

EMRGENCY SUPPORT TO TIGRAY



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Background of the Project area: Following the November 2020 conflict, many people have been displaced from their villages in Tigray. Millions of people have been displaced and tens of thousands have crossed borders into neighbouring countries seeking refuge. The situation in the area is aggravated by basic service cut-off and humanitarian aid blockade. The compounded effect of all has aggravated the situation and left many resource people especially women, children, elderly and bedridden patient in extremely bad conditions. A prolonged conflict has deteriorated the host community's capacity, and the humanitarian organizations were also not delivering the intended life-saving responses due to the aid blockade.

The conflict has caused the destruction of community infrastructures of all types (water points, health centers, hospitals, schools), facilities for food storage, processing and market storage (OCHA). During the conflict, out of 224 health centers in the Tigray region, only few were functional. More than 70% of health facilities were looted, vandalized and destroyed during the war, and even afterwards, the blockade caused the functional health facilities to exhaust all medical supplies. According to the MSF report, Tigray used to have one of the best health systems in Ethiopia, with a network of health posts in villages, health centres and hospitals in towns, but the conflict "has almost completely collapsed" the system. This was further compounded by restrictions on humanitarian and medical assistance in Tigray.

Because of the blocking of humanitarian aid, people were dying from easily treatable diseases and hunger. The lack of healthcare and access to medicine has especially impacted forcibly displaced Tigrayan women, as many were pregnant and died on the way to finding safety. Women gave birth alone in bushes, while others gave birth unattended in IDP camps. Infants are particularly susceptible to early mortality, as they are missing vital immunizations that would have been readily available. Patients were being asked to bring old clothes with them into hospital for surgeons to use as gauze

during operations. Test tubes, surgical gloves, and air tubes were all being reused, and there was not enough detergent to wash soiled hospital bed linen.

Background of Alitena Health Centre: The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, Ethiopian province managed, Alitena Health Center has been operating in Irob, eastern Tigray since 1974. Part of Alitena health center has been hit by heavy missile and damaged during the conflict. On the top of that the health center were running out of supplies for long as it was not possible to bring any medical supplies and equipment during the conflict. Realizing the situation in the area, from the donation gain from VLM, Daughters of Charity Ethiopian province has allocated much of the budget to Alitena Health center in order to resume the health service delivery which had been seized for more than two years during the war.

Resumption of health service: after almost two years of service interruption, the health center has resumed the service after gaining basic medical supplies from fund gained from VLM. The fund used to purchase different basis medical supplies that enable to resume the service. The medicinal supplies used to improve public health care, and more attention was given to mothers, children and elders. The health service in the area increased due to medical supplies and the deteriorated health status of the



Figure 1: woman during diagnosis at Alitena Health center

Medical supplies: Essential and basic medicines have procured from Addis Abeba and transported to the area using UN supported vehicles. Since Tigray was cut off from the rest of the country during that time, medical supplies could not be obtained there. Therefore, the provincial office at Addis Ababa, has procured the basic medical supplies appropriate to Alitena and transported using WFP trucks. Prior to procurement of the medicines, list of medical supplies very essential to Alitena was collected from the site. The partnership of DOC with CRS is used to transport the medicines to Tigray using the WFP lorries which and otherwise impossible during the time.

The medical supplies are essential for providing health care to people living in conflict affected Alitena. The medical supplies helped to prevent and treat diseases, injuries, and infections, as well as reduce suffering and save lives. The health system that was disrupted due to the war has resumed the service due to the delivery of the medicines to the area.

people start improving as they get month medical services and medicines that used to cure their disease.

Medical supplies are not only important for providing health care in Alitena, it also contributed for building peace and resilience. The main category of medicine procured by the project support includes: antibiotics of various kinds, intravenous fluids, supplements, vitamins, anti heliments, antimalarial, and anti-inflammatory.

Ambulance Service: Ambulance services is one of the crucial activities of Alitena health centre prior to the conflict as there are no any means of transport to bring emergency patients to the health center. This services have been stopped due to lack of fuel in the area, however after getting support from the



Figure 2: Sisters at Addis Ababa, Loading, using WFP Trucks to send Medicine to Alitena.

VLM the ambulance service has resumed in the area. These resources help in reaching remote areas to treat obstetric emergency, accidental injuries and life threatening illnesses to those who need the most. A total of 256 persons get ambulance serviced during the project implementations and the resource used for operation cost and maintenance.

Provision of Health Education: the health center provided health education to the people in the catchment. The health education is given when the people are coming to the health center for different medical cases. Flip charts and physical explanation are used to convey essential health messages to the community. The health education given focused on improving health seeking behavior, identification of health hazards and meanness to minimize danger, water and sanitation, environmental and personal hygiene.



Figure 3: People at waiting yard for diagnosis

Provision of Skill training at Mekele Saint Lewis Women Promotion center : as a result of the two years and more conflict in Tigray the skill training intervention at Saint Lewis center has stopped. After the peace deal between the conflicting parties, it was difficult for the center to resume the training works as all the donors which used to support the center has shifted the budget meant for the center to other area which need their assistance. Though the center tried to contact its traditional donor partners, it was not easy to secure fund for the reopening of the two years entrapped skill training. However, many youths who were in the training program before the war have insisted the resumption of the skill training in the center. It was at that critical moment the fund from VLM has allocated for the center to recommence the training works for the disadvantaged and marginalized people affected by the war in Tigray.

The objectives for the training in the center is to equip target with quality catering and tailoring skill that enable them to improve their livelihood. Therefore, from VLM fund the center has abled to resume the training and has given practical and theoretical skill training to 132 women and men. 52 catering trainees have acquired basic skills on preparation of cultural and modern dishes, customer handling, small scale business management, communication skill that helped them to improve their livelihood. 70 tailoring and dress making trainees get practical and theory knowledge and skills on designing, measuring, cutting and tailoring different types of clothes fit for children's and adult's.

Trauma healing training: staff of the center, and selected community members get five days Bible based trauma healing training. In addition to the training the war survivor women were given psychosocial support and emergency assistance to GBV survivors and school materials to children in order to have good mental health, emotional stability and being able to keep their wellbeing.

The main activates achieved though the fund from the VLM are:

- Provision of catering training to 52 youths (46 females and 6 males)
- 57 females and 13 males have trained and graduated in tailoring
- 84 conflict affected people have been trained in trauma healing
- 25 people have given startup capital and start their won small business
- 40 conflict affected people have received Emergency food, medical support and transportation cost of returnees also covered from this project fund



Figure 4: Target working on tailoring business at Mekele



Figure 5: Woman in petty trade activity at Mekele

- 60 school children of economically poor households have been given scholastic materials that enable them to resume their education.



Figure 6: Women caring sheep provided by the support of VLM(top) and women at trauma healing training (bottom)

After three years being absent from schools, education experiencing the deepest trauma. Seeing young people having grate interest on skills training makes us hopeful because every person has experienced first and secondary trauma as result of the bloody war in tigray region. The center also observed very high need to intervene in trauma healing and peace building process. The two round training given on Bible based trauma healing shown how much every person participated on the workshop depressed. During the training participants have able to discuss among themselves with the support of the facilitator and they start recover from the deepen trauma they were in. The participants were from different age group, sex, religion different economic capacity and they were made to listen to each other's' problems

as a means to recover from the problem. Among the trainees there were women who were survivors of GBV that shared their experiences of gung rape and torture.

To upgrade the good beginning, the survivor would need some starting capital for income generating activities and forming support groups to build up their strengths through coffee sermon or other form of gathering. To strengthen the Women Promotion center at Mekele, it need more efforts specially that focus in capacitating the economic capacity of the war survivors on the top of the psychosocial therapy service.

Financial Utilization: The total amount of fund 40,304 Euro which is equivalent to Birr 2,251,033.61 has been transferred in three instalments from VLM in addition DOC Provincial office allocated 19352 for the above-mentioned activities. The Daughters of Charity Ethiopian provincial office has transferred 500000 Birr cash to Tigray and 731 530.71 Birr to Alirena. In addition, DOC Proventil office has procured medicine at Addis Ababa with a total cost of 1,038,855 and transported the medicine to Alitena using the UN lorry.

Income Generating Activity: From the total transfer, a total of 791,745 birr has been provided as a business startup capital for disadvantage women and this account 35% of the total transfer.

Purchase of Medicine: for purchase of medicine a total of 1,281,841.66 birr has been expended for Alitena health center and this accounts 57% of the total transfer.

Outreach service: a total of 196,799 has been expended for outreach patient care and transporting the critically ill people to and from the health center. The amount expends accounts 8% of the total transfer.

Bank transfer charge: a total amount of 2738 birr is used as bank transfer charge during transferring the money to Ethiopia.

In general, a total of 2,273,124.18 birr which is equivalent to Euro 40,660.81 has been expended to support the war affected people in Tigray.

Fund Utilization Chart

