

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. This Evaluation**

The evaluation was conducted throughout the last quarter of 2004 and first quarter of 2005 by a four-person team (two Finnish nationals and two non-Finnish nationals – a female and male in each case). As stated in the Terms of Reference (TOR – see annexes):

*The main purpose of the evaluation is to underpin the forthcoming revisions of the Finnish humanitarian aid policy and practice. Therefore, the evaluation needs to provide future visions and clear recommendations for policy development and aid actions ... An additional objective is to review how the recommendations of the previous evaluation were received in the administration and how these have been implemented ...*

*The period under review is 1996–2003. The evaluation should focus on disaster relief and assistance to victims of armed conflicts. It should cover all humanitarian aid funded with the ODA budget ...*

*Aid to prevention of conflicts and disasters, humanitarian mine action, support to human rights organisations and democratisation efforts should be reviewed only descriptively.*

### **1.2. Evaluation Methods**

The evaluation began with a desk review phase and interviews with MFA staff, NGOs, researchers and other relevant informants. These were followed by continued research of global issues. Three geographical cases were researched in particular: Ethiopia (including a field visit), Sudan and Afghanistan. Given its importance, aspects of the recent Asia Tsunami response were also analysed.

Field work was conducted in Ethiopia during December 2004, including data collection and interviews (with government officials, UN, Red Cross, and NGO staff, and other key informants, including programme beneficiaries). In addition to the capital, programme areas in the Eastern ('Somali') region, the South and South East were visited. Food shipment and distribution, refugee and rehabilitation activities were examined.