

HIGHLIGHTS

- A US\$20 million recovery project (2019-2022) to benefit 50,000 households heavily impacted by the Gedeo-West Guji Displacement.
- The project seeks to complement humanitarian assistance by supporting IDPs and local communities as per UNDP's global 3x6 approach that builds resilience in post-crisis situations for vulnerable groups through introducing sustainable livelihoods.



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50,000 returnee HHs in Gedeo and West Guji zones to benefit from recovery programming

A four-year recovery project (2019-2022) is underway in Gedeo zone SNNP region and West Guji zone, Oromia region with a total required budget of US\$20 million. The project targets 50,000 households heavily impacted by the Gedeo-West Guji displacement in Kercha and Hamela Wamena *woredas* of West Guji Zone and Gedeb and Yirgachefe *woredas* of Gedeo Zone. The project comes in complement of humanitarian assistance by supporting IDPs and local communities in the next phase towards recovery as per UNDP's global 3x6 approach that builds resilience in post-crisis situations for vulnerable groups through introducing sustainable livelihoods.

FIGURES

	People in need	People targeted
Food/Non-food	8.4 M	7 M
SAM	544K	444K
MAM	3.9 M	3.1 M
IDPs	1.01M	1.01M
Returnees	1.78 M	1.78 M

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

US\$1.001 billion

Requirement for 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan



Figure 1 IDPs sheltering at Harmufo site, Gedeb town at the height of the crisis in July 2018.
Photo Credit: OCHA/ Mengistu

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- An upsurge in DL infestation has led to a rise in funding requirements from the initial estimate of \$6 million in the beginning of January to \$51.5 million in February.
- Some \$135 million is required for early recovery, livelihoods, and expanded needs of people affected by desert locust swarms in East Africa

Key outputs the project seeks to contribute include: restore social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between communities, support rehabilitation of infrastructure and basic services, increase opportunities for economic and income-generating capacity particularly of the youth and women returnees, and improve food security and livelihoods for returnee population.

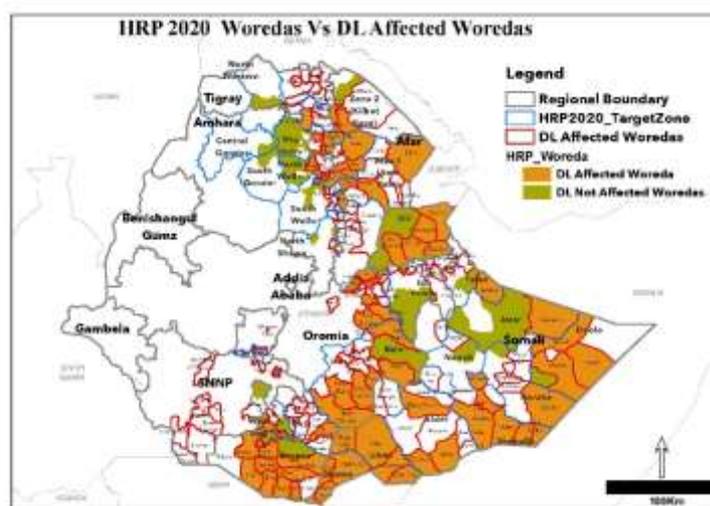
UNDP implements the project in partnership with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission, the Oromia Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission, and the SNNPR Disaster Prevention and Food Security Coordination Office. So far some \$1.65 million has been raised from the Government of Denmark (\$1.5 million), the Government of Japan (\$1 million), and UNDP core resources (\$150,000).

In May 2019 the Ethiopian Government started to repatriate internally displaced populations who had fled intercommunal attacks in 2018 that had led to the displacement of over a million people in Gedeo (SNNP) and West Guji (Oromia) zones. The displaced population was reported to have lost livestock and other assets when they fled with at least 9,000 houses said to have been fully or partially damaged during the time of conflict.

Funding requirement rises to US\$51.5 as desert locust continues to expand to more than 153 woredas in Ethiopia

The desert locust response which includes control measures, livelihood interventions, and coordination has risen from the initial estimate of \$6 million in the beginning of January to \$51.5 million in February due to an upsurge of the infestation across six regions of Ethiopia. The fund will help to control the infestation (\$20 million), safeguard livelihoods and promote recovery (\$30 million), and coordinate response (\$1.5 million) for an estimated 40,000 people affected by the locust in Ethiopia. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has secured only about half of the total requirement including the \$10 million released by the UN emergency fund for East Africa desert outbreak response. The infestation has grown into an extremely alarming situation in the Horn of African countries, including Ethiopia, threatening food security and livelihood in the region. A national assessment is currently underway to gauge the impact of the infestation on food security and livelihoods. The result of the assessment will help to better coordinate the response. The fact that most of the woredas affected by the desert locust overlap with priority woredas in the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), is anticipated to prolong the humanitarian needs of people beyond this year.

Some \$135 million is required for early recovery, livelihoods, and expanded needs of people affected by desert locust swarms in East Africa. The desert locusts are expected to continue to breed and spread in the coming months, coinciding with the start of the next planting season. Without urgent effective control measures, the locusts could severely impact the food insecurity of households already struggling to cope with multiple shocks.



Ethiopia becomes the 31st AU Member State to ratify the Kampala Convention

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ethiopia ratifies the African Union (AU) Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa, known as the Kampala Convention.
- “I relatively feel safe here since my life is not under imminent danger. However, lack of access to basic services, particularly food aid is a critical problem,” says Damma
- I’m old. I can’t move easily. Despite all my sufferings, I prefer to stay here until peace and security are fully ensured in my kebele,”

On 13 February 2020, the Government of Ethiopia ratified the African Union (AU) Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa, known as the Kampala Convention. The Convention, a key regional legal instrument aimed at protecting, assisting and resolving the plight of IDPs, was unanimously passed by Ethiopia’s parliament. This represents a significant achievement for a country that has had to recently manage massive internal displacement within its borders. “The ratification of this Convention underscores the Government’s concern and attention to the large number of people who are displaced, whether as a result of conflict or changing climatic conditions,” said UNHCR’s Representative in Ethiopia, Ann Encontre. “UNHCR welcomes the opportunity to support the Government in implementing the tenets of the Convention and honoring its commitments, including through the development of a national action plan for IDPs”. For more on this: <http://bit.ly/2V2MrUv>

The personal story of Damma Abbalosa, an IDP in Hara Kela, Gora Dola woreda, Guji Zone



Figure 2 Damma expresses her frustration due to lack of adequate assistance since she was forced to move to Hara Kela. Photo Credit: OCHA/Jordi

Ms. Damma Abbalosa, 76, was a resident of Bokola kebele, Gora Dola woreda of Guji Zone, Southern Oromia region. She is a widow and has got seven biological children and 23 grandchildren. She left her place of origin a few months ago due to increasing insecurity as a result of ongoing clashes between the Ethiopia Defense Forces and Unidentified Armed Groups. Since June 2019, thousands of people have been displaced by violence throughout Guji zone, having received very limited assistance from government and humanitarian partners so far. She had to travel four hours on foot to reach Hara Kela town, the capital of Gora Dola woreda. She is now living in an old collective site that was established for people displaced from Somali region during the height of the Somali – Oromia conflict back in 2017. “I feel relatively safe here since my life is not under imminent danger. However, lack of access to basic services, particularly food aid is a critical problem,” says Damma. She added that they had food to eat at their place of origin as they had harvested maize from the one-hectare farmland they own. “It is very

difficult to survive out of your home without access to basic needs for yourself and your children,” Damma added.

Damma collects firewood to cover the daily subsistence of herself and her grandchildren Biftu and Gamachiftu. Biftu, 7, and Gamachiftu, 5, were separated from their parents during the flight. Damma looks very much depressed. Her health problem related to old age was aggravated by the difficulties she faced while fleeing to the current IDP site, including falling several times in the forest which caused injuries on her knees.

“Two days ago, I went to the Government staff who were on food distribution for the people displaced from Somali region to consider my vulnerability and requested to include me in the food distribution list. However, I was told that I am not among the targeted beneficiaries,” says Damma.

“I don’t know what drove the violence. We were told by the Government officials to move out of our *kebele* of origin to Hara Kela due to escalation of insecurity.” Damma said she was not receiving essential humanitarian assistance since her arrival. “I have not received any assistance beyond this house where I sleep with my two grand-daughters.”

Damma’s struggles to win her daily bread has continued. She broke into tears when she recalls how, one day, she approached a shop owner to give her 2 kilograms of maize on credit so that she could feed her grandchildren that night and pay him later when she sells firewood. She desperately needs to go back to her place of origin where old women like her get care and support but also fears that the fragile security situation that remains in Bokola *kebele*. “I’m old. I can’t move easily. Despite all my sufferings, I prefer to stay here until peace and security are fully ensured in my *kebele*,” Damma concluded.



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, Strategic Communication Analyst, nadew@un.org, Tel. (+251) 953852223

Alfred Nabeta, OCHA Operations and Advocacy Division, New York, nabeta@un.org