

Ethiopia Drought

5 Wells, Food & Medicines for Ethiopia

Ironic, that whilst we witnessed severe flooding in Mozambique, Ethiopia was undergoing extensive drought and experiencing the onset of famine, gradually pushing millions towards famine and starvation.

Muslim Hands' volunteers from the UK and South Africa worked in the region, providing food and basic medicines to the most remote areas of Gode, Harkali and Harmukali, many of which were receiving aid for the first time.

Alongside food distribution, our teams identified and initiated long-term projects such as the digging of new wells and water storage systems. We have now completed five such wells, each of which is equipped with a pump and a water reservoir/storage tank. The wells are located in the lowlands and dug to a depth of 10 meters or more. It is hoped that these new 'safe water' schemes will provide adequate water supply for drinking and irrigation even in drought periods.

The volunteers' report also highlighted the need for further commitment to long-term aid in terms of establishing 'Vocational Skills Centres' aimed at alleviating poverty by helping

young men and women become self-sufficient and economically stable.

Plans for skills centres in the Jijiga region are underway. The centre will teach skills in metal-work, carpentry and masonry work.

Medical clinics for the south-eastern region are also planned. Besides offering basic medical care for the community, that all Muslim Hands clinics provide, these clinics will also provide veterinary services for live-stock. This is imperative, as the link between human lives and the lives of their cattle is quite profound. Provision of shelter is also a high priority for this region. (see Shelter report on page 7)



Old & homeless (top)



New well project (left)

Food distribution in Gode, Harkali and Harmukali (below)



Eritrea

Refugees Help Themselves With Agricultural Project

The war that erupted on 14th May 2000 between the impoverished countries Ethiopia and Eritrea has forced more than 300,000 people from their homes. Around 50,000 of which have fled to the Wad Sharifey camp near Kassala on the eastern borders with Sudan.

With our partners in the region, Muslim Hands is helping to run an agricultural project aimed at helping the refugee community to be self-reliant in producing food by cultivating the abundant arable land in this area. We have recently

donated a tractor and a plough that will help farmers produce food for around 2,000 people and will also provide employment for farmers and labourers.



To serve the growing medical needs of this war exhausted community, a mobile ambulance service has been put in place. Furthermore, a vocational skills training centre for women has been established at Kassala. It runs daily classes in sewing, embroidery, bakery and handicrafts. The centre trains around 160 women per month.