

**JOINT PROGRAMME**  
**Supporting return of IDPs and Expellees to communities**  
**of origin or resettlement**

**Final Report**  
**For**  
**Grant Number 623-G-00-05-00009-00**

**USAID**

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### Back Ground Information

The UN system's strategy for meeting the development challenges of Eritrea is to deliver its assistance on two parallel tracks. One focuses on supporting national efforts to respond to the country's immediate needs for relief and recovery. At the same time, on a parallel track, the UN system will support the government in the planning and implementation of its medium-to-long-term development programme.

This joint programme falls under the United Nations Development Assistance framework (UNDAF) for Eritrea covering the period 2002-2006. The objectives of the programme specifically address the Recovery (rehabilitation, reintegration and reconstruction) goals of the UNDAF: 62. page 14: (v) provide special attention to women-headed households in the emergency and recovery programme; (vii) bridge the gap between emergency, recovery, reintegration, and development programmes; (viii) assist in the provision of appropriate environmentally friendly housing (and settlement) schemes for returning refugees, IDPs and expellees.

This joint programme by UNDP, UNICEF and WFP shares the same objective and creates an implementation framework for some of the integrated work plan activities of the Thematic Group on Recovery and some aspects of the Basic Social Services theme group, specific to the goals of the Recovery component of the UNDAF, specifically geared toward safeguarding the coping and adaptive strategies of returning IDPs and host communities.

This joint programme will support the on-going efforts of the Government which has already made a substantial commitment to the return of IDPs through diverting resources for the initial works in clearing of mines and UXO by EDA/EDO, rehabilitating schools, health facilities, water supply systems and maintenance of feeder roads to the villages of return, and follows the request by Government for UN support.

During the past few years, substantial reconstruction for war-damaged infrastructure has taken place throughout the sub region under government programmes sponsored by key donors and the World Bank over the past four years.

With regard to national UN collaboration, in 2002 and 2003, UNDP was fully involved in the resettlement of internally displaced persons and expellees having successfully implemented projects worth more than US\$ 20 million with the successful return of expellees and internally displaced, under its POWER programme.

Through the UNDP/PoWER Programme 14,700 houses were reconstructed in war-affected regions of Eritrea. An additional 39 schools were rehabilitated and furnished with teaching materials and 21 health facilities were reconstructed and stocked with medical supplies. Bakeries were opened, markets rebuilt and twenty villages in desperate need of clean water benefited from the construction of 26 boreholes, wells and water pipelines.

UNDP/PoWER also supplied 4,729 women with chicks for backyard poultry farming and another 400 women with the materials and training for beekeeping activities. Courses in home economics, weaving, traditional handcraft and construction were offered. Over 6,000 farmers were provided with livestock, seed and fertilizer and in the chaos of the immediate post-war situation, cash-for-work projects aided 125,000 persons.

The UNDP/PoWER Programme also assisted in the settlement of 10,000 rural deportees from Ethiopia through the provision of 3,000 hectares of cleared, ploughed and planted land.

In the education sector, UNICEF is supporting the Government of the State of Eritrea (GSE) to provide water trucking for WFP school feeding to 98 schools and has already provided 102 water containers to schools nationwide. Efforts will be made to expand this to the affected schools in the returnee villages, along with support in immediate classroom and equipment/material needs. Moreover, within the overall UNDAF 2002 – 2006 context, UNICEF has already supported rehabilitation schools, including building of an eight classroom school in Barentu to benefit 800 returnees, IDPs and expellees. In addition, a study was conducted on school construction modalities to guide future interventions within many of the areas of the current IDP return, and 75,000 children countrywide benefited from materials and furniture.

WFP is feeding school children in six regions, and will expand its feeding programme to schools where target populations are returning to the extent possible.

Countrywide, WFP and UNICEF are providing supplies to 40 therapeutic feeding centres. WFP is supporting the therapeutic feeding of 1,200 children and is distributing blended food to 12,000 malnourished children under 5 years of age and pregnant and nursing women under its supplementary feeding programme while UNICEF is supporting supplementary feeding through the Ministry of Health for children under 5 years of age and for pregnant and nursing women in areas of Anseba and Gash Barka. Both WFP and UNICEF are supporting the Government’s National Nutrition Surveillance System (NNSS) financially and technically.

Experience implementing the above mentioned activities indicates that joint programming will be the most effective and efficient implementation strategy to support on-going Government efforts while achieving UNDAF goals and results. Moreover, as already indicated by the local donor community, the joint programme will definitely increase the likelihood of securing increased funds.

The IDPs that will be incorporated into this first set of activities under the Joint Programme will be as follows:

Adi Keshi

- Zone	Sub Zone	Place of origin	HH	Individuals
Gash Barka	Lalay Gash	(21 villages)	5,054	18,663

Mai Wuray

- Zone	Sub Zone	Place of origin	HH	Individuals
Dehub	Tsorona	Seb’o, Kinin, Hadish Adi	1501	5 048

Kotobia

Zone	Sub Zone	Place of origin	HH	Individuals
Gash Barka	Shambuko	Expellees	1745	6123

The IDPs are often returning to villages that are poorly developed within the Temporary Security Zone and which highlight many of the social sector weaknesses as identified in the

Common Country Assessment (CCA) for Eritrea (2001). Poor access to safe water and sanitation, low enrolment of children in primary schools, high levels of malnutrition among women and children, and high levels of female headed households make the target population highly vulnerable in areas of building shelter, managing agricultural/livestock activities and poor general access to livelihood opportunities.

### Overall status of the Programme

Under the Joint Programme signed by UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and The Governemnt of the State of Eritrea on October 28, 2004; close to 19,000 IDPs of Adi Keshi camp were successfully returned to their villages of origin.

Therefore, this report covers only the process of returning and resettling the IDPs of Adi Keshi camp. In this regard, following the successful return of the said IDPs, the results achieved are the following:

#### (a) Transporting the IDPs and their Personal belongings

UNDP, in collaboration with ERREC and other contributing agencies (ICRC, UNHCR and donors), shared the burden of transporting the returning IDPs to their places or origin. The process of transporting the said IDPs, which took place in February 2005, was hailed as a remarkable success. In this endeavour, UNDP's support was to extend financial assistance for the procurement of truck services which would transport the IDPs, along with their personal belongings and animal farms, to the designated areas. UNHCR also contributed in kind by providing trucks for transporting IDPs with their personal effects.

#### (b) Agriculture

As part of the task of helping the returned IDPs to resume their active and productive lives, the Regional office of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of Gash Bark planned to clear approximately 5,200 hectares (ha) of land for agricultural purposes. Under the Joint Programme it was planned to cover the cost of clearing some 70% of the planned area, i.e., 3640 ha. provide agricultural machineries, seed, insecticide, etc. The estimated budget, broken down by activity, was as follows:

Estimated budget, broken down by activity

Activity	Unit	Qty.	Cost per unit (USD)	Total cost (USD)
Land Clearing (cash for work)	Hectare	3640	150	546,000
Tractor Ploughing	Hectare	3640	70	254,800
Sowing (Tractor)	Hectare	3640	20	72,800
Seed (sorghum)	Quintals	1040	57	59,280
Insecticide	Hectare	5200	30	156,000
Construction of water ponds		20	20,000	400,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>1,488,880</b>

Out of the above activities the following have been successfully carried out since February 2005:

S/No.	Activity	Tasks accomplished		Remark
		Unit	Quantity	
1	Land Clearing	Hectare	3,556	
2	Ploughing (Tractor service)	Hectare	2,337	
3	Ploughing (Oxen hire)	Hectare	1,219	
4	Supply of Seeds (sorghum)	Quintals	1,040	Fund from other source
5	Sowing (Tractor service)	Hectare	2,337	
6.	Sowing (Oxen hire)	Hectare	1,219	

Out of the 3,640 hectares of land planned to be cleared, it is worth noting that 3556 hectares have been cleared covering 97% of the target. The cleared land comprises farming plots that already belonged to the IDPs before the devastating border war erupted in 1998.

Size of the land cleared, ploughed and sowed in each village is as follows:

S/No	Village	Ploughed and sowed land in hectares	Remark
1	Shilalo	555	Tractor Service
2	Habela	339	“
3	Adi Tsetser	445	“
4	Dembe Dima	169	“
5	Tselale	62	“
6	Sheshebit	453	“
7	Adihakin	314	“
8	Mai Kokah	410	Hired Oxen driven farming method
9	Mukuti	809	“
Total		3,556	

### (c) Water Supply

Prior to returning the said IDPs the Administration of Gash Barka ensured the availability of potable water and constructed, accordingly, water delivery systems in all the designated villages (Shilalo, Sheshebit, Adi Tseser (Shilalo), Adihakin, Dembedima, Habela, Tsilale, Maykokah, Mukuti).

In some of the villages the water wells were fitted with motorized pumps while in other villages they were fitted with hand pumps. Prior to the initiative of establishing water points in each of the villages the communities were fetching water by walking up to 4km to the sites of the wells. This prompted the need to construct distribution points and reservoirs with the necessary fittings so that the communities could access water within their villages. Below is the budget required for laying the water pipes, purchases of pumps, generators as well as the construction of water points and reservoirs. The total required budget has already been

secured through UNDP and NCA. UNHCR also contributed water pumps and generators for the temporary settings.

Villages	Estimated Budget for WSS (USD)
Shilalo	369,057.00
Sheshebit	311,452.00
Dembe Dima	262,210.00
Maykokah	242,043.00
Mukuti	286,287.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,471,049.00</b>

The abovementioned work was awarded to contractors in July 2005 and is progressing well. The physical digging of the lines for pipes was completed in September 2005 in Shilalo, Sheshebit and Mukuti and is progressing well in Dembe Dima and Mai kokah. Other activities such as the construction of public fountains (water points) and reservoirs are also progressing well and are expected to be completed by the end of May 2006.

#### (d) Shelter

Emergency shelter materials (tents and tarpaulins) were distributed to the IDPs upon their arrival in their villages of origin. ICRC distributed 2,000 tarpaulins and UNHCR, through ERREC, handed out 600 tents and 1,500 units of iron structures for rounded huts (Agudo).

UNDP has, in September 2005, provided shelter kits (corrugated iron sheets (CIS), purlins, rafters, nails, door and window hinges) to 2,200 IDP households and covered labour cost. In addition to the UNDP supported interventions Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) also provided the same shelter kits to 500 households. Thus, out of the 5,054 Adi Keshi IDPs/expellees households who have returned/resettled permanently 2,700 of them have now received shelter kits.

All the shelter kits arrived at their destination in September 2005 and the Gash Barka regional office then proceeded to distributing the kits to the beneficiaries. The following table shows the achievements for the shelter component:

S/No	Villages	Shelter kits Distributed to HH	<i>Houses</i>	
			Completed	Under Construction
1	Sheshebit	247	67	180
2	Maikokah	384	0	384
3	Shilalo	60	22	38
4	Adihakin	160	55	105
5	Mukuti	679	55	624
<b>Total</b>		<b>1530</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>1331</b>

An additional 600 vulnerable families were scheduled to receive assistance to construct permanent shelters based on a modality expected to be determined by the Gash Barka administration. However, due to the delays in receipt options from Gash Barka Administration UNDP presented to the Steering Committee meeting held on the 2nd of December 2005 seven options for consideration. The proposed options were the following:

- Option 1: Construction of shelters using stabilized soil blocks through community mobilization (Stabilized soil blocks produced by the communities).
- Option 2: Construction of shelters through community mobilization (stabilized soil blocks provided to the communities).
- Option 3: Construction of shelters by building contractors using stabilized soil blocks.
- Option 4: Construction of shelters using prefabricated construction materials -- (offer from Tesinma share company).
- Option 5: Construction of shelters using hollow concrete blocks (HCB) – (Communities producing the HCB).
- Option 6: Construction of shelters using hollow concrete blocks (HCB) (HCB are provided to the communities)
- Option 7: Construction of shelter by building contractors using hollow concrete blocks (HCB).

Out of the above stated options, the steering committee agreed the most cost-effective and sustainable option is the first one. It was further agreed that UNDP, in collaboration with Gash Barka Administration, build five prototype shelters using option 1 to demonstrate the strength and stability of the stabilized soil blocks. Once these demonstration shelters proved to be durable and dependable permanent shelters for the targeted IDPs were to be constructed using stabilized soil blocks, with the communities producing the blocks themselves. Special attention was to be given to vulnerable households who are unable to produce the blocks themselves. Available resources were adequate to provide shelter to the remaining Adi Keshi population using the above option.

Meanwhile, the Administration of Gash Barka informed UNDP that it no longer endorses the idea of building prototype shelters using stabilized soil blocks. Instead, it opted to proceed with the remaining shelter programme utilizing red bricks.

Cognizant of the current living conditions of the returned IDPs and in order not to stall the implementation of the shelter programme, UNDP has therefore proposed a flexible approach towards the provision of shelter to all the returned IDPs. This approach entitles each household to the amount of funds earmarked to cover the required number of stabilized soil block units for a 5 x 5m shelter. Each household will then build shelter using its preferred building blocks. Any additional costs are to be covered by the respective household, the Regional Administration or other sources identified by the Regional Administration. Accordingly, press machines and related inputs will also be made available to those households who opt for stabilized soil blocks.

(e) Food Aid

Distribution of food rations has been going on a monthly basis since the return of the IDPs/expellees in February 2005.

(f) Non-Food Items

The following non-food items were also distributed to the returned IDPs by different agencies: UNHCR, ICRC, the Eritrean Red Cross Society and the government beginning February 2005.

S/No.	Description	Quantity
1.	Mosquito nets	6,000
2.	Metal oven (Griddles)	3,000
3.	Blankets	22,000
4.	Soap	22,500
5.	Sickles	6,000
6.	Plough	6,000
7.	Axes	6,000
8.	Spades	6,206
9.	Hoe	6,078
10.	Kitchen sets	750
11.	Water Containers	110
12.	Plastic sheets	25

In addition to the abovementioned distribution of non-food items, UNICEF has mobilized funds to provide clothing that would cover the need of 5,000 women and children returned IDPs. The assessment was carried out by UNICEF and ERREC. Implementation (procurement and distribution) is expected to take place soon.

(g) Schools

With respect to building schools, the plan was to construct 49 makeshift classrooms and 16 residences for teachers.

In this regard the achievements are as follows:

S/No.	Location	Erected Rooms				Total
		Class Rooms		Teachers Residence		
		Brought form Adikeshi	New	Brought form Adikeshi	New	
1	Shilalo	5	0	0	5	10
2	Aditsetser	0	18	0	3	21
3	Dembe Dima	10	0	0	5	15
4	Mukuti	10	0	0	5	15
5	Maikokah	5	0	0	0	5
Total		30	18	0	18	66

Throughout the summer, 30 classrooms from Adi Keshi camp were dismantled and have been re-erected in the different villages of return/settlement. An additional 18 new classrooms and 18 residences for teachers have also been constructed.

These accomplishments fully satisfy the planned interventions agreed to in the programme document signed by the government and UNDP in November 2004.

#### (h) Health Facilities

The health station in Shilalo village was rehabilitated by the Regional Administration prior to the commencement of returning the IDPs. It is now fully functional. However, it is the only health facility in the area and is serving about 20 villages including the 9 villages of the returned IDPs.

#### (i) Feeder Roads

The feeder roads which connect the villages of return with the rest of the Region are not properly paved. The roads become inaccessible during the rainy season forcing the people to remain incommunicado with other peoples. As agreed in the programme document the responsibility of paving and maintaining the roads rests on the Government. However, to help the Government do the job the programme Steering Committee stressed the fact that feeder roads are the core to the success of all other activities and, hence, the need for resources mobilization.

### USAID Contribution to the Joint Programme

Out of the above mentioned activities USAID support was mainly on Shelter and Water. The intervention was planned as follows:

#### a) Shelter

Providing the means to war-affected populations to resume active and productive lives is one of the most urgent and important tasks in the successful rehabilitation, reintegration and reconstruction and recovery efforts one of which is support to shelter programmes in Eritrea today. While the provision of social and economic infrastructure is an urgent necessity, recovery efforts will only be successful if large number of target population can pursue livelihoods on their own. Supporting displaced people to build their houses is one of the conditions to enable them to start their normal life and exert more efforts towards sustaining their livelihoods through different interventions.

Through the generous assistance of USAID, the shelter sub-component aims at providing suitable shelter to the most needy, in the Sheshebit area, which could be progressively built into a more sustainable and permanent dwelling has been implemented. Key components of the shelter sub-component included mobilizing communities in the construction and maintenance of shelters; increasing the involvement of key stakeholders: village councils, local committees (40% of the members being women), sub-regional officials and the provision of building materials (shelter kits) to beneficiaries and follow up and control the appropriate use of the shelter kits by the committee.

The intervention focused on the provision of shelter kits mainly 31 Pcs of corrugated iron sheets, 6pcs of eucalyptus rafters, 20 pcs of wooden purlins, 400kgs cement, 55pcs cement hollow blocks; door hinges and latches and labour cost/beneficiary. The beneficiaries for the shelter were 950 households and the budget was USD 665,000.

Though many of the displaced population have now found some solution with the help of international community and particularly USAID, a large number still require solution to their shelter problem to restart their normal lives. The intervention covered 50% (1,100 households) of the above mentioned 2,200 households who received shelter kits from UNDP.

#### b) Water Supply

Through the USAID funding, the emergency water supply system for the IDPs return village of Sheshebit was secured prior to their movement to their villages of origin. This emergency water supply system consists of boreholes (water source, pumps and temporary reservoirs (bladders). The next move was then to give easy access to water to the IDPs near their village by conveying water from its source through Distribution pipes in the returnee village of Sheshebit.

The planned water supply intervention programme which was successfully completed for Sheshebit village at a cost of USD 285,000 are:

- Well drilling
- Excavation of 4,000 meters of pipe trenches
- Supply pipe and plumbing work (4,000 meters)
- Supply and install generator and pumps
- Construction of reservoir (100 m<sup>3</sup>)
- Construction of five public fountains
- Construction of generator house

The improvements made in water supply benefited 830 households in Sheshebit. USAID assistance to the project has helped to realize the effective implementation of the water sub-project which the community would not be able to execute with out external assistance.

#### c) Financial report

UNDP charges the project 5% of the total cost to cover the administrative cost to runt the activities. This was estimated at USD 50,000.

The actual expenditure is shown in the following table. These expenditures are charged against USAID's contribution and all incurred prior to the notification notice of October 3, 2005.

Financial Report

Award ID: 00037750

Project ID: 00041360 - Supporting Return of IDPs and Expellees to their Places of Origin

Donor: USAID

Account	Date	Reference	Name	Description	Nakfa	USD
<b>Provision of shelter Materials</b>						
72310	21/06/2005	00004493	JOHS. GRAM-HANSSSEN A/S	Cost of Corrugated Iron Sheet & Metal Sheet	4,558,086.00	303,872.40
72105	28/06/2005	00004051	KERIA AHMEDIN ABDURAHMAN - I/E	Cost of Eucalyptus Raftes	2,904,000.00	193,600.00
72325	28/06/2005	00004050	RED SEA TRADING CORPORATION	Cost of Cement	825,000.00	55,000.00
72130	19/07/2005	00004161	ERITRUCKO SHARE COMPANY	Cost of transporting materials	383,873.38	25,591.56
72310	05/08/2005	00004688	JOHS. GRAM-HANSSSEN A/S	Cost of Nails, Door & Window lutch & Hinges	698,940.00	46,596.00
71630	12/08/2005	00004312	ERITRUCKO SHARE COMPANY	Cost of transporting materials	206,372.95	13,758.20
			<b>SubTotal</b>		<b>9,576,272.33</b>	<b>638,418.16</b>
<b>Rehabilitation/Construction of Water Supply</b>						
72105	30/09/2005	Financial report	Gash Barka Administration	Payment made for water Supply System	4,539,101.25	302,606.75
			<b>SubTotal</b>		<b>4,539,101.25</b>	<b>302,606.75</b>
<b>Support Cost</b>						
		UNDP	Support Cost 5%	705,768.68	47,051.25	UNDP
			<b>SubTotal</b>		<b>705,768.68</b>	<b>47,051.25</b>
			<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>14,821,142.26</b>	<b>988,076.16</b>