



DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

ETHIOPIA - Civil Strife

Data

Date: 1977-79 (FY 77)

Location: The Ogaden (Bale and Sidamo administrative regions)

No. Affected: 650,000 (Bale - 400,000; Sidamo - 250,000)

Damage: Homes, farm structures, livestock, and crops destroyed

The Disaster

Warfare in the Ogaden in 1977 and early 1978 between Ethiopia and Somalia, and continued guerilla activity even after formal Somali withdrawal in March 1978, resulted in the displacement of up to 650,000 people (farmers and pastoralists/nomads) and the destruction of homes, farms, livestock, and crops.

Action Taken by the Government of Ethiopia (GOE)

In October 1977 the GOE appealed for urgently needed relief supplies to aid persons displaced by the hostilities. The GOE also appealed for transport assistance and, in June 1978, the government made a subsequent appeal to the international community. Through its Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), the government established at least 163 temporary relief camps in Bale as well as an unspecified number in Sidamo. After coordinating the supply of food, clothing, and medical care on an emergency basis, the RRC began efforts to resettle many of the displaced persons in the areas where they were temporarily sheltered. The RRC supplied oxen, farm implements, and seeds, as well as tractors in some areas. Educational, medical, and infrastructural inputs were also planned.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

In view of the displaced people in the Ogaden as well as crop failure and threatened famine in Welo (Wollo) province, and in order to respond to an appeal from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the U.S. Charge declared that an emergency existed in Ethiopia on September 24, 1977. Under the Ambassador's disaster relief authority, \$25,000 was contributed to the government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) for the immediate purchase of relief supplies.....\$25,000

ETHIOPIA - Civil Strife

The USG mad a \$450,000 contribution to the ICRC Ogaden relief fund from International Disaster Assistance funds for the supply of blankets, food, medical supplies, shelter materials, and agricultural tools.....\$450,000

The USG also made a total contribution of \$2,000,000 to the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) transportation trust fund for the purchase of trucks and trailers. Of this, \$1,350,000 was from International Disaster Assistance funds (FY 78) and \$650,000 was from reprogrammed A.I.D. project funds.....\$2,000,000

The USG gave \$15,000 to support a helicopter survey of both the war torn areas of the Ogaden as well as drought-stricken areas (FY 78), and contributed P.L. 480 food valued at \$380,847....\$395,847

TOTAL \$2,870,847

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies *

Lutheran World Relief - 70,000 lbs. of used clothing

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

European Economic Community (EEC) - contribution to UNDP transportation trust fund of \$3,600,000

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - issued an appeal for assistance in September 1977

Sweden - 10,000 blankets; contribution to UNDP transportation trust of \$3,000,000

United Kingdom - 60 tons of medical supplies; 10 trucks

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - administered a trust fund established to purchase trucks and trailers because of severe transport constraints hampering relief efforts

TOTAL \$6,600,000

* * * *

Guerilla activity in the Bale and Sidamo regions continued even after formal Somali withdrawal from the Ogaden in March 1978. Inadequate rainfall in the Sidamo region further compounded the difficulties. In view of the continued needs of large numbers of displaced persons, and in order to respond to the July 1978 appeal from the RRC, Ambassador Frederic Chapin made a further disaster determination on August 10, 1978.

ETHIOPIA - Civil Strife

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

The USG made a grant from International Disaster Assistance funds to the RRC specifically for expenses related to air transport for medical/administrative teams, transportation and distribution of emergency relief foods, and provision of seeds, farm implements, and plow oxen.....\$400,000

FAA funds were made available to cover expenses connected with an aerial survey of Bale used in planning settlements of displaced persons.....\$60,000

P.L. 480 foods were also contributed with a total value (including transport costs) of.....\$13,675,000

TOTAL \$14,135,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies *

Mennonites - 2 medical missionaries provided health services at relief camps

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

Australia - 10,000 MT wheat

Netherlands - cash contribution for oxen and hand tools (\$250,000); cash contribution for soap and blankets (\$52,000); cash contribution for improvements to Assab port (\$1,000,000) for a total of \$1,302,000

Norwegian Lutheran Mission - cash contribution of \$10,000 for purchase of oxen

Swedish Red Cross - cash contribution of \$1,000,000

United Kingdom - tractors and landrovers (\$75,000); medical equipment, blankets, etc. (\$440,000), for a total of \$515,000

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - issued an appeal in April 1978 covering Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia - see Annex to this report.

World Food Program (WFP) - 6,000 MT wheat

TOTAL \$2,827,000

ETHIOPIA - Civil Strife

ANNEX

In April of 1978 the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) issued an appeal for funds to assist persons in Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia displaced by fighting in the Ogaden region.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

In response to the UNHCR appeal, the USG made a contribution of \$2,430,000 from International Disaster Assistance funds. Of this, \$945,000 was used in Somalia, \$910,000 in Ethiopia, \$381,067 in Djibouti, and \$193,933 was expended as program support and administration. The USG also contributed \$750,000 from State Department refugee funds to the UNHCR appeal. The funds were used to purchase building materials, food, blankets, utensils, tools, cloth and clothing, for agricultural assistance and for support of related relief projects.....\$3,180,000

TOTAL \$3,180,000

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

International Organizations

European Economic Community (EEC) - cash contribution of \$3,990,000

Holy See - cash contribution of \$10,000

Governments

Denmark - cash contribution of \$870,474

France - cash contribution of \$107,527

Germany, Federa; Republic - cash contributin (\$946,706); in kind contribution (\$48,780) for a total of \$995,486

Greece - cash contribution (\$10,000); in kind contribution (\$13,000) for a total of \$23,000

Iceland - cash contribution of \$5,000

Ireland - cash contribution of \$19,305

Liechtenstein - cash contribution of \$9,974

Netherlands - cash contribution of \$519,643

ETHIOPIA - Civil Strife

New Zealand - cash contribution of \$12,026
Norway - cash contribution totalling \$934,579
Saudi Arabia - cash contribution of \$292,398
Sweden - cash contribution of \$1,075,269
Switzerland - cash contribution of \$259,067
United Kingdom - cash contribution (\$1,447,876); in kind contribution (\$201,035) totalling \$1,648,911
Yugoslavia - in kind contribution of \$95,000

Voluntary Agencies

CARITAS (FRG) - in kind contribution of \$30,298
Christian Aid (UK) - cash contribution of \$14,372
Help the Aged (UK) - in kind contribution of \$7,752
OXFAM (UK) - in kind contribution of \$53,585
Radda Barner (Sweden) - cash contribution (\$155,443); in kind contribution (\$17,987) totalling \$173,430

TOTAL \$11,147,096

* Please note: the figures for total U.S. voluntary agency and international assistance are an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.