

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government and humanitarian partners revitalize of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Dilla Town to coordinate IDP response in Gedeo zone
- US\$332.9 million required to address critical, prioritized gaps for the coming three months.



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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

The Government and humanitarian partners revitalize the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Dilla Town

On 26 March 2019, the Government and humanitarian partners revitalized the Dilla Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to better coordinate the IDP response efforts in the area. The EOC will hold regular meetings twice a week, in which clusters/sectors will actively participate. The EOC was established for the first time in Gedeo zone in May 2018 when nearly a million persons were displaced due to inter-communal clashes between the Gedeos and Gujis. The coordination structure follows a cluster approach in which response is driven by joint planning and based on prioritized needs agreed by clusters. The re-launch of the EOC was attended by Ato Damene Darota, Deputy Commissioner of NDRMC, Ato Ganta Gena, Commissioner of SNNPR, some 17 humanitarian partners who have a footprint in Gedeo and West Guji zones, and relevant sector ministries at federal, regional and zonal levels.

The EOC, chaired by the federal NDRMC and co-chaired by UNOCHA, discussed issues related to security, response capacity and targeting during the revitalization meeting. Partners/clusters also gave a situational update on the ongoing needs, response and gaps in food and non-food items in Gedeo zone.

Meanwhile, an Incident Command Post (ICP) was set up in Gedeb Town - the epicenter of IDP crisis in Gedeo zone - and will work closely with the EOC in Dilla Town.

According to zonal reports, the number of IDPs in Gedeo may exceed 300,000, leading to a need to establish a number of new sites in Gedeb and Yirgachefe *woredas*. In Gedeb, 5 places, namely Chelbesa, Cherchele, Spring, and Mekonissa and Worka, are identified by the zone in collaboration with IOM for site extension.



Figure 1 Partners attending revitalization of Dilla EOC.
Photo Credit: Debebe Zewdie, NDRMC

US\$332.9 million required to address critical, prioritized gaps for the coming three months

- With a 120-day procurement and transportation lead time, the Food, Health and Nutrition clusters are calling for an additional \$278.3 million to be made available before end April to avoid anticipated pipeline breaks in June.
- East Hararge zone plans to return more than 62,000 IDPs from Babile Town to their areas of previous residence. The majority of the IDPs were displaced during the 4-5 August 2018 skirmishes in Jijiga and the subsequent unrest in other Somali towns.

An inter-cluster prioritization exercise identified urgent funding priorities stemming from the 2019 HRP to support donor funding decisions for the next three months (April-June). Some \$332.9 million is required to address critical, prioritized gaps for the coming three month, of which 60 per cent will be used towards pipeline requirements. Food, nutrition and health partners informed that all pipelines would break imminently without immediate funding.

With a 120-day procurement and transportation lead time, the Food, Health and Nutrition clusters are calling for an additional \$278.3 million to be made available before end April to avoid anticipated pipeline breaks in June, when Ethiopia enters the lean season.

East Hararge zone plans to return more than 62,000 IDPs from Babile Town

The East Hararge zonal authorities plan to return more than 62,000 IDPs from Babile Town to their areas of previous residence. The majority of the IDPs were displaced during the 4-5 August 2018 skirmishes in Jijiga and the subsequent unrest in other Somali towns. The return process is happening following the peace and reconciliation conference between religious and community leaders of the Oromo and Somali community that was held in Babile *woreda* on 27 March 2019.

From the total IDPs returnees, some 10,220 are Somalis who moved to the adjacent *woreda* in Somali region during the conflict and 52,205 IDPs are Oromos who moved to Babile Town from different *kebeles* within Babile *woreda*.

Urgent Prioritized Funding Gaps (for April – June 2019)

- **\$7.1 million** to strengthen and provide animal health intervention and emergency fodder bank.
- **\$5.34 million** for emergency education support for conflict displaced children and psycho-social support training for teachers.
- **\$37.8 million** for ES/NFI support (cash and in-kind), prepositioning of ES/NFI stocks, shelter repair and replenishment of core household items, and distribution of core relief items to vulnerable returnees.
- \$150 million to cover the funding gaps for the first three rounds of food (\$71.5 million) and cash (78.5 million) response.
- \$34.2 million to re-stock emergency medicine and medical supplies, for continuation and expansion of MHNTs, disease outbreak control, surge support, minimal health facility rehabilitation.
- \$46.9 million to support the MAM and SAM pipelines, support higher level referral Stabilization Centers, and ensuring nutrition partner presence.
- \$3.9 million to ensure protection services are provided to IDPs and the host community in emergency-affected locations that face protection concerns.
- \$47.58 million to ensure the provision of basic services to conflict and drought induced IDPs; AWD preparedness and response and provision of institutional WASH services.

- Some 37,000 IDPs in Basketo Special *woreda*, SNNP region, seek immediate assistance. Shelter/NFI materials are priority needs for the displaced people given the impending rainy season.

The zonal Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO) reported that some 36,991 IDPs were returned to their areas as of 21 March 2019.

A multi-agency team that visited five of the returning sites on 20-23 March 2019 observed that most IDPs were returning from Babile Town to collective sites that are closer to their original homes, including to schools and health facilities. Interviewed IDPs stated that they prefer to remain at collective sites until peace and reconciliation efforts are undertaken at community/neighborhood with the participation of community members who were directly involved in the conflict/violence and those who were directly affected.



Figure 2 houses that were damaged during the violence.
Photo Credit: OCHA/Ethiopia

Because the houses of the majority of the returning IDPs have been damaged, shelter was rated as the top priority need for IDPs followed by water and household utensils. Due to destruction of basic services, health service provision has been a challenge despite IMC-supported Mobile Health and Nutrition Team (MHNT) responding in some of the return sites. WaSH issues and protection concerns were also observed during the visit. The zonal DRMO has requested partners to support with these critical gaps. Partners are ready to scale up, subject to additional funding received.

Some 37,000 IDPs in Basketo Special *woreda* seek immediate assistance

The conflict that erupted around the boundaries of Melekoza and Basketo Special *woreda* of Gamo Gofa zone has left more than 37,000 people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Ethnic Basketos who have been displaced from 11 *kebeles* of Melekoza *woreda* are now sheltered in 6 collective centers in Basketo Special *woreda*. IDPs are hugely concerned about the lack of shelter materials amidst imminent heavy rains in the area. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) dispatched some 4,233 quintals of food basket targeting some 24,870 beneficiaries.

The conflict started on 23 September 2018 within Melokoza *woreda* of Gamo Goffa zone when ethnic Basketos in 11 *kebeles* in Melokoza *woreda* requested to be part of Basketo Special *woreda*, which was opposed by Melokoza *woreda*. The conflict resulted in the loss of life and property. Non-food items (NFIs) and shelter materials were also distributed to the displaced, though they were not adequate. Shelter/NFI materials are priority needs for the displaced people.

Multi-agency assessment identified major IDPs response gaps in Amhara

- A multi-agency assessment in West Gonder zone identified major response gaps in visited Metema Yohanis and Genda Wuha IDP camps.
- WFP organizes an emergency preparedness and response simulation exercise to partners

On March 30-31, a multi-agency assessment team composed of zonal Disaster Prevention and Food Security Office (DPFSO), OCHA and WFP visited Metema Yohanis and Genda Wuha IDP camps in Metema *woreda*, West Gonder zone and discussed with teams deployed from the Ministry of Peace (MoP), Members of Parliament (MP), zone authorities as well as IDP committees. The security situation has improved in Genda Wuha and Metema Yohannis towns and along the Gonder-Metema main road after the deployment of EDF, but concerns remain in some villages and remote areas.

Prioritized humanitarian needs include food, shelter and health services. Water shortage was also reported in Genda Wuha site. The absence of partners in west Gonder zone remains a major challenge. Most IDPs are living in an overcrowded and very poor shelter condition, posing them to high protection risks.

The Amhara regional state is mobilizing resources to provide IDPs with immediate life-saving assistance and lasting solution through voluntary and sustainable return and rehabilitation programme to more than 90,000 people displaced in region. So far, the region has raised more than ETB700 million for this purpose, covering nearly half of the target needed.

WFP organizes an emergency preparedness and response simulation exercise to partners

Some 39 participants drawn from the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and Government ministries, Un agencies as well as local and international NGOs received an emergency preparedness and response simulation exercise. The refresher training, conducted 15 - 21 March 2019, aimed at preparing skilled humanitarian personnel that can provide immediate operational logistics services and play decision-making roles during onset of emergencies. The training is also tailored to familiarize participants with the implementation of the emergency procedures and the roles and responsibilities of their respective units within the emergency preparedness and response procedure, as well as enabling relevant stakeholders to practice the coordination of a timely and effective responses through a simulation of large-scale emergency situations using the rthe Governments's emergency operation centres and incident command post structures and procedures.



Figure 3 participants of the workshop.
Photo Credit: WFP Ethiopia

Seen as an important mechanism for successful deliveries of logistics operations, the training is believed to be an essential part of building the preparedness capacity of the Government emergency operation system. WFP intends to continue to initiate a 3 -5 years' logistics and supply-chain preparedness project with a view of strengthening the current systems both for emergency and development endeavours. The project has been possible with the generous support of the Government of Sweden.

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