Report

On the

Fact-finding Visit to Pochalla

By

Gambella Development Agency

Supported by the

Calvary Church, Minneapolis, MN

16 to 25 January 2004

Submitted to the Calvary Church, Minneapolis, MN, March 5, 2004

Table of Contents

Summary of Findings ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
1.0 Acknowledgments 7
2.0 Introduction..... 7
2.1 Background to the current situation..... 7
2.2 Assessment team..... 8
2.3 Purpose and Objectives..... 8
3.0 Assessment..... 9
3.1 Scope of assessment..... 9
3.2 Methods of data collection and analysis 9
3.3 Factors which affected the assessment: 10
4.0 Main Findings..... 12
4.1 Pochalla Camp. 12
4.2 Population 13
4.3 Food Situation..... 13
4.4 Impact on the host community..... 14
4.5 Non Food Items..... 14
4.6 Health and Nutrition: 15
4.8 Water & Sanitation: 16
4.9 Education: 16
5.0 Recommendations..... 17

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ANDRECOMMENDATIONS.

Based on the visits and conversations with the local authorities, refugees and returnees, members of the interagency rapid assessments mission to Pochalla County have arrived at the following conclusions and suggestions.

Pochalla County now hosts close thousands refugees and returnees from the Gambella region of Ethiopia. The refugees and returnees began arriving on December 18, 2003 and have since received no relief assistance, except for occasional daily food rations donated by host communities. At the time of our assessment, the refugee and returnee population was in the process of constructing their own shelters.

The camps in Pochalla are now experiencing serious shortages of basic life-saving provisions and services, from adequate sanitation to clean, safe drinking water. Hunger is quickly becoming a serious concern within the population of these camps, but refugees and returnees also suffer for lack of basic non-food items such as clothing and tools.

For now, returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Pochalla live in harmony with the host communities, but tensions can and will arise if the needs of both populations are not addressed.

1 In recent weeks there has been influx of Ethiopian Anuak refugees and Sudanese Anuak returnees (former refugee in Ethiopia) into Pochalla county, South Sudan. While the returnees have returned to their areas of origin or are being looked after by relatives and kinsmen, the refugees need protection and asylum pending a solution to their predicament.

2 Based on observation and field visits, the assessment team were unable to verify the reported figures for refugees and returnee arrivals numbering over 20,000 persons as of 16th January 2004. A figure reflecting the number of those two categories of people seen is closer to 5,000 persons. It is recommended that emergency assistance activities be initially planned and implemented for this latter number. Monitoring of the situation should take place over the next three months to make necessary adjustments based on changes affecting the refugee population

3 At present, the refugees are being hosted by the Pochalla county community and most can be found next to the village of Pochalla itself. The village is on the border with Ethiopia and while there is no discernable security risk to the refugees or local population at this point in time, the authorities have plans to relocate refugees to an unprepared site eight kilometres to the west of the village. The authorities feel that the proposed site would decongest their village and allow for targeted assistance to the refugees. Barring a change in the security situation the team believes that it would be advisable to allow the refugees remain within one to two kilometres of Pochalla town, near existing services or assistance delivery points.

Bolstering local infrastructure to cope with the influx would also benefit the local community in the long run. Should the authorities decide to go ahead with plans to relocate the refugees, the emergency response will entail considerate and sustain investment on the part of aid organizations. Should the security situation require relocation, the refugees should be moved to a distance of 50km away from the border.

4 A re-registration of the refugee population is necessary to address the inconsistencies of the system under practice by the authorities. UNHCR and WFP registration formats should be used in the proposed exercise, both for protection and the provision of assistance. This was also explained to the authority prior to leaving Pochalla.

5 While the refugees and returnees are at present not at risk with respect to their nutritional and health condition, the situation could deteriorate if left unchecked. Refugees have received food assistance from the local community but this arrangement will not last for much longer. Foraging for fruit and hunting game are not viable alternatives. Food assistance is required for the refugees and WFP is asked to consider deliveries for the mentioned three-month period. The official figure for arrivals (i.e. 20,000) and the emphasis placed on food assistance would suggest that in providing food to refugees and returnees, village food stocks have been adversely affected.

This impression is reinforced by several members of the team consider to be a failed second harvest (sorghum) in December 2003. If this is the case, it is recommended that the food needs of the local community be considered separately from those of the refugees In this regard, a WFP-FAO food aid and crop assessments mission should be conducted in the coming days, preferably during the food distribution.

6 While the interagency team could not determine with certainty the number of unaccompanied minors among the refugees and returnees, there are children within this population who are in need of reunification with their parents and families/relatives. The estimated number of separated children is approximately 100 and it is strongly recommended that the ICRC be engaged to help address this situation. A mission by the ICRC to look into this matter is advisable.

7 As the refugee population in Pochalla is predominantly composed of “urbanized” adult men and young males it is believed that may likely return to Ethiopia as soon as they consider it safe to do so. Agencies working in Ethiopia, primarily in the Gambella region, should impress upon the Ethiopian Government to restore law and order and provide the necessary guarantees against reprisals to allow for the sage and dignified return of the refugees. This situation should be closely monitored and a review to follow at the earliest convenience.

8 Given the estimated size of the caseload, the safety the refugees enjoy among fellow tribesmen, the presence of World Relief and the work carried out by Medair in the water supply sector, it is considered that a UNHCR presence in Pochalla is not warranted at this point in time. However, UNHCR will monitor the situation closely and seek to complement material assistance envisaged for the estimated number of refugees.

Efforts will be made with the local community and refugees so that facilities are put in place to stop defection in communal areas. It is recommended that agencies operating in southern Sudan should make the usual donation of resources towards assisting the returnees and refugees.

9 For detail see recommendations in the main/detailed report.

Needs

The most pressing needs identified include:

- A consistent supply of food.
- Ready access to both curative and preventive health services.
- Water and sanitation services in Pochalla.
- Adequate clothing, with priority given to returnees and refugees in Pochalla.
- Non-food items, such as IDP kits, water containers, blankets, mosquito nets, saucepans, construction tools and soap. Priority should be given to Pochalla as a whole.
- Agricultural tools and seeds.
- Fishing equipment.
- Shelter material, such as plastic tarpaulins or sheeting.
- Teaching materials.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our assessment team has made the following recommendations:

1. The assessment team recommends the following sustainable populations in Pochalla:

    - Approximately 23,000 people; 13,000 refugees and 10,000 returnees.

    A proper population assessment should be undertaken in all the villages within two to three months.

2. There should be general food distribution in the camps for six months, beginning February 2004.

    - Distribution of rations should be at 100% from February to April, decreasing to 75% from May to July 2004.
    - Food assessment should be conducted in the sixth month and the recommendations should be reviewed.
    - Pochalla's food situation should be monitored monthly with assistance of local community-based organizations (CBOs) such as the SRRC.

3. Agricultural tools should be distributed in all camps by the end of February 2004. In Pochalla agricultural tools should target 40% of the population to cover the gap identified after last year's distribution.

4. Seeds should be distributed by the end of March 2004, on time for planting during the first rain. All villages should have 100% coverage. Seeds can be locally purchased.

5. IDP kits, blankets, mosquito nets, clothes, plastic tarpaulins/sheeting, construction tools (axes, pangas and sickles) and eating/cooking utensils should be distributed to all the returnees and refugees in the camp. Blankets, water containers and eating/cooking utensils should be distributed in the camp.

6. Immediate primary health care units (PHCUs) with adequate drug supplies and health education should be initiated and strengthened in Pochalla camps. It is strongly recommended that health care non-governmental organizations (NGOs) be invited to operate in the camps for a period of at least one to three months. Adequate drugs should be supplied to the camp.

7. Ten and fifteen boreholes should be drilled in the camp and for the local population, respectively. Hygiene promotion activities should be initiated and strengthened in the camp. Existing water sources and sanitation programs in camp should be maintained. Water containers should be distributed in the camp.

8. The surveillance and monitoring of conflicts amongst the returnees, refugees and IDPs in the camp should be strengthened. Seminars must be conducted on peace-building in Pochalla targeting Local Authority, local CBOs and the refugees/returnees/IDPs.

9. New schools should be started in the camp and existing schools in the other villages should be strengthened as per recommendations in the camp.

1.0 Acknowledgments

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the State and Government of the Sudan, the staff of international and non-governmental organizations, our drivers and pilots, and countless others who provided invaluable assistance on our unforgettable journey from Nairobi to Pochalla and back.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Background to the current situation

Pochalla County is part of Jonglei region of southern Sudan and borders Ethiopia to the east. Much of its territory is sandwiched by two rivers – the Akobo to the east, and the Oboth to the west. The population is estimated at 61,000[1] and is primarily of the agriculturalist Anyuak peoples. Since beginning of December 16, 2003, Pochalla has been receiving returnees and refugees from Ethiopia, following an incident in Gambella, approximately 800 km from the capital Addis Ababa.

The violence was sparked by an attack on an UN-plated vehicle in early December. Eight people in the vehicle were killed, including three government refugee workers who were trying to set up a new refugee camp in the region. Their bodies were badly mutilated. A radical group from the local Anuak tribe was blamed for the attack, which took place as the government officials drove to Odier - the proposed new camp for Nuer and Dinka refugees from Sudan.

The reprisals that followed against the alleged perpetrators were ferocious. Hundreds of homes were burnt to the ground and the killings continued over several days. Up to 5,000 Ethiopian troops helped restore calm. However, tensions remain high and the military presence may not be a long-term solution. Complicating the recent violence is an ongoing dispute between the Nuer and the Anyuak. Traditionally they have clashed as they compete for scarce lands. Anyuaks fear they are losing their land to the nomadic Nuer, whose numbers in recent generations have steadily been increasing as they move into the area.

As the influx increased, SRRC set up a registration desk in Pochalla to directly register all arrivals in Pochalla town. Arrivals to other parts of the county have been reported from chiefs in those areas. Those arriving reported that more people were on the way. The local authority, SRRC and World Relief requested the OLS, UN and NGOs to intervene with assistance as their capacity on ground cannot cope up with the situation.

For a complete background to the current situation in Gambella and in Pochalla, please see

2.2 Assessment team

Between January 16, 2004 and January 23, 2004 an assessment team traveled to Pochalla. The team members were:

- Obang Metho, Executive Director, Gambella Development Agency (GDA)
- Keith Snow, Human Rights Investigator, Survivor's Rights International
- Opiew Omot Cham, of the Calvary Church, Minneapolis, MN

2.3 Purpose and Objectives

Purpose:

1. The purpose was to collect detailed information and data on the needs of the refugees, returnees and host communities with emphasis on protection, food security (agriculture/livelihood), water and hygiene, health and nutrition, as well as household security.
2. Establish the impact and the extra burden created by the returnees and refugees.
3. Establish needs and examine the effect of interventions to be recommended as a pulling factor for more returnees coming in light of the present peace process.

Objectives:
The overall aim was to assess immediate and future needs/gaps of the returnees and refugees and recommend interventions.

Specific objectives include: -

- Verify numbers, composition, ethnicity, sex, age and location of returnees and refugees as well as likely period of stay in Pochalla.
- Assess availability of food in the community and nearby markets.
- Verify the health, agriculture, veterinary, water/sanitation situation and services available in Pochalla.
- Determine a rough health and nutritional status amongst the returnees and refugees as well as in the host communities.
- Identify skilled, semi-skilled personnel, youth/women groups, local NGOs, community structures (including relief committees).
- Assess situations of local conflicts in the communities (refugees, returnees and the hosts).
- Determine reasons for flight, abuses, threats, events experienced and any incidences of violation of human rights.
- Assess the continuity of the influx in the future.
- Assess the needs of returnees/refugees/IDPs and host communities in Pochalla County.
- Assess availability of food in the nearby markets and in the host community.
- Determine a rough nutritional status amongst the returnees and refugees as well as in the host communities, identifying situations requiring supplementary and therapeutic feeding interventions.

- Determine the overall health, agriculture/livelihood, and water/sanitation situations and services available in Pochalla County.
- Assess the situation of children, their families and communities with regard to child protection issues.
- Assess the road and security situations in Pochalla.
- Identify skilled, semi-skilled personnel, youth/women groups, local NGOs, and other community structures that can be utilized during interventions.
- Assess situations of local conflicts in the communities, which may require peace-building initiatives.
- Assess needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the county.

Geographic Scope.

The joint assessment team conducted assessment in Pochalla County and visited Pochalla town, in Pocahalla payam; Obodi in Akiela payam; Nyium village, in Burator payam; Otallo and Ajuara villages in Adongo payam. On arrival, the assessment team met the Local authority, SRRC officials, senior elders and the King of the Anyuaks in Pochalla. Then the team joined by four SRRC officials split into two groups. One team remained in Pochalla town and the other travelled to Nyium 25 km north of Pochalla. The following day one team visited Otallo, 40 km west of Pochalla town, in Adongo payam and the other travelled to Obodi 17 km south of Pochalla town. The furthest village of the payam was inaccessible due to poor infrastructure.

3.0 Assessment

3.1 Scope of assessment

During the assessment, the team was able to visit Pochalla County. Our assessment was guided by the terms of reference and sectoral emergency assessment checklists. Local Authorities and counterparts on ground worked hand in hand with the assessment team, and our findings were discussed and agreed upon with all community leaders and involved parties.

3.2 Methods of data collection and analysis

Rapid assessment methods with PRA tools were used to obtain the data:

- Interviews – key informants including Local authorities, Counterparts refugees, returnees and community leaders were interviewed to obtain information about the population, where they came from, when they arrived in the area, what assets they had as well as the current food security situation. Interviews were also conducted with the PHCC and PHCU staff.
- Transect walk and Observations –to estimate population figures and confirm the current locations where the people settled. Socio-economic activities including agricultural fields were visited to determine the food security situations.

- Focused Group discussions- with key informants including local authorities counter parts, community leaders, chiefs, children, women, refugees, returnees and other agencies operating in the area.
- Rapid nutritional assessment using MUAC, height for weight tools and Presence of Oedema was conducted. Children aged 6 to 59 months were randomly selected from the refugees, returnees, and host population in Pochalla town, Nyium, Obodi, and Otallo. Anthropometrics measurements were taken: The results were expressed as a % of malnutrition among the children measured.
- Mid term discussions/review of findings during data collection exercises were held by end of each day.
- Examine records available at the registration centres and in the health facilities.
- Secondary data review.

During data collections and analysis, the team divided into four sectoral groups, namely: Population and health; food, agriculture/livelihood and water; non-food items and peace building; and education. Final assessment decisions were reached during a plenary discussion. Various participatory rapid assessment techniques were used including:

- Interviews with key informants (including civil authorities, refugees/returnees/IDPs, community leaders, teachers, health workers and local CBOs).
- Observation, focused group discussions and semi-structured interviews.
- Transect walks and field visits.
- Rapid nutritional survey using weight for height tools.
- Secondary data from the UN, involved NGOs, local CBOs and previous assessment reports.

3.3 Factors which affected the assessment:

There were a number of constraints which affected this assessment:

- Lack of population registers/records made verification difficult in the camp of Pochalla.
- It was difficult for the refugees/returnees/IDPs to express themselves freely regarding conflict related issues due to the use of translators.
- Sometimes the assessment team returned to their residences late, due to the intensity of the work.

There were a number of factors which enhanced the assessment:

- Thorough plans and arrangements before, during and after the assessment.
- Good teamwork and high spirits (cooperation, full participation and coordination with the counterparts on the ground).
- The use of World Relief-International (WR) compound facilities in Pochalla.
- Good cooperation of refugees/returnees/IDPs with the assessment team.
- The free sharing of information.
- Adequate logistical support including vehicles with fuel from WR.
- Availability of a laptop.
- The multi-sectoral composition of the team.
- Favorable weather conditions.

Constraints faced during the assessment.

During the assessment, the following constraints were faced by the team:

- limited time on ground, which was not adequate to gather comprehensive information
- Exaggerated population figures reported and the difficulty of tracing population on ground as well as independent means of verification.
- Misinterpretation and language barrier.
- Inaccessibility and poor infrastructures made reaching certain locations difficult.

4.0 Main Findings

4.1 Pochalla Camp.

Current Situation:

On arrival on January 15th 2004, a population figure of 19,727 (11,168 returnees and 8,559 refugees) were reported to by the Local authority and SRRC and more new arrivals were being registered. During the assessment period 15th and 16th January 2004, 850 new arrivals (687 returnees and 163 refugees) were registered making a total of 20,577 (11,855 returnees and 8,722 refugees). Though the figure of over 20,000 returnees and refugees were reported to be in the areas and more were still expected, the team was not immediately able to verify the figures. Registration was poor and did not give enough required details. However, the team witnessed the incoming of new influx in the area. The category the team interviewed in Pochalla was both men and women. All reported that they were separated from their spouses and some children; as a result there were a number of unaccompanied children in Pochalla who did not know where their parents were.

Most refugees came from Gambella town and the surroundings. The returnees interviewed reported that they had settled in Pinyidu refugee camp, but because of an incident that happened in November 2002 in which part of the camp (block 12) was burned, they then moved and settled with the community around Pinyidu. Both the refugees and returnees reported that they were forced to flee because of the reprisal by Ethiopian army which was directly targeted at the Anuak community regardless of whether they were Sudanese or Ethiopians. This was as a result of an incident of December 2003 in which 8 Ethiopian relief officials were ambushed and killed within the Anuak area and the perpetrators could not be identified and apprehended this resulted in the killing of many Anyuaks by the army.

The condition of the arrivals does not appear desperate although they arrived without many household items other than their personal clothing. During interviews respondents said they were living on what they could scavenge from the forest. Some were unhappy about being forced to stay in town in order to meet with us as they said that they would not have food tonight. Two widows reported that they had received food from local residents for a period of time (1 family for up to 3 weeks) but were no longer receiving help as the food was running out. All reported cooking with utensils shared by the community members. Food reported and observed to be eaten included; wild greens, pods, wild fruits. No person interviewed said that they were eating meat, but bones and antelope hooves were observed in the school compound. One group of young men commented that they could hunt if they had guns. Men were observed carrying carcasses of antelope from the forest.

In and around Pochalla town, many of the new arrivals (particularly the refugees) were camped at the local school and at church compounds. Others lived under trees. In the other locations, refugees/returnees/IDPs lived within the host communities. The authorities suggested transferring new arrivals to Aleri, eight kilometres west of Pochalla town towards Ajwara village.

The returnees remain in the Pochalla receiving centres where they first arrived, and more people are expected to arrive at the camp in the ensuing weeks. The majority of these people are women and children. The returnees were constructing shelters using local materials (timber, mud, wattle and grass roofing). They needed to be assisted with plastic sheeting to prevent leaking during rainy season.

4.2 Population

Upon our arrival on January 23, 2004, local authorities and CBOs reported thousands new refugees and returnees, and more new arrivals were in the process of being registered. Although authorities reported a total figure much higher returnees and refugees in Pochalla County with still more expected in the weeks to come, we were not able to immediately verify these figures. The registration process was inconsistent and did not give enough important details. However, we witnessed the volume of incoming Gambellans, and were able to interview both Gambellan men and women. All reported that they were separated from their spouses and some children. We encountered a number of unaccompanied children in Pochalla who did not know where their parents were.

Most refugees came from Gambella city and the surrounding countryside. The returnees interviewed reported that they had settled in Pinyidu refugee camp, but because of an incident that happened in November 2002 in which part of the camp (block 12) was burned, they then moved and settled with the community around Pinyidu. Both the refugees and returnees reported that they were forced to flee because of reprisals by the Ethiopian Civil Defense Force, who according to our interviewees directly targeted the Anuak community irrespective of their status as Sudanese citizens.

4.3 Food Situation

There was very severe hunger in the camp by the time of our assessment. No food had been distributed to the people since their arrival in December 2003. During interviews respondents said they were living on what they could scavenge from the forest. Some were unhappy about being forced to stay in town in order to meet with us, saying that by staying they would not have food tonight.

Two widows reported that they had received food from local residents for a period of time (1 family for up to 3 weeks) but were no longer receiving help as the food was running out. All reported cooking with utensils shared by the community members. Food reported and observed to be eaten included wild greens, pods, and wild fruits.

No person interviewed said that they were eating meat, but bones and antelope hooves were observed in the school compound. One group of young men commented that they could hunt if they had guns. Men were observed carrying carcasses of antelope from the forest. Some interviewees reported that they were sometimes able to sell their labor in exchange for food, working for long hours in exchange for very little.

In the normal situation there are two cropping seasons in Pochalla. Maize is harvested in late August and early September while sorghum is harvested in December. During our visits and transect walks, we observed widespread sorghum failure. This situation is made much worse by the fact that the food held in reserve by the host population is extremely low or nonexistent. Currently the only available source of food for all is wild game. There are no common markets in Pochalla, as the community would ordinarily access markets in Ethiopia using the Birr.

4.4 Impact on the host community

In a situation where there is failure of crops, the Anuak community will normally sell wild game and hides in Ethiopia in exchange for grain and other basic needs. Sometimes some of the population will move to the Pinyidu refugee camp for free food.

The surroundings are relatively food secured with favorable climate and soil conditions. December to March is a dry season. Host communities in the areas are busy with land preparation for planting in the first season. April to July is the first rainy season and this is the planting period, which encompasses the hunger gap. August to November is the second planting season, during which food supplies are usually stable depending upon the previous harvest. This cycle does not allow for much in the way of additional surplus, and the host population is consequently overburdened with the responsibility of feeding so many additional people.

One coping mechanism adopted in the past by the host community is to move to the mining areas of Dimma to work and return when the situation improves. With the current insecurity around Gambella in Ethiopia, the coping mechanism has been disrupted. The current situation has made access to Ethiopian markets impossible and hence those with Birr can no longer use the currency.

4.5 Non Food Items

The returnees have not been assisted with any non-food items such as cooking and eating utensils, water fetching and storing containers, construction tools, bedding and clothing. The few who managed to bring such supplies along share them with others, while some have fashioned vessels out of local materials (e.g. clay pots). It is not uncommon for food to be cooked in one pot and put on leaves while the utensils are given to a neighbor to prepare their meals. The returnees said that they were slow in putting up shelters due to lack of tools for gathering building materials. Consequently, the majority of the population sleeps in the cold on leaves and rags.

Due to lack of water containers the refugees and returnees go to the stream to drink and bathe, and sometimes walk long distances to collect water in very small containers. The camp is located in a mosquito- and Tsetse flie-infested area; without mosquito netting and adequate clothing, this will have serious public health consequences. It was clearly observed that the returnees were moving naked wearing torn, dirty clothes and no footwear. It was reported that there were no sanitary supplies for menstruating women and newly delivered mothers. Similarly newborn babies were carried without any clothing.

4.6 Health and Nutrition:

Main health problems reported in the camp were legion, and included: Malaria, undiagnosed persistent coughing, chest infections, urinary tract infections, wounds, worms, diarrhea, jiggers, eye infections, skin diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, hernias, bloody diarrhea, pneumonia, sleeping sickness, ulcers, tuberculosis, asthma, leprosy, rheumatism, back pain, ear pain, fever, prolong menstrual periods, simultaneous abortion, vaginal discharges, poor lactation, and a variety of skin diseases.

There were no health services in the new location. One half a kilometer away (where the returnees/refugees/IDPs had settled), there was a small structure used for medical attention. Drugs were provided by World Relief and UNICEF, supported by the health committee of the host community. It was clearly observed that health services were inadequate in the camp. By observation, the majority of children under age five appeared adequately nourished. However, with prevailing hunger in the camp, malnutrition could easily creep in if food was not available within two to three weeks.

There was six medical staff in the camp (one male theater attendant, four male certified nurses, one female traditional birth assistant (TBA) not trained) but no health unit. Inadequate drug supply, both in quality and quantity, was observed in the Pochalla health unit. Occasionally, World Relief supplied drugs to the health unit but they only lasted a few days.

A rapid nutritional assessment was done in the camp where a total of 144 children (76 girls and 68 boys) under five (six months to five years) were checked using the MUAC reading, height and weight tools. Of these, 22 children (12 girls and 10 boys) were found malnourished, 12 were moderately malnourished and 10 severely malnourished. All 22 children had some type of sickness even though the population had been displaced for only two months. It was evident that more children would suffer if no food became available within another two to three weeks. Moreover, several children were already found sick with conditions such as undiagnosed coughs and scabies.

4.8 Water & Sanitation:

When touring the camp, we found three boreholes with two broken pumps, and we observed residents fetching water from a stagnant and dirty stream about 7 km from the camp. Other residents were fetching and drinking unsafe water from stagnant ponds that were quickly drying up at the time of our assessment. The same water was used for bathing and cleaning wild yams and other gathered foodstuffs. There was no latrine in the camp.

4.9 Education:

The nearest school is about one half a kilometer away from the camp, and has about three trained teachers. About 50 children of school going age where observed in the camp, but none of these children were registered. There were no schools or teaching materials in the camp. The refugees/returnees/IDPs expressed the wish to have six primary schools established to accommodate the number of pupils in the camp.

5.0 Recommendations

The team recommends that:

1. The camps have a working population figure of 23,000. A proper population assessment should be undertaken within two to three months once the population is settled.

2. Food be distributed at 100% ration for three months from February to April 2004, to be followed by 75% food distribution for another three months from May to July 2004.

3. A joint food assessment be conducted to determine food stability in the camp after six months.

4. Agricultural tools be distributed to all families by the end of February 2004.

5. Seeds be distributed by the end of March 2004, on time for planting during the first rain at 100% coverage.

6. A primary health care unit (PHCU) be established within the camp to serve the immediate needs of refugees/returnees/IDPs and members of the host community alike.

7. There be constant supply of PHCU kits/drugs and that Community Health Workers (CHWs) be identified and trained within the camp.

8. Health education initiatives be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease.

9. 24 boreholes be drilled in the camp.

10. Water containers be distributed to residents of the camp.

11. Hygiene promotion be undertaken in the camp.

12. Tools be provided for digging family latrines and for shelter construction.

13. IDP kits and extra blankets be distributed to residents of the camp.

14. Clothes be provided for the entire camp population.

15. Plastic tarpaulins/sheeting measuring 5m x 4m be distributed for shelter roofing.

16. School-aged pupils go to nearby schools until a more permanent arrangement can be made, and that additional school materials be provided to accommodate the extra pupils.

17. The county education office in Pochalla do a follow-up on the registration of pupils.