

HIGHLIGHTS

- OCHA Director of Operations, Mr. John Ging, visited Ethiopia to review the status of the Government-led international humanitarian response to drought and conflict-affected communities, including internally displaced people.



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OCHA Director of Operations visited Ethiopia

On 12-14 December 2017, Mr. John Ging, OCHA Director of Operations, visited Ethiopia to first-hand review the status of the Government-led international humanitarian response to drought and conflict-affected communities, including internally displaced people. The director met and discussed with the federal and regional Government of Ethiopia, donors, humanitarian agencies and communities affected by drought and conflict. Mr. Ging acknowledged the strong partnership the Government of Ethiopia has established over the years with the Humanitarian Country Team. He said that his visit is “a reflection of the importance of that partnership.”

Visit to Hamaressa IDP camp in East Hararge zone, Oromia region



Figure 1 OCHA Director of Operations, Mr. John Ging, visiting IDPs at Hamaressa camp
Photo Credit: Mengistu/OCHA

FIGURES

Affected pop.	8.5 m
MAM	3.6 m
SAM	375,000

HIGHLIGHT

- Humanitarian operators receive emergency logistics induction training to equip national emergency management authorities, staff from different agencies and humanitarian actors, with emergency logistics skills to ensure timely and efficient humanitarian response.
- Regional reports of the November-December national humanitarian needs assessment are currently being compiled. The humanitarian requirements for Ethiopia in 2018 will be determined once the compilation of all the regional reports is completed.

The director visited Hamaressa IDP camp with over 4,000 people internally displaced by the Oromo-Somali inter-communal disputes. Following a briefing by the East Hararge zone administration about the scale of the crisis, Mr.Ging reassured authorities that he is committed to advocating for appropriate response to the crisis. The zonal authorities requested for urgent food and non-food assistance to IDPs East Hararge zone.

Meanwhile subsequent intercommunal clashes were reported in West Hararge zone of Oromia region on the 12, 15 and 16 December resulting in more than 60 deaths. OCHA will continue to work with Government to verify access conditions and impact on humanitarian operations. Conflict has left close to 857,000 people displaced throughout the country.

Visit to Somali region

During the meeting with the Somali Regional Government authorities, the region requested Mr.Ging's advocacy support to scale up the ongoing response, particularly amidst the growing IDP needs and called for development investment in durable solutions for predictable pastoralist needs. The region also asked for the speedy implementation of cash-based assistance in all targeted *woredas*/districts. Mr. Ging and the Somali regional authorities discussed the need to improve accountability mechanisms, including quality needs assessment and information management.

Humanitarian operators receive emergency logistics induction training

On 14-19 December 2017, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) organized an emergency logistics induction training (ELIT) in Adama, Ethiopia. The training aimed to equip national emergency management authorities, staff from different agencies and humanitarian actors, with emergency logistics skills to ensure timely and efficient humanitarian response. The training looked at logistics



Figure 2 Training Participants. Photo Credit: WFP

bottlenecks in the country, operational planning and enablers in logistics operation such as information management, coordination and reporting. Participants were drawn from government staff (NDRMC, line ministries and regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureaus), UN agencies and INGOs. In addition to WFP, OCHA and UNICEF colleagues also facilitated the training.

Government and partners compiling national humanitarian needs assessment reports

Regional reports of the November-December national humanitarian needs assessment are currently being compiled at the federal level. A federal de-briefing is scheduled on 26 December 2017, where the findings on food and non-food needs and regional priorities will be discussed.

HIGHLIGHT

- Ethiopia continues to receive undocumented Ethiopian migrants repatriated from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Government-led multi-sector and multi-agency teams composed of relevant Government sectors and humanitarian partners were deployed in all nine regions and Dire Dawa Council from 18 November to 13 December. The team assessed the performance of *kiremt* (summer) rains on harvest in cropping areas and the performance of the short seasonal *deyr/hagaya* (autumn) rains in the lowland areas of south and southeastern Ethiopia. The humanitarian requirements for Ethiopia in 2018 will be determined once the compilation of all the regional reports is completed.

At present, Government and humanitarian partners are providing humanitarian assistance to 8.5 million people affected by drought on top of 4 million people 'public works' clients who are receiving assistance through the Government's Productive Safety Net Programme.

More than 14,000 undocumented Ethiopian migrants repatriated from Saudi Arabia

More than 14,000 undocumented Ethiopian migrants residing in Saudi Arabia have returned to Ethiopia between 15 November and 21 December 2017. In March 2017, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) had given a 90-day amnesty for undocumented migrants to voluntarily leave the country or face fine or imprisonment. The country has since extended the amnesty period twice. The KSA started expelling undocumented migrants following the expiration of the last extension of the amnesty window on 16 November. According to the weekly update of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as at 20 December 2017, more than 96,000, from an estimated 500,000 residing in KSA, have returned to Ethiopia since March 2017. The Ethiopian government is working to fully repatriate its citizens.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Ethiopia is also working with its embassy in Cairo to protect its citizens currently stranded in Libya. The Ethiopian government is working to protect Ethiopians in Libya's major cities, mainly Tripoli and Benghazi, from slavery and other challenges. The exact number of Ethiopians stranded in Libya is yet to be identified.

For further information, please contact:

Choice Ufuoma Okoro, Head, Strategic Communications, okoroc@un.org, Tel. (+251) 912502695

Mengistu Dargie, National Public Information and Reporting Officer, dargie@un.org, Tel. (+251) 911742381

Malda Nadew, National Information Officer, nadew@un.org, Tel. (+251) 9229034346