ETHIOPIA
Rapid multi-agency IDP needs assessment in Metekel zone,
Benishangul Gumuz Regional State
16 - 22 May 2019

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

On 25 April 2019, inter-communal conflict erupted in Dangur woreda between ethnic Amhara and Gumuz, which spread to Jawee woreda, Awi zone in Amhara region. The conflict displaced over 4,000 people (844 households) who are currently sheltering in six collective sites in three woredas in Metekel zone.

A multi-agency rapid assessment mission comprising of BoW-CYA, BoAB, DRMO, REB, RHB, RWB, IRC, Plan International, NRC, IOM, UNOCHA, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WHO and UNDSS visited the zone from 16 to 22 May to assess the needs of the IDPs.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- Identify the humanitarian needs of the conflict-induced displaced persons.

MISSION FINDINGS

IDP figures - As of 21 May, there were 4,217 IDPs (844 households) who are currently sheltering in six sites across Dangur and Mandura woredas and Pawe Special woreda in Metekel zone. In addition to the IDPs in Metekel zone, many others are said to have crossed the border into Amhara region fleeing violence.

Emergency food - Emergency food mostly maize grain was reportedly provided by Government in all the IDP sites. However, IDPs reported that they (especially children) face difficulties consuming the food (unmilled) maize as the IDPs do not have money for grinding. Host community members are sharing their food with IDPs in some of the visited sites.

Nutrition - In almost all sites, most of the IDPs are women and children. Rapid MUAC assessment was conducted for children (6-59 months of age) in Mandura, Dangur and Pawe woredas and GAM rates were found to be high (ranging from 10-15 per cent in Gigel Belles and Almu sites). Malnutrition is expected to increase, particularly amongst children and PLW.

Emergency Shelter/NFI - Most IDPs are staying in overcrowded and substandard shelters, and most did not receive full ES-NFI kits. The items were distributed by ERCA, Federal DRM and Amhara region DRM. There are no substantial ES/NFI support plan from the humanitarian community that could address the still significant gap. The IDPs reported that their priority needs are tents, plastic sheets, clothes, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and jerry cans.

Health - The major health concern is the risk of cholera outbreak. The main causes of morbidity in the sites are scabies, dysentery, measles, malaria and intestinal parasites. The Regional Health Bureau (RHB), Zonal Health Office (ZHO) and Woreda Health Offices assigned health workers to monitor health issues in the IDP sites. Health workers are giving WaSH education to improve personal hygiene and sanitation. Pregnant and breastfeeding women don't have access to health care. Most of the temporary clinics are not adequately stocked with drugs and medical supplies. A cholera outbreak...
was already reported in areas adjacent to the Amhara regional boundary. As of the time of the mission, there was no report of outbreak in the IDP sites.

**Education** - Some 17,563 students (11,343 males, 6,220 females) dropped out of school due to displacement. Out of 50 schools in Dangur woreda for example, only 19 are reportedly functional. In Mandura woreda, Mandura secondary school is closed and the school ground is sheltering some 1,700 IDPs mostly from Jawee, Awi zone of Amhara region. In addition, 245 teachers are reportedly out of work as they are also displaced by the conflict. Students require scholastics materials for the next Ethiopian curriculum year.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH)** - Nearly all IDPs are sharing WaSH services with the host community. There is no reliable safe water supply in all sites. IDPs in all sites also lack water storage containers. The IDP sites lack sufficient number of communal latrines, particularly in Almu, Gistie and Mambuk 02 sites. The existing latrines are not safe and have no privacy. There are no hand washing facilities and shower in all IDP sites. The needs of women, girls, children and most vulnerable are not given special attention in the provision of hygiene and sanitation items.

**Protection** - Many IDPs sustained injuries and impairment during the conflict. There are reports of generalized manifestations of acute stress and post crisis reactions such as shouting, sleep disturbance, headaches, panic and fearfulness amongst the IDPs. There is lack of psychosocial support for all IDPs. There are no women and girls friendly spaces and childfriendly spaces. Such conditions may increase stress, depression, anxiety and trauma amongst vulnerable groups and puts pressure on caretakers and family members. There are 16 orphaned children in the IDP camps and they are living without special care. Given the nature of the displacement, movement of IDPs is limited. Rape cases were also reported, and there is no proper awareness and referral mechanisms in place. The increased pressure on host community social services may eventually impact quality of services and raise communal tensions.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Food** - Provision of emergency food for 4,217 people for at least five 5 months (starting from May 2019). There is also need to support the 930 households/farmers with seeds to be used in the meher cultivation season. The most vulnerable IDPs such as women, children, disabled, the elderly and chronically sick persons should be given priority in the response.

**Nutrition** - Establish additional rooms for IYCF-E services like counseling, demonstration and managing classes if the IDPs do not return soon. Promote IYCF-E practices in the existing set up and provide counseling and screening of children and PLWs to identify and manage cases earlier.

**Emergency Shelter/NFI** - Immediate provision of shelter and NFIs for 844 households (number of IDPs may increase as the displacement is continuing). Urgently relocate IDPs in Almu camp as it is in a flood prone location.

**Health** - Provision of basic primary health care services, supply of emergency drugs and non-pharmaceuticals and supplementary feeding for children under 5. Provision of reproductive health and immunization services is required as there are many expectant mothers as well as children under 5.

**WaSH** - Provision of sanitation and water treatment chemicals, sanitary and hygiene materials, including sanitary pads. There is also need to establish additional latrines.

**Education** - Provision of scholastics materials for 17,563 students (school dropouts); relocation of IDPs from Mandura secondary school and material support to affected schools.

**Protection** - Special care and support to the 16 orphaned children who are currently living in Mandura secondary school IDP camp. Ensure voluntary return of IDPs as and when conditions are suitable.

**NEXT STEPS**

Mobilize resources from Government and partners to address identified needs of the IDPs.