigray has been disrupted as a result of the conflict. Afar Region has not been included in the National TB and Leprosy Control Programme and the Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) is also not implemented. Anecdotal reports suggest a high incidence and prevalence of TB. An intensified tuberculosis programme must be initiated to render services in these border areas to at least the level of the areas of Tigray and Afar region weredas outside the displacement areas.

Women, children and adolescents in particular suffer from mental and social stress as a result of the war and require support mechanisms, preferably from their own group. Usually it is the older generation and the traditional/spiritual or grass roots health care providers who are responsible for the care of people with various physical or emotional manifestations. Hence, training these existing community support groups to provide support is a constructive way to supply mental health care and increase the coping mechanism of the community.

There is a high risk of measles outbreaks among the IDP population. Children under five years are estimated to constitute a higher than normal percentage of the total IDP population and are exceptionally vulnerable to measles. Support will be provided to strengthen and intensify routine immunization and vitamin A supplementation." (UN CTE 22 August 2000, sect. 5.3)

Nutrition and food

Food aid appears sufficient to hold back malnutrition among IDPs in the Tigray Region (1999)

- IDPs in most areas almost wholly dependent on food aid, but this is complemented by support from host communities and wild foods

"IDPs in most areas (East and Central zones) are almost wholly dependent on the food ration, having no other significant and reliable source of food. In areas where cactus fruit has been available (July and August, Eastern Tigray only) this provides a minor source of calories and vitamins and cash if it is sold [Cactus fruit is very important in Eastern Tigray when its presence in July and August helps deficit farmers through the lean

months until the harvest]. However, cactus fruit is often privately owned (located within the household wall), and that which is not privately owned is fought over by children when food is scarce. Other wild food consumed included a wild cabbage-type plant (*hamili*). In western Tigray there are more opportunities for labour, either in agriculture, construction, or domestic service in towns.

Much of Eastern zone faces what is termed as a “structural deficit” in terms of food production, i.e. the area regularly produces far less than it needs to feed itself. A large quantity of relief food is regularly supplied to vulnerable households in the form of Employment Generation Schemes (EGS).

Households seem to be surviving on small rations with no appreciable problems in terms of malnutrition for children. This could be because of several reasons:

- (a) support from the host population is greater than was reported by the IDPs;
- (b) children are consuming adequate calories because they are able to eat small quantities of food at frequent intervals;
- (c) households are restricting adult consumption and reducing the amount of energy they expend." (SCF August 1999, pp. 13.14)

The Global IDP Database has not got access to detailed nutrition information about the IDP population for 2000-2001.

Water and Sanitation

Substantial water rehabilitation needs in area affected by displacement (August 2000)

- Worsened living conditions for IDPs during 1999 due to lack of water supply and poor sanitation
- Many previously functioning schemes have been damaged in Tigray

"About 25% of the total IDP population are women and children. They have not only been displaced but have been subjected to very difficult living conditions through the last two years. Many are still living in caves and open fields under plastic sheets. Supply of domestic water to these people has been one of the most difficult tasks for the Regional Administration.

Already many returnees are returning to parts of Irob, Tahtay Adiabo, Laelay Adiyabo and Atsbi Weredas in Tigray Region. A recent assessment of the water supply situation in these areas revealed that many of the previously functioning schemes have been damaged. Hence, rehabilitation and/or construction of new water points is a prerequisite to the return of many displaced people.

Since the water rehabilitation and development needs of the entire area affected by displacement are vast, it is necessary to prioritize the most urgently needed interventions. The water projects contained in this appeal are therefore intended to address the needs of

up to 85,000 IDPs, who are returning to their areas of origin now, or who are expected to return before December 2000. The IDP communities will fully be involved in the implementation of project activities and the completed schemes will be handed over to them for operation and maintenance, after training water caretakers and management committees. WHO will also implement activities in the project areas such as water quality control and environmental health activities. The water and environmental sanitation (WES) needs of IDPs who are unable to return and remain displaced are being addressed from the funds received from the UNCT appeal launched in early 2000." (UN CTE 22 August 2000, sect. 5.5)

"The living conditions of IDPs in 1999 have worsened in many areas due to lack of water supply and poor sanitation. Strains have been placed on host communities already coping in many areas with the effects of drought. It is reported that an additional 290,000 IDPs still need assistance to improve water supply and environmental sanitation conditions in their living areas. The Bureau of Health in Tigray has reported that the morbidity and mortality is steadily increasing in places where there is lack of water supply and poor environmental sanitation conditions." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, p. 46)

Shelter

General Government policy to avoid sheltering IDPs in displacement camps (1998-99)

- IDPs encouraged to integrate into communities outside the conflict area
- Some camp-like settlements established in areas of high IDP density
- Makeshift camps established at various locations along Tigray's northern belt
- Makeshift shelters, locally called "das" built of locally available wooden poles, tree branches, grass and straw

"Governmental authorities have continued wherever possible to encourage local integration of the displaced into communities outside the conflict area rather than to set up shelters or camps which they know from their experience of the 1984-85 famine to be expensive and a breeding ground for disease and hunger. Still, in some places where the numbers of displaced are much higher than the local population, it has been necessary to establish camp-like settlements. The team was told that such settlements were located in Adi Haregay (people from Badme and Sheraro), Ba'eker (from Humera), and Abakh (from Rama and areas of Central Zone close to the border). In addition, an estimated 1000 people from the Zelambessa area are sheltering in the shadow of "caves" to the northeast of Adigrat town in an area that is technically within the military zone. The team visited this area." (UNCTE 24 April 1999, p.4)

"Rural huts and urban houses are so overcrowded that thousands more displaced must exist in flimsy grass huts, caves and even under trees and bridges. With the onset of the June rains, shelter is urgently needed, as well as blankets for all displaced and tents for those in towns. Plastic sheets tied to locally procured poles are a quick and low-cost

solution for the rural displaced. The poles can be cut from the eucalyptus that grow around homesteads." (RI 22 June 1999)

"For the internally displaced people the Tigray regional government has preferred a policy of temporary integration, avoiding relief camps to the extent possible. With the exception of a tented camp in Adi Hageray, some seventy kilometers north of Shire, this policy of accommodating displaced people with local host communities has been successfully implemented while the numbers of internally displaced people in the region remained relatively stable with around 166,000 up to September [1998]. By that month the region was also additionally hosting some 11,000 Ethiopian returnees from Eritrea, bringing the grand total of conflict affected people in Tigray to 177,000 by the end of September.

[...]

With the hosting capacity of local communities having reached its limits by September [1998], the new movements led unavoidably to the establishment of makeshift camps at various locations along Tigray's northern belt (the official displacement figure was 315,000 by mid-December).

[...]

Driving into Ba'eker, the visitor is struck by endless rows of grass-huts left and right to the main road, giving testimony to the changes which took place here since the evacuation of Humera in November. Using locally available wooden poles, tree branches, grass and straw, people have built makeshift shelters, locally called "*das*" as well as many shops and restaurants.

[...]

Located some 53 kilometers north of Dansha (205 km from Gondar) and 45 kilometers south of Humera town at an elevation of 640 meters above sea level, Ba'eker certainly gives the impression of a bustling town. Prior to the conflict, Ba'eker was just a small hamlet of about 500 to 600 people (350 according to the 1994 population census). Now the town hosts some 13,000 people, according to estimates of the wereda administration. In some areas of the town overcrowding has become obvious with the "*das*" shelters erected in very close proximity to each other. In the hot, dry lowland climate this presents a serious fire hazard, as the wereda administration rightfully points out. Indeed, during the mission's visit a fire broke out burning a cluster of six grass-shelters to the ground. Since the settlement of the evacuees began, in five weeks a total of 26 "*das*" have been devoured by fire (also, some bush fires were seen *en route*). So far, nobody has been hurt but most of the fire victims lost their belongings. The eldest son of a farmers family the mission spoke to said: "We came here from Humera beginning November. We were able to bring along the most important household items, but had to pay for the transport 450 Birr. Although that money cut our family budget, we were doing relatively well since each of our eight family members got 15 kilograms of relief grain for one month. Now we lost all in the fire – the food and the household things."

[...]

While health, water and sanitation problems are being addressed using various international and national resources, the issue of shelter, mentioned repeatedly as a problem, raises certain questions. In this regard, the mission noted with some concern that many of the more recent evacuees had resorted to the construction of highly

flammable “*das*” shelters even though international donors had delivered substantial quantities of plastic sheeting to the federal DPPC five months earlier, little of which was evident in the field.” (UNDP EUE, 8 January 1999, pp. 1,2,3, 12)

Caves or overhanging rock flanks used as shelters for about 2,000 IDPs (1998)

- Reports that some IDPs seek shelter in caves for economic reasons
- Cave dwellers complain about the lack of appropriate shelter material and a shortage of blankets

"[The] the mission visited a location 4 kilometers north-east of Adigrat, locally known as 'the caves' (Ba'eti). A massive rocky hill provides here numerous places - either in caves or underneath overhanging rock flanks - which people are using as very basic shelters. Local authorities estimate that about 2,000 people have been living here following an Eritrean attempt to shell Adigrat in mid-November. While personal safety was one reason why people chose this location, another reason is based on financial considerations. Most of these “cave-people” were displaced in May from Zala Ambasa to Adigrat town, where they had to spend money to rent whatever housing facilities were available. Forced to sell parts of their relief food rations in order to be able to buy other essential food and non-food articles for the household, the financial burden of paying rent eventually became too much.

Many dwellers in Ba'eti simply snuggle up against the overhanging rocks, having to suffer from the cold which, at an elevation of 2,400 meters, can be severe, especially at night. Makeshift fences from tree branches are put up as windshields. But with the exception of some commercially acquired material, not a single sheet of donated plastic was seen by the mission. This is somehow astonishing since considerable quantities of shelter material donated by humanitarian agencies and bilateral donors have been handed over some time ago to the DPPC in Addis Ababa. Cave dwellers spoken to complained about the lack of appropriate shelter material and a shortage of blankets. While the people of Ba'eti benefit from regular food distributions, another concern expressed was the scarcity of potable water – a spring nearby is of insufficient capacity for the number of people – and the sanitation situation is precarious. The DPPB representatives accompanying the mission to the caves indicated that they would be looking to address these problems." (UNDP EUE 8 January 1999, p.10)

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

IDP children return to damaged schools (August 2000)

- Estimated that about half of some 34,000 displaced primary-school pupils had returned by August 2000
- Reported that in Tigray that 25 schools were totally destroyed, and 40 schools were severely damaged
- Lack of basic amenities like drinking water supply and sanitation facilities in schools

"The conflict and its aftereffects in six weredas (Tahtay Adiabo, Kafta Humera, Mereb Lehe, Ahferom, Irob, Enticho and Gulomekeda) in three zones of Tigray Region and six weredas (Dubti, Elidar, Afder, Dallol, Berhale and Erebti) in two zones of Afar Region deprived thousands of displaced primary-school age children of adequate and appropriate opportunities for meeting their educational needs. The major factors hindering their educational activities are the lack of infrastructure in the areas to which the internally displaced persons (IDPs) are returning since most schools were damaged or destroyed, the inability of some children to attend school due to illness, the lack of basic amenities like drinking water supply and sanitation in schools and communities, and the inability to meet the cost of educational materials.

The Regional Education Bureau in Tigray estimates that some 34,000 primary-school pupils were displaced, of whom 18,000 are reported to have returned to their home areas. In six weredas in Tigray, 26 schools (14 lower primary, 11 complete primary and 1 secondary school) have been totally destroyed, and 41 schools (11 lower primary and 30 complete primary schools) severely damaged. Classroom furniture, stock of textbooks and other teaching-equipment have also been destroyed. Albeit at a much smaller scale, the situation in Afar, and about 1,000 children and 15 schools need support to resume educational activities." (UN CTE 22 August 2000)

"The conflict and its after effects in six weredas in the western, central and eastern zones of Tigray region and six weredas in two zones of Afar region continue to deprive thousands of primary school-age children of opportunities for education of good quality. The major factors hindering appropriate learning opportunities for children in the conflict-affected areas include the lack of adequate infrastructural facilities due to the destruction and damage of schools in the areas to which the internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned, the lack of basic amenities like drinking water supply and sanitation facilities in schools and communities and the inability of families to meet the cost of educational materials. About 34,000 primary-school pupils in Tigray were affected by the conflict. In seven weredas in Tigray, 25 schools (14 lower primary, 11 complete primary and one secondary schools) were totally destroyed, and 40 schools (11

lower primary and 29 complete primary schools) were severely damaged. Classroom furniture, the stock of textbooks and other teaching-learning equipment were also destroyed. The situation is similar in Afar where about 1,000 children and 15 schools need support to resume educational activities." (UN February 2001, pp.35-36)

Classes in Tigray conducted in caves, tree shades and open fields (2000)

- Efforts to continue education services to approximately 44,000 internally displaced school-age children in Tigray Regional State and about 1,000 children in Afar
- Plans for the equipping of fifty tented temporary classrooms in Tigray

"In 1999, a series of education interventions including provision of shelter materials and classroom furniture for temporary schools, as well as educational materials were undertaken to ensure continuity of education services to approximately 44,000 internally displaced school-age children in Tigray Regional State and about 1,000 children in Afar. However, due to insufficient funds, it was not possible to implement all the proposed interventions. Despite the absence of basic infrastructure facilities, classes in 1999 were conducted in caves, tree shades and open fields in Tigray. Schools located in areas adjacent to host communities are also accommodating the displaced students in addition to their own local residents. This has resulted in enormous pressure on facilities and teaching staffs in these schools. The influx of displaced children has resulted in overcrowding of students in classrooms, and shortage of teachers and teaching-learning equipment/materials.

The lack of adequate financial support for the education programme is leading many displaced children to discontinue their schooling and has exacerbated the problem of the poor quality of teaching-learning processes for those who remain in the schools. There is, therefore, a need to intensify efforts to provide access to quality education for the internally displaced children." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, p. 47)

"With an estimated 44,000 school age children among the displaced, education is also a priority for the government and there are plans to assist 27,000 of the neediest students through the provision of stationary materials, blankets, bed-sheets and uniforms. Supplies will also be procured for the setting-up and equipping of an additional fifty tented temporary classrooms in Tigray." (UNCTE 11 February 2000, p., 8)

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Disruption and maintenance of coping mechanisms

Positive development in the agriculture sector during 2000 and 2001

- General cease-fire in 2000 facilitated some return to farming operations and an increase in commercial farming enterprises in the West Zone
- Peasant farmers in the disputed territory still in a slow and expensive process of re-establishing their enterprises by early 2001
- Overall food supply situation in Ethiopia reported to be stable by June 2001

"Tigray, the northernmost region of Ethiopia, bordering Sudan and Eritrea, is divided into four administrative zones, West, Central, South and East. With a cultivated area of some 0.9 million hectares, it normally contributes around 5 percent of the national grain harvest. Because of a high population density, it is traditionally a food deficit area, yet this generalization masks surplus producing areas in the west and south.

With the outbreak of hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 1998, farmers in the war zones along the frontier between the two countries, were displaced and many have yet to resume farming operations in such areas due to the presence of unexploded ordnance and land mines. This having been said, the general cease-fire in early summer facilitated some return to farming operations and an increase in commercial farming enterprises in the West Zone. However, most peasant farmers in the disputed territory are still in the process of re-establishing their enterprises and recovery is slow and expensive. This year prices of draught oxen have escalated as local demand for meat is higher than normal due to the presence of two major armies each side of the border.

Rainfall, the main production determining factor began badly with the failure of the belg rains for the sixth successive year and a late start to the meher season throughout the Region. After the onset of the rains at the end of June/early July [2000], the season varied from zone to zone. In the Eastern Zone, the rains were patchy and finished early. However, the appearance of "azmara" rains in November-December has prompted preparation of land for opportunistic early maturing barley and chick pea production typical of the zone. Water catchment focused development features strongly in development programmes in the Eastern zone and is already having an impact on both production and the reversal of environmental degradation where it has been completed.

The Central Zone also exhibited a late start to the meher and an uneven distribution but mid-August and September planting of short cycle cereals has been sustained by the continuation of rains to the time of the Mission in mid-November causing some concern for the harvestable teff crop, for which yields have been concomitantly reduced.

In the South and West Zones the rains were more evenly distributed. The spate schemes in the southern lowlands have been well supplied with floods from the eastern escarpment and in the West has noted an upsurge in commercial sowing of sorghum and sesame.

Because of the unencouraging beginning, higher prices, bad debts and delayed deliveries, fertilizer use has dropped by around 6 percent. Further, in water stressed woredas the ZAB/WAB staff advised farmers against using fertilizer to reduce costs which are unlikely to be recovered. Fortunately, the Region has had a migratory pest free year, so while the endemic non-migratory insect pests, *viz.*, stalk borer, grasshopper and shoot fly were noted along with vertebrate pests such as rats, birds and baboons, losses from pests are expected to be no greater than levels that are normally tolerated.

The combination of the factors noted above results in a regional harvest from 904 000 hectares of 714 000 tonnes of cereals which is 17.8 percent higher than last year's cereal production from 8 percent more area and 6 percent of the estimated national total. As this total includes 64 000 tonnes of sorghum from commercial farms in the Western zone, the peasant farming cultivation of 650 000 tonnes is close to the expected contribution of the Region due to anticipated increases compared to 1999 of 56 000 tonnes and 54 000 tonnes of cereals in the South and West Zones respectively. Extensive production of oilseeds this year, particularly sesame at 78 000 tonnes, means that oilseed production is now much greater than the production of total pulses at 23 000 tonnes, reflecting the expansion of the commercial growing of sesame in the West Zone and the importance of neug in the peasant farming system.

Food aid requirements are expected to remain high in the Eastern and Central zones and in some woredas in the Southern Zone, where successive belg rains failures have decreased assets. Furthermore in the first part of 2000 beneficiaries received less than 50 percent of their food aid needs due to late arrival of commodities, contributing to further destitution." (FAO-GIEWS/WFP 9 January 2001)

"[General assessment of 2001 agricultural production in Ethiopia by June 2001:]

Abundant rains in the first two dekads of May benefited the 2001 "belg" crops to be harvested from June. Despite a dry spell in late March and first dekad of April, subsequent good rains have allowed a recovery of the crops. The "belg" production accounts for some 7 to 10 percent of the aggregate cereal production of the country, but it is important in several areas, where it provides the bulk of the annual food supplies. Overall prospects for the harvest are favourable and output is anticipated to recover substantially from last year's poor "belg" crop. However, an army-worm outbreak recently reported in eastern parts of the country may impact negatively on the outcome of the season.

In the pastoral areas, the current main season rainfall was late by about a month but was widespread and abundant from late April. The impact of the late onset of rains could be significant given the short span of the season and the recent severe droughts. Recent nutritional surveys have shown high levels of global acute malnutrition, indicating continuing food shortages.

As a result of last year's bumper "meher" cereal and pulse crop, the overall food supply situation in the country is stable. However, the sharp decline in grain prices has severely affected household income in rural areas and may negatively impact on farmers' production decisions this year. The Government and donors have made some attempts to support local markets through purchases of grain, but with limited funding available the efforts have not been successful so far. Some 6.5 million people, affected by a severe drought in the last two years and the war with neighbouring Eritrea, depend on food assistance." (FAO/GIEWS 18 June 2001)

Difficult to restart agricultural production in areas affected by the conflict (August 2000)

- Landmines and unexploded ordnances remain a serious problem
- Farmers are short of seeds, oxen, farm tools, fertilizer, and storage facilities

"As a result of the war with Eritrea, some 500 civilian deaths were reported in Tigray, 750 children were orphaned and the whereabouts of 641 civilians remains unknown. Schools, hospitals and other parts of the community infrastructure have been destroyed or damaged. Four farming seasons have already been lost, and more than 70,000 hectares of land rendered uncultivable and unproductive due to the presence of landmines. Although the Ethiopian Government and humanitarian partners are anxious to support the return of the remaining internally displaced persons to their homes in border areas, landmines and unexploded ordnance remain a serious impediment to resettlement activities. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 167 people, mostly children, have been reported killed or injured by landmines since February 2000." (SC 9 August 2000, para.10)

"The agricultural activities in all the weredas along the border with Eritrea were affected by the war. While the main impediment for the returning farmers is the risk of landmines, farmers are also short of seeds, oxen, farm tools, fertilizer, and storage facilities. The period when planting long-cycle crops for the *meher* – or main cropping – season in Tigray Region has passed and the only crops which still can be planted at this late stage are crops such as teff and chickpea whose planting dates may be extended to early September if rains are adequate and continue into October. It is critical, however, to begin mobilizing resources now for the 2001 planting season to ensure that the maximum area is planted so that recovery can begin.

As agricultural production has been severely disrupted among the displaced, food assistance to most IDPs and returnees will be required through November 2001, at which time the next *meher* harvest is expected. To support the return of IDPs to safe areas, food assistance will be a major component of the relief and rehabilitation plan." (UN CTE 22 August 2000, sect. 3.1)

Many IDPs fled with few personal belongings and were completely dependent upon relief assistance (1998-2000)

- Lack of access to their farmland, livestock and other productive assets make most displaced completely dependent upon relief assistance
- Cross-border petty trade has been completely suspended
- Most of the displaced come from areas that are chronically drought affected

"Most displaced are completely dependent upon relief assistance, since they lack access to their farmland and many have lost their livestock and other productive assets. Although some water, sanitation and health support has been provided, the conditions in the displaced settlements and areas hosting significant numbers of integrated displaced are precarious and in need of improvement. In addition, in order to halt further environmental destruction, alternative sources of fuel (besides wood or charcoal) are needed. Even if a peace settlement is reached during 2000, most people will be unable to return to their homes due to the threat of landmines in and around their homes and farms, as well as the fact that they have lost their access to their property and assets. They are expected to continue to be dependent upon assistance throughout the year.

[...]

In addition to the loss of agricultural production, many of the displaced have lost their other means of livelihood as well. Many people left their homes with few personal belongings, including livestock. Most are unable to support themselves. Cross-border petty trade, which previously made up a significant portion of the local economy in border areas and included livestock sales as well as sales of vegetables, spices, and *gesho* (used in brewing local drinks), has been completely suspended. This has dramatically limited the ability of those living close to the border to have access to cash. To some extent, the livestock trade has been buoyed by the demand from the military, but in general a decline in purchasing power of the local residents has been observed.

In addition to the stress created by the war environment, most of the displaced come from areas that are chronically drought affected, and many have been dependent upon external assistance for many years. Many host families, who are now at the end of their coping strategies, are relying upon assistance as well due the fact that they have suffered from crop failure this year." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, pp. 29, 30-31)

"IDPs in East and Central zones resisted acknowledging the existence of wealth groups in their current situation. With the loss of assets (livestock, access to land) the only differentiation appeared to be the presence of potential labour with the household. However, with limited opportunities for labour in Central and Eastern zone the advantage of having labour within the household was minimised.

One advantage of larger households was the ability to use the ration more efficiently – benefiting from economies of scale which was not possible with small households. Moreover, those with young children were better off since they received a full ration for the young infant, more than the child's needs. In Central and Eastern zone such

advantages are extremely tenuous – the relief is not a secure or reliable food or income sources, hence it is difficult to differentiate between IDPs in these areas.

In Western zone many IDPs were able to benefit from living with relatives. Often those in this position had already been excluded from the ration beneficiary lists, hence any advantage they might have had was reduced. Sources of food and income (agricultural labour, domestic service, construction opportunities) in this zone meant that presence of potential labour within a household gave a useful – but seasonal and not very reliable - source of food or income." (SCF August 1999, p.5)

Some IDPs considered self-sufficient in Tigray as they were able to bring personal assets when evacuated (1999)

- IDPs from the cash crop surplus area of Humera considered self-sufficient in terms of food and non-food requirements (January 1999)
- Some IDPs able to continue cash-crop businesses and set up restaurants

"Unlike the first wave of displaced people who had to flee at short notice virtually empty handed, the more recent evacuees were able to bring along their essential household assets. This makes them less vulnerable, especially in terms of their basic - non-food - needs. Moreover, local authorities acknowledge that in surplus producing areas in the north-western corner of the region a significant numbers of these evacuees are relatively wealthy and therefore self-sufficient for the time being. The largest group of evacuees in the west are presently located at Ba'eker, some 45 kilometers south of Humera. Here, as of mid-December, some 13,000 evacuees had arrived according to the local authorities, creating almost overnight a bustling community where before there had been a quiet village of just 500 to 600 people. In some areas of the town, overcrowding was becoming evident with temporary grass and stick shelters built in close proximity to each other and creating a potential fire hazard. In nearby May Kedra, the original population of some 9,000 had been swollen by a further 5,000 evacuees but many of these were reported as relatively affluent." (UNCTE 2 February 1999, p.3)

"Lately, after the evacuation of Humera, May Kedra saw an influx of 3,000 to 5,000 evacuees. Whereas Ba'eker is said to have received evacuees from the lower socio-economic population strata, May Kedra reportedly hosts better-off evacuees. A number of private entrepreneurs and traders involved in the cash crop business came from Humera to continue their business out of May Kedra, where at the time of the mission's visit piles of sesame bags were being loaded on numerous trucks. A number of shops, restaurants and residences are more elaborate than the facilities seen in Ba'eker. Some wealthy people in May Kedra even have their own television satellite dish. A female restaurant owner, whose husband has farmland in the vicinity, said that the family moved business and household not only with the essential items, but also with four employees of which two continue to work on the farmland, while the other two work in the household and in the restaurant business. The woman, having been able to rent the entire facilities

(restaurant and residence) said the only problems the family was facing were “missing home” and “losing out on business”.

The transfer of an entire society, including the “deluxe displacement” of a wealthy minority, cannot negate the fact that evacuees belonging to the lower population strata have suffered seriously from the circumstances of the evacuation, for which they also had to pay. While a number of evacuees from Humera seem to have rented existing housing, May Kedra also has, though to a lesser extent than Ba’eker, newly constructed “*das*” type shelters. Fire hazards and overcrowding persist, as well as the pressure on the water and sanitation sector. The town has a borehole as its water source, but no storage tank nor adequate pumps. MSF Holland has very recently obtained permission to also operate in the water and sanitation sector in May Kedra and Bereket, a village some 14 kilometers further west.

[...]

Speaking to a number of evacuees [in the Zeban Gedena settlement], the mission learned that people in this location had also tried to continue their normal business activities. Petty trade, like the sale of spices and “*tsoa*” (local beer), is going on while locally grown (through irrigation) lettuce and tomatoes were available in the camp’s market. A few shops and makeshift bars have also been set up. The general complaint, however, is that a significant loss of income has had to be borne.” (UNDP EUE 8 January 1999, pp. 4, 6)

Nomadic culture made displacement situation less critical for IDPs in the Afar region (1999)

- Report suggest that most of the Afars were presumably displaced together with animals and household belongings
- Serious negative impact from disruption of the pre-conflict economy and closure of markets crucial to sedentary and nomadic people

"As secondary information indicates, most of the Afars were presumably displaced together with animals and household belongings. Being nomads, this allowed them the continuous use of traditional shelters (“*ari*” - Afar houses built with local materials of wood and palm-leaves, called “*dibora*”). Shortcomings in the shelter sector are reported from Su’ula, where people are said to have used volcanic rocks to erect walls, but were lacking appropriate materials to top the constructions with a roof. In some areas water needs remain unclear. A water tanker (starting from Mile) served roadside villages up to Manda until October. In Su’ula, a natural shallow well is available. However, the civilians in the area have to share the resource with the military. UNICEF is assisting the regional water bureau in water development programs.

[...]

The disruption of the pre-conflict economy along with the closure of markets crucial to sedentary and nomadic people alike appears to have had a serious negative impact on the livelihood of the affected population. To open up market alternatives seems to be difficult at this point. Besides addressing the impact of market inaccessibility, the mission believes it is important when assessing and addressing the humanitarian needs of displaced to

differentiate between empty-handed displaced and people who moved with their livestock and household possessions. Obviously, the latter would not be needy to the same extent as completely destitute people. The importance of this differentiation is underlined by past experiences in the humanitarian context: Indiscriminate food distribution attracts also numbers of people who don't need it and creates dependency attitudes. Resources saved through proper targeting could rather be used to support sustainable development initiatives, which ideally would be appropriate to the local eco-environment. Oasis agriculture and the improvement of water management, for example, have been mentioned in the past as priority areas. A wider implementation of such initiatives would make the region and its people less vulnerable in times of stress – be it emergencies induced by nature or man-made." (UNDP EUE 12 April 1999, pp. 5,7)

For more updated information, see the EUE mission report (7 May 2000): Afar Pastoralists Face Consequences of Poor Rains

PROPERTY ISSUES

General

Reports of substantial destruction of homes, schools and clinics in the main areas of conflict (1999-2001)

- Reported that water points around the conflict areas have been either destroyed or contaminated
- Forest resources have been used by the military to fortify bunkers
- Claimed that the Eritrean army "totally demolished" 23 schools, 12 health centres, 41 private shops and hotels, 30 churches, 16 flour mills, 106 water pumps and eight government buildings, and damaged 13,000 homes

"Rebuilding infrastructure in the west of Ethiopia's Tigre region will cost about US \$48 million dollars, the local administration said in a study. According to the study, the Eritrean army "totally demolished" 23 schools, 12 health centres, 41 private shops and hotels, 30 churches, 16 flour mills, 106 water pumps and eight government buildings, AFP said. The war left 126,000 people homeless in the region and damaged 13,000 homes, among the destruction of administration buildings. The study focuses on Badme, on the disputed border, which both sides fought over." (IRIN 27 December 2000)

"The Regional Administration has sent two teams to assess the impact of the war on the border areas and prospects for rehabilitation and reconstruction; their final report is currently being compiled. Preliminary findings of these teams, according to regional officials, are that many of those displaced from the main areas of conflict (Badme, Adi Adiabo, parts of Irob and Gulomakeda weredas) have had their homes completely destroyed and will have to reconstruct their houses. Schools and clinics have also been destroyed, and all water points around the conflict areas have been either destroyed, looted, or contaminated. In addition, forest resources have been used by the military to fortify bunkers and most grinding mills have been looted or taken away from the area." (UNCTE 24 April 1999. p.5)

A survey of the situation facing IDPs in Tigray provides further details:

"[The figures regarding damage and destruction are not complete, and do not include areas currently in contested areas under Eritrean occupation]

House construction is perhaps people's most pressing concern, having had to live in someone else's home or temporary shelters for nearly a year and a half. Iron sheeting may be needed for temporary roofing, wooden poles and nails for the walls and doors. 7684 homes were totally destroyed and 96 partially destroyed.

[...]

Clinics: 8 completely and 5 partially destroyed

Schools: 4 completely destroyed; 26 severely and 4 partially damaged

Water points: dewatering, reconstruction of wells, supply and fitting of pumps. Local capacity available. 19 water points totally destroyed; pumps removed.

Grinding mills (these are needed now at distribution sites for wheat, and mills suitable for sorghum will be needed immediately for relief sorghum). Grinding mills in areas of origin will need rehabilitation also (6 grinding mills destroyed).

Veterinary clinics: 9 destroyed; Churches damaged and looted.

Machinery stolen from a marble quarry site and a private flour factory." (SCF August 1999, pp. 18, 19)

Similar information has been obtained from the Irob area held by Eritrean troops:

"I was in Adigrat last weekend, together with Fetien Abay, coordinator of the ISWC-Ethiopia programme and Wray Witten, a retired American lawyer who teaches at MUC. We met priests who had been forced out of their churches and are now living in the Catholic mission, waiting to return to their parishes once the war is over. Several priests have not been able to find their way back to the mission; their fate is unknown. The churches have been desecrated and used to store weapons and ammunition, or as sleeping quarters for the troops. The priests have heard that structures not being used by the troops have been mined, and they fear that they will not be able to return to their churches and their parishioners will not be able to return to their homes, even after the Eritreans have left, until the evacuated area has been thoroughly de-mined. The priests report that even the fireplaces of the deserted homes have been mined." (A. Waters-Bayer 7 June 1999)

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

General

Signing of Peace Accord on 12 December 2000 initiating a recovery and rehabilitation phase

"The signing of the Algiers Peace Accord on 12 December 2000 marks the true beginning of the recovery and rehabilitation phase. For the majority of the displaced there is now an opportunity to move back to their places of origin and rebuild their lives. Many, however, lost homes and possessions during the fighting and are now returning to communities with only the most rudimentary of services. Some areas are now dangerous due to the presence of landmines, and residual hostility between the two countries means it could be some time before trade, a crucial element to the local economy, resumes across the common border. Another important milestone was passed on 15 December when approval was given for a US\$ 400 million World Bank-supported Emergency Recovery Programme. This programme, which includes components for the demobilisation and reintegration of some 150,000 soldiers, the repair of damaged infrastructure and the demining of the border area, will enable the government to restore a degree of normalcy to communities impacted by the war and help people to regain self-sufficiency." (UN February 2001, p.7)

Cessation of hostilities facilitated return of Ethiopian IDPs (June-December 2000)

- Suggested that 30 percent of Ethiopian IDPs had returned by mid-July 2000
- Assessment found that about 28% of IDPs in Tigray were not in a position to return by beginning of July 2000 due to the deployment of mines in their places of origin
- 17,000 IDPs gone back to their homes in the town of Burie by end of July 2000
- Reported in December that WFP mission to Tigray estimated return rates of more than 70 percent in Western and Eastern zones and 30 percent in the Central zone

"It is estimated by the Government of Ethiopia that 350,000 persons were displaced by the conflict. Since the June 18 [2000] agreement there are indications that a significant number – perhaps as many as 30 percent – may have already returned home. An estimated 75 percent of the IDPs are assumed to be children and women. The Government's general policy, supported by the UN Country Team, has been to encourage IDPs to integrate into communities outside the conflict area, but some camp-like settlements have emerged in areas of high IDP density – especially at various locations along the Tigray region's northern belt. The majority of the displacement has taken place in this region, while about 29,000 people have been displaced in the Afar region further east." (UN EUE 19 July 2000)

"The findings of the UN inter-agency technical mission to Tigray carried out from 25 June to 1 July 2000 indicated that of the 315, 956 persons displaced in Tigray, an estimated 15,746 households (25%) had returned to their places of origin, a further 47% were expected to return and about 28% of the population were not in a position to return due to the deployment of mines in their places of origin particularly in the eastern and central zone. In the Afar region it is estimated that 33,901 IDPs are in need of assistance.

The mission report further noted that most of the displaced are subsistence farmers and their return must be immediate to enable them to resettle in their communities. The transport assistance they may require would be in the form of hired trucks, tractor-trailers, animal drawn carts etc. to move their belongings, women, children and the injured. In addition, they urgently require shelter materials, blankets, utensils, seeds or cash grant to sustain themselves. Although it is difficult to determine the exact number of displaced who may require assistance, for planning purpose the following estimates will be used for Tigray and Afar region." (UN CTE 22 August 2000, sect. 5.7)

"Since the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, the situation has changed significantly for those persons [the IDPs], and many of them have had the opportunity to return to their places of origin. According to the Government of Ethiopia, approximately 30 per cent of them have started rebuilding their lives in their hometowns since last August." (UN SC 18 September 2000, sect.6)

"Around 17,000 Ethiopians who were forced to leave the town of Burie more than two years ago when war broke out with Eritrea have gone back to their homes in the last month, officials said.

The villagers, who had lived in displacement camps since they were evacuated from northeastern Burie in May 1998, were able to return home after mine-clearing operations and building repairs, said an official quoted Sunday by the Walta Information Centre, a press group close to Addis Ababa.

War broke out in May 1998 between the two Horn of African countries over a border dispute. Burie, which is 785 kilometres (470 miles) northeast of Addis Ababa, was then in the middle of a no-man's land between the two armies and was speedily evacuated." (AFP 31 July 2000)

"A recent WFP mission to Tigray estimated that more than 70 percent of the people who have been displaced by the border conflict in Western and Eastern zones and 30 percent of these IDPs in the Central zone have resettled so far. Low resettlement in the Central zone is attributed to the proximity of the IDPs' places of origin to front-line trenches, or their location in mined areas, or the fact that the houses belonging to these people have been destroyed." (WFP 22 December 2000)

See also "Difficult to restart agricultural production in areas affected by the conflict (August 2000)"

Opportunities for safe return constrained by presence of landmines (2000-2001)

- IDPs around Adigrat advised not to return because their areas of origin are contaminated with landmines
- As many as 100,000 landmines may have been planted in the Badme area (Western Zone of Tigray)
- Threat primarily confined to the “no man’s land” between the trenches along the confrontation lines
- UNICEF identified 150 accidents involving landmines in Tigray during 2000
- By February 2001 the Ethiopian army had removed some 236,000 landmines on the front lines
- Most of casualties are children herding cattle

"[Reported in October 2001 that] The Rehabilitation and Development Organisation (RaDO) continues to provide Mine Risk Education to affected population of Tigray.

In August and September, 18,774 people participated in the various Mine Risk Education activities organised by RaDO agents, community volunteers and school teachers of the 42 mine contaminated tabias in seven woredas.

Since it started, the project has recorded 366 casualties due to mine or Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) casualties. Most of the casualties are children herding cattle and half of them are injured or killed by UXO. In addition the project recorded the death caused to Mine or UXO of numerous domestic animals." (UN CTE October 2001)

"Ethiopia is a country suffering a high degree of contamination from landmines and other ordnance left over from a sequence of conflicts dating back to the Italian occupation of the mid-1930s. Contamination in the former combat zones of the more recent war between Ethiopia and Eritrea pose a threat to IDPs returning home and to the deployment of UN peacekeepers. During the recent conflict with Eritrea, it is thought that as many as 100,000 landmines may have been planted in the Western Zone of Tigray alone.

[...]

In Ethiopia where only a limited danger area survey has been carried out, there is an immediate need for a Landmine Impact Survey (LIS₃) to provide data for future mine action. The survey provides not only mined-area information, but also provides sufficient information to facilitate the implementation of mine awareness and victim assistance programmes. While casualty rates from land mine/UXO casualties remain relatively low (4-5 incidents monthly since November 2000) in Tigray and Afar, populations that have moved back to home areas continue to face risks, especially children who comprise more than 70% of reported victims. Mine risk education will need to continue, complemented by support to emergency surgical and trauma care, physical rehabilitation for victims and development of an integrated surveillance system. These measures will be linked to humanitarian de-mining activities under the overall coordination of the recently formed Ethiopian Mine Action Office." (UN November 2001, p. 4)

"IDPs returning to their areas of origin from the western, central, and eastern zones of Tigray. From the central zone, IDPs are returning to farmland and have received oxen,

seeds and farming tools from local authorities. Some IDPs are returning to one woreda (Erob) in the eastern zone. Others remain in caves around towns including Adigrat, because their areas of origin are contaminated with landmines and UXOs, and they have been advised by the local authorities not to return. Emergency health posts are moving to the IDP areas of origin, but need to be supplied with drugs and staff. Schools also need to be rehabilitated as furniture and infrastructure have been looted and/or destroyed. UNICEF is working on the UN Country Team (UNCT) draft appeal for IDPs in Tigray that will be released later this month. This is expected to contribute to the overall reintegration of IDPs in their areas of origin." (UNICEF 21 August 2000)

"The returning internally displaced persons need assistance in practically all sectors, as most of them lost their possessions in the conflict. Their return is a cause for major concern because a number of areas of return are located in former war zones and are, in many cases, heavily mined. The presence of mines also negatively affects the implementation of development assistance programmes." (UN SC 18 September 2000, para.7)

"In June 1998, the UN Mine Action Service, in conjunction with UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR and WFP, undertook a preliminary assessment of the landmine/unexploded ordnance situation in Ethiopia. The mission identified a need for UN involvement in the development of a national capacity for mine action provided that certain preconditions could be met, the most fundamental of which was the cessation of the conflict with Eritrea and the establishment of a mechanism for civilian coordination in humanitarian mine action. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea on 12 December 2000 in Algiers opens the way for the full re-engagement of the United Nations in providing direct capacity-building assistance to the Government of Ethiopia in Humanitarian Mine Action.

[...]

Ethiopia has a major landmine/UXO contamination problem resulting from successive conflicts over the past 70 years. According to the US Department of Defense (DoD), there are 21 types of mines known to have been used in Ethiopia in past conflicts, from the Italian occupation of the 1930's to the 1977/78 Ogaden war with Somalia and the civil war which ended in 1991. Clearance operations have been undertaken since 1995 by the Ethiopian Demining Project, a non-combat unit of the national defense force established with the assistance of the US DoD. Clearance has not been conducted to international humanitarian standards, however, and there is a recognised need to build a national capacity in this regard.

During the more recent conflict with Eritrea, it is thought that as many as 100,000 landmines may have been planted in the Badme area (Western Zone of Tigray) alone as trenches in the area were lined with landmines (anti-tank and anti-personnel). Other areas where landmines are known to have been laid include Irob and Gulomakeda weredas in the Eastern Zone of Tigray, particularly the areas around Zelambessa and Alitena towns, and the Bure front in Afar region along most of the line of contact. A prerequisite for the safe return and reintegration of many of the estimated 360,000 war displaced people in

Tigray and Afar will be the containment and reduction of the landmine/UXO threat." (UN February 2001, pp. 38-39)

See also "UN launching mine action programme (September 2000)

Some IDPs returned while war was still ongoing (1999-2000)

- Reports of some IDPs returning because of insufficient assistance at displacement sites
- Reports of considerable movement of displaced people to and from the border zone

"A very few IDPs have returned to their homes. Some have done so even in the face of continuing threat of shelling or the presence of landmines. Several individuals, when questioned by UN staff, were told that they had returned because the assistance they had received had not been sufficient or regular enough to support them in the areas of displacement. Upon returning to their homes, many have found that they are not able to adequately cultivate their fields due to the suspected presence of mines, military personnel, and the fact that many of the households are in effect female-headed. Some of these returnees continue to receive rations, since they do not produce enough food to be able to become completely self-sufficient, and the possibility of being displaced again remains high.

[...]

While it is fervently hoped that parties to the conflict will reach a peaceful settlement during the course of 2000, such an agreement is not likely to lead to immediate return of all of the displaced persons. Infestation of farms and grazing areas by landmines has reportedly already led to scores of civilian deaths and injuries, and many people are reluctant to return until the mines have been cleared. Those who have come from contested areas may choose not to return until sovereignty is determined." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, pp. 31, 33)

"In the aftermath of the recapture by Ethiopian forces of the Badme area in February, there was some movement of people back to their home areas. However, further military clashes along the border, combined with the very real danger posed by landmines, led the authorities to actively dissuade people from attempting to return home. Nevertheless, with the start of the main rains in July and given the lull in fighting there has been considerable anecdotal evidence to suggest that wherever possible farmers have been actively cultivating their fields, in some cases, even between the front lines. Thus there has been considerable movement of displaced people to and from the border zone." (UNDP EUE 8 September 1999, p.3)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

National Response

Government strategy to facilitate return and rehabilitation (November 2000)

- Expected that two years are needed before returnees are "self-supportive"
- Continuous relief assistance needed to encouraged to return to the villages
- Essential to setup temporary health services in places where the victims return

"Currently, it is planned to return and rehabilitate the IDPs in their place of origin. Similar assistance is also planned for the deportees. In this connection the Government is in the process of mobilizing resources for the rehabilitation program, and this, which is to be implemented with the participation of the victims themselves, is expected to take off soon. Some of them have already started to return back home.

The rehabilitation program is expected to take about two years and it is only then that the victims can be self supporting. In the mean time, it is important that continuous relief assistance is ensured so that they can be encouraged to return to the villages and participate in rehabilitation program.

[...]

Now that the war has ended, it is now the desire of the Government and the victims themselves to return to their original homes. Returning the victims home is not, however, an easy undertaking. Their house have either been destroyed or damaged. Economic and social infrastructures have been destroyed. Farms and residential and other areas have been mined. In spite of such obstacles, many victims have started returning home and some have faced adverse consequences of the mines.

With the support of the World Bank and other donors the process of rehabilitating the IDPs and deportees has started. This is expected to take about two years to complete. While facing on the longer term rehabilitation efforts, the short term relief needs also deserve attention. The war victims have spent the last two and half years in camps and in destitution. Their survival has been entirely dependent on relief. When they return to their villages, what await them there are destroyed houses and infrastructures. Hence, until the rehabilitation program is fully implemented and the victims start to benefit from it, it is essential that the current relief assistance is maintained and expanded. This will be imperative not only to the effort to sustain the lives of the victims, but also to the success of the rehabilitation program itself. There are many components in the rehabilitation package where the beneficiaries are expected to make labor contribution.

[...]

It is envisaged that rehabilitating the internally displaced families will take about two years. Hence, for the 1st year of the rehabilitation program 100% of the displaced

(363,901 people) would need relief food assistance, while in the second year only 40% of them (145,560 people) will continue to seek similar assistance. This assumes that 60% of the beneficiaries will be assisted to be self-supporting at the end of the first year." (GOE 17 November 2000)

"Provision of temporary health services in places where the victims return to until permanent structures are setup is essential. It is, therefore, envisaged that 20 temporary health facilities will be established at an estimated cost of Birr 3,000,000. Using these facilities, basic health service will be provided to 40% of the IDPs or 145,560 persons for a period of two years (2001 - 2002) while 60% or 218,341 persons will receive similarly assistance for one year (2001). The cost of medicine and other services per person per year is estimated at Birr 30 putting the total for the 363,901 IDPs at Birr 15,283,830. Accordingly, the total cost of the health programme is estimated to be Birr 18,283,830." (GOE 17 November 2000)

Large-scale relief operations implemented in Tigray by the Relief Society of Tigray – a local NGO (2000)

- REST has 26 distribution centers and a storage capacity of over 59,000 MT
- REST provides food assistance to the (IDPs) in Tigray in coordination with WFP
- Reunification program launched for IDP children and their families

"The Relief Society of Tigray (REST), a local NGO, is carrying out large-scale relief operations in Tigray covering over 75% percent of the region. REST has 26 distribution centers and a storage capacity of over 59,000 MT. Their primary goal over the next five years is improved food security at the household level, to be achieved through five strategic objectives: increased and diversified farm and off farm household income sources, improved health and nutritional status, increased productivity of the agricultural sector while protecting natural resources, reducing the effects of disasters and to expand women's opportunities. A cornerstone of REST's approach is to use community participation and empowerment to allow the people to be involved in their own development process.

REST estimates the total food needs for the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) for 2001 at 62,650 MT. Currently, REST in coordination with WFP, is providing food assistance to the (IDPs) in Tigray and in November, REST/WFP distributed over 5,300 MT of wheat, lentils, vegetable oil and blended food to a total of some 287,501 beneficiaries. They also assisted through the provision of non-food items including blankets, plastic sheets, clothes and household utensils.

REST is also involved with utilizing food aid as a tool for development by linking food distribution to community work. They target the poorest and most drought-affected with the aim of using 80% of the relief food received from this food-for-recovery or employment generation schemes program (EGS) and 20% for free-distribution to the most vulnerable who are unable to participate. In 2000, REST received approximately

70,000 MT of food from various donors for this purpose, with most of the food resources used for the implementation of EGS activities such as terracing, reforestation and road construction. REST's EGS approach assists in mitigating and stabilizing the effects of severe drought on household food security, while at the same time building public assets and ensuring the continuation of farmers' productivity. The provision of agricultural inputs on a credit basis to drought and resource poor farmers is also used to assist the recovery process and strengthen agricultural productivity.

Another priority for REST is the strengthening of Early Warning Systems. Together with the community, the DPPC, and other concerned partners, REST is focusing on coping mechanisms, market analysis, food supply status, population mobility, nutritional data and other relevant indicators to develop an effective early warning information network.

REST also has launched a reunification program for children who were originally staying in IDP shelter areas with their families but were unable to stay due to poverty and uncomfortable life situations. Together with the Zonal staff from the Bureau of Social and Labour Affairs, and with financial support from SCF-Sweden, REST conducted the tracing of these families." (UN CT 22 December 2000)

National mechanisms for coordination of IDP assistance (2000)

- The Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) is the main Government counterpart to the UN
- Variable capacity of regional governments

"The National Policy on Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Management, promulgated in November 1993, provides the legal and institutional framework for the Government of Ethiopia's response to this emergency. The main Government counterpart for co-ordinating the UN Country Team response is the Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC), which works in close co-operation with the administrations of the affected regions (in this case, the Tigray Regional State and the Afar Regional State), the technical bureaux, principally Health, Water and Education, the concerned DPPBs and non-governmental organisations such as the Relief Society for Tigray. The Federal DPPC also plays a central role in organising and co-ordinating joint needs assessments with the UN Country Team, NGOs and donors, and is responsible for preparing consolidated appeals for international assistance and managing the allocation and delivery of relief resources.

[...]

For essential and technical services such as health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, protection etc. the individual specialist agencies already enjoy well-established working relationships with the relevant line ministries and governmental agencies, several of which are already collaborating with the UN on national programmes for development as well as for emergency response and rehabilitation. These linkages have proven to be particularly well-developed in Tigray region where the regional administration is relatively sophisticated and technically competent. As much as possible

the UNCT will work through the established line ministries and co-ordination mechanisms, expanding existing programmes where possible and providing additional capacity building support as needed.

[...]

Unlike in Tigray, the capacity of the Afar regional government is relatively weak and lacking in both expertise and experience. There are also relatively few NGOs active in the region. Though the numbers of displaced have been manageable so far, an escalation of the conflict, especially if there is any extensive military action in the east, could result in the need for a major relief operation in what is a remote and logistically difficult region. While the UN has been able to implement its initial relief response through existing DPPC and line-ministry channels, any further expansion of the programme might require either a greater degree of operational involvement on the ground or the identification of additional NGO partners." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, pp. 32, 36-37)

At the local level there is a structure of committees with responsibilities for the delivery of assistance to the displaced:

"Assistance to the displaced is coordinated by wereda, zonal, and regional committees. The mission met with the Central Zone committee, which is chaired by the DPPB department head for the zone. Members are drawn from the line departments from each sector (water, health, education, etc.). Actual numbers of displaced are derived at *baito* (local council) level and reported through wereda, zone and region. Prioritisation of available assistance is done through these committees, as is monitoring of actual distribution. The mission team was impressed with the evident experience and familiarity of members of the committee with their responsibilities and the nature of the problem for their respective sector." (UNCTE 24 April 1999, p. 5)

General Government strategy to absorb IDPs into host communities (1999-2000)

- The strain on local communities and services is beginning to show as the conflict drags on (1999)
- "No-camp" policy considered successful as the return phase commenced (2000)

"Governmental authorities have continued wherever possible to encourage local integration of the displaced into communities outside the conflict area rather than to set up shelters or camps which they know from their experience of the 1984-85 famine to be expensive and a breeding ground for disease and hunger. Still, in some places where the numbers of displaced are much higher than the local population, it has been necessary to establish camp-like settlements." (UNCTE 24 April 1999, p.4)

"In general, the government strategy of absorbing the displaced into existing host communities and providing assistance through the existing services infrastructure has been successful. The Tigray regional authorities, assisted by the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) have been resourceful and efficient. However, as the conflict drags on and with no early return of the displaced to their homes anticipated, the strain on local communities and services is beginning to show." (UNDP EUE 8 September 1999, p.3)

"In northern Ethiopia, the government was able to help people displaced by the conflict avoid many of these problems through its largely successful pursuit of a "no-camp" policy. This was fully supported by the UN Country Team, which sought to assist the IDPs through the expansion and strengthening of basic services available in host communities." (UN February 2001, p.12)

Resources mobilised nationally to assist IDPs (1998-2000)

- Around 80 percent of the 349,837 IDPs are thought to have benefited from emergency assistance
- Indication by regional Tigray authorities in December 1998 that about 50 per cent of the resources raised nationally had been allocated to the defense forces
- An estimated US\$ 33.5 million raised by August 2000 to assist IDPs and other war-affected Ethiopians as well as for national defense

"Appeals by the government issued during the early days of the conflict (in June and September 1998) received substantial funding, both from international partners as well as from Ethiopians residing inside and outside the country. The National Fund-raising Committee has thus far raised more than 213,000,000 birr; a large portion of these funds are being used to assist the displaced as well as returnees from Eritrea. Among the most recent expenditures by the Government was an allocation by the committee for 5000 MT of food to meet the immediate needs of the displaced at the end of 1999." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, p. 29)

"In 1999, a range of relief items and materials were requested by the DPPC to meet the relocation, shelter, health and basic household needs of war-displaced civilians in Tigray and Afar. Of the 349,837 people displaced by the conflict (315,936 in Tigray and 33,901 in Afar) around 80 percent are thought to have benefited from this assistance. Some of the needs were met by the government through the allocation of funds raised from public and private sources, an effort that has raised so far more than Birr 219 million (approx. US \$27 million). A number of donors, however, also contributed towards the programme including the US Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the European Commission (ECHO). A total of 75,000 metric tonnes of food assistance from donors was also requested of which approximately 48,000 MT was received, accounting for 64 percent of the amount required. The food pipeline for the displaced remained precarious throughout the year, suffering severe disruption in September and October due to a shortage of pledges and delays in delivery." (UNCTE 11 February 2000, p.8)

"Asked to what extent the Ethiopian national contribution effort, resulting in considerable cash and in-kind donations (98 million Birr by mid-December [1998]), had been utilized, the regional authorities indicated that about 50 per cent of the resources, mainly the contributions in-kind, had been allocated to the defense forces. The other 50 per cent were earmarked for conflict affected civilians in Afar and Tigray regions. In Tigray, the available national contribution resources, while not having been spent entirely, are being used for (in this order) returnees from Eritrea, the school system and water development. Other priority sectors like health (e.g. mattresses, bedding, clothing for hospitals) were

also being supported using these public contributions in order to complement international relief aid." (UNDP EUE 8 January 1999, p.11)

"[T]he DPPC reported that 268.5 million birr, or an estimated US\$ 33.5 million, was raised to assist IDPs and other war-affected Ethiopians as well as for national defense. Ethiopians, friends of Ethiopia, foreign embassies and local and foreign NGOs contributed these funds between August 1998 and August 2000." (UN February 2001, p.9)

International coordination mechanisms

Mechanisms for coordination between UNMEE, UN agencies and NGOs (2001)

- "The first monthly co-ordination meeting held with NGOs, regional government, UNMEE-CIMIC, and UN agencies operating in Tigray took place on February 9, 2001. Initiated by UNMEE-CIMIC for IDP impacted areas adjacent to the TSZ, the meeting was convened and chaired by the head of the Tigray Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs. Intended as a forum coordinating the use of funds for quick-impact projects financed through UNMEE.
- WFP (in collaboration with local authorities) has held coordination meetings with NGOs to address common food/non-food concerns.
- UNDP/HC ensure regular coordination/info sharing mechanism with UN system agencies through regular UNDMT meetings involving NGOs.
- The UN Emergencies Unit maintains an informal dialogue with NGOs assisting IDP populations in both Tigray and Afar with the aim of tracking current and planned interventions, information sharing.
- UN Country Team/DPPC/donor coordination on all humanitarian issues at the federal level have been strengthened. Two monthly joint meetings at the level of senior management and emergencies officers.
- WFP appointed a Liaison Officer to UNMEE from October 2000 to March 2001 inclusive.
- GOE has praised NGOs for relief efforts provided to IDPs in both war and drought affected regions.
- The community-based approach will become more feasible in the latter half of 2001 as concerns such as landmine clearance and other impediments to re-commencement of agricultural and rehabilitation activities are addressed. "

(Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement April 2001)

Coordination main responsibility of the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia (2000)

- Day-to-day coordination by UN Country Team (UNCT) under the UN Resident Co-ordinator in Ethiopia
- UN Disaster Management Team (UN-DMT) comprising of operational UN agencies makes overall decisions concerning co-ordination, planning, monitoring and reporting

- Reporting to donors managed by the UN-DMT, supported by the UN Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (UN-EUE)

"Under the overall leadership of the UN Resident Co-ordinator, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia has developed a co-operative framework for the design, implementation and monitoring of a comprehensive humanitarian response to the Ethiopian Government's appeal for international assistance to meet the needs of civilians displaced by conflict with Eritrea.

This [August 2000] Updated Appeal for Rehabilitation and Recovery Programmes for Internally Displaced Persons has been formulated under the authority of the UNCT as a joint, inter-agency exercise aimed at providing a flexible mechanism for the rapid utilisation of a variety of funding sources and arrangements, including donor emergency funding given in direct support of the UNCT multi-sectoral humanitarian program. The practical implementation of the programme will be achieved by UN agencies (primarily WFP, FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, IOM, UNAIDS and UNDP/UN-EUE/UNMAS but other agencies may also participate) using established operational mechanisms and modalities. As a UNCT initiative, however, the overall assistance programme comes under the UN Resident Co-ordinator while decisions concerning co-ordination, planning, monitoring and reporting will be handled co-operatively within the mandate of the UN Disaster Management Team (UN-DMT), which comprises the senior management of the operational UN agencies." (UN CTE 22 August 2000, sect. 2.3)

"While the operational agencies will be responsible for monitoring and providing technical reporting on the implementation of the different sectoral components of the program, generic/contextual reporting on the humanitarian situation as well as general narrative reporting to donors on the programme will be managed by the UN-DMT, supported by the UN Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (UN-EUE).

[...]

Ensuring sectoral coordination will be a responsibility of the UN Resident Coordinator with each agency held accountable through the UN-DMT mechanism for ensuring that there is free flow of information regarding their individual plans and activities. At the working level, the agencies involved in field operations will be responsible for ensuring their activities are coordinated with other partners - government and NGOs - to avoid duplication of input and effort and to maximise available resources.

Sectoral co-ordination will be ensured through the UNCT system with each agency held accountable through the UN-DMT mechanism for ensuring that there is free flow of information regarding their individual plans and activities, and that maximum co-ordination with Government is maintained. At the operational level, the agencies involved in field operations will be responsible for ensuring that their activities are co-ordinated with other partners – government and NGOs – to avoid duplication of inputs and efforts and to maximise available resources." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, pp. 32, 37)

Division of responsibilities within the UN system (2000)

- WFP will be taking the lead in providing relief food assistance
- WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF will cover health issues
- UN Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (UN-EUE) will assist with operational support services to the agencies working in the field

"This programme is a collaborative effort of the Government of Ethiopia and the UN Country Team. It has been designed to make the optimal use of the management capacities, expertise and resources available from the operational and technical agencies working in the country, while avoiding any duplication of effort and making the best use of existing working arrangements with government and other partners.

WFP will take the lead in providing relief food assistance, including supplementary food and logistics through its existing Emergency Operation for IDPs. This is currently undergoing a budget revision to incorporate newly affected populations and modalities of operations.

WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF will cover health issues from their respective areas of demonstrated expertise and specialization. UNICEF will also apply its extensive programme and operational experience at national, regional and sub-regional levels in supporting EPI outreach services, with backing from WHO. UNICEF will also expand access to safe drinking water and community sanitation; assisting in providing uninterrupted basic education to displaced children, promoting landmine awareness education and providing blankets, soap and plastic sheeting for the most needy. WHO will coordinate reconstruction of health facilities destroyed or damaged, including provision of equipment and furniture. WHO will also ensure delivery of services related to prevention and treatment of malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, leishmaniasis, psycho-sociological distress and will improve assistance to landmine victims through better health management. UNFPA will concentrate on reproductive health (RH) and the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission. In the process, all agencies will work with each other and with national, regional and wereda level Government counterparts and NGOs. The UN Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (UN-EUE), which acts under the authority of the UN Resident Co-ordinator, will assist with operational support services to the agencies working in the field as well as general monitoring, information management and overall reporting.

FAO will provide assistance to the IDPs to help them restart their farming activities, increase agricultural production and improve food security. IDPs will be provided with seeds, tools and given support for land preparation. FAO will also start to restock small ruminants (sheep, goats) of local origin and provide support to backyard rearing of poultry.

UNAIDS in partnership with the National AIDS Council Secretariat (NACS) and WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, and IOM will work together to coordinate and monitor HIV/AIDS activities that aim to prevent HIV infection among the IDPs, provide care and

support for those already infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on households and communities.

The UN Country Team Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Programme will provide an integrated approach to landmine/UXO threat reduction. UNICEF will strengthen and expand its existing landmines/UXO awareness education programme. UNDP will provide technical assistance to the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) to determine the nature and extent of the landmine/UXO threat in order to develop a comprehensive plan of action for humanitarian mine action and to establish clear priorities for threat reduction so as to improve the GoE's capacity to fulfill its demining responsibilities. UNDP will also provide technical and material support to the Ethiopian Demining Project (EDP). WHO will coordinate the health-related aspects for war affected civilians, and will assist the GoE to incorporate a landmine accidents surveillance system into its regional healthcare management system." (UN CTE 22 August 2000, sect. 3.5)

International operational activities in 2000

UN mission recommended the preparation of a comprehensive strategy for return (October 2000)

- Food requirements for internally displaced persons are being met
- Lack of non-food items forces people to sell food rations
- Shelter material to facilitate return a high priority by regional authorities

"Food

Overall, food requirements for internally displaced persons are being met. With the cessation of hostilities, WFP's emergency operation is being further expanded to cover the needs of up to 65,000 returnees.

The majority of the displaced have taken shelter with host communities, heavily burdening local coping mechanisms. Moreover, the lack of non-food items being provided to the displaced means that they are frequently forced to sell part of their rations, leading to a decrease in caloric intake.

With the cessation of hostilities and the ensuing return of the displaced to their places of origin, assistance should shift from relief to sustainable recovery.

Recommendations

The international response for the displaced to take into account the requirements of host populations, through a community-based approach. This should be reflected in the next UN Appeal to be prepared in early 2001.

Non-food needs of the displaced to be urgently addressed to reduce incentives for the sale of food rations.

Closer coordination between food and non-food actors, including NGOs, to be encouraged in order to ensure a comprehensive response.

Donor support for the transition from relief to recovery in food assistance programmes.

Non-Food

Lack of funding of non-food items in the UN appeals, including in particular the provision of health assistance, such as reproductive health assistance, agricultural inputs, basic shelter material, emergency education and other support material, is a cause for serious concern.

The regional authorities indicated that one of the highest priorities for non-food items is the provision of shelter material to allow for the return of populations to their communities of origin. The World Bank is reportedly considering credit financing for reconstruction focusing on social infrastructure. Support is also needed for the early rehabilitation of family homes. HABITAT has indicated its willingness to be a potential channel for such support.

Early provision of agricultural inputs is also critical to the return and reintegration of the displaced populations.

Recommendations

Urgent donor support for non-food requirements, as outlined in the UN August 2000 Appeal, (for some USD15 million).

The 2001 UN Appeal for Ethiopia to include the provision of adequate shelter and agricultural support for displaced and returning populations. In this regard, a comprehensive housing survey should be undertaken with the active involvement of community-level authorities.

Return, Reintegration and Rehabilitation

To date, the response to displacement in Ethiopia has focused on the immediate needs of the displaced population. As the situation stabilizes, agencies and NGOs expressed the importance of focusing on longer-term needs, including return, reintegration and rehabilitation. Regional authorities have reportedly developed a two-year plan for the return and reintegration of 200,000 displaced and 60,000 returnees.

Recommendations

The UN Country Team (UNCT) to develop a comprehensive strategy for the return, rehabilitation, and reintegration of displaced populations. Protection issues should form an integral part of such strategy. The strategy and the ensuing work plan should also take into account the envisaged activities of the World Bank and the deployment of UNMEE. The UNCT to review the regional return plan to determine if this approach might be extended to the rest of the returnee caseload and if it might form the basis to a longer-term strategy for future response. This strategy should include protection, self-reliance and assistance to host communities as integral components, as well as the needs of returnees, including integration measures such as housing and access to credit.

Early donor support for rehabilitation activities for displaced and host communities after the relief phase to ensure sustainability and stability in the return process." (UN OCHA 25 October 2000)

Updated Appeal for Rehabilitation and Recovery Programmes for IDPs issued in August 2000

- Appeal will facilitate the return of the displaced to their homes
- UN Country Team will work closely with the government in developing the necessary reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes
- Reported that donors responded positively with food aid, while just about 15 percent of non-food requirements was pledged

"This Updated Appeal for Rehabilitation and Recovery Programmes for the Internally Displaced Persons, issued by the UNCT in Ethiopia, is an update of requirements contained in the January Appeal in accordance with the changing circumstances. Like the January appeal, it is intended to supplement the ongoing efforts of the Ethiopian government to provide assistance to the displaced population. Acting as an immediate measure and building on previous programmes for IDPs, this Appeal will aim to facilitate the return of the displaced to their homes while ensuring their care and maintenance. Interventions are in priority areas to start the recovery process and will cover the period from the beginning of September to end January 2001, in anticipation of the expected upcoming Appeal in January 2001, which will cover remaining needs and longer-term programmes for rehabilitation.

The UN Country Team will work closely with the government in developing the necessary reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes. Projected interventions are based on a UN inter-agency technical mission to Tigray carried out from 25 June to 1 July 2000, reports on the IDPs in the Afar region, discussions with regional officials and on-going technical assistance and programme collaboration provided by operational agencies. The assessment team was made up of technical specialists in each of the sectors. This Appeal represents individual agencies' willingness to support the Government's initiatives for the IDPs, based on their respective areas of specialization, considerations of the amount and kind of assistance likely to be made available through UN headquarters, individual UN agency budgets, and supplementary pledges from donors. Components of this appeal are also designed to be consistent with the kind and amount of assistance to the displaced that the UN agencies have been involved in since the beginning of the conflict." (UN CTE 22 August 2000, sect. 1)

"The donor community responded positively to the food aid component of the August UN Country Team updated appeal for IDPs, with US\$ 9.6 million in pledges received towards the requested US\$ 15.1 million. WFP is in the process of extending the operation to the end of June 2001 and is confident of receiving pledges to meet needs during this time. However, the non-food component of the appeal received a poorer response with

only US\$ 2.1 million pledged against a requirement of US\$ 15.3 million." (UN February 2001, p.7)

UNICEF supports land mines awareness education in Tigray region (October 2000)

- Project to provide technical guidance and advice in mine risk education to communities at risk, to bring about behavioral change, and to prevent death and injury
- UNICEF land mine awareness project targeted over 300,000 displaced people in Tigray region in 1999
- Trainers from community level organizations trained by national NGO
- UNCTE initiated strategy formulation exercise for an integrated humanitarian mine action programme

"A one-year joint programme for land mines awareness education in Tigray region was signed on 19 September 2000 between UNICEF and Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO), a national NGO. The agreement, which builds on a pilot initiative started in October 1999, is set within the wider context of the UN mine action programme and is an integral part of the OAU/UN peace monitoring and peacekeeping process. Tigray regional, zonal, and affected wereda government counterparts are also partners in the project. The project will be located in the settlements of war displaced persons in Western, Central and Eastern zones of Tigray region.

The objective of the project is to provide technical guidance and advice in mine risk education to communities at risk, to bring about behavioural change, and to prevent death and injury resulting from landmine and unexploded ordinances (UXO) incidents. According to the agreement, both parties are committed to building knowledge, understanding and awareness on the dangers of landmines and UXO among civilian population, recognising the special vulnerability of children.

In support of the agreement, UNICEF will provide technical guidance and advice, financial assistance, in kind-transport and administrative support, totalling US\$ 462,200 for a period of 12 months. UNICEF is the leading agency in the UN system for landmine awareness. In return, RaDO is expected to implement, monitor and report on the project in co-operation with regional and local counterparts in Tigray." (UNICEF 2 October 2000)

"During 1999, UNICEF supported the implementation of a pioneering community-based land mine awareness education project, targeting over 300,000 displaced people in Tigray region, based on the international land mine awareness education guidelines. This involved a collaborative project with the Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RADO), a national NGO, to train trainers from community level organizations in the region including teachers, youth, farmers and women's associations of whom over 300 were trained and a related community educator network established. In collaboration with UN agencies, NGOs and government at national and regional levels, UNICEF seeks to

sustain this capacity to provide mine awareness programmes for all IDPs in Tigray and to apply successful aspects of this model to other areas in Ethiopia where the menace of land mines threatens daily life, and livelihood.

Also during 1999, the UN Country Team embarked upon a strategy formulation exercise in preparation for an integrated humanitarian mine action programme. This programme, which would complement the activities that UNICEF has already begun, would seek to provide support to the Ethiopian government in its efforts towards reducing the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance to civilians, through capacity building, technical assistance, victims' assistance, and other related activities, to be undertaken by the individual UN agencies according to their area of specialization and in accordance with the UN Policy on Mine Action. A full project proposal is currently being developed and will be made available soon." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, p. 51)

Mine Action Coordination Office is being established within the UNMEE structure (2000)

"Pursuant to the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities and Security Council resolution 1312 (2000), the United Nations is launching a multi-component mine action programme to assist the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea. To this end, a Mine Action Coordination Office is being established within the UNMEE structure. The purpose of the Office is to record and process information related to mines and unexploded ordnance, set priorities for mine action, assign tasks to operators, and supervise their activities. To accurately ascertain the extent of the landmine problem, a rapid landmine/unexploded ordnance survey will be conducted by a United Kingdom non-governmental organization, the Halo Trust, and coordinated by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Survey teams from the Halo Trust have already arrived in the Mission area and will start assessing relevant areas, with the aim of completing the survey by mid-December 2000. In the meantime, mine awareness for the returning population is provided by the United Nations Children's Fund and UNHCR.

The overall requirements for mine clearance in the temporary security zone will be determined on the basis of the survey described above. Both the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities and Security Council resolution 1312 (2000) envisage a crucial role for the parties' armed forces in mine clearance. This requires that the two countries proceed with mine lifting as soon as possible and carry out this exercise in a coordinated manner, and comply with international standards for humanitarian mine clearance. Any postponement in mine clearance would affect the deployment of United Nations military observers and troops and the early establishment of the temporary security zone.

Local capacity-building through training and assistance provided by the international community will be required to reach the objectives set out above. The overarching aim of the United Nations is to assist the parties in accomplishing these important goals, in line with its policy on mine action, which confers on UNDP the leading role in assisting Member States in national mine action capacity-building. These efforts will be funded by

voluntary contributions; and I appeal to the donor community to strongly support this vital area of United Nations activities." (UN SC 18 September 2000, paras. 21-23)

International operational activities in 2001

Overall strategy for UN assistance during 2001

- Strategy reflects optimism in the wake of the 12 December 2000 Algiers Peace Accord
- Focus on the re-establishment of basic health, water and education services in the home areas of returning IDPs
- Assistance towards IDPs to build on existing long-term development programmes in the affected areas
- The programming approach to be coordinated internally within the UN Country Team
- UN concerned in May 2001 about slowness of implementing both infra-structural assistance and humanitarian demining

"The approach of the UN Country Team to war-affected IDPs builds on existing long-term development programmes in the affected areas where possible, especially in the health, water and education sectors. By doing so, the UN response, though financially modest, has been strategically significant in enabling the regional authorities to assist the displaced through an expansion of existing services rather than through the creation of a parallel infrastructure. This experience has proven to be effective, although a shortage of resources has meant that the UN has frequently not been as proactive a partner to the government as it would like.

[...]

The main aim of UN humanitarian operations in Ethiopia during 2001 will be to save lives, protect productive assets and promote a return to normality for populations now recovering from the effects of prolonged drought and displacement. The various interventions presented in this appeal will be managed through an integrated, rights-based programming approach coordinated internally within the UN Country Team and implemented under the overall leadership of the Government of Ethiopia. UN humanitarian assistance will remain supportive of the longer-term development priorities of the Government, with an emphasis on building self-reliance and strengthening federal and regional capacities for disaster preparedness, management and response.

[...]

In war-affected border areas of Tigray and Afar regions, the UN Country Team will seek to play a role in facilitating and supporting the implementation of the World Bank-assisted Emergency Recovery Programme, expected to commence during the first quarter of 2001. As the recovery phase commences, the humanitarian interventions of the UN will prioritise those groups unable to return home immediately or face a significant delay before they are able to restore their livelihoods. As the deployment of UN peacekeepers proceeds, measures to build confidence and help normalise relations between the Eritrean and Ethiopian communities living adjacent to the border zone will be sought." (UN February 2001, pp. 15 and 17)

FUNDING OF THE APPEAL:

"There has been no significant change in the humanitarian situation among IDPs in Tigray and Afar. However, of considerable concern are the slowness of implementing both infra-structural assistance (funded in part by the World Bank) and the overall humanitarian demining effort, both considered essential for the return and reintegration of the IDPs in their home areas.

Having received a major contribution from the Government of The Netherlands in January 2001 and a smaller contribution from the Italian Government, recorded against the August 2000 Updated UN Country Team (UNCT) Appeal for IDPs, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) emergency health and Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) components for Tigray and Afar regions for the remainder of 2001 have been revised downwards." (OCHA 22 May 2001)

Funding situation of the Appeal as of 26 October 2001:

Organisation	Requirement	% Covered
FAO	20'457'500	1.91%
IOM	790'763	0.00%
OCHA/UNDP	1'170'000	14.35%
UNAIDS	220'500	0.00%
UNDP	4'585'250	36.62%
UNFPA	386'250	0.00%
UNHCR	23'370'398	65.50%
UNICEF	16'880'972	43.06%
WFP	127'098'633	44.30%
WHO	8'377'900	19.55%
	TOTAL	41,38%

(UN November 2001, p. 14)

The Appeal document (pp.47-102) contains detailed information about IDP relevant projects in the Appeal.

UNICEF assists returnees and displaced populations with focus on water supply, landmine awareness, basic education and shelter (2001)

- 25,000 children living in war-affected areas to be provided with education kits

"In Tigray and Afar UNICEF continues to support interventions targeting returnee and displaced populations in home districts and communities with focus on water supply, landmine awareness, basic education and shelter assistance. While the implementation of the US-State Department-funded shelter activities in Gulomehda is being completed, an additional 338 families are being targeted with the construction of semi-permanent houses, with funds of the Italian Government. These families, who were displaced by the

conflict and who have returned to their areas of origin in Gulomehda, specifically Marta, A/Alem, and A/Tesfa *tabias*, are being assisted with roofing sheets, eucalyptus poles and nails.

UNICEF is procuring education kits for 25,000 children living in war-affected areas and textbooks covering three primary school subjects. In Afar, UNICEF will distribute education kits to 420 primary school children. Recently, UNMEE brought to UNICEF's attention the need to enhance access to safe water for in areas along the Afari border, where displaced and returnee populations have concentrated, especially in the towns of Burie and Manda.

UNICEF is supporting the Health Bureau for mobile health services in war-affected areas, child health, provision of essential drugs, malaria control, strengthening of EPI and selected drugs for STDs, as well as the overall outreach capacity of the Bureau with the procurement of motorcycles.

Through NGO partner, RaDO, UNICEF supported landmine/UXO awareness activities have directly covered an estimated 100,000 people in 7 woredas of Tigray region with awareness messages . On June 13th, UNICEF and RaDO signed an agreement for the expansion of the project to war-affected populations to target the two mine contaminated zones of Afar region." (UNICEF 24 July 2001)

FAO project to assist the most needy and destitute IDPs including women headed households (April 2001)

"FAO recently launched a US\$ 1.8 million emergency recovery project funded by the Government of the Netherlands. This project will be implemented during the coming 9 months in Tigray and Afar regions. The actual project locations will be areas where shelter, water supply and security problems (land mines threats) are not limiting for the immediate resettlement and resumption of farming during the coming *meher* cropping season. The project will give priority to assist the most needy and destitute IDPs including women headed households. To this effect, up to 23,000 destitute IDP households (20,000 Tigray, 3,000 Afar) will be assisted with minimum packages of basic agricultural inputs and livestock interventions." (Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement April 2001)

Rehabilitation of health facilities in Tigray and Afar (2001)

- US support for multi-sectoral programme including shelter, rehabilitation of water points and support to basic health services implemented by UNICEF in the Tigray region
- Norwegian assistance for rehabilitation of health systems in northern Tigray and Afar regions
- 70% of the construction of the health posts completed by June 2001

"Substantial progress has been in made in Gulomehda woreda in Eastern Tigray, where UNICEF, supported by the US State Department's Office for Population, Refugees and Migration, is engaged in a multi-sectoral programme aimed at the construction of shelter, the rehabilitation of water points and support to basic health services. In Gulomehda, UNICEF has initiated the shift from emergency assistance to rehabilitation activities. As of today over 400 most vulnerable households have been provided with wood poles, corrugated iron sheets, nails and wire to construct semi-permanent houses. Ten sites for the construction of wells have been selected and four wells are being drilled. Drugs from a previous stock are being distributed to mobile health services, and will be replenished as soon as new drug kits are available.

The water programme in conflict affected areas of Tigray (supported by a contribution received from the Netherlands earlier this year) is also proceeding. In Badme, Gehursenay and Sebeya sites were surveyed for the construction of shallow wells. In K/Humera, T/Adiabo and L/Adiabo, 11 wells are being drilled and 11 additional sites surveyed." (WFP 22 January 2001)

"World Health Organization and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation have signed a 3 million birr (an estimated US\$ 361,881) agreement towards the implementation of health system rehabilitation initiative in war affected areas in northern Tigray and Afar regions. The programme is intended to assist Regional Health Bureaux in the reestablishment of 300,000 internally displaced persons to their places of origin and resume their economic activity. An estimated thirty per cent of these are now reported by the government to be in the process of re-establishing their presence in their places of origin." (UN CT 22 December 2000)

"The rehabilitation of five health posts in war-affected areas of Eastern Zone of Tigray Region is well underway, with Norwegian financial support and WHO being the executing agency. To date over 70% of the construction of the health posts is completed, with construction expected to be completed by end of August 2001. The process of equipping, furnishing, and staffing these health posts with appropriate personnel and equipment is also progressing as planned. The capacity building component of the project includes provision of refreshment training for 10 existing primary health workers and junior midwives as well as strengthening Adigrat Zonal Hospital to handle landmine victims and critical injuries. The fund was obtained through the consolidated appeal of 2000. The first recruited groups, 100 junior clinical nurses including primary health workers, junior midwives and village health workers, are due to begin their in-service training in early July. Portion of the fund from this project is earmarked to reconstruct, equip, furniture and train staff to work in Burie health post of Afar Regional State, destroyed during the conflict. The site for the health post is already identified and contractors signed up. The training component will be handled within the training system of Tigray Regional State and the support of WHO." (UN CTE 28 June 2001)

WFP's food aid programme to IDPs and returnees ending November 2001 but some targeted assistance will continue

- Average monthly distributions of approximately 5,000 mt
- Programme seek to cover the minimum food requirements of 322,500 war affected civilians
- Assistance also to Ethiopians who have returned from Eritrea to the Tigray Region
- Donation by ECHO emergency food aid equivalent to USD 4.2 million to over 300,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees

"Many of the people that were displaced due to the border war with Eritrea have returned to their place of origin and begun rebuilding their livelihoods. Consequently, WFP's food assistance to over 300,000 IDPs and Ethiopian returnees from Eritrea will cease at end of November. However, assessments indicates that some IDPs will require continued assistance; they have been unable to achieve any self-sufficiency due to security concerns, presence of landmines or psychological fears of the former conflict. Although the number of beneficiaries requiring assistance in 2002 will be sharply reduced, additional donor contributions are urgently needed." (WFP 9 November 2001)

"WFP has been assisting Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Tigray Region since April 1999 under EMOP 6080 and subsequently, EMOP 6080.01. Recent indications of donor interest suggest that there will be sufficient resources to extend the operation to end June 2001 and a Budget Revision is being processed to reflect this. With average monthly distributions of approximately 5,000 mt, this will bring the total requirements under EMOP 6080.01 to over 75,000 mt, covering the period April 2000 to June 2001.

Working with the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) and the DPPC, food aid was originally provided to 272,000 beneficiaries. In mid 2000, this figure was increased by 15,500 to take into account newly displaced in Western Tigray, resulting from the renewal of hostilities in May 2000. Provision has also been made to support Ethiopians who have returned from Eritrea, most of whom have remained in Tigray Region. Discussions are taking place with government partners to develop modalities of distribution to this group. At this stage, it is difficult to quantify the numbers requiring assistance and while it was originally expected to be as high as 65,000 people, WFP has decreased this to 35,000." (UN CT 22 December 2000)

Modalities for food assistance in 2001:

"Goal: To maintain the nutritional status of IDPs and contribute to the recovery of households and communities.

Objectives:

To meet the minimum food requirements of 322,500 war affected civilians

To contribute to the rehabilitation of personal and community assets through Employment Generation Schemes (EGS)

Vulnerability Criteria and Caseload (IDPs and Returnees): The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission issued an Appeal in November 2000 to assist 330,000 IDPs in Tigray Region. Support was also requested for 33,000 Returnees. As part of its on going operation to support these groups, WFP plans to assist 322,500 IDPs and Returnees in

2001 with almost 75,000 mts of food aid. This represents almost 89% of requirements in Tigray Region.

It is expected that the operation will be fully resourced to June 2001 for all commodities upon approval of a Budget Revision (BR) currently being processed. This BR will extend the operation to June 2001 while also using a revised caseload of 322,500. This caseload is, however, subject to change as the situation evolves, particularly regarding the provision to support 35,000 Returnees.

Relief food has been distributed by WFP, in collaboration with the Relief Society of Tigray, a local NGO, since April 1999. While donor response towards food aid needs was healthy throughout the conflict, it is now possible to move towards a rehabilitation phase.

IDPs are registered by local emergency committees at the zonal and regional levels. At the zonal level, the committees include elected community representatives from the displaced, as well as government officials.

Strategies: Since the beginning of this operation, assistance has been in the form of relief food, but given the current positive political climate, WFP, along with other donors, is optimistic about entering a recovery and rehabilitation phase in 2001. Thus, while the current extension to June 2001 provides primarily for relief distributions with small scale EGS where feasible, it is anticipated that this situation will change in the latter half of 2001 and a new operation will be prepared to reflect this. By 2002, it is expected that WFP will have a very strong focus on linking relief with development and a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) will replace the Emergency Operation (EMOP)." (UN February 2001, pp. 28-29)

"The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has donated US \$4.2 million to provide emergency food aid to over 300,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees affected by the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The money will be used by World Food Programme (WFP) to purchase locally more than 11,000 mt of sorghum for IDPs and returnees living in the northern region of Tigray, northern Ethiopia. Benedict Gultang, WFP deputy country director in Ethiopia, said that as IDPs began returning to their places of origin, they would "continue to need our assistance until they are able to harvest their first crops". WFP said in a statement that the contribution would provide all the cereal required until the end of October. A representative from ECHO said the assistance was unlikely to be needed beyond November as the IDPs were resuming farming activities." (IRIN 14 August 2001)

Major US assistance for rehabilitation and recovery activities in war-affected areas (2001)

- USD 3 million made available in June 2001 for support rehabilitation and recovery activities in East Tigray Zone
- Grant of USD 2,193,000 million (18.7 million Birr) for internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their place of origin in Irob and Gulomekeda woredas

"On May 10, the United States Ambassador to Ethiopia Tibor P. Nagy signed a grant agreement of approximately US\$ 3 million to support rehabilitation and recovery activities in East Tigray Zone. The grant will be used for internally displaced people of the zone for the construction of housing, health posts and schools, development of safe water supplies, HIV/AIDS prevention and control, land mine awareness and support for agricultural recovery and income generating activities. The activities will be implemented by the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA). ." (UN CTE 28 June 2001)

"U.S. Ambassador Tibor P. Nagy last week announced a grant of \$ 2,193,000 million (18.7 million Birr) for internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their place of origin in Irob and Gulomekeda woredas of Eastern Tigray. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided the grant money.

Ambassador Nagy was in Mekele for the signing ceremony of the IDP program with Ethiopian and U.S. Government officials, representatives of four NGOs, and members of the community. The Ambassador also visited some of the sites where the IDP program is being implemented.

The funds will be used for health, shelter, education and agriculture activities, including the rehabilitation of housing, water point, schools, HIV/AIDS prevention and control, landmine awareness and food security, according to a release from the U.S Embassy in Addis Ababa.

Four NGOs - Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperation Assistance (VOCA) - are implementing the program.

Along with previous contributions, the U.S. Government has so far donated a total of \$3,838,000 (33 million Birr) of the \$ 4.3 million (37 million Birr) pledged in early April 2001, to support the IDP programs.

In addition to the current donation, the U.S. Government has, to date, provided 80,710 mt of food aid valued at \$33 million (280 million Birr) to Tigray State. Of this amount, 27,200 mt was provided for IDPs, 36,25 mt for the drought affected, and the remaining 17 mt for development programs." (Addis Tribune 12 October 2001)

Substantial assistance for mine clearance and mine awareness (2001)

- Peace agreement facilitates UN capacity-building assistance to the Government of Ethiopia in Humanitarian Mine Action
- World Bank programme includes US\$ 20 million project for demining of the former conflict zones.
- Landmine awareness programme to give emphasis on schools (2001)

"In the last year, Rehabilitation and Development Organization's (RaDO) landmine awareness programme (LMA) had an important impact on displaced populations through the recognition of the dangers of mines. Cases were reported of people keeping mines in homes, even using them as work implements and among children, as objects of curiosity. These attitudes have changed in the target areas. Civilian casualties increased in the period immediately following the cessation of hostilities agreement, as people were moving into areas in some cases announced or understood as being "demined". With the movement of IDPs back to their villages, the LMA strategy has changed. The project is now placing greater emphasis on schools, with extensive use of drama, poetry and discussion groups. A radio programme, which gives up-to-date information and discusses mine related issues, is broadcast once a week on Saturday, together with poetry and songs of the school programme. RaDO and UNICEF have recently prepared the project's first "Tigray Mine and UXO Victim Report". The report will be issued monthly and can be obtained through either RaDO or UNICEF. This first issue includes a summary of the total number of recorded victims since the beginning of the year (149), an outline of the number of victims by month and an analysis of the most vulnerable groups." (UN CT 22 December 2000)

"The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea on 12 December 2000 in Algiers opens the way for the full re-engagement of the United Nations in providing direct capacity-building assistance to the Government of Ethiopia in Humanitarian Mine Action.

On 5 December 2000, the World Bank approved an Emergency Recovery Programme to be executed through the Ministry for External Development Assistance and Cooperation (MEDAC). The approved ERP includes a component valued at US\$ 30 million to assist in the urgent demining of the former conflict zones.

Goal

The primary goal in the humanitarian mine action sector is to produce a secure a safe environment for the people of Ethiopia and thus allow the rapid revitalisation of land for agriculture, livestock and infrastructure and promote economic development throughout the country.

Objectives

To reach this goal, acting under a common approach the UN Country Team will aim to:

Assist the Government of Ethiopia in the further development of a national capacity for humanitarian mine action; including components for: civilian coordination, information management, demining, mine awareness and education and victim assistance.

Integrate mine action programmes into humanitarian operations in mine infested areas of the country by gathering, analysing and disseminating relevant information and knowledge to government, donors and NGOs.

Promote the sensitisation of rural populations to the dangers posed by landmines and unexploded ordnance through the development of local capacities for mine education and awareness." (UN February 2001, pp.38-39)

"The Ethiopian Mine Action's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) is up and running and the focus is on getting accurate information to feed the database. While the initial Halo Trust/EDP survey provides about 30 dangerous area records, there are other sources being pursued. The recently handed over Eritrean records have provided the UNMEE MACC in Asmara with records of more than 1000 mined areas. Up to 40% of these are thought to be in Ethiopia and as details emerge and translations are made, it is hoped that they will be made available for mapping of the Ethiopian portions. A mission will be going to the northern Ethiopian areas shortly to talk with local military officers and determine if any informal records have been kept by Ethiopian units that would supplement the existing data.

The World Bank initiative continues on course with a focus on procurement of the technical equipment required for Mine Action. The UN Mine Action Advisor Team through the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) are providing specifications and details of procurement. MEDaC and the World Bank recently announced a shift of 10 of the 30 million dollars originally set aside for mine action. This has been done to accommodate a need for additional compensation to families of those deceased during the fighting. The remaining 20 million dollars appears to be sufficient to fund the proposed components funded through World Bank/MEDaC funds.

Civilian Ethiopian Mine Action Office to Begin Staffing

The civilian Ethiopian Mine Action Office is finalizing organizational plans and hopes to begin additional staffing in the next week. There has been a strong push by relevant government agencies to ensure the civilian nature of the management as well as ensure civilian capacity in all aspects of the programme. The Training camp has gone through necessary modification and rehabilitation and training begins the week of May 14th. This should put the first deminers in the field at the end of June.

Landmine Awareness in Afar Region

Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO), supported by UNICEF, undertook a training of trainers workshop in Assaita between 3rd and 5th of May inclusive. A total of 30 participants representing the DPPB, Bureau of Health, Bureau of Education, Government Administration and clan leaders attended the workshop. The training included mine and UXO recognition, dangerous areas, safe behaviour messages and awareness methodologies. In addition to learning, the participants contributed by applying their local knowledge of the mine problem to discussions and work groups.

The training was preceded by a longer assessment mission conducted by RaDO to look at some socio-cultural aspects of the Afari society that are relevant to the development of appropriate materials and strategies. The mission also assessed the risk of landmine accidents to which the population is exposed and the need for mine awareness training. According to the DPPB, there are 33,900 internally displaced people in Afar, out of a

population of 1.1 million. Afar is one of Ethiopia's most disadvantaged regions, with a predominantly nomadic population. Literacy levels are very low, and Kuranic schools are an important resource for education. Afaris attribute great importance to the exchange of information. As a people "on the move", Afaris comply to the principle of *dagu*, which consist of a process of information sharing between people who meet on the road in which speakers exchange accurate reports of everything that they heard and seen during their travel. A second occasion for information sharing is *mablo*. This community meeting is attended by clan and sub-clan elders, religious leaders, but is open to all members of the community, including children, who have the right to address the group. *Mablo* also works as a conflict-resolution forum.

In Afar landmine awareness activities will target Elidar, Dupti, Dalul, Erepti, Afdera and Berhale woredas, located in Zones 1 and 2, along border areas most affected by the conflict. Although there has been no systematic collection of data on landmine/UXO victims until now, RaDO was able to collect preliminary information on 25 reported incidents. Elidar woreda, located within Zone 2, is believed to be the district with the highest concentration of mines. Several areas have been evacuated. To date, the Ethiopian Demining Project has reportedly undertaken some mines clearance but the number is not known." (UN CTE 17 May 2001)

International operational activities in 2002

UN assistance to remaining IDPs to be coordinated with World Bank funded recovery project (2002)

- Remaining IDPs need support through the provision of water, shelter, and limited health and education assistance
- Focused emergency education targeting children lacking normative learning environments and materials

"While a significant number of former IDPs have been able to return to their areas of origin, this has not been the case for certain segments of the population. They will need support through the provision of water, shelter, and limited health and education assistance. All planning will be developed in close coordination with the World Bank - Government of Ethiopia's Emergency Recovery Project, to ensure effective targeting of most vulnerable communities and to avoid duplication of services. On the basis of field assessments, project activity reports, consultations with DPPB and NGOs working in Tigray and Afar and in specific discussions with the Project Management Unit (PMU) in Mekele, the provision of mobile health services and limited physical rehabilitation of health posts will be supported in locations where health services have not yet been restored. Limited water supply interventions will be supported targeting displaced populations in a number of specific *woredas*. Focused interventions will continue promoting emergency education targeting children lacking normative learning environments and materials. Children and women experiencing special hardship due to

conditions of displacement, including returnee/deportees from Eritrea, will be assisted based on a human rights framework and in consultation with UNMEE.

[...]

Select basic education interventions will continue targeting displaced children living in camps and urban areas in Somali Region. This intervention recognises that Somali Region has the lowest enrolment rates of any region in the country. It equally acknowledges the right to education and the role education plays in promoting child growth and development, taking into account that for many displaced, the option of resuming a pastoralist livelihood has been lost. Such approaches will also link with special protection-based initiatives targeting femaleheaded households and children at higher risk.

[...]

In post war and drought affected regions, including Tigray, Afar, Somali and parts of Oromia, support will be provided for limited reconstruction of health facilities destroyed during the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict, as well as for the construction of basic health facilities where they are not available, and the provision of equipment, staff training, logistics and maintenance systems. For communities unable to return to home areas and where the restoration of health services has not been established, support will include funding of mobile health services. Technical support will also be provided for regular nutrition surveillance of displaced and returnee populations." (UN November 2001, pp.3-4, 5)

Food assistance for IDPs to continue during 2002 - but at reduced level

"For war-affected IDPs, food assistance is expected to continue during 2002 but at a reduced level. With the signing of a Peace Treaty in December 2000, many IDPs have been able to return to their areas of origin and a significant number have begun to rebuild their livelihoods. Over 300,000 IDPs and Ethiopian Returnees from Eritrea received monthly food aid rations during 2001, but efforts are being made to support the transition from relief to recovery. The scale and speed of interventions such as the World Bank/Government of Ethiopia Emergency Recovery Project (ERP) will affect the need for continued food assistance. Assessments are currently being undertaken to determine the number of people that will require continued food assistance and preliminary findings indicate that the needs specific for IDPs in 2002 will be substantially less than in 2001. Former IDPs who have recommenced farming activities will have their food assistance needs for 2002 assessed during the forthcoming crop assessments."

(UN November 2001, pp. 5-6)

Response by Non Governmental Organisations

NGO partnerships often guided by tripartite agreements between the UN agency, the NGO and the Government (2000)

- Agreements between NGOs , WFP and the Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) have featured the provision of supplementary food supplies
- UNICEF pioneering its landmine awareness programme in Tigray through support for a local NGO (RADO)
- UNDP working closely with the local NGO (Afar Pastoralist Development Agency) in the area of shelter and other assistance to IDPs in Afar region
- Reported in January 2000 that major Government involvement in distribution of UN assistance diminished the role of NGO activities (2000)

"With the support of the Government, a number of [...] partnerships have been developed whereby the UN has been able to provide material and technical support to NGO-assisted relief operations in areas where local capacities are weak. Most notably these partnerships, normally undertaken through a tripartite agreement between WFP, the recipient NGO and the DPPC, have featured the provision of supplementary food supplies needed for emergency feeding programmes. Other agencies have also begun to explore the potential for such partnerships, with UNICEF pioneering its landmine awareness programme in Tigray through support for a local NGO (RADO), while UNDP has worked closely with another local NGO (Afar Pastoralist Development Agency) to ensure the timely delivery of shelter and other assistance to IDPs in Afar region. Another example is the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) with which the UN has had a close working relationship for both the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance in Tigray.

The potential to expand these partnerships will be further explored in the coming year, looking at both opportunities for financial and material support as well as operational collaboration in areas where joint action may be more efficient and cost-effective. As the capacity of the UN to provide security advice and assistance develops, NGOs will be encouraged to participate more fully in local arrangements, helping to contribute to a greater level of staff safety in the field and thereby build confidence that could help sustain longer term programmes of assistance in otherwise remote, neglected areas of the country." (UN February 2001, p.16)

" The emphasis on national execution in Ethiopia, which is established government policy, means that the number of NGOs working directly as implementing partners with the UNCT has diminished somewhat. Should a potential escalation of the conflict lead to significantly increased needs among the displaced population, however, the adoption of a more flexible approach will be advocated in order that the needs can be addressed in a timely fashion. In the north, the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) is already a key player providing relief assistance to the displaced and an established partner for the UN; a number of other—both national and international—NGOs are also ready to become more operational if required and requested by the Government." (UNCTE 28 January 2000, p. 37)

NGOs involved in mine awareness initiatives (2000)

- ICRC working with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) in Tigray Region
- Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO) implementing mine risk awareness education program in the Northern parts of Ethiopia
- HALO Trust involved in survey of 783 km of trenches on border

"ICRC is working in Tigray including the former conflict zones

A major concern for ICRC is mine awareness. They are working with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) in Tigray Region on a mine awareness program as ERCS has a network of 1400 volunteers that could be mobilized for mine awareness initiatives. To support this program, ICRC has appointed a mine awareness specialist.

Additionally, ICRC assists the Prosthetics Orthotics Centre (POC) in Mekele by reimbursing the centre for all costs relating to the finding of prosthesis and patient transport, food and accommodation and also provides medical supplies and training to four health posts. To facilitate their health activities, ICRC has appointed a Prothesist.

The ICRC delegates with the assistance of volunteers from both Eritrean and Ethiopian Red Cross have been supporting the safe passage of repatriated persons between both countries. The safe passage has been across the Mereb river near Rama.

RaDO Implements Rehabilitation and Mine Awareness Projects

The Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO) is a national humanitarian NGO established in 1997 to work in physical rehabilitation with the aim of preventing disability and rehabilitating the disabled in different hospitals throughout the country. RaDO strives to improve the quality of life of the population in target areas by increasing access to basic services and facilities, and integrating rehabilitation services with development programs. Currently, RaDO's projects include the establishment of physiotherapy and orthopedic facilities in thirteen hospitals throughout the country, the provision of physical rehabilitation services for the Somali and Sudanese refugees and mine risk awareness education program (supported by UNICEF) in the Northern parts of Ethiopia.

As a response to the danger posed by landmines in northern Ethiopia, RaDO is currently running two projects in Tigray in collaboration with Handicap International. The first is for the establishment of a physical rehabilitation unit, in which a physiotherapy unit and an orthopaedic workshop was constructed in Maychew and Axum hospitals. The project has different components including the training of nurses for the physiotherapy unit and general technicians for the orthopaedic workshop, and the provision of equipment such as machinery and consumable material. The physiotherapy and orthopaedic units from each hospital treat 20 patients on average per month. Now that the 18-month founding process is finalized the hospitals are self-sustaining while RaDO has limited their assistance to quarterly supervision and follow up.

The second RaDO project involves the implementation of a "Mine Risk Awareness Education" program in Tigray Regional State in collaboration with UNICEF. The program began with a regional workshop in October 1999 in Mekele and spread to other

weredas identified as highly mined (Gulomekeda and Erob weredas in the eastern and Tahtai Adiabo, Laelay Adiabo and Kefta Humera weredas in western, and Ahferom and Merebleke weredas in the central zones). More than 50,000 people have attended the mine awareness sessions intensively, while short-term sensitization sessions were given for around 30,000 people in eastern and central zones as of October 2000. The programs were designed so that participants would later share information with their communities. In addition, RaDO has organized a community-based task force consisting of local administration, community leaders, youth, women, farmers and teachers who raise awareness on *wereda* and zonal levels.

[...]

Survey Team Obtains Accurate Information on Mine Situation

The HALO Trust is an international, humanitarian mine clearance NGO based in the United Kingdom. Founded in 1988, The HALO Trust was not only the first mine clearance organization in the world, but is currently the largest. The HALO Trust conducts mine clearance operations in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Georgia, Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Kosovo, Angola, Mozambique, Somaliland and Eritrea.

783 km of trenches on the Ethiopian side between the Sudanese and Djibouti borders were closely surveyed by the Ethiopian Demining Program and a team composed of two members of The HALO Trust. The team was tasked by UNDP to conduct a detailed survey of the mined areas along the Ethiopia/Eritrea border, south of the proposed UN Temporary Security Zone, from September to December 2000. Traveling in a specially rigged Land Rover, the team spent the entire time living in the open, and over the three month operation were able to obtain an accurate picture of the mine situation along the border and its possible impact on returning IDPs. It is hoped that much of the information gathered will soon go towards assisting the safer deployment of UNMEE peacekeeping troops. Based on the results of the survey, The HALO Trust is hoping to obtain the permission of the Ethiopian Government to establish a mine clearance program in Tigray Province in 2001, in order to help alleviate the suffering of returning IDPs to the region." (UN CT 22 December 2000)

Summary of NGO activities directed at IDPs in the Afar region (1999)

- Remoteness of the region directs NGO assistance towards locations on or near the main Assab road
- Assistance include: water storage facilities, distribution of live goats, support for local health systems

"Given the remoteness of much of the Afar region, NGO assistance to people displaced by the conflict, to date, has been directed to locations on or near the main Assab road, principally Su'ula. The details given below, provided by the NGOs, largely reflect this reality. The needs of groups said to be displaced around Berhale, Dalol and Afdera in Zone 2 have yet to be assessed.

[...]

In Su'ula, APDA together with a local committee is reportedly distributing traditional mats, plastic sheeting and blankets donated by the German Government. APDA is also, together with DPPB, in the process of constructing a water storage facility in Su'ula. Concerning food, the agency did not ascertain signs of 'current malnutrition' but anticipates the occurrence to be "inevitable without food distribution". For the time being, the agency has distributed live goats to some families in need. Overall, ADPA has 20 health workers operating in localities with displaced people, of which four are working in and around Su'ula, addressing problems mainly related to malaria and chest infections. Of concern is also a possible outbreak of diarrhea and contagious diseases, since Su'ula's population has increased considerably.

Generally, as APDA representatives in Asayita pointed out, local markets north of Serdo and Diciotto (Haya) collapsed, affecting negatively the normal lifestyle of nomadic and sedentary people alike. This information has been confirmed also by Médecins du Monde (Mdm) which has access to Su'ula on a fairly regular basis.

After having carried out a head count, Mdm concluded that (as of March) some 5,000 destitute displaced people in need of relief support were living in Su'ula since late December, while possibly some 11,000 more were living in the surroundings. Mdm does not know the needs of that larger group, although informal reports indicate that most of those people arrived there together with their animals, suffering mostly from the lack of market access.

While focusing mainly on medical support, Mdm is also prepared to intervene with emergency food supplies. As a storage facility, the agency has erected a Rubbhall in Su'ula. Some 50 metric tonnes of wheat flour is to be distributed soon. Other relief items pending distribution were oil, Famix and cooking utensils. Further intervention plans include the construction of latrines and a small clinic.

Another French NGO in the area, Médecins sans Frontières - France (MSF-F), is based in Dubti, supporting mainly the local health system including the regional referral hospital. As an emergency preparedness measure, MSF-F has 250,000 Birr (31,000 US Dollar) worth surgical material and supplies at hand in Dubti. For the time being, however, no medical emergency intervention is considered. The agency would step in and respond "as the emergency develops", a spokesperson said. Should the surgical supplies not be needed in the current context, the items would be handed over to the regional authorities after the conflict resolution." (UNDP EUE 12 April 1999, pp. 5-6)

Most non-food assistance by CISP completed by end-2000

"Currently, CISP, under a grant from the Netherlands and in close partnership with REST, is undertaking emergency activities for the IDPs in Tigray including eastern, central and western parts. The fund was granted in July 2000 and activities are to end in March 2001. The bulk of relief activities have already been completed while others are under implementation (shallow wells and kitchen utensils).

As part of this program, non-food items already distributed amount to 9,000 individual plastic sheets, 4,000 blankets, 8,000 jerry cans, 8,000 jugs and 220 family size tents. These items were distributed very timely before the rainy season. This program also includes a pledge of 1,500 mosquito nets.

The family kitchen utensil sets containing a plastic bucket, cooking vats, ladle, tray and water cups are currently being distributed in eastern and central Tigray and are expected to be fully distributed by end December. Total sets to be distributed amount to 486 sets in eastern, 162 sets in central and 162 sets in western Tigray benefiting a total of 810 households, approximately 4,050 people. Additionally, wells are being constructed in the areas with a higher concentration of IDPs.

As part of CISP's emergency rural water supply program, CISP will construct a total of 13 wells, six for the eastern zone and seven for the central zone. (UN CT 22 December 2000)

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACT	Action by Churches Together
APDA	Afar Pastoralist Development Association
ARA	Afar Relief Association
CISP	International Committee for the Development of People (Italian)
DPPB	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau
DPPC	The Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
EFSR	Emergency Food Security Reserve
EOC's	Ethiopian Orthodox Church
EPCPT	The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation
EPI	Expanded Programme of Immunization
EPLF	Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front
EPRDF	Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Party
ERCS	Ethiopian Red Cross Society
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
MdM.	Médecins du Monde
MSF-F	Médecins sans Frontières – France
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OFDA	US Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance
RADO	Rehabilitation and Development Organization
REST	Relief Society of Tigray
RI	Refugees International
SCF	Save the Children UK
TPLF	Tigray People's Liberation Front
TSZ	Temporary Security Zone
UN CTE	UN Country Team Ethiopia
UN EUE	UNDP Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia
UNCT	UN Country Team
UN-DMT	UN Disaster Management Team
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

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