



UPDATE ON HUMANITARIAN SITUATION of war- and drought affected population IN TIGRAY

Assessment Mission: 9- 22 February 2003

By Ahmed Ali Egeh and Dechassa Lemessa, UN-Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia

1 Introduction and background

Tigray region suffered from prolonged civil war and the Ethio-Eritrea border conflict being the most recent conflict that inflicted heavy social, economic and material damages to the country as a whole. Furthermore, like most parts of the country, the region has been hit by recurrent droughts and has been suffering and still is from the 2000 and 2002 droughts. Following these humanitarian crisis, substantial humanitarian assistances is being provided to the affected population through various humanitarian partners to reduce the scale of the problem. As a matter of fact, large areas and population segments of Tigray Region have been under constant humanitarian assistance due to food insecurity both chronic and acute for the last 12 years.

The UN-Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (UN-EUE) launched a mission to Tigray National Regional State from 09-22 February 2003 to undertake a quick assessment on the overall humanitarian situation with specific reference to drought relief activities, war affected population such as the condition of remaining IDPs, of deportees such as people that returned from Eritrea and refugees from Eritrea. The mission also looked into the current decentralization process and progress made so far in moving decision making from zonal to woreda level and including the status of preparation for rural resettlement programme planned to be launched in Tigray. The mission travelled from South to East, North-West and West Tigray Zones with discussions held with regional authorities, UN and NGO staff in the areas visited.

2 Mission findings

2.1 Drought affected population

The joint Government-UN Appeal for Emergency Assistance Requirements and Implementation Options for 2003 reveals that there are 1,831,600 people in need of relief food assistance in Tigray region (excluding West Tigray Zone) due to complete failure of *belg* and poor *meher* production last year as a result of delayed onset of *meher* rains (by five months compared with the normal time), and inadequate amount and uneven distribution followed by an early cessation (at the end of August 2002). Among the affected areas of the region the current hotspot areas include: Atsibi-Womberta, Wukro, Erob, Gulo Mekeda and Afherom Woredas in the Eastern Tigray Zone and Raya Azebo, Hintalo-wajirat, Alamata and Endamehoni in the South Tigray Zone.

2.2 Livestock condition poor

The physical condition of livestock is generally poor due to shortage of feed and water and also due to lack of crop residue reserve as a result of poor harvest of last year's crop production. Currently, farmers are feeding their animals the last reserve of crop residues and stubbles and *Opuntia-ficus indica* (locally known as *Beles*) just trying to keep their livestock alive. Unless the coming *belg* rains (March to May) start on time, the already poor physical condition of livestock could deteriorate further due to feed and water shortage. Many of the ponds and water wells were without water as opposed to previous non-drought years, particularly in Raya Azebo Woreda of South Tigray Zone. No outbreak of human and livestock diseases was reported in the region.

2.3 Food assistance delayed but no obvious signs of malnutrition in visited areas

In all affected areas of the region relief food distribution was ongoing although both beneficiaries and officials at different levels repeatedly reported complaints of delayed arrival (common to other parts of the country) of relief food in most areas visited. In Tigray Region supplementary food is being targeted and distributed through clinics to malnourished children and mothers. Most rural people hardly know the distribution of supplementary foods through clinics and hence, large number of beneficiaries and some Woreda officials complained that relief food distributions are merely of cereals (no pulses and supplementary food) and is hence aggravating malnutrition according to the community and the local officials reports, although the mission observed no obvious signs of malnutrition in the visited areas. Taking into consideration the possible deterioration of nutritional status in different Woredas and areas, the regional DPPB has conducted a rapid nutrition survey using Weight for Length for measurement. The average figure was reported to be 8.7-9.8 GAM (General Acute Malnutrition) in the 10 Woredas (3 in South Zone, 3 in East Zone and 4 in Central Zone) of the region that have been surveyed at the beginning of February 2003. Though the survey report was not ready by the time the team was in Tigray, as per the briefing of the bureau, generally the findings indicate that the nutritional status is poor in the surveyed woredas. Relief food distributions are through EGS (for able bodied people) and free handouts (for unable bodied people). WFP is one of the main sources of the foods, which is distributed through REST and DPPC at grass root level depending on the Woredas. In Erob Woreda World Vision Ethiopia is an active partner in relief food distribution.

One of the problems highlighted by the regional DPPB was lack of local storage capacity in some woredas where relief food receivers are walking more than 30 km to get their rations. In this regard Gulo Mekada Woreda in East Tigray and Raya Azebo and Hintalo Wajirat Woredas in South Tigray were mentioned. The fact that drought affected people are in desperate need of food can be seen from the above picture taken by the UN-EUE mission while children are picking grain of food dropped by trucks with WFP emergency food aid destined to drought affected areas in northern Ethiopia.



2.4 Urgent seed requirements and delayed seed deliveries

Another crucial and urgent matter was the delay in delivery of seeds for *belg* season planting and for long

Children in Tigray are collecting maize grains that dropped from trucks loaded with relief food (Photo by Dechassa Lemessa, UN-EUE, February

cycle crops (maize and sorghum) mainly in South Tigray Zone where six out of seven woredas of the zone are growing both *belg* and *meher* crops. Many of the NGOs working in the region have a plan to intervene in seed supply through local purchases. CRS (Catholic Relief Secretariat) in Adigrat expressed its plan to use the seed vouchers and fairs principle that basically means that seed selling farmers are initially registered and are taking their seeds to local markets for seed show so that identified seed buyers (seed receivers assisted by CRS project) will be having a chance of selecting the seeds by themselves using their own experiences and selection criteria. CRS started seed distribution in March 2003 to 2,000 beneficiaries (both drought affected people and IDPs) in six tabias (kebeles) of Gulo Makada Wereda (East Tigray Zone) through the project funded by USAID (OFDA). It was learned that the plan is to distribute the seeds to the affected people freely. It was reported that every targeted household receives about 30 kg of sorted seeds (maize, teff, barley, sorghum and wheat).

The Regional DPPB and Regional Bureau of Agriculture (BoA) already submitted a proposal for seeds (*belg* and *meher* season planting) and veterinary inputs requirement worth of 43.3 million ETB to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). According to the regional BoA, the local seeds are purchased from local markets in Tigray and the neighbouring Woredas of Amhara Region while improved seeds will be purchased from Government Seed Enterprise in Bahir Dar. Nevertheless, only 400,000 ETB were pledged until this mission was completed end of February. To avoid the possible delays in seed supply to the affected people the regional government has planned to use funds from its own budget or borrow money from bank to be replaced when the requested fund is released from the federal government. Farmers have well prepared their farmlands for *belg* planting and any time rains are received they can start planting. Nevertheless, the delay in seed supply is already looming a potential constraint to the farmers.

2.5 Voluntary resettlement programme underway in Humera

According to the Rural Resettlement Programme Desk Officer for Tigray Region, the Zonal Administrator of West Tigray Zone and the Kefta Humera Woreda council in Humera, preparations are well underway at all levels to resettle 15,000 households (about 75,000 persons) this year until September 2003. The major objectives of current resettlement initiatives are mainly to reduce environmental degradation in areas of origin by transferring drought-affected people to more fertile and less populated areas for increased food production and subsistence farming. People affected by the Ethio-Eritrea border conflict that are said to have shown interest for resettlement may also be included for resettlement. One of the potential areas selected for resettlement is the Humera district of West Tigray Zone.

Resettlement is not new to Humera. During 1978/79, the former Settlement Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture moved about 2,000 families from various urban centres in Western Ethiopia to Setit Humera for settlement. The objective was to provide them employment opportunities through agricultural production. The settlers grew cotton and sesame as cash crops for local markets. Those settlements were handed over to the former Relief & Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) to strengthen the settlements through the establishment of producer's cooperatives. Again in 1993/94, over 30,000 returnees from the Sudan were reintegrated in Humera area (Adebay, Rawyan, Mikadra resettlement villages). Furthermore, in 2002, some 200 households from Adet, Were Lehe, Tanqua Abergele and Tselemit Woredas of Tigray Region

were resettled in Tayitay Adyabo Woreda. For the new resettlement programme to be undertaken in West Tigray Zone, resettlement sites have already been selected. Most of the people will be moved from Central Tigray Zone and will settle along the Tekeze River and the Shiraro-Humera road that is currently under construction and planned to be finished in June. Nevertheless, zonal officials reported gaps in the present resettlement programme such as lacking roof thatching materials for new houses, inadequate water supply and health posts, and shortage of food that should be supplied to the new settlers until they will bring in their own first harvest. Nevertheless, resources were not confirmed from any source so far. One option suggested by the zonal administrator was contributions from the local people. Despite these gaps, reportedly, mobilization of the people started end of February 2003. Certainly, it is unlikely that enough preparation is made to make the start of the resettlement smooth enough to begin with. The resettlement is to be conducted in phases and the first phase started at the end of February when 5,000 households (only heads of households will move initially) will be moved voluntarily to the new sites. The officials reported that the settlers would be allocated 2 hectares of land per household, which they have to clear and prepare with their own labour by using farm implements to be provided by the regional government. The settlers are expected to construct their own houses after their arrivals, but they will be provided seeds and an ox on credit. Officials at all levels are hoping that the resettlement programme will become successful this time with a different voluntary approach. The land holding of settled families in areas of origin will remain unchanged for at least two years to give the settlers the opportunity to return or to leave part of their family behind while preparing the resettlement farm for a permanent living.

2.6 Recovery of war-affected IDPs continues

The State Council of Tigray Region has created a focal point for Tigray that would be responsible for the implementation and coordination of recovery assistance programme for IDPs affected by the recent Ethio-Eritrean border conflict. The office for Emergency Recovery Programme (ERP) has hence, been established in Mekele for the above purpose. The World Bank finances the ERP. The office is headed by a General Manager & assisted by other support staff in Mekele and other zone capitals in Tigray. The regional office for the ERP is also mandated for the implementation of assistance programme for deportees from Eritrea, demobilized soldiers and to provide assistance to families of deceased soldiers mobilized from Tigray Region.

To date, the ERP has registered a total of 60,806 families as war-affected IDPs in Tigray Region. The figure includes all people from Zalambassa area. The IDPs are dispersed in four zones bordering Eritrea (Central, East, West and North West Tigray). The assistance package approved by the World Bank to be provided to these IDPs includes payment of cash grant to enable them reactivate their disrupted economic activities as a result of the war and rebuild or rehabilitate their houses destroyed or damaged during military engagement between the two countries. The cash grant is planned to be distributed at 51 strategic locations situated in eight Woredas of the Region.

With regard to the status of implementation, the General Manager of ERP informed the UN-EUE mission members that 35,637 families have already been provided with the packages at 31 sites and the remaining 25,169 families will receive their entitlements as soon as additional funds are

released. This shows that 58.6 % of the total registered IDP caseload in Tigray affected by war have received their entitlements.

The IDP recovery programme is also supported by other agencies and organizations including the US Government, various UN agencies and NGOs. The USAID mission to Ethiopia is currently financing a low cost housing project in Dawhan, the new capital of Erop Woreda for the construction of low-cost houses and facilities for affected IDP families. The Relief Society of Tigray (REST) implements the USAID-funded project. On their part, various UN agencies and NGOs are assisting IDP families with food, with the rehabilitation of houses destroyed or damaged during the war, to gain improved access to clean drinking water, to rehabilitate and furnish damaged schools, to provide books and student supplies, to improve health services, to promote child protection measures, to assist in awareness campaign & education on mines planted during the war and to support HIV/AIDS prevention and control programmes. The initiatives taken by humanitarian aid agencies in this regard should continue in a collaborative manner.

2.7 Deportees from Eritrea assisted by the ERP

Activities related to the rehabilitation of deportees from Eritrea are also coordinated by the ERP. According to the ERP, a total of 45,149 families have so far been officially registered as having been deported from Eritrea to Tigray. This number is substantially lower than figures provided one year ago when it was estimated that approximately 70,000 to 75,000 of the people that were sent back to Ethiopia from Eritrea and originating from Tigray and that have been sent to locations in the three different northern zones between September 1998 and September 2001 (Guinand & Raymakers, 2002: p.10). In 2002 the zonal DPPDs compiled a total of 62,242 deportees that were officially registered upon their arrival from Eritrea (Buffoni & Tadesse, 2001: p.37/38). It is reported that the deportees included teachers, nurses, traders and others with various skills. In addition to temporary material assistance extended to the deportees by UN agencies such as UNICEF and other humanitarian aid agencies, ERP provides deportee families with cash grant under the loan agreement signed between Ethiopia and the World Bank.

It has been reported that 22,047 deportee families have already received their cash grants amounting to a total of 74.3 million ETB up to end January 2003. Payments were made from a total of 85 million ETB so far released by the World Bank to the federal government to assist deportees from Eritrea. It is estimated that an additional 60 to 70 million ETB would be needed to extend assistance to the remaining 23,102 deportee families. 51.2 % of the activities involved in extending assistance to deportees registered by ERP are still outstanding and preparations by ERP are in progress to facilitate the release of additional funds from the World Bank. Most of the deportees have returned to major urban centres in Tigray such as Mekele, Adigrat, Adwa, Axum, Setit Humera, Shire and Indessilasse.

2.8 Most families of deceased soldiers have been assisted

Provision is made in the loan agreement concluded between the federal government of Ethiopia and the World Bank to provide cash assistance to families of soldiers who died during the last war with Eritrea. The assistance package for families of deceased soldiers from Tigray in

particular, is provided through the regional structures of ERP. According to ERP General Manager, a total of 24,080 individuals have been identified and screened by the Ministry of National Defence as being lawful members of deceased soldiers from among those mobilized from Tigray who are eligible for compensation.

The cash assistance is a one time grant planned to be shared by family members of the deceased soldiers and depending on the level of appropriation schedule defined by law and the entitlement outlined in the loan agreement signed with the World Bank. Families of deceased soldiers are provided with cash grant ranging from 10,000 to 11,000 ETB per family. The claim forms and the sum approved to benefiting families are both prepared and verified by the Ministry of National Defence. According to the ERP, 18,826 individuals representing deceased soldiers have collected their entitlements, and 96 million ETB has been paid so far. It is expected that the remaining caseload of 5,254 family members will be provided with the entitlements as soon as verified and signed lists are received by the ERP. This shows that 78.2 % of the activities planned under this sector has been attained so far. One major problem that has delayed payments is the reported appearance of individuals claiming for payments of compensation for the deceased contrary to records found in personal files of deceased soldiers held with the Ministry of National Defence.

2.9 Successful mine-awareness campaign

Wide areas of land in Tigray bordering Eritrea have been mined before and during the 1998-2000 border conflict. The area suspected to be with mines and unexploded ordnance covers the

war zones extending from Bure in the east to Setit Humera to the west. From all major mine clearing and action activities normally undertaken such as mine awareness, clearance, assistance to victims of mines and advocacy, the local NGO 'Rehabilitation and Development Organization' (RaDO) has been carrying out all mine awareness activities in is Tigray Region. The programme, which has been ongoing since 1999, targets an estimated population of 300,000 families in with mainly UNICEF funding and limited financial support under the World Bank programme during the initial phase of RaDO's involvement in mine action.

RaDO has erected signboards in many



RaDO signboard indicating mine dangers erected at a road junction near Shire town, West Tigray (Photo by Dechassa Lemessa, UN-EUE, February 2003)

strategic locations (see picture below) alerting the population of the mine dangers. The following picture shows one of the signboards erected by RaDO at a road junction in Shire.

The campaign is conducted at 44 sites located in seven Woredas that are infested with mines. The campaign concentrates on mine awareness education, collection of data on mine victims and counselling services rendered by RaDO agents in the field. The campaign has had positive effects

as the number of casualties inflicted on human lives has decreased since the programme started in 1999. For example, out of 371 accidents recorded by RaDO in 1999/2002, 121 of them occurred in 1999, 141 in 2000 and 49 and 60 in 2001 and 2002 respectively. Furthermore, 35 % of these accidents resulted in death while 65 % brought about varying degrees of disabilities on the victims. It is alarming to note that 65 % of the victims are children. It is hence evident from the above statistics compiled by RaDO that the number of mine accidents has substantially decreased since the campaign was launched three years ago.

In order to create greater awareness among children in rural areas in particular, RaDO has established Drama Clubs at 70 schools involving 700 students. A 15-minute daily radio programme has started. The programme is transmitted in Tigrigna language through Voice of Weyane, a local radio station monitored from Mekele. Efforts that are being made in this direction need to be followed by de-mining operation as an integrated programme through the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) in Addis Ababa. The need for de-mining should be accelerated so that farmers and agro-pastoralist families could safely return to their villages of origin with confidence, and reactivate their agricultural activities and through this contribute to the ongoing regional government initiative towards improved food security in the region.

The UN-EUE mission was informed that the Norwegian People's Aid is conducting a survey work in Tigray on the impact of mines in Ethiopia. The study needs to be conceived in conjunction with other ongoing activities of the UN, RaDO and the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) for improved coordination and documentation.

2.10 Eritrean refugees in Shiraro

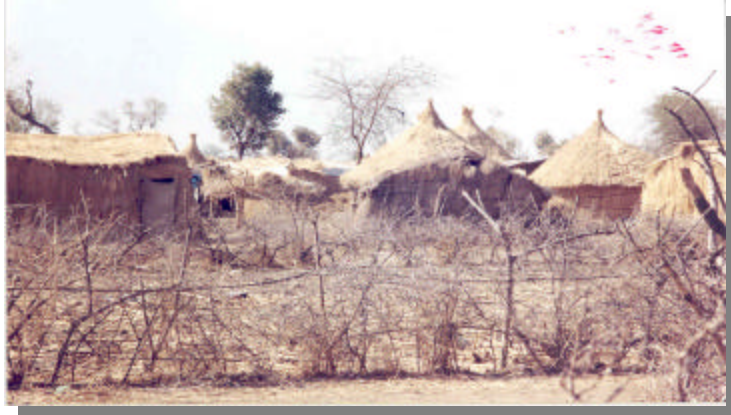
The border conflict has forced a number of people of Eritrean origin to take refuge in Ethiopia. Currently, 5,279 refugees are being accommodated in Walla Nibhi refugee camp located in Shiraro Woreda of West Tigray Zone. The camp is situated 20 km from the border. The ethnic composition of the camp population indicates that 3,911 are Kunamas, 1,272 are Tigrigna speakers and the remaining 96 are of Afar and Saho origin. Data on their socio-economic background shows that the majority are farmers followed by small-scale traders, ex-combatants released from prison cells in Ethiopia and university students. According to the Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) camp coordinator, there are some 37 new arrivals that are not yet interviewed for eligibility determination, albeit the fact that additional influx of refugees is expected by UNHCR and ARRA.

Refugees have constructed their dwellings by using wood and savannah grass collected from the surrounding areas. However, it was disclosed that 256 huts were recently destroyed by fire. There is fear among the camp population that similar accident can again occur unless the construction materials are changed. It appears that the camp needs to be relocated elsewhere as the site is within the current temporary security zone (TSZ) defined by UNMEE. The danger that can be caused to fire can be easily comprehended from the nature of dwellings and the camp layout as shown in the following picture taken during recent camp visit.

ARRA and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are implementing partners for UNHCR based on signed agreements. The IRC covers water, sanitation and education while ARRA provides health services, and protection and distribution of food is made available by WFP. However, the ARRA camp coordinator has expressed his concern with the excessive delays observed with UNHCR Addis Ababa in preparing required project agreements and release of funds.

Food allocated monthly is not distributed to the beneficiaries in time. For instance, the distribution of November 2002 ration started on 4th November 2002 while the ration for the month of December 2002, started on 6 December 2002. Similarly, the rations for the month of January and February 2003 were distributed on 14 and 16 January and February 2003 respectively. The above data clearly shows that refugees did not receive their monthly food ration in time and the delays and the gap is gradually increasing during the last two months. Unless improvements are made in the timely dispatch and distribution of food, it is likely that misunderstandings will develop between relief workers and the camp population.

Walla Nibhi Refugee camp near Shiraro, West Tigray (Photo by Dechassa Lemessa, UN-EUE, February 2003)



Members of the refugee committee have expressed their disappointment with the poor quality of 10 units of hand operated grinding machines made available to them by WFP. The equipment is manufactured in Addis Ababa under the label “SELAM – STVC” and their operation requires high power generated by human labour. The output of the machine per unit of time is very small in comparison to primitive standards. This has forced refugees to sell part of their ration in the local market to generate funds for milling services. According to informed sources, refugees sell 20% of their monthly ration of cereal for this purpose.

The clothing problem facing refugees also deserves attention. The problem is critical particularly, with those who served in the Eritrean army. The refugee committee informed the UN-EUE mission that some of the refugees still wear their previous Eritrean military uniforms and this has raised complaints from the Ethiopian military personnel posted in the surrounding areas. It is necessary that the problem is addressed by UNHCR and ARRA so that safety and the civilian character of the camp could be better ensured in all aspects.

It is well known that resettlement is one of the options for lasting solution to refugee problems around the world. This is to encourage refugees with special protection concern to assimilate with host communities in a third country of asylum. However, the opportunity is limited and hence categorized as the least option for durable solution. With regard to refugees in Walla Nibhi, ARRA camp management has informed the UN-EUE mission that the camp population includes 70 university students and others with various skills. Therefore, 12 refugees have expressed their

interest to be resettled elsewhere. The candidates have filled resettlement application forms provided to them by UNHCR.

2.11 Decentralization Process

The Regional Government of Tigray is currently engaged in the implementation of the national woreda based decentralization process. The objective is to move decision making closer to final points of delivery. This is planned to be achieved by diminishing the role played by zonal offices and delegate more authority to woreda offices instead. Regarding Tigray, the envisaged woreda based decentralization process is being implemented in six zonal administrations constituting Tigray Region.

Commenting on the level of staffing requirements at woreda level with specific reference to the experience of the Tigray regional government, the Deputy President of the Regional State Council articulated that at least three first-degree holders will be assigned to each woreda or *tabia* (smallest administrative unit in Tigray=kebele). This is to ensure that activities performed fulfil minimum professional standard. However, he pointed out that the availability of trained manpower in the quality and quantity required might not be available regionally. The problem in this regard will eventually be surmounted through training for which the necessary preparations are made for implementation.

The implications that the current decentralization process might have on the ongoing humanitarian relief operations in Tigray Region was raised and discussed with the Officer in Charge of the Regional DPPB. It was pointed out that the Regional DPPB operates in 35 woredas in Tigray. However, so far the Regional DPPB managed to deploy staff to 31 woredas based on the new decentralization process. This means that four woredas are covered from existing zonal DPPB offices. It was reported that decentralisation is positive and supportive in terms of field coordination and monitoring of relief operations. Nevertheless, the decentralization process created some gaps in information exchange and reporting between woredas and the DPPB in Mekele. The smooth flow of information between 35 reporting offices and the receiving Regional DPPB can be ensured if the reporting system is designed and the required communication facilities are provided and a focal point is established within the Regional DPPB in Mekele for data processing and periodic reporting.

3 Conclusions and recommendations

Reassessment of food beneficiaries

The UN-EUE mission concludes the current food security situation of some 300,300 drought affected people in Tigray whose food security condition is classified as deserving close monitoring, needs urgent assessment to determine the caseload that needs emergency food assistance in addition to the caseload that is being catered for within the emergency plan of operation defined by the joint Government-UN appeal for assistance in the year 2003. The outcome shall be used to revalidate the number of people who will need emergency food in Tigray under the current year emergency programme.

Urgent seed supply

With regard to agricultural activities in crop growing areas, farmers have prepared their land with the expectation that the *Belg* rains will fall in time and the required seeds would be acquired from external sources. It is therefore, necessary that those farmers particularly in southern zone be provided with seeds for short and long cycle crops at the same time. If the provision of seed to farmers is delayed, it is highly likely that the next crop harvest in the entire region will decrease and the food security of the region will be seriously affected. If the current Belg rains are delayed, the availability of pasture and water for livestock will be reduced and the livestock condition will deteriorate.

On time food deliveries

Relief food distributions to drought affected, IDPs and the refugee caseload in Shiraro should not be delayed as occasionally observed. All cooperating partners associated with emergency food aid should explore options and opportunities for joint planning to ensure that the required food is delivered in time subsequent distributions are made on scheduled basis so that discontinuities in food ration are avoided as much as possible. Nutritional studies need to be conducted to assess and gauge the nutritional condition of selected areas of the region.

In order to reduce the problem of travelling long distance by relief food receivers, Rub Hall erection in community-selected centres and locations should be envisaged as a temporary solution. It is a common experience that people will be forced not to take their rations to their houses when they have to travel long distances. Conditions could force them looking for other options such as selling part of their ration as they cannot carry it themselves or cannot afford paying for transportation costs for pack animals.

Mine awareness: provide assistance to mine victims and coordinate advocacy works

With regard to mine action in war-affected areas, it appears that the mine awareness campaign is progressing satisfactorily. Nevertheless, efforts made in the awareness campaign sector need to be integrated with de-mining/defuse of unexploded ordnances, provide assistance to mine victims and coordinate advocacy works. The Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) in Addis Ababa should take the lead in close cooperation with other stakeholders involved in de-mining programmes so that areas infested with mines are made safe for return.

A simplified regional monitoring & reporting system to make information more accessible

The UN-EUE mission is convinced that quite enormous tasks have been undertaken to assist the IDPs in Tigray with the involvement of various stakeholders and other partners. However, it appears that all information related to the assistance rendered by all is not available with a specific organ at the regional level irrespective of the type of assistance and the sources of funding. It is therefore, suggested that the Regional Government of Tigray takes up the responsibility to organise and put into place a simplified monitoring & reporting system.

All deportee-related activities in coordination with ERP

There are sector activities that are being implemented by various regional bureaus with other sources of funding in addition to the loan from the World Bank. The assistance extended to

deportees in this regard should also be reported to ERP to facilitate the latter incorporate such supports into reports on deportees from Eritrea.

Shiraro refugee camp to be relocated

The task by UNHCR/RLO Protection Unit and ARRA of screening of the pending caseload of asylum seekers in Shiraro be expedited for granting asylum should not be further delayed as this will create problems to the group in terms of protection and assistance.

The possibility of more fire accidents in the refugee camp should be minimized as much as possible. It is therefore suggested that UNHCR and ARRA reconsider the relocation of the camp to another location in the hinterland at a sufficient distance from the border for protection and emotional safety.

Every effort is made to ensure timely delivery and distribution of food to the beneficiaries. It is also suggested that WFP and UNHCR in collaboration with ARRA provided cash to the beneficiaries for meeting expenses related to milling services.

The regional DPPB requires improved facilities and working procedures and systems of operations due to decentralisation

It is clear from the above that the Regional DPPB in Mekele is now required to coordinate and monitor humanitarian operations in 35 woredas without going through intermediate organs at zonal levels. Although the arrangement has moved decision making closer to the base, the number of contact points between the Regional DPPB in Mekele is now spread or stretched six fold. The increase in the number of contact points between the woredas and the regional DPPB office would require improved facilities and working procedures and systems of operations. Furthermore, moving decision making closer to final points of delivery without delegation of authority and resources allocation would defeat the purpose of decentralization. It is therefore, suggested that matters related to the above are considered for implementation by the Regional Government of Tigray.

DISCLAIMER

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of the UN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

2 April 2003

UN-EUE
PO Box 60252
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Web Sites: www.telecom.net.et/~undp-eue/
www.uneue.org (new)
www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/eue_web/eue_mnu.htm (archive)

Tel.: (251) (1) 51-37-25
Fax: (251) (1) 51-12-92
E-mail: un-eue@un.org

Annex

NGOs OPERATING IN TIGRAI NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE¹

NAME OF AGENCY	AREA OF PARTICIPATION	ZONE
Relief Society of Tigray	Relief & development	All zones
Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat	Relief & development	All except Mekele
Mekane Yesus Church	Environmental rehabilitation	Central
World Vision – Ethiopia	Relief & development	East
RaDO	Mine awareness campaign	War affected zones
MSF – Belgium	Human health	All zones
MSF – Holland	HIV/AIDS control programme	All zones
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	Emergency & development	East/Central/South
NCID	Emergency & health	East
SOS Kinderdorf International	Child Care & health	Mekele
Medicines Du Monde	Health support services	Central
Mary S. International	Health – family-planning	Mekele
SIM	Social affairs issue	Mekele
Operations Rescue Ethiopia	Child Care programme	Mekele
Ethiopian Red Cross Society	Mine awareness & assistance	War affected zones
GASSO	Child care programme	East
Alshaday	Child care & soil and water Conservation	East
Tigray Disabled V. Association	Assistance to disabled persons	Mekele
Volunteers Overseas C. Assistance	Cooperatives development	All zones

Abbreviations

ARRA	Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs
BoA	Bureau of Agriculture
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
CRS	Catholic Relief Service
DPPC	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (Federal Government level)
DPPB	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (Regional level)
DPPD	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Department (Zonal level)
EFSR	Emergency Food Security Reserve
EMAO	Ethiopian Mine Action Office
ERP	Emergency Response Program
ERPMU	Emergency Response Program Management Unit
ERS	Economic Reintegration Support
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FDS	Families of Deceased Soldiers
GFDRE	Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced People/Person

¹ Although the fact sheet is not thoroughly exhaustive, the Regional Disaster Prevention & Preparedness Bureau of Tigray has provided the UN-EUE mission with data on NGO activities in Tigray. At present, there are 19 NGOs operating in Tigray Region. Data on local & international NGOs operating in Tigray National Regional State except that of REST was acquired from NGO Desk of the Regional DPPB of Tigray. Detailed information on NGO activities in both relief and recovery/rehabilitation need to be retained properly and updated based on periodic agency reports and revised project agreements signed with these NGOs. The role such information plays as management tool need to be recognized. It is suggested that the possibility of updating data on NGO programme in Tigray on periodic basis be explored.

IRC	International Rescue Committee
MEDAC	Ministry of Economic Planning and Cooperation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NGO	Non-Governmental-Organisation
ORHC	Office of Regional Humanitarian Coordination (for the Horn in Addis Ababa)
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
RADO	Rehabilitation and Development Organization
REST	Relief Society of Tigray
SC-US	Save the Children Fund United States
SC-UK	Save the Children Fund United Kingdom
TSS	Transitional Subsistence Support
TSZ	Temporary Security Zone
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN-EUE	United Nations Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNMEE	United Nations Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea
USAID	United States Aid for International Development
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VOCA	Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme

Glossary

dega	Expression for one of the altitudinal agroecological belts in Ethiopia. In Tigray between 2500 to > 3400 m a.s.l.
kebele	Smallest administrative unit in Ethiopia
kolla	Expression for one of the altitudinal agroecological belts in Ethiopia. In Tigray between ~1400 to ~1800 m a.s.l.
tabia	is the Tigrigna language name for 'kebele' that is the smallest administrative unit of the Ethiopian Federal Government.
woreda	Local administrative unit
weyna dega	Expression for one of the altitudinal agroecological belts in Ethiopia. In Tigray between ~1800 to ~2400 m a.s.l.

Glossary of important meteorological and seasonal terms used for Ethiopian highland areas

Meteorological Drought Defined

Drought is a period of insufficient water initiated by reduced precipitation. The impacts of drought on crops and society are critical but not easily quantified. The result is that "drought" does not have a universal definition. "Meteorological drought" is defined as a sustained period of deficient precipitation with a low frequency of occurrence. While crops may be damaged by lack of precipitation and high temperatures in just a few days, such short periods are not considered to be meteorological droughts. A three-month period is defined by the American Meteorological Society to be the shortest period that can be defined as a drought. (Source: *The American Meteorological Society*)

Ethiopia's 'Keremt' or 'Meher' Rains Defined

Since Ethiopia and Eritrea are in the tropics, physical conditions and variations in altitude have resulted in a great diversity of climate, soil, and vegetation. Rainfall is seasonal, varying in amount, space, and time. There is a long and heavy summer rain, normally called the big rain or *keremt*, which falls from June-September. It is followed by the *baga* hot, dry period from October through February (see below for definition). In some areas there are short and moderate spring rains in

March and April known as the little rains or *belg*. These rainy periods correspond to Ethiopia's primary and secondary agricultural seasons, known as the *meher* and *belg*. (Source: FEWS)

Ethiopia's 'Belg' Rains Defined

In spring, a strong cyclonic centre develops over Ethiopia and Sudan. Winds from the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean highs are drawn towards this centre and blow across central and southern Ethiopia. These moist, easterly and south-easterly winds produce the main rain in south-eastern Ethiopia and the little spring rains to the east central part of the north-western highlands. The little rains of the highlands are known as *belg* rains, referring to the second most important sowing season of the region. (Source: FEWS)

Ethiopia's 'Baga' Season Defined

Since Ethiopia is in the tropics, physical conditions and variations in altitude have resulted in a great diversity of climate, soil, and vegetation. Rainfall is seasonal, varying in amount, space, and time. There is a long and heavy summer rain, normally called the big rain or *keremt*, which falls from June-September. It is followed by the *baga* hot, dry period from October through February. In some areas there are short and moderate spring rains in March and April known as the little rains or *belg*. These rainy periods correspond to Ethiopia's primary and secondary agricultural seasons, known as the *meher* and *belg*. (Source: FEWS)

Literature list of referred papers and previous UN-EUE Tigray mission reports

Admassu H/Y (1996a) Field Trip Report of the Post Harvest Situation in Tigray and Amhara Regions - a brief overview of the situation in the two regions of Tigray and Amhara. UN-EUE mission report, January, Addis Ababa

Admassu H Y (1996b) Field Trip Report to Tigray and Amhara Region. UN-EUE mission report, December, Addis Ababa

Ahrens J and Admassu H Y (1996) Field Trip Report to Northern Ethiopia (Amhara and Tigray Region): Belg areas record a bumper harvest. UN-EUE mission report, September, Addis Ababa

Ahrens J (1999) Evacuees from Border Towns in Tigray Setting-Up Makeshift Camps. UN-EUE Field Mission Report, January, Addis Ababa

Ahrens J and Guinand Y (1998a) Report on a Rapid Assessment Mission to Tigray. UN-EUE Field Mission Report, October, Addis Ababa

Ahrens J and Guinand Y (1998b) Meher Prospects in Tigray and Welo: good harvests anticipated. UN-EUE Field Mission Report, October, Addis Ababa

Buffoni L and Tadesse E (2001) Report on the joint UNICEF/Women's Association of Tigray Study of Ethiopian Deportees/Returnees from Eritrea Living in Tigray. UNICEF report, December, Addis Ababa

Guinand Y F & Raymakers B (2002) Progress of humanitarian assistance and current situation of vulnerable population segments affected by the border conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray Region. UN-EUE article, February, Addis Ababa

Guinand Y F (1998) UN Inter-Agency Fact-Finding Mission to Afar and South Welo on Ethiopian Nationals Returning from Eritrea. UN-EUE field mission report, October, Addis Ababa

Guinand Y F (1998) Notes on Ethiopian nationals returning from Eritrea. UN-EUE unpublished internal paper, November, Addis Ababa

- Hammond L (1994a) The Repatriation of Refugees from Eastern Sudan to Humera, Tigray. UN-EUE report reviewing the issues regarding repatriation from the Sudan, Addis Ababa
- Hammond L (1994b) Returnees, Local Farmers and Big Business, the Politics of Land Allocation in Humera (Region 1). UN-EUE study, Addis Ababa
- Hammond L (1995) Preliminary Findings of Household Economic Survey, Ada Bai Returnee Settlement, Humera, Ethiopia. UN-EUE study, Addis Ababa
- Hammond L (2001) Economic Impacts of the Ethiopia/Eritrea Conflict: A review of available data and proposed scope of work. Unpublished document submitted to USAID, July, Addis Ababa
- Klingele R and Admassu H Y (1997) Field Trip Report:- Eastern Amhara Region & South Tigray Zone. UN-EUE mission report, December, Addis Ababa
- Klingele R (1997a) Field Trip Report: Eastern Amhara Region & South Tigray Zone. UN-EUE Field Mission Report, July, Addis Ababa
- Klingele R (1997b) Eastern Amhara and South Tigray:- Field trip report. UN-EUE mission report, November, Addis Ababa
- Klingele R (1998) Eastern Amhara and South Tigray. UN-EUE mission report, March, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1994a) Situation report of Region 1 (Tigray): A General Report of the Current Situation in the Region. UN-EUE report, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1994b) A Special Report on the Situation of Draught Animals in the Current Drought Affected areas of the Central, Eastern and Southern Zones of Tigray. UN-EUE report, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1994c) Situation Report of Tigray, North Wello and South Gonder: a report reviewing the present situation and ongoing relief operations and coordinations in Tigray, North Wello and South Gonder. UN-EUE report, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1995a) Field Trip to Region 1 (Tigray) and North Shewa, Oromia, North and South Welo zones of Region 3 (Amhara). UN-EUE mission report, January, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1995b) Field Trip Report to Regions 1 (Tigray) and 3 (Amhara). UN-EUE mission report, April, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1995c) Field Trip Report to Region 1 (Tigray) and North Gonder Zone of Region 3 (Amhara). UN-EUE mission report, July, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1995d) Six Month retrospective Review of Northern Ethiopia: a summary report reviewing the situation in the northern regions of Tigray and Amhara between January and June 1995. UN-EUE mission report, July, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1995e) Field Trip Report to the Amhara and Tigray Regions, 25 September – 13 October 1995. UN-EUE mission report, October, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1995f) Situation Report for Tigray and Amhara Regions. UN-EUE mission report, October, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1996a) Situation report on Tigray and Amhara Regions. UN-EUE mission report, February, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H (1996b) Field Trip Report to Amhara Region and Tigray Regions. UN-EUE mission report, March, Addis Ababa
- Spiess H and AhrensJ (1996) Field Trip to Amhara and Tigray Regions. UN-EUE mission report, May, Addis Ababa
- UNCT (1998) Humanitarian Needs of War-Displaced People in Northern and North-Eastern Ethiopia: Joint UN Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment Mission to Tigray and Afar. UN-EUE mission report, July, Addis Ababa

UNCT (1999a) Humanitarian Needs of War Displaced and Drought Affected People in Tigray. United Nations Country Team Ethiopia (UNCT) mission report, April, Addis Ababa

UNCT (1999b) War Displaced in Tigray and Afar R egions: UN Response Summary. UN-EUE, A summary of UN on-going and planned interventions in support of the DPPC appeal for the war displaced, April, Addis Ababa

UNCT (2000) UN Issues Updated Appeal for Rehabilitation and Recovery Programmes for IDPs :- The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia. UN-EUE, 24 August, Addis Ababa