



Adi-Keshi camp is Haille's home for the foreseeable future

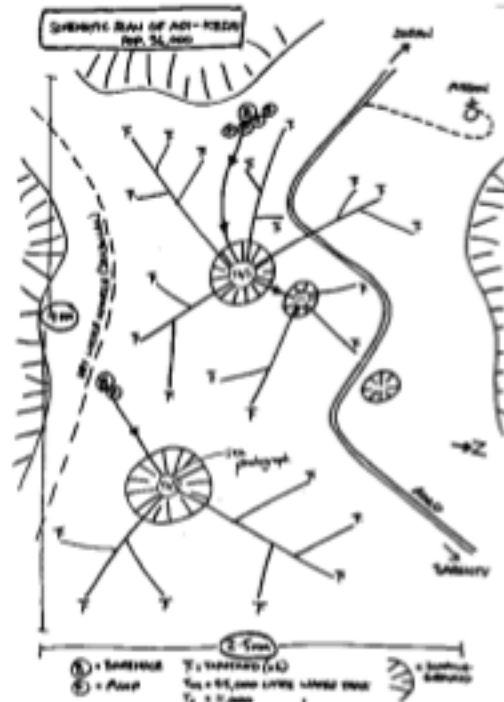
Haille Biru, survivor, Eritrea

➔ Haille lives in Adi-Keshi camp for displaced people, Eritrea. More than 60 years ago he fought the Italians as they invaded Ethiopia. At the century's end he had to flee his home, as Ethiopian and Eritrean troops battled over disputed territory. About one million people lost their homes, and an estimated 100,000 died. Oxfam has an emergency water and sanitation programme in Adi-Keshi camp.

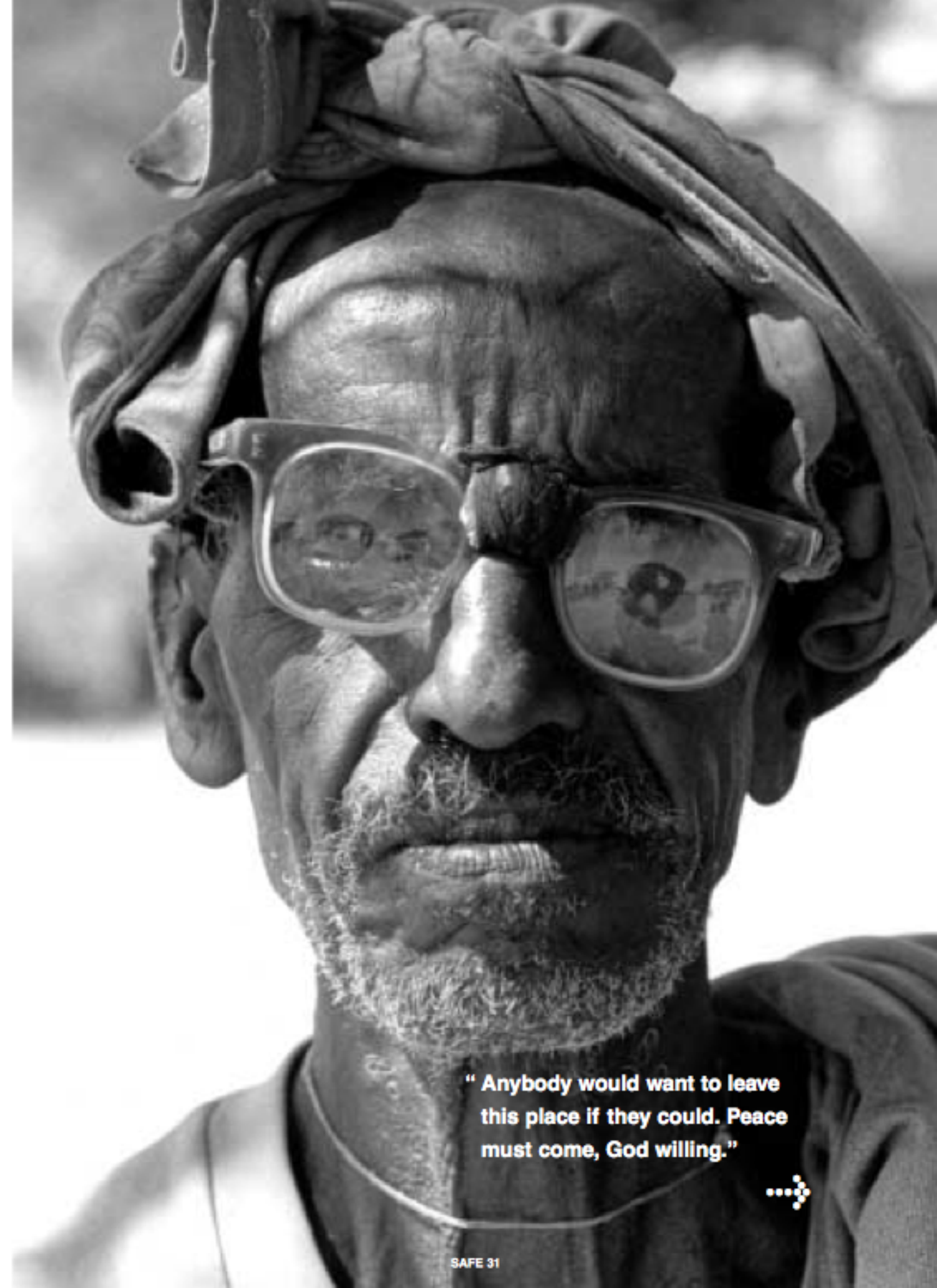
"I was 20 when I fought with the Italians. They gave me a gun and taught me to shoot. Those were good times. We were treated well, had our own uniform, and good food.

"During the Italian time I worked on the highways as a welder. We built roads and bridges all over Eritrea. They taught me how to weld, and I had a good job. I was proud that I could feed my family. When the Italians left, I began to farm, here in Gash Barka. We grew plenty of food – to eat and to sell. I look back on that time – 40 years a farmer! Before I came here I was eating well and keeping strong. Now I am becoming poorer. I go every day into the bush and cut wood. It's not allowed, but I am an old man. What can they do? Put me in prison?

"I still work hard, but the times are also hard. The work that you [Oxfam] do is appreciated. It keeps us alive. We have clean water everywhere, more than before. Being in the camp is difficult though. I have old friends here and some new ones. In fact there is better friendship here, because we are all affected in the same way. People work together, co-operate. We help each other if we can."



A map of Adi-Keshi camp, drawn by an Oxfam staff member. The camp is an area of about 10 kilometres square. The camp consists of undulating hills covered in brown scrub and thorn scrub. It is home to about 30,000 people who were forced from their villages by the fighting between Eritrea and Ethiopia in the 1990s. Oxfam T45 and T11 water tanks, supplied by boreholes, perch on hills in the camp. Water is gravity-fed from the tanks to taps erected by Oxfam around the site. Oxfam aims to provide each person with 15 litres of water a day, in accordance with internationally agreed humanitarian standards



"Anybody would want to leave this place if they could. Peace must come, God willing."

