


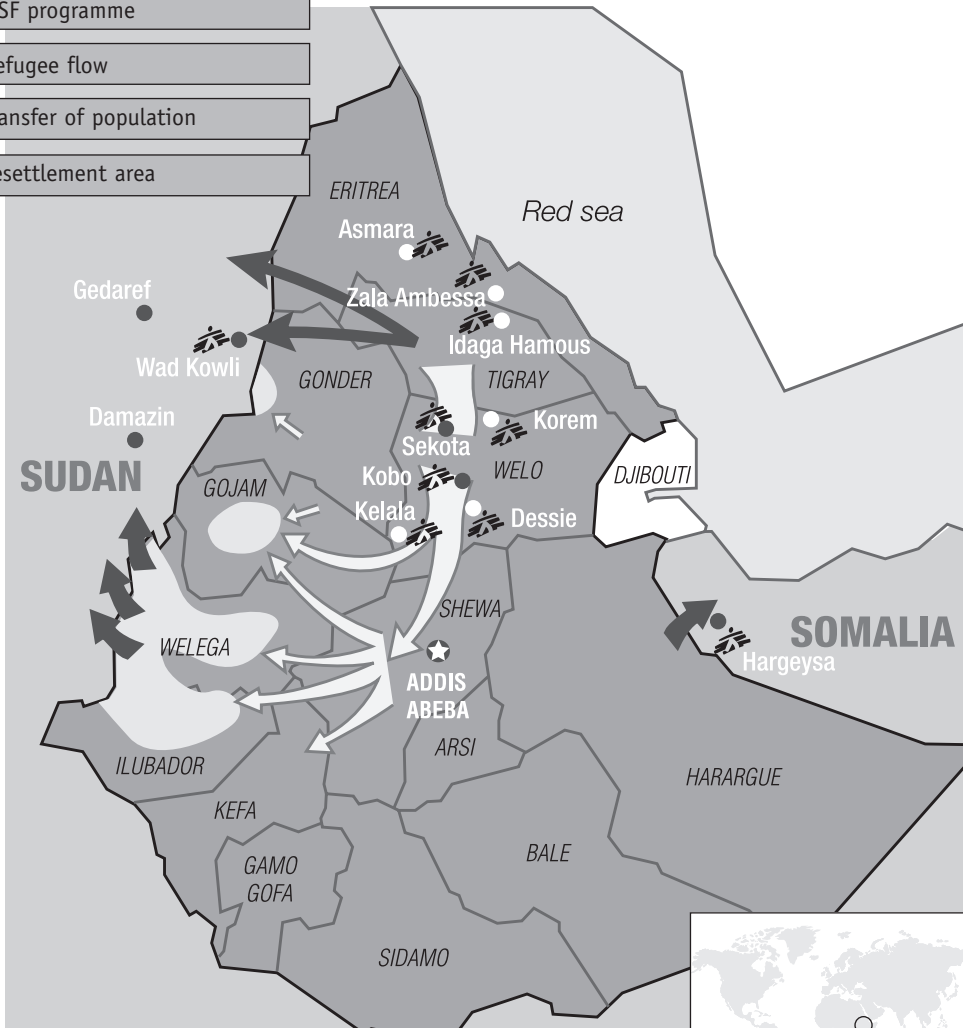
	MSF programme
	Refugee flow
	Transfer of population
	Resettlement area



CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - 1973-1986

The main purpose of this chronology is to help the reader by reconstructing MSF's actions and public statements in regional and international news reports of the period. It is intended as a tool for this specific document, and not as an academic reference.

International	Ethiopia	MSF
1973-74	Famine in Ethiopia (200,000 deaths) - RRC (Relief and Rehabilitation Commission) created.	
1974	September Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie overthrown.	
1977 USA refuses to supply arms, Ethiopia becomes USSR's ally. USSR breaks its alliance with Somalia, a strategically less important country.	Colonel Mengistu's DERG (Provisional Military and Administrative Council) imposes a reign of terror.	
1978	Eritrean independence fighters clash with the Ethiopian government.	MSF conducts clandestine surgical missions in the Eritrea and Tigre provinces of Ethiopia. MSF begins surgical and physical therapy activities for Tigrean refugees in camps in the Sudan.
1982	Late 1982 Drought and famine in the northern (Wollo, Tigre), eastern (Harargue) and western (Wollega, Illubabor) regions. Mengistu denies the existence of the famine but authorises the RRC to open food distribution centres for the 'drought'.	Late 1982 MSF makes unsuccessful request for authorisation to conduct an evaluation mission.
1984	Early 1984 Report from the Commission for the Organisation of the Workers' Party: 'Ethiopia Can Deal with This on its Own.' 30 March RRC appeals to international aid donors for 450,000 tonnes of food ; 87,000 tonnes provided initially.	February At the RRC's request, MSF conducts an evaluation mission in Korem. April MSF France opens a mission in Korem (Wollo); five volunteers. May Liberté Sans Frontières (LSF) created at MSF France General Assembly. - MSF alerts WFP of high mortality rates in Korem. WFP speaks about it on the BBC.

International	Ethiopia	MSF
<p>1984</p> <p>June Mengistu tells the World Food Council that Ethiopia's food situation is under control.</p> <p>23 October BBC broadcast reports on the famine in Ethiopia rebroadcast by 425 stations around the world.</p> <p>October Fundraising campaigns for Ethiopia around the world.</p> <p>3 December The British NGO, 'War on Want,' accuses the Ethiopian government of diverting aid to starve the population in the rebel zones.</p>	<p>12 September Celebration of the revolution's 10th anniversary and founding of the Ethiopian Workers' Party - major media coverage.</p> <p>3 October Mengistu delivers speech acknowledging existence of the famine.</p> <p>26 October National Committee for Natural Disasters and Rehabilitation (CNDR) is created. It is close to the regime and supplants the RRC.</p> <p>16 November Mengistu announces that national priority given to transfer of 1.5 million northerners to the south.</p>	<p>July MSF France opens a mission in Kobo. Displaced people return home, hoping for rain.</p> <p>September 1984 Starving farming populations arrive en masse in Korem (no rain).</p> <p>Beginning September 1984 MSF team talks to many journalists visiting Korem.</p> <p>Early October MSF Holland is founded.</p> <p>October The situation for the MSF mission in Korem improves.</p>

International	Ethiopia	MSF
<p>1984</p> <p>December Immense media mobilisation to aid Ethiopian famine victims; Band Aid and Chanteurs Sans Frontières recordings. 100,000 tonnes of food per month delivered to Ethiopia.</p>	<p>Late 1984 200,000 people resettled in the South.</p>	<p>December Korem (Wollo): MSF and SCF discover camp is half-empty after a raid.</p>
<p>1985</p> <p>January International press questions the Ethiopian regime's management of aid.</p>	<p>17 January Ethiopian government seizes a food cargo heading to the rebel zone.</p> <p>21 January Diplomatic counterattack by Ethiopian government regarding criticism of its handling of aid. Cadres mobilised for resettlement operation in the South.</p> <p>9 February Ethiopian government accuses aid organisations of squandering aid.</p>	<p>January MSF team in Korem speaks to visiting journalists. MSF team prohibited to circulate in the Korem camp. Grain and blankets requisitioned for 'volunteers' at time of departure for transit camps.</p> <p>10 January MSF France press conference as Liberté Sans Frontières (LSF) is launched.</p> <p>20 January MSF Belgium expresses reservations about LSF's founding.</p> <p>23-24 January 'Challenging <i>Tiers-mondisme</i>' symposium organised by Liberté Sans Frontières.</p> <p>10 February Letter from MSF teams in Chad (all sections) opposing LSF.</p> <p>22 February In Korem, authorities prohibit MSF from distributing blankets, clothing and tents. Curfew extended.</p>

International	Ethiopia	MSF
<p>1985</p>	<p>13 March RRC issues an international appeal for aid.</p> <p>14 March National Committee for Natural Disasters and Rehabilitation (CNDR) holds press conference claiming that negative stories about resettlement programmes have been exaggerated and invented.</p> <p>8 April Mengistu speaks to the Central Committee of the Ethiopian Workers Party: <i>"There is no alternative to the collectivisation of farmers."</i></p> <p>April-May Cholera in Korem and Kobo but, use of the word "cholera" prohibited; gastroenteritis is used instead.</p> <p>28 April 57,000 displaced persons in the Ibnet camp (Gondar) are dispersed violently.</p>	<p>Early March MSF and SCF teams discover the Korem camp half-empty after soldiers conduct a raid. Soldiers also entered the hospitals.</p> <p>12 March MSF Belgium's management and board send members a packet of information opposing LSF.</p> <p>March MSF Belgium opens a programme in Idaga Hammous near Adigre (Tigre).</p> <p>Late March MSF France board raises questions about the forced resettlements. MSF Holland conducts evaluation mission among Ethiopian refugees in Somalia.</p> <p>Early April Combined MSF teams (Belgium/France/Holland) work with Ethiopian refugees in Hargeissa (Somalia).</p> <p>5 April MSF Belgium's board decides to break relations with MSF France.</p> <p>19 April MSF talks about cholera in an international meeting and narrowly avoids expulsion.</p> <p>27 April MSF Belgium General Assembly decides to break all relations with MSF France as long as the latter remains connected to LSF.</p>

International	Ethiopia	MSF
<p>1985</p> <p>29 April <i>Washington Post</i> article on the Ibnet events.</p> <p>Late May International press criticises diversion and manipulation of aid in the context of East-West relations.</p> <p>12 July Concert in London (Wembley) and Philadelphia organised by Band Aid, to benefit Ethiopian famine victims.</p> <p>July-August International Federation of the Red Cross conducts a discreet evaluation in the resettlement areas.</p>	<p>29 April Mengistu says that the Ibnet events are just an exceptional blunder.</p> <p>1 May Mengistu denounces the "imperialist forces' criticism of the resettlement project."</p> <p>July Government temporarily halts transfers and resettlement.</p>	<p>3 May After the Ibnet events, MSF France president speaks to <i>Libération</i> (France) about the problems of continuing to work in Ethiopia. MSF France board of directors decides to initiate legal action to withdraw MSF Belgium's right to use the MSF name.</p> <p>Early May MSF France's General Assembly: MSF Belgium questions LSF's existence and the responsibility of the management team. MSF Belgium attacks LSF in <i>Le Monde Diplomatique</i>: "A Foundation above Reproach."</p> <p>17-20 May MSF France evaluation mission in the Sekota region.</p> <p>Early June MSF France evaluation mission in the Kelala region.</p> <p>July MSF France opens medical assistance programmes in Kelala and Sekota. MSF's first request to open a therapeutic feeding centre in Kelala. MSF Belgium opens programme in Zalambessa.</p> <p>15 July MSF France loses lawsuit filed in a Belgian court to deny MSF Belgium use of the MSF name.</p>

International	Ethiopia	MSF
<p data-bbox="132 297 197 331">1985</p> <p data-bbox="244 871 384 898">Mid-October</p> <p data-bbox="244 907 638 1025">Discussion in the US regarding Ethiopian regime's famine policy. Jason Clay (Cultural Survival) testifies before Congress.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1924 373 1951">26 October</p> <p data-bbox="244 1960 638 2018">Korem events reported in the international press.</p>	<p data-bbox="675 331 759 358">August</p> <p data-bbox="675 367 1069 486">The RRC asks farmers from the Maichew region, living as displaced persons in Korem, to return home and authorises the Red Cross to distribute cereal to them.</p> <p data-bbox="675 521 839 548">17 September</p> <p data-bbox="675 557 1069 645">At CRDA meeting: Father Jack Finucane of Concern states that the death rate during population transfers was 15-20%.</p> <p data-bbox="675 680 831 707">Early October</p> <p data-bbox="675 716 1069 869">Forced transfers resume. Red Cross prohibited from delivering food to starving Maichew residents who, upon returning to food distribution centres, are rounded up.</p> <p data-bbox="675 1061 807 1088">19 October</p> <p data-bbox="675 1097 1069 1216">At CRDA meeting: Jack Finucane (Concern) downplays his 17 September comments regarding the number of deaths during population transfers.</p>	<p data-bbox="1109 331 1193 358">August</p> <p data-bbox="1109 367 1503 519">MSF France receives the Cultural Survival reports including statements by Ethiopian refugees in Sudan who fled during the forced resettlement operations.</p> <p data-bbox="1109 680 1214 707">7 October</p> <p data-bbox="1109 716 1503 775">MSF makes new request to open therapeutic feeding centre in Kelala.</p> <p data-bbox="1109 1258 1230 1285">22 October</p> <p data-bbox="1109 1294 1503 1447">MSF France president speaks at the British-American Press Club in Paris. He denounces the blockade on the opening of a centre in Kelala and says if MSF does not receive authorisation, it will pull out.</p> <p data-bbox="1109 1482 1230 1509">23 October</p> <p data-bbox="1109 1518 1503 1576">MSF makes new request to open therapeutic feeding centre in Kelala.</p> <p data-bbox="1109 1612 1230 1639">24 October</p> <p data-bbox="1109 1648 1503 1706">RRC accuses MSF of conducting a disinformation campaign.</p> <p data-bbox="1109 1742 1230 1769">25 October</p> <p data-bbox="1109 1778 1503 1865">20,000 people flee Korem camp in the middle of the night. 600 forced into trucks as MSF team watches.</p>

International

Ethiopia

MSF

1985

29 October

The UN representative in Ethiopia urges donors to fund the resettlement programme.

November

At Kelala, the MSF team discovers 800 people rounded up in an open field. They had been there a week, awaiting their forced transfer by lorries.

7 November

Official visit to Kelala by the RCC, a UN representative and ambassadors. They refuse to meet 'departure candidates', despite MSF's warning.

28 October

The board of MSF France decides to publicise the difficulties of working in Ethiopia.

31 October

Press conference and discussion in Paris between the MSF France President and RRC Commissioner Dawit Georgis, who promises to authorise the opening of a therapeutic centre at Kelala.

November

MSF France replies to *Le Monde Diplomatique's* criticisms of LSF.

3 November 1985

MSF quoted in a *Sunday Times* (UK) article: 'At least 50,000 people dead during Ethiopian population transfers.'

5 November

In *Libération* (France), the President of MSF France calls for a four-month moratorium on the transfers.

Distribution of the MSF confidential report 'Mass Deportations in Ethiopia.'

14 November

Interview with the President of MSF France in Paris-Match: "In Ethiopia, your money finances massive deportations."

15 November

Meeting in Addis Ababa between the President of MSF France and the new UN representative, who says he has "no reason to believe that people are being forced to leave the distribution centres".

International	Ethiopia	MSF
<p data-bbox="167 297 233 331">1985</p> <p data-bbox="244 521 400 548">20 November</p> <p data-bbox="244 555 638 707">The UN Office for Emergency Operations in Africa states it has no information to confirm that tens of thousands of Ethiopians have died during the transfer operations.</p>	<p data-bbox="676 331 794 358">November</p> <p data-bbox="676 365 1070 488">At Kelala, the MSF team discovers 800 people rounded up in an open field. They had been there a week, awaiting their forced transfer by lorries.</p> <p data-bbox="676 745 833 772">21 November</p> <p data-bbox="676 779 1070 902">The RRC Deputy Commissioner tells AFP: "MSF is conducting a defamation campaign. Its aims are political rather than humanitarian."</p> <p data-bbox="676 1256 833 1283">27 November</p> <p data-bbox="676 1290 1070 1379">The RRC issues a document denouncing the allegations in the media and extolling the benefits of resettlement.</p> <p data-bbox="676 1765 817 1792">3 December</p> <p data-bbox="676 1798 1070 1888">The RRC says it has accepted "MSF's offer to terminate its operations in Ethiopia."</p>	<p data-bbox="1102 331 1259 358">16 November</p> <p data-bbox="1102 365 1497 454">A meeting between MSF and the RRC is unexpectedly transformed into a press conference and informal court.</p> <p data-bbox="1102 521 1259 548">20 November</p> <p data-bbox="1102 555 1497 645">Letter from MSF to the RRC Deputy Commissioner, suggesting an assessment mission in the resettlement zones.</p> <p data-bbox="1102 745 1259 772">21 November</p> <p data-bbox="1102 779 1497 931">Letter from MSF to the UN representative in Ethiopia, requesting his thoughts on the fact that the departure criteria for the resettlement programme are being ignored.</p> <p data-bbox="1102 969 1259 996">25 November</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1003 1497 1059">The MSF team fights to stop the forced transfer of 100 people from Sekota.</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1099 1259 1126">26 November</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1133 1497 1223">The MSF team discovers 200 people locked in a church at Sekota, awaiting transfer.</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1417 1259 1444">29 November</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1451 1497 1507">Letter from MSF to the RRC condemning the incidents at Sekota.</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1547 1243 1574">2 December</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1581 1497 1733">MSF in Addis receives notice of its expulsion from the RRC. This is followed by the freezing of bank accounts, restriction of staff movements, and the grounding of aircraft.</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1771 1243 1798">3 December</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1805 1497 1895">MSF France press conference in Paris: "Aid is not being used to save people, but to oppress them."</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1933 1243 1960">4 December</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1966 1497 2056">MSF asks the UN representative in Ethiopia to ensure that other agencies continue MSF</p>

International	Ethiopia	MSF
<p>1985</p> <p>7 December An OXFAM nurse claims that resettlement is not voluntary. OXFAM expresses concern but says it does not envisage a withdrawal.</p> <p>18 December The UN representative in Ethiopia declares that MSF was expelled for interfering in the country's internal affairs.</p> <p>Late December Agency for International Development officially condemns the Ethiopian government policy of deportation.</p>	<p>16 December The international press reports the defection of Dawit Wolde Georgis to the US. He was the RRC Commissioner.</p> <p>18 December Declaration from the members of the CRDA (40 NGOs working in Ethiopia) criticising MSF for the bad publicity it has generated for aid agencies in Ethiopia.</p>	<p>7 December 1985 Press conference held by the President of MSF France in London: testimony of MSF volunteers, appeal for a moratorium on forced transfers.</p> <p>8 December Press conference given by MSF volunteers on their return to Paris from Ethiopia.</p> <p>12 December MSF asks the European Parliament for help in obtaining a moratorium on the forced displacements. The European Parliament criticises the deportation policy and asks the Ethiopian government to allow MSF to resume its activities.</p> <p>18 December MSF France holds a press conference in Geneva on the dire situation of forced transfers.</p> <p>19 December Press conference in Nairobi. MSF France calls for humanitarian organisations in Ethiopia to create a 'united front.'</p> <p>December MSF France supplies donors with a document detailing the circumstances of its departure from Ethiopia.</p>
<p>1986</p>		<p>January MSF France takes its campaign against the forced displacements in Ethiopia to the United States and Canada.</p> <p>13 January MSF Belgium signs an agreement with the Ethiopian government to provide one million dollarsworth of medical aid.</p>

International	Ethiopia	MSF
<p>1986</p> <p>21 January The US government criticises Ethiopia's policy of forced resettlement.</p> <p>April The villagisation programme is criticised by diplomats, aid organisations and the international press.</p> <p>21 May The UN Office for Emergency Operations in Ethiopia launches an appeal to finance the transportation of international aid in Ethiopia. It also issues an optimistic bulletin on the long-term effects of the resettlement programme.</p>	<p>February The Ethiopian government announces the temporary suspension of resettlement operations in order to begin a "period of consolidation." Villagisation continues.</p> <p>March Thousands of Ethiopians flee villagisation and seek refuge in Somalia.</p> <p>22 March Mengistu announces that future transfers will be conducted only on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>11 April Mengistu announces that three million Ethiopians have already been 'resettled.'</p> <p>Early May The Ethiopian government demands the extradition of Dawit Wolde Georgis, the former head of the RRC, and accuses him of diverting funds.</p> <p>21 May Dawit Wolde Georgis tells the press that the famine "arises from a political problem" and criticises his government's management.</p> <p>June Berhane Deressa, Deputy Commissioner of the RRC, defects and criticises his government's policy.</p>	<p>30 January The Executive Director of the UN Office for Emergency Operations in Africa rejects MSF's findings on Ethiopia. The UN representative in Ethiopia says statistics are impossible to obtain.</p> <p>Late March Claude Malhuret, MSF France's General Director, leaves the organisation to take up the post of Minister for Human Rights in the French right-wing government.</p> <p>June The President of MSF France visits the United States and says that the money raised by Band Aid is being diverted.</p>

International	Ethiopia	MSF
<p>1986</p>	<p>20 June Dawit Wolde Georgis urges the US to continue its aid to Ethiopia. He insists that US ensure that aid is not misappropriated by the government, which he accuses of attempting to establish a Soviet-style regime.</p> <p>8 September The Ethiopian ambassador to France defects.</p> <p>29 October The Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs defects.</p>	<p>17 June MSF France holds a press conference in Paris. It criticises the diversion of international aid and compares the Ethiopian régime to the Khmer Rouge.</p> <p>Summer MSF continues its campaign against the policy of villagisation.</p> <p>October Article by Rony Brauman, President of MSF France, in the English-language editions of Readers' Digest: "Famine Aid-Were We Duped?"</p> <p>29 October Conference entitled "La pitié dangereuse: de l'aide aux victimes à l'aide aux bourreaux" [A Dangerous Compassion: From Aiding to the Victims to Aiding Their Executioners] organised by <i>Liberté Sans Frontières</i>.</p> <p>December Rony Brauman's article is reprinted in the French-language editions of <i>Readers' Digest</i>: "Faut-il encore aider l'Ethiopie?" [Should we Continue to help Ethiopia]. Bob Geldof (Band Aid) accuses MSF of being a political organisation. 15th anniversary of MSF's foundation. According to the press, the political quarrels have not damaged its image</p>
<p>1987</p>	<p>Drought returns to Ethiopia. Villagisation has devastated the agricultural system.</p>	<p>MSF France refuses to recant the position it had adopted in 1985 and to guarantee its future silence, conditions imposed by the Ethiopian government for its return to the country. MSF Belgium continues its work in Ethiopia.</p> <p>28 February The MSF sections meet in Amsterdam and resume dialogue.</p>

International	Ethiopia	MSF	
1989		3-4 June The first MSF European Convention is held in Toulouse.	
1991	The Derg falls. Mengistu flees to Zimbabwe.		
2006	An Ethiopian court verdict finds Mengistu guilty, in absentia, of genocide. He is sentenced to life imprisonment.		
2008	Following an appeal, Mengistu is sentenced to death, in absentia, by Ethiopia's high court.		