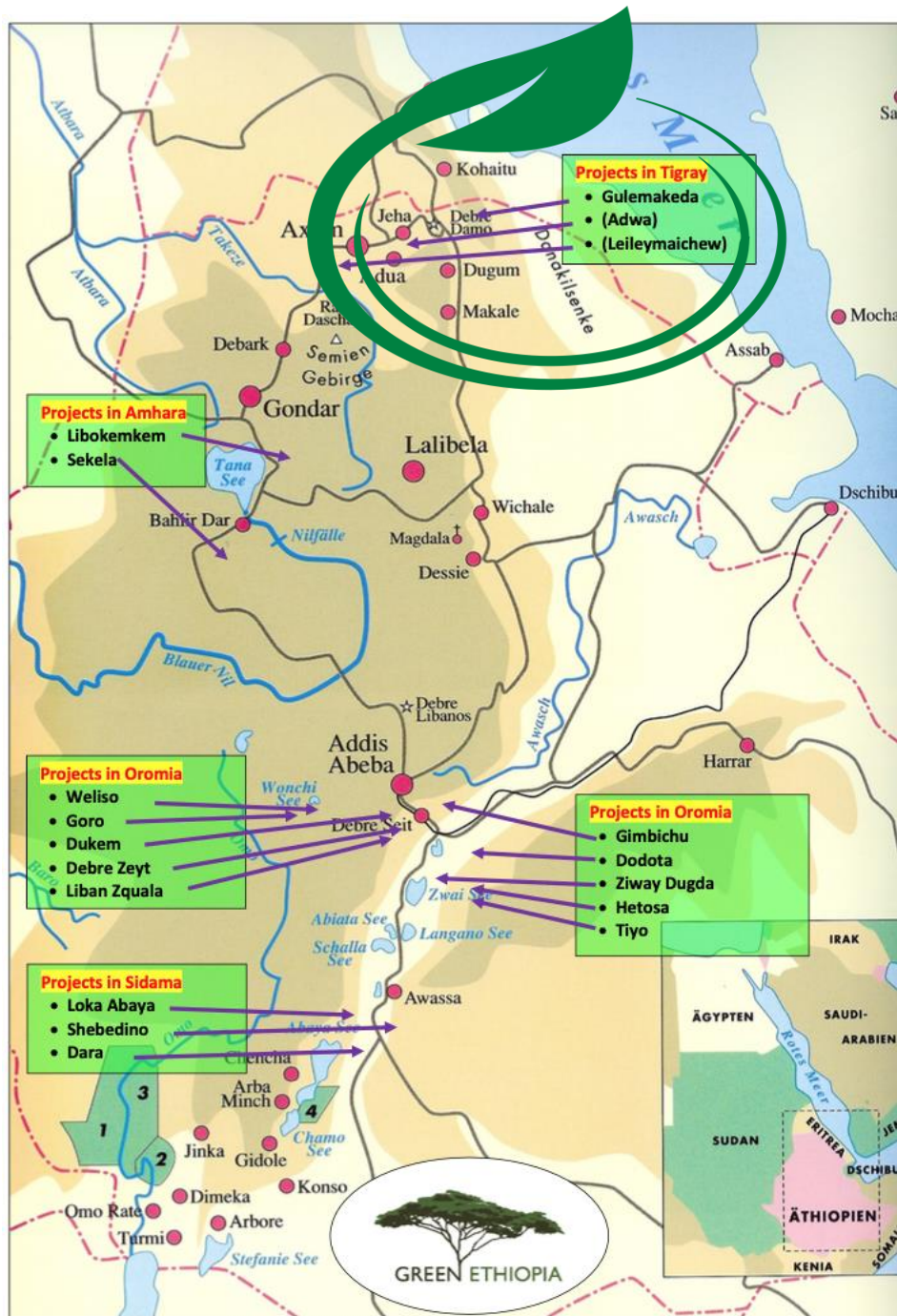


Project visit July 2023



Return to Tigray, to friends, hope, desperation - and stunning views, after 1 year of COVID and 2 years of war and blockage.



Gulemakeda, Tigray





Most plantations, here Rib Medebay valley,
are growing well.



Along the road to Fasi town, this forest was cleared for military camp.



Around the camp some trees were cut, but they re-grow with the rainy season starting.

Gulemakeda, Tigray





Discussion at Mezabir nursery about the requirements to re-start the activities.



Shelter construction for fruit tree seedlings after having been destroyed.

Strong growing trees on the Debre Damo mountain. Some were damaged while people and animals were hiding in the forest.





Our focal person Mr. Bahlbi points to the area near the river where fruit trees grow thanks to strong forests on Debre Damo mountain.

2-year-old fruit trees in front, 5-year-old ones on the left, and in the back how the riverbed looked before. Forests provide vitamins!





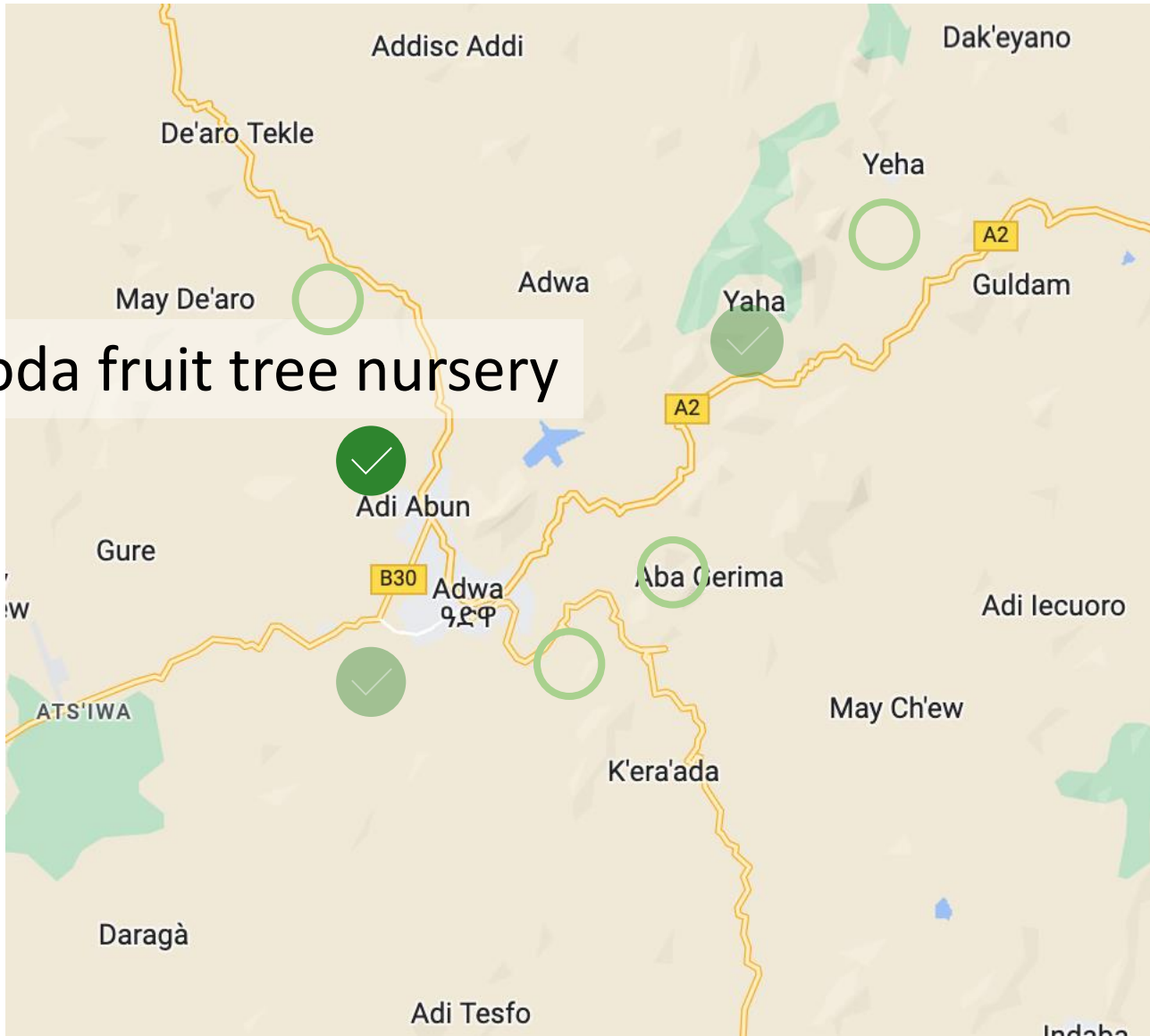
Delicious, nutritious, vitamin-rich mango
growing on a 4-year-old tree.

Harvest of 'our' Mango, the farmers hope to transport them to Mekelle, the only town with some jobs, visitors and active markets.



Adwa, Tigray

Soloda fruit tree nursery





The good news: our team is safe! The mother trees and bananas survived.

The big mother trees are full of fruits and in good condition for providing grafting sticks.



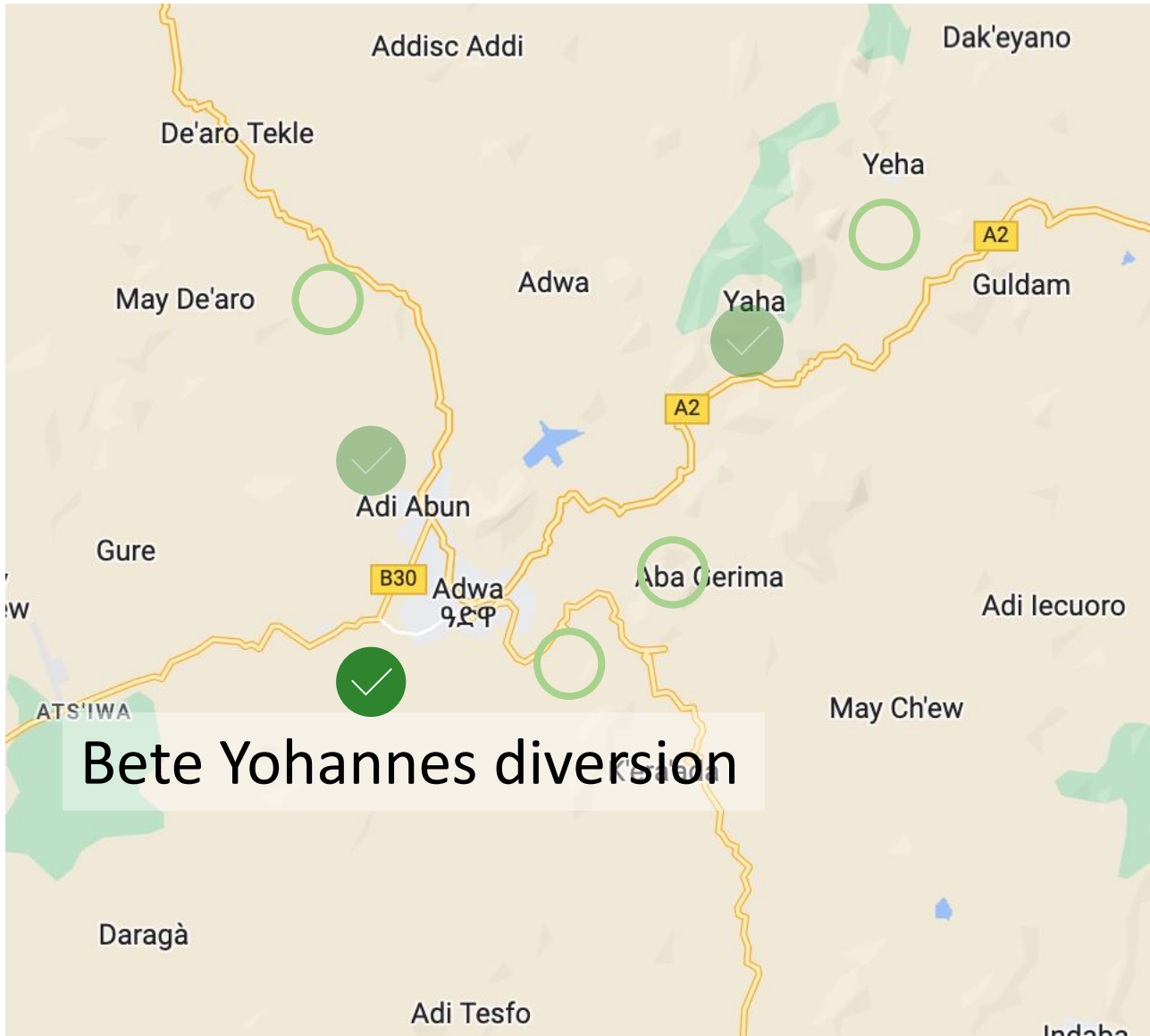


The not so good news: significant destruction, all material stolen.



The free area in the fruit tree orchard is used by the team to grow maize for food security.

Adwa, Tigray





Bete Yohannes river diversion is in use.

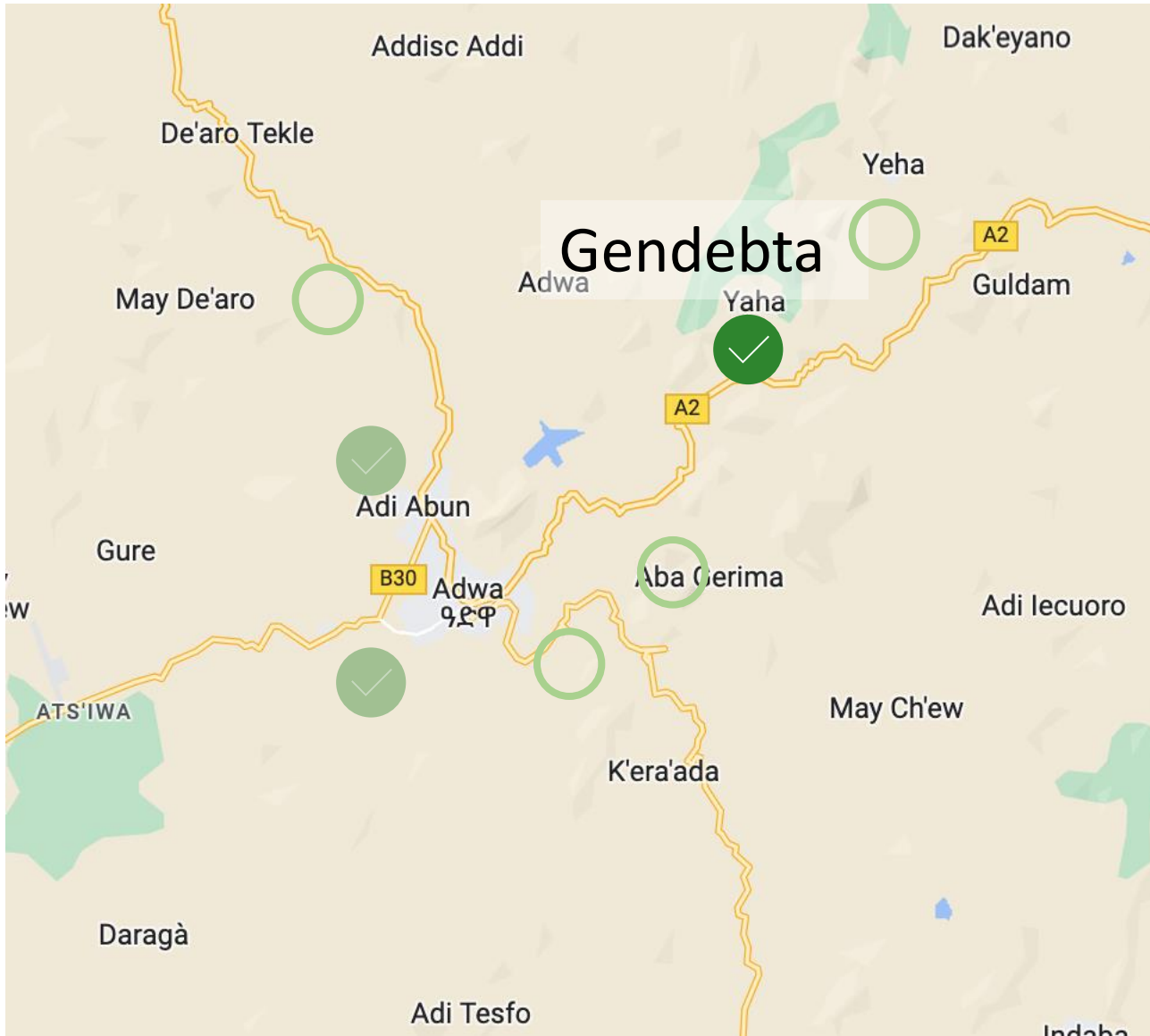


Enough water in the channel and in the river.



Irrigation group member explains the use of channels and irrigation during 2 occupations.

Adwa, Tigray



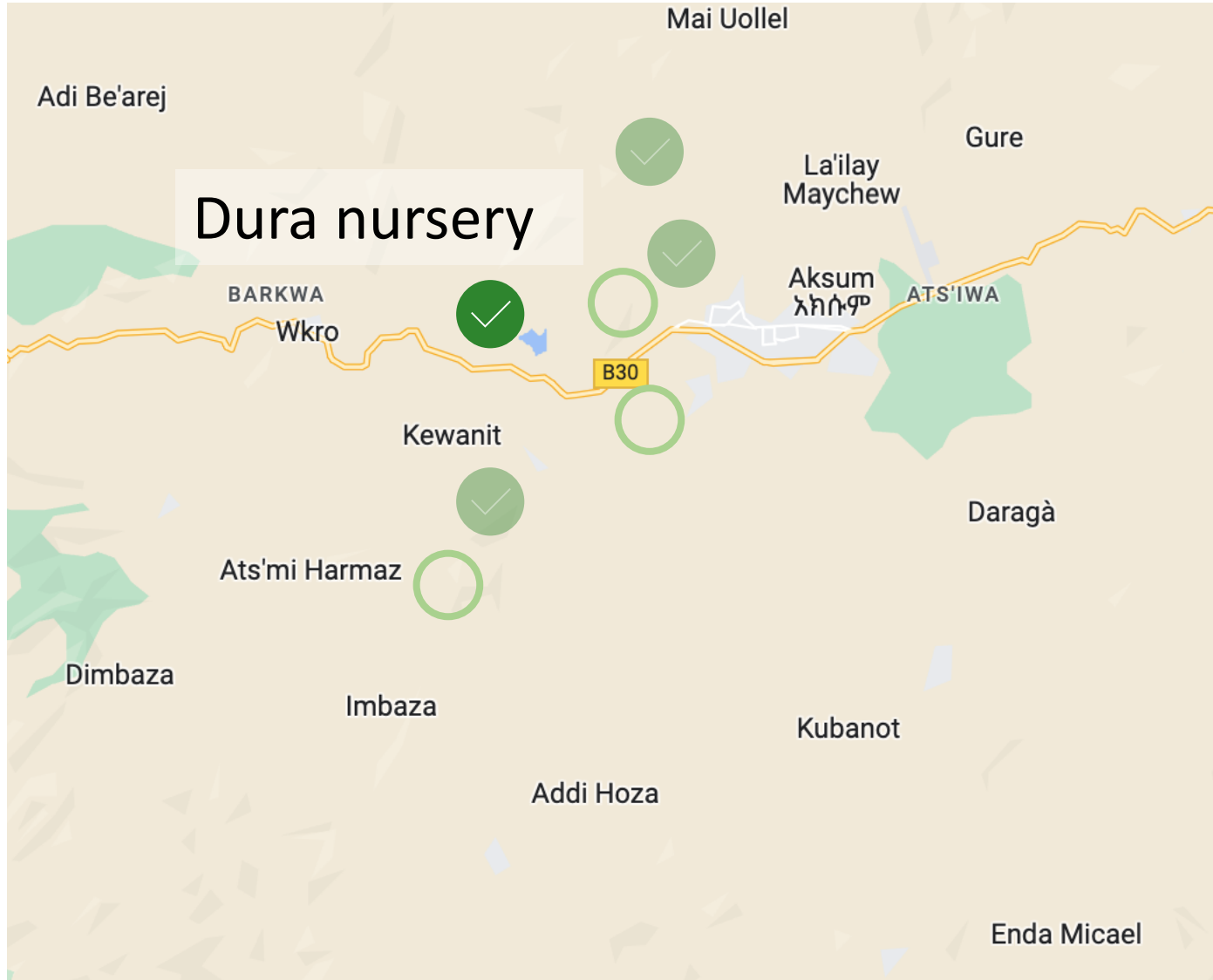


Very nice forests on formerly bare mountains
between Gendebta and Mariam Shewito.



This forest behind this farmhouse changes everything for the family: water nearby, more crop from the field, vegetables, bees, ...

Laileymaichow, Tigray





Nature has taken over, thanks to continues guarding by foreman (above: 2019).

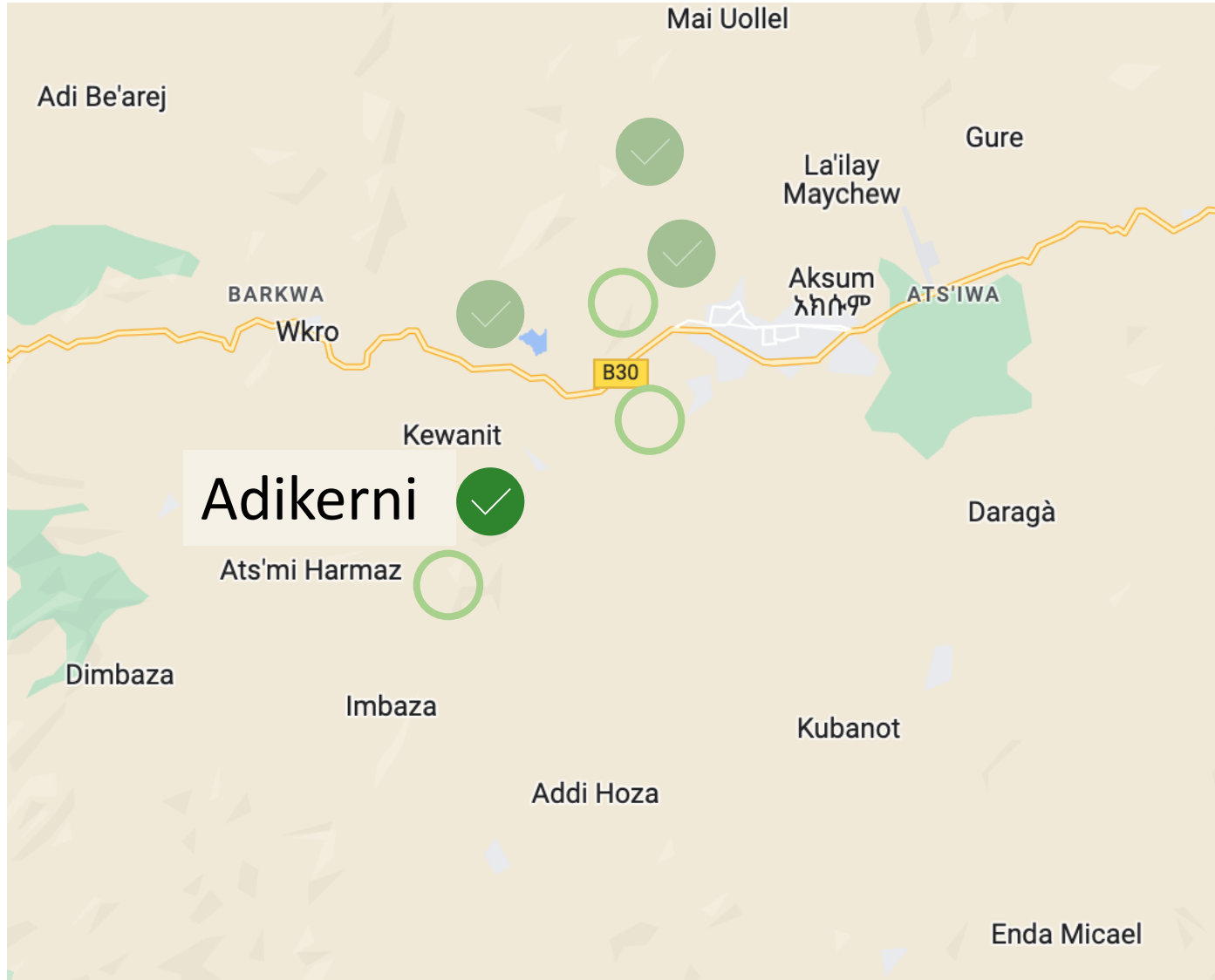


Buildings are in place, but all material stolen or damaged.



This 2-year-old acacia abyssinica shall remain
as a symbol for new beginnings!

Laileymaichow, Tigray






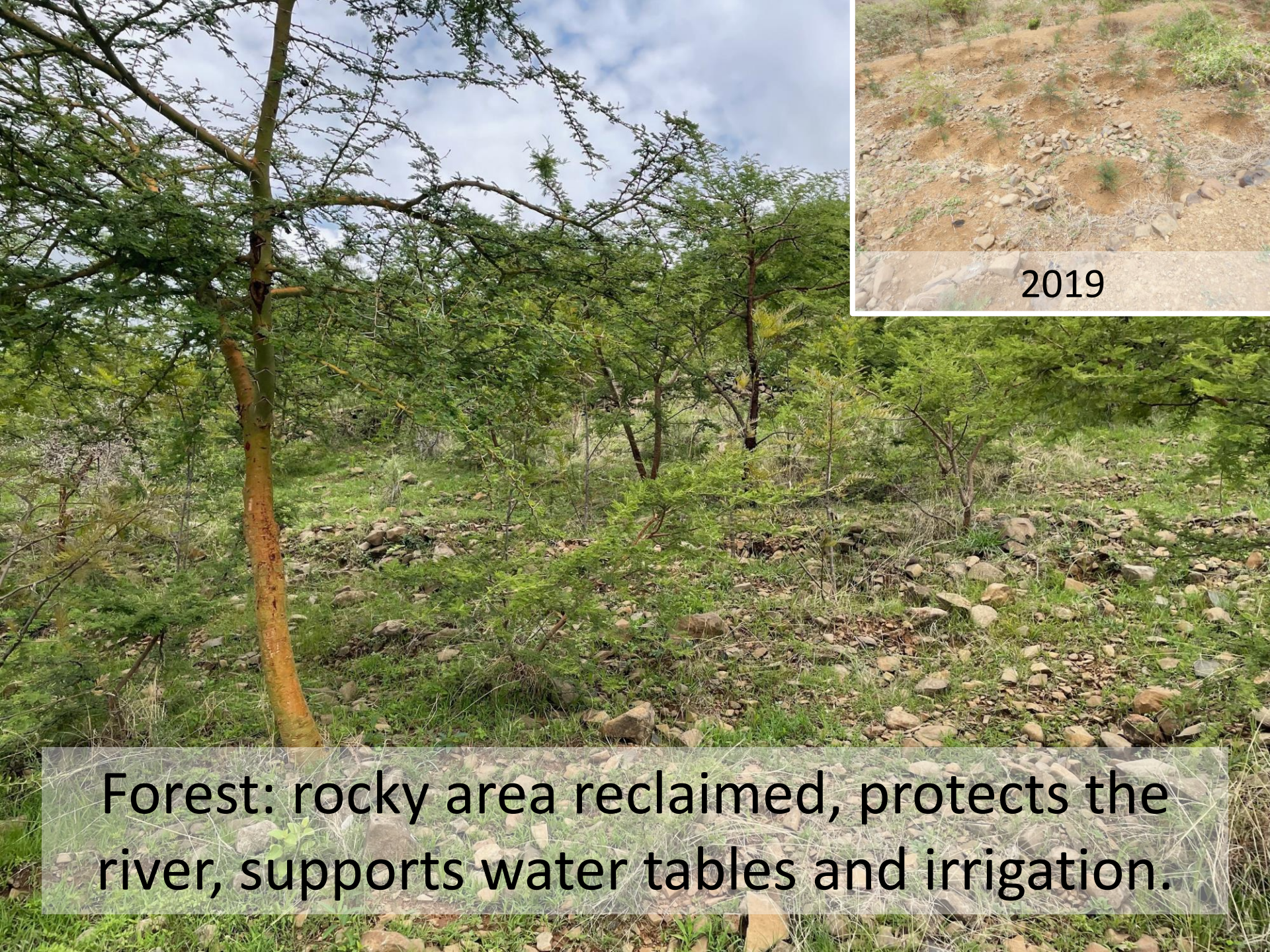
Riverbed: reclaimed, reduced runoff (erosion stopped), increased water table



Gully: no more erosion, no more loss of
fertile land (above: 2019)

A landscape photograph showing a field with several young, green trees planted in rows. The ground is brown soil with some green weeds. In the background, there is a hill covered in dense green vegetation under a blue sky with a few clouds. A stone wall is visible on the right side of the field.

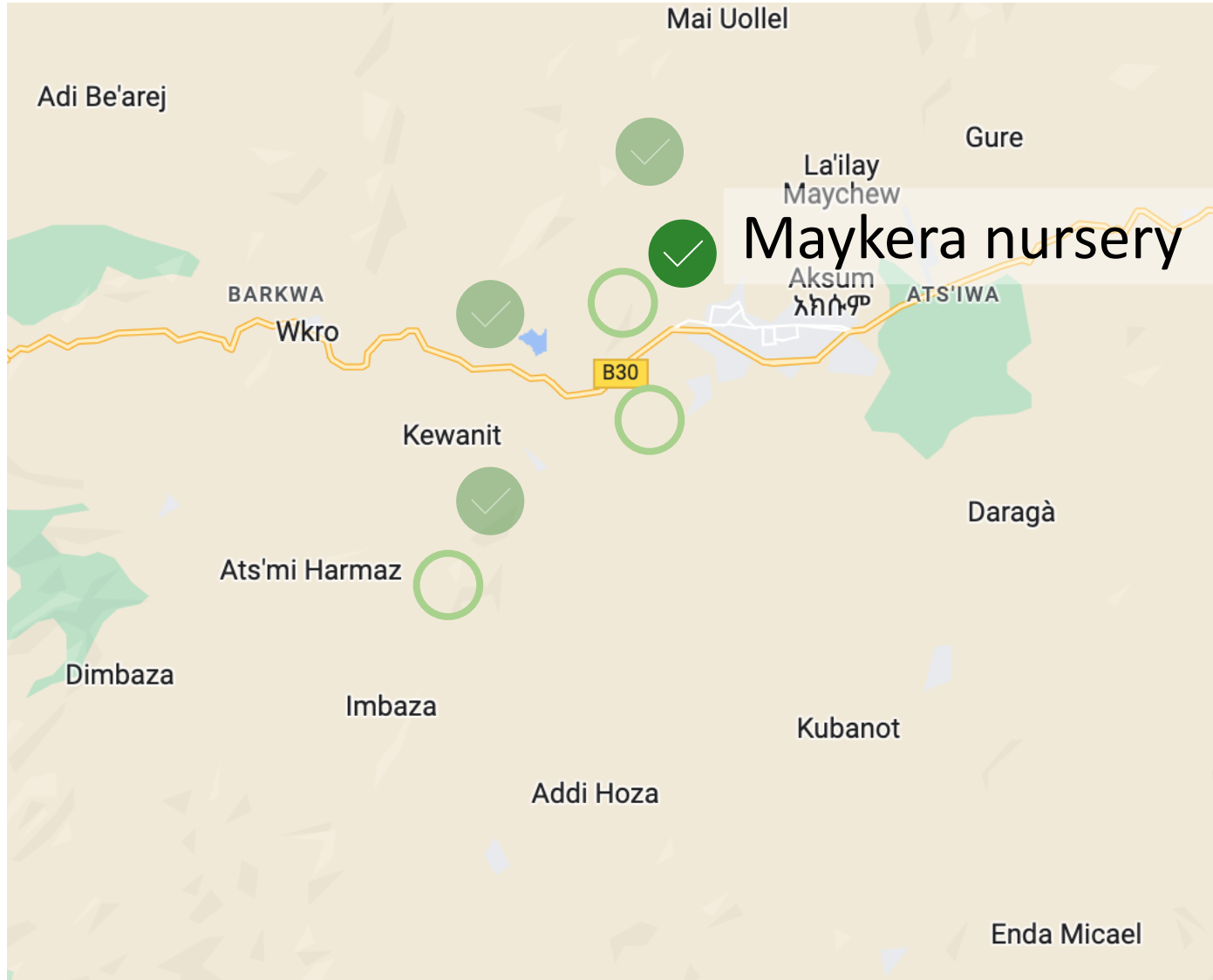
Agroforestry: productive fields, no more
conflicts for who causes erosion.



2019

Forest: rocky area reclaimed, protects the river, supports water tables and irrigation.

Laileymaichow, Tigray



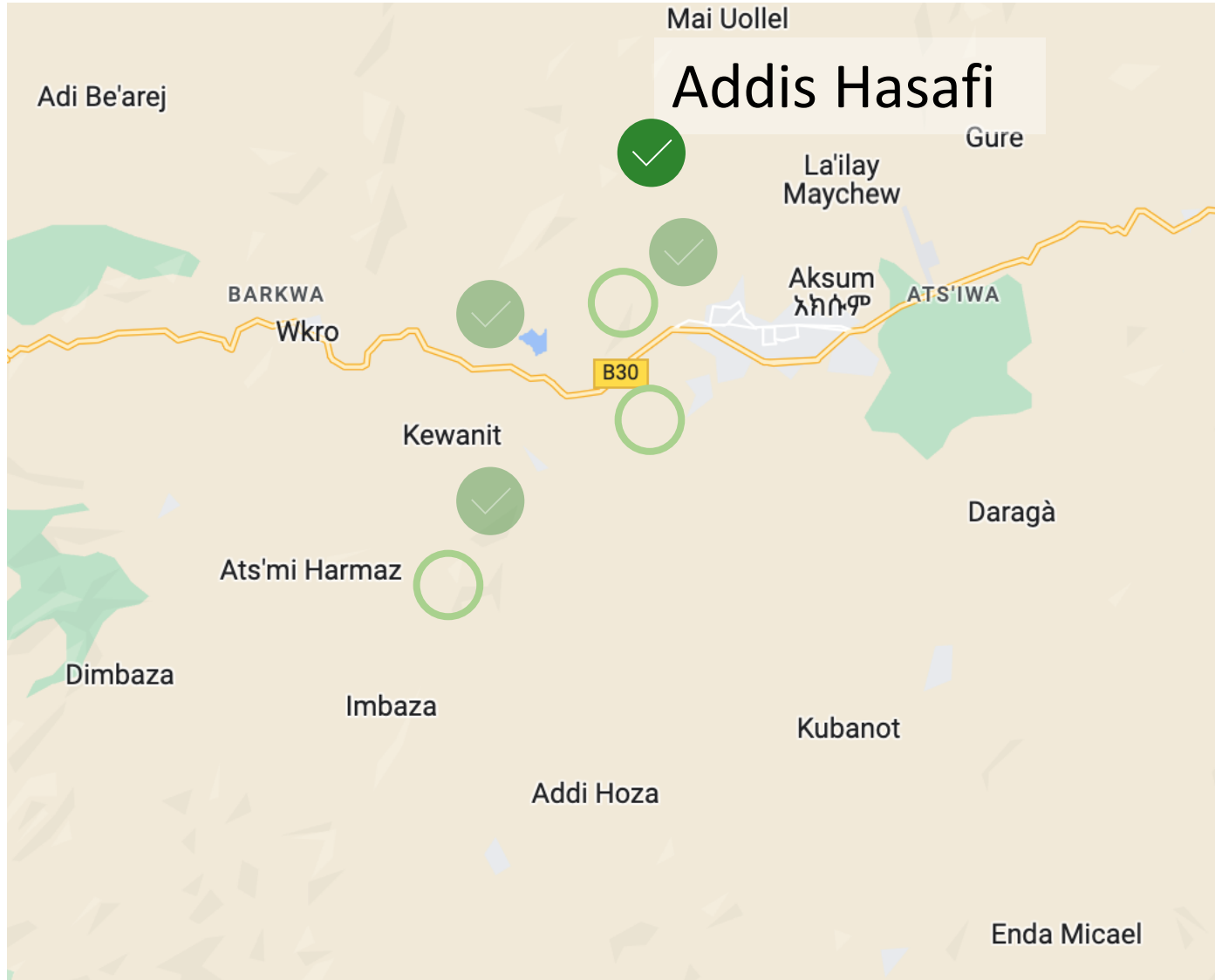


Destroyed because of snipers in the area
prevented people to guard.



Snipers lead to animal entering the nursery area, eat any new plants as well as the fence.

Laileymaichow, Tigray



A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a valley. In the foreground, there is a green field with scattered rocks. The middle ground features a valley floor with some green vegetation and a line of trees on the right. The background consists of rolling hills with exposed reddish-brown soil and sparse green shrubs. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

2-year-old plantation destroyed because of snipers in the area: animals can enter, humans cannot (so no guarding).



Back side of the 2-year-old plantation:
outside of the reach of snipers some survival.



Big potential for irrigation, here the example of existing fruit tree irrigation.

Impressions after 2 years of war and blockage in Tigray



Results of the war



Destroyed military vehicles



Destroyed health center



Defense position roadblocks (to be removed from these inter-region roads by the federal government - who built it in the first place)

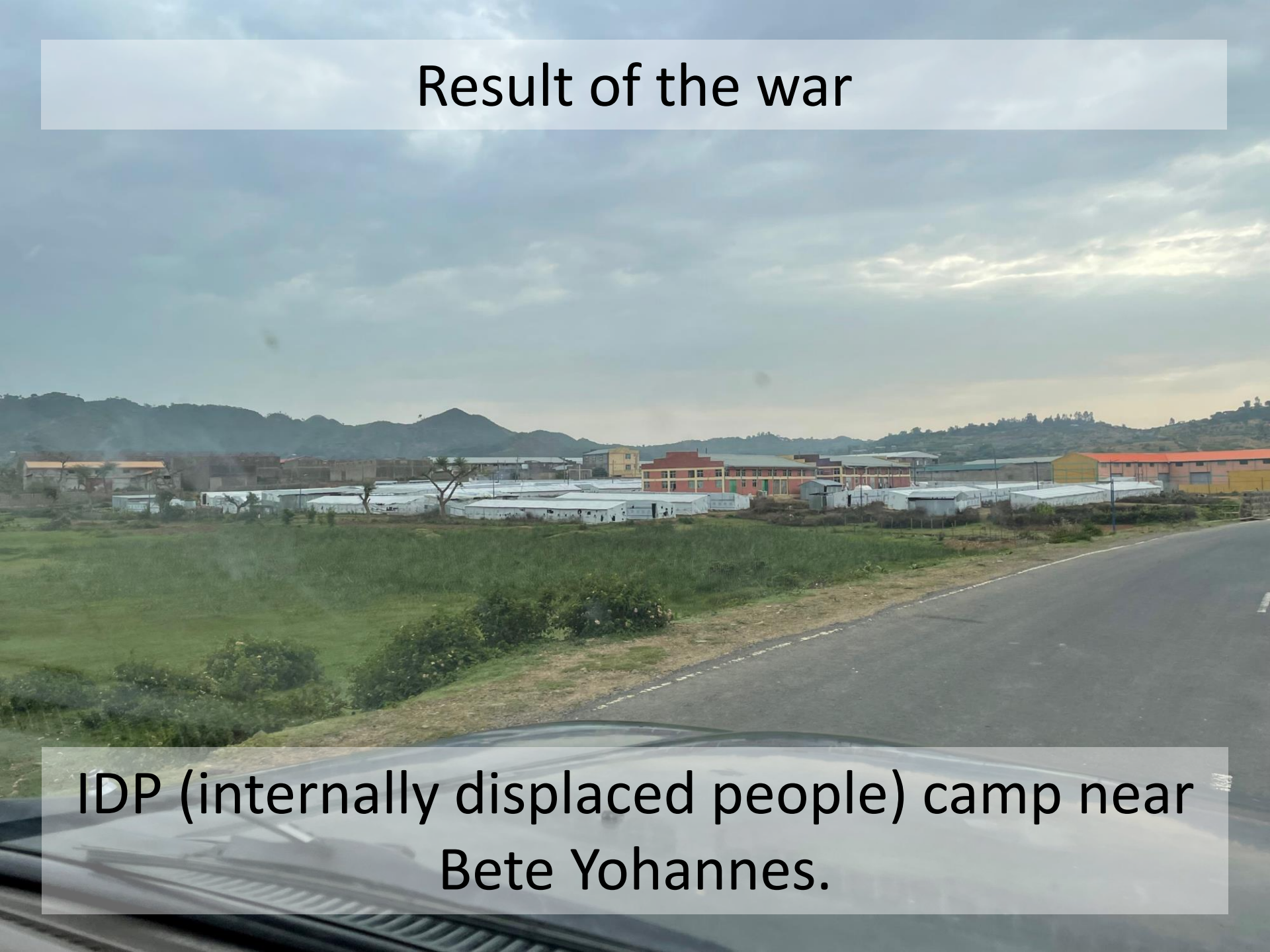


Result of the war: Gulemakeda government



Shot at by tank and everything stolen.

Result of the war



IDP (internally displaced people) camp near
Bete Yohannes.

Result of the blockage




First time to drive the car in in 1.5 years:
the tires have become weak. No new tires
available, had to be brought from Mekele.

Result of the blockage



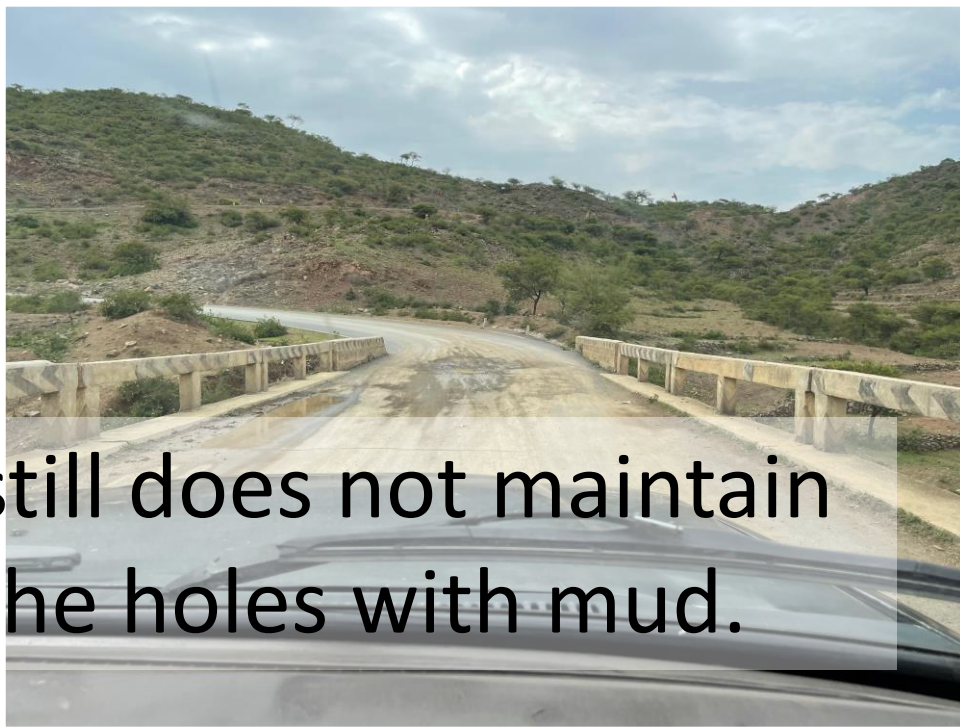
Windshield wiper doesn't work because there are no spare parts available.



Result of the war and blockage

Lunch in Debre Damo: local bread and honey
– no other food available in rural areas.

Results of the war and blockage



Federal government still does not maintain roads, children fill the holes with mud.

A photograph of an elderly man with a long white beard and a white turban. He is wearing a white shawl over a dark long-sleeved shirt and reddish-brown trousers. He is standing on a patch of dry, brown earth, leaning his right hand on a long, thin wooden staff. To his right is a large, thick-trunked tree with green foliage. The background shows a lush green landscape with rolling hills and a field of tall green crops, possibly corn. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

Result of the war and 2 times occupation

He lost all sheep, goat, cows, oxen, chicken, and donkey except one. Beehives destroyed.



Result of the war and 2 times occupation

Irrigation was possible, but without any inputs, and soldiers took half of the harvest.

The situation in Tigray in a nutshell

Construction suspended

Shops are closed

Homeless

Young adults killing time with pool soccer (before children only)

Cleaning motorcycles as the only income

Insufficient food, no jobs, no business,
but people are eager to work hard.



«Thank you for changing the Debre Damo mountain to forest, and for fruit trees.»

A woman wearing a camouflage long-sleeved shirt and a headscarf stands in a lush, green forest. In the background, a large, flat-topped mountain (Debre Damo) rises against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is filled with dense green foliage and some dry branches.

«During the war, I protected my trees. And with your help, I hope to plant more!»