



PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : ERITREA

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PROFILE SUMMARY

Summary

Summary

A border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia in the Badame area broke out into a major military confrontation in May 1998, displacing 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 which forced the original IDP population to flee even further from the border. In addition, the offensive caused additional displacements as people were forced to flee artillery and aerial bombardment. The new wave of displacement brought the total number of IDPs to over 1 million in June (UNHCR July 2000, p.5). Women and children constitute about 90 percent of the displaced (UN July 2000, p.6). Figures by a Government agency suggest a total IDP population of 500,000 IDPs by end of September 2000 – reflecting a return of 600,000 IDPs since mid-June and 217,223 IDPs remaining in camps (ICC 25 September 2000)

After Eritrea and Ethiopia signed an "Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities" on 18 June 2000, the Ethiopian troops withdrew to positions close to the border. This has facilitated the return of a large number of IDPs. Assessments of selected areas in Gash-Barka and Debub showed that over 350,000 IDPs had returned to their home communities by the beginning of August (ICC 12 August 2000), and Government figures suggest that the number of IDPs in camps had been reduced by 180,000 by the beginning of September (USAID 21 July 2000, ICC 9 September 2000). In August however, there were still reports of continued displacement from border areas still held by Ethiopian troops (WFP 18 August 2000, ICC 26 August 2000). The cease-fire agreement commits Ethiopia to fully withdraw from Eritrean territory after a UN peacekeeping mission is in place (UN SC 30 June , para.5). 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).

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 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). 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 food assistance appears to have been successful in avoiding serious malnutrition and health problems. There have been

concerns that the movement of people combined with the arrival of rains may cause serious outbreaks of malaria (WHO 31 July 2000).

People returning to their homes have required 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). In terms of property, the Ethiopian offensive also 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, 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 (UN July 2000). In addition to responding to the refugee flow in, and later out of, Sudan, UNHCR has provided substantial assistance to IDPs in the western Gash Barka zone (UNHCR 11 August 2000). To facilitate return the UN has launched a mine clearance programme (UN SC 18 September 2000). Several NGOs have arrived in Eritrea since May 2000 to respond to the emergency.

(Updated in October 2000)

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT

Main causes for displacement

Renewed fighting causes major displacement (May-June 2000)

- Reported that the Ethiopian advance into western Eritrea starting on 12 May immediately triggered a flow half a million people fleeing the hostilities
- People were evacuated from the conflict areas or fled when artillery and aerial bombardments started

"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 [18 May] 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

"Thousands of people are fleeing Ethiopian advances in southern and western Eritrea. Since Saturday [27 May 2000], some 20,000 have congregated in Debarwa, forty kilometres south of Asmara, from the southern towns and villages of Adi Quale, Imni Haile, Areza and Maimine. The evacuees said they fled villages under heavy artillery and aerial bombardment, and had taken up to seven days to travel by foot and truck.

[...]

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.

Humanitarian agencies and journalists watched truck-loads of the displaced arrive on Sunday at an old elementary school in Debarwa, where the local administration had registered 18,000 IDPs and estimated they would receive up to 30,000 over the next few days. UN representatives and aid workers witnessing the arrival accept existing government figures - which claim more than 500,000 are war displaced - and say the figure could increase." (IRIN 29 May 2000)

For more information about the Ethiopian advance, see also [BBC's coverage of this matter](#).

Displacement of civilians caused by armed border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia (1998-1999)

- Areas up to 50 kilometres along the length of the border closed military zones by May 1999
- 50,000 people re-location from the border area in May 1998

"The war has 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. The Eritrean government estimates that there are 69,000 displaced people in camps in Debu, and 118,000 in Gash Barka; 22 per cent are younger than 5 years and 85 per cent of families are headed by women. Many families have been organised according to their communities, and local structures and services – such as schools – re-established." (SCF August 1999)

"Once allies as well as neighbors, Eritrea and Ethiopia are waging a fierce war along their 625-mile border. As with all conflicts, the people who are suffering silently are the innocent civilians. Some 250,000 Eritreans have been displaced from the rural areas along the battle fronts.

[...]

The war, now in its fourteenth month, has triggered successive waves of displacement. An escalation of the fighting last February [1999] caused the flight of 150,000 people who dispersed in several directions to escape artillery fire and aerial bombing." (RI 25 June 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)

Background of the conflict

Background to the border dispute (1999)

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

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

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

[...]

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

[...]

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

Military confrontations in border areas between Eritrea and Ethiopia between May 1998 and February 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

"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)

See also the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation (EPCPT), "Ethiopia/Eritrea: A devastating war between former friends" (October 1999) 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.

Major offensive by Ethiopia starting on 12 May 2000 ends as the two countries sign Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities on 18 June 2000

- Agreement include immediate cessation of hostilities
- Decision to deploy UN peacekeeping force in a buffer zone extending 26 km into Eritrea
- Full withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from occupied areas when peacekeeping mission has been deployed
- Security Council authorising on 15 September deployment of 4,200 troops for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) mandated to monitor the ceasefire

"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)

"ETHIOPIA-ERITREA: Peace deal signed

Ethiopia and Eritrea on Sunday signed a peace agreement, raising hopes that the two year-old border dispute may be at an end. The 15-point plan, brokered by the OAU in Algiers, provides for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in a buffer zone extending 26 km into Eritrea, and the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from areas occupied inside Eritrea since 6 February 1999. Demarcation

of the border will follow later. The accord was signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries. Eritrean Foreign Minister Haile Woldetensae said the agreement was the 'first step, but not the end of the process', Eritrean radio reported. He said the road to sustainable peace would be full of obstacles and complications, but stressed his government's commitment to the agreement. His comments were echoed by his Ethiopian counterpart, Seyoum Mesfin. Quoted by Tigray radio in Mekele, Seyoum however said the agreement had created a 'conducive environment for the next round of talks', and described it as a 'political victory' for Ethiopia.

[...]

ETHIOPIA: Troops pull out of Tesseney

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

"In my report dated 30 June 2000 (S/2000/643), I informed the Security Council that Ethiopia and Eritrea had signed the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities on 18 June 2000. On 28 July 2000, the Secretary General of OAU reported that OAU, in its decision on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea made at the thirty-sixth ordinary session of OAU heads of State and Government, held in Lomé from 10 to 12 July 2000, *inter alia*, encouraged the two parties to pursue negotiations on the outstanding issues under the auspices of OAU in order to achieve a lasting peace. The Heads of State and Government also requested the Security Council to take the necessary steps for the speedy deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission provided for in the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities.

Efforts to reach an agreement on the outstanding issues are continuing, and during the latest round of proximity talks held in Washington, D.C., on 3, 5 and 6 July 2000, the parties discussed modalities for the delimitation and demarcation of the border and the issue of compensation. The talks were adjourned without a formal statement on the outcome of the deliberations." (SC 9 August 2000, paras. 3-4)

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)

The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)

"The Security Council today 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)

POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES

Total national figures

Figures by Government agency suggest 500,000 IDPs remaining by end of September 2000

- 600,000 IDPs returned home
- Number of IDPs in camps reported to be 217,223 IDPs (end-September)

" Currently, there are 25* populated IDP camps accommodating 217,223 IDPs in Eritrea. [*In early September, updated IDP figures in camps were given stating there were 22 camps. Since that time, one camp has emptied (Maleboor) and there have been returnees to four camps abandoned after May 2000 and since reopened in Gash-Barka] [...]

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. Returns include IDPs within Eritrea and those who fled to Sudan after 12 May 2000. During 24 July – 4 August 2000, Italiana Co-operazione and UNDP visited 12 of the 20 sub-zones affected by the conflict in Gash-Barka and Debub. The assessment estimated that some 75 percent of people who had fled the 12 sub-zones had returned – some 350,000 persons. It is now estimated by ERREC that some 600,000 IDPs have returned home. (The total IDP population from Gash-Barka and Debub was estimated at 1.1 million following an inter-agency rapid assessment 30 June – 2 July 2000.)" (ICC 25 September 2000)

DISPLACED PERSONS IN CAMPS			
23 September 2000			
Zone	Sub-Zone	Camp	Population
Debub	Adi Keih	Birhinet	3,769
Debub	Adi Keih	Halai	10,600
Debub	Adi Keih	Soyra	20,302
Debub	Adi Keih	Zula	7,832
Debub	Adi Quala	Agraa	5,500
Debub	Adi Quala	Mai Sagla	7,703
Debub	Dibarwa	Salina	200
Debub	Mai Aini	Adi Nebri	1,750
Debub	Mai Aini	Deda	3,471
Debub	Mai Aini	Medfa Walta	1,729
Debub	Tsorono	Alba	19,314
		Sub Total	82,170
Deda was previously known as Tekelabi			
Medfa Walta was previously known as Adi Shekano			
Salina is very small and barely considered a camp			
Gash-Barka	Dige	Dige	-
Gash-Barka	Forto	Girmaika	-
Gash-Barka	Forto	Meleboor	-
Gash-Barka	Gogne	Adi Keshi	36,812
Gash-Barka	Guluj	Gergef *	2,387
Gash-Barka	Guluj	Guluj *	2,026
Gash-Barka	Guluj	Sabunait *	206
Gash-Barka	Guluj	Tebeldia *	1,488
Gash-Barka	Molki	Dembe Doran	4,022
Gash-Barka	Molki	Jejah	9,440
Gash-Barka	Shambuko	Korokon	9,862
Gash-Barka	Shambuko	Koytobia	15,000
Gash-Barka	Shambuko	Tologamja	2,141
		Sub Total	83,384
* Camps re-recognised in recent weeks			
Northern Red Sea	Foro	Buya	420
Northern Red Sea	Ghinda	Ghinda	2,794
Northern Red Sea	Ghinda	Harena	25,000
Northern Red Sea	Afabet	Mekete	23,455
		Sub Total	51,669
	TOTAL	DPS in camps	217,223
Figures by ERREC			
Prepared by ICC			

Approximately 900,000 Eritreans internally displaced by end of July 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)

Fast increase in estimated IDP Figures 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 Gulu. 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)

New displacement from areas close to Ethiopian border despite cease-fire (July-August 2000)

- Alba camp reportedly receiving up to 500 additional IDPs per day from the Senafe subregion by mid-July
- New displacements reported from the Lalai Gash (Auguro) area of Gash-Barka by end-July
- reports by mid-August of 1,500 new IDPs from Layla Gash arriving in the Adikeshi IDP camp
- New displacements reported by end-August in the Endeli and Alha administrative environs in the sub-region of Gelalo

New displacement reported during July:

"[T]he population of Zula is 14,560 and increasing. Most of the people in the camp come from villages around Senafe and Adi Keih. Approximately ten families are arriving each day from the Senafe area. Some are going to Mai Ha bar. People live in the caves, with host families in the villages in the canyon and in the camp at the bottom. Additionally there are over 7,000 people living in caves in the area of the camp who are not receiving supplies or food rations." (EDF 5 July 2000)

"There is continued displacement from around the Senafe sub-zone through the mountainous Forto area. Others are coming through the Soyra area to Qohaito to avoid the trenches and front lines. Significant numbers are arriving in Alba every day through Mai Wurai. IDPs from this area report human rights abuses and lack of food as the main reasons for their leaving." (ICC 10 July 2000)

"IDPs continue to leave occupied areas of Senafe subregion through Mai Wurai and up into Alba, with Alba camp reportedly receiving up to 500 additional IDPs per day. In addition to the current figure of 17,000, reports suggest an additional 15,000 IDPs in host communities around Qohaitit.

Though a "trickling out" has been noticed in Harena, there has been no significant reduction in camp numbers with none expected. On the contrary, ERREC officials are expecting an increase in the numbers as IDPs continue to filter out of the Senafe area.

[...]

Several figures have been used for this camp, which has led to some confusion. The immediate camp has been listed as hosting 25,000 IDPs, while generally acknowledged that, with the addition of IDPs outside the camp, either living in smaller concentrations or in the surroundings, the number jumps to approximately 44,000. The immediate camp, however, is currently experiencing a substantial increase through the addition of large numbers of internal expellees from the Upper Gash region. The immediate camp, now hosting 30,000 IDPs, is becoming increasingly congested and may require the setting up of a satellite camp in the very near future to relieve this potentially dangerous congestion.

It is reported that up to 300 internal expellees are arriving in Adi Keshi daily. In addition, 155 expellees arrived in Mendefera from Addis Ababa earlier this week. There have as yet been no public reports from human rights groups or inter-national organizations on these two categories of expellees." (ICC 15 July 2000)

"New displacement continues to be reported from the Lalai Gash (Auguro) area of Gash-Barka, leading to the ongoing growth of Adi Keshi camp in that region. A steady outward flow of IDPs continues to be marked from the Senafe sub-zone of Dehub. Plans are underway between local administration in the Adi Keih and Tserona sub-zones, ICRC and MSF-France to set up a reception center in Deki Leifai (near Quatit/Alba) to receive these new IDPs and supply them with immediate relief supplies before settlement in Alba camp." (ICC 29 July 2000)

"There is still concern about persons isolated in the Ethiopian occupied area of Senafe and the sub-zone of Lalai Gash where there is a shortage of relief assistance. Eritreans continue to leave Senafe and approximately 1,000 IDPs are reported to have arrived in Alba from Senafe during the past week. ERREC has transported some 300 vacated tents from Salina to Alba. It is also reported that four Eritrean women expelled from Addis Ababa arrived in Senafe having passed through military front lines." (ICC 22 July 2000)

New displacement reported during August:

"A total of 1,500 new IDPs from Layla Gash, which is reportedly still under control of Ethiopian forces, arrived to Adikeshi IDP camp. The IDPs reported to WFP insecurity and hunger as the main causes of their departure from the area." (WFP 18 August)

"ERREC reports people are fleeing the **Endeli** and **Alha** administrative environs in the sub-region of **Gelalo**, where there are reports of the burning and destruction of houses. A new camp has been established in the Northern Red Sea zone to accommodate an

estimated 3,000 IDPs now on the move from areas near the Ethiopian border. The new camp is tentatively called **Boya** (south of **Foro**) and is currently hosting approximately 400 IDPs. At the moment, the remaining IDPs are believed to be scattered in the mountains. Shelter, food and household items have been delivered to the new camp, but requirements remain in the sectors of health and WatSan." (ICC 26 August 2000)

New displacement reported during September:

"[S]mall numbers of IDPs continue to arrive in southern camps in Debub from the Senafe sub-region, including unaccompanied children who are sent away from occupied areas by their parents. New arrivals during the last four – six weeks include Alba (50 people) and Medfa Walta (200 people)." (ICC 25 September 2000)

A total of 266,200 IDPs reported in January 2000

- 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
TOTAL IDPs	266,200
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

TOTAL RURAL DEPORTEES	28,350
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(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)

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

General

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 Debub 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 Debub 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 Debub 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:

"Debub:

[...]

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 Guluj 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. Approx-imately 150,000 people had previously been in the 'hovering zone' along the border between Ghirmaika, Tessenei and Omhajer." (ICC 17 June 2000)

Inhabitants of Ghirmaika town sought refuge in nearby mountains and valleys (June 2000)

- Residents returning to the town during day time for work

"IDPs from Tessenei and areas farther south had previously flooded Ghirmaika, but had recently begun to move to other areas -- some of them back home. However, the number of displaced still reached 3,935, according to the sub-zonal administrator. Most of those were IDPs from the town of Ghirmaika itself who were afraid of Ethiopian bombing and shelling inside the town and so had taken to living in nomad-like shelters on the periphery or in the surrounding mountains and valleys. Approximately 500 were living 2-3 kilometers outside town, while the rest were somewhat farther away.

Food had been delivered to the area, but had been intended for the IDPs from Tessenei and its surrounding areas. Little to none had been allotted for the Ghirmaika IDPs who had thus received only very minimal supplies, which had quickly run out.

The administrator and the people themselves complained long and loudly about the state of their food supplies, claiming nothing had been delivered for over a month, and that had been only emergency supplies for a few days. It was stated that the residents returned to Ghirmaika town every day for manual labor when it was available. With the little earned from such labor, small amounts of food could be purchased and shared with the others.

It was obvious from our visit that the IDPs in this area were living under very harsh conditions, did not have adequate food supplies in any way, shape or form and were in need of immediate medical attention for some of the residents, particularly the elderly." (EDF 29 June 2000)

Civilians fleeing border areas to seek safety from armed fighting (1999)

- Civilians in the border areas dispersed in several directions to escape artillery fire and aerial bombing when fighting resumed in February 1999
- Most displaced fled with few or no possessions
- Some had to leave immediately at the onset of battle and walk non-stop for 40 miles

"The war, now in its fourteenth month, has triggered successive waves of displacement. An escalation of the fighting last February [1999] caused the flight of 150,000 people who dispersed in several directions to escape artillery fire and aerial bombing. Some sought refuge in deep valleys where they shared muddy waterholes with their livestock, risking cholera and other waterborne diseases. Some stayed within the vicinity of their homes and returned at night to fetch food from the fields. Tens of thousands of others, mostly women and children, simply headed north away from the border.

The hallmark of all these displaced is flight with few or no possessions. Initially, local communities afforded shelter. But the abrupt influx of nearly a quarter million people has depleted the resources of villagers. Now thousands of farmers, traders and their families have been forced to seek refuge under trees, in dry river beds or simply by the roadside.

Some said that with the noisy onset of battle they had left instantly, walking non-stop for 40 miles. Others said that local authorities moved them in trucks after reconnaissance planes circled overhead prior to bombing raids on villages and towns that are up to 44 miles from the front line.

[...]

Many people have been displaced twice. In the wake of the initial round of fighting that ended in June last year, some 10,000 farming families of Eritrean origin, who had lived most - if not all - of their lives in the northern Tigray region of Ethiopia, were deported. They were given two hours by Ethiopian authorities to gather what few possessions they could carry and trek across the border to Eritrea. These deportees were initially allotted two hectares per family to farm. They were forced to abandon this land during renewed fighting last February." (RI 25 June 1999)

PROTECTION CONCERNS

Exposure of civilians to the armed conflict and protection during displacement

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
- Reported that eight IDP camps were inside areas occupied by Ethiopia by September 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 Debub 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 (Bihat)	2,023	IDPs fled to Soyra & Halai	
Debub	Senafe	Afoma (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	Decha	3,471	In existence	3,471
Debub	Mai Aini	Adi Gulgo (Ouna/Watota)	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 Saqia	2,203	In existence	7,703
Debub	Mai Mine	Adi Kalina	4,717	Emptied all IDPs returned	
		Total 22	88,401		

Figures by ERREC
Prepared by ICC

Concerns raised that the fighting parties have not taken sufficient precautions to protect civilians (1998-1999)

- Claims and counterclaims that both Eritrea and Ethiopia have deliberately targeted civilians
- Independent accounts of civilian losses caused by bombing absent

"Both Ethiopia and Eritrea have accused each other of either deliberately or indiscriminately targeting civilians during the conflict, in violation of international humanitarian law. Ethiopia has claimed that Eritrea indiscriminately bombed civilians in Mekele and Adigrat towns, in northern Tigray [...]. Eritrea has claimed that Ethiopia has deliberately targeted civilians through the use of air strikes against populated areas, in and around the front lines[...]. The numbers of those killed on both sides are not known or independently reported but may total in the hundreds.

On 5 June 1998, Ethiopian planes bombed military targets at Asmara Airport. During the raid, one civilian was killed. The same day, Eritrean planes bombed Mekele Airport and a few other targets in the area. During these raids, an elementary school was hit, causing some injuries. The Ethiopian government said that an Eritrean plane returned 40 minutes later and bombed the school again. According to foreign press reports, 47 children, women and men, were killed and scores wounded as a result of this bombing of the school[...].

The government of Eritrea has accepted that during air strikes on Mekele, a school was hit and civilians killed, although they have not acknowledged any particular number of

casualties. Eritrea claims that the bombing of the school was a mistake and has apologised for this:

"We were successful in attacking military installations. People in Mekele and Adigrat have witnessed it. Unfortunately civilians were killed... It was not intentional, sometimes you can miss your target. We are sorry for that." [...]

The bombing of the school was a major incident during the first few weeks of the fighting. Ethiopia does not accept that the bombing was a mistake and claims that by returning to the school a second time, Eritrea deliberately intended to target civilians. While the precise details are difficult to confirm, diplomatic sources do refer to two bombing raids on Mekele on 5 June. Although Eritrea says it has apologised, it has not made any detailed or formal statement or indicated that an independent inquiry into the circumstances around the bombing will be held.

In a new outbreak of fighting on 9 February 1999, the Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement saying that a family of five had been killed by an Ethiopian air raid on the village of Lali Deda, a village in the Badme triangle. This attack was witnessed by foreign journalists. The civilians were living in tents with UN markings, and had apparently been expelled from Ethiopia. Eritrea at the same time condemned the shelling of its border town of Adiquala in which it claimed eight civilians were killed and dozens wounded by Ethiopian artillery.

Ethiopia has denied targeting civilians deliberately and on 11 February issued a statement saying that the government 'sincerely regrets these civilian deaths' (referring to the Lali Deda incident) but argued that the village was near to military front lines and that Eritrea had placed civilians at risk by settling deportees there[...].

On 15 April, Ethiopian air forces attacked two Eritrean towns, Adi Kaieh, about 60kms north of Zalemessa and Mendefera, about 55kms south of Asmara. Ethiopia also claimed to have attacked an Eritrean military training centre in Sawa, in the west of the country, but Eritrea denied this. Eritrea announced that 10 school children and an elderly man were injured in the attack on Adi Kaieh and that a church had been destroyed. Eritrea claimed that the high altitude bombing was indiscriminate[...] Ethiopia denied targeting civilians and claimed that the bombings were against 'carefully selected and strategic military targets.' [...]

[...]

Amnesty International considers that Eritrea's killing of civilians in the air attack on Mekele on 5 June 1998 was a serious violation of international humanitarian law. Amnesty International is calling on the Eritrean government to establish an independent and impartial public inquiry into the killings. The inquiry should especially review the Eritrean air force's rules of engagement and operational guidelines for implementing the principle of distinction between military targets and civilians and should make recommendations to prevent unlawful killings.

Other killings of civilians on both sides of the border can not be so clearly seen as violations of the Geneva Conventions, since independent monitoring has been

particularly difficult. It is reasonably clear that the government of Ethiopia did not intentionally bomb civilians in Lali Deda. However, Amnesty International is concerned that both sides have not taken all necessary and required precautions to ensure that civilians are not attacked through the use of air attacks and indiscriminate shelling." (AI 21 May 1999, sect. 2.1)

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

General

Continued humanitarian emergency despite cessation of hostilities (July 2000)

- Difficult to reach IDPs with assistance as they have sought refuge at widely scattered places
- About 90 percent of the IDPs are women and children
- IDPs in camps face a situation of low food stocks, lack of water and sanitation facilities, inadequate quantities of shelter materials, and growing health problems

"Despite the positive step towards peace, the humanitarian emergency continues to deepen and humanitarian conditions are deteriorating because of the lack of resources, response capacity and widely scattered places of refuge of a considerable number of IDPs and war-affected populations. The consequences of renewed war exceeded the worst-case scenario in terms of the number of people affected. Women and children average 25 to 27 percent and 65 to 70 percent respectively among the IDPs and other war-affected populations, while most of the male adults are elderly. The ERREC reports that over 1.1 million war-affected and 335,000 drought-affected persons require urgent assistance. Most towns along the cease-fire line are completely de-populated and the mass movement of these populations from the agricultural-rich regions of Gash Barka and Debub has caused the loss of nearly the entire cereal harvest for this year. The lack of planting opportunities requires the need for continued humanitarian assistance operations well into the year 2001." (UN July 2000, p.6)

"According to a joint USG-Government of Eritrea (GSE)-UN assessment team, the primary concerns in the IDP camps in Eritrea are low food stocks, a lack of water and sanitation facilities, inadequate quantities of shelter materials, and growing health concerns over malaria, diarrhea, and respiratory infections with the onset of the rainy season.

The onset of the rainy season has forced some Eritrean IDPs to begin searching for adequate shelter, according to UNHCR. Although 90 percent of ERREC's appeal for plastic sheeting has been met, there is a serious shortage in appropriate support material.

The GSE closed the Deb'at camp in late June in response to malaria concerns. The population of the camp was moved to Mekete camp, which now houses approximately 28,000 residents. The lack of a water and sanitation system at Mekete has been complicated by the arrival of 25,000 new residents from the Deb'at camp." (USAID 21 July 2000)

IDPs in need of basic household necessities and clothing (January 2000)

- Majority of people fled without bringing their basic household necessities

"The majority of people fled without bringing their basic household necessities. The initial intention was to provide each household with 2 blankets, 1 jerrycan, 2 sleeping mats and 1 set of kitchen utensils. Due to a supply shortage, however, there was little consistency in the kind, quality or quantity of the kitchen utensils distributed, and many households received no items at all. Moreover, the majority of items, whether those brought by the IDPs or distributed early in the emergency, are now worn out or broken. For example, a single jerrycan is overused for both fetching and storing water, thus shortening its useful life. In addition to being inadequate in number, blankets have worn out because of poor quality and extensive/multipurpose use. The Needs Assessment also revealed that thousands of vulnerable people in the camps (children, mothers and the elderly) lack adequate clothing.

[...]

Essential household items are also required for 131,000 IDPs (about 26,200 households) living outside camps. Even though sharing the same shelter with their hosting relatives, these IDPs came without their possessions and are in the same destitute situation as those in the camps. Therefore, they need the basic household items, namely blankets, kitchen utensils and jerrycans."

(UN January 2000, pp. 34-35)

Health

Dire health situation of internally displaced after renewed war (July 2000)

- 32 health facilities, including hospitals in Senafe, Barentu and Tesseny, destroyed and/or looted
- Women and under-five year old children most severely affected by the current emergency
- Health problems of IDPs worsened by protracted stay in poor shelters, poor environmental and sanitary conditions, and the lack of adequate amounts of potable water and food

"Difficult or non-existing road access to the affected communities, lack of communication facilities and a limited transportation network, make the existing health services inadequate to meet the health needs of the war-affected population. To further exacerbate the situation, in recent weeks, the hospitals in Senafe, Barentu and Tesseny as well as all health centers and health stations in affected areas totaling 32 have all been destroyed and/or looted.

Diarrhoeal diseases, vaccine preventable diseases (most commonly measles), acute respiratory infections, eye diseases, and malaria have been the most common health problems. In a situation of increasing demand, access to both curative and preventive health services is hampered by the lack of trained human resources and essential drugs. The protracted stay in poor shelters, poor environmental and sanitary conditions, and the

lack of adequate amounts of potable water and food has further added to the health problems. The supplementary feeding of children and women has been effective as indicated by a relatively low prevalence of wasting (about 11 percent children in the 30 camps/sites). To maintain this nutritional status, supplementary feeding of displaced children and women in and outside of camps has to be sustained.

General morbidity and mortality due to complications of pregnancy, poor health services, infections such as STD and HIV/AIDS, malaria and anaemia, threaten the well being of war-affected women. Essential drugs, vaccines, vaccination equipment and supplies, supplementary health kits, emergency and MCH/health equipment, medical supplies and reproductive health kits are required to meet these needs.

Additionally, women and under-five year old children are the two groups most severely affected by the current emergency. Due to a lack of food, insufficient clean water, poor shelter and the inadequacy of health services, they become vulnerable to malnutrition, diarrhoea and other common communicable diseases. Health officials in the war-affected areas report that morbidity due to displacement has increased. Various infections, notably diarrhoea, respiratory diseases, measles, malaria, intestinal parasites and HIV/AIDS have a major impact on nutritional status. The interaction of infection and inadequate food consumption causing growth retardation in children leads to a vicious cycle: the so-called malnutrition-infection complex." (UN July 2000, p.34)

Displaced children exposed to considerable psychosocial distress (July 2000)

- About 70 percent of the displaced are children
- Several children separated from their families

"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)

WHO warns about risk of malaria outbreaks in IDP camps (July 2000)

- nationwide shortages exist in pediatric dosage forms of anti-malarials and single use syringes

"Malaria is a "time bomb"

The World Health Organization is warning that the next few months will see life-threatening outbreaks of malaria in displacement camps across Eritrea unless local and international agencies move fast to get preventative measures in place.

"Malaria is a time bomb in many of the IDP camps," says Dr Debrezion Berhe, WHO disease prevention and control officer who earlier this month assessed health conditions at the 40,000 person-strong Harena Camp, on the lowlands 30 kms south of Asmara.

"Harena is in a highly malarious area, but most of the people here have been displaced from the highlands where malaria is less common and they have little immunity. We have to make a big noise about it before the worst happens."

According to Dr Tewdross Asgodom, one of Harena camp's two doctors, an epidemic will threaten as soon as the highland rivers start running. "Some bed nets have been distributed but only enough for around a quarter of the camp's 40,000 people," he said, adding that his small clinic with its eight-bed inpatient ward will be overwhelmed in a day if an outbreak starts.

"Most of these people would have had mosquito nets in their homes, but all these are gone in the displacement," reminds Dr Debrezion.

In Mekete Camp in the Northern Red Sea region, health workers, led by Dr Solomon Sereka, a high-energy Eritrean GP, have already started trying to reduce mosquito opportunities. Last week they kicked off a health education campaign involving fortnightly clean-ups around the camp and, particularly, the destruction of used tin cans which become ideal mosquito breeding sites if any water is left in them.

"We're also going to distribute bed nets and check every shelter to make sure they are properly installed. And we'll put vulnerable people, like pregnant women in prophylactic treatment," says Dr Solomon. Unlike Harena, he says, Mekete has an adequate supply of bed nets and drugs, at least for the moment, though it has other problems especially with sanitation.

WHO has appealed US\$500,000 via the UN revised appeal for Eritrea launched last week specifically to help the ministry of health establish malaria control measures throughout Eritrea. Rapid commitments will be needed if high morbidity and mortality are to be avoided in this rainy season, says Dr Debrezion." (WHO 31 July 2000)

"As the rainy season begins in the next few weeks, incidences of malaria are expected to rise. Recent assessments indicate that many of the IDP camps have adequate pharmaceutical stocks to address the increase in affected populations. However, nationwide shortages exist in pediatric dosage forms of anti-malarials and single use syringes, according to the Ministry of Health (MOH)." (USAID 10 July 2000)

IDPs already over-stretching capacity of the health system by end of 1999

- conflict has exacerbated the health situation in many border communities
- most common health problems include diarrhoea diseases, acute respiratory infections, eye diseases and malaria
- supplementary feeding of displaced children and women in and outside of camps has to be sustained to maintain this nutritional status

"Eritrea emerged from the 30-year liberation war with the one of the poorest economies in Africa. Basic health indicators such as under-five mortality rate (136/1000 live births), maternal mortality rate (998/100,000 live births), child malnutrition rate (44 percent), and access to potable water (16.4 percent of the population), all portray the critical health situation in the country. The conflict has further exacerbated the health situation in many border communities. Besides the immense human suffering resulting from displacement and/or expulsion, a heavy demand has been placed on the health and other social services in the communities, over-stretching the already limited response capacity of the social infrastructure. Difficult road access to the affected communities, lack of communication facilities and a limited transportation network, make the existing health services inadequate to meet the health needs of the war-affected population.

Diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections, eye diseases, and malaria have been the most common health problems. In a situation of increasing demand, access to both curative and preventive health services is hampered by the lack of trained manpower and essential drugs. The protracted stay in poor shelters, poor environmental and sanitary conditions and the lack of adequate amounts of potable water and food have further added to the health problems. The supplementary feeding of children and women has been effective as indicated by a relatively low prevalence of wasting of about 11 percent children in the 30 camps. To maintain this nutritional status, supplementary feeding of displaced children and women in and outside of camps has to be sustained.

The Needs Assessment in Gash-Barka and Debub Regions indicates that access to quality health care needs to be improved by strengthening basic health services in camps and improving access to referral health services at the regional hospitals. Six regional hospitals, six health centers and eight health stations need essential drugs, referral transportation, communication and medical equipment, and supplies, allowing the treatment of common endemic diseases. Tents are also needed to upgrade the health services in some of the camps.

General morbidity and mortality due to complications of pregnancy, poor health services, infections such as STD and HIV/AIDS, malaria and anemia, threaten the well-being of the war-affected women. Essential drugs, vaccines, vaccination equipment and supplies, supplementary health kits, emergency and MCH/health equipment, medical supplies and reproductive health kits are required to meet these needs." (UN January 2000, p.45)

Nutrition and food

Studies indicate same level of malnutrition among IDPs as general population (July 2000)

- By July the Government encouraged relief organisations to provide dry feeding as displaced have the means to cook themselves
- MSF considers the displaced's state of health as "pretty good"
- Infectious diseases appear to have been kept under control in the camps
- All children in IDP camps under 15 have been vaccinated against measles

"The Ministry of health has asked agencies involved in supplementary feeding to shift their approach from giving all children extra rations to targeting only those who measure under 80% of 'normal'.

Agencies should also move from wet to dry feeding.

The Ministry has asked the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission to ensure adequate supplementary food is given as part of the general family rations, said ministry director Dr Mismay at the weekly health co-ordination meeting. Enabling families to cook and

feed themselves, now most have the means to do so, reduces risk of contamination, he added.

To balance this however, he said therapeutic feeding stations for the severely malnourished would be needed in health centres in the camps, since normal feeding centres would cease this activity.

However Médecins sans Frontières France questioned whether enough food had been earmarked to allow adequate supplementary feeding in general family rations. and warned the Ministry that in some areas ERREC distribution had been irregular and insufficient for vulnerable groups particularly for pregnant and lactating women.

Nutrition better than expected

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.

"When the population started moving we were really worried that if things went wrong there could be big outbreaks of disease. In the first few weeks of the fighting, there was an epidemic of diarrhoea because the water supply was poor. But now generally water is being disinfected and chlorinated, new camps have been opened reducing the overcrowding a bit, and the ministry has been able to get health activities going immediately so we are less concerned about communicable diseases."

Mass vaccination against measles has also been done in the camps covering all children under 15, and health workers will start polio vaccination days this week, especially targeting those who have come from Ethiopia because of the poor coverage there, they say. " (WHO 31 July 2000)

Nutritional survey indicate a malnutrition rate of 11.2 percent among IDPs in camps (January 2000)

- Nutritional status among the IDPs in camps has generally improved because of the steady supply of food aid

- Nutritional status and physical condition of the IDPs would deteriorate rapidly if relief food is stopped

"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)

Water and sanitation

Escalation of conflict cause dire water supply situation (May-July 2000)

- Destruction of almost all water supply systems require immediate rehabilitation or reconstruction
- Lack of adequate sanitation facilities and scarce water supply cause deterioration in the health status of children and other vulnerable groups
- UN only capacity to assist 200,000 IDPs with improved wat-san facilities
- Inadequate local supply of tankers for transport limits water supplies

"As a result of the recent war, 200,000 IDPs in the regions of Anseba, Northern Red Sea, Debub and Gash Barka are in need of urgent safe drinking water and sanitation. Even though the war-affected population is over one million, only 200,000 IDPs can be assisted with the provision of safe water and sanitary facilities over the next six months. Even if these new IDPs return soon to their former original villages, the total destruction of almost all of their water supply systems require immediate rehabilitation or reconstruction of new water supply systems. Unless immediate remedial action in adequate magnitude takes place soon, the people needing emergency assistance will increase dramatically.

The lack of adequate sanitation facilities and practices as well as the scarce water supply is bound to cause a rapid deterioration in the health status of children and other vulnerable groups due to outbreaks of water-borne and hygiene-related diseases. This is particularly evident since the seasonal rains, however erratic, have started to fall and water points are in danger of being contaminated. Many of the existing water points are

not properly protected and the few that are protected are not managed appropriately." (UN July 2000)

"While IDPs have some access to water, increased quantities are needed. An inadequate local supply of tankers for transport limits water supplies. Despite the low levels of consumption and use of water in the camps, the overall health situation within the camps is not being affected.

Water and sanitation experts from donor governments, IOs, and NGOs indicate that additional supplies of chlorine and appropriate water chlorination training is needed. However, ERREC has indicated that it does not need assistance in the water sector." (USAID 10 July 2000)

Insufficient safe water available to support daily needs of IDPs (1999-2000)

- Access to water a problem in Eritrea from the outset
- Special needs of women like sanitary towels and underwear go unmet

"Water in Eritrea is a major problem with over 70 percent of the country receiving less than 400 mm of rainfall annually. In general, Eritrea is an arid/semi-arid country, depending on groundwater for domestic water supply.

The IDP camps are located in areas where groundwater is the only source of domestic water supply. There is very little safe water available to support daily needs. Many IDPs have to travel long distances on foot carrying 20-liter containers of water. If they continue to stay in these camps, they need water for survival and proper sanitary facilities.

Based on the data presented in the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Report, it has been found that 24,597 people in the 12 camps in Gash Barka and 37,954 people in the 18 camps in Debub, do not have access to the minimum supply of safe water. Among the Host Communities, 19,340 people (14,733 in Gash Barka and 4608 in Debub) are in danger of losing the meager supply that they are sharing with the IDPs." (UN January 2000, p.40)

Insufficient water supply have also been pointed out in NGO reports:

"Sanitation and water supply is a priority consideration. At the Qatrbir site, thousands of displaced must gather water from two hand pumps. Each family, no matter how large, is rationed to 40 liters every three days, barely enough for drinking and cooking requirements. Water is so scarce that women are unable to wash after giving birth.

Food is in short supply, and there are virtually no drugs, educational equipment for the children, household utensils or cooking oil. In addition, the women have special needs that go unmet, such as sanitary towels and underwear. At a site near the village of Adi Keshi, 200 women gave birth while on the road. Hundreds more are pregnant. They and their infants will need postnatal care." (RI 25 June 1999)

"A lack of sanitation facilities and an inadequate supply of clean water is likely to cause extreme health problems. At present, there are almost no latrines, and in some settlements the nearest clean water source is 5 kilometres away. There is also a shortage of paediatric medicines and potable, ie drinking, water in the camps.

The rainy season is likely to increase illness and death among the displaced. Standing water will cause malaria; drinking of river and rain water will lead to a rise in water-borne diseases such as cholera; and lack of adequate sanitation will increase diarrhoeal disease. An inadequate diet is making people, and in particular children, even more vulnerable to disease. The rains will also make it more difficult for people to access health care. The local 'host' community will also suffer health problems as their water sources become contaminated and diseases spread from the refugee to local populations." (SCF August 1999)

Shelter

Status of IDP camps by September 2000

- Major return from Dehub camps
- Three camps emptied in Gash-Barka area by September 2000
- Four camps established in the Northern Red Sea Zone after May 2000 conflict escalation
- Debat camp in the Northern Red Sea Zone dismantled in August 2000 due to flooding and the prevalence of malaria

"Dehub

There are currently 11 IDP camps in Dehub. In recent weeks Adi Ketina (Mai Mine sub-zone) emptied as the 5,000 occupants spontaneously returned to their villages in Adi Azida and Adi Abaqat. Although these areas are near the border, a general sense of confidence in the current cease fire has enabled people to take advantage of better access to their homes and land, and agricultural opportunities (with the end of the rains) to return home and resume their lives. Over half the residents of Adi Nebri (Mai Aine sub-zone) have also returned to their homes. The majority of the remaining camp populations have remained stable during the last four – six weeks. Nonetheless, small numbers of IDPs continue to arrive in southern camps in Dehub from the Senafe sub-region, including unaccompanied children who are sent away from occupied areas by their parents[...]. New arrivals during the last four – six weeks include Alba (50 people) and Medfa Walta (200 people).

Of the 11 camps in Dehub, six existed prior to May 2000.

1. Adi Nebri (Mai Aini – relocated from Adi Golgol with IDP residents from Ouna Watota displaced early in 1999);

2. Alba (Tsorono sub-zone – a continuation and relocation of Mai Wuray and Fulho camps);
3. Agra (Adi Kala sub-zone – a combination of Agra 1 and 2);
4. Deda (Mai Aini sub-zone);
5. Mai Sagla (Adi Quala sub-zone), and
6. Medfa Walta (Mai Aini sub-zone - previously known as Adi Shekano).

The remaining five camps in Debub were established after 12 May 2000. Birhinet, Halai, Soyra and Zula (all in Adi Keih sub-zone) and Salina (Dirbarwa sub-zone).

The largest camp is Soyra (Adi Keih sub-zone) with 20,000 IDPs. The camp is easily accessible and is close to Adi Keih town. Due to the amenities and conditions, Soyra has been identified to receive IDPs from Zula camp. Zula camp (also in Adi Keih sub-zone) sprung up unofficially when almost 8,000 IDPs settled in the area. Many of the camp residents actually live in caves and as a result of its location in a mountainous area, accessibility is limited. Furthermore, children need to return to school, there are incidents of respiratory infections and the area is not considered secure. There were plans to move the camp both in August and September. However, the residents prefer to stay and therefore they are not being forced to move.

Gash-Barka

There are currently ten IDP camps in Gash-Barka. There were an additional three camps which have since emptied. In August 2000, Dige camp (Dige sub-zone) emptied as people returned to Haikota, Gogne and Barantu environs, and Girmaika camp (Forto sub-zone) also emptied as its 4,000 occupants spontaneously returned to their villages in the Tessenai area. Maleboor camp began to empty in August and by mid September 2000, all residents had returned to their homes in Haikota, Gogne and Barantu environs.

[...]

In Gash-Barka, all of the currently existing ten camps existed previously. As noted above, there were an additional three camps (Dige, Girmaika and Maleboor), which have now emptied. Dige and Girmaika were new camps established after May 2000. Maleboor camp was the relocation of Keru camp.

Of the ten camps, six camps have been in existence throughout the current crisis and four were vacated and have subsequently been re-established. All ten were established in 1999. The six that have constantly been in existence are; Adi Keshi (Gogne sub-zone), Dembe Doran and Jejah (both Molki sub-zone), Korokon, Koytobia and Tologamja (all Shambuko sub-zone). Again it should be noted that many camp inhabitants at this time had already been displaced more than once. Jejah camp is one of the oldest camps still existing in Eritrea and is a continuation of Faulina and Sefra Genet camps for rural deportees (10,000) from Tigray. Given the fact that rural deportees are unlikely to be able to return to the Tigray area, permanent solutions were being assessed by the Eritrean Government in early 2000. Previously agricultural assistance had been provided through UNDP. Additional agricultural assistance (UNDP and German Agro Action) and actual resettlement was planned for mid 2000 in Gernefit and Adi Teclehaimanot. However, this could not be implemented due to the eruption of hostilities in May 2000.

Adi Keshi is the largest camp in Eritrea with a population of over 36,000. The camp is well supported with humanitarian support, however, in late August torrential rains and strong winds destroyed much of the shelter and caused some minor casualties.

The four vacated and re-established camps are all in the Guluj sub-zone: Gergef, Guluj, Sabunait and Tebeldia. Guluj is one of the two most southerly sub-zones in Gash-Barka and was one of the first affected by the outbreak of hostilities in May 2000. In recent weeks, people from this sub-zone have begun to return from more northerly parts of Eritrea and from Sudan. Those originally from the area have returned to their homes (many of which have been destroyed or looted). Those who were from IDP camps in the area have returned to those campsites. However, as many of the IDPs in these camps are from Omhajer, from which Ethiopian forces have recently withdrawn, there is the potential for returns in upcoming weeks. Needs assessments and mine/unexploded ordnance surveying are a priority.

Northern Red Sea Zone

Prior to the 12 May hostilities, there were no camps in the Northern Red Sea Zone, now there are four. Three Ghinda (Ghinda sub-zone), Harena (Ghinda sub-zone) and Mekete (Afabet) were established almost immediately. Ghinda camp, close to Asmara is situated in a climatic area and accommodates almost 3,000 IDPs originally from Asseb. As the situation remains tense in Asseb, there does not appear to be any likelihood of their immediate return.

Mekete camp is one of the largest camps in Eritrea with a population of 22,000 and is considered overcrowded. The IDPs are mainly from Debat camp originally from Badme, Shambuko and Lali Gash areas. Debat camp was dismantled in August 2000 due to flooding and the prevalence of malaria. Half of its 50,000 population returned to their homes in Gash-Barka the remainder went to Mekete. The camp is well supported with humanitarian assistance but water supplies remain problematic. At the end of August, the population in Mekete has reduced with the voluntary return of some 1,600 IDPs to Barantu.

Harena camp is also a crowded camp with a population of 25,000, displaced from 92 villages in the Senafe sub-zone. The camp is divided into four zones. Some 3,000 families were living in the Harena Technical School buildings. Since the School is about to reopen for the new academic year, the IDPs have moved out into tents. Harena camp is well organised, in part due to the fact that the local administration was displaced with the local population and is active in the camp. However, water and sanitation remains problematic and there are cases of shigellosis (bloody diarrhoea – often resistant to antibiotics).

The fourth camp is Buya, which was established at the end of August 2000 in response to the movement of some 2,000 people from areas close to the Ethiopia Eritrean border. Currently the camp hosts 420 IDPs. However, according to local ERREC officials, some 1,500 IDPs are en route to the camp. Traditionally pastoralists, the people are taking

advantage of grazing land. The camp can accommodate up to 3,000 people, tents and other shelter items have been sent from Masawa. However, the camp is somewhat isolated and remains lacking in medical facilities.

Although all the camps in the Northern Red Sea Zone were established in the last five months, the occupants are not all new IDPs. Many from the Senafe area were already hosted in camps having fled their homes in the border regions in 1999." (ICC 25 September 2000)

Serious lack of shelters for new IDPs (July 2000)

- The shelter needs of IDPs cause heavy burden on host communities- some households hosting up to five displaced families
- Host families receiving insufficient food assistance
- Only one-third of needed shelter units (family tents and plastic sheets) were available by end-July 2000
- Cold and wet weather exacerbate existing problems in some of the high-altitude camps
- Many have no shelter at all and are sleeping in caves or under trees
- Heavy rains by the beginning of July worsening the shelter situation
- Improved coordination led to better targeting and distribution of shelter and NFI items

"The Eritrean people are not waiting passively for the international community to mobilize. One of the most moving aspects of the emergency is the extraordinary generosity of people hosting displaced people in their own homes. In Halai, RI [refugees International] observed many local families sharing all their resources with IDPs from other regions of Eritrea. Some households are hosting up to five displaced families.

The sacrifice of host communities has yet to be fully recognized and supported. In terms of food distribution, host families are allocated only 60 percent of a full ration, but many have received little assistance to date. In some cases, host families have been forced to consume their seed stock in order to survive. Humanitarian organizations working with the ERREC will need to target their assistance to these war-affected communities. To deliver assistance effectively, an immediate assessment of the host community capabilities should be undertaken." (RI 27 July 2000)

"The SWG [Shelter Working Group] prepared detailed information on prioritised needs and gaps in the Gash-Barka Zone. Key requirement needs are shelter kits (5,500), blankets (76,500), clothing, household items and mosquito nets (50,000). This follows a similar exercise conducted by ERREC and UNHCR in Dehub in August and which has led to improved targeting and distribution of shelter and NFI items. (The detailed plan of requirements by sub-zones is available from UNHCR and the ICC.)

In Harena camp, some 500 families are currently accommodated in the Technical School compound. The school is due to resume in October and alternative accommodation (500 family tents) is required." (ICC 9 September 2000)

"In fleeing the sudden aerial and artillery bombardments, most people carried almost nothing besides their children with them. To quote from one assessment report, 'When asked what the people were able to bring with them from their homes, one woman replied, 'When the only choice you have is to bring your children on your shoulders or your belongings, the choice is clear....' Very few belongings were in evidence among any of the IDPs in the area.'

Out of an estimated need for 120,000 units of shelter (family tents and plastic sheets) only 39,700 (or 33%) were available as of 30 June, thus leaving well over two-thirds of the IDP population without adequate shelter. With the rainy season already well under way (it started in fourth week of June), thousands of families are facing harsh conditions without any kind of shelter to protect them. Some of the families who do not have shelter are forced to share with others, often sleeping 15-20 per tent to avoid the rain and cold of the season. Still many more have no shelter at all and are sleeping in caves or under trees.

Household items, particularly kitchen utensils and jerry cans for water collection are also urgently needed." (UN July 2000, p.28)

"Only one third of Eritrea's displaced population have adequate shelter, the Eritrean government estimates[...].

Heavy rains have [by beginning of July] started across Eritrea, leaving some normally parched regions awash, and soaking the internally displaced people (IDPs) who lack sufficient shelter. A UNHCR team last week [end June] visited people at the Zula IDP site near Karibosa, where people are living in caves and under ledges, often exposed to the elements. The cold and wet will exacerbate existing problems in some of the high-altitude camps.

[...]

The situation in Eritrea is a race against time in every way, as the rains and cool season, the lack of adequate shelter and aid in many areas, and most importantly, the water and sanitation situation in the camps could rapidly worsen the health situation among the internally displaced. A host of aid agencies are now working in Eritrea, where UNHCR's actions are closely co-ordinated with the government, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF and our other partner agencies such as Oxfam, MSF, etc." (UNHCR 4 July 2000)

"Out of an estimated need for 120,000 pieces of shelter (tents and plastic sheets), only 39,700 were available as of June 29th , thus leaving well over two-thirds of the IDP population without adequate shelter.

Families who do not have shelter are forced to share with others, often sleeping 15-20 per tent to avoid the rain and cold of the season. Still many more have no shelter at all and are sleeping in caves or under trees." (ICC 1 July 2000)

See also "International response to shelter needs (July 2000)" and field reports from field visits by the Eritrean Development Foundation (29 June and 5 July)

IDPs in camps lack cooking facilities (June 2000)

"Mercy Corps International has purchased kerosene stoves, fuel cans and a one-month's supply of kerosene for immediate distribution to approximately 1,500 IDP (internally displaced person) families. The families are among the latest victims of the two-year-old episodic war between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

[...]

According to Rachel Lieber, Mercy Corps' Senior Program Officer for Africa, even those individuals who managed to reach camps found themselves in a desperate situation. "The camps were hastily set up and overwhelmed by the sheer number of people arriving in them. There is not enough food, water, shelter or medical assistance to go around. Even when food is distributed, many people do not have the means to cook it, which is why Mercy Corps decided to provide stoves." The stoves and necessary accessories were made possible through donations from the Charis Foundation, the Varitz Family Foundation and generous contributions from individual supporters of Mercy Corps." (MCI 28 June 2000)

Poor shelter conditions in makeshift camps by the beginning of 2000

- High need to improve shelter conditions after more than 18 months with emergency camps (January 2000)
- Shelters consisting of tents, plastic sheets or woven straw mats erected around trees and poles and grass huts

"Even though thousands of Internally Displaced People and Deportees have sought refuge with relatives in various parts of the country, over 143,000 had to seek temporary shelter in makeshift camps. Since the beginning of the crisis, ERREC, assisted by a number of donors, has tried to provide adequate shelter, but most families were provided with only plastic sheets. Consequently, the need for adequate shelter remains very high after more than 18 months in emergency camps.

The homes from which thousands fled were solid stone structures. On arrival in camps, people were crowded together into a few family-sized tents, smaller (sub-family-size) tents, plastic sheets or woven straw mats erected around trees and poles, and, in very few cases, grass huts. Of the more than 35,000 families currently residing in camps, 23.2 percent have family-size tents, 13.5 percent live in smaller tents, and 62.8 percent have only plastic sheets wrapped around temporary wooden structures. At the time of the assessment, some 300 displaced families (nearly 1 percent) were without any shelter - living under trees - or with some makeshift shelter made of a few sticks and rags.

While the tents provide reasonable protection against the sun, rain and wind, the plastic sheets are not an adequate solution. During the assessment, most sheets were found to be worn out and in urgent need of replacement. All those interviewed, including the IDPs, advised against bringing more plastic sheets. Moreover, unlike tents, plastic sheets do not come with their own poles and ropes but need wooden structures to which they are

fastened. The required wood is gathered locally, which means the woodlands are being depleted, causing complaints from local communities.

Family-size tents, although varying in quality, generally provide fairly good shelter, especially in the more temperate Dehub Region. The smaller types, however, have been found to be too small to accommodate a household's necessities and are almost "suffocating". Observations indicate that some 20 percent of the family tents in all camps need to be replaced. In the hot Gash-Barka Region IDPs are requesting *Ronda* huts [a hut-like rounded steel frame made of galvanized iron pipes and covered with local materials such as grass, Doum palm leaves or straw mats, sometimes in combination with plastic sheets.] which offer better protection against the heat.

The magnitude of shelter needs is enormous. For, 62.8 percent of the war-affected population in camps is using only plastic sheets, which are already of little or no use, and many of the tents need replacement, while some IDPs have no shelter at all. In some camps, shortage of shelter materials has forced the authorities to allocate one tent to two families, mostly relatives, as is the case in Mai Sagla." (UN January 2000, p.33)

"Some tents have been distributed in the refugee camps, but many families remain without adequate shelter. Some live in homes made from straw or brushwood, which provide almost no protection against the current torrential rains. There is also a severe shortage of clothes – many children have only the clothes they fled in. Days are extremely hot, with few trees to provide shade, and nights very cold. Conditions are expected to get worse now that the rainy season has arrived. Cold has a particularly harsh impact on children who are already under-nourished." (SCF August 1999)

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

138,037 IDP children without access to primary education (July 2000)

- 30% of the 249 schools, educational facilities, school supplies, textbooks and furniture destroyed after renewed war in May 2000
- Pupil/teacher ratio increased from an average of 50 to 70
- Loss of school documents creating serious difficulties in academic assessment of students

"Among the IDPs there are 138,937 children of school age (83,184 in Dehub and 55,753 in Gash Barka) without access to primary education. In the regions of Gash Barka and Dehub, it is estimated that 30% of the 249 schools, educational facilities, school supplies, textbooks and furniture were recently destroyed when the war broke out in May. There are serious shortages of teachers, school space, furniture and teaching/learning materials. The lack of access to potable water and sanitation facilities renders the children vulnerable to communicable diseases.

The border conflict has resulted in a mass displacement of people and disruption of their economic assets and social service centers. It has also created unbearable pressure on nearby Host Communities and services such as schools and health stations. The influx of displaced children in host communities has significantly increased the pupil/teacher ratio from an average of 50 to 70. It is estimated that an additional 15,750 primary school children in host communities have been negatively affected due to the influx of displaced persons." (UN July 2000, p.42)

"The Ministry of Education has released its "Rapid Education Needs Assessment in War-Affected Regions of Gash-Barka and Dehub" for July 2000. The main findings of the report include the need for:

- 306 temporary classrooms in 250 host communities
- 150 teachers' quarters and 200 classroom tents for IDP camps
- school supplies, teaching aids and recreational supplies
- clean water and latrines

In addition, the assessment recommends training for 500 teachers to address psycho-social trauma amongst school children.

[...]

The SWG stressed that a total of 15 sub-regions in Dehub and Gash-Barka have been directly affected by the war, disrupting 140,000 pupils. It was noted that the loss of school documents such as certificates, rosters and activity notes for continuous assessments has created serious difficulties in academic assessment of students. [...]" (ICC 12 August 2000)

"The Ministry of Education has announced that middle and secondary schools will begin classes next week in some areas of the country. School will be delayed in those areas still under Ethiopian occupation, where schools have been seriously damaged or destroyed, where school buildings are being used as relief storage and where security guarantees cannot be given. In areas where schools have been looted, assistance will certainly be required in supplying school supplies and furniture. There are many challenges involved in opening schools in IDP camps." (ICC 1 July 2000)

Temporary solutions sought to educate 27,300 displaced children of school age during first months of 2000

- Influx of displaced children has significantly increased the pupil/teacher ratio from an average of 50 to 70
- Makeshift schools held in tents the open under trees
- Priority need include decent shelter for classrooms, recreational supplies and school supplies

"Among the IDPs and Rural Deportees there are 27,300 children of school age without access to primary education. The influx of displaced children has significantly increased the pupil/teacher ratio from an average of 50 to 70. There are serious shortages of teachers, school space and teaching/learning materials. Space in tents and makeshift units, some of which are made of wooden poles and locally made straw mats, are not conducive to effective teaching and learning. The lack of access to potable water and sanitation facilities renders the children vulnerable to communicable diseases.

The border conflict has resulted in a mass displacement of people and disruption of their economic assets and social service centers, created unbearable pressure on nearby Host Communities and services such as schools and health stations." (UN January 2000, p.54)

The description above is somehow contrasted by a later NGO assessment which underscores the positive achievements reached by the Eritreans to maintain education through makeshift schools:

"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

Armed conflict has made people dependent on food aid (2000)

- Significant food distribution to IDPs in camps has stabilised nutrition situation, but IDPs lack capacity to produce their own food
- Food production capacity eroded by displacement, enlistment in the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) or direct casualties
- 50,000 hectares productive land lost due to mining
- Half a million livestock lost

"Children displaced by the current fighting are at immediate risk of becoming malnourished. A nutritional survey carried out in the camps by the Ministry of Health with assistance from Save the Children (before the current fighting) found that global malnutrition amongst children was less than 10 per cent which represents a stable situation.

However, the survey also found that families were almost entirely dependent on food aid and the favourable nutrition rates were the result of significant food distribution by the government - families had no way of generating their own food. Even before the current round of fighting, the government's food reserves were running low and donors were failing to provide new stocks. The upsurge in fighting has disrupted food supplies to those previously displaced, and new systems are needed to reach those who have moved. There has been a limited distribution of general rations, but the systems are still being established and food stocks in country are low. Any drop in access to food is likely to have immediate and dramatic consequences on children's nutritional status, as families have no other 'coping mechanisms' that they can rely on." (SCF June 2000)

"Gash Barka, which is the country's grain surplus area, and normally supplies the bulk of Eritrea's cereals production, will not have a harvest in 2000. The IDP population in the entire Gash Barka and Debub regions will therefore require emergency relief food for at least another 12 months or until the next harvest in November 2001.

[...]

For the majority of the population, livelihoods and food security depend on agriculture, as 80 percent live in rural areas. Agriculture faces the twin constraints of a harsh, arid or semi-arid environment, while a large, and ever-increasing, share of the rural population is dislocated as a result of the war. Rainfall is subject to wide inter-annual variation, and rain fed crop production is impossible in much of the country. The risk of attacks by pest, mainly locusts and armyworm, is high. Both population and crop production are concentrated in the highland areas above 2000 metres, a triangular area with its base along the southern border comprising parts of the Maekel and Debub Zobas, and

adjoining parts of the Anseba and Gash Barka Zobas. In these areas rainfall, with long-term annual averages ranging between 450mm and 700mm, supports crop-based farming systems centered on the cultivation of teff, sorghum, maize, barley and wheat. To the east, north and west of this cropping region is a more extensive agro-pastoral area extending down to around 700m above sea level. In this area rainfall averages between 100mm and 450mm but is supplemented locally by run-off from the highlands. Here, farming strategies are mainly based on a combination of cultivation and pastoralism. In the remainder of the country, comprising northern Gash Barka, and the Northern and Southern Red Sea Zobas, climatic conditions support only pastoralism. The rural population in the lowlands is considered the most vulnerable to climatic conditions. Along the Red Sea coast, fishing mostly by rudimentary methods takes place, combined in the Southern parts with overseas trading.

The effects of the past war on agriculture and food security have been profound. Direct effects experienced during the war included: loss of labour (through out-migration of refugees, conscription, enlistment in the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) or direct casualties from military action), loss of productive land due to mining (50,000 hectares), loss of livestock (half a million animals), including oxen and pack animals, combined with disruption of grazing patterns; interruption of marketing channels and restricted market access, and destruction of rural infra-structure. Many of these effects acted in concert with those of the severe droughts of the mid-1970s and mid-1980s to strip large numbers of rural households of whatever assets (draft animals, livestock, farm implements) they had. The present war merely accelerates this process. Sustainable recovery of agriculture, of food security and livelihoods will be a lengthy process in Eritrea." " (UN July 2000, p.19)

Uncertain if food production can benefit from improved rain (July-August 2000)

- Reports suggest that returnees are making efforts to take advantage of the rain
- By end of July 28% of the normal area had been planted
- Reports of ongoing larger-scale mass plowing in Gash-Barka by beginning of August

"There was improved rainfall during the past week in most areas of Eritrea. This has positive implications for agricultural activities, the extent of which will depend on continued rainfall. Nonetheless, as mentioned many times before, the rains were late and agricultural means of production (seeds, tools, draught animals) are limited in war-affected zones. It is unknown whether any agricultural production has (or is) taking place in occupied areas (parts of **Shambuko, Om Hajer, Lalai Gash, Tserona and Senafe**) due to the lack of access. There are efforts to plough and plant in other areas of the country, as mentioned last week, but the outlook is still quite bleak, with forecasts for definite food aid dependency well into autumn of 2001." (ICC 19 August 2000)

"Up to July 31, 2000, 76,136 ha had been planted, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, compared to July 1999 when 202,834 ha were planted. This represents a 62% reduction. Whilst planting is still ongoing, it will not lead to a significant increase in

the above figures, thus affecting medium- to long-term food security." (ICC 12 August 2000)

"Rains are uneven around the country and it is unclear whether the length of the rainy season will make up for the lateness of its commencement.

Early August seems to be the crucial deadline for planting. If crops are not planted by early August, the season will be lost and thus require massive continued food assistance well into autumn 2001. Already certain long-cycle crops have been lost, though shorter-cycle crops still have a small window of opportunity.

Reports suggest that returnees are indeed taking advantage of this small window of opportunity and small-scale private planting is going on in most areas of the country.

[...]

In Gash-Barka, larger-scale mass plowing is going on with tractors lent out by the government, though it remains to be seen what the results will be." (ICC 8 August 2000)

"Even in good harvest years, Eritrea has been a food deficit country. For example, based on FAO estimates, in 1998 - a good year - the country produced less than 80 percent (435,000 MT) of its annual cereal requirement (560,000 MT). Furthermore, nearly 50 percent of the country's cereals are produced in the western, lowland, Gash Barka region, which is still occupied by Ethiopian forces. The Ethiopian Government has said that these troops will not leave the occupied areas until the United Nations peacekeeping forces arrive, possibly two to three months from now. The country's most fertile region will, therefore, lie idle during the upcoming planting season, resulting in a production shortfall of at least 240,000 MT. '

This loss, plus an estimated annual food deficit of 140,000 MT, indicates a need for 380,000 MT in food aid. Further, it should be stressed that the IDPs and refugees in camps -- particularly children and pregnant and lactating mothers -- will require supplemental foods to maintain their nutritional status. In a UN Flash Appeal, expected to be issued soon, the Eritrean Government and the UN Country Team will estimate supplemental food requirements, which will be crucial to maintaining the health of IDPs and refugees, particularly women and children." (RI 21 June 2000)

PROPERTY ISSUES

General

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 Debub, 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 (Debub) 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 targetted, 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

Increased IDP return as security situation improves (June-September 2000)

- 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

"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)

"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)

"A joint assessment was carried out by UNDP, ERREC and Cooperazione Italiana from July 24 - August 4 in Gash-Barka and Debub zones to assess the conditions of villages and towns of return in 12 sub-zones (of 20 affected by the conflict). Sub-zones visited were Adi Keih, Adi Quala, Areza and Mai Aini in Debub, and Tessenei, Guluji, Haikota, Gogne, Barentu, Mogolo, Mensura and Molki in Gash-Barka.

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)

"Thousands of Eritreans who had been internally displaced because of the war have also started returning home after the signing of the cease-fire. These returns are taking place mainly in the safe and accessible areas of the Gash-Barka and Debub regions. In Gash-Barka alone, in the south-west of Eritrea, it was estimated that 550,000 persons were displaced by the conflict. As many as 14,000 people were reported to have returned to Tessenei by mid-July and some 11,000 to Guluji, but many more are on their way. The key bridge leading into Tessenei was rebuilt and this facilitated the transport of people and supplies into the town. Shops have also been reopening. However, many properties have been destroyed and looted and up to two-thirds of the total number of livestock may have been lost in the war. A major portion of the best agricultural land remains under Ethiopian occupation. Nevertheless, many of the returnees are farmers who hope to be able to plant something before the rainy season is over." (UNHCR 10 August 2000)

" IDPs in Gash-Barka mentioned that they required certain confidence building measures before they could all feel truly safe to return to their home communities. Among those would be the stationing of UN peacekeepers and the promise of continued aid in the form of shelter, food, health and education services, as well as seeds and other agricultural inputs upon return." (ICC 8 August 2000)

"A recent development has been the Ethiopian troop withdrawals from the Kisd Ika and Enda Gergis environs (7 - 9 July). Additionally, for the past 2-3 weeks, IDPs have been returning to the sub-regions of Adi Quala, Mai Mine, Mai Dima and Areza. Indeed, as in other occupied areas, the destruction and looting has been significant, but the most pressing factor is that the areas are once again opening up and may allow for increased IDP return." (ICC 15 July 2000)

"The most recently displaced people, both internally and into the Sudan, have made it clear that they wish to return as soon as conditions permit. They are likely to be the first to return home." (UN July 2000, p.51)

"The withdrawal of Ethiopian forces from parts of Eritrea's south central Debub zone is bringing with it some returns to the Adi Keih, Mai Aini and Adi Quala regions, though many IDPs are still unwilling to leave the safety of their encampments, like the cliffside Zula camp, for fear that hostilities may resume.

The population of the overcrowded Slina camp south of Asmara has dropped from more than 68,000 to some 21,000 as people start to venture home to check on the condition of their belongings." (UNHCR 11 July 2000)

"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)

Substantial assistance needed to facilitate reintegration (2000)

- Suggestions that most returnees may require food aid until end 2001
- Lack of adequate shelter, health and education facilities, and risk of landmines reported as factors impacting on the return
- Shelter materials and household items are needed in view of the destruction of homes and household assets

"The cease-fire does not necessarily mean that war-affected people can safely return to their homes. Ethiopian troops destroyed almost everything in their path, including grain reserves, livestock, homes, equipment, and infrastructure. In addition, both Eritrean and Ethiopian troops laid landmines in areas of conflict, further compromising the safety of returning populations. Eritreans who fled the hostilities have been left with few productive assets and will almost certainly depend on international humanitarian aid for as much as eighteen months (through the end of the next crop cycle in November/December 2001)." (RI 21 June 2000)

"Emergency assistance has largely focused on populations in camps since May 12. As many people prefer to leave camps, humanitarian organizations will have to gear up to provide services at the community level. Returnees will require food for the next 18 months, having missed the main planting season in the Debub and Gash Barka regions. They will also need materials to reconstruct their homes. 720 homes in the area around Tessenai alone were destroyed by invading Ethiopian forces. In most towns that were bombed or occupied, schools and hospitals were looted and destroyed. Regional governments need assistance to repair and restock these buildings. Returnees will require

household items in addition to seeds and tools. Portable small warehouses are needed to store emergency and reconstruction materials at the local level." (RI 27 July 2000)

"Returnees are receiving some assistance in the forms of food and shelter, but the quantities remain insufficient in those items as well as supplemental food for vulnerable parts of the needy population in virtually all areas of the country.

[...]

Other challenges faced by the returnees are the lack of adequate shelter, health and education facilities, in addition to the ongoing risk of landmines. Information remains uncertain as to the extent of mining, but the demining efforts of the Eritrean Defense Forces continue. UN assistance is expected shortly." (ICC 29 July 2000)

" In addition, USAID/DART indicates that some family members are returning to their homes only for brief periods in order to assess damage and then returning to IDP settlements or host families. According to the USAID/DART, factors that continue to inhibit IDP returns include limited access to occupied areas, destruction or looting of homes and personal property, and general insecurity." (USAID 10 August 2000)

"While the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin constitutes a positive development, many of the returnees will continue to need humanitarian assistance. Food aid on an ongoing basis will be required since much of the planting season has been missed and normal economic activities in war-affected areas have been severely disrupted. Furthermore, in certain areas. There is also a need to re-establish basic infrastructure and social services in these areas of return. It is equally essential to support income-generating and productive capacities through the provision of agricultural implements to farmers and of microcredit to small entrepreneurs." (UN SC 18 September 2000, para.11)

Residents of Alba IDP camp unable to return as villages are occupied by Ethiopia (July 2000)

"It is not possible for the majority of the residents of Alba to return to their villages because most of their villages are in Ethiopian occupied territories. Alba has a feeling of permanence to it. There is a long market 'street' where people sell clothing, food and household items and people seem to have adapted to camp life. They were operating a school in their previous camps and will probably start school again in the fall." (EDF 5 July 2000)

See also: "New displacement from areas close to Ethiopian border despite cease-fire (July-August 2000)"

Return to Agordet easier than elsewhere as town escaped war damage (June 2000)

- Returnees given rations for 15 days to help them get restarted

"Agordet managed to avoid the worst of the recent Ethiopian offensive deep into Eritrean territory since the bombing raids in that area fell outside the town and it escaped occupation by Ethiopian forces. The residents had scattered throughout the area, in the nearby forest, in dry riverbeds and out of the province altogether. By the time our assessment team reached them, the residents had already started returning. People walked the streets, shops were open, goods were available on the market and life seemed to have returned to something approaching normalcy.

People who'd taken refuge in Deb'at camp near Keren had also started returning and had been given rations for 15 days to help them get restarted. Those who'd taken refuge outside the town in the forest and the surroundings had been encouraged to return to town and ERREC officials reported that their final allotment of aid had been distributed the previous week." (EDF 29 June 2000)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

Response impeded by poor road conditions and lack of transport means (July 2000)

- Damaged Tessenei bridge repaired by mid-July
- Reported in August that rains have made many roads inaccessible
- Insufficient storage and handling facilities for food and non-food items near the IDPs locations

"A high level meeting including ERREC, UN agencies, NGOs and donors took place on August 10th to discuss concerns in the food sector. Issues included the need to bolster food stocks and the need to distribute food to beneficiaries. It was agreed that the focus should be on the latter. The SWG [Sectoral Working Group] voiced concern over the limited donor pool and hope additional donors will come forward. Transportation problems remain troublesome. The problem lies not with the number of trucks available, rather roads being rendered nearly inaccessible due to the rains in many areas." (ICC 12 August 2000)

"Returning to the Tessenei/ Guluj area had previously been hampered by lack of access due to the main bridge near Tessenei having been destroyed. Supplies and ready access were thus severely limited. However, the Tessenei bridge has now been completed and transportation of supplies was to begin 13-14 July. Returnees continue to be reported to Tessenei, Guluj and Talata'asher." (ICC 15 July 2000)

"It has become extremely difficult to reach some of the areas where the IDPs are located. The roads are difficult to pass and almost all available serviceable trucks are used for national duties during the war leaving insufficient capacity to support transportation of relief food. The government's implementing agency for relief and rehabilitation activities, ERREC, has been overwhelmed by the scale of relief assistance required. It has been unable to transport food already available in the port of Massawa to warehouses in Asmara and Dekhamare in a timely manner.

[...]

There is insufficient storage and handling facilities for food and non-food items near the IDPs locations. The number of IDPs far outstrip the available storage and handling facilities hampering the efficiency of any eventual dry food deliveries to the IDPs." (UN July 2000, p.18)

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

National coordination of humanitarian assistance to the IDPs (2000)

- The Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) is in charge of coordinating both national and international assistance
- Sectoral working groups (SWG) are chaired by the ERREC or a line ministry and co-facilitated by an appropriate UN agency

"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)

"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.

Sectoral Group	Chair	Co-chair/Facilitator
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)

Government taking a lead in improving sanitation situation in IDP camps (August 2000)

- Funds and equipment made available by ECHO and Norwegian Church Aid to improve water supply in 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)

Eritrean health staff present in most IDP camps (July 2000)

- National health staff with long experience from health response in an emergency context

"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

UN Resident Coordinator supported by OCHA to coordinate UN response (2000)

- Office of the Resident Coordinator is responsible for coordination within the UN System (2000)
- Support for the Resident Coordinator provided by the UN Country Team and OCHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer
- Information and Coordination Centre (ICC) established in June 2000 to support coordination of the humanitarian response

"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)

"While ERREC is the coordinator on the Government side, the Office of the Resident Coordinator is responsible for coordination within the UN System. Support for the Resident Coordinator is provided by the UN Country Team and OCHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer. Regular contact between ERREC and the UN, as well as with other partners such as the ICRC, NGOs and the donor community will be maintained." (UN January 2000, p.62)

"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.

By the second week of June, the Information and Coordination Centre (ICC) was established at the ERREC offices to support the Government of Eritrea in the coordination of the humanitarian response. The ICC operates under the auspices of the ERREC Commissioner and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator with support from full-time OCHA staff members and staff from other UN Agencies and NGOs.

UNDP is in the process of approving US\$ 490,000 from its core funds to support a capacity building project designed to enhance ERREC's capacity to manage and coordinate humanitarian emergencies.

[...]

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)

Division of focal areas between UN agencies (July 2000)

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)

Comprehensive Needs Assessment undertaken in November and December 1999

- All but two of the 30 IDP camps were visited
- Collaboration with ERREC strengthened as a result of the assessment

"In order to gain a better understanding of humanitarian needs and to improve targeting for subsequent interventions, a comprehensive Needs Assessment was undertaken in November and December 1999. This was an effort to gather data and assess the humanitarian needs of the IDPs and the Rural Deportees living both in and outside of temporary camps, severely impacted Host Communities, and those most affected by recent drought conditions. The assessment examined food needs as well as the non-food

needs for shelter, household items, water, sanitation, health, nutrition and education. The results are contained in a separate report, which forms the basis of this appeal.

WFP used the standard Household Food Economy Approach to assess food needs while the other UN Agencies used three purpose-designed questionnaires and on-site observations to determine non-food needs. All but two of the 30 IDP camps were visited, allowing direct observation of the general camp conditions and the surrounding environment as well as the specific sites of water sources, health facilities and schools serving the camps. Two camps were not visited because one was in the process of being formed and the other was about to be moved to a more secure area. IDPs staying outside camps were also visited.

The assessment represents an important step towards better coordinated planning, implementation and monitoring of humanitarian activities. Given the wide participation involved and its coverage, the assessment has set the stage for more efficient and better targeted programming in 2000 and beyond. Collaboration with ERREC has been further strengthened as a result of the assessment.

The assessment did not cover all areas affected by drought. Thus, only 11 out of 51 Sub-Regions affected by drought were visited. The 11 were selected as the most seriously hurt by drought conditions based on previous studies and secondary information. Similarly, regarding Host Communities, 10 out of 24 Sub-Regions in Gash-Barka and Debub were visited and are being considered for assistance as those most impacted by the influx of IDPs." (UN January 2000, p.2)

The Global IDP Database has not been successful when requesting ERREC and OCHA for access to the assessment report

International operational activities in 1999

UN Agencies received about 46 percent of the resources requested in 1999

- Significant response from donors only in the food sector and in assistance for psychosocial care/child protection

"In January 1999 ERREC issued an appeal requesting US\$ 58.9 million covering the needs for 1999 of those directly affected by the conflict. Following the resumption of hostilities in February of 1999 which displaced an additional 100,000 persons, ERREC issued an "Urgent Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance" requesting another US\$ 31.4 million.

Following a rapid assessment, a review of the ERREC appeal and discussions with other partners in Eritrea, the UN Country Team launched an appeal requesting US\$ 31.4 million to cover the most urgent needs for the period April-September 1999.

UN Agencies received US\$ 14.4 million during 1999, equivalent to about 46 percent of the Appeal. Only in the food sector and in assistance for psychosocial care/child protection was the response significant, at 70 and 75 percent respectively. The table below shows the response to the UN Country Team appeal as of 31 December 1999.

Table 4: Response to UN Country Team Appeal of March 1999

Sector	Funds Requested	Funds Received	Shortfall	Percent of Needs Covered
Food Supply	15,979,000	11,185,300	4,793,700	70.0
Health Care	1,465,140	385,472	1,079,668	26.0
Nutrition	3,786,200	1,427,682	2,358,518	37.7
Shelter, Clothing and Household Items	4,695,710	883,196	3,812,514	25.2
Water and Sanitation	1,744,000	154,700	1,589,300	16.1
Education	3,187,580	197,157	2,990,423	6.2
Psycho-Social Care and Child Protection	172,000	130,000	42,000	75.6
Capacity Building	391,500	-	391,500	
Total	31,421,130	14,363,507	17,057,623	45.7

Contributions towards this appeal through the UN system have been received from Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

[...]

While contributions to food assistance were fairly good, the late arrival of the funds had a negative impact on the programme. Delivery through the end of 1999 was almost exclusively in staple foods, without vegetable oil and with very few pulses. As a result, an unbalanced food basket has been distributed. However, the supply of supplementary foods helped to stabilize the nutritional status of IDPs." (UN January 2000, pp.5-6)

International organisations operational in Eritrea during 1999

"The international organizations are all complementary to ERREC and the relevant line ministries, through which the greatest share of humanitarian assistance is delivered. UN Agencies involved in humanitarian activities in Eritrea during 1999 were UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, FAO and OCHA. The ICRC and a number of NGOs (such as Norwegian Church Aid, Norwegian Peoples Aid and Development Fund, Lutheran World Federation, Dutch Interchurch Aid, ACORD, Africare, Save the Children Fund – UK, Oxfam International, Caritas Germany, Caritas Denmark, Eritrean Red Cross Society and the Inter-religious Emergency Committee) have also been active in the past year. The Italian Cooperation, Netherlands Government, Government of Norway, Royal Danish Government, Swiss Disaster Relief, SIDA, and USAID are important bilateral actors together with the European Union (EU)." (UN January 2000, p.5)

International operational activities in 2000

Updated UN appeal gives priority to ensure minimum living conditions for the war affected (July 2000)

- Only 39.2% percent of the 2000 Appeal funded by 1 July
- After the "life saving" stage , UN agencies will focus on return and reintegration initiatives
-

"The hundreds of thousands living in camps or settlements near host communities are placing a tremendous burden on socio-economic coping mechanisms leaving resident populations vulnerable as well albeit to a lesser degree. Furthermore, 94,000 Eritreans crossed the international border with Sudan, thus adding to the already existing 160,000 Eritrean refugees in Sudanese camps. The humanitarian community is now confronted by a growing need for humanitarian assistance with few resources immediately available.

The response by the humanitarian community to the January 2000 UNCTA was modest with only 39.2% percent of the Appeal funded by 1 July 2000. As a result, projects and contingency plans were not as effective and far-reaching as they needed to be for a rapid response at the onset of the emergency. The border may be quiet for the moment but for the war-affected populations the crisis is not over. Even under the best-case scenario, immediate return home for many is impossible due to the destruction of homes, basic infrastructure, loss of crops and household assets, lack of social services and the presence of landmines. Therefore, the first stage of response is to provide life saving interventions through food, shelter and household items, safe water and essential drugs thus stabilising the humanitarian condition. At the same time, agencies will ensure minimum living conditions in camps and settlements, especially for those populations that may not be able to return home in the near future. This includes appropriate water systems, primary health care services, basic education and essential agricultural inputs where possible. The second stage will focus on return and reintegration initiatives, when the situation will allow for return under safe and humane conditions.

[...]

The humanitarian crisis in Eritrea is too great to address in its entirety via this Appeal alone. Therefore, the UNCT will focus on the most urgent needs of war-affected populations requiring immediate assistance over the next six months. A joint rapid assessment of current humanitarian needs and demographic data has helped to determine where IDPs exist and in what condition thus indicating priority areas and sectors for intervention [...]. However, it is widely accepted that new IDPs will continue to emerge within the near future as they come out of hiding to areas where assistance is available.

[...]

The first priority of humanitarian agencies in Eritrea is to meet the immediate needs of IDPs and other war-affected populations by the rapid delivery of food, shelter, household items, safe water and essential medicines to stabilise the condition of beneficiaries. At the same time, there has been an urgent emphasis on providing shelter and minimum living conditions in camps and settlements. By addressing the immediate needs of war-affected

populations, the fundamental objective of life saving is achieved as well as preventing further displacement across international borders. These initial and durable measures will also lay the foundation for the reintegration of IDPs and returning refugees.

Second stage

As soon as populations are ready and able to return to their homes of origin and deportees and returning refugees reintegrate into new areas, agencies will concentrate on comprehensive transition programmes. These programmes will include community-led reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes. Agencies, in close cooperation with ERREC, will continue to ensure that basic services are provided to populations. Such transition programmes will be elaborated on in the context of the 2001 UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Eritrea.

[...]

Overall Goals

The main aim of humanitarian agencies during the next six months is to assist populations through the emergency stage as quickly as possible while laying the groundwork for return, reintegration and development programmes. During the emergency phase, appealing agencies have agreed to pursue the following five goals:

maintain and further develop the UN system's capacity to implement timely and efficient life-saving interventions;

meet acute needs first among the war-affected population and targeting all accessible IDPs with special emphasis on women and children;

stabilise war-affected populations before their condition becomes acute and prevent further displacement across international borders due to a lack of coping mechanisms;

reintegrate internally displaced persons, deportees and returning refugees;

assist and support the Government in addressing present and future needs through capacity building." (UN July 2000, pp.1, 6-8)

Planned emergency activities in the Revised 2000 United Nations Country Team Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance to Eritrea (July 2000)

Appealing Agency	Project Code	Sector/Activity	Revised Requirement (US\$)
FAO	ERI-00-1/N01	Food Security: Provision of vegetable seeds, farm tools and agro-chemicals for war-affected farmers	817,000
FAO	ERI-00-1/N02	Food Security: Support to IDPs in Debub Regions and refugees from Sudan in north-eastern Red Sea Region	275,000
		FAO Total	1,092,000
OCHA	ERI-00-1/N03	Coordination: Coordination of Humanitarian Activities	892,052
		OCHA Total	892,052
UNICEF	ERI-00-1/N04	Health and Nutrition: War -and drought-affected including under five children, pregnant and lactating women	3,794,197
UNICEF	ERI-00-1/N05	Water and Sanitation: Water and Environmental Sanitation	3,310,650
UNICEF	ERI-00-1/N06	Education: Emergency Education	3,000,000
UNICEF	ERI-00-1/N07	Psychosocial Care and Protection of Children	275,000
UNICEF	ERI-00-1/N08	Communication and Cross-Cutting Issues	399,800
		UNICEF Total	10,779,647
UNDP	ERI-00-1/N09	Shelter and household items: Items for war-displaced civilians	15,460,211
		UNDP Total	15,460,211
UNFPA	ERI-00-1/N10	Health: Emergency Reproductive Health Services	3,940,921
		UNFPA Total	3,940,921
UNHCR	ERI-00-1/N11	Durable Solutions Oriented Emergency Response	13,298,685
		UNHCR Total	13,298,685
WFP	ERI-00-1/N12	Food Security: Emergency Food Assistance	38,134,817
WFP	ERI-00-1/N13	Logistics: Special Operations	2,504,266
		WFP Total	40,639,083
WHO	ERI-00-1/N14	Health: Emergency Health and Epidemiological Surveillance	1,260,000
		WHO Total	1,260,000
		GRAND TOTAL	87,362,599

(UN July 2000, Table II)

Mine action programme launched by UN (September 2000)

- Mine Action Coordination Office is being established within the UNMEE structure
- Mine survey to be completed by mid-December 2000

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

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

Local capacity-building through training and assistance provided by the international community will be required to reach the objectives set out above. The overarching aim of the United Nations is to assist the parties in accomplishing these important goals, in line with its policy on mine action, which confers on UNDP the leading role in assisting Member States in national mine action capacity-building. These efforts will be funded by voluntary contributions; and I appeal to the donor community to strongly support this vital area of United Nations activities." (UN SC 18 September 2000, paras. 21-23)

UNHCR focusing its assistance on IDPs in the Gash Barka Zone (July 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 to facilitate return of IDPs and refugees
- 50 UNHCR trucks and trailers available within Eritrea by end-June
- Major delivery of non-food items in August

" 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.

[...]

Beneficiaries: 150,000 IDPs in and from the Gash Barka Zone (Note: The number of beneficiaries refers to an anticipated average figure of recipients of relief. The number of individuals benefiting from UNHCR protection, monitoring, coordination and community-based interventions is expected to be considerably higher)

[...]

Activities

Under the overall co-ordination of the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) and within the inter-agency framework of the UN-system led by the Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR will provide assistance within Eritrea in several sectors, which are linked to the prevention of further flight into exile and the pursuit of

durable solutions in the geographical areas most relevant to its protection and durable solutions mandate. Hence, activities will concentrate mainly on the Gash Barka Zone to which over 70 percent of Eritrean refugees in the Sudan wish to return and from where over half a million displaced persons originate. UNHCR will:

- provide shelter and the most needed household items, so as to meet the immediate relief needs of IDPs;
- assist in the planning and setting up of temporary sites, including sanitation, for IDPs camping in the open without adequate shelter;
- assist in the identification of shelter solutions and ensure, to the extent possible, consistency of standards in the provision of emergency shelter;
- monitor population movements with regard to both displacement and return, in order to protect individuals and groups of concern;
- monitor the creation of conditions enabling the return of IDPs and refugees in the Western part of the country:
- when conditions permit, assist IDPs and those who fled Eritrea to Sudan to return to their homes (*N.B. For IDPs, included in the budget to a very limited extent; for refugees, not yet included in the budget; and*
- through a community-based approach, assist in the rehabilitation and extension of communal infrastructure, which would pave the way for meeting the needs of returnees (*N.B. Only included in the budget to a very limited extent*). (UN July 2000, pp.52-55)

"The first plane in a four-flight UNHCR airlift this week from Nairobi arrived yesterday (10 Aug.) in Asmara, delivering relief items for internally displaced persons and returnees from Sudan. Three more flights are scheduled – today, tomorrow and Sunday. The airlift is transporting a variety of urgently needed supplies, including 25,000 kerosene stoves, 42,000 blankets and 600 boxes of kitchen sets purchased in the region with funds provided by the U.S. government." (UNHCR 11 August 2000)

"Two UNHCR-chartered IL-76 cargo jets this morning airlifted six tipper trucks into Asmara, Eritrea, from UNHCR stocks in Albania. The vehicles will be used for delivery of food and other aid to internally displaced people (IDPs) around Eritrea. UNHCR now has 50 trucks and trailers in Eritrea, including four water tankers. Also today, a chartered Airbus 300 is airlifting 40 cubic meters of timber and plastic sheeting from Copenhagen for the construction of up to 500 provisional shelters. The supplies will be immediately dispatched to the Debat IDP camp north of Keren where more than 50,000 people are living without adequate shelter. The aircraft are also bringing in blankets, tents, jerry cans and water purification equipment. UNHCR mobile field teams have traveled to several areas in Eritrea over the past few days. In the western town of Tesseney, they found between 10 and 25 percent of the housing destroyed by fire and partially looted or vandalized. Tesseney was still largely empty with just a handful of returnees sifting through the rubble. Dead livestock littered many of the town's residential areas. UNHCR staff also report damage to residential buildings in the May-Dima region of central Eritrea." (UNHCR 23 June 2000)

UNFPA organised airlift of emergency safe motherhood and reproductive health supplies in June 2000

- Supplies sufficient to assist 450,000 displaced persons for about three months

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is airlifting about 10 metric tons of life-saving emergency safe motherhood and reproductive health supplies to help Eritreans internally displaced by the recent fighting between their country and Ethiopia.

The supplies, which will be leaving Amsterdam for Eritrea's capital, Asmara, in three instalments from 20 to 24 June, include home delivery kits and tools for blood transfusions. Meant to serve some 450,000 displaced persons for about three months, the supplies will be distributed by the Ministry of Health after it ascertains the areas of greatest need.

"Virtually all the buffer stocks that we had in Asmara have now been depleted," a senior Health Ministry official told UNFPA Representative Bruce Campbell. "One of the biggest needs at the moment is to replenish our drug and emergency supplies."

In addition to the emergency supplies, the UNFPA will use a grant from the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) to buy and make available 17,000 bags of sanitary towels made at an Eritrean factory it helped establish. More than 11,000 pairs of underwear will also be provided for displaced women. The National Union of Eritrean Women, which asked for these products, will help distribute them.

The airlifted safe motherhood and reproductive health kits provide basic supplies needed to perform clean, safe deliveries. They include home delivery basic supplies, such as plastic sheeting, razor blades for cutting umbilical cords, gloves and plastic aprons. Also included are health-centre delivery subkits used to stabilize precarious situations, such as convulsions and bleeding; and referral-level instruments used to perform caesarian sections, resuscitate babies and mothers, and to handle childbirth complications. The overall package also includes tools for blood transfusion." (UNFPA 21 June 2000)

63,107 MT of food aid needed by WFP between July and December 2000

- Mobile and unsettled IDPs to be provided with dry, ready-to-eat meals
- IDPs in camps to receive food rations consisting of milled wheat flour or grains, lentils, vegetable oil, iodised salt and blended food for therapeutic feeding
- UNICEF to strengthening the local supplementary food production capacity

"Due to the long lead-time for receiving food in the country, WFP has already launched an appeal to cover the food needs of 750,000 war-affected beneficiaries, for a period of twelve months [...]. For the purposes of this revised UNCTA for the period covering July to December 2000, WFP will require US\$ 38,134,817 to cover the cost of 63,107 MT of

food plus related transport, direct and indirect support costs as per the budget presented in this project proposal.

[...]

Interventions

For the period July to December 2000, WFP food assistance will be provided through two types of intervention:

Emergency food aid to mobile and unsettled IDPs: Several thousand IDPs in Gash Barka, Debub, Northern Red Sea and Anseba regions have been displaced or re-displaced and forced to walk for days before reaching secure locations. These IDPs left hurriedly and were not able to take food, livestock or cooking utensils along. For the initial period, WFP will assist them with dry, ready-to-eat meals. These high-energy products will provide 2,100 Kcal per day on arrival in camps or in transit to designated locations.

Emergency Food aid to settled IDPs in camps or in villages: These IDPs will receive food rations consisting of milled wheat flour or grains, lentils, vegetable oil, iodised salt and blended food for therapeutic feeding when necessary. These rations will cover 100 percent of their needs for 12 months. Vulnerable groups among the host communities will receive the same rations. Due to the disruption of the agricultural cycle by the war, the assumption under the original EMOP phase that IDPs outside camps and host community residents could cover 50 percent of their food needs by their own means, is no longer valid. It is therefore proposed to meet 100 percent of their food requirements under this budget revision.

The enhanced scale and complexity of WFP emergency relief operations in Eritrea will require implementation at the earliest possible time of the COMPAS system for tracking all relief commodity movements. This system will be installed and shared with WFP's government counterpart, the Eritrean Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (ERREC).

A comprehensive system will be put in place for monitoring and on-going evaluation of the distributions of the food. This will require the establishment of six sub-offices and the recruitment of professional food aid monitors, of United Nations Volunteers and of additional national support staff. Likewise, the logistics and the administration and finance units will be strengthened. The Country Office staff will be reinforced with the addition of four professional staff under fixed-term contracts, eighteen international consultants for food aid monitoring, security and telecommunications, three U.N. Volunteers and twenty-six general service staff." (UN July 2000, pp.20-21)

"UNICEF will continue to support emergency nutrition activities by strengthening the local supplementary food production capacity and by providing 3,500 MT of the supplementary food, DMK. DMK is locally produced high protein wheat flour, legumes and vitamin/mineral premix. A nutritional surveillance system will be established through training of nutrition field monitors and by providing surveillance equipment. The system will be expanded to areas, such as the drought-affected regions, where nutrition monitoring is necessary to determine the nutritional status of children and women. In collaboration with other partners/NGOs nutrition surveys will be conducted in IDP camps to establish the nutritional status baseline data for the purpose of monitoring the impact of nutrition interventions." (UN July 2000, p.37)

FAO to provide returnee families with a horticultural package to produce food and generate income (July 2000)

- Reactivation of the horticultural production activity is the most important and affordable source of food

"The war between Ethiopia and Eritrea has caused massive displacement of the rural population in Gash Barka and Southern Regions. The majority of the displaced people are farmers who are also practicing horticulture crop production in their original areas. Family heads are now faced with the tasks of securing food and income to meet the requirements of the entire families, some of which comprise children and elderly who are chronically malnourished.

Most of the returnees will go back to their home areas as soon as the situation allows. In order to equip these families to meet the challenge of the new situation, the proposed project aims at providing target families with a horticultural package to produce food and generate income. The reactivation of the horticultural production activity is the most important and affordable source of food for home consumption and cash income from petty trade for the displaced families.

The objective of the project is to support the government of Eritrea in its effort to assist displaced farming families by providing horticultural crop seeds, farming equipment and agro-chemicals.

Target Population

The project will assist about 20,000 displaced households out of 220,000 households living in temporary shelters in the Gash Barka and Southern regions of the country and who are now receiving help and assistance from the Eritrean government and donors. The beneficiaries will be selected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Local Government based on needs assessments.

Activities

The project will be implemented by FAO in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and ERREC. An international consultant, agronomist will be recruited by FAO to coordinate project activities, and will be assisted by a national consultant and a short-term international consultant in nutrition and household food security." (UN July 2000, p.24)

International response to shelter needs (July 2000)

- Major efforts by UNHCR to fly in shelter materials

"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)

UNICEF targets children aged 9 months to 14 years for immunisation against measles (July 2000)

- EPI (Expanded Immunisation Programme) to cover affected population in Gash-Barka and Dehub Regions
- Various equipment will be provided to restore basic health care services

"The thrust of UNICEF's health and nutrition intervention will be the prevention of common diseases through immunisation of children aged 9 months to 14 years against measles to prevent measles outbreaks among displaced population, and the prevention of malnutrition in children and pregnant and lactating women. EPI (Expanded Immunisation Programme) capacity will be restored and strengthened to serve the affected population in Gash-Barka and Dehub Regions where health facilities have recently been ransacked during fighting. Support to provide supplementary food and to undertake the monitoring

of under-five year old displaced children. Essential drugs and medical supply support will be provided to treat common diseases such as malaria, acute respiratory and eye infections, diarrhoea diseases etc., and prevent micronutrient deficiency disorders such as VAD, IDD and IDA (Iron Deficiency Anaemia).

[...].

Support will be given to restore basic health care services, which have been totally damaged during war in many towns in Gash Barka and Debub regions. To increase access to referral health care services, ambulances and radio communication equipment will be provided for mobile health services and referral of patients from the periphery to health centres and regional hospitals, and basic medical and immunization equipment will be provided." (UN July 2000, p.37)

UNICEF to assist Government's efforts to provide psychosocial protection of war-affected and deported children and their parents (July 2000)

- Community support groups to be established to ensure availability and sustainability of counseling services
- Cooperation between UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA and Government

"To address trauma associated with displacement and deportation, the MOLHW and UNICEF seek to develop the capacity of the ministry's personnel, selected camp officials, and community members in basic counseling. Camp/community support groups will be established to ensure availability and sustainability of counseling services to the affected communities. Establishment of recreation centers and/or services in communities affected by the war will enhance children's interaction and lessen boredom associated with idleness in such a situation. UNICEF plans to collaborate with SCF (UK), ICRC, UNHCR and MLHW in carrying out assessments, tracing and reunification of separated children with their relatives.

The proposed intervention will not only promote the development of children but the community as a whole. It will create a synergy effect while galvanizing members of the community to support the psychosocial needs of the children through social mobilization. UNICEF will support the MOLHW in developing capacity of its staff through counseling TOT course. The camp administrators and selected community members will then be trained in basic counseling and tracing. An inter-sectoral intervention will be carried out to ensure that all aspects of the child's development needs are addressed. To realize this objective, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA will work closely with the MOLHW and other partners to provide technical support in counselling, tracing and reunification. To effectively implement this, UNICEF will provide educational equipment and supplies including inter-personal communication through community youth promoters." (UN July 2000, p.46)

UN response to need for safe drinking water and sanitary facilities (July 2000)

"Given the poor availability of safe drinking water and non-existent sanitary facilities in the IDP camps and host-community villages, and the consequent high risk of exposure to water-borne and hygiene-related disease, there is an urgent need to rectify the situation. To that effect, an urgent undertaking of a wide variety of activities to ensure the target beneficiaries have access to safe water and sanitary facilities is essential. As for water supply facilities, existing wide-diameter wells and boreholes will be rehabilitated and new ones will be built; rigid and collapsible water tanks, jerry cans and storage containers, chlorine and water purification tablets will also be provided. With regard to sanitation, public latrines will be constructed in distribution centres, exclusively through a community participation approach." (UN July 2000, p.33)

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)

Initial UN appeal for 2000 included a contingency provision for only 70,000 new IDPs

- IDPs constituted about 50 percent of the 583,660 beneficiaries of UN appeal for Eritrea

"A. Goal of the Appeal

The overriding goal of the present Appeal is to provide timely, efficient and coordinated humanitarian assistance to save lives and ensure that the basic needs of the target beneficiaries are met. In pursuing this goal, efforts will be made to strengthen coping mechanisms of the affected population to reduce their dependence on relief assistance.

B. Target Beneficiaries

The Appeal will provide assistance needed for a total of 583,660 people, comprising 294,550 IDPs and Rural Deportees both in and outside of camps, 77,360 people of selected Host Communities, and 211,750 Drought-Affected persons. Provision is made for contingency to address the needs of 70,000 people who might be displaced by resumed fighting.

With regard to the non-food sector, assistance will be provided primarily to IDPs and Rural Deportees in camps [...]. The exceptions are in the sectors where services are shared, such as water supplies, health and education." (UN January 2000, p.8)

Response by Non Governmental Organisations

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 June 2000]

Providing emergency feeding for over 4,000 children under five in displaced camps
Pre-positioning medicines, nutritional monitoring equipment and supplementary food
Assessing the situation of children separated from their families

In previous months: monitoring nutrition among displaced and host communities, supporting basic health services and distributing 25,000 mosquito nets to prevent malaria [...]

Nutrition

Save the Children's immediate response has concentrated on providing emergency feeding to all children under five and to pregnant or lactating women. Feeding stations

have been established in three camps, one in Keren and two near Asmara. A total of 5,700 women and children are currently being fed twice a day, and this figure will rise as further stations are opened. To support this response, Save the Children's logistics capacity has been boosted, with vehicles and supplies air freighted from the UK and additional staff, including nutritionists and a logistician, recruited. Secure warehousing has been rented and a distribution system set up so that the feeding centres have a reliable supply chain.

As access becomes available, Save the Children will set up rapid and ongoing systems to assess the nutritional status of displaced children and allow supplementary feeding to be targeted at children who are below 80% weight for height. Severely malnourished children will be given intensive feeding and medical care. At the same time, nutritional surveillance workers will be identified and trained so that more children can be reached.

Save the Children has extensive experience of nutritional surveillance in Eritrea. Over the last 6 months a Save the Children Nutritionist worked with the Ministry of Health to set up a nutritional surveillance programme that covered the displaced camps and host families. Work included 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. This work has been temporarily suspended by the current fighting, but will be resumed as soon as possible.

Separated children

Save the Children will be working with the Government of Eritrea and other agencies to assess the situation of children within the displaced population to determine the extent and type of family separation and identify any major protection issues facing children.

Health

Save the Children's health response will be linked to our nutrition work and is likely to focus on the re-equipping of health centres, training health workers and the supply of medicines.

In the past, Save the Children distributed 25,000 permethrin-impregnated mosquito nets to displaced people. In addition, malaria treatment drugs, permethrin so that further nets could be dipped, insecticides to eradicate mosquitoes, and training materials on how to avoid malaria have been provided. Malaria is endemic in the camps.

Education

Save the Children had been planning to begin emergency education work in the camps when the current round of fighting erupted. This was to focus on strengthening the education already provided by the government and developing curricula on specific health and conflict-related issues, such as HIV/AIDS, sanitation and mines awareness (much of the area along the border is mined). These plans have now been put on hold, and will be re-evaluated when access to the camps again becomes possible. It is likely

that if camp schools re-open, they will be swelled with local children and thus need extra resources. " (SCF June 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.

It is estimated that in the region of 500,000 Eritreans have been displaced either from their homes or previous camps by the latest round of fighting. Currently Save the Children is feeding around 2,000 children a day in temporary camps. We are also working over the border in Sudan where some Eritreans have sought refuge; we have been distributing blankets and mosquito nets to these people.

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. It is imperative that supplies begin flowing reliably as soon as possible in order to prevent increasing signs of malnutrition amongst those currently displaced by the conflict.

Trucks and relief supplies will provide temporary relief for the displaced of Eritrea but only a lasting peace settlement will provide long term relief, enabling people to return to their homes and enabling children to pick up the fragments of their lives such as education and recreation. However the nature of this bitter war has been such that clearing up and disposing of unexploded ordinance will take many years before areas will be safe for children." (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 (September 2000)

"Details of InterAction Member Assistance in Eritrea:

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

(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.

Africare

(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.

Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB)

(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.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

(August 14, 2000)

In June, the Emergency Response Support Team, made up of CRS and Caritas Internationalis members, traveled to Eritrea to carry out an initial needs assessment. At the request of the Eritrean Catholic Church, \$150,000 was committed to the purchase of three trucks to be used for carrying relief supplies. A second team traveled to Eritrea in early July to work out the terms of reference for a Caritas Internationalis Solidarity Team (CIST) that will assist the Eritrean Catholic Church in building its emergency relief operations. The CIST is planning to arrive in Eritrea and begin coordination operations in late August.

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.

Grassroots International (GRI)

(August 4, 00)

GRI is providing support to humanitarian efforts led by the Eritrean government's Relief and Refugee Commission. GRI is also supporting locally implemented efforts aimed at displaced civilians, including vocational training and literacy instruction for teens; skills training and support for displaced workers; and agriculture and income-generating programs for women.

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

(May 23, 00)

Two 40-foot containers of wool blankets, quilts, powdered milk, vitamins, and first aid supplies have arrived for internally displaced persons. Donations are valued at \$151,561.

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

(July 19, 2000)

Mercy Corps' shipment of 50,000 packets of oral rehydration salts arrived in Eritrea on July 9 and is being distributed by the Eritrean government to war-affected individuals. Additional shipments of oral rehydration salts are scheduled in the near future. Kerosene stoves, fuel cans, and a one month supply of kerosene were recently distributed to 1,500 IDP families. Mercy Corps is currently working with UNHCR to provide temporary shelters to 1,000 IDP families. Mercy Corps' Field Coordinator, based in Asmara, continues to conduct field assessments.

Operation USA

(June 12, 00)

Operation USA has worked in East Africa since 1980 and in the Eritrea region in 1984-86. They are assessing needs for medical, nutritional, and shelter supplies for eventual sea and air shipment to Eritrea. They work through partner agencies in the field and are privately funded.

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 latrine 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.

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

(May 24, 00)

UNICEF has mobilised US\$ 4.4 million in response to the emergency with relief measures in nutrition, preventive health, water and sanitation, and education." (InterAction September 2000)

Planned assistance by Norwegian Church Aid (1999)

"According to the Eritrea Relief and Refugee Commission (EEREC), there were 390,000 persons dependent on them in 1998 and there is an estimated overall increase of displaced persons this year. Thus, in 1999, EEREC expects to support an additional 60,000 persons making a total of 450,000 displaced persons in need of assistance through EEREC.

Thus, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and EEREC, which have been working together on relieving the Eritrea situation since 1991, propose to assist 190,000 of the 450,000 persons in need of emergency assistance. According to EEREC an estimated 90,000 Expellees from Ethiopia and another 100,000 Internally Displaced are the persons most severely affected and these two groups are particularly targeted in this ACT appeal. EEREC has already requested funding from other sources for the remaining war-affected communities and spontaneous returnees.

[...]

NCA/Eritrea has been present in Asmara since the liberation of Eritrea in 1991, providing Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Assistance. NCA was also the Lead Agency of the ERD Programme which operated from the Sudan from 1981 to 1991 with Emergency Relief to the non-governmental areas of Eritrea and Tigray. The present Country Director was also the Executive Secretary of the ERD Programme for a total period of about 6 years, heading the programme when it moved its office from Khartoum to Asmara.

[...]

To provide Emergency Relief for the affected people in the form of provisions for the following *Relief Items:

*Family Tents.

*Grass for roof thatching.

*Blankets.

*Sleeping Mats.

The assistance is to be supplied by ERREC for distribution to the affected people through the established distribution network.

[...]

Number and Type Of Targeted Beneficiaries

According to the ERREC Appeal of January 1999, the following are the details of the targeted beneficiaries [extract from table including IDPs only]:

REGION	Internally Displaced
Anseba	0
Debub	51,000
Gash-Barka	30,000
Maakel	0
North-Red Sea	12,000
South-Red Sea	7,000
Expected in 1999	0
TOTAL	100,000

[...]

The 100,000 internally displaced persons in the table are those most severely affected groups, displaced from their homes and economic activities in the border areas close to the military confrontations. The 250,000 persons living in war-affected communities, include hosting families and vulnerable people (mainly elderly people, women and children), whose meagre resource base has been hit hard by the general state of war. The needs of the latter group are therefore predominantly food supplies.

Criteria that will be Utilized in Beneficiary Selection

Expellees and War-Displaced individuals and families, registered with ERREC are eligible for Emergency Relief Assistance.

Number of Targeted Beneficiaries According To Proposed Assistance

According to ERREC, the most severely affected people are the Expellees and the War-Displaced, being estimated at 90,000 and 100,000 respectively in the 1999 Appeal for assistance. It is proposed that these two groups should be the Targeted Beneficiaries of this ACT Appeal." (ACT 14 July 1999)

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
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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