

Ethiopia: Oromia – Somali Conflict-Induced Displacement

Situation Report No. 4

20 June 2018



OCHA



This document has been prepared jointly by OCHA and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), in partnership with Cluster Coordinators, to provide an update on the situation of populations displaced, primarily due to conflict along the border between Oromia and Somali regions, and to inform efforts in mobilizing additional international funding and resources in support to the current response.

I. Displacements Overview

The Ethiopian Government with partners' support is responding to the impact of inter-communal violence along the Oromia-Somali border since September 2017. Localized inter-communal violence continues to cause loss of life and livelihood, and further exacerbate the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia.

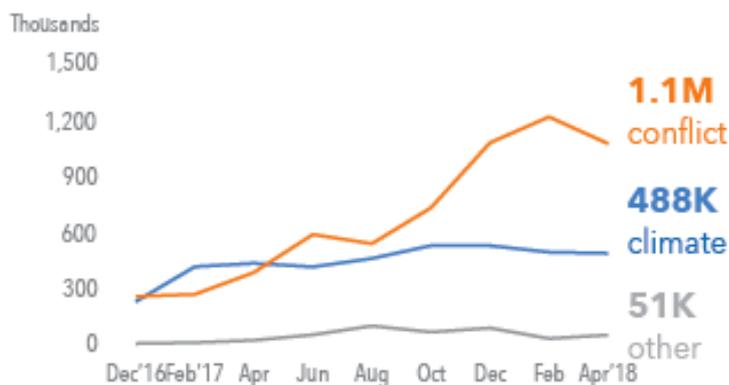
According to the 10th round (March-April) of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)¹, at least 1,073,764² people were displaced by conflict as of mid-April 2018. While some IDPs were displaced since 2012, the vast majority of the displacements occurred post-September 2017 in Oromia and Somali regions.

The conflict IDPs are hosted in 601 sites in Oromia and Somali regions. Those displaced from across regions are mainly hosted in transit or collective centers, while those displaced within a region are settled along border areas (either in woredas of origin or in other woredas within the same region).

More people have been displaced by conflict along the Somali-Oromia regional boundary since DTM 10. In May 2018, renewed violence between the Borana (Oromo) and Garre (Somali) communities living in Moyale has led to new internal displacement and protection concerns. According to a multi-agency assessment that visited the conflict-affected areas on 26 May, 15,645 households/families (93,870 individuals) were displaced by this latest incident, including 3,702 IDP children. The most critical needs are lack of food, shelter, WaSH, health and nutrition services that require immediate interventions. In the meantime, the security situation in Moyale remains tense and unpredictable.

Separately, The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) estimates that some 700,000 people are displaced by the West Guji (Oromia) - Gedeo (SNNP) inter-communal violence since April 2018. This situation report does not cover this group of IDPs since flash updates are being produced regularly, specifically focusing on the West Guji-Gedeo conflict-induced displacements.

Conflict displacement trend



¹ A joint data collection exercise led by IOM in collaboration with NDRMC.

²6,355 in Addis Ababa, 4,007 in Afar, 4,979 in Amhara, 11,950 in Dire Dawa, 12,277 in Gambella, 4,027 in Harar, 576,680 in Oromia, 424,838 in Somali and 28,651 in Tigray.

II. Displacement sub-categories

A. IDPs displaced within woreda of origin or outside woreda of origin but in the same region

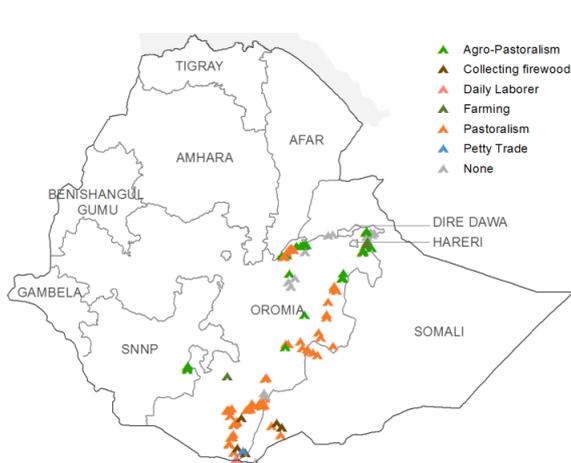


Figure 2 IDPs displaced within woreda of origin. Source: IOM-NDRMC DTM 10/OCHA

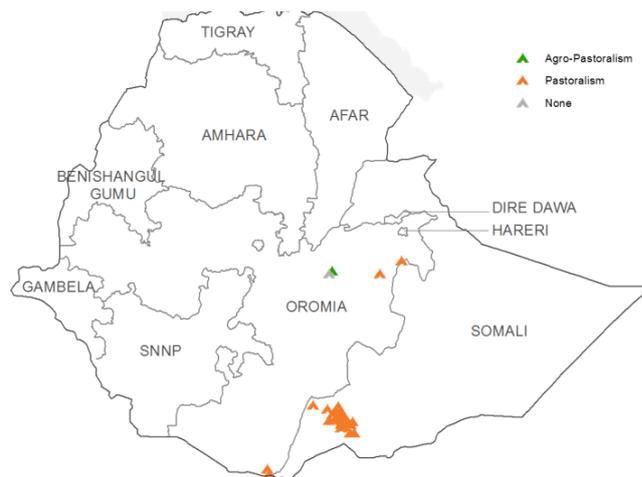


Figure 3 IDPs displaced outside woreda of origin but in the same region. Source: IOM-NDRMC DTM 10/OCHA

According to DTM 10 data, there are around 656,579 people displaced within their respective regions, including 428,569 people displaced within their woreda of origin (352,066 in Oromia and 76,503 in Somali), and 49,541 people displaced outside their woreda of origin but within the same region (27,079 in Somali and 22,462 in Oromia). There are also a group of IDPs who, even if they crossed regional borders, remained close to their areas of origin along the border, including 99,820 Somali IDPs and 78,649 Oromo IDPs. Overall, these categories of IDPs are mainly pastoralists and agro-pastoralists residing in spontaneous or planned camps/sites along the regional borders.

B. IDPs displaced across regional borders (excluding displacements close to area of origin)

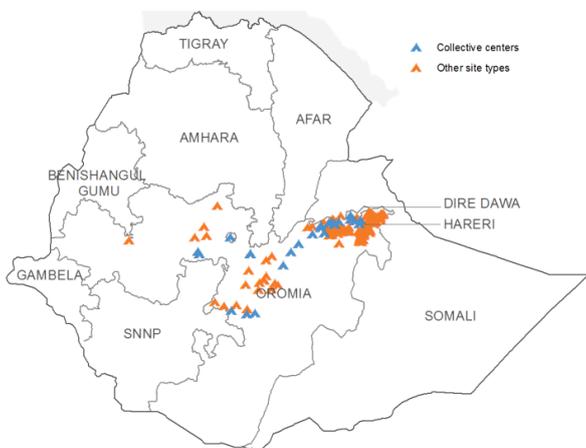


Figure 4 Oromos displaced from Somali region. Source: IOM-NDRMC DTM 10/OCHA

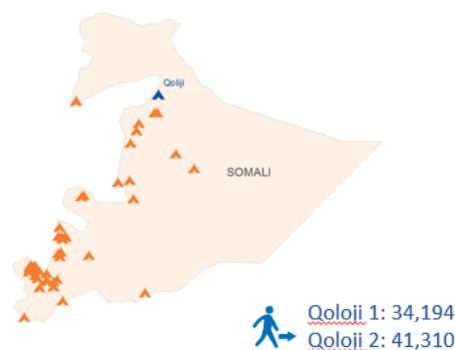


Figure 5 Somalis displaced from Oromia region. Source: IOM-NDRMC DTM 10/OCHA

IDPs displaced or expelled from one region to the other are hosted in 27 transit or “collective centers” and in 191 other major sites in Oromia region, and 51 sites (including two large sites: Qolaji 1 and 2) in Somali region. At present, there are around 242,600 ethnic Somalis displaced from Oromia region settled in Qolaji 1 (34,194) and 2 (41,310) sites on the Jijiga-Harar road, as well as in 14 other major sites; and around 136,400 ethnic Oromos displaced from Somali region. The groups residing in the “collective centers” are mainly displaced from cities and major towns, and were engaged in various professions.

C. IDPs residing with host communities

Host communities or relatives have been hosting large numbers of the displaced population and sharing their meager resources for a long period of time. The host communities are often times themselves vulnerable due to drought impact.

III. Government conflict IDP response plan

The Government response to the conflict displacement is organized under three sub-committees reporting to a Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister (see figure 6). With the intent to find a durable solution to the IDP situation in the country, the Government prioritizes return, where possible, and relocation of the conflict-induced IDPs. In Oromia and Somali regions, a multi-disciplinary team is set up to prepare an IDP rehabilitation plan, which will include a relocation/return plan and livelihoods options/compensation packages to be offered. Relocation and compensation plans will be informed by the IDPs' sub-categories, the intention surveys (validation exercise in Somali region), the damage and loss assessment findings and livelihoods background of IDPs.

Loss and Damage

The Emergency Assistance and Re-establishment of IDP Sub-Committee oversees the life-saving assistance of the over 1 million conflict IDPs in the country, in partnership with humanitarian partners.

With the aim to inform the IDP re-establishment/rehabilitation plan and a compensation package, a team composed of representatives from the National Disaster Risk Management Commission, Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Affairs and relevant line ministries deployed to Oromia and Somali regions between 15 March and 8 April 2018, to assess the type and scope of damage and loss incurred by the violence since September 2017.

The assessment identified damages and losses in public infrastructure, including water supply schemes, health facilities, schools, and agricultural institutions/production. The assessment also mapped-out and monetized damages and losses on private property/holdings, including harvest, houses, assets, livestock and the overall impact on livelihood. Once the reports are endorsed by Government (both at regional and federal level), it will be shared with partners.

Return/Relocation plans

The Oromia and Somali regions have been actively facilitating voluntary and organized return of IDPs to their respective areas of origin. While some returns in areas where security was restored were successful, in others, continued insecurity slowed down the pace return to areas of origin.

Both Oromia and Somali regions have also been actively working to relocate/resettle IDPs within their respective regions. The Oromia regional government planned to resettle 86,400 IDPs from the total regional caseload, under the first phase relocation project. Oromo IDPs displaced from urban areas of Somali region and Somaliland and living in collective centers were prioritized for relocation. As of the end of May, 32,832 IDPs (38 per cent) were relocated to 11 cities identified as settlement villages in central Oromia. At least 10 IDP sites were closed between March and May due to relocation and at least 9 sites closed due to return to places of origin.

OROMIA REGION				
IDP category/displacement origin	No. of IDPs	Relocation target	Estimated timeline	Remark
IDPs displaced across regional borders from Somali (excluding displacements close to area of origin) and mostly hosted in collective centers.	86,400	1st phase relocation target – 38 per cent complete	January – September	IDPs being relocated to 11 cities identified as settlement villages in central Oromia.
	~50,000	2nd phase relocation target	Under discussion	
Rural IDPs displaced within woreda of origin or outside woreda of origin but in the same region – mostly settled along regional boundaries.	352,066 displaced within woredas of origin 22,462 displaced from another woreda of Oromia 99,820 displaced from Somali region but settled near areas of origin along the regional border		TBD	Relocation commencement dependent on the finalization of the border demarcation and the rehabilitation of damaged public infrastructure.

Similarly, in Somali region, the regional government plans to relocate 3,200 displaced households (19,200 individuals) who opt to pursue an agro-pastoralist livelihood from Qoloji IDP site in Fafan to Karinka settlement village in Shabelle zone under the first phase relocation project. Karinka settlement village is located 45 kilometers south of Gode Town, around irrigable agricultural land near the Shabelle River. Construction of 850 houses are nearly completed under phase one, which will also include public facilities such as schools, health centers and animal veterinary clinics. The region has planned a compensation package, including a plot of land for agriculture and fodder production. The Qoloji IDP sites host the largest number of IDPs congregated in a single cluster of sites in the country.

An estimated 56,300 IDPs are planned for relocation from Qoloji to other settlement villages under phase two relocation and an additional 167,000 IDPs will be relocated under phase three. All IDPs targeted/prioritized for relocation are those displaced from Oromia region (mainly central Oromia) and hosted in major IDP sites. The Somali regional government has completed the IDP registration exercise in 19 conflict-IDP sites. The analysis of IDP profiles will be completed once the ongoing data entry of registered IDPs is finalized.

Humanitarian partners are working with national/regional authorities to ensure that any relocation is voluntary and based on adequate consultations with IDPs in accordance with UN guiding principles on international displacement.

SOMALI REGION				
IDP category/displacement origin	No. of IDPs	Relocation target	Estimated timeline	Remark
IDPs displaced across regional borders from Oromia (excluding displacements close to area of origin) and mostly hosted in collective centers.	~19,200	1st phase relocation target	TBD	IDPs to be relocated from Qoloji to Karinka settlement village.
	~56,300	2nd phase relocation target	TBD	IDPs to be relocated from Qoloji to other settlement villages.
	~167,000	3rd phase relocation target	TBD	
IDPs displaced within woreda of origin or outside woreda of origin but in the same region – mostly settled along regional boundaries.	76,503 displaced within woreda of origin		TBD	No plans
	27,079 displaced from another woreda of Somali			
	78,649 displaced from Oromia region but settled near areas of origin along the regional border			

The other two sub-groups of the steering committee (see figure 6), the Cross-Border Development Sub-Committee and the Border Demarcation Sub-Committee, are developing/finalizing border demarcation and cross-border infrastructure development plan to bring lasting solutions to recurrent inter-communal violence in these areas. While the timeline for the border demarcation exercise is not conclusively known, peace building and community conferences are ongoing. The Ministry of Federal and Pastoral Affairs is the main driver in these works.

The return of the majority of mostly pastoralists and agro-pastoralist IDPs displaced along the Oromia-Somali border is dependent on the finalization of the border demarcation and the rehabilitation of damaged public infrastructure to resume their lives and livelihoods.

IV. IDP response coordination architecture

The Federal Disaster Risk Management Technical Committee (DRMTWG) is the joint strategic and operational forum where Government and humanitarian partners converge. Starting from September 2017, conflict IDPs have been a standing agenda item on this forum and it has been serving as a key decision making and coordination platform where Government and partner response is reviewed. The DRMTWG regularly meets monthly. In Oromia region, a similar coordination structure exists. The regional DRMTWG meeting is used to discuss operational and strategic issues on IDP response.

In Somali region, Humanitarian Coordination Forum, chaired by DPPB/ Humanitarian Advisor to the regional president brings line ministries and clusters together to provide guidance on strategic issues regarding IDP response.

Separately, the humanitarian community use existing coordination forums to coordinate IDP response. The Ethiopian Humanitarian Coordination Team (EHCT) forum is used to discuss policy and strategic level discussions on IDPs. The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group provides a platform for cluster coordinators to discuss inter-cluster issues and joint prioritization and harmonization of approaches amongst other. In addition, the protection cluster is also used to coordinate protection interventions and highlight key concerns.

In order to strengthen zonal coordination and information management, OCHA is recruiting dedicated field coordinators to be placed in Bale, Borena and Guji zones of Oromia region and in three zones of Somali region. In the interim, responding to OCHA's request for temporary coordination support in southern Oromia while the OCHA recruitments are finalized, the INGO DCA agreed to support zonal Disaster Risk Management Offices in coordination in Bale, COO-PI in Guji and GOAL in Borena zones.

Initiatives to strengthen woreda-level coordination and information management are also ongoing. Humanitarian partners have committed to support woreda-level coordination to increase information flows that facilitate more responsive and flexible humanitarian action.

V. Emergency response highlight

While recognizing and supporting Government-led peacebuilding/reconciliation efforts and efforts to ensure durable solution for displacement through prioritizing return (where possible) and relocation, it is vitally important that life-sustaining humanitarian response to the IDPs be urgently scaled-up in current areas of displacement, including for hosting communities. Livelihood and rehabilitation support is also imperative in relocation areas.

In support of the Government, humanitarian partners have been extending lifesaving assistance mainly by flexing existing resources, and are working to scale-up response as and when resources are made available.

Recognizing that the displaced population will remain in displacement for at least the next six months, humanitarian partners, to a large extent, factored-in the need to scale-up IDP response in the Immediate Funding Priorities Document released on 24 May 2018 (see full document at <https://bit.ly/2saG5Cx>)

Specifically looking at the relief food sector, NDRMC has so far distributed three rounds of relief food rations (Rounds 3,4,5) to approximately 700,000 conflict IDPs in Oromia region; while WFP is assisting approximately 300,000 conflict IDPs in Somali region. The displaced households will require regular assistance until they have access to food from own sources, including own production or income to purchase food from markets.

At present, NDRMC is distributing Round 6 relief food rations to 528,070 beneficiaries across Bale, Borena, Guji, East Hararge, West Hararge and West Guji zones of Oromia region. As of 3 June, 94 per cent of the Round 6 allocation (8,991MT of cereals, CSB and oil) was dispatched and 81 per cent distributed. As of 4 June, 57 per cent of an additional 4,538MT of food dispatched by NDRMC had reached food distribution points in Arsi, Bale, Borena, Finfine, Guji, and West Guji zones. In Somali region, 2,189MT of the 4,911MT of food allocated by WFP was dispatched to targeted locations, which will benefit 289,724 IDPs. Meanwhile, 57 per cent of a second round allocation of 946MT of food was dispatched as of 8 June, targeting 55,804 IDPs in Qoloji 1 and Qoloji 2. WFP is looking into supporting NDRMC in delivering food to IDP sites in East and West Hararge zones of Oromia region.

Since January 2018, the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (ES/NFI) Cluster has supported 46,904 displaced households across Somali, Oromia, SNNP, Tigray and Gambella regions, including 21,449 conflict displaced in Oromia region and 9,050 conflict displaced households in Somali region. An additional 2,882 households are currently being assisted nationwide, including 530 conflict IDPs in Oromia and 1,500 conflict IDPs in Somali. As of 20 June 2018, 107,408 conflict-affected displaced households in Oromia (excluding the West-Guji/Gedeo conflict) and Somali regions required ES/NFI support, of which the cluster prioritized (priority 1) 56,530 households.

Funding is also required to expand the range of ES/NFI Cluster activities to include repair kits and transitional sheltering options to save money in the long-term and reduce the number of standard ES/NFI kits that will be required in the coming years.

Meanwhile, IOM and UNHCR have developed a draft concept note on IDP Site Management Support (SMS) suggesting four objectives:

Objective 1: Improved information on IDP needs and conditions in critical collective centers and IDP locations

SMS and UNHCR mobile protection teams and field officers will provide a critical missing link from site level to the existing IDP coordination forums by updating site profiles and improving cross sectorial information on gaps in assistance or and protection needs based on more frequent presences and monitoring. From this perspective, the data and information management for all humanitarian operations will be analyzed from a SMS (multi-sectoral) standpoint for improved evidence-based decision making, planning, advocacy, operations management, coordination and measurement of impact.

Objective 2: Increased Site Management knowledge, skills, attitudes

Through technical secondment into the Government/NDRMC and workshops and formal trainings on specific topics related to site management local government officials and NGO partners will improve their knowledge on critical issues related to collective center management and IDP protection.

Objective 3: Upgraded collective centers

Based on specific criteria small grants will target 50 sites for improvement through IOM's SMS field teams, while UNHCR mobile protection teams will similarly provide focused improvement to specific sites in need of repair or rejuvenation.

Objective 4: Site Closure Durable Solution

SMS support function will include both small scale physical site rehabilitation and include providing information to the displaced persons as sites phase-out and close. These efforts will be based on the principles of participation and ensure that services (including assistance and protection) are in place in areas of return.

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