

HIGHLIGHTS

- PM reiterated Government commitment to step up response to Gedeo-Guji IDP crisis, as well as continue to ensure a lasting solution to the inter-communal conflict displacement crisis.
- Result of UNDSS' planned Road Security Assessment will inform the timeline for a rapid multi-sector assessment to Kamashi zone.

FIGURES

Affected population	8.3 million
MAM	4 million
SAM	609,000
# of people displaced due to conflict	2.4 million
# of people displaced due to climatic shocks	0.6 m

FUNDING

US\$1.314 billion

Requirement for the 2019 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan



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Prime Minister visited IDPs in Gedeb *woreda* of Gedeo zone

On 17 March 2019, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed visited IDPs in Gedeb *woreda* of Gedeo zone, SNNP region and reiterated that his Government will scale up life-saving assistance to the affected population, as well as continue to ensure a lasting solution to the inter-communal conflict displacement crisis. IDPs expressed their grievances stating that the humanitarian assistance they've received so far is inadequate. High-level Government officials including Ms. Mufriat Kamil, Minister of Peace and Commissioner Mitiku Kassa of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission, also visited thousands of destitute IDPs sheltered in a stadium at Gedeb Town on 15 March 2019 and joined the PM's discussion with representatives of IDPs on 17 March 2019.

Local and international media reported about the worsening IDP situation in Gedeb *woreda* prior to the visit by the high-level Government officials. The situation has been particularly dire in Gotiti *kebele*, Gedeb *woreda* where, according to interviewed IDPs in the area," IDPs were deprived of assistance



for the past 8 months because humanitarian partners were denied access". As a result, acute malnutrition worsened and protection and disease outbreak risks heightened. IDPs in Gotiti have suffered secondary and tertiary displacements from their areas of origin, and require stronger security guarantee before they successfully and sustainably return to their places of origin.

- WFP capacitating regional, zonal and *woreda*-level Government officials who are directly involved in relief food distribution plan, management and reporting in Somali and Oromia regions.

Upon the request from the Gedeo zone administration and SNNP Regional Government, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC)¹ has been dispatching humanitarian supplies to the affected population since 11 March 2019. The international community is also reaching IDPs with multi-sector support, including those in Gotiti, following the opening of access to the IDP site. Apart from the ongoing response efforts by Government and humanitarian partners, activist Tamagn Beyene, Manager of Global Alliance, has raised nearly US\$1 million through a Gofundme platform to support Gedeo IDPs. Similarly, the Addis Ababa City Administration and Tigrai Regional Government contributed ETB 30 million and ETB 5 million respectively. Close to a million Gedeos and Gujis (Oromos) were displaced due to the inter-communal conflict between the two bordering communities since April 2018.

UNDSS to conduct road security assessment (RSA) to Kamashi zone

Following an improvement in the security situation in Kamashi zone of Benishangul Gumuz region, UNDSS Oromia has conducted Road Security Assessment (RSA) from Nejo (Oromia region) to Kamashi (Beneishangu Gumuz region), which covers some 65 kilometers. A similar assessment has been undertaken from UNDSS Asosa, the capital of Benishangul Gumuz region to Kamashi zone. Humanitarian partners such as MSF and IOM have already accessed Kamashi zone since the beginning of February 2019 and started operations. The result of the RSA and recommendations from DSS, including the possibility of lifting the restriction imposed to UN personnel movement to Kamashi, will inform the timeline for a rapid multi-sector assessment in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the Government of Ethiopia is working to return IDPs to their places of origin, but this is dependent upon the outcome of ongoing peace talks amongst communities from both sides. The Government has reassured humanitarian partners that the IDP return process will be voluntary and consultative. IDPs displaced along the border areas of Benishangul Gumuz-Oromia regions will be prioritized for return and this will be followed by displaced persons from Kemashi zone of Benishangul Gumuz region. The Government also plans to construct shelters for IDPs whose houses/homes were fully or partially damaged during the intercommunal conflict that erupted in September 2018.

WFP capacitating Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Bureaus (DPPBs) of Somali and Oromia regions

As part of a capacity strengthening strategy, the World Food Programme (WFP) Ethiopia Country Office has planned a series of training sessions targeting Government officials at regional, zonal and *woreda* levels who are directly involved in relief food distribution plans, management and reporting in Somali and Oromia regions. Since January 2019, WFP facilitated 3 training sessions and continues to provide ongoing support to 22 Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Bureau (DPPB) officials in Somali region and 50 Disaster risk management *woreda* officials from East and West Hararge zones of Oromia region. The capacity strengthening activities will continue throughout WFP's interim strategic plan period (January 2019 to June 2020).

The strategy aims at ensuring strengthened and sustained regional capacities, which are critical to addressing the multiple causes of hunger and malnutrition while responding to the food security and nutrition needs of vulnerable populations over the long-term. Enhanced DPPB capacity is crucial to increase the quality and efficiency as well as potentially reducing WFP's own direct role in the provision of emergency food and nutrition-sensitive assistance in both regions. The two hardest-hit regions with climatic shocks and inter-ethnic conflicts

¹ The federal arrangement of the country dictates that federal NDRMC can also re-act and dispatch assistance upon the request for support from regions.

- Following the launch of the 2019 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), humanitarian partners are finalizing a multi-sector immediate funding priorities document to support urgent donor funding decisions.
- The Amhara regional state raised more than ETB610 million on a fund raising event held at Sheraton Addis Hotel on 16 March 2019. The fund raised covers 40 per cent of the requirement to provide IDPs with immediate life-saving assistance and lasting solution to IDPs through return and rehabilitation programs.

are targeted for capacity strengthening investment, due to their leading role in broader humanitarian coordination and distribution of relief food assistance.

WFP is working to increasingly become an enabler, facilitator and catalyst for boosting regional DPPB relief food and nutrition assistance capabilities through immediate, mid-term and longer-term capacity strengthening interventions. The priority areas for relief food assistance capacity-strengthening considerations for DPPBs is organized around five broad intervention components identified through a consultative process. These are human capacity, targeting of emergency relief food assistance, emergency preparedness and early warning, relief food distribution and commodity management processes, nutrition and integrated programming and monitoring, accountability and learning(CFM).

Humanitarian partners to prioritize most life-saving needs

Following the launch of the 2019 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), humanitarian partners are finalizing a multi-sector immediate humanitarian funding priorities exercise. The prioritization document will outline agreed humanitarian funding priorities across Ethiopia from March to May 2019 to support urgent donor funding decisions. The finalization of the document will help raise funds from donor capitals, country-based pooled-fund and other sources.

The 2019 HRP targets 8.3 million people - of which 3 million are IDPs and returnees - with life-saving assistance, protection and basic services and livelihood support, assisting primarily IDPs and IDP returnees as well as communities impacted from years of successive droughts. The HRP seeks some US\$1.3 billion to address immediate multi-sector needs during the year. The prioritization document is expected to be released within the coming week.

Amhara region raises more than ETB 610 million for IDP response

The Amhara regional state raised more than ETB610 million on a fundraising event held at Sheraton Addis Hotel on 16 March 2019. The fundraising aims to support more than 90,000 people displaced in Amhara region. The fund raised covers 40 per cent of the requirement to provide IDPs with immediate life-saving assistance and lasting solution to IDPs through return and rehabilitation programs. The money was raised by regional governments, government institutions, private companies and benevolent individuals.

While more than half of the displacement in Amhara region resulted from the recent conflict in North and Western Gonder zones since November 2018, the region also hosts ethnic Amharas displaced from various other regions, including Oromia (Buno Bedele, Jimma, Nekemt and Kelem Wellega zones), Benishangul Gumz (Kemashi zone), SNNP (Bench Maji zone) and Somali regions since October 2017.

At present, the IDPs in Amhara are scattered across 11 zones of Central Gonder (46,430), West Gonder (7,525), South Gonder (3,186), North Wollo (3750), South Wollo (1,598), Oromo Zone (4,207), West Gojam (15,842), North Shoa (517), Wag Hamira (806), Awi (2,461), and East Gojam (1,194). A multi-sector inter-agency mission conducted in 22-28 January 2019 indicated that over 60 per cent of the IDPs live within the host community and the rest in settlement sites.

The Story of Fasike Adula, an IDP student at Weraseyo Primary School in Gimbi woreda

- “If I am alive, I must have an education” says Fasike Adula Ayale, a 14 years old girl who dreams of becoming an engineer. “I am determined to work hard to succeed in my studies and become a role model in society,” says Fasike.

Fasike Adula Ayale is among thousands of children displaced from Kemashi town of Benishangul Gumuz Region, five months ago following an inter communal conflict that triggered massive displacement of people and protection concerns. She is in six grade at Weraseyo Primary School in Gimbi woreda, West Wollega zone. “If I am alive, I must have an education” says Fasike Adula Ayale, a 14 years old girl who dreams of becoming an engineer.

Following the conflict, Fasike’s father and brother were brutally killed. Luckily Fasike and her mother managed to flee to neighbouring West Wollega in Oromia. Thousands of children have been separated from their parents and this has caused mental and psychological stress among the vulnerable group. Fasike is being hosted by her relative in Gimbi woreda, Oromia region. She is very happy that a sponsor has been identified to support her educational needs and enable her dream to become a reality. “I am determined to work hard to succeed in my studies and become a role model in society,” says Fasike.



Fasike Adula, a 14-year-old girl who lost family members in Kemashi town, following the inter communal violence that erupted in Sept. 2018. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

The conflict has impacted the education sector with thousands children dropping out of school. There is an urgent need to establish child friendly space learning facilities or systematized recreation activities to engage children at all times to address the protection and psychosocial needs of the IDP children in East and West Wollega.

For further information, please contact:

Choice Ufuoma Okoro, Head, Strategic Communications, okoroc@un.org, Tel. (+251) 9125 02695

Mengistu Dargie, National Public Information and Reporting Officer, dargie@un.org, Tel. (+251) 911742381

Malda Nadew, National Information Officer, nadew@un.org, Tel. (+251) 9229034346

Karin Fenczak, OCHA Operations and Advocacy Division, New York, fenczak@un.org