



## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights trained partners on mainstreaming human rights into humanitarian action in Nekemte town
- Some 70 participants drawn from *woredas* affected by conflict-related displacement in East Wollega (6 *woredas*) and West Wollega (7 *woredas*) zones, NGOs and the UN attended the workshop, which was funded by the EHF

## In this issue

Mainstreaming human rights into humanitarian action	P.1
Crop loss due to desert locust swarms	P.2
Peace building in return areas	P.2
Drought emergency in parts of Amhara	P.2
The personal story of an IDP woman who survived sexual violence	P.3

## OHCHR trained partners on mainstreaming human rights into humanitarian action in East and West Wollega zones

On 17-19 December 2019, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in collaboration with the East and West Wollega zonal administrations, the zonal Disaster Risk Management Offices (DRMO), ZOWYCA and the police organized a three-day workshop on mainstreaming human rights into humanitarian action in Nekemte Town. Some 70 participants drawn from *woredas* affected by conflict-related displacement in East Wollega (6 *woredas*) and West Wollega (7 *woredas*) zones, NGOs and the UN attended the workshop, which was funded by the Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF). Human rights-based approach to humanitarian action, protection and protection principles, human rights and protection mainstreaming, rights of women, children and people with special needs (PSN) and sexual and gender-based violence/sexual exploitation and abuse were some of the issues covered during the workshop. The workshop demonstrated that principled humanitarian action is possible if strong partnerships are put in place. The cluster system, co-led by DRMO and OCHA at the zonal level, was presented to the participants as the working modality for the practical mainstreaming work that lies ahead.

OHCHR has been actively participating in humanitarian intervention in East and West Wollega zones since July 2019. The office has been conducting human rights approach protection monitoring designed to identify the protection and human rights needs of returnees and other vulnerable groups, refer and address identified cases through government, humanitarian and development actors and advocate for accountability for alleged human rights violation cases. Human rights monitoring and follow-ups by OHCHR in both East and West Wollega and Kamashi zones identified basic human rights issues such as peace and security, right to life and personal security, social-economic rights, rights of vulnerable groups, house, land, and property (HLP) rights.



Figure 1 workshop participants. Photo Credit: OCHA

## Desert locust infestation resulted in significant loss in crop and pasture in Afar, Amhara and Somali regions

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Desert locust infestation resulted in significant loss in crop and pasture in Afar, Amhara and Somali regions.
- Various peace building activities are ongoing in border areas of Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regions where intercommunal conflicts displaced thousands of households
- Crop failure and reduction of income results in the deterioration of food security in lowland areas of Wag Hemira, North Gonder, Central Gonder and North Wollo zones of Amhara region.

Report by the Amhara regional Government indicated a potential crop loss due to unseasonable rainfall and desert locust infestation in some parts of the region. Desert Locust swarm infestation in Kalu and Werebabo *woredas* of South Wollo zone affected 4,843 hectares of crops and 6325 hectares of vegetation. The pest damaged some 213 hectares of crop, 1,235 hectares of pasture and 235 hectares of vegetation in Kewot *woreda* of North Shewa zone. The impact of desert locust in Habru and Raya Kobo *woredas* of North Wollo zone was controlled without significant damage by using traditional controlling techniques and chemical control measures. The Livestock, Agriculture and Natural Resource Bureau of Afar region reported that desert locust affected rangelands in 18 *woredas* of the region. Desert locust continues to affect the crops and green pasture in many parts of Somali region, including a new wave of desert locust reported in Kalafo, Gode and Adadle *woredas* of Shabelle zone on 24 December. The Government continues to tackle the infestation through spraying and distributing manual machines and chemicals to the affected areas.

Despite funding towards the crisis by Government and donors such as USAID, protection measures were unable to fully control the impact of the outbreak on crops and pasture due to the rugged nature of the topography and conflict in some areas.

## Peace building and transition to durable solutions for returnees along the border areas of Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regions

Various peace-building activities are ongoing in border areas of Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regions where inter-communal conflicts displaced thousands of households. These activities include peace and reconciliation, peace talks or conferences and establishing peace committees from both regions. Building the capacity of the peace committees by involving the communities from both sides is also part of the initiative. To sustain the peace restoration, capacity building trainings are being provided for the peace committees. To this effect, a capacity building training was provided by the Bilateral Peace and Development Coordination Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Peace at Uke town of Gida Ayana *woreda*, East Wollega zone on 17 December 2019. Participants included peace committees from two *kebeles* of Belo Jiganfoy *woreda* in Kamashi zone and three *kebeles* of Guto Gida *woreda* in East Wollega zone.

## Drought emergency in Wag Hamra, North Gonder, Central Gonder, and North Wollo zones

The food security situation is deteriorating in lowlands of Wag Hamra, North Gonder, Central Gonder and North Wollo zones of Amhara region due to crop failure and reduction of income from sale of livestock and livestock products. So far, the regional Government has provided emergency food aid for drought-affected people in Wag Hamra zone. However, drought-affected people in North Gonder (Janamora), Central Gonder (East Belessa) and North Wollo (Kobo, Gubalafto and Habru) zones have not yet received food assistance. The regional Government requested partners to support in non-food sectors, mainly WaSH, education, agriculture and livestock and livelihood, including cash assistance.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Abeba (name changed for confidentiality), an IDP woman with physical disability, was a victim of sexual violence during the time of displacement from which she got pregnant.
- Abeba Abeba is also one of the female-headed households who was identified to be eligible and registered in the Chiriku shelter response program. Abeba was provided with a wheelchair along with other humanitarian interventions.

## The story of an IDP in Chiriku *kebele* of Yirgachefe *woreda*, Gedeo zone

Abeba (name changed for confidentiality) is a 30-year-old woman who used to live in one of the villages of Chiriku *kebele* (Gedeo zone, SNNP region) that borders West Guji zone of Oromia region. She fled and took shelter in Haru *kebele*, Yirgachefe *woreda* during the Gedeo-Guji inter-communal conflict. Despite frequent attempts to return to her place of origin, Abeba has for long been unsuccessful to do so because of security concerns; and unlike other people in displacement, she has faced many additional difficulties because of her disability. For many years now, Abeba is paralyzed below her waist.

It was during the time of displacement that Abeba became victim of sexual violence. She was raped by a man who was also in displacement and gave birth to a baby boy, who is now one-year-old. Thanks to the community's intervention, the perpetrator has now accepted his responsibility as a father. Abeba currently lives in a makeshift shelter made by her "in-laws" at a 'collective center' back in her hometown in Chiriku *kebele*.

There are more than 500 households that are living in displacement in Chiriku *kebele* although the officials consider them as returnees. Since the security situation is not a concern in Chiriku any more, the Government has made an agreement with partners to ensure recovery assistance. Partners were able to identify 350 households that are eligible for shelter intervention, whilst discussions are ongoing for the remaining households. The most vulnerable people were included in the identification and verification exercise. Abeba is also one of the female-headed households who was identified to be eligible and registered in the Chiriku shelter response program. Abeba was provided with a wheelchair along with other humanitarian interventions.

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