

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Humanitarian and Resilience Donor Group (HRDG) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) visited Somali region from 5 to 18 October; met with the new regional Government leadership and discussed humanitarian challenges and development priorities.

FIGURES

Affected population	7.95 m
MAM	370,000
SAM	416,000
# of people displaced due to conflict	2.2 m
# of people displaced due to climatic shocks	0.5 m

FUNDING

US\$1.494 billion

Requirement for the 2nd half of 2018 Ethiopia Humanitarian and Disaster Resilience Plan

Funding shortfall:
US\$416.4 million



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HRDG/UNCT mission to Somali region

From 15 to 18 October 2018, the Humanitarian and Resilience Donor Group (HRDG) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) visited Somali region. The objective of the visit was to understand the new regional Government leadership-led political, security and human rights reforms, as well as ongoing development and humanitarian challenges in the region. The visit also aimed at identifying urgent priority areas for international community engagement where lifesaving interventions and long term development programs could give lasting solution to the protracted humanitarian crisis in the region. The visiting delegation met with the new regional president and his cabinet, the regional humanitarian country team and consulted with IDPs at Qoloji IDP site and the communities hosting them.



Figure 1 HRDG discussing with communities hosting IDPs in Qoloji. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

New regional leadership determined to ensure humanitarian access and human rights

The new Somali region president reiterated his commitment to ensure democratic rights and to address the lingering human rights violations and recurrent localized violence, which are the results of years of poor governance. The president said that accountability and transparency, human rights and protection, physical and security access remain a priority to the new leadership. A partnership agreement has already been reached between the region and



Figure 2 HRDG at the Presidential Palace. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

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- The new Government leadership in Somali region determined to ensure humanitarian access and human rights.
- IDPs in Qoloji have called on Government and the International community for support in durable solutions. Some of the IDPs have been at Qoloji camp since 2016.

the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to collectively work to improve the human rights environment in the region. Accordingly, OHCHR will deploy three staff members who will work on training and awareness raising on human rights issues to the police, the judiciary and public officials. On a related note, ICRC has also resumed its operation in the region, upon the invitation of the Government.

IDPs in Qoloji camp call for durable solutions

An estimated 80,000 displaced persons at Qoloji IDP site who used to be business people, farmers and pastoralists thanked the visiting donors and the UN community for the humanitarian assistance they have been receiving, but called for durable solutions. The IDPs requested for support to quickly resettle within the region and to start a normal and dignified life. Some of the IDPs have been at Qoloji camp since 2016. The region is working with partners to ensure continued humanitarian assistance, while planning for a durable solution to the protracted IDP crisis in Qoloji and other similar sites.



Figure 3 Qoloji IDP site. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

Having listened to the concerns of IDPs and communities hosting them at Qoloji 1, the donor and UN community expressed their commitment to work with the regional government to help IDPs achieve their aspirations. “We have a profound appreciation to the manner you (the host community) have received the internally displaced persons and we, as the UN, will continue supporting the internally displaced persons without forgetting the host communities,” said the newly arrived UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Aeneas Chuma.



Figure 4 UNCT discussing with IDPs at Qoloji site. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

The UN body for Migration (IOM) reiterated its commitment to work with the regional government to move forward with the endorsed durable solutions strategy and called for the re-activation of the Durable Solutions Working Group in the new cabinet. IOM will share the results of the IDP intention survey with the region to facilitate the implementation of the durable solutions strategy.

OCHA providing information management training for Somali Regional Government

OCHA Ethiopia's Somali region sub-office, together with UNDP and the Somali Region Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB), is providing information management training to experts drawn from DPPB and line ministries. The purpose of the training (from 29 October to 02 November 2018) is to strengthen the humanitarian coordination capacity of the region. The training

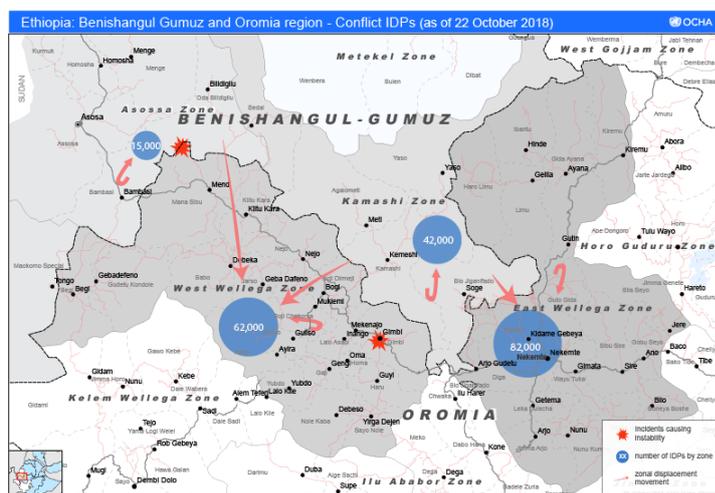
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- OCHA, together with UNDP and the Somali Region Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB), providing information management training for Somali Regional Government staff.
- Benishangul Gumuz region endorses response plan for conflict IDPs, targeting more than 57,000 people.

will help the new Government leadership and staff in Somali region leverage and optimize information management tools, technologies, platforms and best practices to effectively respond to current and future humanitarian crises in the region. It will also help facilitate and to better inform needs-based humanitarian decision making and monitoring.

Benishangul Gumuz region endorses response plan for conflict IDPs

An emergency response plan targeting over 57,000 IDPs has been endorsed by the Benishangul Gumuz Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau on 19 October 2018. Apart from the endorsement of the three-months plan, the region activated sector coordination structures for humanitarian response in Kamashi zone and Oda Bilidigilu *woredas*.



On 21 October, the Government delivered emergency food using an armed escort to Yasso *woreda* in Kamashi zone for approximately 1,273 people/individuals. Emergency drugs (malaria drugs, antibiotic) and plumpynuts were also delivered to Kamashi zone by helicopter. The regional Government plans to dispatch additional food to three *woredas*. The overall security situation in Kamashi zone and Oda Bilidigilu *woredas* remains tense and volatile.

Government and partners are also monitoring needs and assisting where possible more than 140,000 people who have been displaced from Benishangul Gumuz region into East and West Wollega zones of Oromia region.

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