

A.5 Eritrea - 1998 onwards - Conflict

Case study:

Update - Camp upgrades

See Shelter Projects
2008 for more

Project type:

NFI distribution
Camp support program
Fuel efficient stove project

Disaster:

IDPs in camps in Eritrea
following Eritrea / Ethiopia
conflict

Houses damaged:

Estimated 100,000 homes
were destroyed in the war.

Number of people displaced:

In 2000, around 1,000,000
were displaced in Eritrea.

Project target population:

Varied over time.
The camp population in Gash-
Barka, Debub and the
Red Sea states region stabilised
to 60,000 by 2001.

Occupancy rate on handover:

Varied over time.

Shelter size

Tents provided 16m² of
covered space. Some families
had modified their shelters to
provide up to 40m².



Project timeline



Summary

Support for variable population of Eritrean IDPs following conflict with Ethiopia. The agency in this case study was the main provider of shelter and NFI assistance, providing IDPs with tents, tarpaulins and other non-food items such as stoves to those living in camps in the three areas of Gash Burka, Debub and Red Sea states. The provision of durable shelter items was not possible due to a political interests in ensuring that the camps were temporary. As a result IDPs often adapted the emergency shelter items they received in order to improve their living conditions.

Update

By mid-2008 Eritrea, officially, there were no conflict displaced people in Eritrea. The government had resettled the last 11,000 living in camps in Debub. However, United Nations Development Programme in Eritrea reported in January 2009 that an unspecified number of displaced people were still living with host families.

In 2007 concerns were raised over the level of services provided in return areas and whether settlements would support returnee livelihoods and one agency requested donor funding to support 10,000 returnees with emergency items and basic services.

The government of Eritrea has provided cash grants and assistance with home-building and seed/livestock buying to some returnees. Some families received two hectares of land and the regional administration had disbursed over three million Nakfa (\$200,000) by the end of 2008.



Over 60,000 people were living in camps 6 years after the conflict
Photo: Joseph Ashmore