Peace and reconciliation conference to end Gedeo-Guji IDPs crisis

On 28 July 2018, Aba Gadas (traditional leaders) from both West Guji (Oromia) and Gedeo (SNNP) zones convened a peace and reconciliation conference in Gedere Gencha border kebele to address the Gedeo-Guji conflict. The event attended by officials from the Federal government of Ethiopia, the Oromia and SNNP regions, religions leaders and elders reached a consensus to end the ongoing inter-communal violence and return displaced people to their places of origin by 08 August 2018. Inter-communal violence between the Gedeos and Gujis since April 2018 has left close to a million people internally displaced.

The national plan to end violence and return IDPs in Gedeo and West Guji zones is being executed through the National Steering Committee, Emergency Response and Rehabilitation sub-committee and Peace and Reconciliation sub-committee.
**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Dispatch and distribution of second round relief food ongoing in Gedeo and West Guji zones
- Establishment of EOC improving IDP response in Gedeo and West Guji zones, but gap remains high

**Dispatch and distribution of second round relief food ongoing in Gedeo and West Guji zones**

The Government of Ethiopia through the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and the Joint Emergency Operations Program (JEOP) have begun dispatching and distributing the second round of relief food to IDPs in Gedeo and West Guji Zones. In Gedeo zone, NDRMC covers Wonago and Yirgacheffe woredas with cereals, CSB and oil and JEOP covers Bule, Gedeb, Kochere, Dilla Zuria woredas and Dilla town with cereals pulse and oil. NDRMC will top up CSB in JEOP woredas. In West Guji zone, NDRMC covers all the six woredas (Abaya, Birbira Kojowa, Bule Hora, Gelana, Hambela Wamena and Kercha).

As of 24 July 2018, NDRMC dispatched 7,553 quintals of cereals, 1,548 quintals of CSB and 227 quintals of oil (100 per cent of the allocation) to 50,352 beneficiaries in Wonago woreda and distribution is ongoing. NDRMC also dispatched 16,133 quintals of cereals, 2,105 quintals of CSB and 400 quintals of oil to 175,352 IDPs in Yirgachefe woreda.

JEOP dispatched relief food assistance to 634,124 people in the remaining five woredas of Gedeo zone (Bule, Gedeb, Kochere, Dilla Zuria woredas and Dilla town). NDRMC dispatched and distributed 19,922 quintals of cereals, 4,050 quintals of CSB and 807 quintals of oil in six woredas of West Guji zone, benefitting 184,938 displaced persons during the second round. JEOP is planning to step in for relief food assistance in West Guji zone starting from the third round.

Meanwhile the establishment of Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) in Gedeo and West Guji zones is strengthening the coordination and prioritization of response. The EOCs have improved joint assessment of needs, available resources and gaps. Although the IDP response has shown a gradual improvement, more funding is required to meet the growing food and non-food needs in both zones.

*Figure 2 IDPs receiving morning meal at Bule Daro site.*  
*Photo credit: OCHA Ethiopia*
HIGHLIGHTS

- Market study revealed cash to be feasible for IDPs response in Gedeo and Guji zones
- Government deploying health staff to IDP sites

Cash feasibility and market access for IDPs response in Gedeo and Guji zones

Recent assessment by NDRMC and IOM identified that markets in Gedeo and Guji zones are functioning and well-integrated with Addis Ababa market and imported goods from Kenya, Somalia trade routes and through the port of Djibouti. Accordingly, cash intervention is feasible, acceptable and a preferred modality of aid resource transfer to IDPs in both zones. Market access and availability of the NFI, Shelter, WaSH and food items in most of the markets assessed, vendor willingness to meet additional market demand, good amount of stocks and capacity to increase stocks, acceptable prices and a cash economy ascertain the feasibility of cash response. The assessment report indicated that fresh food, dry maize and haricot beans are available in quantity and quality in markets such as Shashamane, Hawassa, Dilla and Bule Hora.

These food vendors have the capacity including cash and trucks to procure additional food supplies and deliver to the identified sites if provided timely information on the required supplies. For more on this: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/idp_needs_and_market_assessment_report_.pdf

Figure 3 market place in front of TVT IDP site in Gedeb woreda. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

Government deploying health staff to IDPs sites

The SNNP region deployed close to 150 health professionals in response to rising health needs in IDPs sites. The health staff are being deployed across IDP hosting woredas in Gedeo zone. About 30 nursing students from Dilla University have been providing health services in IDP sites since 23 July 2018. Similarly, College of Medicine of Addis Ababa University is in contact with health clusters at the EOCs to deploy final year medical students to Gedeo and West Guji zones.
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