

HIGHLIGHTS

The Somali Region Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau is due to implement the first phase its plan to relocate some 3,000 IDP households from Qoloji IDP settlement site to eight relocation *woredas* across the region.

- The relocation plan requires some ETB 5.7 million (~US\$200,000) to cover food, NFIs, cooking oil, fiber glass and transportation costs.



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Somali region to relocate nearly 3,000 IDP households in eight *woredas* across the region

The Somali Region Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) is due to implement the first phase of its plan to relocate some 3,000 IDP households from Qoloji IDP settlement site to eight relocation *woredas* across the region. The relocation plan requires some ETB 5.7 million (~US\$200,000) to cover food, NFIs, cooking oil, fiber glass and transportation costs, but no resources have been allocated yet.

From an estimated 1.2 million internally displaced persons in Somali region, over three quarters are conflict-induced IDPs. The Government return operation has already returned IDPs that had settled along the Somali-Oromia border to their respective areas of origin. This relocation plan however targets IDPs who opted not to return back to Oromia region. The Somali Regional Government is also conducting activities to encourage sustainable peace.

Prior to the implementation of the relocation plan, a team from the Ministry of Peace and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission carried out a preliminary assessment and confirmed that an overwhelming number of the IDPs decided to be relocated in Somali region rather than return to their places of origin.

An assessment carried out by a regional DPPB team in Qoloji camp classified IDPs according to the areas of their ancestors. The team

also met with government officials and elders in the respective relocation areas. In parallel, the Government facilitated visits of IDPs to the relocation sites ahead of the planned transfer.



Figure 1 Qoloji IDP settlement site. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

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- Government and humanitarian partners held an After Action Review workshop (AAR) to review and identify lessons from the coordination of the humanitarian response in Gedeo and West Guji zones.
- On 02 August 2019, the Chinese Government donated 9,000 metric tons of rice and wheat to support people affected by drought as well as people displaced by inter-communal conflicts.

An After Action Review (AAR) on Gedeo-Guji IDP response in Ethiopia

On 7-9 August 2019, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) held an After Action Review (AAR) Workshop to evaluate the Gedeo-Guji IDP response in Ethiopia conducted through the Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) in Dilla and Bulle Hora towns.

The workshop is part of the Advancement for Recovery Initiatives for Safer Ethiopia (ARISE), which NDRMC implements in partnership with the Asian Disaster

Preparedness Center (ADPC). The aim of the AAR workshop was to provide a platform for NDRMC and humanitarian partners to review the coordination of the humanitarian response in Gedeo and West Guji zones. Participants were drawn from partners who were involved in the Gedeo-Guji IDP response. The After Action Review initiative also drew key lessons from the rolling-out, implementation and phasing stages of the EOCs. The outputs of the workshop will provide critical lessons to improve similar operations in the future, and to build NDRMC's capacity to better prepare for future sudden onset emergencies.

In July 2018, the Government and humanitarian partners rolled-out EOCs in Gedeo (SNNP region) and West Guji (Oromia region) zones to coordinate the IDP response in the area. Nearly one million people were displaced by the inter-communal violence between ethnic Gedeos and Gujis that started in April 2018.

China donates 9,000 metric tons of emergency food aid to Ethiopia

On 02 August 2019, the Chinese Government donated 9,000 metric tons of rice and wheat to support people affected by drought as well as people displaced by inter-communal conflicts. The emergency food aid China provided to Ethiopia is equivalent to US\$7.2 million. Tan Jian, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, said that the Chinese government's emergency food assistance is part of a broader humanitarian support being provided to Ethiopia. He said that China stands ready to further help Ethiopia's humanitarian needs as a sign of the strong partnership China has with Ethiopia. "The international community should not be bystanders. China has come forward to demonstrate its solidarity with the Ethiopian people," he said.

Thanking the Chinese government, Mr. Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner of Ethiopia's National Disaster Risk Management Commission, said that the Chinese emergency food donation is a timely intervention that will meet the needs of thousands of Ethiopians.

The Government of Ethiopia and international donors have so far put forth some \$400 million towards the food requirement of the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan, leaving a gap of \$200 million.



Figure 2 Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner of NDRMC, opening the AAR workshop in Adama, Ethiopia. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

- Ayantu Desta, a civil servant at Nedjo Woreda Transport Authority Office, sheltered several IDPs in her compound and allowed more than 3,000 IDPs to fetch water from her tap and covered high bill for more than six months.
- “I am a mother. I can’t afford to neglect my duty to help children in difficult circumstances,” she says.

2019 World Humanitarian Day: Honoring Women Humanitarians

The 2019 World Humanitarian Day will be celebrated globally with the theme: Honoring Women Humanitarians on 19 August 2019. In Ethiopia, the day will be commemorated with the participation of the international community, officials from the host Government, and the media where the heroic deeds of women aid workers who risk their own lives to save others will be witnessed. Brave and generous host community Ethiopian women who hosted thousands of internally displaced persons, including by providing shelter and protection to women, the elderly, girls, and boys – from the meager resources they have, will particularly be honored during the event.

Humanity in Action: a host community woman at the forefront of IDP response in Nedjo, Ethiopia

Ayantü Desta, 33, is a civil servant working at Nedjo *Woreda* Transport Authority Office and lives in Nedjo Town, in West Wollega Zone. She is married and has three children. When the IDPS from Benishangul Gumuz region crowded Nedjo Town in September 2018, Ayantu sheltered them near her home and provided them with food and clothing although she already had meagre resources. She regularly shared the family breakfast with the displaced children who had nothing to eat in the morning.

Ayantü allowed more than 3,000 IDPs to fetch water from her tap and covered high bill for more than six months. She said that there was a shortage of water in the township and IDPs faced serious challenges to get water both for drinking and other domestic purposes. Most of the displaced people near her home were living in Government buildings and other poorly constructed makeshift shelters.

An exemplary support given by Ayantu to the IDPs was to a woman who had given birth to a baby in the temporary shelter she was occupying. Ayantu covered all the medical costs from her own pocket and gave the mother the required support.

Ayantü was one of 16 committee members formed by the *woreda* administration to assist the IDPs in Nedjo Town. She worked in organizing people, collecting donations of different items from the community to assist IDPs. She was also in charge of assigning volunteers for food preparation for IDPs. She would wake up early in the morning and go to the IDP site to support food preparation, and sometimes prepared food for the IDPs herself when the assigned individuals did not show up.

Ayantü sometimes had to cover costs of oil from her pocket in case there were no donations from other members of the hosting community. She explained that she sometimes broke in tears when she was unable to provide the ingredients and supplies to assist the IDPs.

Notwithstanding her commitment to the welfare of the IDPs, Ayantu also does her regular job at the office. She also uses her extra time, including weekends, to assist the displaced people in Nedjo Town.

Ayantü and another male member were the only two people who remained steadfast in their humanitarian support to the IDPs. Most of the members abandoned ship due to various reasons and challenges. Ms. Ayantu remarked “I am a mother. I can’t afford to neglect my

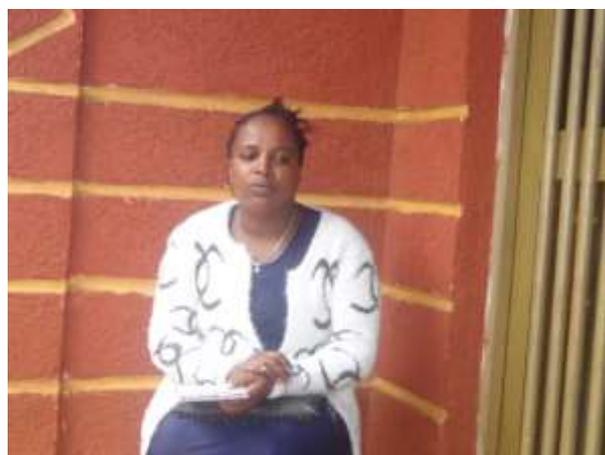
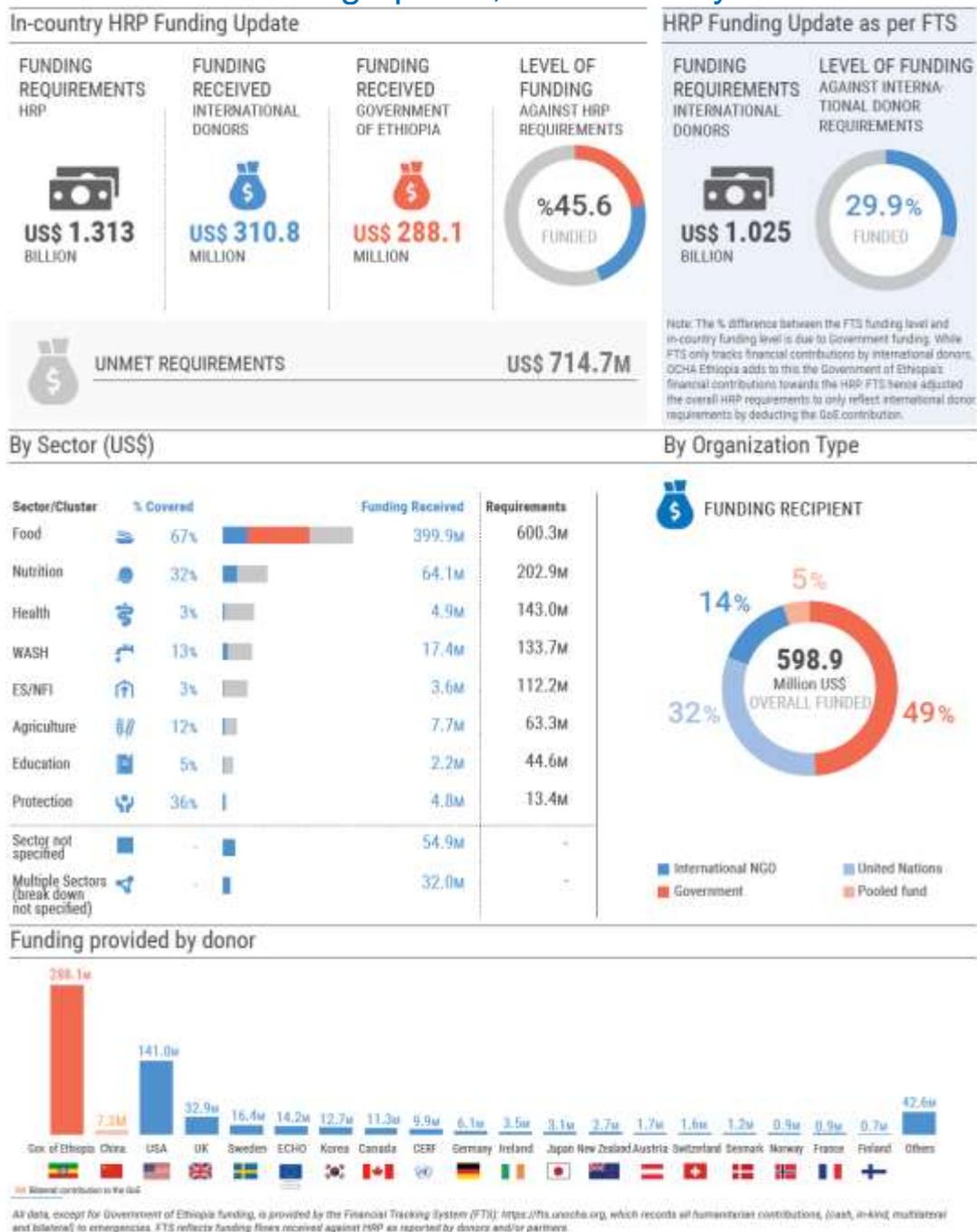


Figure 3 Ayantu briefing her deeds to OCHA team.
Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

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duty to help children in difficult circumstances". Aynatu is indeed an exemplary woman who carried the burden of her regular job, family care, and at the same time assisting IDPs for more than six months in Nedjo Town.

Humanitarian funding update, as of 29 July 2019



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