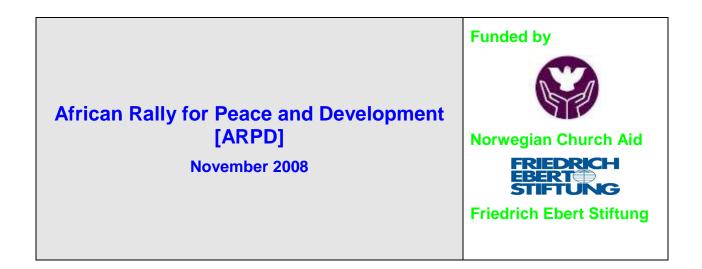ARPD has completed its Baseline Study on Violent Conflicts in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia sponsored by the Norwegian Church Aid and
A Brief Summary of the Baseline is attached.

Baseline Study for Mapping Violent Conflicts in Ethiopia

	Funded by
African Rally for Peace and Development [ARPD] **November 2008**	**Norwegian Church Aid** **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung**

Executive Summary Of the Baseline Study

1.   This report of a baseline research provides a list of areas and sites of violent conflicts in Seven Regional States of Ethiopia, namely Oromia, Tigray, Southern Nations/Nationalities and Peoples/SNNP/, Afar, Somali, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz. For most violent conflicts reported, a brief summary of the major immediate causes are provided. The parties to these violent conflicts are also listed. The motives of each parties involved in the conflicts are also briefly explained. The types of interventions are also mentioned. Nonetheless, a much bigger list of conflicts without detailed description and conflict analysis are provided as there are no full-fledged public researches. A stand-alone baseline reports for the Oromia, Tigray, Southern Nations/Nationalities and Peoples, Afar, Somali, Gambella and Benishangul National Regional States are also attached in the annex. The matrixes and tables in each regional state report offer very concise summary of the violent conflict, parties, actors, causes, and damages.

2.   However, as the research on this topic is scanty, all the facts and statements could not be verified through other sources. Even worse, due to unofficial nature of some reports available and the norms in the ethics of research, citation of seemingly authoritative documents has proven very contentious and therefore difficult.

Nine National Regional States and Two Special City Administrations

3.   The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is constitutionally a federation of nine member regional states, which are mainly based on ethno-linguistic population and boundaries, and two special city administrations: Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. These are: Amhara; Tigray; Oromia; Afar; Somali; Gambella; Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples; Harari and Benshangul-Gumuz. In all regions, there are about 529 *Woredas (*District).

Conflicts Prone Regions of Ethiopia

4.   Although the causes, magnitude, complexity and intensity of the violence nature of conflicts vary from region to region, all the studied regional states have witnessed some sort of violent conflicts. Some regions are however more conflict-prone regions than others. Regional states such as Tigray are less prone than others say Southern Nations/Nationalities. Other regional states are prone to border conflicts for example the Oromia with many of its neighbouring regional states including Benishangul-Gumuz.

Causes of Conflicts in Ethiopia

5.   Based on the Field Researches, the major causes of conflicts in regional state are controversies over ethnic identity, disputes over border and

administrative arrangements, population dynamics due to spontaneous and planned large scale migration and their impact on resource and power-sharing, religious conflicts, mineral extraction, and structural causes of conflicts such discriminatory caste-like culture. Distributional issues are also additional causes of conflicts to the above listed central underlying causes of violent conflicts in Ethiopia (see all the annexes). In the case of South Omo, Bench-Maji zones of SNNPR, the causes of conflicts are not as clear as the prevalence of violent conflicts. A detailed research is very necessary.

Intra-ethnic and Inter-ethnic Conflicts

6.   Relatively speaking a better researched area such as the Borona zone of Oromia, Gambella, and SNNP predominantly exhibits both intra-ethnic and inter-ethnic conflicts. In some cases the intra-ethnic conflicts are predominant than inter-ethnic ones.

Inter-ethnic within University Campus Conflicts, violent conflicts among religious followers, Migration and development related conflicts

7.   There are three causes of violent conflicts which are not mentioned in the researches we collected. Violent conflicts inside universities are becoming more frequent but are the least researched. Similar conclusion can be safely reached with regard to the violent conflicts in mining and exploration areas and among followers of different religions. Large and spontaneous migration of people from one regional state to another has also exacerbated existing conflicts.

Need for Further Research

8.   Hence, as it is shown in the conclusion and recommendation part of this report, a comprehensive mapping of violent conflicts in Ethiopia will need deeper analysis in the specific areas of conflict and their causes. In this regard, about 48 specific sites of violent conflicts are recommended for further research and investigation.

Objectives of the Research

9   The main aim of this Baseline Study is to scan the researches already made on violent conflicts and, based on the outcome of the scanning process, to identify those that need more elaborated research. The overall objective of this baseline study is, therefore, a preparation to undertake a project entitled "Mapping of Violent Conflicts" in Ethiopia. This baseline study on Oromia, Tigray, Southern Nations/Nationalities and Peoples, Afar, Somali, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional States would be a basis for implementing a common project for the "Mapping of Violent Conflicts in Ethiopia" by ARPD, FES and NCA. Thus, the specific objectives of this baseline study are to produce a survey on the research conducted in previous/recent years on violent conflicts

in Oromia, Tigray, Southern Nations/Nationalities and peoples, Afar, Somali, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional States, in particular with regard to their geographical scope, the topics covered and to identify the gaps that should be filled by further research in order to have a map of violent conflicts in Ethiopia. Moreover, finding out about research projects that might be useful to the mapping exercise and identifying the geographical "white spots" and issues that need further field research in the above mentioned national regional states are specific objectives of this baseline study.

2.2. Methodology of the Baseline Study

10   In order to fulfill the objectives of this baseline study on violent conflicts in the Oromia, Tigray, Southern Nations/Nationalities and peoples, Afar, Somali, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional States, both primary and secondary data were used as a source of information. Literature Review and Key Informant Interview were the main methods used for this research as it is a research on already conducted researches. Maximum effort was made by field researchers to visit regional and federal government institutions, non-government organizations, and academic and other relevant research institutions in the Regional States under research to identify and review literature, documents and data on violent conflicts in the above mentioned regional states. Informants are drawn from various sectors of the society, governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, media, universities, businesses, farmers, and victims of violent conflicts. The scanning of literature, document and data was supported by interviews with key informants from government, non-government, academic and other relevant research institutes in the above mentioned regional states. The interviews were employed to solicit information regarding available literatures on conflicts in their respective regional states.

11. The field researchers employed the open-ended semi-structured interview method because it is best 'used to elicit respondent perception' (Silverman 2000:34). It is the most appropriate [method] employed where the goal of research is to gather and identify areas of violent conflicts (Devine 2002:199). More specifically as Harvey has commented, this technique ensures that it is the interviewee's 'perspective that is paramount' (Harvey 1990 cited in Devine 2002:199). These methods make it possible to get the consensual data and information otherwise would be unethical to make them public. For those violent conflict reported but not researched, this method was very helpful. Therefore, to complement some limitation in finding literatures, documents, and data in the regional states where the baseline study was undertaken, the field researchers conducted key informants interview to solicit information regarding research undertakings on violent conflicts, geographical areas and conflict issues that need further field research and current conflict situation in the National Regional States. In some cases (such as Tigray), the field researchers' outcome, conclusion and recommendations heavily depended on the analysis of data obtained from key informants. For this reason, detailed data is not incorporated in

this report for the most of the claimed conflict situations in Tigray National Regional State.

2.3. Available Research

12.   In carrying out the baseline research in the Oromia, Tigray, Southern Nations/Nationalities and Peoples, Afar, Somali, Gambella and Benishangul – Gumuz National Regional States; more than 35 research materials and documents were reviewed and more than 40 key informant interviews were conducted. During the field baseline research, the researchers found a relatively more research outputs and documents (each 10 materials) done on violent conflicts in the Oromia National regional State and Southern Nations/Nationalities and people's Regional State. There are relatively fewer research outputs and documents (2) materials each done on violent conflicts in Tigray and Afar National Regional States. A relatively more (at least each 9 interviews) key informants interview were conducted in the Gambella and Benishagul-Gumuz National Regional States. The region specific detail on the availability of researches is given below.