



## **PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : ERITREA**

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## PROFILE SUMMARY

### Summary

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#### Summary

**Note: The content of this profile includes updated information available by October 2001. This summary, however, has still not been updated. An IRIN report suggests that most IDP have returned, although 50,000 remain displaced because of uncleared land mines ([IRIN 25 July](#)). This summary will be updated beginning of November!**

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A border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia escalated into a major military confrontation in May 1998, causing the displacement of an estimated 100,000 Eritreans from the border areas (USCR 1999, p.64). Renewed fighting in February 1999 caused a new wave of displacement (RI 25 June 1999, SCF August 1999), bringing the total number of IDPs to 266,200 by the end of 1999. On 12 May 2000, Ethiopia initiated a major military offensive deep into Eritrea that led to a flow of people fleeing artillery and aerial bombardments, and forced the original IDP population to flee even further from the border. It has been claimed that the new wave of displacement made the total number of IDPs exceed 1 million in June (UNHCR July 2000, p.5). During the second half of 2000 there was a substantial return movement, and available figures suggest a total IDP population of 308,000 by the end of the year, including 208,000 in camps and an estimated 100,000 IDPs with host communities (GOE/UN January 2001, p. 17; UN January 2001, p.26). There has been some confusion about the exact number of IDPs and returnees. For example, it was reported in September 2000 that some 600,000 IDPs had returned, while the joint Government/UN needs assessment refers to a return figure of 400,000 by end-2000 (ICC 25 September 2000; GOE/UN January 2001, p.8).

The return process started after Eritrea and Ethiopia signed an "Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities" on 18 June 2000, and the subsequent withdrawal of the Ethiopian troops to positions close to the border. Already by the beginning of August 2000 it was estimated that over 350,000 IDPs had returned to their home communities in the Gash-Barka and Debub areas (ICC 12 August 2000). This was also reflected by a decrease in the number of IDPs in camps amounting to 180,000 by the beginning of September 2000 (USAID 21 July 2000, ICC 9 September 2000). At the same time however, displacement continued from border areas still held by Ethiopian troops (WFP 18 August 2000, ICC 26 August 2000).

The cease-fire agreement committed Ethiopia to fully withdraw from Eritrean territory after a UN peacekeeping mission is in place (UN SC 30 June 2000, para.5). This was later reiterated when the two countries signed a permanent peace agreement on 12

December 2000, implying that military hostilities should be permanently terminated and providing for a neutral commission to assess claims for war damages (UN SC 12 January 2001, para. 4). The Security Council authorized on 15 September the deployment of 4,200 troops for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) with a mandate to monitor the cease-fire (UN DPI 15 September 2000). 3,433 military personnel had been deployed to UNMEE by January 2001 (ICC 22 January 2001). Further return of IDPs is expected when UNMEE effectively guards the planned 25-kilometer deep Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) along the border with Ethiopia (UN January 2001).

Since the beginning of the border dispute conditions have been difficult for the internally displaced. The dramatic increase in the number of IDPs between May and June 2000 created a major humanitarian emergency with urgent needs for food aid, shelter, water supply, health services and sanitation facilities. By the beginning of July 2000 only one-third of the IDPs had found adequate shelter. The situation was exacerbated by the arrival of rains in July-August (UNHCR 4 July 2000). However, by the end of 2000 it was reported that most urgent shelter needs had been met (GOE/UN January 2001). The large number of IDPs outside camps has also caused a heavy burden on host communities (RI 27 July 2000). The response by humanitarian agencies and the Government to provide humanitarian assistance appears to have been successful in avoiding serious malnutrition and health problems (RI 7 November 2000; GOE/UN January 2001, p. 20).

Women and children constitute about 90 percent of the displaced (UN July 2000, p.6). A survey undertaken in September 2000 showed that the basic subsistence needs of children in IDP camps were covered, and that adult caregivers and social workers had been able to provide an adequate level of protection (MLHF/UNICEF/SCF, September 2000). However, there is a need to give attention towards psychosocial needs as traditional coping mechanisms and safety nets have been stretched to the limit. It remains to be systematically assessed, but women and adolescent girls from occupied territories might have become victims of physical and psychological violence (UN January 2001).

People returning to their homes require substantial assistance to reestablish themselves. The war has had a severe detrimental impact on local food production capacity and it has been suggested that a large share of the affected population may require food aid until the harvest period in November 2001 (UN July 2000, p.19). A needs assessment undertaken by the end of 2000 expected that only half of the war-displaced farmers to return to their farms in time to be fully productive in the 2001 cropping year (GOE/UN January 2001, p. 18). The dangers of landmines and unexploded ordnance in the future Temporary Security Zone constraints both agricultural activities and the further return of IDPs to the border areas (UN January 2001)

In terms of property, the Ethiopian offensive caused substantial damage to public property such as public buildings and health facilities in towns like Barentu, Tessenei and Ali Gidir. A large number of private houses have also been completely looted and destroyed (EDF 29 June 2000; GOE/UN January 2001; WHO 31 July 2000).



The Government has played a large role in the coordination of the international response through the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC). The UN coordination capacity has been reinforced by additional OCHA staff and through the establishment of a joint Government/UN Information and Coordination Centre (ICC 11 January 2001). In addition to responding to the refugee flow in, and later out of, Sudan, UNHCR has provided assistance to IDPs and the return of all categories of displaced people in the western Gash Barka zone (UNHCR 11 August 2000; UN November 2000, p.7). To facilitate return the UN has launched a mine clearance programme (UN SC 18 September 2000). Several NGOs arrived in Eritrea to respond to the worsened emergency after May 2000, and the number of international NGOs increased during 2000 from approximately 10 to over 30 (UN January 2001, pp.34-35).

*(Updated in March 2001)*

# CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT

## Main causes for displacement

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### **Armed conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia caused substantial internal displacement (May 1998 - June 2000)**

- 50,000 people re-location from the border area after war started in May 1998
- Areas up to 50 kilometers along the length of the border closed military zones by May 1999
- Reported that the Ethiopian advance into western Eritrea in May 2000 immediately forced half a million people on the move
- People were evacuated from the conflict areas in an organised manner or fled spontaneously after artillery and aerial bombardments

"The war has [by August 1999] displaced 200,000 Eritreans, including 44,000 children under 5 years old. Displacement occurred in two waves. When the war began in May 1998, the Eritrean government moved 50,000 people away from the border area. The re-location was orderly, and most people stayed with local families. In February 1999 heavy fighting forced a further 150,000 people to flee without warning. Initially it was hoped that people could again stay with host families, but it was soon clear that needs were too great and 20 refugee camps were set up." (SCF August 1999)

"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 July 2000, the UN stated that the] situation in Eritrea has changed dramatically since the January 2000 United Nations Country Team Appeal (UNCTA) was launched. The renewed border war from 12 May to 18 June between Eritrea and Ethiopia was fierce. Violent military clashes resulted in a rapid mass exodus of populations away from the war zone. The Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) reported that the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other war-affected persons rose from 371,910 in January to an estimated figure of more than 1.1 million in June 2000." (UN July 2000, pp.1, 6-8)

"The affected civilian populations either were evacuated from the conflict areas or fled from artillery and aerial bombardments. The displaced populations (IDPs), scattered in

various locations, continue to look for safer areas to take refuge." (UNICEF 20 June 2000)

"The Eritrean Relief and Refugee Committee said [on 18 May 2000] half a million people were fleeing the Ethiopian advance, west of the country, creating a new humanitarian crisis. Eritrean state radio accused Ethiopia of "intentionally bombing and shelling civilian targets" in its massive offensive. The Eritrean government has asked local UN officials to secure emergency international aid for the civilians fleeing the Ethiopian advance.

Humanitarian sources said people affected by the advance included war-affected displaced Eritreans living in temporary camps and Eritreans expelled by the Ethiopian government from northern Ethiopia over the past two years. Save the Children Fund (SCF) said the fighting threatened 15,000 children among the 80,000 inhabitants of camps for the displaced in the Gash Barka region, west of Asmara, AFP reported." (IRIN 18 May 2000)



Map source: BBC 23 May 2000

"The local administration has assisted evacuees with trucks. Displaced local administration officials have arrived in centres with their village populations. Some people who fled areas under attack told IRIN that the military and local administration told them to leave and organised transport for them; others left areas on their own initiative as they witnessed Eritrean troops pulling back." (IRIN 29 May 2000)

*See the "population-" and the "return" sections for information about how the IDP situation has changed since the large influx in May/June 2000.*

## Background of the conflict

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### 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 Dehub 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

**"Peace deal signed [18 June 2000]**

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 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

### Total national figures

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#### **Between 50,000-70,000 people remained internally displaced by mid-2001**

- Reported in August 2001 that organized return had brought back home some 170,000 IDPs
- IDPs unable to return have been sheltered in temporary camps

"While most of the internally displaced had returned to their villages in and around the Temporary Security Zone, some 50,000 civilians were unable to return because of uncleared land mines or the presence of Ethiopian troops in some areas, Ibrahim told AFP. These people have been moved to seven temporary camps located as close as possible to their places of origin." (IRIN 25 July 2001)

"There has been no major IDPs movement recently. About 70,000 IDPs including expellees are not able to return home and are accommodated in 10 camps in Gash Barka and Debub zones. The figures for IDPs who returned to their home areas stands still at 170,000 persons." (ICC 16 August 2001)

"To date [5 September 2001], a total of 170,000 such persons have returned to their villages in the Zone, with the assistance of the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Committee and international humanitarian agencies.

However, a total of 70,000 persons still live in consolidated or newly established temporary camps, as their home areas remain inaccessible owing to the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance, insecurity caused by the close proximity of villages to the southern boundary of the Temporary Security Zone, or the fact that some villages are located in areas currently under Ethiopian administration. With regard to the latter, the Ethiopian authorities have agreed in principle that Eritrean internally displaced persons can return to those villages. However, the details and procedures for their return still need to be defined." (UN SC 5 September 2001 , paras.23-24)

"According to the recent ANA findings, approximately 53% of the war-affected population is female. Moreover, as a result of the recent crisis, there has been a significant increase in the number of female-headed households. Women head approximately 20% of households and there are also a significant number of children-headed households, particularly in IDP camps, which face exceptional hardships as a result of the war. WFP food aid in the affected areas will target such households, as well as other vulnerable groups such as the elderly and infirm, orphans, handicapped individuals and patients receiving treatment in health centers." (WFP May 2001, para. 14)

## Available figures suggest that 308,000 remained internally displaced by end-2000

- Reported in January 2001 that 208,000 IDPs were remaining in camps
- Estimated that 100,000 IDPs were living outside camps by November 2000
- Reported in January 2001 that there were no major IDP movements

Target Population Description	Target Population Number	Type of Assistance
Drought-Affected	738,450 <sup>^</sup>	Food Aid: 1.76 Million
IDPs in Camps (including Deportees in Camps)	208,163	
Rural War-Affected, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDPs Outside Camps</li> <li>• Host Community Population</li> <li>• Returnee IDPs/Refugees</li> <li>• Eritreans under occupation (43,00 to 50,000)</li> <li>• Rural Deportees not in camps</li> </ul>	708,241	Non-Food Aid: Smaller sub-sets of the 1.76 Million in need of food.
Returnees from Sudan <sup>**</sup>	62,000	
Deportees/Expellees <sup>**</sup>	45,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,761,854</b>	
Urban Vulnerable Population	154,510 <sup>***</sup>	Non-Food Aid

<sup>^</sup>Figure includes drought-affected in the following regions: 269,835 in Anseba; 255,642 in Northern Red Sea; 134,133 in Southern Red Sea; and 78,640 in Maakel.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Provisional planning figures. Regarding returnees from Sudan, the planning figure used by WFP and UNHCR is 62,000. The Government uses 65,000.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>A higher Government figure (296,312) includes food and non-food beneficiaries.

(Source: GOE/UN February 2001, p. 17)

"[A]n estimated 100,000 IDPs are still hosted within various communities in rural and urban areas. They typically share the host's meagre resources, including their homes and household items. As a result, many host families have expressed that their household items have sustained considerable wear and tear. Many host community families have also lent household items to their displaced guests with no means of replacing them. Clearly, these communities will continue to require considerable support in the coming year." (UN February 2001, p.26)

"Recent months [end-2000] have seen the situation in Eritrea stabilising. Population movements are much fewer than during and immediately after the third offensive of May 2000 and in the majority of cases are returns, which can be viewed in a positive light." (ICC 18 December 2000)

"In general, IDPs are leaving camps to return to their homes or seeking educational opportunities for their children. Conversely, there are increases in some camps such as Guluj sub-zone due to returnees from Sudan or in Zula and Harena due to people fleeing the occupied area of Senafe.

In addition to the 202,000 IDPs in 24 recognised camps, there are an estimated 100,000 IDPs living outside camps." (ICC 6 November 2000)

"According to the latest Government estimates, approximately 600,000 people have returned to their areas of origin since 18 June 2000. However, more than 200,000 people

remain accommodated in camps. These Eritreans currently can not return to their original home areas due to security concerns, the presence of landmines or their inability to re-establish their lives in areas where destruction to personal assets and communal services has been substantial. In addition, it is estimated that there are currently still over 100,000 IDPs outside camps, the majority of whom are accommodated in host communities. Furthermore, there are approximately 76,000, mostly rural, deportees who are not likely to be able to return to their home areas in the near future." (UN November 2000, p.1)

"There are currently 24 organized camps in the three zobas of Debub, Gash-Barka and Northern Red Sea. The 208,163 camp residents are living in tents or under plastic sheeting and are almost completely dependent on ERREC and the humanitarian community for emergency relief. Some 80% have lived in camps for more than two years [...]." (GOE/UN February 2001, p. 14)

"There have been no major IDP movements during recent weeks [mid-January 2001]. As noted in previous Updates, 8,000 rural refugees in Jehah have moved to Shelab and Dembe Doran has emptied with its 4,000 residents relocating to Jehah. Therefore there are a total of 24 camps in Eritrea presently." (ICC 22 January 2001)

#### **Approximately 900,000 Eritreans internally displaced by mid-2000**

- Number of IDPs in camps reported to be 390,000 by beginning of July
- Estimated in July that up to 600,000 IDPs had sought refugee other places than the camps
- Claimed that IDP population exceeded one million by July 2000

"Hundreds of thousands of Eritreans fled their homes during May [2000] and early June when Ethiopia launched a military offensive that defeated Eritrean troops and forced an apparent end to a bloody two-year border war between the two countries.

[...]

The war left tens of thousands of soldiers dead on both sides and pushed an estimated 1.5 million Eritreans and Ethiopians from their homes. At the end of July, approximately 900,000 Eritreans were internally displaced and about 90,000 were new refugees in neighboring countries." (USCR August 2000)

"As of July 12, the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) reported that an estimated 390,000 Eritrean internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently residing in camps and temporary settlements. According to government and UN estimates, up to 600,000 IDPs are either living with host communities or grouped informally in areas close to streams or bushes with no access to basic necessities." (USAID 21 July 2000)

#### ***The IDP population grew rapidly from initially 500,000 to more than 1 million between May and June:***

"Nearly 750,000 Eritreans have been displaced by the war with neighboring Ethiopia, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) said Tuesday [6 June 2000], three weeks into renewed fighting between the Horn of Africa neighbors.

'Our first estimates were that 500,000 Eritreans had been displaced, but the ongoing fighting has forced us to reevaluate the figure to nearly 750,000 people,' Trevor Rowe, WFP spokesman told AFP here." (AFP 6 June 2000)

"The conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea has generated over one million IDPs in Eritrea. They are, for the most part, located in areas that are expected to receive the majority of returnees in the anticipated large-scale repatriation movement. Many of the current IDPs were, at some point, refugees in Sudan." (UNHCR July 2000, p. 5)

***Geographical distribution of new IDPs by end-May:***

"After the western city of Barentu fell and the city of Agordat was abandoned, hundreds of thousands of Eritreans reportedly have fled in eastwards to the city of Keren and towards the Sudanese border in the West. There are 17,000 refugees in and around the Sudanese border town of Kassala. MSF teams are present to assess the situation, which is not urgent so far.

In Eritrea itself, MSF is trying to get an overview of the stream of refugees in the West. According to unconfirmed reports, there are up to 100,000 refugees located around Teseney and Guluj. They are without shelter and access to healthcare. An MSF team is travelling to the area and will supply them with jerrycans, plastic sheeting and medicine." (MSF 30 May 2000)

***Geographical distribution by June:***

"The areas where most IDPs originate include Shambuko, Tokombiya, Molki, Hayakota, Lalay Gash and Barentu, Senafe, Adi Keyh and Adi Quala. One camp at Debaat, some 30 kilometres from Karen, hosts 35,000 displaced people and numbers have been increasing day by day. Other displaced populations are sheltering in the valleys of the Barka river around Akrodat and surrounding areas, and in the south in Dubarwa and Maihabar. IDP population areas also include Akrodat, Tessney and Gulluj. There are reports of about 25,000 displaced people have crossed over to Sudan. About 70 per cent of the IDPs are children, 25 per cent women and 5 per cent elderly men. This conflict has wiped out the next harvest in Eritrea's main food producing areas and the effects of the food shortage will be felt well beyond the battle zone." (UNICEF 20 June 2000)

**The IDP population estimated to amount to 266,200 by the end of 1999**

- 127,850 living in 30 camps while 138,350 stay with host communities
- 28,000 Eritreans deported from Ethiopia treated as IDPs (January 2000)

"There are currently a total of 266,200 IDPs, of which 127,850 are living in 30 camps while 138,350 are living with Host Communities outside camps. The IDPs are almost equally divided between Gash-Barka Region, close to the Badame area in the southwest lowlands, and Debub Region, south of Asmara in the highlands. There are also some

7,000 IDPs in the Assab area of the Southern Red Sea Region." (UN January 2000, pp.2-3)

Categories of War-affected Populations	Individuals
IDPs in camps	
Gash-Barka	47,530
Debub	80,320
Sub-total	127,850
IDPs outside camps	
Gash-Barka	42,110
Debub	89,240
Southern Red Sea	7,000
Sub-total	138,350
<b>TOTAL IDPs</b>	<b>266,200</b>
Rural Deportees in camps	
Gash-Barka	15,820
Sub-total	15,820
Rural Deportees outside camps	
Gash-Barka	1,520
Debub	11,010
Sub-total	12,530
<b>TOTAL RURAL DEPORTEES</b>	<b>28,350</b>

(UN January 2000, table 2)

"Of the 67,000 people of Eritrean heritage who have been deported from Ethiopia, some 39,000 urban deportees have been left to fend for themselves, after token initial support from the Government. On the other hand, about 28,000 Rural Deportees are treated the same as IDPs. More than half of the latter, 15,820, are sheltered in camps while the rest are staying in Host Communities." (UN January 2000, pp.2-3)

#### **A total of 100,000 IDPs reported by the end of 1998**

"The war forced an estimated 100,000 or more Eritreans to flee their homes near the border. Most were farmers and herders.

Local communities provided shelter, but "the disruption and displacement...due to the conflict have put the displaced and receiving communities at very serious risk," UN relief officials stated in September. "There is little chance that the displaced will be able to return to their homes in the immediate future."



In addition to the displaced populations, the war affected 150,000 people, hampering their ability to farm, closing school and health facilities, and forcing impoverished communities to share their limited resources with displaced families. UN agencies reported that they needed nearly \$9 million to provide humanitarian assistance to areas of Eritrea affected by the war." (USCR 1999, p.64)

## Geographical distribution

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### Overview of the displaced unable to return during second half of 2001

- Return movements slowed down by end-July 2001
- New camps established in Tsorona sub zone for IDPs unable to return

"ICC field team visited three newly established camps in Tsorona sub zone from 31 July to 2 August 2001. The objective of the visit was to monitor population movement and prevailing humanitarian situation in the newly established camps. Major highlights from the report are as follows:

Tsorona Camp- accommodates 4,152 population originally from areas of Sarda, Maichena, and Gobele in Tsorona sub zone who were relocated from Alba camp. The reason they could not return to their original villages is due to landmine problem. In the camp basic services are provided except sanitation facilities.

Maiwurray Camp- is located approximately 8km north east of Tsorona town. The camp accommodates 4,812 originally from Hadish Adi, Knin and Sebo villages. The reason for not returning is because of security concerns. 107 new tents and 270 plastic sheets were distributed but shelter remains a major problem for the camp.

Aiba camp- is located about 15 km northwest of Tsorona town. It has 3545 people who are originally from village administrations of Dibi and Endabastifanos. The problem, which hindered them from returning to their villages, is the existence of landmine and UXOs." (ICC 16 August 2001)

"Return movement of IDPs to their home areas by ERREC has slowed down in the past weeks [end July 2001] as majority has returned home. Organized return brought back home some 170,000 IDPs.

IDPs in camps				
Zone	Sub-Zone	Camp	Village of origin	Population
Gash-barka	Laelay Gash	Adi-Keshi	Mai-Kokah	1106

			Shilalo	4552
			Sheshebit	2828
			Adi-Hakin	1565
			Mukuti	2183
			Adi-Tsetser	4368
			Adi-Maelel	143
	Shambiko	Korokon	Tsirha	3396
			Deda	4476
			Badime	4526
			Ambori	2734
	Molki	Dembe-Doran	Sifra-Genet	126
			Faulina	1275
	Mensura	Shelab	deportees	7766
	Sub-total			41044
Debub	Senafe	Metera	Ambesete	2217
			Geleba	
			Zalambesa	3914
			Lahio	509
		Auli'e La Haila	Dogogolo	205
			Golo	892
			Telha Ner'e	36
			Adi-Ageb	897
			Tisha	1161
			Endeli	52

		Afoma	MeshalAkran	917
	Tsorona	Mai-Wuray	Hadish Adi	2080
			Kinin	1424
			Sebo	1308
		Tsorona	Tsorona Town	5622
			Sarda	1409
			Maichena	981
			Gobebe	1762
		Aiba	Dibi	1480
			Indaba-estifanos	2065
	Sub-total			28,931
Grand total				69,975

However about 69,975 are still not able to return home and are staying in either existing or newly established camps (See the table above). In Gash Barka 41,044 IDPs are in the camps of Adi-Keshi, Korokon, Shelab and Dembe-Doran. In Debub 28,931 IDPs are in temporary camps in Senafe and Tsorona sub-zones." (ICC 30 July 2001)

**Assessment missions to formerly occupied areas confirmed that about 50 percent of the pre-war populations remained displaced by April 2001**

"The population of Senafe sub zone is currently estimated to be approximately 50% of its pre-war level. Only one of the villages visited in the sub zone, Serha, was completely empty. For the most part, the people presently residing in their home villages are those who remained there throughout the entire conflict. The Assessment Team noted exceptions, however, in Monokiseito and Ruba-Natsa, among others, where the entire village population was displaced and between 50% and 75% of the pre-war population have now returned. " (ICC 2 May 2001b)

" The population of 6 villages out of 7 identified in the TSZ areas of Adi-quala and Mai-Aini sub-zones have not returned to their respective villages. Except Fiqechokomte Kebabi Adi (Adi Mekeda is one of village in this Kebabi Adi) located north of the TSZ the rest of the population are still living in IDP camps. However, since the announcement of peace between the two countries and subsequent withdrawal of troops, local residents

in these villages are visiting their properties/homes and preparing for the return. The assessment team noted frequent movements between the camps and their home villages. Despite the risk of mines and UXOs, populations with livestock are grazing their traditional grazing areas near their villages." (ICC 2 May 2001)

### **Selected geographical information about IDP populations by end-2000**

- Estimated in November 2000 that 1,359 IDP households remained outside camps in the Anseba region
- About 80,000 IDPs in camps in Dehub region by end-2000
- Approximately 3,000 separated children remain in the Dehub IDP camps
- About 86,000 IDPs in camps in Gash-Barka region by end-2000
- About 17,900 IDPs living outside camps in Maakel region by end-2000
- A total of 47,541 IDPs in camps in Northern Red Sea region by end-2000

"Anseba is a semi-arid region in the north-central part of Eritrea.

[...]

Thousands of IDPs have sought refuge with relatives in various parts of Anseba. Many having been displaced from the highly war-affected regions of Gash Barka and Dehub. Since the beginning of the crisis, ERREC, assisted by its humanitarian partners, has provided food and shelter to groups of these IDPs and their host communities. However, due to the difficulties related to identifying all IDPs outside of camps the exact number is not known (there are no IDP camps in Anseba and most are living with host communities). ERREC had initially registered 1,129 households and started distributing tents in October 2000. This figure was revised in November 2000 and now stands at 1,359 households. Most of these IDPs are living in Keren, Elabered and Hagaz." (GOE/UN February 2001, p.30)

"There are 10 camps in Dehub with a total population of about 80,000 (16,000 households). The number of separated children in the IDP camps is approximately 3,000. The IDPs are originally from Tsorona and Senafe - areas that are still under Ethiopian occupation. Most of this population group have been displaced for more than two and a half years and have moved numerous times. For the majority of these IDPs, it is no longer a short-term emergency situation. Some IDPs, like those from Tsorona, had time to take some of their belongings with them in 1998 when they first fled. As a result, they have not been provided with the same bundle of household items. Most assessed families stated that the household items and clothing they had are now worn out or were lost during the last offensive. They are not currently in a financial position to acquire any new goods. (GOE/UN February 2001, p.38)

"The IDPs in [Gash Barka] camps (mainly at Adi Keshi, Korokon, Tologanya, Kotobia, and Jehah camps) were displaced due to the military offensives in February 1999 and May 2000. Most are displaced from the villages either under Ethiopian occupation or very near to the front lines. The IDP population in camps is estimated to be 85,898 (17,179

households). 59% of this IDP population are women; children under 5 are estimated at 18%. Women head a total of 56% of the IDP households. (GOE/UN February 2001, p.44)

"The problems of crop failure and livestock loss, due to drought, was compounded by the war as many household breadwinners involved in national service were unable to work on the land or unable to do casual labor. This impacts IDPs living outside camps (ca. 17,900 persons) [in the Maakel region.]" (GOE/UN February 2001, p. 51)

"The approximately 7,000 IDPs residing outside of camps in Northern Red Sea are mainly located in Bada Administrative area in Ghelalo sub-zone. Bada Administrative zone is comprised of 4 villages located near the Ethiopian border. Laimbada and Bolali villages with a total IDP population of 4,000 persons are under Eritrean control while Adimurug and Erimile with 2,900 IDPs are in the occupied areas. The population of Bada comprises about 60% farmers, 30% pastrolist and 10% traders. The Rigale river, the main source of irrigation, is located on the frontline, with roughly half of the population of Bada on either riverbank. Farming activities using the river's flood waters have largely halted due to the war, affecting the local sorghum and maize crops. ERREC has distributed food aid to the population on the Eritrean side. The health center moved from Bada to Ghelalo which is at a 115 km distance and mobile health workers visit the area regularly.

[...]

There are three IDP camps in the Northern Red Sea zone area: Harena, Mekete, and Denden. They accommodate a total of 47,541 displaced persons." (GOE/UN February 2001, pp. 59-60)

# PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

## General

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### **Return pattern related to proximity of home areas to the Ethiopian/Eritrean border (May 2001)**

"A clear relationship exists between the proximity of villages to the border and the levels of displacement and return movements. In Tsorona town itself, and villages close-by (including Mai Agam and Kudo Waida), the entire populations have been displaced and no return has taken place to date. North of the trench lines from the third offensive, some temporary return has taken place, mainly to assess the situation, to prepare for the planting season, and to graze cattle. Most of the IDPs from this area are currently residing in the camp at Alba.

Much work needs to be done to prepare for the return of IDPs to Tsorona and villages in the area. The reconstruction of Tsorona and restoration of basic infrastructure and services is the key to return to the southern cluster of villages. Both Mai Agam and Kudo Waida rely on Tsorona for most basic services (such as water, health, and education). Tsorona is also the centre of economic activity (market, shops, etc.).

A major obstacle to return in this area is the presence of large quantities of mines and UXOs. Mine/UXO clearance and marking must be completed for the entire sub-zone before any serious return movements can begin. This is due to the fact that a large portion of the population relies on livestock rearing and must move cattle throughout the area in search of pasture and water." (ICC 1 May 2001)

### **IDPs outside camps trying to stay close to their homes and continue their agricultural activities (2000)**

- Some IDPs have left camps to be closer to their villages, but remain in an IDPs situation in the Debub region

"[IDPs outside Camps] lives in rural host communities, in towns or in areas close to their own homes or villages (many displaced have chosen to remain as close as possible to their homes in order to continue their agricultural activities). They either rent rooms or a home with relatives or friends scattered across Eritrea. Generally, it is very difficult to identify member of this group as they are inevitably linked to their host communities and share the same resources, services and economic hardships. Their return to their home areas is dependent on the establishment of the TSZ, progress made in peace process, and the marking/clearance of landmines and UXOs in the TSZ." (GOE/UN February 2001, pp.14-15)

"In most cases, IDPs outside camps [in the Dehub region] were previously, at one point, resident in camps and left those camps to be closer to their villages. One motive frequently sighted was the desire to be closer to their home communities in order to take advantage of facilities such as schools for their children. These IDPs are now sharing scarce resources with their host communities. There is no separate census or calculation as to the numbers in this group as they are included with the returnee population figures, but they nonetheless share many of the same needs. The most urgent needs of this group are to be found in the food sector (supplementary feeding) and the shelter and household items sector." (GOE/UN February 2001, p. 36)

"The dire situation that prevailed in May and June of 2000 has been largely stabilised due to the combined efforts of the humanitarian community. The majority of the IDPs have now returned to their home communities, though many have not yet been able to return to their actual homes. Insecurity, the presence of landmines, lack of access, a severely disrupted economy and very weak social services are deterrents to return for many others and impede the resumption of normal, income-producing activities such as agriculture and small businesses." (UN February 2001, pp. 8-9)

#### **People seeking refugee in secure locations outside the reach of Ethiopian forces (May-June 2000)**

- Concern that over-stretching of host communities may cause new IDP flow toward camps (August 2000)
- IDPs from eight sub-regions in Dehub being hosted by four that remain "safe"

"ERREC note a number of IDPs from the hosting communities in the Quatit and Tserona sub-regions moving to Alba camp. Alba camp currently has approximately 14,000 residents. It has a capacity for 20,000, however, there are concerns about the provision of shelter and blankets for the new arrivals. Given the number of IDPs living in host communities and the overstretching of host community resources, there is concern that this sort of movement may develop into a trend." (ICC 19 August 2000)

"With the outbreak of conflict 12 May 2000 (third offensive) there were large-scale population movements. Once again IDPs were mainly from the Gash-Barka and Dehub Zones as these were the areas most affected by the conflict. Initially, IDPs were from the areas close to the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea, from insecure areas and those occupied by Ethiopian forces. As Ethiopian forces pushed further inland new displacements occurred as far north as Tessenai and Barantu. For many, they were displaced for the second time, leaving one camp for a new one in a safer location, generally further north. New camps were established in Gash-Barka and Dehub Zones and for the first time the Northern Red Sea Zone. In addition to the camps officially established by the Eritrean Government, a number of temporary settlements sprung up where people congregated close to water sources in secure locations. Over recent months, these have either been relocated to official camps or have become official camps in their

own right. People also fled to remote areas and an estimated 50,000 fled the border to Sudan to the safety of three refugee camps there (Lafa, Gulusa and Shegreb)." (ICC 25 September 2000)

***Movement patterns immediately before the cease-fire started on 18 June 2000:***

**"Dehub:**

[...]

Almost the entire population of Adi Keih has left the town, and the population of Halai village has doubled (to between 4,000 - 6,000 est.) as people from the Adi Keih area have been absorbed. Host communities are overwhelmed and their already meager resources inadequate to meet the crisis confronting them. Eight of the zone's twelve sub-regions are affected, leaving 4 to host the entire population. Setimi is reported to be hosting over 30,000 IDPs from the Tserona area alone.

Hailai serves as the distribution site for a group of twenty two villages in the area which house an estimated 14,000 IDPs. A five day supply of food has been distributed and the next distribution is expected in the coming days.

**Gash Barka:**

Recent reoccupation of the Tessenei and Guluja areas by Ethiopian forces has again caused large IDP movement towards Adi Gebrai, Telata Asher and the Sudanese border. IDPs have also been reported moving to larger urban areas in the Anseba and Maekel regions of the country, such as Adi Tekelezan, Halhal, Asmat and cities such as Keren and Asmara, thus putting further strain on already overstressed host communities. Approximately 150,000 people had previously been in the 'hovering zone' along the border between Ghirmaika, Tessenei and Omhajer." (ICC 17 June 2000)



## **PROTECTION CONCERNS**

### **Exposure of civilians to the armed conflict and protection during displacement**

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#### **Landmines a main danger in the Temporary Security Zone (2001)**

- Efforts to clear mines following independence in 1993 ended as new war started in 1998
- Thousands of new mines laid during the 1998-2000 war

"Eritrea's mine problem is substantial. According to Government estimates, between 500,000 and 1,000,000 mines were laid in Eritrea during the war for independence and the subsequent border conflict with Ethiopia. The already serious mine-related problems are exacerbated by the presence of a further 3 million UXOs resulting from the wars of the past decades.

Efforts made by the Government to clear mines following independence in 1993 were aggravated by the use of thousands of new mines during the 1998-2000 war with Ethiopia. During the latter period, the displacement of populations within Eritrea exposed large groups to the immediate threat of mines, especially as they attempted to return to their homes following the signing Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in June 2000. Although information on areas that remain under Ethiopian occupation is generally scarce, and little is known about the condition of groups that remained in these areas, it is safe to say that many have indeed been exposed to the highly mined areas adjacent to the border." (GOE/UN February 2001, p. 23)

"Regarding displacement, a similar pattern is distinguishable. In villages south of the trench lines and close to the southern boundary of the TSZ, no permanent residents remain due to security and mine-related concerns (although a number of herders could be seen grazing livestock in the area). Although most villagers from locations north of the trench lines still reside in IDP camps such as Alba, many have been able to make trips to their largely intact villages in order to appraise the situation. A large number of such temporary returnees were encountered in Gensebo, Mai Wurai, and Beatshemati and it is assumed that large-scale return to these locations will commence shortly.

In terms of urgent needs observed, mine/UXO-related interventions are considered of the highest priority. Although the mine risk may be lower in areas north of the trench lines, it should be noted that as many villagers in the area rely on livestock-rearing, herds are moved throughout the area in search of pasture and water. Urgent mine awareness and clearance/marketing campaigns will be necessary to ensure the safety of returning populations. As large numbers of mines and UXOs remain in southern areas,

interventions of this nature will also be necessary before work can be done to prepare abandoned villages for the return of populations." (ICC 1 May 2001)

"Even at this stage, however, it is clear that the mine/unexploded ordnance threat in the Temporary Security Zone, and in adjacent areas, is very real. It places UNMEE troops at risk, as evidenced by the two separate landmine strikes involving Canadian contingent armoured vehicles in March, as well as an earlier explosion affecting a HALO survey team vehicle on 20 February. The threat to the civilian population is far greater. Mine and unexploded ordnance accidents are increasing, currently being reported at the rate of about one per day within the Temporary Security Zone. The real figure, taking into account unreported accidents, may be significantly higher. [...]

[...]

Although internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, who have largely returned to their home areas, appear to recognize landmine and unexploded ordnance dangers, as mentioned above, the presence of mines still presents a significant threat to life and an obstacle to the full restoration of livelihoods along a significant portion of the border zone. Growing pressure to cultivate, collect firewood and graze animals is expected to result in a gradual increase in casualties. Realizing that the actual removal of mines in the former conflict zones is going to take many years — even with the significant World Bank loan being used for demining — the need for expanding and improving mine-awareness training among affected communities has become more urgent. Current constraints in Ethiopia include the lack of complete information on the location and composition of minefields, insufficient funding for technical assistance/capacity-building and mine-awareness training." (UN SC 19 June 2001, paras. 25, 27)

"Landmines remain a major threat in the Temporary Security Zone and in areas adjacent to it. While the number of officially reported mine and unexploded ordnance incidents was lower than expected, particularly in view of the large number of internally displaced persons returning to the Zone in recent months, it still remains high. From 1 June to 31 August 2001, eight civilians were killed and 24 were injured in mine and unexploded ordnance incidents in the Zone and adjacent areas." (UN SC 5 September 2001, para.15)

#### **Reported that the displaced were physically safe after relocation to camps (2000)**

- Inter-agency missions concludes that physical protection of IDPs is not a major concern (October 2000)
- Survey that included 25% of the total IDP population found that separated children in IDP camps receive adequate protection (2000)
- Separated children given professional care in the camps in addition to adult caregivers

"Physical protection of internally displaced persons was found not to be a major concern. However, information was received on instances of relocation of camps undertaken without prior notification of assistance partners. There was some concern for the well-being of an estimated 3,000 unaccompanied minors currently in displacement camps. (UNICEF and Save the Children are undertaking activities to address this issue). Concerns were also raised for the well-being of returnees.

Partners in the field (both NGOs and UN) are encouraged to apply a 'protection lens' to their observations of conditions of return, as outlined in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, especially concerning the basic welfare of women and children." (OCHA 25 October 2000, p.6)

"A sample of six camps (out of a total of 31) in the regions of Gash Barka, Debub and Northern Red Sea were selected to provide geographical and situational comparison. The population in the selected six camps represent 25% of the total IDP population.

[...]

The findings reveal that separated children are identified at the point of general registration, and followed up by the local administrators in the camps, who ensure they have access to shelter and basic assistance, and where possible identify neighbors or other adults to help look after them. The assessment team observed that these officials have a real sense of, and commitment to, social work which ensures that separated children are monitored closely and professionally. They were able to easily identify the most vulnerable children by name and they could locate their tents.

[...]

The vast majority of the children interviewed stated that basic services such as health, nutrition, water and sanitation are provided in the camps. They also stated that food and shelter were adequate. Some of the young children, particularly boys, living on their own were not able to cook and had started selling the food rations in order to buy bread and other ready to eat food stuffs. Consequently, many of these children ran out of food before the next monthly food distribution. A significant number of children also complained about the lack of clothing.

[...]

Virtually all children stated they trusted their adult caregivers, and that the security arrangements at the camps were adequate and that they personally felt safe. However, several children expressed serious concern about the safety of their parents and siblings that were left behind in the Ethiopian occupied territories.

[...]

During the testing of the assessment tools it soon became clear that even the concept of an "unaccompanied child" was alien to people, since any child would automatically be taken in by someone. Once the discussion continued and it was explained that the team wanted to gain an understanding of children separated from their usual care-givers, it transpired that there were, in some camps, a considerable number of cases.

In the IDP sites people described how everyone would help each other while fleeing their villages. One woman in Salina camp looking after her own baby plus two of her relatives'

children walked for two weeks to reach the site. She talked of how people would offer food to her and the children on their journey.

In Dighe camp, during a focus group discussion with five older women, one woman said: “when we find children on their own we take care of them until they find their parents because we feel that they are all our children”.

[...]

Although this study has focused on separated children, the team was also requested to highlight wider child protection issues in the IDP sites. In the various one-to-one interviews and focus group discussions, a number of clear protection issues arose, particularly affecting separated children but also relevant to the wider child population.

Virtually all children stated that they trusted their adult caregivers, that the security arrangements at the camps were adequate and that they personally felt safe. However, some interviews indicated that some girls had experienced or were fearful of sexual exploitation and abuse.

[...]

There are certain areas, particularly in the occupied territories of Dehub where the assessment team noticed an increase of very young children who are forced to leave their homes by their families who fear for the safety of their children should they remain with them. There is concern that in some camps hosting IDPs from the occupied areas, the numbers will increase over the next several months. Therefore, special attention should be afforded to carefully monitor these children and ensure that their basic physical and psychosocial needs are met, including food, shelter, education and access to healthcare as well as recreational activities. To the extent possible, these children should be united with their immediate family/ parents. Additional support should be provided to host families." (MLHF/UNICEF/SCF September 2000, pp. 4, 5, 26, 30, 33)

### **Several IDP camps remained within Ethiopian held areas after May 2000 offensive**

- Reported that eight IDP camps were inside areas occupied by Ethiopia by September 2000
- Lack of information about conditions of Eritreans behind front lines (July-September 2000)
- Reports that expulsion of Eritreans from border areas continued by July 2000

"A very disturbing development is not only the continuing expulsion of "ethnic" Eritreans from Ethiopia but also the large-scale expulsion of Eritreans from uncontested Eritrean territory, such as the Upper Gash region and parts of Dehub zone. Conservative estimates run around 15,000, with about 150 arriving at Adi Keshi camp per day. In 2000, a total of 500 Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean descent have been expelled from Ethiopia, including 150 this week from Addis Ababa.

**Eritreans behind front lines** are an additional serious concern, particularly in the Senafe sub-region. Exact numbers are unknown, but are estimated well in the thousands. The condition of these people is unknown though IDPs who have escaped and are now located in Zula camp report food shortages and acts of torture and rape. Although

Ethiopia has said that any interested aid organizations are welcome to check on these people, to date no one has done this." (ICC 1July 2000)

"It should be noted that IDP camps may still exist in the Senafe sub-region. However, since Senafe is an occupied area that the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) does not have access to, the existence of camps, number of inhabitants and conditions are unknown. ERREC estimate that eight camps in existence prior to 12 May 2000 fall into this situation." (ICC 25 September 2000)

**Table prepared by ICC (25 September 2000) indicating IDP camps located within Debub areas occupied by Ethiopia:**

Zone	Sub-zone	Camp	Population January	Current Status	Population 23.09.00
Debub	Senafe	Weratele (Erob)	9,820	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Senafe	Rokhoyto/Anbeset Geleba	2,139	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Senafe	Rokhoyto/Meshel Akran	1,687	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Senafe	Rokhoyto/Lahayo	3,555	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Senafe	Ziqfet (Menekseyto)	3,075	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Senafe	Tisha (Maitera)	4,410	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Senafe	Tisha (Ruba-Natsa)	4,248	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Senafe	Keskese (Bihai)	2,023	IDPs fled to Soyra & Halai	
Debub	Senafe	Albama (Nedwe)	2,219	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Senafe	Giaseha (Mezba)	1,883	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Adi Keih	Emba-Sease (Forto)	1,676	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Tsorona	Sivraso (Shekat)	5,684	IDPs fled to Soyra & Halai	
Debub	Tsorona	Mai Wuray	5,772	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Tsorona	Mai Chena	6,590	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Mai Aini	Fulho	1,614	Occupied	Unknown
Debub	Mai Aini	Deda	3,471	In existence	3,471
Debub	Mai Aini	Adi Gulgo (Ouna Wwatota)	1,491	In existence as Adi Nebri	
Debub	Adi Kala	Midfae-Walta	1,517	In existence	1,729
Debub	Adi Kala	Agra 1 (Enda-Gergish)	13,107	In existence as one camp,	
Debub	Adi Kala	Agra 2 (Adi Burkut)	5,500	moved Aug due to malaria	
Debub	Mai Mine	Mai Sagla	2,203	In existence	7,703
Debub	Mai Mine	Adi Katina	4,717	Emptied all IDPs returned	
		<b>Total 22</b>	<b>88,401</b>		

Figures by ERREC  
Prepared by ICC

## **SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)**

### **General**

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#### **IDPs remaining in camps require a broad range of humanitarian assistance (September 2001)**

"Since April, about 170,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have returned to their original homes in Debub and Gash-Barka regions. However, about 53,000 have remained in camps or relocated to new camps closer to their homes because of their inability to return home due to the threat of landmines. Both returnees and IDPs in camps continue to require a broad range of humanitarian assistance, both food and non-food.

[...]

The sudden return of several IDPs to their original homes, the establishment of new IDP camps closer to the homes of those who cannot return because of landmines and the effect of prolonged drought continue to place the health and nutritional status of women and children at great risk. To limit and prevent the outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases, UNICEF supported immunisation campaigns, especially for measles in the IDP camps targeting children aged nine months to twelve years. Despite the war, this assistance helped in sustaining polio vaccine coverage at 90 per cent in Eritrea." (UNICEF 5 September 2001)

#### **Relief operation considered successful in fighting life-threatening emergency (2000)**

- Most camp residents have access to food, clean water and basic health care
- 47,541 IDPs in camps in Northern Red Sea zone have covered their basic humanitarian needs, but survey reveals poor health conditions in Buya IDP camp (November 2000)

"The life-threatening emergency that characterized conditions for Eritrean civilians immediately following the Ethiopian invasion of May 12 has largely subsided. The Eritrean government, with the assistance of donors and NGOs, has successfully mounted a comprehensive relief operation. In fact, most camp residents receive regular distributions of food and have ready access to clean water and basic health care.

Despite the success of the Eritrean relief operation, there are still groups of people whose needs are not being met: drought-affected, rural deportees, and traumatized women and children." (RI 7 November 2000)

"There are three IDP camps in the Northern Red Sea zone area: Harena, Mekete, and Denden. They accommodate a total of 47,541 displaced persons.

Due to the proximity of Mai-habar camp to Asmara, its population is receiving regular and adequate food and non-food assistance. The water and sanitation situation has been fragile in this camp (resulting, amongst others, in an outbreak of Shigellosis) but has much improved in recent months due to enhanced watsan interventions by, *inter alia*, OXFAM.

Denden camp has a population of approximately 1,300 persons. It is recommended that the return of camp residents to Assab is facilitated as soon as possible through the provision of specific returnee assistance. Currently, the IDPs are not willing to return to Assab fearing that assistance will be discontinued.

Generally, diarrhea is still common in the camps due to poor sanitary practices. Hygiene campaigns and related training should therefore be stepped up in all camps. Environmental sanitation committees should be established in camps in order to facilitate the maintenance of latrines.

Although basic humanitarian needs have been provided to the IDPs in camps, many are forced to sell portions of their food rations and non-food items in order to buy other necessities. A full survey should therefore be undertaken to identify gaps in the distribution of non-food items to camp populations, particularly at Denden, Harena and Makete." (GOE/UN January 2001, p. 60)

"Buya camp was established in August 2000 following looting and destruction by Ethiopian forces in Endeli, Alha and Badha environs. The camp was prepared to accommodate up to 3,000 persons. A total of 452 IDPs arrived in the camp where they received a three-month food ration. Italian NGO GVC provided water and sanitation support to the camp but there limited medical facilities. The camp is rather isolated and with the upcoming rains in the Northern Red Sea zone, there is fear that it will become inaccessible in December. On 20 November, MSF-F visited the camp, responding to rumours that the health situation of IDPs was poor. Twelve children, along with seven relatives were immediately transferred to Harena Camp, to MSF's therapeutic feeding centre and clinic for treatment (three patients are suspected of having TB). A survey of 60 under five year olds in Buya camp revealed an additional 14 children at risk. Common diseases among the IDP population include bloody diarrhoea, acute respiratory problems, anaemia and suspected TB. Given the conditions and difficulty of access, 340 camp residents decided to relocate to Ghinda camp where their needs can be accommodated. Relocation took place today, 27 November with MSF-F assisting in the transportation." (ICC 27 November 2000)

## Health

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### Overall health status of war affected population by end-2000

- Diarrhea and acute respiratory tract and eye infections are common

- Improvements in the health sector offset by the 1998-2000 war
- Common diseases such as malaria, and diarrhea can be controlled in IDP camps through distribution of mosquito nets, proper hygiene and environmental sanitation practice

" As in other social sectors, progress made towards developing the health sector in Eritrea during the years following the war of independence was severely offset by the destruction caused during the 1998-2000 war with Ethiopia. Illnesses such as diarrhea and acute respiratory tract and eye infections are common, while malaria and various skin conditions continue to affect large portions of the population. These conditions are exacerbated by the prevailing high malnutrition rate among displaced children (10-11%) and among drought-affected children (16- 30%). These health and nutritional problems are compounded by limited access to both curative and preventive health services. While Eritrea has a relatively low prevalence of HIV/AIDS, the threat of an epidemic remains a major concern.

[...]

In the year to come, it will be of crucial importance to continue many of these programs, in particular, the immunization of women and children in IDP camps and selected high risk areas (75,000 infants and 200,000 children under five) and the supplementary feeding of vulnerable groups among the displaced and drought- affected (approximately 200,000 IDP and drought-affected children and women). It will also be important to restore basic health care services in Debub, Gash Barka, and drought-affected areas such as Anseba, and the Northern and Southern Red Sea regions by repairing damaged facilities and providing essential drugs and basic equipment.

By continuing the distribution of mosquito nets, and ensuring proper hygiene and environmental sanitation practices, especially in IDP camps, a contribution can be made to the control and prevention of common diseases such as malaria, and diarrhea. Finally, it will be essential to complement the Ministry of Health by supporting reproductive health care services and providing diagnostic and clinical services for HIV/AIDS patients."(GOE/UN January 2001, pp. 20-21)

### **Need to give attention towards psychosocial needs of women and adolescent girls (2001)**

- Women and children constitute an average of 26% and 67% respectively of the total number of war-affected populations
- Traditional coping mechanisms and safety nets have been stretched to the limit
- Women and adolescent girls from occupied territories might have become victims of physical and psychological violence
- Displaced children exposed to considerable psychosocial distress (July 2000)

"Women and children, especially adolescent girls are among the most affected victims of the recent war in Eritrea. Women and children constitute an average of 26% and 67% respectively of the total number of war-affected populations. Traditionally, Eritrean women and girls from an early age assume the responsibilities of caring for their families



and fulfilling domestic duties. During times of hardship and during emergencies their obligations and responsibilities increase. At the same time, the disruption of normal life, through displacement, deportation, family separation and the loss of property, home and land has severely affected these target groups psychologically, economically, socially and emotionally. Moreover, traditional coping mechanisms and safety nets have been stretched to the limit, making it increasingly difficult for the majority of the women and girl-headed households to adequately provide for the protection and care of their families without external assistance. With little capacity to support each other and little or no income of their own, women and girl-headed households will most likely continue to be dependent on specific assistance (e.g. income generating activities) well into 2001.

In the past, emergency assessments and appeals have been primarily concerned with the psychosocial care of vulnerable and traumatised children affected by the war. Assistance to women was largely confined to capacity development and provision of income generating activities. However, according to recent reports, some women and adolescent girls from occupied territories might have become victims of physical and psychological violence and trauma. Some of these women and girl children may require medical treatment for complications during pregnancies and STDs contracted through unprotected sex. Moreover, they may be suffering from psychological problems and possible discrimination or stigmatisation by members within their community. As the main national organisation responsible for issues regarding women, NUEW should be supported to increase its technical capacity to effectively assist these women and adolescent girls." (UN February 2001, p.27)

"The recent resumption of conflict with Ethiopia has resulted in the separation of several children from their families. Although the magnitude of separation is not yet known, reports emanating from the IDP camps speak of many parents reporting their children missing. Likewise, quite a number of internally displaced children cannot trace the whereabouts of their parents. Most separations occurred during artillery bombardments and air raids. This latest crisis is in addition to over 70,000 people of Eritrean heritage who were deported since the outbreak of the war in 1998 and earlier displacements. Of the approximately 1.1 million displaced population, about 70 percent are children. The majority of these children are known to manifest considerable psychosocial distress. While a more comprehensive assessment of the current situation of children has yet to be done, the results of the earlier psychosocial needs assessment conducted in 1999 revealed that children subjected to this kind of situation experience pervasive fear, psychosomatic responses, headaches, night terrors, "flashbacks", difficulty in concentration, and inability to envision a peaceful future.

Deportee children, for example, were subjected to violence from people who were known to them, causing tremendous stress. Some were imprisoned under humiliating and frightening conditions. Moreover, they lost friends and all their possessions. They saw their parents abused and threatened by the very people they thought of as friends. The displaced children witnessed bombing and shelling of their homes. All have been moved more than once and have lost the secure structure of their home villages. Many have lost the opportunity for education.

Regardless of where they came from, the children still recall that people known to them turned guns upon them and their families. Many of these children have been separated from their families and imprisoned, or have witnessed the destruction of their homes and livestock. In addition, husbands and wives were separated from one another and imprisoned before their deportation. These families arrived in Eritrea without any belongings and efforts to accommodate them have over-stretched their relatives' capacity.

Apart from the disruption of normal life and suffering associated with the conflict, displaced and deported persons, children and their families have been traumatized by this experience. This continues to be manifested in several ways. Children do not eat well and are moody. The parents are lethargic and depressed. Children are also fearful and experience nightmares and difficulty in concentration at school; they miss friends and old school activities, they worry about their future as well as that of their parents." (UN July 2000, p.45)

## **Nutrition and food**

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### **Nutrition study of IDPs returning to their villages in Gash Barka confirms effectiveness of the humanitarian response (August 2001)**

- Again revealed that the nutritional status of the displaced children was much better than that of the children of the host community

"As people started moving to their areas of origin from the displaced camps at the beginning of June [2001], this survey was carried out as an assessment of the nutritional and health status of the returning communities as well as those who did not leave their areas. [A nutrition survey, funded by ECHO, was conducted by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Save the Children (UK), in Gash Barka. It covered Lalai Gash, Shambuko and (the southern part of) Gonge Sub-zones to identify the nutritional status of children under five for the returnees as well as those who have stayed within their community during the last three years of the conflict.]

[...]

#### **Background:**

Both Lalai Gash and Shambuko subzones border Ethiopia and they are the most affected by the border conflict where almost all of the population was displaced into camps. The estimated population figures of these subzones before the last conflict, were as follows:

Lalai Gash Subzone	45,293
Shambuko Subzone	22,998
Gonge Subzone	<u>29,598</u>
Total	97,88933

(Ministry of Local Governments Akordat, 14/08/2001.)

The population of the whole region of Gash Barka was estimated at 564,574, thus our area comprised 17.3% of the region population[...].

Current estimated population of Lalai Gash and Shambuko subzones are 33,510 and 17,030 respectively. These figures comprise returning IDPs and host community. It worth mentioning that there are still 19,356 in Ade Keshi camp to return to Lalai Gash subzone and 11,975 in Korokon camp from Shambuko subzone.

Number of people who have returned from Af'abet, Ade Keshi and KTK camps to the three subzones was 46,269. There are 31,331 who still live in Ade Keshi and Korokon camps because they cannot return to their places, as there are still landmines to be cleared and water pore holes to be constructed. All these villages are near to the borders.

[...]

There were 341 families who have been displaced while 198 families did not leave their villages at all except may be for a few days during the conflict period. The malnutrition rate was found to be significantly different between the two groups, the nutritional status of the displaced children was much better than that of the children of the host community (p value = 0.006). This is certainly due to the complete package of services, (general food ration, supplementary feeding, health care, water and sanitation, education, etc. ) that the IDPs used to get when they were in the camps. There were 566 children coming from displaced families out of whom 34 (6.0%) were malnourished while there were 348 children from families that did not leave their community out of whom 39 (11.2%) were malnourished.

[...]

The children from displaced families had better nutritional status than the children coming from the host community. This does not mean that displacement is encouraged, but it shows how properly the problems were managed. The collective efforts of all partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs, and the community) worked together and the appropriate interventions were implemented both to prevent and treat the malnutrition. SC UK was running feeding programmes for the malnourished children and mothers in all IDPs in Gash Barka Region in addition to Af'abet. ERREC/WFP general food ration distribution accompanied by adequate health services of the MoH played a very important role in prevention of malnutrition. SC UK closed down the feeding programme at the end of June where malnutrition was in the range of 2-3% in all the camps and the actual number of malnourished children per each centre did not exceed 20 children. A one month ration was given to every malnourished child and the health facilities were informed to take care of them. This was followed up throughout the month of July, and no deterioration was reported and the condition of these children remained stable if it did not improve.

Global malnutrition rate was found to be 8.0% (<-2 SD weight for height) and severe malnutrition was 1.5% (<-3 SD &/or oedema). There was only child in the sample had oedema. These rates are satisfactory and common to an African community. What is important, this rate should be kept at this level or even brought down. The triggers should be watched carefully, there should be sufficient food (quantitatively and qualitatively), enough clean and easily accessible water, close monitoring to the disease surveillance and

outbreaks and an adequate waste disposal system. The communities could benefit greatly from the WFP FFW and FFT programmes. These rates are comparable to what we found in the IDP camps last year where the global malnutrition was 7.7% in Af'abet in July 2000 and 6.6% in KTK in October 2000, percent of median of weight for height was used. The confidence intervals of the three surveys overlap, indicating that they are not different from one another.

The malnutrition rate distribution shows a very slight difference between the age groups. The two age groups 25-36 months and 37-48 months showed slightly higher rate than the younger groups or the older groups. This could be due to the fact that there is more care for the under two years children in addition to breastfeeding, while those children who are in their third or fourth year do not get the same social and health care. The mother may think a child at this age needs very little assistance. Children of older age can eat outside the house, and to some extent, they can get some food and they can also express their needs." (MoH & SCF August 2001, pp. 1-3, 9, 13-14)

**Several studies indicating better nutrition status among people in IDP camps than the general war-affected population (January 2000 – May 2001)**

- Findings of a malnutrition rate of 11.2 percent among IDPs in camps and of over 40 percent among the war-affected Host Population reported in January 2000
- Infectious diseases appear to have been kept under control in the camps
- All children in IDP camps under 15 have been vaccinated against measles
- Improvements of the nutritional status among the IDPs in camps related to a steady supply of food aid

"A recent Ministry of Health/SCF-UK/UNICEF nutritional survey of 30 camps and Host Communities indicated a malnutrition rate of 11.2 percent among IDPs in camps and of over 40 percent among the war-affected Host Population. The report further indicated that, even though the nutritional status among the IDPs in camps has generally improved because of the steady supply of food aid (both general distribution and supplementary), their nutrition status will rapidly deteriorate if no further assistance is given. This is because, without a productive base, the IDPs are completely dependent on humanitarian assistance. The high rate of malnutrition in the Host Community points to the need to address the problem of malnutrition on a long-term basis. The nutritional status and physical condition of the IDPs would deteriorate rapidly if relief food is stopped. This means that, despite the improved nutritional situation in IDP camps, over 300,000 IDPs and vulnerable persons in the Host Communities, who have little opportunity to get enough food, will require relief food until the next harvest in late 2000." (UN January 2000, p.15)

"Nutritional surveys carried out by Médecins sans Frontières Holland in collaboration with the Ministry of Health have found children are bearing up surprisingly well to the difficult conditions.

Reporting findings of 9.9% moderate and 1.1% global malnutrition from the survey which encompassed several displacement areas, acting head of mission for MSF-Holland Jacqui Ryan said: "Given the number of people who have been displaced and the state of the camps, people's state of health is pretty good.

'We expected far more malnutrition than we found. In fact, the rate in the camps is no more than the rate in the general public.'

[...]

Infectious diseases appear to have been kept at bay in the camps so far, according to WHO's disease prevention and control officer Dr Debrezion Berhe. " (WHO 31 July 2000)

"The following data shows the nutritional status from the nutrition surveillance of the MoH from October 1999 to May 2001 in Gash Barka IDP camps:

Period in Quarters	Weight/height <80%	Weight/height <70%
Oct – Dec '99	7.5 – 9.6%	1.2 – 1.4%
Jan – Mar '00	5.5 – 6.5%	0.9 – 1.3%
Apr – Jun '00 *	3.0 – 5.5%	0.6 – 3.0%
Jul – Sept '00	6.3% - 8.5%	0.8 – 1.0%
Oct – Dec '00	4.6 – 8.0%	0.2 – 1.0%
Jan – Mar '01	2.3 – 3.4%	0.1- 0.2%
Apr – May '01	1.5 – 2.6%	0.1%
Average range	4.4 – 6.3%	

\*No data was collected in May and only from 1 site in June.

This shows that the global malnutrition rate has never reached 10% in the IDP camps of Gash-Barka even during and after the conflict. The same <10% rate was prevailing in Debub region for the same period except that the global malnutrition rate was 10.7% in October 2000 and it came down to 9.9% in November and kept decreasing until it was only 3.9% in February 2001." (MoH & SCF August 2001, p.3)

## Water and sanitation

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**Estimated that only 44% of the urban and 16 % of the rural population have access to safe water (February 2001)**

- Average water consumption in Debub camps below generally accepted standard
- Defecation in open areas by most population groups remains a major problem
- Major rehabilitation of water supply sources and the sanitation facilities required to facilitate the return of IDP populations

"In addition to the drought, the devastating war with Ethiopia, that displaced more than a million people, has caused considerable pressure to be placed on already limited water

resources in host communities. The water supply problem has been further aggravated by the lack of management, maintenance of structures, and trained personnel at many water installations. It is estimated that only 44% of the urban and 16 % of the rural population have access to safe water.

Priority areas for 2001 should include ensuring that access to safe water is improved in drought-affected regions and in areas of return for IDPs and refugees. Further, sustainable management systems should be established for water supply facilities constructed or rehabilitated in 2001. Finally, clean water should be extended to a minimum of 150,000 people living in IDP camps.

[...]

Regarding sanitation, the lack of access to, or limited use of, latrines and the indiscriminate defecation in open areas by most population groups remains a major problem. It is estimated that only 52% of the urban population have access to sanitation facilities; the corresponding figure in rural areas is 1%.

In 2001, agencies should prioritize improving access to sanitation facilities in all IDP camps. It is also of central importance to increase awareness of proper hygiene and sanitation procedures, and to train at least 200 health/social awareness workers to serve IDP camps. "(GOE/UN January 2001, pp. 21, 22)

"In all of the [Dehub] camps visited, average water consumption is ten litres per person per day. This is below the generally accepted standard of 15 litres per person per day. In most cases the reason is not the lack of an adequate water supply at the camps, but the inadequate supply of water containers. In Alba camp, there are three covered hand-dug wells in use. As much as 100,000 litres of water is drawn from the three wells, one of which supplies 45,000 litres per day. However, the water level of this well is fluctuating from five metres to seven metres and there appears to be concern that this well is operating at or beyond its capacity. The people reported that while some chlorine is added to the well and reservoir, it does not appear that there is proper chlorination.

Even where there are latrines available, the majority of the IDPs still use the open spaces for human waste. Latrines currently exist at health centres in all of the camps." (GOE/UN January 2001, p.39)

"In many areas in the country and in all IDP camps, particularly during the dry season, large numbers of women and children (especially girls) have to spend a disproportionate amount of their time and energy fetching water from distant sources, sometimes walking as long as 2-3 hours to obtain water;

[...]

Water trucking to IDP camps continues to be an elaborate and expensive operation to maintain. However, due to the increasing and continuous demand for water and absence of other options to deliver water to the IDP camps such operations will have to continue on a case-by-case basis;

Water supply sources and the sanitation facilities in areas affected by the conflict will require major rehabilitation in order to facilitate the return of IDP populations;" (UN February 2001, pp.24-25)

## **Shelter**

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### **Most urgent shelter needs met by the end of 2000**

- 24 camps in the Debub, Gash-Barka and Northern Red Sea areas by end -2000
- 70% of IDPs in camps are sheltered in tents; the rest relying on plastic sheeting
- Tents in camps established in 1998 seriously worn
- Severe shortage of firewood

"There are currently 24 organized camps in the three zobas of Debub, Gash-Barka and Northern Red Sea. The 208,163 camp residents are living in tents or under plastic sheeting and are almost completely dependent on ERREC and the humanitarian community for emergency relief. Some 80% have lived in camps for more than two years and many of the non-food items they received or brought with them have been worn out or broken. Many fled from areas close to the border, in the future Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). Their quick return to their homes is contingent upon the smooth establishment of the TSZ and marking/de-mining efforts in their home areas. Their living conditions are basic, and many are concerned about not being able to contribute to their own livelihood, as there are very few economic opportunities in the IDP camps(which are often situated on marginal and infertile land)." (GOE/UN January 2001, p. 14)

"[T]he third round of hostilities in May 2000, resulted in the displacement of some 1.1 million people. During the course of 2000, the Government of Eritrea, UN agencies, and NGOs provided support to meet the emergency shelter needs of the war-affected and displaced populations through the provision of shelter and household items. By the end of 2000, the most urgent shelter needs of these populations were met and the desperate situation of May-August 2000, had been stabilised.

Much, however, remains to be done in 2001. While plastic sheets, tents, and kitchen utensils are in relatively good supply, an acute need of blankets, clothing, bed sheets, and kerosene remains. Of the total population that fled the war, over 208,000 are still living in makeshift camps. Some 70% of these are sheltered in tents; the rest are still relying on plastic sheeting. As the plastic sheets, which provided urgently needed protection in the height of the emergency, are not a viable solution in the longer term, they should be replaced with tents in the coming year. Additionally, an estimated 20% of the tents are not expected to last to the end of 2001, and therefore need to be replaced. Household items, especially those with shorter life spans will also need replacement." (GOE/UN January 2001, p. 20)

"There are 10 camps in Dehub with a total population of about 80,000 (16,000 households).

[...]

In some camps, the tents that were given out in 1998 are now seriously worn, while, in other cases, families of one and two are still living under plastic sheeting and have never received tents. Apart from blankets, soap and mosquito nets, items like jerrycans and cooking utensils have not been uniformly distributed. Many households have to borrow kettles and other items from those who have them. There is an acute shortage of firewood in all camps. In Alba camp, women and children may spend 6-8 hours in search of firewood. Families do not have adequate supplies of clothing, particularly the adults." (GOE/UN January 2001, p.38)

"70 – 80% [of IDPs in Gash-Barka camps] reside in temporary shelter (i.e. tents or under plastic sheeting). 50% of the households require replacement tents [9,927 units] while those [3,971 households] currently using plastic sheeting should be provided tents." (GOE/UN January 2001, p.44)

"There is a severe shortage of firewood supply among all target groups. The majority cook on open fires using firewood and any other fuel that can be obtained. The price of firewood has risen sharply since the beginning of the conflict. In the drought areas, some women and children spend almost an entire day (every three days) in search of firewood." (UN February 2001, p.26)



# ACCESS TO EDUCATION

## General

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### **1998-2000 conflict eroded achievements made in the educational sector since independence**

- Rapid education assessment by end-2000 revealed that 150 schools had been damaged in 8 sub-regions
- Call by the beginning of 2001 for technical and material support to emergency education
- Loss of school documents creating serious difficulties in academic assessment of students
- Estimated that 40,000 school children had returned to their home areas by end-August 2001

"During the past year, war and drought have had a profoundly negative effect on the educational system in Eritrea. Rapid development made in the educational sector since independence was negated in war-affected parts of the country as a large number of school facilities were either destroyed or vandalised. The displacement of populations and the economic effects of the drought left many households destitute, forcing children to stay at home in order to support their families. Many who have attempted to stay in school have record poor attendance and low achievement due to distractions at home.

Further, the displacement of populations has led to the pupil/teacher ratio increasing dramatically in host communities. The situation is aggravated by a general shortage of trained teachers (especially among the Afar, Tigre and Saho speaking communities) and basic learning materials. Other factors, such as the distance to schools, the shortage of boarding facilities, and the lack of feeding programs have also affected enrolment, particularly that of girls.

In terms of priority needs, it is clear that providing technical and material support to emergency education for the war- and drought affected populations will remain essential during 2001. It will be especially important to increase access to education by constructing makeshift schools and repairing damaged ones, and to continue providing support for school-feeding programs. It will also be necessary to provide material support in the form of learning materials and furniture to schools currently lacking these basic necessities. Training of new teachers will help to bring down the high student/teacher ratio; upgrading the skills of those currently serving will improve the quality of teaching." (GOE/UN January 2001, p.22)

"A rapid education assessment, conducted in July-August, revealed the extent of damage to educational facilities in the conflict-affected areas, including 150 schools in 8 sub-regions serving 83,240 children." (UNICEF 7 December 2000)

***More detailed information was provided by assessments in formerly occupied areas undertaken in May 2001:***

"There were no schools operating officially in any of the villages [in the Senafe sub zone] visited by the Assessment Teams. In Senafe town, there are unofficial classes being taught to 1st through 6th Grade students by secondary school students. These impromptu classes are being financially supported by the UN Military Observers. However, this project does not currently have the full approval of the local officials of the Ministry of Education.

Throughout the sub zone, school buildings were routinely targeted for destruction and looting. A major effort of reconstruction and refurbishment will be required in order to prepare for the new school year in September 2001." (ICC 2 May 2001b)

"There are only three villages with schools out of seven villages assessed [in the Adiquala and Mai-Aini sub-zones of Dehub region]. Their roofs are destroyed and doors and windows have been looted. Desks and blackboards have been taken as well. The remaining villages have no school and the children have to walk long distances to the nearest school. " (ICC 2 May 2001)

"No functioning/operating schools were observed in the areas visited [in the Tsorona sub-zone of Dehub]. Although several schools in the area are undamaged, a general lack of teachers and material has meant that schools are currently not able to function.

The school buildings in Tsorona are partially destroyed (no roofs, doors, or windows) and need to be restored and equipped. The school building in Genzebo, which caters for neighboring villages, is usable. However it needs some repairs, school furniture and material as well as teachers. All the teachers are still in the Alba camp." (ICC 1 May 2001)

"In order to improve enrolment rates and the nutritional status of children in schools, WFP is making preparations to start school feeding programme in selected areas in the forthcoming academic year scheduled to begin in the second week of September. It is estimated that 40,000 school children returned to their home areas. Most of the schools in the TSZ are destroyed and looted and still not operational to give proper educational service. As such it is expected that classes will be overcrowded due to shortage of teachers and classrooms. Unless, immediate attention and action is taken to rehabilitate and equip the schools the whole pedagogic atmosphere of the teaching and learning process will be affected. Similar attention should be sought for the social service infrastructure of the schools such as provision of clean water and latrines. Out of 85 schools located in the TSZ only 48 were accessed and estimation has been made on the damages inflicted accordingly. Out of the assessed schools, through the assistance of UNICEF, UNDP/PoWER, CESVI, COSV, APS and the French government 37 schools have been rehabilitated." (ICC 31 August 2001)

"A qualitative study revealed, among other things, that displaced girls in the camps were adversely affected by the conflict. Other factors such as the distance to schools and the

lack of feeding programmes have also affected enrolment of girls especially. The main constraint to the provision of emergency education was and continues to be the inadequate funding especially for human resources and lack of community involvement. In terms of priority needs, it is important to increase access by supporting renovation and construction of makeshift schools and to collaborate more closely with WFP in supporting school-feeding programmes. Support to the training of new teachers will assist to bring down high student-teacher ratio and upgrading of the skills of those in service will improve the quality of teaching. An assessment of the extent of damage to 85 schools in the TSZ has just been completed and the findings are being analysed and will provide the basis for a more effective rehabilitation support." (UNICEF 5 September 2001)

### **Assessment by NGO commends efforts by the Eritreans to maintain education through makeshift schools (March 2000)**

"Altogether, I saw several thousand children during school hours, and, without exception, what I saw was inspiring, not depressing. A school was generally nothing more than a large clearing, often a dry river bed, with a few big trees, rocks, and dirt. We arrived at each school unannounced. Nothing was staged and no special preparations were made to influence our impressions. Between six and eight classes of about 70 students each sat attentively on stones or small stools under shade trees. Teachers stood at blackboards propped against the trees and gave their lessons.

[...]

We always met with a school's director, and in most cases, with teachers. They were young, energetic, and clearly motivated. Many female teachers were in their early twenties and doing their national service obligation with MoE. The teachers work a brutal schedule – double shifts six days a week.

To say that the teachers and students work and study under difficult conditions is an extreme understatement. Sitting in the open under trees means coping with biting sand fleas, blowing dust and wind, diminishing shade as the trees lose their leaves at this time of year, and no water except what they carry from home. The students are constantly distracted by grazing goats, people walking by, and visitors like us. Some students walk several kilometers to school. In one camp, 150 students walk 13 kilometers *each way* to and from school, every day. Teachers live four and six to a tent, have virtually no spare time, few, if any, resource books or teaching aids, are always chronically short of supplies, and have almost no recreational supplies.

Despite these hardships, education is taking place. In most cases, the school's director reported scores equal to or better than what the students achieved in their home school. One elementary school had the best graduation rate in the entire sub-zone. Another elementary school, the newest and smallest, was at the bottom. These temporary, makeshift schools are based on the "Revolution schools" conducted by the EPLF during their war for liberation. It is organized and disciplined, uses the standard curriculum, and it works. Most students will be able to move back to regular schools some day and pick up where they left off.

In general, there are three top priorities:

1. Decent shelter for classrooms.
2. Recreational supplies.
3. School supplies.

Other needs the teachers identified were water for the students, latrines, library books, supplies to support extra-curricular activities, furniture and storage, and more tents for teacher accommodation.

There are many, many other problems as well. Sugar water and a few dry biscuits is not my idea of a school lunch. Sitting in the sand and being bitten by ticks and sand fleas is a health hazard. Cutting scraps of cardboard from discarded boxes for use as teaching aids is less than optimal. The drop-out rate and absenteeism among girls is high, especially among the Saho ethnic group. Cultural pressures to marry early have pulled many girls out of school. Since most men of fighting age are at the front, female-headed households keep girls at home to meet the added chores of cooking, washing, hauling water and firewood. Many students live communally. Their parents stayed in their home village to keep their business going or tend livestock. These students usually walk home on weekends, but are frequently late or absent from school the following week. They live together in the camps and take care of themselves without adult supervision.

When war broke out, the government did not wait for international assistance before tackling the problem of educating over 26,000 displaced children. There has been some international support, e.g., funds, tents, and supplies. The World Bank, for example, is funding the construction of metal, makeshift classrooms [...]." (SCF 9 March 2000)

## ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### Disruption of coping mechanisms

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#### People in border areas dependent on food aid despite good agricultural conditions during second half of 2001

- Food rations distributed at camps and other distribution points further shared with people in villages and town centers
- Reported in July that the rain was reasonably well distributed
- Reported in August that the 2001 cereal crop production in Debub region will amount to about twice as much as the 2000 crop
- A substantial number of IDPs not able to return and start agricultural activities for the 2001 harvest

"The main source of food for the population [in the Adi-quala and Mai-Aini sub-zones of Debub region] is the food they get in the IDP camps. In the camps monthly food rations are provided by the World Food Programme and distributed by ERREC. The rations distributed at camps and other distribution points are brought over to the villages and town centers. The Pastoral communities also depend on these rations as well.

There is no farming for the last three years in the villages visited. Fear of proximity to border areas and landmines threat did not allow any form of cultivation. The returning population is presently not able to cultivate and there is urgent need to provide seeds and tools before the planting season in June. No mines incident have so far been reported in farming areas. However, there is need to carry out mine survey in the fertile Hazamu plains and farming areas along the Mereb river." (ICC 2 May 2001)

"The onset of the main season *Kremti* rains started on time. Rainfall continued throughout the entire month of July [2001] and was reasonably well distributed.

Planting in Debub and Makel and Anseba Zones is completed and crops have germinated very well. However, planting is underway in Gash Barka. The planting of chickpeas, a major condiment in the Eritrean diet, will be carried out toward the end of August. A substantial number of IDPs are not able to return to their home villages because of landmines and have missed the current agricultural season and the opportunity to get back on their feet economically.

[...]

The overall future food-security situation, especially the food availability and food access, will be influenced by events in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). The TSZ covers all the sub-zones of Debub and Gash Barka Zones, bordering Ethiopia [...]. These sub-zones are the major crop-producing areas of Eritrea. Guluji, Lalay Gash, and Mulki sub-zones in Gash Barka constitute the breadbasket of Eritrea but lie completely within

the TSZ. Similarly in Debug, Senafe, Tsorena, Maiaini, and Adiquala sub-zones are major crop-producing areas that fall within the TSZ.

Agricultural activities in these sub-zones are hampered by the presence of land mines. Close to 70,000 IDPs remain in camps because they were not able to return to their home villages due to landmine risks. In addition to those in camps, many IDPs continue to live with host families who are relatives or otherwise. Although mine clearing is underway, it appears that many areas will not be cleared in time for IDPs to return home to cultivate their fields and benefit from this year's good rainfall. This lost opportunity means that these IDPs will require continued support before they can resume their normal livelihoods." (FEWS NET 6 August 2001)

"The Ministry of Agriculture submitted agricultural data for the war-affected region of Debug to WFP, prior to the planned crop assessment and yield estimation exercise. Initial rough estimates show that the cereal crop production in Debug region will amount to about 80,000 tons, which is almost twice as much as last year. However, as a result of continuous heavy rains and hailstorms in the region, over 6,000 hectares of cultivable land and 50 hectares of vegetable garden were heavily damaged, during the last two weeks." (WFP 10 August 2001)

#### **Displacement from highly fertile Gash Barka and Debug regions led to major disruptions in food production (2000-2001)**

- The grain producing regions of Debug and Gash Barka normally provide approximately 70 percent of Eritrea's food requirements
- Many people have been displaced several times and lost all their livestock, possessions and food stocks
- Distress selling of valuable draught and breeding animals has resulted in a further depletion of livestock assets.
- Regional drought exacerbated war-related emergency in Eritrea

"Even under normal conditions, Eritrea is a food deficit area with Eritrea's food grain requirements being consistently higher than its net domestic supply of food-grains. Drought and war have contributed to a substantial increase in grain prices that in most cases are beyond the reach of many households. Among the pastoralist communities, increases of grain prices has resulted in a reduction in the numbers of their livestock as they were forced to sell at lower prices to get food. Livestock being the main asset of this population, they are now dangerously exposed to starvation that could easily degenerate into famine." (ACT 5 December 2000)

"The border hostilities that occurred between Ethiopia and Eritrea from May 1998 until June 2000 displaced hundreds of thousands of farmers from the grain producing regions of Debug and Gash Barka which provide approximately 70 percent of the country's food requirements. The abandonment resulted in reduced acreage under cultivation and a subsequent significant shortfall in agricultural production. The effect of the war on the

agricultural production has been exacerbated by pronounced damage to economic and social infrastructure, loss of cross border trade and three consecutive years of drought conditions. Crop production in 2000 was further hampered by a number of factors including the loss of draught animals, insufficient rains, pests, diseases and the enlisting of a large numbers of the working-age population into the National Service. The displaced people have placed an additional strain on the rural host communities. Women, children and the elderly represent approximately 90 percent of the estimated over 1 million war-displaced persons in Eritrea. In addition, 92,000 Eritreans are believed to have taken refuge in Sudan, Yemen and Djibouti.

Some of the women, men and children have been displaced several times and, as a result, have lost all their livestock, possessions and food stocks. To cope with the crisis, many households have resorted to supplementing their income through the sale of charcoal, firewood and building poles, resulting in serious environmental degradation in and around the camps of the internally displaced persons (IDP). These desperate coping strategies have exacerbated food insecurity in those areas.

The war has aggravated the chronic and transitory food insecurity, which has become endemic in several parts of the country over the past decade. Due to the war, farming has not been possible in the Hazemo plain of the Debub region which is the breadbasket of Eritrea, contributing almost 30 percent of the national crop production. In the traditionally grain surplus areas of Gash Barka, the acreage under cultivation was reduced by approximately 50 percent and the 2000/2001 yield is expected to be four to five times lower than normal.

Decreased availability/accessibility of valuable dry season grazing areas located along the border with Ethiopia has resulted in significant losses of livestock and livestock products. Indiscriminate distress selling of livestock, including valuable draught and breeding animals, at lower than average market prices, in order to buy much needed grain, has resulted in a further depletion of livestock assets. Many households simply have no livestock left to sell. This has added to the numerous challenges faced by the growing number of female and child-headed households.

[...]

The Government of Eritrea has repeatedly reiterated its desire for self-reliance in terms of basic needs and food security and has been committed to providing assistance and protection to its civilian population suffering from the combined effects of drought and conflict. However, due to the size and complexity of the ongoing crisis, the government reports a food deficit of about 80 percent in 2001. Commercial food imports are expected to increase for several years given the current trends, and this will put additional strain on the war and drought-weakened foreign exchange reserves. Moreover, the Eritrean Grain Board (EGB) does not have sufficient carryover food stocks to meet commercial demands. Therefore the government is seeking food aid to cover the needs of the affected population." (WFP May 2001, paras. 1-4, 9)

### **War has added a heavy burden on women and young girls (2000)**

"The most clearly affected victims of the recent war in Eritrea are the women and children, especially adolescent girls. Since the start of the conflict, women and children have constituted a large number (on average 26% and 67%, respectively) of the total number of war-affected. In some areas, they make up almost 90% among both war and drought-affected populations. During times of emergency, the obligations and responsibilities that women and girls assume in their homes and communities increase dramatically. Meanwhile, traditional coping mechanisms and safety nets have been stretched to the limit, making it difficult for a majority of the women and girl-headed households to adequately provide for the protection and care of their families without external assistance." (GOE/UN January 2001, p.22)



# ISSUES OF FAMILY UNITY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE

## General

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### **Separated children received adequate care because of strong family bonds (2000)**

- Strong tradition of mutual help
- IDP camps organized according to home village structures
- Care of the unaccompanied children facilitated by neighbors nearby and other family members

"A sample of six camps (out of a total of 31) in the regions of Gash Barka, Debub and Northern Red Sea were selected to provide geographical and situational comparison. The population in the selected six camps represent 25% of the total IDP population.

[...]

In the camps people were organized according to their home village structure, and the village administrator would also be the administrator in the camp. This meant that the administrators knew all details of the families in their group. Many informal messages would be sent to and from the home villages, and even across the border into Sudan.

Even if children were living in groups alone in the camp, for instance sharing a tent, there would always be neighbors nearby and in some cases also family members. This facilitated care of the children in the camp, and also helped links with their parents if the parents had remained at home.

In the villages there is a strong tradition of mutual help, with the richer families helping the poorer ones. In the camps, however, this traditional coping mechanism is stretched since there are few spare resources available. Therefore neighbors may watch over separated children, but may not be able to provide material assistance.

[...]

The problem of separated children in Eritrea as a result of more than two years of war is being kept to a minimum largely due to the strong family bond and sense of responsibility and response that exists in Eritrean communities. Moreover, during Eritrea's struggle for liberation, an effective system to deal with the situation of vulnerable children, mostly orphaned and unaccompanied children were developed, building a solid foundation for knowledgeable and capable social workers within the most prominent actors for child welfare in Eritrea, namely MLHW and ERREC. However, the ongoing movements of population and subsequent social and economic disruption and the shortage of human resources caused by the war, have increased workload and over-stretched the workload of both the MLHW and ERREC." (MLHF/UNICEF/SCF September 2000, pp. 4, 26, 27)

## PROPERTY ISSUES

### General

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#### **Most houses in border town Tsorona damaged during Ethiopian offensive (June 2001)**

"Thousands of Eritrean civilians displaced by war three years ago are returning to their home town, Tsorona, only to find it completely demolished by Ethiopian forces during the two-year border war that ended last June.

Not a single house with a roof intact can be found in this town, situated just a few kilometres (miles) from the former trench lines.

Since the exodus home began 10 days ago, some 6,000 civilians have returned to Tsorona and the surrounding areas, according to figures provided by the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC).

Government officials say that an additional 6,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) are expected to return to the area over the next several weeks.

Unable to move back into their houses, returning families have pitched tents throughout the town and on hillsides overlooking fields still littered with land mines.

"We are very glad to be back home, but we have nothing -- no houses, no water, no medicines," said Saleh Nagash, a 70-year-old man who returned to Tsorona two days ago with his wife, seven children, and seven grandchildren." (AFP 8 June 2001)

#### **Assessment missions to formerly occupied areas find major damage to property (May 2001)**

- Nearly 100 % of private homes and community buildings found to have been damaged and in need of extensive repair
- Destruction of Civil Administration buildings such as border post, police station, church and shops in the Dehub region
- Hospital in Senafe completely demolished beyond repair

"An assessment team, consisting of staff from ERREC, OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP/Power, and UNMEE/CIMIC, accompanied by local civil administrators, visited villages and towns in Tsorona sub-zone of Dehub on 1 May 2001. Initially, 16 villages were prioritized for assessment within the sub-zone. However, due to security concerns related to the presence of mines and UXOs, a total of 7 villages were finally visited.

[...]

As stated above, considerable damage has been inflicted to Tsorona town and the villages of Mai Agam and Kudo Waiba. In these three locations nearly 100 % of private homes and community buildings have been damaged and require extensive repair (mainly roofing, windows, doors). In Tsorona town, most modern structures are still standing although they lack roofing as the corrugated iron sheets have been removed. In Mai Agam and Kudo Waiba, housing, mainly of traditional type, has suffered extensive damage as a result of the war and lack of maintenance." (ICC 1 May 2001)

"A joint Government and UN agencies conducted a Rapid Village Assessment (RVA) of Temporary Security Zone areas from 23 - 24 April in Adi-quala and Mai-Aini sub-zones of Dehub region. 12 persons from UNICEF, UNDP, OCHA, ERREC, Local Administrators and UNMEE officers visited 6 of 7 villages planned to be assessed within the two sub-zones using Rapid Village Assessment form to collect information.

[...]

Severe damage and looting occurred in Ksad Eka village located about 5 km to the main border crossing point at Mereb River. Civil Administration buildings such as border post, police station, church and shops have been destroyed. It was evident that destruction and looting was targeted mainly at important economic facilities.

An estimated 90% of traditional huts (made of mud walls and thatch roofing) have deteriorated due to lack of up-keep and maintenance. The residents of Fiqechokomte Kebabi Adi (composed of four villages) mentioned to the assessment team that the central pillars of traditional huts have cracked due to the heavy shelling during the war. Some of these houses are rendered inhabitable and require to re-built. Looting of permanent building was mainly doors, windows and roofing sheets." (ICC 2 May 2001)

"A joint Government and UN Inter-Agency Rapid Village Assessment (RVA) was conducted from 23 - 25 April of villages in the Senafe sub-zone of Dehub. The purpose of the assessment was to identify priority needs in villages in the Temporary Security Zone in anticipation of the imminent return of large numbers of residents who have been displaced, particularly since the third round of fighting broke out in May 2000.

[...]

Community buildings were a common target of looting and destruction throughout the sub-zone. Severe damage and looting to both community and private buildings (homes) occurred in Serha village and in Serha town. As a generalization, the level of damage to villages varies directly with their proximity to the disputed border. Serha (town) has barely a single building standing intact. In other villages, the destruction of homes is common, but not to the scale evidenced in Serha. More typically, community buildings were the targets. Civil administration buildings, schools, clinics, churches, police stations and shops have routinely suffered varying degrees of damage. The Assessment Team noted that it appeared that there was more damage to the houses where villages were evacuated, rather than to the houses of people who had never left.

[...]

The only hospital in the sub zone before the conflict was in Senafe. It is now completely demolished beyond repair. " (ICC 2 May 2001b)

### **Ethiopian occupation caused substantial damage to health facilities (2000)**

- Barentu Hospital emptied of equipment
- Only 10 of the 58 health facilities Gash Barka region intact

"'This was our operating theatre,' says Dr Fitsumu Gebremichael, directing his visitors into a completely bare room, where sunlight streams through the ragged hole in the wall where the air-conditioner used to be.

Most of the rooms in Barentu Hospital look the same as this one. During the three weeks of occupation by Ethiopian forces, beds, mattresses, fridges, microscopes, operating lamps, drip stands, drug supplies, prescription pads were all loaded onto civilian trucks and driven across the disputed border.

The once 70-bedded centre now has 10, five with springs only. It has one microscope saved by a technician who grabbed it as he fled and all six fridges that made up the region's central cold chain for immunisation have also gone.

[...]

In the Gash Barka region alone only 10 of the 58 health facilities are still functioning, either due to looting or destruction. In Dehub, says WHO officer Dr Debrezion Berhe, south of Asmara, the latter is more prevalent. " (WHO 31 July 2000)

### **People find substantial damage on public and private property as Ethiopian troops withdraw (June 2000)**

- Substantial damage on private and public buildings reported in Barentu, Tessenei and Ali Gidir
- Reports of private houses having been completely looted
- Government offices deliberately targeted by the Ethiopian forces

"Overall, few people have been able to return home and there are increased risks due to land mines and the oncoming rains. Additionally, returnees are finding their homes devastated, livestock stolen, machinery destroyed, and shops looted. The items destroyed or stolen include agricultural equipment, food stocks, seeds and livestock feed.

In Areza and Mai Dima (Dehub) some people are returning but finding property stolen and their houses destroyed from shelling. The homes in Adi Nefas and Debre Sahli have been re-reported completely razed, leaving the previous inhabitants with little choice but to remain in IDP camps for the time being.

[...]

#### **Tessenei and Surroundings**

Approximately 4,000 people have returned to Tessenei and the local government has been reinstated; however much of the town has been destroyed. Several government offices, the hospital and the housing bank have been looted and burned and/or vandalized.

It is unclear whether returnees are moving back permanently or simply to assess damage done to the town and their own houses or properties.

A significant percentage of the commercial district was looted and set on fire. Gas stations and an animal feed storage depot have been vandalized. A significant percentage of the residential area has also been destroyed.

Livestock has been killed, eaten or looted.

The town has been left without basic necessities such as adequate shelter, food, water, and health services with electricity also having been cut." (ICC 24 June 2000)

### **"Barentu**

Entering the town of Barentu was a shock. The normally tidy main road was littered with papers, damaged goods and carried the air of complete disarray.

[...]

Nearly all the private houses of Barentu were completely looted of all personal effects and belongings. Nine houses were completely destroyed, with 10 partially destroyed and requiring major reconstruction. The main water supply generator was taken by the Ethiopian army, but marginal water supply had been reinitiated with tanker trucks. Water remained at a premium.

The targeting of private houses was not so random as in other areas. The poorer inhabitants' huts and small houses were mostly spared while the better off areas of Barentu were subject to almost malicious destruction. Stripped bare, the houses were then dynamited and/or burnt.

The local open air market had been looted with approximately one-third of the private stalls set on fire and destroyed.

A bakery run by 6 war-disabled fighters was looted and dynamited with maximum structural damage, while another bakery had one wall blasted out in order to remove the oven.

While the main electrical generator of the town remained intact, electrical wires throughout the town had been cut in many areas. Some electrical supply had, however, been returned.

The sub-zonal administrator estimated that approximately 7,500 of the 26,000 residents had returned, mostly from Deb'at camp, though he stressed that many hadn't yet committed to a permanent return and were coming to assess what was left of their homes, their businesses and their previous lives.

Bombing raids, through direct hits and near misses, had knocked off tin roofing throughout the town, with jagged remains still lying along the roads.

The town mosque had sustained minor damage to the roof, while the health center had had all medical supplies looted by the Ethiopian army. The school library had its books destroyed with some destruction to the desks and school furniture inside the classrooms.

Most all government offices had been deliberately targeted by the Ethiopian forces with the new administration building, police station, and high court destroyed. They seem to have been laced with dynamite in addition to close range heavy artillery fire. All buildings had been looted before being destroyed.

[...]

### **Tessenei**

The basic infrastructure of Tessenei has suffered far more than Barentu, with a speedy and concerted effort on the part of the Ethiopian forces to loot and destroy vast swathes of the town, its government structure and its private sector. The only bridge leading into the town was destroyed during the first Ethiopian occupation and further damaged during the second occupation (which ended only about one week ago).

[...]

The Catholic Church compound of Tessenei was said to have been used as the base of operations for the Ethiopian occupying forces in the town. Goods were looted from governmental offices, schools, clinics, private businesses, restaurants, snack bars and homes and brought to the church compound where they were then loaded onto trucks and reportedly transported into Ethiopia.

[...]

Within the town itself, the looting was extensive leaving little of any value in either public or private buildings. Buildings were set on fire or dynamited. The clinic was looted and sustained minor structural damage. The secondary school was burnt and suffered rather major structural damage.

The damage throughout Tessenei, with the exception of all government offices, seemed extraordinarily random with approximately every 5th building burnt, dynamited or hit at close range with heavy gunfire. The destruction was extensive. Private houses were indeed targeted, but the concentration was more on economic targets: banks, restaurants, snack bars, bars, hotels and shops.

[...]

### **Ali Gidir**

The road leading to the village of Ali Gidir was lined with the rotting corpses of various types of livestock -- cattle, goats and sheep -- apparently shot and set on fire by the Ethiopian forces. The village itself was a horrendous sight.

Ali Gidir has, by far, suffered far worse than any of the other occupied towns/villages so far visited (this is *not* including villages farther south or along the front lines) with massive destruction of exclusively civilian housing and small businesses.

Burnt black circles mark the previous sites of now non-existent mud huts. Personal items not looted and transported away, sit broken and charred amidst the rubble of family homes. Residents sift through the ash and stone remains of their homes in search of what few personal items can be salvaged. Little remains to be salvaged.

Following the typical pattern of other towns and villages occupied by the Ethiopian troops, the village was thoroughly looted, then set on fire or dynamited on a massive scale. Government and public buildings were particularly singled out, but the difference in this case was the purposeful, malicious destruction of civilian houses and property. Though certainly carried out in other towns and villages, Ali Gidir marks a turning point in the destruction. These are not and cannot be explained away as accidental destruction by crossfire. This was a purposeful, spiteful and vindictive destruction of civilian targets.

[...]

The Ali Gidir Cotton Factory was singled out for massive and near total destruction. The cotton gin was dynamited, as was the generator and a machine for converting cotton waste products into animal feed. Tractors and other heavy machinery left behind were burnt and blasted. Cotton stores were burnt and the warehouses destroyed. Unusually, the irrigation system inside the compound seems to have been left undamaged, though an older irrigation system just outside Tessenei town was dynamited.

[...]

The school of Ali Gidir suffered extensive fire and explosive damage, while the clinic was looted and lightly damaged. The extent of landmines, if there are indeed any, is unknown.

[...]

Ali Gidir will require massive intervention in many forms: immediate emergency assistance in the form of food, shelter and medical treatment; medium-term assistance in the form of start-up capital and building materials; and longer-term assistance in the form of large-scale reconstruction and rehabilitation." (EDF 29 June 2000)

***See also BBC 21 June 2000: "Destruction greets returning Eritreans"***

## PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

### General

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#### **Majority of the displaced had returned to their homes four months after organised return started in April 2001**

- Reported in June 2001 that 10,000 returning IDPs were not able to return to their homes for fear of landmines or Ethiopian occupation
- Return even without all the mined areas being clearly indicated
- A total of 170,000 persons had returned to their villages in the TSZ by September 2001

"The organized repatriation of IDPs to their homes is underway. The first movements began in late April with the return of 5,300 IDPs from Mekete to Barentu and its environs (outside the TSZ). ERREC is now also organising the movement of IDPs to areas within the TSZ. The focus of return is currently Dehub zone. 7,000 IDPs left Alba, Haineba, and Halai camps along with 4,000 from Jejah camp and have returned to their homes in the TSZ during the first phase of returns. A further 15,596 IDPs from Mai-Sagla, Agrae and Harena camps were repatriated mid May 2001. So far, since Mid-April 33,596 IDPs have been repatriated through organized returns. Spontaneous returns are also ongoing, particularly to Senafe sub-zone." (ICC 23 May 2001)

"Some 100,000 IDPs have returned to their villages between mid-April and 15 June 2001 with the assistance of ERREC. Out of the returned 10,000 IDPs are not able to return to their homes for fear of landmines or their homes are still under the Ethiopians [...]. They are mainly from Zalambesa, Ambesetegeleba and Meshal Akran Kebabi Adis (a local Admin structure of about 10 villages). These populations are in three temporary camps around Senafe and six around Tsorona towns. In addition ERREC has prepared an operational plan that began on 16 June, with the aim of repatriating 50,150 IDPs to their home villages within the TSZ in Gash Barka zone. This movement will empty Mekete IDP camp and reduce the number of IDPs considerably from other camps. So far 10 IDPs camps are emptied in Dehub Zone." (ICC 17 June 2001)

"For the past few months, diplomatic disagreements on the demarcation of the TSZ kept the strip of land disputed and unsafe. In addition, minefields had still to be demarcated. However, the pressure on the Eritrean government to allow its people to move back home had been building up, with hope of the people returning in time to start a new crop.

Another failed harvest season would have been detrimental to any early return of the IDPs. Consequently, even without all the mined areas being clearly indicated, the people have started to return. MSF is assisting the Eritrean authorities with the provision of clean water and re-establishing basic healthcare facilities in key locations." (MSF 29 June 2001)



"Repatriation of IDPs and refugees continues. So far 165,096 IDPs have been transported to their home villages in the TSZ and its adjacent areas in an organized manner by ERREC[...]

[...]

ERREC has repatriated 106,446 IDPs from 10 IDPs camps in Debub zone to their home villages. Some 13,000 IDPs which are not able to return to their homes moved to six newly established temporary IDP camps around Tsorona town and three camps around Senafe town. The number of those staying in temporary camps can be reduced to half if immediate action is taken to clear landmines, rehabilitation of the water facilities and shelter. The process of IDPs repatriation in Gash Barka is continuing organized by ERREC. Out of 88,770 IDPs, some 45,150 have been transported to their villages and around 5,000 IDPs are expected to leave Mekete camp to their homes in Tokombia and Shambiko next week. This will close Mekete and Jehah IDPs camps. IDPs who are not able to return to their home areas will be relocated to Korokon and Adi-Keshi camps. IDPs in Jehah camp will move back to Dembe-Doran. Shelab expellees will remain in their present camp until the local authorities allocate them land for resettlement. IDPs living in host families in Goluj sub zone will remain in the present location until their home areas are declared safe by local authorities. The relocation of IDPs is being done to make best use of existing resources and bring the IDPs closer to their villages. This will enable easy return of IDPs once the obstacles to their return are solved. About 500 IDPs in Gindae camp have already been repatriated to Assab. Detail information on IDPs movement by sub zone, camp, village are available at the ICC." (ICC 5 July 2001)

"The return of 200,000 civilians displaced as a result of the border war with Ethiopia has been completed, AFP quoted the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) as saying on Tuesday. The last truck carrying such people, many of whom fled to relief camps when war broke out in 1998, delivered them to their homes on 22 July, ERREC official Ibrahim Said told AFP." (IRIN 25 July 2001)

"As a result of the effective patrolling conducted by the military component of UNMEE, the return of civilian administration, police and militia to the Zone, as well as the continued efforts of the humanitarian community, security conditions in the Temporary Security Zone have improved. This has led to the return of internally displaced persons previously accommodated in camps in the Gash Barka and Debub zones. To date, a total of 170,000 such persons have returned to their villages in the Zone, with the assistance of the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Committee and international humanitarian agencies."(UN SC 5 September 2001 , para.23)

### **Substantial assistance needed for IDPs who return to border areas (2001)**

- Landmines and unexploded ordnance in the future Temporary Security Zone a threat for IDPs returning to border areas (January 2001)
- Substantial non-food relief assistance to returnees will remain necessary during the first phase after return

"The presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance in the future Temporary Security Zone and areas adjacent to it is a threat not only to UNMEE personnel but also to the populations concerned. The Mission frequently receives reports of land mine explosions on both sides of the border.

[...]

The signing of the 12 December Agreement has created great expectations among internally displaced persons. The possibility of spontaneous movements of internally displaced persons anxious to return to their homes and lands, before demining can be undertaken and the Mine Action Coordination Centre is able to declare those areas safe, is a source of major concern. UNMEE and the Humanitarian Coordinator have begun discussions with the Eritrean authorities regarding the planned return of their administration to the future Temporary Security Zone and the need to inform internally displaced persons about the dangers of premature returns to some of their villages, especially those located close to former frontlines. There is also an urgent need to sensitize internally displaced persons and returnees to mine awareness, through a public education programme supported by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Mine Action Coordination Centre." (UN SC 12 January 2001, paras. 24, 26)

"The SWG [Shelter Working Group] noted that the need for shelter is still enormous. With the current rain season shelter needs is acute in areas where the homes have been destroyed during the war and houses have deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. Various NGOs and agencies are engaged on assessing practical solutions to the problem. Pilot project is conducted to build Agudo (traditional mud huts) and study is being conducted to rehabilitate around 3,000 houses in Tsorona and eight other surrounding villages. Similar studies will be conducted in Gash Barka as well. 17,300 Corrugated iron sheets for rehabilitating damaged houses have been donated. Timber and Nails are still needed to launch the rehabilitation work. In Adi-Quala sub zone more than 1000 houses have been rehabilitated out of which 350 were constructed and about 650 of the households received construction materials. Despite these activities shelter continues to be a problem. It was strongly recommended that rehabilitation and reconstruction of dwellings should move very fast as delays are doubtless to cause more suffering." (ICC 5 July 2001)

"The main humanitarian concerns of the returning IDPs are as follows:

A large number of IDPs will not be able to return and will remain accommodated mainly in the existing IDP camps. This population, including these returning will to a large extent continue to be dependent on humanitarian assistance provided by the Government and humanitarian agencies in sectors such as food, shelter, household items, water and sanitation, health and nutrition, and education.

IDPs are returning to original home areas where assets have been looted, and homes, basic infrastructures and social services destroyed. They will require two level of assistance; immediate assistance in the form of food, shelter, seeds and farming tools and on the longer term they will require to rebuild their properties and start to earn a living. In addition support will be required to re-establish vital services such as clinics, schools and access roads.

IDPs moving to temporary camps near their homes will require immediate provision of water supply, sanitation and health facilities. In addition they will require some of their old tents to be replaced because the rains have already started.

Mines/UXOs continue to be a threat in the areas where the IDPs are returning. Although some mine action and awareness have started the slow process of demining will hinder IDPs access to their home villages as well as farming and grazing grounds. This sector is receiving less funding which is expected to further slow the return movements.

Initial weather conditions indicate failure of the short rains April/May. This will affect the long cycle crops such as maize, Sorghum and Finger Millet. IDPs that have returned to some of these areas are faced with this phenomenon as well as lack of seeds and tools. Returned IDPs will continue to require food assistance for the coming six months before they can realize some harvest. In areas where the local population depends on irrigated crops such as those along the Gash and Mereb rivers they will require water pumps and piping to be able to cultivate crops." (ICC 17 June 2001)

#### **Increased IDP return as security situation improved (June 2000 – January 2001)**

- IDPs had by the beginning of July started to return to areas no longer occupied by Ethiopian troops
- Assessments in 8 of 12 war affected sub-zones in Gash-Barka and Debub found that over 350,000 IDPs had returned to their home communities by end of July 2000
- Estimated by government agency that some 600,000 IDPs had returned by end-September
- Reports of some IDP camps being emptied by beginning of September
- UN/Government report issued in January 2001 reducing return estimate to only 400,000
- Deployment of the UN peace-keeping force drastically improving the prospects for return movements as of January 2001

"IDPs are starting to go home to unoccupied areas of Debub and Gash-Barka, particularly in and around Adi Keih, Mai Aini, Adi Quala, Enda Gergis (also the Agraa camp near Enda Gergis), Tessenei, Talata'asher, Ali Gidir, Guluj and others. Though awaiting formal meetings on repatriation proceedings scheduled later this week, significant numbers of Eritrean refugees are returning from Sudan. Recent figures are 980 individuals from Shagarab to Guluj, bringing the total to around 3,000; approximately 200 every day from Lafa to Talata'asher; 8,000 to Tessenei; and unspecified numbers to Alaboo and Haikota.

There is also movement away from the overcrowded Salina camp. Approximately 50% of the IDPs have returned to Imni Haili and Adi Quala sub-regions.

[...]

People from Zula camp have been asked to return to Adi Keih, but the response has as yet been poor since many IDPs feel more secure in the mountainous area of the camp." (ICC 10 July 2000)

"A joint assessment was carried out by UNDP, ERREC and Cooperazione Italiana from July 24 - August 4 in Gash-Barka and Debub zones [...].

Their findings show that over 350,000 IDPs had returned to their home communities. This represents 75% of all the IDPs from those sub-zones. The total IDP population in Eritrea was estimated at 1.1 million, according to the Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment to Gash-Barka and Debub, June 30 - July 2, 2000." (ICC 12 August 2000)

"Dige (Gash-Barka) camp emptied in August and the last two weeks have seen the emptying of Girmaika (Gash-Barka) and Adi Ketina (Debub). In all three cases, IDPs have spontaneously returned home. A further 1,500 IDPs returned to their homes in the Barentu area from Mekete Camp (Afabet sub-zone) during the past two weeks. ERREC provided transportation.

[...]

IDP returns reflect a confidence in the status quo relating to the security situation and the need for families to return to their land and salvage agricultural activities. Although it is a positive development many of those returning home are in need of reconstruction assistance and household items. Furthermore, food aid needs are continuing." (ICC 9 September 2000)

"Similar to the situation in Debub, people are returning home spontaneously from IDP camps in Gash Barka. This reflects a level of confidence in the current status quo relating to the cease fire and planned arrival of UN peacekeepers, combined with the need to resume agricultural activity as the rainy season comes to an end (September). Although people are returning home, it should be remembered, that not all are able to go back to their homes which were destroyed and many are without household items which were abandoned in flight. Consequently, although people are no longer in camps, relief needs remain.

[...]

At present, the situation remains stable with regards the creation and movement of camps and their populations. With the exception of small numbers of people who continue to leave the occupied area of Senafe sub-zone, and the establishment of Buya camp at the end of August due to new displacements from the Alitiena area, the trend has shifted from one of new displacements to one of returns.

[...]

It is now estimated by ERREC that some 600,000 IDPs have returned home." (ICC 25 September 2000)

***In January 2001 figures presented in a joint UN/Government report indicated that the initial estimates of returnees had been exaggerated:***

"The signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 18 June 2000 resulted in a more secure environment and the gradual return of over 400,000 IDPs and refugees (25,000 refugees have returned in an organized manner; many others spontaneously) during the fall. Accordingly, the humanitarian community began implementing return and reintegration initiatives in support of these groups. Emergency assistance (in particular food distributions) was provided to these returned groups, where necessary, in their home communities.

[...]

On 12 December 2000 the Algiers Peace Agreement was signed, ending the two-and-a-half-year border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia. This positive development together with the deployment of the 4,200 strong United Nations peace-keeping force and 200 United Nations Military Observers, expected to be completed by the end of January, has drastically improved the prospects for return movements by both IDPs and refugees displaced from the border areas. The formal end to the war has also meant that the socio-economic situation in Eritrea can slowly start to improve as demobilization begins and the thousands currently serving in the military return to the civilian workforce. Nonetheless, it is clear that the normalization of life within Eritrea will require a considerable amount of time, to be reckoned in years not months." (GOE/UN January 2001, pp.8, 10)

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

### General

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#### **Up to 50,000 Eritreans residing in the occupied Senafe territory out of reach for humanitarian agencies (January 2001)**

"Senafe and the surrounding 114 villages were occupied by the Ethiopian armed forces in May and June 2000. An estimated 43,000 to 50,000 Eritreans are currently residing in the occupied territory.

This area has been seriously impacted by the war since the onset of the conflict in 1998. People have faced continuous, and often repeated, displacement. The population was largely dependent on relief assistance even before the recent occupation. Since the occupation, the area has been inaccessible to assistance from Eritrea and it is believed that the stranded population is facing severe hardship. The little information that reaches Asmara indicates that much destruction of the economic infrastructure has taken place. " (GOE/UN January 2001, p.33)

#### **Government states that there are no restrictions on new NGOs entering Eritrea (July 2000)**

"Teclmichael (Rosso) Woldegiorgis, Deputy Commissioner of ERREC has just returned from a working visit to the US where he met with NGOs. In response to a question about the Eritrean government's openness to NGOs, he commented that several NGOs are already operating in Eritrea and there are no restrictions on other NGOs entering; they simply need to apply and identify programs to implement. The government's self-reliance policy had earlier led it to distance itself from NGOs though, clearly, it is no longer able to meet all the emergency needs of its people at this time. There is, thus, a greater role for NGOs to play in the rehabilitation effort. Within ERREC a division that supervises NGOs has been created. Additionally it was announced that Assistant Secretary of State Julia Taft would be visiting Eritrea while in the region next week." (ICC 29 July 2000)

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

### National response

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**The Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) is in charge of coordinating both national and international assistance**

- ERREC presences in all IDP camps
- Sectoral working groups (SWG) are chaired by the ERREC or a line ministry and co-facilitated by an appropriate UN agency
- SWG for Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Recovery (3R) established by end-2000

"In Eritrea, ERREC [Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission], representing the Government, is by far the largest implementor of assistance and is in charge of coordinating both national and international assistance. Specific line ministries are responsible for sectoral coordination and the implementation of programmes and for reporting regularly to ERREC on the beneficiaries reached, new developments, needs and constraints. At the local level, the regional and sub-regional administrations cooperate with ERREC in assisting the IDPs and Rural Deportees." (UN January 2000, p.11)

" ERREC have offices in each of the six Administrative Zones and almost all sub-zones in Eritrea and have a presence in each of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps which are run by ERREC and a Camp Administrator from the Ministry of Local Government. UN agencies and the Red Cross Movement are expected to work closely with ERREC within their humanitarian plan of action for the country. International and national NGOs are required to register with ERREC and provide regular reporting. Although ERREC has the overall responsibility for co-ordination of humanitarian operations, within the specialised sectors humanitarian actors are required to work with the relevant line ministry, i.e. Ministry of Health or Education. Co-ordination within this framework is facilitated centrally at the Asmara level through five Sectoral Working Groups (SWG). Each SWG is chaired by the relevant GoE representative and facilitated by a UN agency. There is also a mine action group and an informal group, which meets to brainstorm on issues relating to micro-finance/credit. All these groups meet every fortnight and there is a general humanitarian meeting each month. In addition to meetings in Asmara, inter-agency co-ordination meetings are being established at the zonal level. Two meetings have been held in Gash-Barka and the first meeting was held in December in the Northern Red Sea Zone." (ICC 11 January 2001)

"At present [July 2000] approximately 48 humanitarian agencies are active in Eritrea [...]. ERREC is the principal body responsible for the coordination of all humanitarian activities on behalf of the Government. In addition, ERREC is the largest direct implementing entity of humanitarian assistance. ERREC has sole responsibility for the coordination of non-governmental and international organisations. [...]

Sectoral working groups (SWG) are chaired by the ERREC or a line ministry and co-facilitated by an appropriate UN agency with participation of local and international NGOs and international organisations. The main functions of the SWGs are four-fold: to exchange technical information and set uniform standards for humanitarian responses; to work towards adequate coverage of needs; and to coordinate operations; and to facilitate resource mobilisation that includes planning for mid- to longer-term requirements. The SWG are responsible for identifying humanitarian needs by sector and location, identifying gaps in assistance, and coordinating interventions based on priority needs. Each SWG compiles a weekly report outlining humanitarian needs and actions to be taken. These reports are shared among all relevant actors and orally presented at the weekly general coordination meeting, co-chaired by the ERREC Commissioner and the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator. Below is an overview of the sectoral working group structure.

<b>Sectoral Group</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-chair/Facilitator</b>
Food	ERREC	WFP
Health and Nutrition	Ministry of Health	WHO
Water and Sanitation	Ministry of Water, Land and Environment	UNICEF
Shelter and Household Items	ERREC	UNHCR
Education	Ministry of Education	UNICEF
Return and Rehabilitation	ERREC	UNHCR and UNDP

(UN July 2000, p.9)

"Recently a decision was taken to also establish a SWG for Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Recovery (3R).

[...]

It needs to be noted that a desperately needed coordination mechanism for emergency and recovery programmes in the agricultural sector still needs to be established.

General Coordination Meeting: the now monthly General Coordination Meeting is called by ERREC, chaired by the UN RC/HC and facilitated by OCHA and the ICC. The main aim of the meeting is to brief all humanitarian actors on the overall humanitarian situation and to exchange sectoral information." (UN November 2000, p.19)

"Following the resumption of the conflict in May 2000, an Inter-Agency Child Protection Working Group, set up to exchange information on war-affected children in Eritrea, identified a need to assess and address the situation of separated children in IDP camps. [The Inter-Agency Child Protection Working Group in Asmara consists of the MLHW, UNICEF, UNHCR, SCF (UK), the Eritrean Red Cross (also representing ICRC) and Citizens for Peace in Eritrea. The CPWG has recently been expanded to include NUEYS and DANIDA.]" (MLHF/UNICEF/SCF (UK) September 2000, p. 4)

"In response to the arrival of UN peacekeepers, the government established the Commission for Co-ordination with the UN Peacekeeping Mission (CCPM). The CCPM is the interface between UNMEE and the Government of Eritrea (GoE) and comprises



five functions each headed by an Associate Commissioner: Demining, Administrative Affairs, Humanitarian Affairs, Military and Security Affairs, and General Services." (ICC 11 January 2001)

### **ERREC plays an active role in distribution of food aid (May 2001)**

"The Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) will be WFP's government counterpart during implementation of the planned assistance operation and is responsible for ensuring that the commodities and any other resources provided for the EMOP by WFP are properly received, handled and distributed to the specified and registered target beneficiaries and accounted for. This will include responsibilities that extend from the port of entry through transporting to implementing distributions. Food distribution committees will be formed with at least 60% of the membership reserved specifically for women. Women will play a direct role in the distribution of the food and in making decisions regarding beneficiary eligibility. WFP and the government will agree on the location of the community/village centers, where food distributions will take place, prior to commencement of operations. This will ensure adherence to agreed food distribution plans and facilitate monitoring as well as maintaining the cost-effectiveness of transport, handling and distribution operations.

ERREC and WFP, in collaboration with partner agencies (line-ministries, UNHCR and NGOs), will conduct joint registration of beneficiary populations providing gender disaggregated data in the affected areas. This registration will be carried out in April 2001 and will determine beneficiaries according to agreed selection criteria, taking into account the assets of a household as well as general poverty status." (WFP May 2001, paras. 20-21)

### **ERREC survey of humanitarian activities in Eritrea (September 2001)**

- Initial survey includes 162 projects reported by 34 organisations
- Database to be updated approximately every two months

"This briefing paper is a first look at information gathered through the 'Who does What Where' (W3) survey of local and international humanitarian and recovery organisations active in Eritrea during 2001. This first cut includes 162 projects reported by 34 organisations with a total value of over \$74 million. Once completed, the database is expected to include around 300 projects from some 70 organisations so the database is at present slightly more than 50% complete.

[...]

#### **Background**

The W3 survey was initiated by the Eritrean Refugee and Relief Commission (ERREC) to gather essential baseline information on all humanitarian and recovery projects in Eritrea. The survey covers all activities of national and international NGOs as well as

non-core activities of UN agencies and International Organisations and includes all projects active in 2001, including those still in the project design stage.

Information from the survey is being entered into a database that will be managed on behalf of ERREC by the ICC. Currently staff are working on basic database design and data entry, but over the next 4-6 weeks a user-friendly interface will be developed to allow full access to the data. Although ERREC will be the primary user of the survey, the database will be shared freely to facilitate coordination, project identification and the sharing of resources, experience and knowledge. The database will also be accessible through the World Wide Web.

The W3 database is also a component of a wider information management exercise, which will streamline the collection, management, analysis and dissemination of key information of use to humanitarian, recovery and development actors. This exercise will be initiated next month with the release of Geographic Data Standards intended to minimise confusion over the name and location of settlements and administrative divisions in Eritrea, while establishing a robust platform for data management.

### **Objectives**

Access to baseline information on humanitarian, recovery and development projects can fulfil a range of needs for different actors. For ERREC, the government body with overall responsibility for coordinating the work of humanitarian and relief agencies in Eritrea, the database will provide a comprehensive view of activities to facilitate coordination, monitoring and the identification of gaps and duplication. For humanitarian and recovery agencies, the database can help identify partner agencies working in and with complimentary geographic areas, sectors and beneficiary groups and facilitate project identification. For donors, the database can facilitate monitoring and the identification of gaps in assistance.

The W3 database is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- Establish a comprehensive database of humanitarian and recovery projects in Eritrea;
- Serve the information needs of the government, national and international organisations, the UN and donors;
- Make baseline project information available to the widest possible audience;
- Provide tools to allow detailed analysis of the data by sector, beneficiary, geographic location and a range of other categories;
- Ensure compatibility with other data sources through the use of common data standards.

### **Scope of the Database**

The W3 survey is collecting information on all humanitarian and recovery projects, as well as development projects being carried out by humanitarian and recovery agencies that are or will be implemented during 2001. The survey will not at this stage include development projects, the core activities of UN and international agencies, or bilateral projects between donors and the government. However, the use of data standards should allow the linking of this information in future.

Because of the quantity of agencies and projects involved, ongoing updating will not at this stage be possible. Instead, the database will be updated approximately every two months to provide an updated snapshot. During each update, copies of existing project profiles will be sent to each agency for amendment while information on new projects will also be sought." (ICC 18 September 2001)

### **Government taking a lead in improving sanitation and health situation in IDP camps (August 2000)**

- Funds and equipment made available by ECHO and Norwegian Church Aid to improve water supply in camps
- National health staff with long experience from health response in an emergency context present in most IDP camps

"The Environmental Health Unit in the Primary Health Care Division at the Ministry of Health headquarters has taken the lead role in the provision of sanitation and hygiene promotion strategies in IDP camps. NGOs involved in this process will meet with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF next week to map out sanitation and hygiene promotion strategies. The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has earmarked a total amount of 280,000 Euro to improve water supply in camps. They will be working through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Furthermore, Norwegian Church Aid donated a large quantity of water equipment and supplies to ERREC for use by agencies working in various areas. This equipment includes generators of various capacities, submersible pumps, reservoirs and water bladders." (ICC 8 August 2000)

"Almost every camp of displaced people in the country now has some form of health clinic staffed by Eritrean health staff, many of whom arrived with their communities. But basics for giving health care are still lacking in many places.

Unlike displacement camps in so many countries, in Eritrea it is not the international organizations who provide healthcare. Experienced from long years of holding health clinics under trees and in caves, the Eritrean Ministry of Health and its staff are, in most instances, outstandingly well organised. All the camp clinics visited by WHO observers last week had clean compounds, organised registers, a pharmacy and motivated staff who were in the main working with their communities which are encouraged to settle in discreet areas of the camps and maintain their society.

What most of these clinical compounds do lack, however, says Dr Woldemichael, health of the social services for the Gash Barka Region, are adequate shelter and instruments . 'The health staff are there and where there are not enough, we can bring people from elsewhere. But many have no tents to work in and no tools.'

Most clinicians were unable to transport their equipment during evacuation and it is unlikely much of it is left to collect now, says Dr Woldemichael." (WHO 31 July 2000)

## **International coordination mechanisms**

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### **UN Resident Coordinator supported by OCHA to coordinate UN response (2001)**

- The Resident Coordinator has the overall responsibility for coordination within the UN System (2000)
- Support for the Resident Coordinator provided by the UN Country Team and OCHA
- OCHA coordination unit staffed by 5-6 persons by the end of 2000
- Information and Coordination Centre (ICC) established in June 2000 to support coordination of the humanitarian response
- A Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) overseeing the UN peace keeping operation (UNMEE)
- Joint UN/Government coordination mechanism for humanitarian assistance in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ)

"Relief and humanitarian assistance by UN Agencies is coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator, supported by the Country Team, which is composed of all resident agencies. The Country Team meets regularly to ensure maximum integration of programmes and to avoid duplication." (UN January 2000, p.11)

"At the onset of the crisis in May 2000, OCHA began to facilitate a rapid response by recruiting additional professional staff members and sending in short-term professionals to cover staffing gaps in the meantime. OCHA, under the auspice of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, focused on the facilitation of a rapid, coherent and effective response to the increasingly large and complex emergency. By the end of June, a rapid assessment of humanitarian needs was carried out in the most affected areas of Gash Barka and Debub regions. This assessment helped to determine humanitarian priorities in the revised UNCTA.

[...]

The OCHA-supported coordination framework is organised under the authority of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator who has ultimate responsibility for the coordination of UN Agencies. In direct support of the Humanitarian Coordinator, OCHA's role is to take the lead in creating and sustaining a unified operation that is based on the full participation of all humanitarian partners. In particular, OCHA is responsible for ensuring that: a) needs are identified; b) planning is cross-sectoral; c) information is shared; and d) programmes are coordinated. A key aim of OCHA is to establish a platform, in conjunction with the ICC that allows ERREC, UN Agencies and NGOs to work collectively to address humanitarian needs by agreeing on a clear division of labour and sharing assets and expertise.

[...]

Monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the humanitarian strategy will be a key function undertaken by the Office of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in collaboration with the UNCT in Asmara and the sectoral working groups encompassing all humanitarian partners under the leadership of ERREC. The UNCT will have collective responsibility for monitoring the internal and external contexts that impact on the

implementation of humanitarian interventions. At any time during the period of implementation, adjustments to the action plan may be necessary in view of changes in the political, security and humanitarian situation." (UN July 2000, pp.4, 10, 11)

"Under the auspices of the ERREC Commissioner and the RC/HC, a joint Information and Coordination Centre (ICC) was established in the early stages of the recent emergency with support from UNDAC (United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination). The ICC is managed on a day-to-day basis by OCHA in close collaboration with ERREC. Other human and material resources come from UNICEF, UNDP, Norwegian Church Aid, and ERREC. The main function of the ICC is to facilitate the joint relief effort through the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on population movements, humanitarian operations and changes and trends in the overall humanitarian situation; the publication of theme papers (e.g. on IDP camps); and briefings for newly arrived agencies. Since October 2000, the ICC also has a Field Liaison Unit (FLU), which comprises a Field Coordinator and three UNICEF-funded national Field Liaison Officers. The main function of the FLU is to strengthen ongoing information collection at the field-level in collaboration with the Government and other partners. In order to facilitate the Annual Needs Assessment exercise, the ICC produced a Reference CD-ROM that contains over 400 reports, updates and other documents relating to the humanitarian situation in Eritrea;

OCHA has supported the establishment of Sectoral Working Groups (SWG), which are chaired by ERREC or a line-ministry and co-facilitated by an appropriate UN Agency with participation of local and international NGOs and international organisations. At present, there are SWGs for the following sectors: Food; Health & Nutrition; Water & Sanitation; Shelter and Household Items; and Education. Recently a decision was taken to also establish a SWG for Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Recovery (3R).

In the early stages of the crisis General Coordination Meetings were held once or twice a week. The now monthly General Coordination Meeting is called by ERREC, chaired by the RC/HC and facilitated by OCHA and the ICC. The main aim of the meeting is to brief all humanitarian actors on the overall humanitarian situation and to exchange sectoral information." (UN November 2000, pp. 9-10)

"The previous year saw the number of international NGOs increasing from approximately 10 to over 30. Many of the organisations which were already present in Eritrea (e.g. the resident UN humanitarian organisations) increased their operations considerably in order to assist the Government in responding to the crisis that unfolded in 2000. For example, OCHA, the principle entity responsible for humanitarian coordination within the UN system, went from a one-person presence to a five-person office. In addition, a completely new type of partner arrived on the scene, in the form of UNMEE, the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission. These developments and the increasing scope and complexity of the emergency that unfolded in 2000, necessitated the establishment of more elaborate, inclusive and comprehensive coordination structures and mechanisms," (UN February 2001, pp.34-35)

"UNMEE whose operations are focused on the TSZ, is headed up by a Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) who is the most senior UN representative in Eritrea[...] The SRSG is DO [Designated Official] in the TSZ and is responsible for overall co-ordination of UN activities in the TSZ. Also within UNMEE, there is a Force Commander, a military person who is responsible for military decisions concerning deployment and management of the peacekeepers. Within the military setup there is a Civil Military Affairs branch (CMA) one of whose function is the establishment of a Civil Military Co-operation centre (CIMIC). CIMIC is responsible for providing liaison facilities and two-way information sharing between the humanitarian community and UNMEE peacekeepers. CMA and CIMIC as a component of it, report to the Force Commander." (ICC 11 January 2001)

### **"Coordination**

A new coordination mechanism for humanitarian assistance in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) has been put in place jointly headed by the HC's office and ERREC. It builds on the existing structures: 1. Steering Committee for Humanitarian Assistance in the TSZ. 2. Technical Advisory Sub-Committee on Assessments and Information. 3. Sectoral Working Groups (SWGs). Initially the SWGs were established in June 2000 covering five sectors, Education, Health and Nutrition, Food, Shelter and non-food items, Water and Sanitation. The SWGs have a GOE chair and UN agency facilitator. Meetings are attended by GOE, UN Agencies NGOs, Red Cross Movement and Donors. In Collaboration with UNMEE the humanitarian community has started to undertake assessment missions in the (TSZ).

(OCHA/Senior Network, April 2001)

*For further details on Coordination Arrangements in Eritrea, see Annex 1 in the UN Consolidated Appeal for 2001*

### **Division of sectoral areas between UN agencies (July 2000)**

"[In July 2000 it was envisaged that] The roles and responsibilities of UN agencies by sectoral division will be as follows:

Food, Logistics and Food Security: WFP will provide immediate food assistance and transport of food where appropriate. FAO will provide agricultural inputs and technical assistance to implementing agencies and partners.

Shelter and Household Items: UNDP and UNHCR will provide assistance in this sector, with UNHCR focussing on the Gash Barka region. The SWG for this sector operates with the participation of NGOs, bilateral agencies, UN agencies and ERREC. On the basis of updates on activities and information provided by each participating agency, the SWG continually updates a matrix that clearly identifies needs, stocks available and in the pipeline and the shortfalls.

Water and Sanitation: UNICEF, WHO, and NGOs will work closely to coordinate necessary interventions. UNICEF will support provision of water supply equipment, such as generators, pumps and pipes to rehabilitate or construct bore holes, hand-dug wells and

other water systems. Sanitation tools will also be provided where possible. Capacity building support for institutions and support to water supply and sanitation programmes are among priority concerns of UNICEF. WHO and NGOs will help to control outbreaks of water borne diseases due to unsafe water and poor sanitation.

Health and Nutrition: WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF will work closely in coordinating health interventions. WHO will support training, assessment and control of epidemics as well as strengthening the health information system. UNFPA will extend reproductive health services and education. UNICEF will support emergency actions involving immunisation, provision of basic health supplies, rehabilitation of basic health infrastructure and nutrition surveillance.

Education: UNICEF will provide professional and financial support to the Government. UNICEF will also collaborate with the Government in monitoring project implementation through joint field visits, quarterly and annual progress reviews and reports. UNICEF will continue to co-chair with the Ministry of Education the donor/partners' coordination meeting. It will ensure that emergency education data and information is accessible to all users through the ICC. UNICEF will also continue to advocate for inter-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration and participate in experience sharing and knowledge development for quality assurances.

Psychosocial Care and Protection of Children: UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare will ensure that the rights of all children are protected during the emergency, particularly those affected by the conflict. The situation of unaccompanied children will receive priority attention through assessment, family reunification and provision of services targeting them. Psychosocial support services will be promoted to mitigate the impact of war on children and women.

Communication and Crosscutting Issues: This initiative will be implemented through a collaborative venture with the Ministry of Health (lead agency) and partners including SCF-UK, OXFAM, MSF and UNHCR. UNICEF will support awareness programmes about: the threat of landmines; violence against women; hygiene promotion; and HIV/AIDS prevention and control in an emergency. UNICEF will collaborate closely with UNFPA in peer education among young people.

Coordination: OCHA will continue to facilitate coordination efforts, providing access to information and resource mobilisation on behalf of humanitarian agencies and organisations.

Return and Rehabilitation: The Return and Rehabilitation Sectoral Working Group will be established at the appropriate time and most likely be introduced in the 2001 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal Process."

(UN July 2000, pp.10-11)

### **Confusion regarding organizational responsibility for providing shelter (2000)**

- Problems with the distribution of tents that were already in the country
- Several actors involved in the sector

"Within Sudan, UNHCR encountered serious problems with the distribution of tents that were already in the country. Available stocks languished for long periods in COR

warehouses and, even upon delivery to the camps, were subject to further delays before they could be distributed. In Laffa camp, for example, piles of undistributed tents were left lying on the ground, while registered refugees were obliged to sleep in the open.

At the beginning of the emergency in Eritrea, there was considerable confusion regarding organizational responsibility for providing shelter. Originally the responsibility of UNDP, a number of other agencies, including the ICRC, UNICEF and various NGOs, also made shelter available. When responsibility passed to UNHCR, staff were hard-pressed to find solutions to the issue of shelter in the absence of tents or poles with which to support the plastic sheeting. One creative approach was suggested: the use of a combined plastic sheeting/wooden frame that could be used initially as emergency shelter and subsequently as the basis for a roof on a more permanent dwelling." (UNHCR February 2001, p.27)

## **International operational activities in 2000**

### **Food aid requested in 2000 Appeal fully funded while non-food needs remained unmet**

- Non-food sector received only 40% of the funds sought by end-2000
- UN unable to successfully intervene in a holistic manner

"There was solid response to the Original Appeal launched in January, which received more than 51% funding coverage. However, the Revised Appeal [issued in July 2000], which received an overall response of 66.5%, was well-funded in the food sector, but met with much less enthusiasm in the non-food sectors. By the end of December, while the food sector had been fully funded, the non-food sector had received contributions that totaled only 40% of the funds sought.

[...]

The inability of the UN Appeals to find broad, cross-sectoral support among the donor community meant that there was a reduced capacity to respond to the needs of war and drought-affected people, especially in terms of non-food assistance. While the strong food response was important, the ability of the UN to successfully intervene in a holistic manner on behalf of affected populations was reduced.

The interplay of interventions in the food and non-food sectors is important and delicate, and the lack of funding in one area undercuts the strength and ultimate effectiveness of funding in other sectors. The inability of the UN Country Team to respond fully in all sectors undermines the overall impact of the humanitarian relief effort. This invariably leads to increased rates of morbidity and mortality among vulnerable groups." (UN February 2001, pp. 5)

"The continued poor funding of non-food sectors and 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 clothing, is a cause for serious concern for displaced populations in camps and returnees.

Internally displaced persons visited and agencies expressed the need for clothing, particularly in view of the oncoming winter. This urgent need was supported by Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) and international staff working with displaced in other parts of the country." (OCHA 25 October 2000, p.5)

### **Assessment mission by new UN network on IDPs (October 2000)**

- Need for donor support for the return and reintegration process emphasised
- Appeal for access by the UN and other humanitarian actors to IDPs trapped in security zone
- Urgent need for humanitarian demining in the areas of return

"The Senior Inter-Agency Network on internal displacement undertook a mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea from 16 to 21 October 2000. The mission, led by the UN Special Coordinator on Internal Displacement, was composed of representatives of FAO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO as well as an NGO representative. The main objectives of the mission were to obtain a broad overview of the situation of persons displaced by the recent conflict in both countries; to assess the operational capacity of UN agencies and other humanitarian actors to respond to such needs, with a view to identifying and assessing any gaps; to review existing institutional arrangements, and to assess whether they adequately address the needs of displaced persons, in particular women and children; to evaluate any directly related issues that might affect the international response to the needs of displaced persons, and to make recommendations to concerned agencies, organisations and governments for future action.

### **Overall recommendations**

Following the cessation of hostilities, there is a need to plan beyond the provision of relief assistance to war-affected populations to the longer-term return, rehabilitation and reintegration phase.

Timely donor support for the return and reintegration of displaced populations will be critical to reinforce the process of peace building and peace consolidation.

The current humanitarian response as well as future longer-term assistance for displaced populations needs to take into account the special needs of women and children, who constitute up to 90% of these populations.

A large number of the displaced have settled in host communities in both countries. Assistance and protection activities should also take into account the needs of these populations, including local capacity-building.

The deployment of UN peacekeeping forces will clearly encourage the return of displaced populations. In view of this there is an urgent need to ensure early humanitarian demining in the areas of return.

A number of war-affected civilians remain inaccessible to the United Nations. The Mission appeals to all parties to allow early access to the United Nations organisations and other humanitarian actors to the temporary security zone.

The Mission remains concerned for the situation of internees in both countries, who are also displaced. It strongly appeals, on humanitarian grounds, to both countries to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian and Eritrean nationals, with ICRC's assistance." (OCHA 25 October 2000)

*The mission report contains further country-specific findings.*

#### **Great variety of IDP activities implemented by UNICEF (2000)**

- Routine immunisation and measles supplementary immunisation of children between 9 – 12 years undertaken in all IDP camps
- Learning materials distributed to about 97,000 IDP children
- 32 social workers trained for psychosocial support interventions in the IDP camps

"The combination of internal displacement and drought has placed the health and nutritional status of women and children at great risk. To address the deteriorating condition of this group, UNICEF has taken a number of measures—including the provision of 400,000 doses of measles vaccines, 850,000 auto-disabled syringes for immunisation and 8,000 incinerator boxes to dispose of used syringes. Routine immunisation and measles supplementary immunisation have been conducted in all IDP camps. More than 100,000 children have been vaccinated and given vitamin A since March. To prevent the outbreak of preventable diseases and similar incidences of common diseases, an assortment of essential drugs has also been provided. About 900 tons of 'Dura Milk and Kerkebe' (DMK, a locally manufactured version of UNIMIX) was provided to meet the immediate nutritional needs of both drought- and conflict-affected children and women. In addition, micronutrient deficiency was addressed through the provision of Glucose, Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) and a combination of multivitamin tablets and syrup. UNICEF, through the Ministry of Health (MOH) and in collaboration with SCF-UK, resumed the monitoring of nutritional status of children in IDP camps and drought-affected areas that was temporarily disrupted during the war. Three ambulances (valued US\$ 100,000) were provided to health centres in the drought affected areas to support hospital referral of women and children." (UNICEF 7 December 2000)

"Provided learning materials for about 97,000 out of the 205,000 displaced children, along with the fabrication of 40 makeshift classrooms and procurement of 100 classroom tents, which will serve approximately 9,800 children in the camps;

Supported campaigns for HIV/AIDS prevention among IDPs in collaboration with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) through camp based peer education and sensitisation on the dangers of HIV/AIDS in Gash Barka and Debub Zones. This involved training of camp leaders (youth, women and men), promotion of the use of condoms and peer education;

Provided to the IDP camps, through ERREC, 50 sets of 5,000-liter collapsible water bladders and 6 kits of modular rigid water tanks of 10,000-litre capacity each designed to serve approximately 6,000 IDPs. In collaboration with organisations such as OXFAM and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNICEF supported improvement of water sources in several IDP camps. In addition, nearly 5,000 packets (50 tablets per pack) of water purification tablets and chlorine were supplied to ensure safety of water provided in the camps. Submersible pumps and generators were also supplied to ensure fast and adequate supply of water;

Participated in an assessment of the situation of separated children in the IDP camps. The assessment was carried out to:

Determine the magnitude and circumstances of the separation;  
Identify the major protection issues facing separated children;  
Determine mechanisms that will have to be put in place for their identification and family reunification.

The assessment sampled five camps with a total population of 96,000 IDPs and found a total of 3,092 separated children, 1,243 of them being girls;

UNICEF supported the training by the University of Asmara of 32 social workers identified by the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare (MLHW) for psychosocial support interventions in the IDP camps. These social workers are to be deployed at the end of October in all the camps to conduct basic counselling or referral for IDP children who may exhibit traumatic related signs as a result of experiences they have gone through during the war;

UNICEF procured recreational items and tents for recreational purposes, which were delivered to all IDP camps as well as to hosting communities in the Gash Barka and Debub Zones in collaboration with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students;

UNICEF started a landmine awareness campaign for returning IDPs and refugees from Sudan in collaboration with UNHCR, the Eritrean Demining Programme (EDP) and the Ministry of Health." (UN November 2000, pp.5-6)

### **Special attention given to IDP children in camps (2000)**

- Inter-agency Child Protection Working Group - CPWG)s formed to monitor the situation of children affected by the conflict

- Project for the establishment of “child-friendly” centers in two IDP camps
- Recreational supplies for children distributed to IDP camps

"In response to the immediate crisis in May 2000, an inter-agency Sectoral Working Group (the Child Protection Working Group - CPWG) was formed in order to monitor the situation of children affected by the conflict. Following reports in June 2000 of the existence of unaccompanied children in the IDP camps, the CPWG initiated an assessment to determine the magnitude of the problem and to identify mechanisms available for reunification of these children with their families. SCF-UK provided technical assistance and support to this assessment team with a view to finding durable solutions to the problems of separated and unaccompanied children.

Based on the recommendations of this joint UNICEF, SCF-UK, and Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare (MLHW) assessment report, the MLHW developed a project for the establishment of “child-friendly” centers in two IDP camps which were identified as having the largest number of unaccompanied children. Community caregivers are employed to assist separated children in meeting their basic needs by preparing meals, washing clothes, and ensuring that the most vulnerable receive proper care. In addition, peer counselors assigned to these children arrange social activities and entertainment to encourage the children to interact with each other and to express their feelings.

UNICEF provided recreational supplies for children which were distributed to IDP camps and host communities by MLHW, the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS). Each beneficiary community designated a person responsible for the maintenance and care of the equipment or facilities. Also, 32 social workers were trained and then deployed to IDP camps in October 2000 to provide basic counseling services and to serve as focal points for separated and other vulnerable children, including child headed households." (UN February 2001, p.9)

#### **UNHCR focusing its assistance on IDPs in the Gash Barka Zone (July - December 2000)**

- UNHCR was about to repatriate refugees from Sudan when new conflict broke out in May 2000
- Initial phase focused on international protection and provision of immediate assistance to IDPs in and from western Eritrea
- Emergency relief assistance aimed at facilitating return of both refugees and IDPs
- UNHCR active in provision of shelter and non-food items to IDPs and returning populations

" Towards the end of 1999, a breakthrough in negotiations between UNHCR and the Government of Eritrea, created prospects for the resumption of a large-scale repatriation operation. The planned return and reintegration of these “old caseload” refugees from Sudan and Yemen, was scheduled to take place over a period of three years, starting in May 2000. A Tripartite Agreement was signed to this effect between UNHCR and the Governments of Eritrea and Sudan on 7 April 2000, outlining the modalities of the

operation. With preparations and information campaigns well underway, and with many refugees eager to return to Eritrea, the operation was ready to start within days, when fighting between Eritrea and Ethiopia flared up again, imposing an interruption of activities

Instead of assisting people to return and reintegrate, UNHCR had to change gear and cope with a new influx of Eritrean refugees into the neighbouring countries. The Office, in collaboration with the respective Governments and other players in the region, has, thus, started to meet the immediate needs of refugees in Sudan, Djibouti and Yemen, while providing life-saving emergency relief assistance to IDPs in Eritrea." (UNHCR July 2000, p. 1)

"The programme of emergency relief assistance to IDPs in Eritrea is taking place within an inter-agency framework, whereby UN agencies have taken on different responsibilities, mainly according to sectors and geographical areas. The UNHCR programme in Eritrea focuses on populations, which have been internally displaced within the Gash Barka Zone or from the Gash Barka Zone to other areas of Eritrea. UNHCR's involvement is based on the following rationale:

- The IDP population in and from the Gash Barka Zone includes former refugees who had returned from Sudan in earlier years and who are now, newly, internally or externally displaced;
- The returnee and IDP population in these zones, if not assisted, might be compelled to cross the international border with Sudan thereby becoming refugees;
- The Gash Barka Zone is the most important area of expected future return of some 250,000 Eritrean refugees in Sudan (160,000 "old" and 94,000 "new" refugees);
- The provision of emergency relief to IDPs in the Gash Barka Zone will lay the foundations for the return not only of IDPs but also of refugees.." (UN July 2000, p.52)

#### **Evaluation concludes that actual resource commitments did not match UNHCR's high ambition for IDP support in Eritrea (2000)**

- Eritrea provided UNHCR with an opportunity to test its new IDP policy
- 16 international staff on the ground by end-June 2000
- People frustrated at the ambiguity of UNHCR's approach to the IDP problem in Eritrea

"UNHCR initially adopted a high profile with regard to the problem of internal displacement in Eritrea, a position that was subsequently belied by the low resource commitments made in relation to the operation. Moreover, the extent to which the organization's involvement in Eritrea was guided by the organization's recent policy paper on IDP operations was not apparent. UNHCR has nonetheless shown a commitment towards orienting its approach in a sustainable direction.

The Eritrea/Sudan emergency, as well as UNHCR's reestablishment in Eritrea after a two-year absence from the country, occurred at a critical juncture in the international

debate concerning IDPs. In January 2000, Richard Holbrooke, US ambassador to the United Nations, expressed his reservations about the distinction traditionally made between refugees and IDPs, underlined the international community's inadequate response to the problem of internal displacement and called on UNHCR to assume a leading role in this domain.

Partly in response to this intervention, UNHCR re-examined its existing IDP policy and issued a new policy statement, asserting that the organization was 'predisposed' to an involvement with IDPs, as long as certain conditions could be met. These included the authorization of the UN and consent of the state concerned, access to the affected population, the security of UNHCR staff, as well as adequate resources and organizational capacity [...].

### **Eritrea and the IDP policy**

Eritrea provided UNHCR with a timely case in which to test this new policy, as the IDP situation in that country met most if not all of the specified criteria for UNHCR involvement. Unlike other countries affected by the problem of internal displacement, people left their homes in Eritrea as a result of a war with a neighbouring state, and not as a result of civil war or persecution by their government. Indeed, the Eritrean government recognized its responsibility to meet the needs of citizens displaced by the border war.

In other respects, UNHCR's conditions for involvement were also met. The government granted UNHCR access to IDPs, except those located in front-line areas near Ethiopian positions, and it sought to guarantee the security of humanitarian personnel. The presence of IDPs and returning refugees in the same areas of Eritrea provided another rationale for UNHCR's involvement.

For the reasons cited above, UNHCR initially mounted a relatively vigorous and visible response to the IDP situation in Eritrea. A memorandum issued by the High Commissioner on 6 June 2000, for example, committed UNHCR to '[fully participating] in the inter-agency effort on behalf of internally displaced people, in line with its position outlined in the position paper on IDPs of 6 March 2000' [...] Similarly, in its June 2000 strategic plan of operations, the UNHCR office in Asmara made a strong case for the organization's involvement with the internally displaced.

Demonstrating UNHCR's commitment to the Eritrea programme, by 27 June 2000 some 16 international staff were on the ground. Significantly, one of the early deployments was a Public Information Officer, who helped raise international awareness of the IDP situation. UNHCR also made its presence and interest felt in meetings with government officials and other humanitarian agencies, thereby raising further expectations with regard to its role with IDPs.

Despite such expressions of intent, UNHCR's resource commitments to the IDP programme were initially low, and the organization soon appeared to retreat from the more expansive role which it had originally envisaged. This development exemplified what one staff member described as UNHCR's 'deep ambivalence at the policy level'

regarding its role in Eritrea. By July, an appeal for \$23 million (\$13.3 million of this sum targeted for Eritrea) had been issued, and predictions that 50 per cent of the appeal would be met were considered realistic[...].

In parallel with the reduction of resource commitments for the IDP programme, there was an apparent downward reassessment of beneficiary numbers. In the early days of the emergency, on 2 June 2000, the UNHCR office in Asmara spoke of some 550,000 IDPs in Gash Barka province, and another 200,000 in Debub, as being potentially in need of the organization's assistance[...]. By the following month, however, UNHCR's appeal for Eritrea and Sudan stated that only 125,000 IDPs and 90,000 returnees, were to be targeted for UNHCR assistance.

A number of people interviewed in the course of this evaluation expressed frustration at the ambiguity of UNHCR's approach to the IDP problem in Eritrea, as well as the organization's apparent inability to translate its generic IDP policy into operational practice. As one staff member argued, 'at present there is no guidance and it is just a matter of contingencies. The UNHCR IDP operation in Eritrea could just as well have been half the size it is – or double. The only limiting condition seems to have been someone's judgement as to what was fundable'.

The question of an 'expectations gap' in respect of UNHCR's approach to IDPs is perhaps endemic to it, but still needs to be firmly addressed. With refugees, UNHCR's mandate is clear, and it does not have the choice of standing by. With IDPs, the case is different, and UNHCR does not intervene in all, or even most IDP situations. However, in the spirit of the new IDP policy, UNHCR must make its intentions clear, and then follow through. The danger is that, if it raises expectations as it did in Eritrea, but then does not follow through to the extent originally indicated, it loses credibility, and a group of needy persons risks falling between the gaps of the international system." (UNHCR February 2001, pp. 17-19)

#### **International response to shelter needs (July – December 2000)**

- Major efforts by UNHCR to fly in shelter materials
- UNDP distributed 2,000 tents, 10,000 pieces of plastic sheeting, 50,000 blankets and 20,000 kitchen utensils
- UNHCR delivered of more than 5,400 tents and tens of thousands of plastic sheets, wooden poles and planks

"Only one third of Eritrea's displaced population have adequate shelter, the Eritrean government estimates. A UNHCR plane carrying plastic tarpaulins is scheduled to arrive in Asmara tomorrow (Wednesday, 5 July) and we've already sent additional supplies of plastic sheeting and tents from stockpiles in Europe. UNHCR staff have been instructing carpenters on making the most efficient use of wood that we have airlifted from Copenhagen to frame 500 shelters, and we are also buying additional timber from local

Eritrean importers so that the IDPs can construct thousands of additional shelters. ." (UNHCR 4 July 2000)

"There is general concern about the extreme lack of shelter items in Eritrea especially with the spontaneous return of refugees from Sudan. A USAID contribution of US\$ 1 million for emergency shelter and household items this week was therefore much welcomed. In addition, almost 9,000 plastic sheets arrived on a UNHCR chartered plane, 15 July; in a joint venture UNHCR and MCI procured 1,000 plastic sheets locally; and 1,200 family tents donated by NCA arrived in Massawa earlier this week. There are ongoing discussions about the relocation of vacated tents in Salina and Ghinda camps to areas of need. ICRC has offered assistance in transportation of the tents." (ICC 22 July 2000)

"With recent developments, the Shelter SWG is expanding its focus to include returnees as well as IDPs within their purvue. There remain extreme shortfalls in terms of shelter and household items, but some actions are being taken.

UNHCR is bringing in tents, soap and clothes from Kosovo and delivering 2000 fully equipped shelter items (plastic sheeting with wooden frames) to Adi Keshi;

MSF-France delivered 50 tents to a reception center for IDPs coming from Senafe;

ICRC's distribution plan for the week of July 24-30th reflected that they will deliver 500 tents, 20,000 bars of soap and 1,200 kitchen sets in Dehub plus 565 tents, 185 kitchen sets and 2,220 bars of soap in Gash-Barka. As many people return home, there is an increasing need for an assessment of home communities and prioritization of their household and shelter needs." (ICC 29 July 2000)

"UNDP's primary programming activity was to provide shelter and household items to internally displaced Eritreans. Specifically, UNDP was able to distribute 2,000 tents, 10,000 pieces of plastic sheeting, 50,000 blankets and 20,000 kitchen utensils during the period from June to September 2000.

UNHCR, focusing on the voluntary repatriation of Eritrean refugees from Sudan and displaced persons in Gash Barka, Dehub and Anseba zones, procured and facilitated delivery of more than 5,400 tents and tens of thousands of plastic sheets, wooden poles and planks, blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, kerosene stoves and kerosene, clothing, hygienic parcels and other items to displaced. The consequence of these interventions was that, in the initial phase, over 50% of those in need were provided with tents, while the rest were provided with shelter through the use of plastic sheeting and construction materials.

While these interventions helped to address the most acute needs for shelter of the displaced, it was also clear that underfunding in this sector, as in most of the non-food sectors, inhibited the ability to respond more comprehensively. The onset of the colder winter season also underscored the urgency of the need to provide more blankets, clothing, bedsheets and kerosene as well as to replace some of the worn out items. Further distributions of tents to those families who had to make do with plastic sheeting were also deemed a priority.



UNDP undertook a rapid assessment mission to war-affected areas to study the state of returnees in their home areas. This mission formed the initial basis of the longer-term recovery and rehabilitation programme. This programme, known as the Post-War Emergency Rehabilitation Programme (POWER), focuses, *inter alia*, on the rebuilding of damaged homes in war-affected areas as a longer-term solution to the shelter needs of Eritreans displaced by the war." (UN February 2001, pp. 6-7)

### **WHO spent most of its regular budget responding to the emergency (July 2000)**

"Just six months into its two year financial cycle, over 95% of WHO Eritrea's regular budget has already been spent on supporting emergency needs, says the organization's representative in Asmara, Dr Nsue Milang.

"Unless we get some funds from headquarters, or from the regional office, or other donors soon, we will be able to do very little over the next 18 months," he says, adding that the hardest hit programmes will be those aimed at building skills among health workers since most of the funds for the emergency have been redirected from these areas.

Disease surveillance and reproductive health training projects are two programmes immediately at risk.

Given that Eritrea has a total of 96 medical doctors and 32 specialists - around one doctor per 35,000 people compared to 1 to 500 people in the US - any reduction in training programmes will set back the health service's ability to cope both now and in the future." (WHO 31 July 2000)

## **International operational activities in 2001**

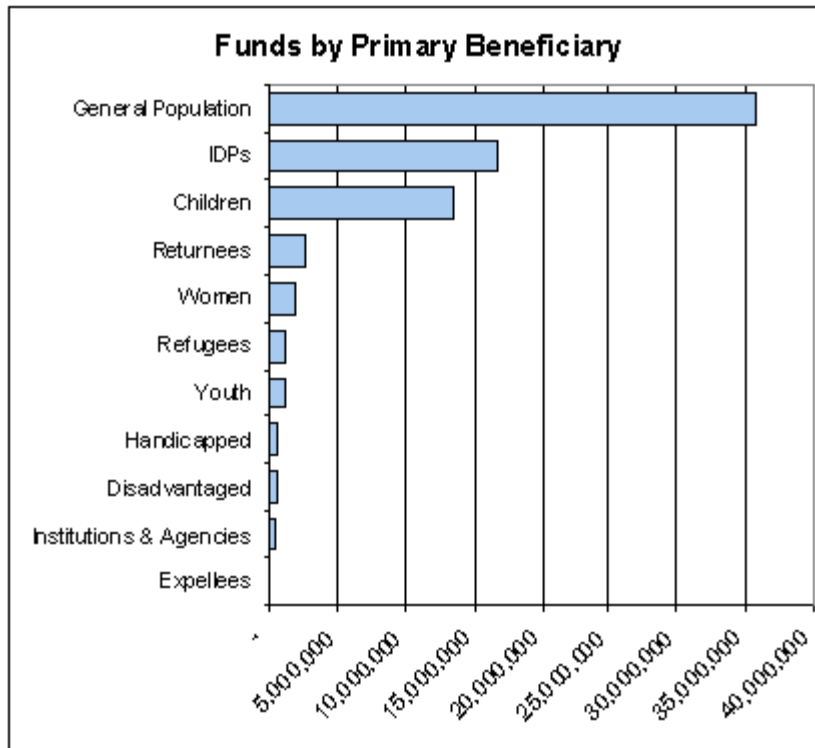
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### **Survey suggests that 23 percent of humanitarian activities were specifically targeting IDPs (September 2001)**

"This briefing paper is a first look at information gathered through the 'Who does What Where' (W3) survey of local and international humanitarian and recovery organisations active in Eritrea during 2001. This first cut includes 162 projects reported by 34 organisations with a total value of over \$74 million.

[...]

Almost half the projects submitted to date list the General Population as the primary beneficiary, indicating intent to assist communities hosting IDPs as well as the IDPs themselves, as well as all members of communities receiving returns. Of those projects that target specific beneficiary groups, 23% are targeted at IDPs and 18% at children.



As with the sectoral section, agencies completing the W3 survey were asked to mark one group as the 'primary' beneficiary but as many 'secondary' beneficiary groups as necessary. Examining the combined data of primary and secondary beneficiary groups shows that many projects specifically target assistance to children (16%), IDPs (16%), women (14%) and returnees (9%)." (ICC 18 September 2001)

#### **Humanitarian community focusing activities on emergency and reconstruction assistance for the returnees (September 2001)**

- Shelter materials a priority for returning IDPs

"Since the majority of internally displaced persons have now returned to their home areas, the attention of the humanitarian community in Ethiopia and Eritrea is focused on providing emergency and reconstruction assistance. With the heavy rains of the last two months, shelter materials have become a priority for returning Eritrean internally displaced persons. United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Committee have therefore initiated programmes to provide housing materials to some of the worst affected villages. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, has initiated a pilot project to rehabilitate 2,000 houses in Tsorona and 1,000 in Senafe, both in Sector Centre. Water and sanitation are also among the priorities of the humanitarian community; UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and several non-governmental organizations are actively involved in the water sector. A number of agencies, including UNICEF, are also actively participating in school reconstruction and in the supply of school equipment and education materials.

While the health of returning internally displaced persons is relatively good, there is a concern that it could deteriorate in areas where medical and water facilities have been damaged or destroyed. United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations are working closely with the Eritrean Ministry of Health to provide basic health-care services in these areas and to rehabilitate, re-equip, and re-staff local health centres in the Temporary Security Zone.

[...]

Contributions to the United Nations Consolidated Appeal for Eritrea now stand at approximately 56 per cent, an increase since June 2001. Although this is encouraging, additional food aid pledges for victims of natural disasters and internally displaced persons are urgently needed for both Ethiopia and Eritrea, and there are still significant shortfalls in all the non-food sectors."(UN SC 5 September 2001 , paras.25-29)

*See also:*

*Nutrition study of IDPs returning to their villages in Gash Barka confirms effectiveness of the humanitarian response (August 2001)*

### **Human Rights monitors to assess the situation in the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas (2001)**

"During the period under review, the human rights component of UNMEE became operational with the arrival of five of the expected seven human rights officers in the Mission area. Human rights officers began investigating the treatment of Eritreans in Ethiopia and of Ethiopians in Eritrea in the context of the conflict. Monitoring activities within the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas have begun, with visits by human rights officers to all sectors. In addition to investigating allegations of human rights violations within the Temporary Security Zone, the human rights officers, in collaboration with other UNMEE and United Nations agencies personnel, are monitoring the return of IDPs. Special attention is being paid to vulnerable groups and populations affected by the conflict. UNMEE human rights experts also contributed to a pilot project providing gender and human rights training to peacekeepers at five locations in Ethiopia and Eritrea." (UN SC 19 June 2001, para. 50)

### **Overall UN strategy for 2001**

- Expected that the December 2000 Peace Agreement provides an opportunity for a further improvement of the overall humanitarian situation
- 2001 appeal reflects how UN humanitarian Agencies will support, under the changing circumstances, initiatives aimed at return, reintegration, and basic recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
- The special needs and concerns of women should be further emphasised in the humanitarian programme

"The 2001 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for Eritrea has been developed against a background of major developments in the humanitarian situation during the previous year. The 12 December 2000 Algiers Peace Agreement brought a formal end to the two-year border conflict and provides an opportunity for a further improvement of the overall humanitarian situation in Eritrea, additional return movements and reintegration of civilian populations, and a slow, but gradual improvement of socio-economic conditions. However, it is commonly recognized that the normalization of life, structural socio-economic recovery from the devastating effects of the war, as well as the achievement of durable regional stability and cooperation are complicated processes that could take several years rather than months. In 2001, continued emergency relief assistance (food aid in particular) and emergency recovery assistance will be needed in conjunction with the need to increasingly focus on medium and longer-term programmes aimed at restoring socio-economic conditions that existed before 1998.

The present CHAP reflects this situation in terms of strategy and financial requirements. The need to continue in 2001 with the provision of emergency food aid to a large number of food-insecure groups affected by the combined effects of war and drought, results in a large food aid component with a total value of over US\$ 103 million. At the same time, the CHAP reflects how UN humanitarian Agencies will support, under the changing circumstances, initiatives aimed at return, reintegration, and basic recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction that are expected to gain further momentum in 2001. In addition, the CHAP elaborates how these activities relate to other assistance programmes that are implemented outside of the CAP.

[...]

Within the above framework, short-term goals of the Agencies participating in the 2001 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) are to:

Stabilise the situation of the most vulnerable groups by addressing continued emergency needs (e.g. IDPs in camps, drought-affected populations, certain groups of returnees) through the implementation of timely and efficient emergency relief interventions;

Promote the self-reliance and resilience of war- and drought-affected populations (including returnees) through the enhancement of livelihood support systems at the household-level;

Promote recovery and sustainable reintegration of refugees and IDPs through the provision of initial support to basic social and community services and infrastructure; and  
Increase the Government's capacity to deal with the humanitarian consequences of both man-made and natural disasters in order to facilitate an expedient phase-out of humanitarian operations.

(UN February 2001, pp. 13, 17, 18-19)

### **Humanitarian intervention shifting from emergency relief towards rehabilitation (December 2000)**

- Two large-scale integrated initiatives being implemented by the beginning of 2001
- POWER (post-war emergency and rehabilitation) is a joint programme between the Government of Eritrea (GoE) and UNDP

- Eritrean Emergency Reconstruction Programme (ERP) is a Government/multi donor programme
- World Bank funding almost 30% of ERP
- ERP finances activities aimed at restarting the economy

"Under this [2001] Appeal, UNHCR is planning to provide assistance in shelter and household items as part of an integrated multi-sectoral package to returning refugees and IDPs [...]. In addition to the provision of emergency shelter and household items, UNDP in 2001 will focus on recovery and rehabilitation programmes mainly through its Post-War Emergency Rehabilitation (POWER) programme, which includes rehabilitation of damaged or partially destroyed houses in the war-affected regions. Overall assistance in this sector is coordinated through the Sectoral Working Group on Shelter and Household Items. This SWG is led by ERREC and co-facilitated by UNHCR. In 2001, the SWG will continue to monitor the overall situation in this sector, track humanitarian responses and identify gaps and possible overlaps." (UN February 2001, p.27)

"The UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) has been established and the first peacekeepers have arrived. Given this stabilisation, focus of the humanitarian intervention has begun to shift from emergency relief to include rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery (3 Rs). Beyond a theoretical debate about a linear continuum from relief to development with the 3R's somewhere in between, what does this mean in reality?

Currently in Eritrea, there are ongoing relief programmes, but there are also small-scale interventions of a rehabilitation nature and more are planned. Some are bilateral interventions such as school rehabilitation by DANIDA, rehabilitation of the hospital in Tessenai by ICRC and various activities by a number of international NGOs. In addition, there are two large-scale integrated initiatives:

- The Government of Eritrea/UNDP Umbrella Programme for Emergency Recovery and Rehabilitation in War-Affected Areas in Eritrea (POWER), and
- The Eritrea Emergency Reconstruction Programme (ERP)" (ICC 18 December 2000)

### ***"POWER Programme***

The US\$ 15 million POWER (post-war emergency and rehabilitation) Programme, a joint programme between the Government of Eritrea (GoE) and UNDP, which is mainly funded by the Italian Government, can be seen as a bridging programme between emergency relief interventions and rehabilitation. It aims 'to link relief and development from the outset so as to facilitate the transition from emergency relief to sustainable rehabilitation and to support the resumption of economic and social development.'

To do this, during the first six months, POWER will focus on meeting urgent needs but at the same time promoting the underpinning concept of sustainable and integrated recovery activities in the field of settlements as well as rehabilitation of social infrastructure, agricultural production and human capital. During the remaining period of the project emergency, needs will be met as they arise but the focus will be on contributing to the long process of rehabilitation and development. To promote the link further, POWER

also includes a capacity building element to facilitate local government and civil society to plan implement and monitor as well as manage and coordinate interventions.

The POWER Programme will have four sectors of intervention:

Rehabilitation and reconstruction of houses;

Rehabilitation of social infrastructure in the areas of education, health and water and sanitation (WatSan);

Promotion of sustainable livelihoods through support to agriculture; and

Facilitating coordination of the emergency and reconstruction response.

Implementation of projects in these sectors will focus on the most affected zones of Debub and Gash-Barka, particularly areas of return, areas with extensive housing and social infrastructure damage, female headed households as well as opportunities to promote long-term impact on recovery and development.

### ***ERP***

The Eritrea Emergency Reconstruction Programme is a Government/multi donor (World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union and the Governments of Eritrea, Denmark, France and Italy) multi-sectoral programme totaling US\$ 287 million. The ERP aims to begin the process of long-term reconstruction and economic recovery and will be implemented in two years. The ERP recognises ongoing efforts coordinated by ERREC in response to immediate humanitarian needs and is 'designed to finance a set of complementary actions in support of the public and private sectors that will have the most impact in restarting the economy'.

The ERP comprises of five component parts:

1. Agriculture;
2. Reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure;
3. Private sector development;
4. Social protection; and
5. Balance of payments support.

ERP projects will focus on the Debub and Gash Barka zones, which were most affected by the recent conflict but will not exclude other zones. Actual implementation of the projects will be the responsibility of the relevant line ministries and other Government agencies." (UN January 2001, p. 38)

### **"Co-ordination**

Given the fact that both programmes represent the Government's plans for rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery, the Government remains responsible for the coordination of, and between, both programmes so as to ensure an integrated intervention that promotes long-term recovery. Currently there are clear mechanisms in place within each programme to co-ordinate projects and components that make up the programme. In the main part, this is achieved through the project appraisal process. As yet, there are no

formal links between the two programmes, but the ERP has only just been approved and implementation has not begun." (ICC 18 December 2000)

**Emergency health response both to include disease control services and infrastructure rehabilitation (2001)**

"In general, health services for IDPs and drought-affected populations are limited and, even under normal circumstances, the coverage of both curative and preventive health services is very low. Of particular concern are the high rates of infectious diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria, acute respiratory infection, conjunctivitis and skin diseases. Problems in the health sector have been further exacerbated in 2000 by population displacements, continuing drought, and capacity problems in the delivery of health services due to personnel shortages and material resources. Under the current circumstances, the overall health situation in Eritrea can easily further deteriorate and the risk of epidemics remains high. Against this backdrop, WHO will work together with other UN and bilateral partners to support the MoH in addressing issues related to disease control.

*Purpose of Support*

The main challenge for the humanitarian response include: providing basic disease control services, essential drugs and equipment, restoration of destroyed health facilities and epidemiological surveillance. Support provided by WHO, in collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA and others, will also be provided for infrastructure rehabilitation and capacity building. More specifically, WHO will request for support in order to provide:

- Emergency health kits (essential drugs);
- HIV/AIDS testing equipment;
- Disease surveillance;
- Vaccines for Meningitis (Type A+C) and yellow fever;
- Ambulances for the referral services; and
- Capacity building, logistics supply, and Programme support.

[...]

UNICEF's support will include the following themes:

- EPI/other Vaccine Programmes;
- Nutritional Supplementation;
- Emergency Drugs/Kits;
- Rehab/Furnishing Health Facilities;
- Capacity Building;
- Monitoring/Surveillance; and
- Programme Support.

UNICEF will support to achieve the health and nutrition sector objectives including, preventing outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases and malnutrition in children and pregnant and lactating women through blanket food and vitamin A supplementation of

children and women; monitoring the nutritional status of women and children; controlling communicable diseases including malaria, respiratory and eye infections, diarrhoea diseases; restoring basic health services in war and drought-affected areas and providing essential drugs, equipment and transport assistance as well as monitoring, capacity building and programme support." (UN February 2001, pp.51, 55)

***Summary of UNICEF's response as of September 2001:***

"The sudden return of several IDPs to their original homes, the establishment of new IDP camps closer to the homes of those who cannot return because of landmines and the effect of prolonged drought continue to place the health and nutritional status of women and children at great risk. To limit and prevent the outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases, UNICEF supported immunisation campaigns, especially for measles in the IDP camps targeting children aged nine months to twelve years. Despite the war, this assistance helped in sustaining polio vaccine coverage at 90 per cent in Eritrea. Support was also extended to the Government in improving surveillance that would enable Eritrea to be declared polio-free sometime in 2001. In the last three months, UNICEF has supplied 25,000 vials of measles to protect 250,000 children aged 9 to 60 months. Routine immunisation and measles supplementary immunisation are continuing as IDPs return home. To prevent the outbreak of preventable diseases and similar incidences of common diseases, an assortment of essential drugs were provided. One ambulance for the Tsorona Health Centre was provided to cater for IDPs returning from Alba and Harena IDP camps. About 40 tons of 'Dura Milk and Kerkebe' (DMK, a locally manufactured version of UNIMIX) was provided in the Senafe area to meet the immediate nutritional needs of about 40,000 children and women. In addition, dehydration and micronutrient deficiency were addressed through the provision of Glucose, Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) and a combination of multivitamin tablets and syrup.

UNICEF, through the Ministry of Health (MOH), has continued to support the monitoring of nutritional status of children in IDP camps and drought-affected areas. In the last month, 150 measuring boards and scales for nutritional surveillance (Growth Monitoring) were supplied to the Ministry of Health. Stationery and other sanitary supplies for nutrition surveillance workers were also supplied. In addition, temporary hospital tents, 10 Mother-Child Health (MCH) kits and 12 emergency health kits were ordered to meet some of the urgent health needs of the returning IDPs. Even though these achievements appear impressive under the circumstances, it should be noted that the health and nutrition interventions suffer greatly because the needs of the population far exceed the capacity of the existing health facilities, which experienced massive damage and destruction during the conflict. Unfortunately, funding to this sector has remained quite low. There is urgent need to increase access to health services not only through rehabilitation and expansion of health centres, but also by establishing strong links with communities using the community capacity development and participation strategy, especially as communities begin to resettle." (UNICEF 5 September 2001)



## **Response in the water and sanitation area (2001)**

"The border conflict and subsequent population movements have placed additional pressure on the already scarce water sources in IDP-hosting areas. The water supply situation has been further aggravated by the negligence of water supply installations and a general lack of maintenance. Approximately 44% and 16% of the urban and rural populations respectively have access to safe water sources, while 52% and 1% have access to improve sanitation in urban and rural settings respectively.

[...]

Water supply sources and the sanitation facilities in areas affected by the conflict will require major rehabilitation in order to facilitate the return of IDP populations;

[...]

### ***Operational Objectives***

For Water Supply:

Ensure that by the end of 2001 an additional 75,000 people have access to safe water in IDP return areas and drought affected areas;

Ensure that by the end of 2001, sustainable management systems are established for all water supply facilities constructed or rehabilitated in IDP return areas and/or drought affected populations; and

Ensure that water is being trucked and treated to serve at least 150,000 people living in IDP camps.

For Environmental Sanitation:

Improve access to sanitation in IDP camps; and

Increase awareness on improved hygiene and sanitation and train 200 health/hygiene promoters from IDP populations in camps.

(UN January 2001, pp.24-25)

### ***Summary of UNICEF's response as of September 2001:***

"The main focus of UNICEF assistance in the last three months has been on securing water and sanitation assistance for IDPs returning in the TSZ. A team of technicians from the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), with NGOs, was facilitated to rehabilitate, desilt, and clean water sources in the TSZ. Twenty-five sets of 10,000 and 5,000 litre collapsible water bladders were supplied and installed in Shambiko and Tokombya towns located within the TSZ. To ensure the supply of water while rehabilitation work took place, UNICEF provided two months of water trucking in Shambiko, Tokombya and Guluj areas. This support is estimated to have benefited about 120,000 people. With UNICEF support, the MoLG completed the drilling of five bore wells in the drought-hit Anseba region to cater for about 28,500 people. An assessment of the drought situation in the Southern Red Sea Region conducted recently showed that some 50 per cent of the population is living in desperate need for water as the combined effect of war and drought takes its toll. Within the TSZ and adjacent areas, many villages and water sources remain inaccessible due to the threat of landmines. The mine threat is also hampering the rehabilitation of water sources. Another major constraint is the lack of skilled manpower to take up water-related works as the few available contractors are occupied with various on-going rehabilitation jobs in other sectors. This has caused a

delay in implementing most water supply and sanitation projects." (UNICEF 5 September 2001)

**Estimated that 1,048,404 war-affected people in Eritrea require food assistance in 2001 (May 2001)**

"WFP and FAO have jointly approved the two emergency operations for Eritrea of assistance to about 1.7 million victims of the war and the drought. In view of this, the total cost figures that were used in the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) have been revised for the following reasons:

1. The net food requirement for the period May 2001 to February 2002 has been reduced to 193,396 Metric Tonnes (MTs) due to an unexpected carry-over from the previous Emergency Operation (EMOP) of about 30,000 MTs.
2. The commodity prices for food provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) have been lowered considerably since the last budget calculation. As WFP frequently revises its commodity prices this reduction is not unusual.

This brings the total cost for the two EMOPs down to US\$ 76,957,152, in other words, the WFP Food Aid CAP figures are reduced by US\$ 26,068,120.

The approved total costs for the two EMOPs are as follows:

EMOP 10049 (Assistance to victims of the drought): US\$ 32,969,041

EMOP 10052 (Assistance to victims of the war): US\$ 43,988,111" (OCHA 22 May 2001)

**"OBJECTIVES OF WFP FOOD ASSISTANCE**

The objectives of this EMOP are to support the Government's efforts to:

Save lives of the IDPs by providing regular access to basic food rations.

- Improve the nutritional status of the war-affected severely malnourished under-five children through therapeutic feeding at health centers.
- Improve the nutritional status of the war-affected malnourished children, pregnant and nursing mothers through supplementary feeding at health centers and schools.
- Enhance the capacity for self-reliance and prevent the depletion of livelihood assets and distress migration of war-affected vulnerable groups through pilot targeted skill training and income activities.

**BENEFICIARIES**

Food assistance will focus on the areas identified as most affected, in accordance with the findings of the joint Annual Needs Assessment (ANA) conducted in November 2000 with participation of UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, DIA, MSF, LWF, OXFAM, SCF and Government. According to the assessment, an estimated 1,048,404 war-affected people in Eritrea require food assistance in 2001. These are mostly women, children and the elderly as well as subsistence and asset-poor farmers, with little access to productive

land, limited marketable skills and insufficient purchasing power to secure their own food needs. The 10 months duration of this EMOP (1<sup>st</sup> May 2001-28<sup>th</sup> February 2002) is designed to accommodate relief efforts until the end of the next harvesting period (December/January in the highlands/western lowlands and February in the eastern lowlands) and to facilitate the earliest possible transition into relief and recovery operations.

[...]

Food aid will be provided through general distributions. In addition, approximately 84,000 people (consisting of malnourished children under five and pregnant/lactating mothers) will be provided with supplementary nutrition alongside the general rations for a maximum period of 2 months. Furthermore, approximately 4,000 severely malnourished children will benefit from wet/therapeutic feeding for up to 2 months in order to reduce the risk of excess mortality and morbidity.

[...]

Beneficiaries will be assisted through free emergency food distributions and a variety of tailored food-aid interventions, such as rehabilitation of social infrastructure, agriculture, small trade and skills training, that will help them resettle and rebuild their livelihoods. Emphasis will be given to longer-term activities that will help strengthen and stabilize the affected communities and improve household food security. Pursuant to WFP emphasis on the empowerment of the female population, women will continue to be allocated a large portion of the project resources and will be given lead roles in distribution planning, management and monitoring. Women will also benefit from the financial gains of the interventions. The selection of activities will be based on proposals presented by committees (with at least 60% female representation) on their own initiative as well as opportunities identified by Government, WFP and NGOs." (WFP May 2001, paras. 12-13, 15, 20)

### **UNDP project to provide temporary shelter solutions for returning IDPs on an emergency basis only (2001)**

- Reported in July that that UNDP had received Dutch funding for iron sheets for roofing doors and windows for 3,000 families (2,000 in Tsorona and 1000 in Senafe sub-zones).

"Objectives:

- Provision of 9,000 family tents to IDPs in camps; and
- Provision of various household items to IDPs in camps and most needy households among Returnee-IDPs

[...]

By providing shelter and household necessities that are urgently needed to IDPs still living in camps, the project will contribute to the overall sectoral objective of assisting the IDPs to cope with the current situation with dignity and resilience. It also contributes to the process of reintegrating IDPs who have returned to their homes. By making kerosene available to IDPs, the project also aims at contributing to the overall objective of lessening the impact of the current humanitarian crisis on land resources.

The project will provide tents to 9,000 IDP households living in camps to replace worn out tents and plastic sheets. Various household items including kitchen utensils, jerrycans, buckets, as well as blankets, bedsheets, mats, clothing and soap will be provided to both IDPs living in camps and the most vulnerable households among returned IDPs. Kerosene will be provided for stoves already distributed to IDPs and currently idle for lack of kerosene. In determining the amount of items to be provided, assistance being channelled through other humanitarian agencies is taken into account, including assistance to 100,000 IDPs appealed for by UNHCR." (UN February 2001, p.59)

"

No contributions have been firmly pledged to-date in response to UNDP's component of the Consolidated Appeal, viz. Family Shelter and Household Items.

Based on the recent assessments following the opening-up of the TSZ, and a review by the Sectoral Working Group on Shelter and Household Items (see report), UNDP has revised its component of the Appeal. The revised emergency shelter strategy envisages provision of either plastic sheets in both Gash-Barka and Debub, Ronda huts in Gash-Barka and corrugated iron sheets for Debub, as temporary shelter until destroyed/damaged houses are rehabilitated or reconstructed

The financial requirements have increased from US\$ 5.74 million in the Appeal to over US\$ 6.6 million. While the budget for household items remains unchanged at US\$ 4.5 million, the shelter budget has increased from US\$ 1.17 million to a little over US\$ 2.1 million.

This proposal does not include housing reconstruction and rehabilitation needs. It only deals with temporary shelter solutions for returning IDPs on an emergency basis, pending the rehabilitation/reconstruction of their damaged houses. A separate proposal for durable reconstruction and rehabilitation of residential dwellings in the TSZ would be presented following the completion of assessments." (OCHA 22 May 2001)

"The Shelter SWG reported that UNDP through the Dutch funding is providing iron sheets for roofing doors and windows for 3,000 families (2,000 in Tsorona and 1000 in Senafe sub-zones). Agreement has been signed with Debub administration for implementation of the programme. Rehabilitation of 1,340 Agudos (traditional mud huts) has been completed by ICRC in Shambiko, while the rehabilitation of 70 houses in Senafe sub zones is progressing but slowly due to the rains. Assessment has been done in Bushuka and Shambiko areas for rehabilitation of more Agudos and is awaiting confirmation from the zone administration. Beneficiary selection is underway in Gash Barka zone to rehabilitate 2,400 houses in the zone. 60 houses have their roof repaired at Kisad Eka in Debub zone. IDPs have expressed concern about the tents in camps of Adi-Keshi, Korokon and Shelab as most of them are worn out; in the SWG it was reported that some NGOs will do assessment in the camps and will distribute new tents out of their existing stock." (ICC 30 July 2001)

### **Government assisted by UNICEF to provide access to psychosocial care and counseling for children and women in the IDP camps (2001)**

- Pilot psychosocial care centres to be established in selected IDP camps
- Training of 32 social workers in psychosocial counselling skills to include children and women who have been sexually violated

"To address the psychosocial needs of war-affected children and women who fled from occupied areas, the MLHW [Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare], with the support of UNICEF, will provide access to psychosocial care and counselling for these children and women in the IDP camps. The project has selected Harena/Mai Habar and Zula camps to establish pilot psychosocial care centres because of the large concentration of IDPs originating from the occupied areas. The total population in these camps is 35,321, out of which 31,790 (approximately 90%) are the targeted children and women. Plans to expand care centres to other IDP sites in Dehub will depend on the findings of an assessment, which will be conducted in order to gain a better understanding of the situation of children and women impacted by war and violence.

The two care centres will be managed by trained psychosocial counsellors and will offer individual psychosocial counselling, group therapy sessions and other stress/anger management techniques. Affected children and women will be empowered through access to information on their rights, basic reproductive health and psychosocial guidance. Their situation will be carefully monitored and cases requiring expert medical treatment in the event of complications as a result of forced pregnancies, STDs and HIV/AIDS infections would be referred to gynaecologists.

The project will be implemented by the MLHW, in collaboration with UNICEF and other agencies of the Child Protection Working Group. The 32 social workers already deployed in the IDP camps will complete refresher courses to widen their scope of psychosocial counselling skills to include children and women who have been sexually violated. They will be responsible for monitoring, evaluation and submitting regular reports to MLHW and UNICEF at the central level. Identified members within the IDP population will also be trained to strengthen community-based support. As the only national NGOs with long-term experience and extensive field presence, NUEYS and NUEW will be instrumental partners as social mobilisers. Besides providing them with the financial support to produce, distribute and disseminate relevant IEC materials, UNICEF will conduct a workshop at the start of the project, where they will discuss, develop and agree on a common strategy so that they can effectively carry out awareness campaigns on the rights of children and women and sensitise communities to the plight on children and women who have been sexually abused." (UN February 2001, p.63)

### **IDP related assistance by UNHCR to be phased out (May 2001)**

- Programme aims at achieving sustainable voluntary return
- Targeted IDPs have the same needs as the returning refugees

- Stated in mid-term review that UNHCR's IDP assistance would be phased out more rapidly than previously planned

"UNHCR will assist all refugees who wish to return to Eritrea for purpose of this Appeal. The target beneficiaries for 2001 are 92,000 returnees and 100,000 internally displaced persons:

30,000 of the most vulnerable returnees who returned in 2000 and who are in continued need of humanitarian assistance;

62,000 refugees, consisting of all those who fled the May 2000 hostilities and still remain in Sudan and those residing in Sudan prior to 2000 who can return in 2001; and

100,000 internally displaced persons in the major areas where refugees will return.

The target population is comprised of approximately 70% women and children. The majority has an agricultural background. Many are living in poor conditions due to lack of shelter, water, health, agricultural input and income.

[...]

UNHCR's operation for 2001 will be aimed at achieving sustainable voluntary return and reintegration of Eritrean refugees. Because refugees will be returning to areas affected by internal displacement, it will be necessary to also provide assistance to those IDPs who are located in the same areas and have the same needs as the returning refugees.

#### Objectives

- Facilitate, and depending on progress in the peace process, promote the voluntary repatriation of Eritrean refugees in the Sudan, Yemen and Djibouti;
- Ensure protection and conditions of safety and dignity during the repatriation and reception process;
- Facilitate the refugee reintegration process through initial assistance;
- Promote effective transitions from UNHCR's reintegration support to longer-term community rehabilitation and development efforts undertaken by other agencies within the national development/recovery plans of the Government;
- Address the emergency non-food needs of internally displaced persons in areas of refugee return, help them to return to their home areas and support their initial reintegration; and
- Provide special care and assistance for the most vulnerable returnees." (UN February 2001, p. 75)

"UNHCR's budgetary requirements of US\$ 20,503,500 as set forth in the Consolidated Appeal (concurrently reflected in UNHCR's "Supplementary Appeal" for US\$ 24,685,500 for the region issued in mid-December), continue to reflect actual operational requirements for 2001. The principal change since the CAP was issued is that UNHCR is concentrating available resources on the Voluntary Repatriation Programme for Eritrean refugees in Sudan, Yemen and Djibouti, and will implement and phase out its IDP assistance activities more rapidly than previously planned." (OCHA 22 May 2001)

### **Mine-clearance operations have been ongoing since 1993**

- Mine action programme launched by the UN in September 2000
- UNMEE budget provides for the core Mine Action Coordination Centre staff and equipment
- 650 Eritrean combat engineers demobilized and made available for mine action work within the Temporary Security Zone
- A national Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (MACC) to be established under national Eritrean management

"Even before the recent border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Eritrea was considered a heavily mined country. In 1994, around fifty different antipersonnel and antitank mines from fourteen different countries had been identified in Eritrea. According to information provided by the Eritrean Humanitarian Demining Project (EHDP), between 500,000 and 1,000,000 mines and 3 million UXO are present in Eritrea. It is estimated that more than 5% of Eritrea's land area may be mine-affected.

As soon as Eritrea gained independence in 1993, it embarked on a mine clearance programme under the auspices of the EHDP. Project offices and camps were opened in Keren, Asha-Golgol and Nakfa. Between 1993 and 1994, the US Government assisted Eritrea with demining through the provision of funds for a mine action programme that included training and equipment for deminers. In addition to mine clearance, the EHDP established a research department and undertook together with the Department of Social Affairs and the Eritrean War Disabled Fathers Association mine awareness projects. The mine awareness activities involved community-based and in-school training, education of families, community elders and rehabilitation workers. However, lack of funds and expertise limited the function of the EHDP. Despite the above efforts, landmine casualties continued to rise in Eritrea, with about 40% of the reported victims being children." (UN February 2001, p.33)

#### ***"Competencies and Capacity Analysis***

- The UN MACC [Mine Action Coordination Centre] was established in Eritrea under the auspices of the United Nation Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). Though UNMACC is primarily concerned with the operational requirements of the UN Peacekeeping Force in the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas, its immediate and longer-term mine action plans will be driven mostly by humanitarian needs. Its mandate within the UN system is to act as a coordinator of mine action activities, thus UNMACC is a key partner in the coordination of mine action activities in the country. Already, both the Government of Eritrea and other actors are looking to UNMACC for leadership in this area;
- UNICEF's mandate under the UN mine action policy is to take responsibility for mine awareness education activities. In implementing this mandate, UNICEF is working closely with different partners, including the EHDP and UNHCR. Collaboration with the latter focusing mainly on returning refugees;
- Within the UN system, UNDP is responsible for the socio-economic consequences of mine action, and capacity building for the development of integrated and sustainable national mine action programmes. Accordingly, UNDP will assist the Eritrean

Government to consolidate its mine action capacity with assistance focusing on establishing an effective and sustainable National Mine Action Centre;

- OCHA will monitor the humanitarian implications of the mine issue;
- EHDP (a national NGO in the process of being registered) has a mandate to undertake land mine and UXO clearance and awareness programmes. EHDP will be a key partner in mine action work in Eritrea;
- Other actors, including NGOs will be accommodated through the coordination structure of the National Mine Action Centre that will be established (see objectives)." (UN February 2001, p.34)

"[Reported in June 2001 that], humanitarian demining teams are being trained and equipped in collaboration with the Eritrean Mine Action Centre and the National Training Centre, with the assistance of UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Centre and NGOs such as the HALO Trust, Danish Church Aid and the Danish Demining Group. Several teams, including two from the Eritrean Demining Agency, who were trained with UNMEE financing, have already been deployed to the Temporary Security Zone to conduct minefield survey, marking and clearance tasks in support of the humanitarian relief efforts.

The UNMEE budget will continue to provide for the core Mine Action Coordination Centre staff and equipment so that it can effectively carry out its role of coordination, technical advice and information management for mine action in the Temporary Security Zone. In addition, the Mine Action Coordination Centre intends to take a more proactive role in the development of national capacities to ensure that the necessary resources are mobilized as soon as possible to deal with the current threat, and that sufficient sustainable capacity is built in the medium term.

[...]

However, funding remains a constraint on the urgently needed mine-awareness activities, and is having an impact on the speed with which humanitarian deminers can be trained, equipped, and deployed with adequate supervision. The Eritrean Government has recently demobilized 650 combat engineers and made them available for mine action work within the Temporary Security Zone. Some Ethiopia and Eritrea, particularly in the light of the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone and the commencement of the return of IDPs to the Zone." (UN SC 19 June 2001, paras. 30-31, 33)

"As part of its response to the risk posed by landmine to IDPs and other Eritreans returning to villages in the TSZ, UNICEF has placed a mine awareness staff within the United Nations Mine Action Centre (UNMACC) and has provided advisory support through the regional office and its headquarters. This support has enabled mine awareness education in Debub and Gash Barka regions. Support was also extended to UNHCR's repatriation of Eritrean refugees from Sudan at Tesennei reception desk. Capacity development, through training of 13 staff of Eritrean Demining Agency (EDA), facilitated the establishment of two regional offices in Barentu and Adi Keshi. Thirteen mine awareness field educators are currently working in these regions with support from the two offices. One staff member at the national level is providing technical support to the regional offices." (UNICEF 5 September 2001)



"The United Nations Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (UNMACC) reported that a major effort is underway to address the safety concerns of IDPs returning to their original villages. Mine action operations are continuing in the TSZ, including work by 240 humanitarian deminers from the Eritrean Demining Agency (EDA). Halo Trust has clearance, survey, marking and mechanical teams in action. Danish Church Aid (DCA) and the Danish Demining Group (DDG) have mechanical assets and rapid response teams working in the TSZ. UNMACC disclosed that it is also working with Ethiopia to obtain more information on mine fields. Other partners in the UN such as UNICEF and UNDP are active in mine action programme. UNMACC reported that the donor countries are expressing increased interest in, and showing support for, mine action programmes. Currently UNMACC major activities are focusing on marking dangerous areas and mine awareness about the dangers of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs), which are still a threat to thousands of population returning to their areas of origin. Mine action training, funded by ECHO, was carried out by Danish Church Aid in Barentu included three of our supplementary feeding staff. Our staff gave lesson about landmine awareness in their feeding centres concentrating especially on children. There is also a good coordination between us and Halo Trust, with whom we revised the accessibility of villages before we selected our samples. Halo Trust were leading convoys to KTK in the period from December 2000 to March 2001 where there were some threats of landmine. Currently, both Halo Trust and DCA are cooperating with us in giving mine awareness and education in the three subzones of our activities as well as in other areas of both Gash Barka and Debub Zones." (MoH & SCF August 2001, p.4)

### **"The Eritrean Demining Agency (EDA)**

The Eritrean Demining Agency was established in 1995 under the Ministry of Defence, but separate from the combat units. Initially the US State Department funded the EDA and US Special Forces trained 80 "ex fighters" as de-miners, with additional clearance equipment provided by the German embassy in *Asmara*. The programme of clearance was suspended in 1998, at the outbreak of war. During the period of the US Special Force presence they also trained a capacity of Mine Awareness Officers to disseminate information to mine affected communities.

At present the EDA is being reorganised under the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC), with a mandate from the State of Eritrea Commission for Co-ordination with the UN Peacekeeping Mission (the so-called "Peace Commission"). The head of EDA was recently appointed Associate Commissioner for De-mining to the Peace Commission. EDA has recently recruited persons for training to build a national de-mining capacity. It is intended that the Mobile Mine Action Teams will comprise persons from this recruitment drive. Following the activities of the three months training these persons will be absorbed into the structure of EDA in their trained capacity as Mine Awareness Officers or Survey Officers or to be further trained in other aspects of mine action.

A national Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (MACC) will be established under national Eritrean management, combining resources from EDA and UNMEE-MACC. UNDP and

UNMAS will provide inputs to the institutional capacity building of the national MACC. The proposed DCA programme will provide inputs to the operational capacity building inclusive in the EDA national plan, and complimentary to the inputs provided by UNDP and UNMAS. A National Training Centre (NTC) is established now in one of the existing EDA compounds outside Asmara, where the DCA trainer will have access to function in co-ordination with EDA and the national MACC." (ACT 3 May 2001)

## **Response by Non Governmental Organisations**

### **Overview of NGO activities in Eritrea (January 2001)**

Agency	Acronym	Budget US\$ (if known)	Sector	Activity
Africare		1,335,668	Education	School feeding in drought-affected areas
		1,000,000	Agriculture	Restocking livestock
		717,104	Agriculture	Food security
CARE International		2,000,000	Agriculture	Agricultural assistance in drought-affected areas
			Agriculture	Spate irrigation construction in drought-affected areas
			Micro Credit	Community based savings and credit programme
			Social Protection	Capacity building with Eritrean Community Development
Dutch Inter-Church Aid	DIA		Food	Food distribution to drought affected areas
Eritrean Development Foundation	EDF		Credit	Micro-credit programme in partnership with ECDF
			Non-Food Items	Distribution in IDP camps and areas of return
			3Rs	Distribution of tool kits for rehabilitation
German Agro Action	GAA	900,000	Food	Food security in drought-affected areas
			Food and Shelter	Relief distributions to Shelab camp
International Medical Corps	IMC		Health and nutrition	Emergency Primary Health Care including: mobile clinics, curative, antenatal and EPI services, supplementary feeding, nutrition surveillance, TBA training, rehabilitation of health infrastructure
InterSoS			WatSan	Water and sanitation activities including provision of: boreholes, water tanks, pumps, generators, latrines
			Shelter	Rehabilitation of houses to hosting communities and emergency shelter improvements in IDP camps
			3Rs	Reconstruction of 100 war-damaged houses
Landmine Survivors Network	LSN		Mine Action	Landmine victim assistance including: psycho-social support, amputee information material, direct assistance (including prostheses and income generation), advocacy
Lutheran World Federation	LWF	651,560	WatSan	Provision of clean water in drought-affected areas
		143,473	WatSan	Rehabilitation of water supply in war-affected areas
Medicins Sans Frontiers, France	MSF-F		Health	Ongoing emergency health interventions in IDP camps with plans to provide operational support to MoH and ERREC in sub zone of Senafe once there is access to the TSZ
Norwegian People's Aid and The Development Fund, Norway	NPADF	400,000	Health	Distribution of medical supplies with MoH
		400,000	Agriculture	Agricultural rehabilitation in war-affected area
		200,000	Agriculture	Integrated agricultural development project including soil water conservation, and capacity building with MoA
		260,000	3Rs	Establishment of small-scale farming co-operatives, vocational training and rehabilitation of farm infrastructure
OXFAM-GB			WatSan	Developing and reinforcing capacity for the management of public health services in five IDP camps
Refugee Trust	RT		Non-Food Items	Replacement of household and farm items
			3Rs	Multi-sectoral relief to recovery programme
			Income Generation	Income generation programmes for women
Save the Children	SCF-UK	1,300,000	Health and nutrition	Targeted supplementary feeding to children, pregnant and lactating women in 8 IDP camps and therapeutic feeding in IDP camp

(UN February 2001, p. 83)

**DanChurch Aid (DCA) to train Mobile Mine Action Teams to facilitate IDP return (May 2001)**

"It is DCA's intention to work with and through the Eritrean Demining Agency (EDA) in close co-operation and collaboration with the UN MACC. Based upon the humanitarian situation, the top priority will be in support of resettling IDP's and refugees from Sudan, who are obviously in great danger of being injured by mines and UXO. The target group that DCA, in its co-operation with EDA, aims to assist in this emergency response are those displaced populations within *Gash Barka* and *Debub* zones who will return to villages inside the boundaries of the Temporary Security Zone. This return is expected imminently once the warring forces have returned to the outer limits of the TSZ and the peacekeepers are in place.

Of Eritrea's 3,5 million population, it is approximately 300,000 IDP's and refugees that are now expected to return to the former battle areas in the *Gash Barka* and *Debub* Administrative Zones who are the most exposed to the immediate mine and UXO threat as a result from the last war. Besides being very important for the food production in the country, the safe return of the population to these zones is regarded as imperative to the success of the Peace Accord, and thus the political stability in Eritrea. As the population is returning to resume the much-needed agriculture and livestock activities, it is expected that the realities of the mine/UXO threat will become much more apparent.

A more thorough and detailed priority setting for affected areas should be available from the results of The HALO Trust Rapid Survey currently being completed. Although the UNMEE-MACC will prioritise the area within the TSZ to support initially the operational requirements of the peacekeeping forces and the civilian population returning there, there is a need to work at the community level to ensure that the level of accidents are kept to a minimum amongst the returning population by marking dangerous areas and increasing the population's awareness of any mine threat that exists in their community areas.

**PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION**

**Description of Assistance**

DCA will recruit, train and monitor the development of four Mobile Mine Action Teams who will by the end of the three month period have visited the areas of the returning displaced in the TSZ that fall within the zones of *Gash Barka* and *Debub*." (ACT 3 May 2001)

**Water and sanitation programmes implemented by ICRC in 20 IDP camps (2000)**

"Working in close cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, the ICRC concentrated on non-food aid and on water and sanitation programmes for 150,000 beneficiaries in 20 [IDP] camps. A specialized engineer joined the ICRC team in Eritrea

for this purpose. During the emergency phase, water had to be delivered by tanker truck to camps for the displaced and to towns and villages affected by the war. Once the emergency was over, the focus shifted to the installation of temporary water-supply systems in the camps and repairs on systems damaged by fighting in residential areas. In the Gash-Barka area, host families also received support in the form of nonfood aid.

After the cessation of hostilities, some of the displaced people gradually began to return to their villages, and by the end of the year the number of displaced had declined considerably. Some Eritrean refugees in Sudan likewise returned across the border. In response to these movements, the ICRC continued its shelter programmes and stepped up its water and sanitation activities, with special emphasis on villages to which people were returning." (ICRC 2000, p.79)

### **ACT launches new appeal (December 2000)**

- Initial LWF/WS appeal canceled due to poor funding
- New appeal focussing on water and sanitation, training on environmental awareness, re-equipping of schools and provision of agricultural equipment and animals

"On 25 May 2000 ACT issued Appeal AFER01 on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation / Department of World Service (LWF/WS) to provide relief food assistance, blankets, tents, water and sanitation. The Appeal was later revised to include Norwegian Church Aid who were to target 100,000 people with non food items. The appeal, which runs up to 15 May 2001 has been poorly funded with only 13% of the total target. LWF/WS has consequently decided to close their project in the appeal and opt for a fresh appeal focussing on water and sanitation with training on use and maintenance of water systems/equipment, training on environmental awareness, re-equipping of schools and provision of agricultural equipment and animals.

[...]

**Goal :** to assist both the war affected and the drought affected populations to have access to clean drinking water and to assist both categories in regaining sustainable livelihood.

### **Objectives :**

#### **War affected areas:**

Access to clean and adequate water

Repair environmental damage around water points,

Training in environmental awareness and sanitation around water points

Provide training regarding water equipment use and maintenance

Repair and re-equip schools

Provide agricultural equipment or animals to restart agricultural production."

(ACT 5 December 2000)

***The complete Appeal document contains detailed information about geographical area and concrete emergency activities.***

### **Mercy Corps to administer \$354,373 grant from the US Government (October 2000)**

- Program to help IDPs who have returned to their homes in Dehub Zone

"More than 23,000 malnourished children and pregnant/lactating women will receive supplemental food and health education in Eritrea, thanks to a recent \$354,373 grant from the US Government. Mercy Corps will administer this program, designed specifically to assist war victims, in coordination with the Eritrean Ministry of Health. Mercy Corps will distribute a locally-produced enriched cereal to 17 sites, including camps and host family homes housing internally displaced persons. The program also will help refugees and internally displaced persons who have returned to their homes in Dehub Zone since a cessation of hostilities agreement was signed between Eritrea and Ethiopia in June.

Dehub Zone was a major warfront during the May/June 2000 fighting between the countries and suffered massive damage and destruction as a result. It also has been impacted by the drought affecting the entire Horn of Africa. Mercy Corps Country Director Bill Graham, based in Asmara, Eritrea, will lead the feeding program in the field and coordinate health education seminars for beneficiaries at the food distribution sites.

The three-month program, funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), began on October 1. Reflecting the agency's commitment to easing the suffering in the Horn of Africa, earlier this year Mercy Corps used its private funds to offer aid to thousands of displaced Eritrean families as well as Ethiopian families affected by drought by providing: · Kerosene stoves, fuel cans and a one-month supply of kerosene to 1,500 families and shelter for another 1,000 families in Eritrea. · 50,000 packets of oral rehydration salts, a life-saving aid for people-especially small children -- suffering from dehydration in Eritrea. · Milk powder and wheat flour to feed 3,000 people in Ethiopia for one month." (MCI 2 October 2000)

### **Major response by Save the Children to the worsened displacement situation (2000)**

- SCF left Eritrea in March 1998, but recommenced activities in 1999 as a response to the new displacement situation
- SCF cargo flight bringing new emergency supplies by mid-June 2000

"Save the Children Fund, along with many other international NGOs, left Eritrea in March 1998 because of government restrictions on the work of aid agencies. In the early stages of the war the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) took responsibility for providing relief to affected communities. However, ERREC's capacity was limited: it was set up to assist the repatriation of refugees from Sudan, and as that process is almost complete, ERREC was being wound down when the war with Ethiopia began.

Consequently, ERREC called on a limited number of agencies to assist its relief effort when fighting escalated in February 1999. In April-May, SCF and Oxfam carried out a joint assessment mission. SCF then agreed a six-month emergency programme with ERREC and the Eritrean Ministry of Health. It focuses on health support and nutritional surveillance, sectors that SCF has experience of in Eritrea. Children, female-headed households and breastfeeding mothers will be the main targets of assistance." (SCF August 1999)

### **"Save the Children's response [as of September 2000]**

#### **Nutrition**

Save the Children is running four supplementary feeding centres which are providing targeted dry supplementary food to children under 10 years old and pregnant or lactating women. Two centres are in camps in Afabet, in the Northern Red Sea area, and two in camps in Adi Keshi, in the Gash Barka area. Save the Children had been providing cooked food and a recent survey found that the nutritional situation in the camps has now improved - 7.7 per cent of under fives are currently malnourished (a figure of less than 10 per cent is considered acceptable). In Afabet, Save the Children is feeding 693 children under five years old, 72 children between the ages of five and ten, and 905 women. Figures from Adi Keshi are not yet available as the programme is still in its early stages.

Work at the feeding centres is informed by an extensive nutritional surveillance programme. Over the last four months a Save the Children nutritionist has worked with the Ministry of Health to re-establish a nutritional surveillance programme in displaced camps and for host families. This has included the training of 90 nutrition workers to carry out nutritional monitoring, and the provision of equipment (for example, height boards, scales, etc). Every month, each camp carries out a surveillance of its entire population. Data is then passed on to senior health personnel in the Ministry of Health for analysis and dissemination to donors, the government and other organisations.

A further nutritional survey is planned for three camps near Barentu in Gash Barka. Initial reports suggest that up to 16 per cent of under fives may be malnourished.

#### **Health**

Save the Children has provided malaria treatment drugs, permethrin so that mosquito nets can be treated, insecticides to eradicate mosquitoes, and training materials on how to avoid malaria.

#### **Separated children**

Save the Children, in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare and Unicef, carried out an assessment to determine how many children had been separated from their families and their situation. It found that some children had been separated but that most were being cared for by relatives or community members. However, many of these children - some as young as five years old - are living on their own, though relatives check on them. This means that many have inadequate access to food, health care and clothes.

Save the Children is advising camp authorities that, where children are living on their own, they should not be placed in institutions. Rather, extended family members or neighbours should be supported to help the children to prepare their own food and take care of themselves." (SCF September 2000)

"Save the Children this week [mid-June 2000] chartered a cargo flight to Eritrea to take out much needed emergency supplies including vehicles to transport relief aid. Save the Children, who have been working in Eritrea for the past 18 months, are engaged in emergency relief work with people displaced by the current round of conflict with Ethiopia, this includes supplementary feeding, provision of non-food essential items and basic health provision.

[...]

The cargo flight includes essential items to establish feeding and food distribution centres and emergency supplies of high nutrition foods as well as the vehicles which are needed to ensure a reliable supply of essentials to the displacement camps as government trucks are now all bound up in the conflict." (SCF 20 June 2000)

#### **Mobile MSF teams reaching IDPs in remote communities (August 2000)**

"MSF-F have mobile teams operating in the valleys between **Adi Keih** and through south of **Zula camp**, providing health care to isolated and remote communities hosting IDPs. In these areas MSF-F note that the health situation is deteriorating, particularly with an increased incidence rate of diarrhea and dysentery, as well as acute respiratory infections in higher regions and malaria in lower regions. Due to problems of accessibility, only limited humanitarian assistance is reaching these communities.

Diarrhea has become the number one source of morbidity in **Alba camp**. MSF-H is working on reducing the rate of incidence, but additional resources are always welcome. Due to population densities, the same situation is feared in **Harena** (which has already reported significant increases in incident rates, with reported incidences of shigelosis), **Adi Keshi** and **Mekete**." (ICC 26 August 2000)

#### **Oxfam's emergency work in Eritrea (2000)**

"Oxfam has been implementing emergency programmes for people displaced by the border war with Ethiopia since July 1999. Renewed fighting in the west, south and east of the country during May and June 2000 led to thousands more people being displaced from their homes, perhaps as many as one million in all.

Oxfam is working with the newly displaced people at camps in Debaat, near Keren, and in Mai Haber, to the south east of Asmara. Each site accommodates about 40,000 people. Oxfam is providing access to clean water and sanitation, undertaking health promotion work and distributing items including children's clothes, blankets and hygiene kits.



The signing of the peace agreement between the Eritrean and Ethiopian governments has resulted in access to previously insecure areas becoming possible. It is now likely that Oxfam will be asked to take on further work, possibly in Gash Barka and Debub, where we have worked in the past. Whilst peace will enable some people to return to their homes, many others who come from the border areas are likely to be displaced for many months or even years." (OXFAM 21 June 2000)

**Assistance to IDPs by NGOs within the InterAction coalition (March 2001)**

"Details of InterAction Member Assistance in Eritrea
<p><b>Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)</b> (August 3, 00) ADRA is erecting 300 tents for 2,100 Eritreans from families with no male support in refugee camps around Kassala, Sudan. The families will be able to take the tents with them when they return to Eritrea, as many of their homes have been destroyed. ADRA is also providing support to a sanitation project in the Laffa camp.</p>
<p><b>Africare</b> (May 23, 00) Until recently, Africare had been assisting the Eritrean Government for nearly a year to provide medical, shelter, and supplementary food assistance to displaced Eritreans temporarily camped in Gash-Barka Region as a result of the war. They are now shifting their focus to the recently displaced people and are focusing mainly on emergency food needs.</p>
<p><b>CARE</b> (September 5, 00) CARE's emergency relief projects include: helping local institutions manage food distribution, providing seeds for planting, landmine awareness and demining, and health care for women and children displaced by the war.</p>
<p><b>Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB)</b> (June 30, 00) CMMB) has responded with an airlift of medicines and medical supplies valued at more than \$940,000. The airlift contained items requested by CMMB's on-site partner - including analgesics, antibiotics, multivitamins, and first aid and surgical supplies. Contents of the airlift will be distributed to approximately 28 facilities around Eritrea.</p>
<p><b>Catholic Relief Services (CRS)</b> (December 6, 00) Since June 2000, CRS and members of Caritas Internationalis have been assisting the Eritrean Catholic Church in building capacity for emergency response. At the church's request, CRS donated an initial \$160,000 towards the purchase of three trucks to</p>

transport emergency relief supplies. CRS continues to work with the local church partners to assess and respond to health and education needs of displaced and drought-stricken communities and to ensure that the local partners have the capacity for emergency response and rehabilitation.

#### **Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC)**

(May 26, 00)

CRWRC is financially supporting a shipment destined for Eritrea by one of their partners.

#### **Concern Worldwide**

(May 26, 00)

Concern Worldwide is working with German Agro Action to provide emergency food rations to 10,000 displaced people in the Mensura camp (45 km south of Keren). They are also providing high protein biscuits and medical supplies in Asmara.

#### **Direct Relief International**

(May 26, 00)

Direct Relief International is currently working with Interaction partner agencies to provide emergency medical assistance in the form of commodities to more than 500,000 displaced people.

#### **International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)**

(October 6, 00)

ICMC entered Eritrea in early June 2000 to provide capacity building and program support to the Eritrea Catholic Secretariat (which is providing food, non-food items, and health care to the internally displaced as well as education and health programs to rural Eritreans) and to work in partnership with UNHCR on developing services for Eritrean refugees returning from Sudan. ICMC's current work includes re-integration programs in eight communities in southeastern Eritrean that suffered significant damage during the war and that are now experiencing significant population returns.

#### **International Medical Corps (IMC)**

(June 28, 00)

IMC is operating mobile health clinics in the Debub and Gash-Barka zones in Eritrea, where more than 330,000 internally displaced persons are living both in traditional IDP camps and scattered among the region's hills and valleys. IMC is providing emergency medical care and supplementary feeding for children under 5 and lactating and pregnant women.

#### **International Rescue Committee**

(June 15, 00)

IRC is providing assistance for the Eritrean refugees in the Kassala area of Sudan. Their activities include health programs for mothers and children under five years of age, improving the nutritional status of children under five, providing sanitation services, and providing water for approximately 30, 000 people.

### **Latter-day Saint Charities**

(March 6, 01)

Latter-day Saint Charities has sent more than 940,000 lbs. of relief supplies, including powdered milk, blankets, first aid supplies, clothing and wheat. Total value of assistance exceeds \$1.3 million.

### **Lutheran World Relief**

(June 30, 00)

LWR, through their partner Lutheran World Federation, is assisting in the transport and distribution of commodities to the internally displaced people and to provide potable water, food, shelter, and blankets to the most vulnerable. LWR has sent a cash grant of \$41,826, and is accepting financial contributions to aid in the purchase of 45 metric tons of high energy biscuits and powdered milk for up to 100,000 people, 50 water storage bladders, 40,000 blankets, and 10,000 family size tents in Keren, Eritrea. LWR is a member of Action by Churches Together (ACT).

### **Mercy Corps International**

(January 8, 01)

Mercy Corps will begin implementing a one-year school feeding program this year throughout Eritrea in partnership with Africare, as part of USDA's Global Food for Education Initiative. Mercy Corps is currently assisting several thousand malnourished children and pregnant/lactating women in Debub Zone with supplemental food and health education. The program is implemented in partnership with the Eritrean Ministry of Health and funded by a grant from the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance. Mercy Corps is distributing a locally-produced enriched cereal through health facilities in 17 sites, including one IDP camp. Other sites target non-camp IDPs, families hosting IDPs, and IDPs who have recently returned to their homes.

### **Operation USA**

(November 2, 00)

Operation USA sent a 40-foot container of medical supplies and equipment to Eritrea this week with funds provided by an Eritrean-American relief group, the International Medical Fund. The shipment was consigned to the Eritrea Relief and Refugee Commission of the Ministry of Health. Operation USA is also waiting for confirmation on a donation of milk powder for Eritrea.

### **Oxfam America**

(July 26, 00)

Oxfam's response focuses in three areas: water, sanitation, and hygiene. Specifically: provide water pumping and distribution networks to ensure easy access to clean water; dig trench latrines and use latrines plates which can be moved when necessary; employ latrine attendants who will maintain the cleanliness of the latrines; promote and conduct hygiene campaigns to assist in the prevention of diseases and encourage good hygiene practice in the target community.

### Save the Children

(July 18, 00)

Save the Children is planning program interventions that will include provision of non-food items as well as a variety of services (water, sanitation, shelter, fuel, medicines, etc.). They will continue to coordinate response activities with Sudanese government officials and other humanitarian agencies.

### Stop Hunger Now (SHN)

(November 1, 00)

SHN has provided \$5,000 to the Eritrean Development Foundation to support their feeding programs.

### United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

(June 30, 00)

UMCOR is responding to the drought in Eritrea by providing assistance for food and other supplies through partners that include the Eritrean Development Fund and ACT International

### USA for UNHCR

(July 27, 00)

UNHCR has started the voluntary repatriation of the new Eritrean refugees from Sudan. UNHCR is intervening in the Gash Barka region to support IDPs and returnees.

### US Fund for UNICEF

(November 1, 00)

UNICEF is providing emergency assistance in Eritrea including: supplemental nutrition for severely malnourished children; primary health care including immunizations for measles, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases; oral rehydration salts; shelter for displaced persons; emergency education supplies; water purification and sanitation support; and psycho-social trauma counseling for children affected by the conflict as well as the drought." (InterAction March 2001)

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection
ARTI	Acute Respiratory Tract Infections
CHW	Community Health Worker
CSB	Corn-Soya Blend
DMK	Locally produced high protein flour
EPI	Expanded Immunization Programme
ERREC	Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IDA	Iron Deficiency Anemia
IDD	Iodine Deficiency Disorder
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ICRC	International Committee of the Red-Cross
Kcal	Kilo calories
LTSH	Landsite Transport, Storage, Handling
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLG	Ministry of Local Government
MOLHW	Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare
MT	Metric Tons
NFIS	National Food Information System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
TSZ	Temporary Security Zone
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMEE	UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAD	Vitamin A Deficiency
VIP	Ventilated Improved Pit
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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