



Saving and enriching lives in Ethiopia



Crisis in Tigray continues

WellWishers appeals for funds for planting season and wells rehabilitation



Ms Simret Gidena, Woreda (District) Enderta, sub-district Aragure: “As a result of the ongoing conflict in Tigray, we are forced to hide ourselves somewhere away from our homes or stay at home for days. In addition to this the water point that was closest to us was damaged and the problem of getting clean water was so difficult. There are many reasons why we are not able to collect water for our daily use from a place where it is available. There are many things that threatened us to move freely to get water while the conflict is going on. However, now we are so pleased and relieved that our closest water point is fixed by REST. We can witness what REST has done for us during these times and we are so proud what they have done for us. We are now becoming able to collect water smoothly. Thank you REST and its partners for being by our side.”

Good news, and not such good news...

We wish we could say that there is a clear way forward for the people of Tigray in northern Ethiopia where much of our program is located. Sadly, the Eritrean and Ethiopian armies have continued their onslaught, particularly in rural areas where they think they are being challenged.

The UN reports that 5.2 million of the population of 6 million are in desperate need of food. Our partner REST believes the figure is at least 4.5 million. Farmers are being threatened if they try to plant crops, and relief supplies into rural areas are being regularly blocked and food confiscated by the armies. Some 2 million people are displaced from their homes, and have generally moved into the 4 main towns in Tigray.

The stated objective of the Ethiopian government in November last year, a "law and order" operation to capture or kill 60 named Tigrayan leaders, has not been achieved, and the frustration of failure has turned to vengeance wrought on the civilian population - at least 20,000 slaughtered, millions displaced, and hunger used as a weapon on the entire population. Many commentators and reports describe this as genocide.

The Biden administration and European governments have spoken out strongly and imposed financial and visa sanctions on all parties to the conflict. The Ethiopian government says they have asked the Eritreans to leave, but evidence suggests at least 13 Divisions of the Eritrean army are still in Tigray.

Through all this our partner, The Relief Society of Tigray is doing its best to keep supporting ordinary folk wherever this is possible - food, agricultural support and water supply. USAID have pledged and delivered key support to REST. WellWishers cannot match USAID volumes, but we can add our own important support to save many lives. Rebuilding hospitals, schools, clinics, electricity supplies and telecommunications will be a very costly process when peace is achieved. In the meantime, we need your support to keep people alive.

Our immediate project with REST will be the restoration of damaged potable water supplies in 80 secured villages to provide water for 14,400 villagers.

It is a tiny start to a very large program as it is estimated that 60% of the 11,250 water supply schemes (including over 7000 wells) in Tigray are now non-functioning because they have either been damaged as a result of the conflict, or communities have no access to spare parts, or there is no technical support. The cost of these repairs and maintenance of the first 80 wells will be approximately \$190,000. 60% of this amount will be allocated to cover the cost of deployment of technicians, and the rest is for procurement of necessary spare parts for maintenance and repair.

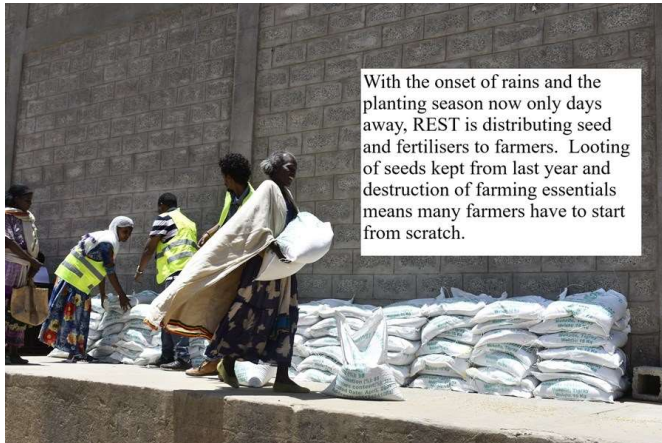
We strongly feel that we cannot just walk away from the communities who have benefitted from WellWishers support over the last 14 years, and who have been victims of these vicious attacks. Lives depend on the restoration of water supplies.

We urgently need your support to bring back water supplies – and some hope for the future - to our friends in Tigray region, Ethiopia.



Relief Society of Tigray technicians replacing a damaged pump valve

Community repairing its damaged well



With the onset of rains and the planting season now only days away, REST is distributing seed and fertilisers to farmers. Looting of seeds kept from last year and destruction of farming essentials means many farmers have to start from scratch.

The race is on to get resources and plant before the imminent rains. Most families have lost ploughing stock, farming equipment and seeds due to looting by Eritrean and Ethiopian army troops. Our partner REST is providing seed stock and some basic tools. USAID has provided 20 tractors to plough in 6 districts over the next 4 months - more than 14,280 families will benefit. As the conflict in the region is continued, lives of 5 million are under threat of starvation if they are not able to plough their farmland in the main summer. This support will save thousands of lives. REST says thanks to donors for life saving support. Our partner, the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) is working on distribution of emergency food to 3.37 million people.



Mechanical oxen! Urgently needed ploughing



REST food grain distribution. 50,000 MT needed now

WellWishers has agreed to be part of REST's response to the terrible crisis. REST are working to supply emergency food aid for 3.37 million people, restoring 2,182 damaged wells, providing 3,317 tonnes of seed for planting in 34,541 hectare of land, poultry and animal support, restocking, and cash support in 4 districts.

An amazing effort. WellWishers will continue to support well rehabilitation and construction. Clean accessible water has been our core objective for the last 14 years.

In the current crisis our Trustees have approved immediate support for a REST program to fund cash grants of up to \$100 to 115 families in extreme need. We will also channel any forthcoming donations for food production and small animal husbandry through our well-established partner REST.

Please tell us if you would be happy for your donation to go to REST's emergency support.

Our donation details below.

THANK YOU!

A reminder that all donations over \$2 to WellWishers are tax-deductible. We will issue receipts early in July.

Vale Andrew.

Andrew was one of our long-term supporters and was instrumental in getting some Victorian Government support for the hand dug wells program in Tigray in 1984 during the great famine – 37 years ago! His family kindly requested donations to WellWishers in lieu of flowers at his funeral. This lovely gesture resulted in donations of over \$4000 to our ongoing work.



DONATIONS

- \$6800 will cover the cost of one well for an entire community, providing clean, accessible and permanent water for about 225 people
- \$2400 will cover the cost of restoring a war-damaged well
- \$150 will provide permanent water for a family
- Donations of any amount are most welcome for our village wells or emergency support!

Name:

Postal address: Postcode:

Email (if you have one):

My Donation is enclosed: \$. (Cheques or Money Orders made out to WellWishers)

OR Debit my Visa / Mastercard - donation amount: \$.....

Name on card:

CARD NUMBER: Expiry...../..... CCV.....(last
3 numbers on the back of card)

Signature..... Date:.....

OR Donate online (Secure site): www.givenow.com.au/wellwishers

OR Donate direct to WellWishers account at the Bank of Queensland:

BSB: 124048 or 124001 (either are OK) Account No: 21658949

Please leave your name and postcode as reference.

Name for Tax Deductible Receipt purposes if different from bank account or card

Name:.....



QR code for GiveNow

Please tick ☐ if you are happy for us to use your donation for (non-water) emergency support in Tigray (next 12 months only).

Any other comment:

☐ Please send me information about making a Bequest to WellWishers

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership of WellWishers is for the calendar year

To become a member of WellWishers please complete the form below with the Annual Membership of \$2.20 (payable with unused postage stamps). Your email address would be very helpful for contact purposes.

Name:

Email:

Postal address: Postcode:

WellWishers

Postal address:

P O Box 2088, Fitzroy, VIC 3065

Email address:

info@wellwishersethiopia.com

Telephone:

0419 559 138

Honorary Manager:

Graham Romanes