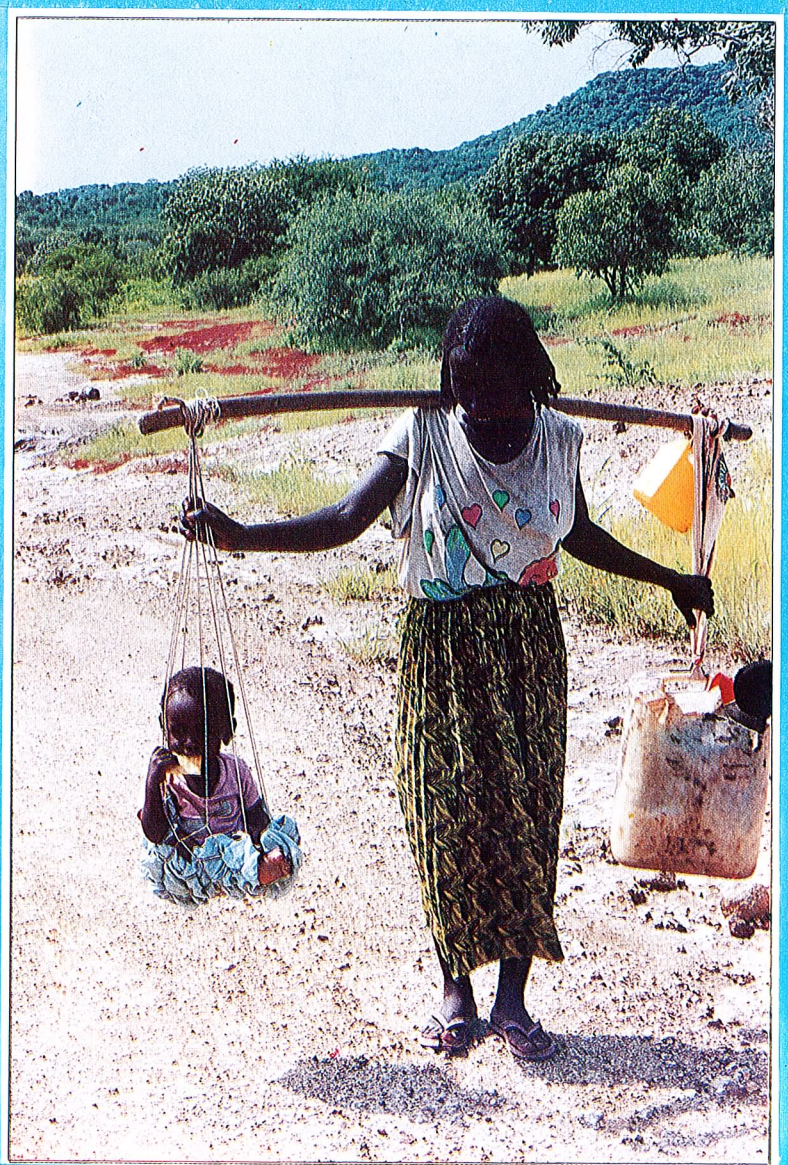
CISP – ECHO RELIEF PROJECT FOR TIGRAY



FUNDED BY ECHO

ETHIOPIA 1999

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INTRODUCTION

During the period January to September 1999, a tripartite partnership between the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), the International Committee for the Development of People (CISP) and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) was established to alleviate the suffering of persons displaced by the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Through this effective collaboration of resources, commitment and effort, a total of 156,669 war displaced people (WDP) in Tigray, Ethiopia were assisted with the provision of a month ration of grain, 130,000 received shelter items and a further 10,000 households received kerosene stoves. Under a program to enhance access to clean water by 64,885 WDPs and host communities, a total of 27 boreholes were constructed in areas where WDPs are concentrated in the Eastern and Western Zones of Tigray.



WHAT IS THE ECHO MANDATE?

ECHO is a service of the European Commission (EC) responsible for the provision and management of Humanitarian Aid Assistance Programs to countries affected by Emergencies outside the geographic area of the European Union (EU). Falling under the EU Foreign Policy mandate, ECHO provides emergency aid, food aid, and aid to refugees and displaced persons. ECHO regularly works in post-war situations and is well renowned for its institutional impartiality and distance from political positions since emergency and humanitarian assistance to victims of disaster is its only goal. The European Union is the largest donor of humanitarian aid in the world (through ECHO and through bilateral contributions from Member States), operating mainly through traditional partners, namely Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international aid agencies such as the Red Cross.

ECHO responds to requests for Emergency Assistance from all over the world, and is also actively engaged in Disaster Preparedness to avert the escalation of disasters and for maximum benefits. Achievement of these goals is through the close coordination of ECHO with UN Agencies, NGOs and Member State Governments (of the European Union) as well as select Third Countries.

ECHO Partnership

ECHO partnership with organizations operating in the field of humanitarian assistance is based on a Framework Partnership Agreement. This Agreement articulates the role of organizations in the provision of aid to people in danger on an international scale, without discrimination, and with the direct aim of saving lives and relieving suffering. Partner organizations are expected to have experience in humanitarian affairs, possess human and material resources and the expertise required for guaranteeing efficient management of humanitarian operations. Since December 1998 over 182 humanitarian organizations - large and small in size and capacity, European and Member State, and including CISP - signed the Framework Partnership Agreement. In some emergency scenarios, ECHO may opt to intervene directly in the provision of emergency humanitarian assistance.

The Volume of Aid

Since 1992, ECHO has channeled over EURO 3,853 million worth of aid (EB 32,904,620,000) to more than 85 countries. Main areas of intervention have included emergency assistance and rehabilitation programs aimed at economic and social stabilization for the attainment of long term development. Allocations are determined in consultation with Representatives of the Member States of the European Union. ECHO conducts feasibility studies for humanitarian aid programs, sets up coordination mechanisms, promotes the coordination of disaster prevention and raises public awareness of global humanitarian problems. In line with its commitment to humanitarian assistance, the ECHO logo depicts two people greeting each other juxtaposed in the European Union flag to symbolize the EU coming to the aid of affected populations across different parts of the world.

WHAT IS CISP

The *Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei popoli (CISP)* or "International Committee for the Development of People" is an European non-governmental organization (NGO) set up in 1982 and formally constituted in 1983. CISP, whose head quarters is in Rome Italy, works in the area of international cooperation and assistance. CISP is active in Africa (offices in Algeria, Ethiopia, Namibia, Somalia and Kenya) and also in Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Views

CISP views International Cooperation not merely as a means of transferring resources from wealthy to poor countries, but as a means of galvanizing human and physical resources that already exist in beneficiary countries, for activation of local development processes. Projects are a means of meeting priority needs and solving the real problems facing developing countries or particular areas, and are designed as instruments for identifying, testing and consolidating specific geographic and/or sectoral policies of governments who have pledged to promote sustainable social development.

Poverty, unemployment and marginalization of poor countries from world markets, indicate the existence of a "worldwide social issue" which also affects also rich countries. For this reason, CISP focuses its scope of work in developing countries by identifying and

implementing programs and policies aimed at combating poverty by supporting local economies and promotion of food security. In its cooperation work, CISP believes it necessary to adopt important horizontal commitments with particular reference to sustainable gender and environmental approaches.

Code of Conduct

CISP applies a Code of Conduct consistent with its strategic and methodological guidelines when formulating and implementing its humanitarian, rehabilitation or development cooperation projects. Project implemented must respect local cultures and consider existing policies and development plans (and corrective measures if needed), such that the role of local planning and implementing authorities is respected. Beneficiaries must be involved at every stage of the Project and provided with feedback on Project progress and constraints. Projects must be managed so that they ensure economic, social and institutional sustainability, taking into account the need to optimize financial resource-use.

With regard to humanitarian activities designed to overcome complex emergency situations, CISP acts in accordance with the Code of Conduct proposed by the International Red Cross which affirms the universal right to humanitarian assistance without limitations due to ideology, creed, race, sex and or other consideration; the political and operational independence of all activities to prevent them from eventually supporting one particular faction in situations of conflict; and respect for the right of individuals as declared in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



CISP in Ethiopia

Since 1986, the main areas of CISP cooperation in Ethiopia are food security (with particular emphasis on water and sanitation, micro-enterprise development and small holder agriculture) and emergency relief. CISP is primarily funded by the Commission of the European Union and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CISP believes that long-term sustainable changes can be brought about only by the Ethiopian Peoples and their institutions. Therefore, CISP is committed to working through or with local institutions and will thus support line ministries and local NGO efforts, rather than implement its own projects. CISP is also committed to enhance people self-reliance efforts, build on people's knowledge, focus on replicability, lead critical evaluation and dialogue about policies.

CISP is currently (and historically) active in three National Regional States of Ethiopia, namely the Benishangul & Gumuz, Tigray and Oromia Regions. Ongoing projects include the Multi-sectoral Development Program in Beles Valley, Community Based Water Supply in the Assosa Zone, Integrated Food Security Program and Relief Assistance (ECHO) in Tigray, Integrated Food Security Program and Employment Generation Scheme in Eastern Hararghe and Community Based Water Supply in Borana.



REST

The Relief Society of Tigray (REST) is a local non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 1978 to combat the root causes of poverty and to promote self-reliance, through people led, sustainable rural development in the Tigray Region. Since its establishment during the Ethiopian civil conflict, REST has been a grass-root organization, working with the people through the *Baito* (People's council) in the non-government held areas of Tigray. After liberation in 1991, this continues to be the cornerstone of REST's philosophy and methodology, in all its relief, rehabilitation and development activities.

Key Long Term Objectives

- Empower the community to achieve self-reliance through the provision of financial, material and technical assistance and capacity building, to enable them to determine and fully participate in the rehabilitation and development of the region.

- Ensure adequate provision of emergency relief to alleviate continuing food insecurity caused by natural disaster and man made catastrophes, and to prevent displacement and famine.

- Develop food security and thereby self-reliance of the people of Tigray through environmental rehabilitation, improved agricultural production and income diversification.

- Promote socio-economic development by assisting in the provision of social services for the community, particularly in the area of health and education.

- Empower women in the community as an integral component in promoting genuine, sustainable development within a democratic, just society.

Key Strategies

REST continues to develop and implement a genuinely people-led and people-determined approach and practices in all activities and programs.

REST utilizes emergency food aid as a tool for development, by linking the provision of food aid to work on community development projects. In collaboration with communities, REST initiates and implements rural development programs with a focus on environmental rehabilitation, water development and improved quality, quantity and access to food and agricultural production. This includes development of rural credit services to promote agricultural production and income diversification, and the development of programs aimed at alleviating women's domestic work burden and empowering them to play their full role in the development of the region.

REST collaborates, cooperates and liaises with national and international relief and development organizations, institutions and governments, in responding to natural disasters and man-made catastrophes and in promoting sustainable development, at regional and international levels. REST conducts research and collaborates with other appropriate institutions to increase availability and usage of reliable and relevant base-line

data and research in the region. REST is working closely with local Ethiopian NGO and organizations in experience exchange, mutual learning and networking, to enhance the effectiveness of indigenous NGOs at local, national and the international level.

To enable the society to accomplish its stated aims and objectives and carry out its activities, REST solicits financial, material and technical assistance from NGOs, governmental and inter-governmental sources and is also working towards building up an independent income base.

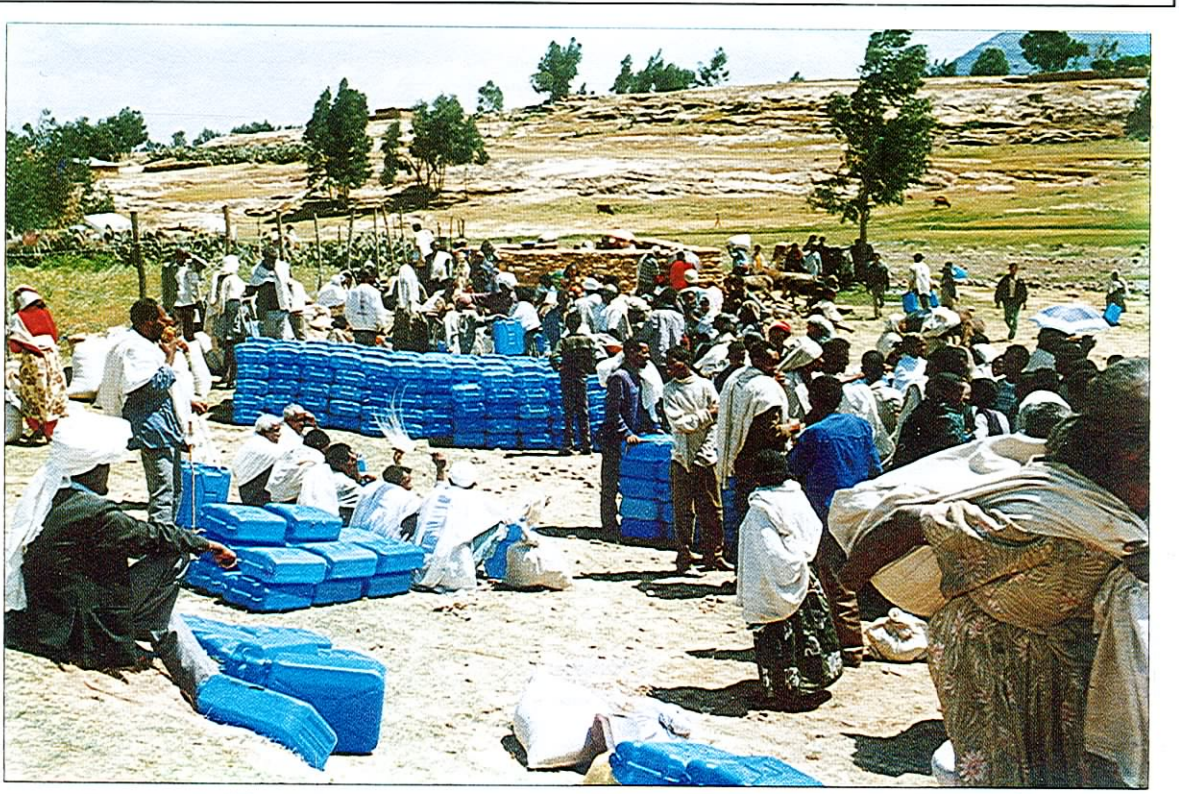
WHAT REST IS DOING?

Environmental Rehabilitation and Agricultural Development that includes soil and water conservation, reforestation, community seed banks, introduction of new/improved farming methods and construction of access roads to facilitate the development of community projects and rural areas lacking even the most basic infrastructure.

Rural Water Supply Development aimed at providing safe drinking water supplies to rural areas of Tigray, and in so doing reduce the domestic burden of women and improve the health and well being of the population through spring development, hand dug wells and boreholes.

Rural Credit and Savings Scheme is run by REST on the principle of bringing appropriate savings and credit services to the rural poor who do not otherwise have access to mainstream banking services due to a lack of collateral and geographical isolation.

Relief and Rehabilitation's main objective to promote long-term household food security by ensuring sufficient assistance is mobilized on an annual basis to enable community development activities to continue uninterrupted and to prevent potential suffering and internal migration caused by annual food shortages. It includes the promotion of household food security, support for the health sector, support for the educational activities and other concerned organizations in the region.



GENESIS OF AN HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

The conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea commenced in May, 1998 and resulted in the displacement of civilian populations along the northern border areas of the Tigray Region and, to a lesser extent, along the north eastern border of the Afar Region. Currently, the total number of war displaced people in the Tigray Region is 315,936 persons with a further 33,000 people displaced in the Afar Region.

Initially, many humanitarian actors subscribed to the view that this conflict would be of relatively short duration, of three to six months. Under this assumption, the Government of Ethiopia and a small number of NGOs provided relief items directly from available relief stocks. When it appeared that the crisis would continue, major donors began to offer relief programs on a wider scale. As such, ECHO responded during the second semester of 1998 and the first field identification mission by ECHO took place in November of the same year.

ECHO needed a partner in Ethiopia to channel the aid resources and an organization to be a signatory to the Framework Partnership Agreement. At the same time, CISP was concerned by the humanitarian crisis prevailing in Tigray where it has had a presence in development collaboration with REST, dating back to 1991. The focus of this collaboration has been Rural Development and Food Security. Since REST too, with an extensive experience in the management and implementation of emergency programs, established logistical structures and human resources to address most relief needs in the Tigray Region, was also deeply concerned about the emerging critical situation of the War Displaced Persons and other victims of the conflict, it was natural for CISP to join in partnership with REST.

From this convergence of interest and capacity emerged a contractual agreement between ECHO and CISP in late 1998 with agreement to implement two relief programs funded by ECHO and implemented jointly by CISP and REST. The particularly programs supported were:

- Emergency Food Aid for WDP in Tigray, ECHO/TPS/210/1998/13001, for an amount of 750,000 EUROs, worth EB6,405,000 for the period December 1998 to June 1999.

- Water supply and distribution of non-food items in favor of persons affected by the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, ECHO/ETH/210/1998/01001 for an amount of EURO 1,140,000 (EB 9,735,600) during the period January 1999 to September 1999.

THE CHALLENGES FACED

Population Affected - Displaced Persons and "host" communities

In Tigray the majority of War Displaced Persons and Ethiopians expelled from Eritrea, are being accommodated among local communities. The policy of the Government has been to avoid settling WDPs in camps or shelters but instead to host them with friends and relatives in communities. This policy took into account existing social structures based on kinship and solidarity and is aimed at reducing health and security risks and social problems. However, the sustainability of the support to the WDPs by host population was not always assured given conditions of overcrowding, resource limitations, infrastructure problems and high levels of poverty already existing among the general population.

Food

The first problem in order of importance for WDPs is food. Limited food supplies were received in 1998, with the exception of a significant contribution of approximately 6,000MT of food by USAID for approximately 150,000 beneficiaries through REST, and for a period of 6 months. This USAID contribution however, was expected to end by March 1999 with a food gap emerging until such time that a proposed WFP package of assistance for 272,000 WDPs for a period of 9 months could be sourced and become operational by May 1999.

Water Shortage

Tigray is an area with meager water resources and an area of Ethiopia frequently affected by drought. The availability of accessible and adequate quantities of potable water in Tigray is a continual problem even in normal times, and a critical issue of concern under the current emergency situation since displaced people also require water and are placing pressure on already scarce water sources, thus affecting host communities and available infrastructure.

Shelters

Although many of the displaced people are housed with relatives and friends, space is extremely limited and additional shelter is need for construction in host home compounds and in settlement areas where hosting arrangements are not feasible, such as caves and camps. Given the level of environmental degradation in Tigray, plastic shelter material is needed in the absence of wood and other construction materials.

Utensils and Fuelwood

Since the WDP left their homelands with little more than the clothes they were standing in, cooking utensils and more generally household items are shared between the host families and the displaced, causing burden on the communities already scare resources. The large influx of WDP has additionally placed pressure on limited forest resources required for food preparation.

THE RESPONSE

The Project had 3 main objectives - to provide emergency food aid; to improve the availability and quality of water resources for displaced communities in Tigray; and to provide basic relief items to WDP having lost all their possessions.

The specific Objectives of the Project were:

- to meet the emergency food needs of 75,000 WDPs for a period of 2 months ;
- to improve health and sanitation situation of 30,000 WDPs;
- to reduce the time spent on water collection by women;
- to reduce the usage pressure on available water systems in host communities; and,
- to support the living standard of displaced families through the provision of basic relief items.

The Project planned to construct 27 boreholes (25 shallow wells and 2 deep wells); purchase locally, transport and distribute 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting, 500 tents, 10,000 kerosene

stoves, 50,000 litres of kerosene fuel and 2,350 MT of grain to persons affected by the conflict in Eastern, Central and Western Tigray.

Food

A total of 2,350 MT of wheat was borrowed from the Ethiopian Food Security Reserve Administration (Mekelle site), to be further replenished by local procurement of grain. A further total 75 MT of supplementary food in the form of High Energy biscuits were procured and distributed to war displaced children.



Water

A long-term perspective in the provision of emergency water supplies was envisaged, taking into account the needs of local communities, assurance of sustainability and establishment of contingency plans in case of extension and expansion of the conflict. Moreover, although there was no major surface water source available, prevailing geological and hydrogeological conditions of the area showed that there is a good potential of ground water available for exploitation and utilization.

Although water supply in Emergency Situations commonly consists of pumping/treating/ carrying water (water tank, pipe lines) to beneficiaries living in concentrations (such as camps), the pattern of the current Emergency Situation in Tigray is different and appropriate for the construction of boreholes (shallow wells) in rural areas where displaced persons are dispersed among local communities and deep wells in urban areas. This pattern of settlement was considered the peculiarity of this emergency, as were the environmental and social context of

Tigray in the design of the emergency water program. By comparison, traditional emergency solutions are conceived as temporary interventions and not sustainable in the long term.

Shelters

The provision of plastic sheeting was intended for the erection of temporary shelters in the compounds of host families. Family size tents were provided for the same purpose targeting the most vulnerable displaced families with many children.

Cooking Utensils & Fuel

In order to protect the fragile balance of the forest resources, and to facilitate access to cooking fuel by displaced people, kerosene stoves along with 5 litres of kerosene per stove were distributed. It should be noted that the promotion of kerosene stove use is already practiced in Tigray. Kerosene fuel is available in main urban centers in Tigray, however, the supply of kerosene, free or subsided, should be envisaged in the future.

IMPLEMENTATION

The project was implemented by CISP through its local partner, the Relief Society of Tigray - REST. Since 1991, CISP has been working in partnership with REST in the implementation of Rural Development and Food Security Programs. In 1998, CISP commenced support of the Tigray Emergency Program through the provision of food and non-food relief items through REST for War Displaced People s in Tigray.

In the early stages of the conflict (May 1998) REST participated with the Regional Government of Tigray and the Regional Disaster Prevention & Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) in the implementation of a local Emergency Management System that resulted in the establishment of Emergency Committees at all administrative levels - Regional, Zonal, Woreda and Tabia. The Emergency Committee is responsible for identification of needs, coordination and the execution of emergency services, and raising resources for relief efforts.

Under this management framework and the partnership established with REST, CISP was accountable for the EU funds allocated to this Project and provided REST with installments for the construction of 25 shallow boreholes and 2 deep wells, staff and logistics support. REST was responsible for the implementation of the program within the agreed framework.

CISP procured and transported the donated food and non-food items to the REST stores in Adigrat, Adwa and Shire, and to Extended Distribution Points (EDPs). REST was responsible for the implementation of the project, including planning, set-up of operational plans, coordination with Emergency Committees, storage and distribution of relief items at EDPs.

With CISP Monitors, REST ensured that only the displaced people were included in the beneficiary lists and that the food and non-food items supplied reached the targeted and intended populations.

To assist in the implementation of the relief operation, CISP deployed a team of monitors consisting of a Program Manager, one Hydrogeologist, two Logistics Officers, one food Coordinator and three Distribution Monitors, assisted by two drivers. The task of this team was to participate with REST in monitoring transport and distributions, provide weekly update reports on the state of implementation of activities, interview key players and beneficiaries to

assess the impact and appropriateness of project activities and gather baseline data for future interventions. The team was availed permanent access to all distribution sites and beneficiaries.

Distribution of non-food items to the War Displaced Persons was by REST and according to distribution plans jointly agreed to with CISP. The registration of WDPs was carried out by elected community representatives, Administrators, Emergency Committee members at various levels and persons from among the displaced. This accountable and coordinated system of registration and screening was established and carried out by REST, the DPPB and the *Woreda* Administration since the beginning of the emergency.

Coordination mechanisms were also implemented to avoid duplication of assistance between different donors, all being coordinated by the Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB).

Moreover, significant funds to assist the displaced have been raised locally through public contributions while international donations complimented these local initiatives and not replacing them. The DPPC has set up a special unit to monitor donations in cash and kind for planning purposes.

ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED AGAINST OBJECTIVES

Food

- 2,350 MT of Wheat grain borrowed from the EFSRA, transported to EDPs and distributed to 156,669 beneficiaries for a one-month ration.
- 2,350 MT of Sorghum procured locally to replenish the EFSRA loan.
- 75 MT of Supplementary Food (H.E. Biscuits) locally procured, transported and distributed to 13,960 children for a two-month ration.

Water

- 25 shallow wells equipped with hand pumps, providing clean water to 19,965 war displaced beneficiaries.
- 2 deep wells equipped with generator sets, providing clean water to 44,920 war displaced beneficiaries (urban).

Shelter

- 519.600 m^2 of plastic sheeting, equivalent of 2,598 rolls of 4x50 metres procured, transported and distributed to 26,015 families (about 130,000 persons) against an initial plan of 200,000 m^2 (equivalent of 1,000 rolls 4x50 metres). Additional purchases were possible due to favourable market prices.
- 380 family size tents procured, transported and distributed, benefiting 3,460 persons.
- 2,890 big blankets procured, transported and distributed to 11,341 persons, mostly children.
- 4,000 impregnated mosquito nets procured, transported and distributed to 4,000 households.



Cooking Utensils and Fuel

- 10,000 kerosene stoves and 50,000 litres of kerosene fuel procured, transported and distributed to 10,000 households.

IMPACT

Food

Distribution Monitors, Food Coordinators and the Program Manager conducted a series of beneficiary interviews in order to assess the appropriateness of the inputs, distribution procedures and schedules and the direct impacts of the program. The main findings of the interviews are as follows:

- The first form of survival is Food Aid.
- The first source of 'income' is Food Aid.
- The needs so far not addressed by any donor are the needs for basic food items such as salt, sugar and pepper.

- The first priority for obtaining basic food goods such as salt, sugar and pepper is by bartering/monetizing approximately 20% to 30 % of their food (grain) share. In addition, a number of displaced families have to pay rent for accommodation which varies from EB25 to EB40 per month. Milling charges are incurred and water is often paid for.
- The Wheat grain was appropriate; it is a local staple food and local bread can be produced from it, requiring less energy (fuel wood) than the preparation of *injera* with Sorghum. The barter value of Wheat is greater than the value of Sorghum thus having a higher economic benefit.

In consideration of the above impacts, it can be argued that the impact of the Food Distribution provided under the ECHO funded Project has been to provide,

- Emergency Food Aid needs
- A source of bartering for other basic food commodities

This allowed 156,669 War Displaced Persons to survive and address their basic needs over a period of one month when no other food donations were available for distribution. Had assistance been disrupted, even for one month, the social consequences and losses of already meager assets, and life, would have occurred, malnutrition would have escalated and immense efforts to bring the situation back to normal would have been required.

In terms of impact of the distributions on the nutritional status of the beneficiaries, while nutritional monitoring was not conducted given the short period of assistance, the food is assumed to have saved lives since the dry ration was provided to beneficiaries that have lost their productive assets, farm lands and livelihoods due to displacement. Lacking a source of income and all food supplies, the ECHO food ration assisted to stave of hunger even for a period of 1 month. Accountability and impact of the program were ensured through a system of screening, registration and prioritization of beneficiaries according resources available, practiced for a number of years in already chronically food insecure areas.

As stated above, only grain was distributed on a regular basis to half and up to two thirds of the total amount of WDPs in Tigray and provision of edible oil and pulses has been sporadic. A shortfall in the food pipeline is soon expected and will clearly disrupt distributions and affect nutrition levels.

Considering that mostly grain was distributed after May 1999, it became crucial to provide children with supplementary food. The consequences of children relying only on grain and small amounts of other basic food commodities derived from the bartering of food donations can have disastrous consequences. For this reason, about 13,960 children benefited under the ECHO assisted project over a period of two months. Given the duration of the assistance package, it was not sufficiently long to enable adequate monitoring of nutritional status.

Water

According to beneficiary interviews, what comes second to food in terms of priority needs is clean water. The project has thus contributed significantly in providing a basic need to displaced persons and host communities. However, there remain settlement areas (for example Ba'eker in Western Tigray) or urban concentrations (for example, Sherraro in Western Tigray) where the availability of clean water is far below accepted emergency standards and require urgent assistance.



Additional observable impacts of the Emergency Water Program noted in an external evaluation of the program includes:

- In terms of health and sanitation amongst the displaced people, the duration of the project is too short to properly assess the direct impact of the water program on the health of the beneficiaries. A minimum period of one-year is necessary to do so and this can not be envisaged under this Relief Program. The beneficiaries are scattered and thus are not closely followed by health structures, as it could be the case in camps (to monitor health indicators). However, through interviews, beneficiaries are expressing that they feel they have a better sanitation status.

- In terms of time spent on water collection by women, the water program allowed people to reduce significantly walking time in situations where they were obliged to walk long distances, in particular when temporary sources dried up. At present users can reach clean water within a walking time of 20-60 minutes round trip against 3-6 hours previously. Considering that people have to collect water 3 to 4 times daily, people who spent an average of nine hours on water collection before spend 2 to 4 hours now. This is almost an average 50 % reduction on time spent on water collection by women.

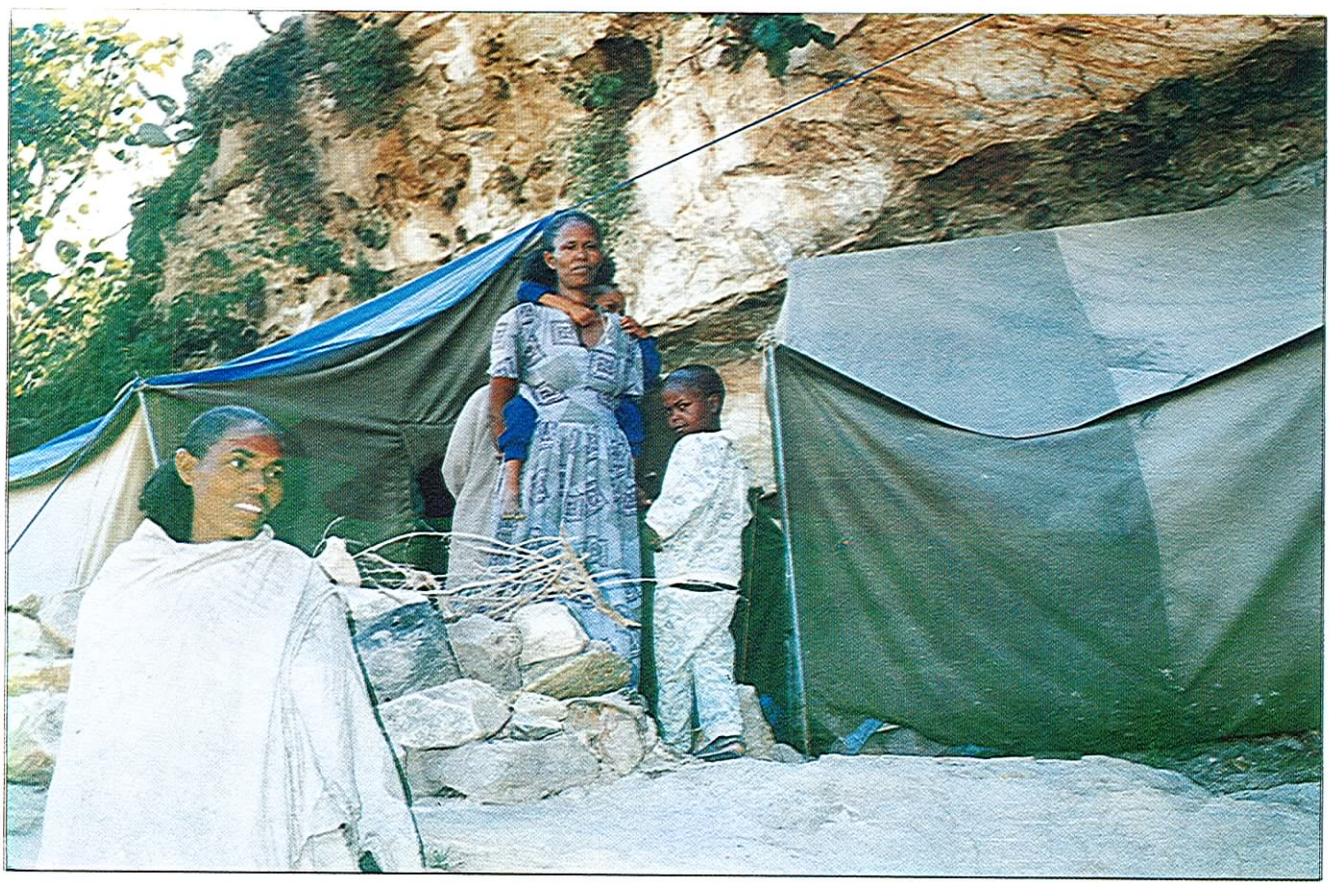
- In terms of usage pressure on available water system in host communities, the water program allowed beneficiaries to have a daily average of 55 litres of clean water per family per day. Considering that family size is between 5 and 8 members it means 7-11 litres per persons, which is close to a first target of 10 litres/person/day. Although families were previously collecting a similar amount of water (3 to 4 *ensiras* per day) a limiting factor to water consumption was the high time necessary in terms of walking and waiting and the poor quality of the water from traditional dug wells, poorly protected, stream water, ponds, unprotected springs and ditches at the bottom of dried up river beds (*chirosh*).

Despite the fact that the concentration of WDPs among host population appears small particularly in Eastern Zone, where WDPs make up 16 % of the population, the displaced population is increasing in Western Zone (up to 60 % of the population), the pressure exerted on water sources is serious, particularly in places where water consumption levels were higher compare to those of host communities. Areas with meager water resources cannot endure any additional pressure and require expansion for the health and hygiene of all directly war affected and host populations.

Due to the emergency nature of the project, and consequent short operational duration it was not possible to assess the mid or long term social impact of the water program, particularly the issue of how women will use the time saved by having water in close proximity to settlements and subsequent social changes or consequences.

Shelters, Kerosene Stoves and Kerosene Fuel

Shelter materials and cooking utensils were noted as third and fourth priorities (after food and water) by beneficiaries when interviewed by Distribution Monitors. It is difficult to measure the impact of such distributions in the short term, it can be claimed that their appropriateness was confirmed by the beneficiaries and another basic need besides food and water, were fulfilled. In addition, 4,000 pre-impregnated mosquito nets were distributed in malaria prone areas, in an effort to contribute to malaria prevention in precarious conditions.



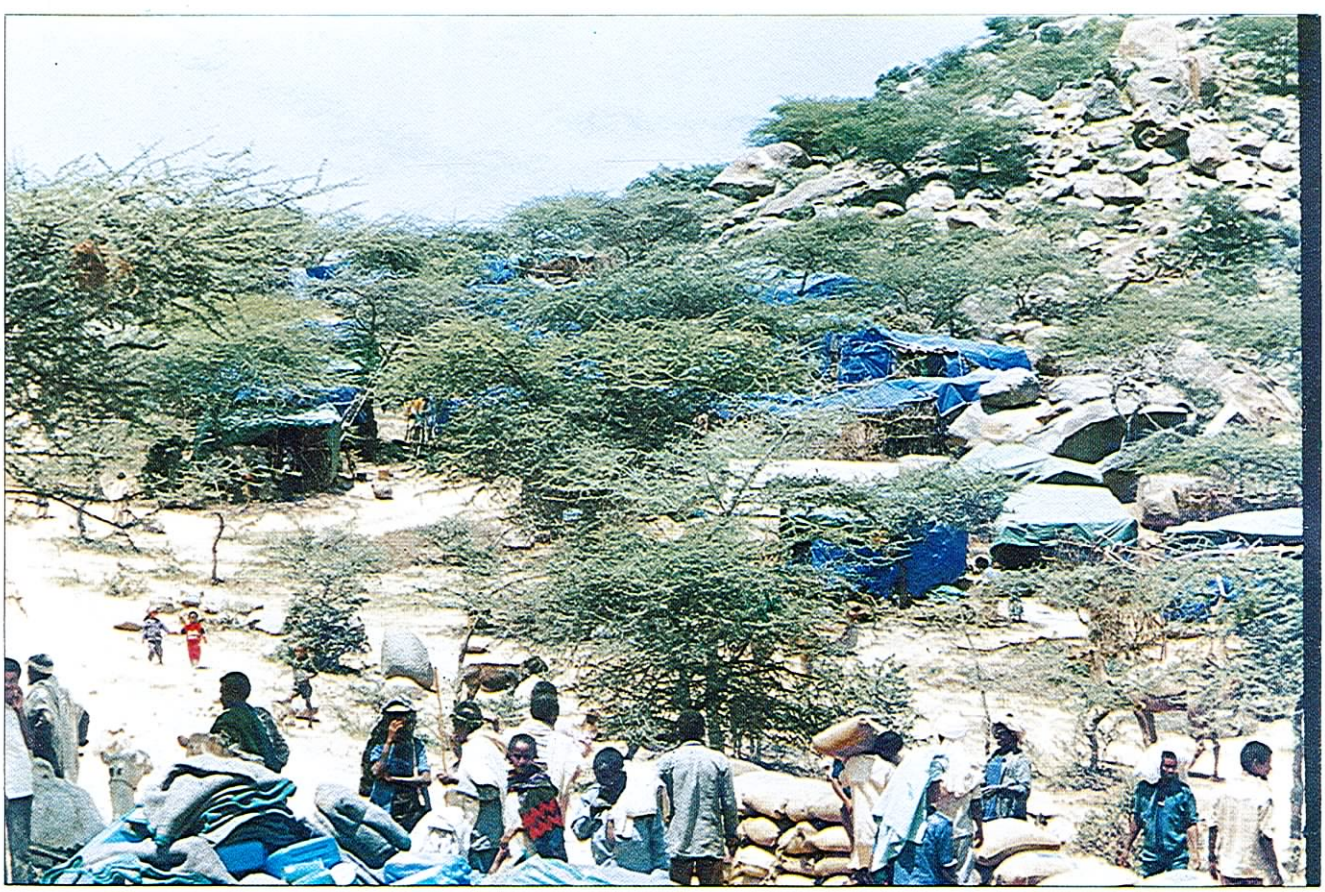
FUTURE PROSPECTS AND NEEDS?

Presently - end of 1999 - the following items remain priority needs for the displaced:

1 - Food in the form of cereals and pulses, supplementary food for children, cooking oil, sugar and salt.
2 - Water for household consumption.
3 - Shelter material and household items including clothing, mats for sleeping and water containers.
4 - Health and Sanitation.
5 - Educational materials.

The food situation is critical and requires continual resourcing for at least another year until such time that the war ends and land mines are cleared to enable the resumption of productive activities.

The environmental aspect and consequences of displacement also require serious consideration. Alternative sources of energy other than fuel wood should be used, and since the use of kerosene stoves is practiced in Tigray and kerosene fuel is widely available in centers such as Adigrat, Adwa, Axum and Shire, the provision of such relief inputs to the displaced people will prevent further environmental destruction and avoid the bartering of scarce food aid resources for cash to purchase fuel wood.



Mulu Tuko, displaced from Badme, interviewed in Adi Hajeray

Mulu was asked about which assets she has been able to keep or preserve.

"*Let alone keeping properties, we couldn't take our children with us when we left Badme*", she responded, "*everyone was in a struggle to escape from the attack. The ennemies were firing at our back when we fled. It was a rare case that parents brought their own children with them when they fled. We left our children at Badme and they came with other persons later...*"

About her losses :

"*We missed all our growing crops, and also the harvested crops. Almost all of us left Badme without keeping any household properties. Some were able to keep portable properties such tape recorders and radios, but they left even these properties at the middle way when the Eritrean Army was following at their back and firing bullets and driving tanks. Some left their area in a hurry when bullets are penetrating their houses. I left my house without collecting 1,300 Birrs, a loan taken from REST...*"

Her first preoccupation :

" *To come back in my place, but the land is not cleared. For this I would like to raise one point here : the voice of German* (DeutsheWelle, German radio station, Ahmaric Programme) *said that 100,000 different landmines were buried in Badme and around, but so far only less than half of these landmines were cleared. The government does not allow us to go there fearing for the landmines and explosives. One of our friend disobeyed and went in Badme and missed his one leg by landmine. We afraid this danger...* "

How she survived to date :

" *We survived with the support of the* (Ethiopian) *Red-Cross and REST and also the people around here* (host community). *We received wheat and sorghum from the government, sometime also oil, famix and lentils. But we don't have salt, tea, sugar, pepper, etc..... for this we have to give part of the grain we receive because nobody here can find work. It is very rare that someone can get work in the field* (daily labour). *The food we receive will not stay the whole month. We always suffer in the end of the month. We don't have any kitchen ustencil, we borrow from the people around us...*"

The burden on the host community :

"*When we came here, the people around provided us meals for one or two weeks. After that they did not support us anything, and now they are complaining that they are suffering from the waste matter from our children. The children use open area for toilet...*"

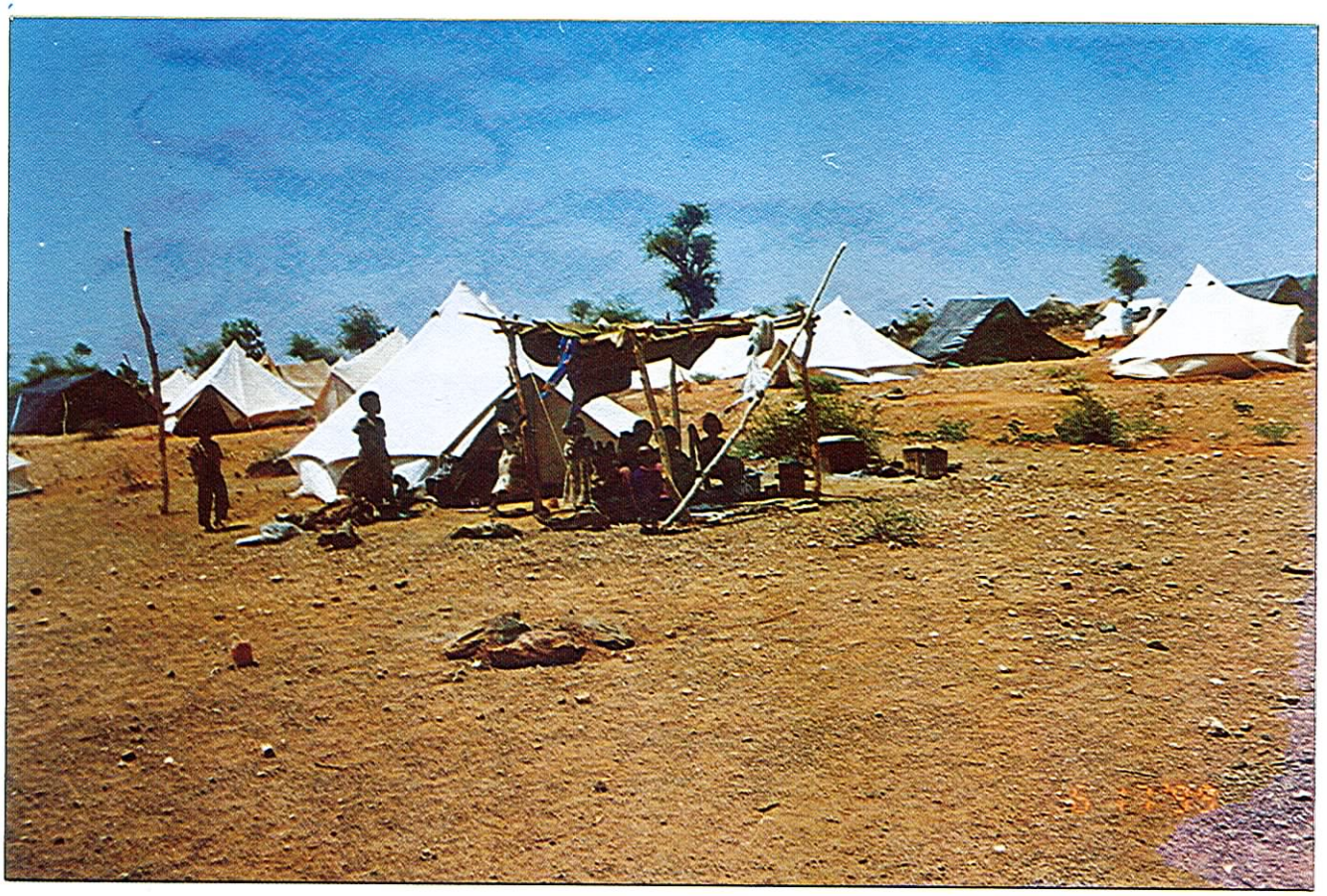
What she suggests (in terms of assistance) :

"*When we were with the people displaced from Shirraro we got water from trucks* (tankers) *but when the people from Shirraro left Adi Ageray to return in Shirraro, we missed the water provision and we were exposed to buy water 0.75 Birrs* (for 20 Liter jerrycan) *We were told to move to Shirraro but we did not move because moving from place to place there is a change in weather condition and this is not convenient for the children health. Good water containers* (jerrycans) *are important for us, our small water containers are damaged...*"

What she will need when returning to Badme :

"*We don't have oxen, ploughs, seeds, ... to start our farming activities. our houses are destroyed, the schools are destroyed. Those who were engaged in trade have no money to start again...*"

During the interview, we had to leave the distribution place because the rain started. We entered in a room rented 20 Birrs per month by four families of displaced, twelve persons and no adult males (many went to the front). They were cramped in an area of less than fifteen square metre, preparing meals and resting. Before the war, it was the donkey's room.



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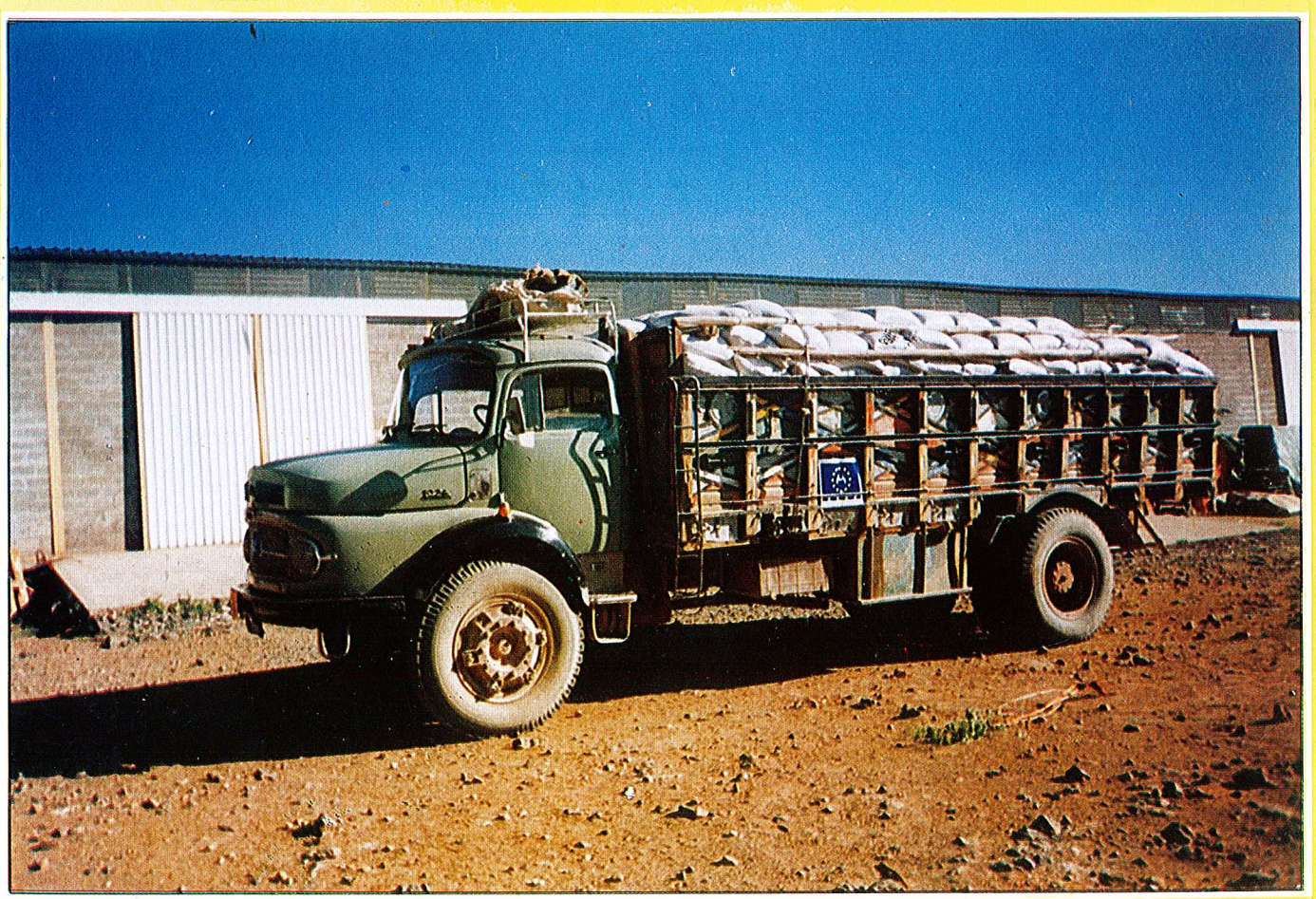

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