

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners will formally launch the 2019 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on 7 March.
- Some 90,000 displaced people in Amhara region need urgent assistance.
- Improved security along the Oromia-Somali border is enabling humanitarian partners to move relief commodities to Dawa zone after more than a year.
- Access constraints has impacted humanitarian partners from providing meaningful assistance to IDPs in certain sites of Gedeb woreda (Gedeo zone), where most IDPs are concentrated.
- Experience from an IDP child in Deder Town



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## Partners to formally launch the 2019 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on 7 March

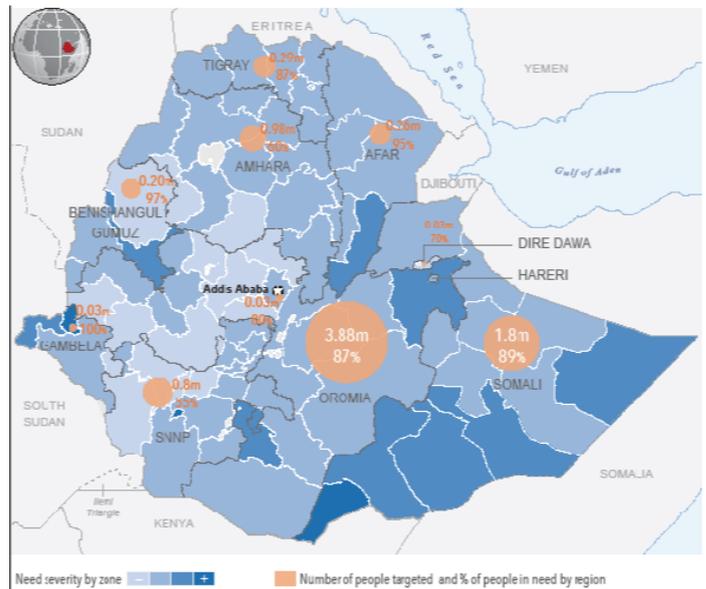
The joint Government and partners Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2019 will be formally launched in the presence of Ato Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission; Mr. Aeneas Chuma, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator; as well as humanitarian partners, donors and the media at the Strategic Multi-Agency Coordination forum (S-MAC) on 7 March 2019.

The Plan lays out prioritized humanitarian needs in 2019 across eight sectors, including food, nutrition, shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH), health, education, protection and agriculture.

The humanitarian situation in 2019 will remain similar to 2018 mainly due to mass internal displacements in various parts of the country, and related humanitarian and protection needs.

In addition, communities who suffered consecutive years of severe drought, who lost productive assets, or took on significant debts to shoulder the brunt of the crisis, will continue to need sustained humanitarian assistance and recovery during the year.

Accordingly, at least 8.3 million people will require relief food/cash and non-food assistance during the year. Detailed sector needs and financial requirement will be released following the launch on Thursday.



## Amhara internal displacement situation update

- Some 90,000 IDPs are currently displaced in Amhara region. While the majority of the IDPS (70 per cent) are living with host communities, the remaining IDPs are living in temporary, sub-standard settlement sites and require shelter and non-food item support. The most pressing need articulated by IDPs is security and protection, followed by food, shelter and household items.
- The Amhara Regional Government has allocated ETB35 million for the response effort, and has requested urgent additional support from the federal Government, humanitarian partners as well as to all Ethiopians to address the growing needs.

Regional reports indicate that more than 90,000 people are currently displaced in Amhara region, and are scattered across 11 zones of the region including, Central Gondar (49,312), West Gondar (7,480), South Gondar (3,088), North Wollo (3,275), South Wollo (2,097), Oromo zone (4,760), West Gojam (15,842), North Shoa (516), Wag Hemira (236), Awi (2,919) and East Gojam (1,211).

The vast majority of the IDPs (some 60,000) are displaced in Central and West Gondar zones following the spike in violence between the Amhara and Qemant communities in September 2018 across Central and West Gondar zones. While the recent inter-communal conflict contributed to the sudden and drastic spike in the number of IDPs in the region, displaced Amharas in the region also come from Oromia (Buno Bedele, Jimma, Nekemt and Kelem Wollega zones), Benishangul Gumuz (Kamashi zone), SNNP (Bench Maji zone), Afar, Somali and Tigray regions since October 2017.

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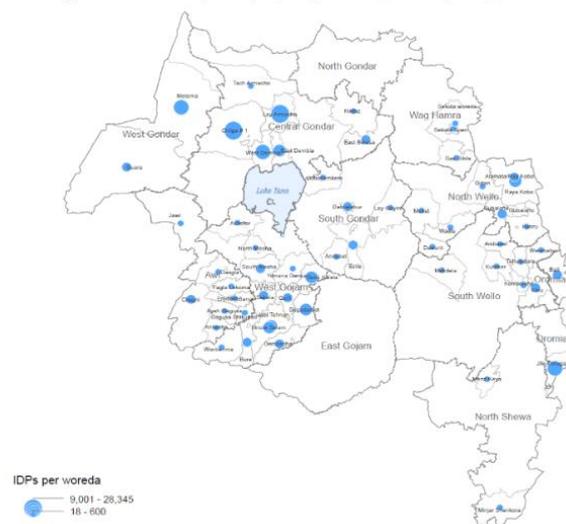
Although the security situation has improved following the deployment of the Ethiopian Defense Force (EDF) to restore peace and security in the area, nearly all IDP sites in Central Gondar are accessible, while some sites in West Gondar still remain inaccessible due to security concerns on the road.

### Ongoing Response

The Amhara Regional Government has allocated ETB35 million for the response effort, and has requested urgent additional support from the federal Government, humanitarian partners as well as to all Ethiopians to address the growing needs. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) allocated and delivered food ration for one month and NFIs for IDPs in Central and West Gondar zones. ICRC/ERCS has also provided some limited quantities of ES/NFIs. The absence of humanitarian partners – in this traditionally non-humanitarian disaster-prone area - remains a significant challenge to date. The response so far has been highly inadequate compared to the needs.

On 18 February, 2019, the Ministry of Peace and NDRMC representatives went to Bahir Dar, the regional capital, to assess the situation and to consider the possibility of restoring peace and prepare a rehabilitation plan for the displaced population. Please see the recent Amhara Flash Update on the OCHA website (<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ethiopia>) for more detail on the Amhara conflict displacement situation.

Amhara region: Number of displaced people by Woreda (February 2019)



- Improved security along the Oromia-Somali border is enabling humanitarian partners to move relief commodities to Dawa zone after more than a year.
- The security situation in Kamashi zone of Benishangul Gumuz region - the epicenter of the inter-communal conflict between the Gumuz and other communities in the area since September 2018 - has improved, allowing humanitarian access to the area since the conflict erupted.

## Improved security allows safe access to Dawa zone of Somali region

Improved security is enabling humanitarian partners to safely move relief commodities to Dawa zone after more than a year. The Moyale route has been relatively calm, and the World Food Programme (WFP) has managed to deliver around 1,579Mt of relief food supplies (mainly to Moyale and Mubarek *woredas*) via this route since the opening of the corridor in mid-January 2019.

Meanwhile, improvement in the security of the Negele- Dawa route was reported last week, although the Negele-Dawa route is not yet open. The opening of the Negelle-Hudet-Dawa route will be a great opportunity to move commodities to Dawa because it is a most efficient delivery mechanism compared to the route from Jijiga/Gode and it will enable humanitarian partners to dispatch a larger amount of supplies from Nazareth warehouse.

Dawa zone is the most vulnerable zone in Somali region where the humanitarian situation has been compounded by inter-communal conflicts, droughts and lack of road access. Poor road access and security concerns in Dawa zone restricted humanitarian actors from delivering life-saving assistance to some 350,000 IDPs in 2018.

Zonal reports also indicate spontaneous return of some IDPs due to the calm brought by the ongoing peace efforts. The zonal administrator welcomed this development and encouraged humanitarian partners to provide assistance to the returnees. In response, partners requested the zonal administrator to establish a working committee to facilitate the smooth and sustainable return of the IDPs. Partners also suggested for a quick assessment to be conducted in areas of return to gauge the level of immediate and recovery assistance required.

## Benishangul Gumuz/Wollegas IDP response update

The security situation in Kamashi zone of Benishangul Gumuz region - the epicenter of the inter-communal conflict between the Gumuz and other communities in the area since September 2018 - has improved, allowing humanitarian access to the area since the conflict erupted.

From 1 to 5 February 2019, the INGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) travelled to Kamashi zone with no incident, and was able to conduct a rapid assessment of health facilities in one sub-district in Agolometi and Kemashi districts and within Kamashi Town. The IOM-Government Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data collection team subsequently undertook a rapid assessment mission to the area.

Humanitarian partners are planning to conduct assessments in other parts of Kamashi zone where there are still access constraints. Only limited humanitarian assistance was delivered to an estimated 17,500 conflict-displaced populations in Kamashi through a military escorted Government relief food convoy.

Meanwhile, the security situation in West Wollega zone of Oromia region remains calm and UNDSS is planning to conduct a joint Road Security Assessment (RSA) in Mena Sib, Kiltu Kara, Lata Sib and Manasibu districts. There are currently 44 UN staff deployed to support the ongoing IDP emergency response in East and West Wollega zones, and a common services and facilities humanitarian hub is being established in Nekemte, East Wollega.

## Gedeo and West Guji IDP response update

Increasing access constraints has impacted humanitarian partners from providing meaningful assistance to displaced persons in certain sites of Gedeb woreda (Gedeo zone), where most IDPs are concentrated.

- Gone were her dreams of becoming a doctor, Inabu Yasin, a 10 year-old IDP child in Deder Town, has no father, no mother, and the children within the community that hosts her do not accept her.

Increasing access constraints has impacted humanitarian partners from providing meaningful assistance to displaced persons in certain sites of Gedeb woreda (Gedeo zone), where most IDPs are concentrated.

The capacity of the host community to support them has decreased and the living condition of the IDPs is deteriorating. With the fast-approaching rainy season, the need for adequate shelter is critical. The crowded and sub-standard living conditions, including lack of adequate access to water and sanitation facilities, present high risks for disease outbreaks for IDPs and hosting communities. A scabies outbreak is now far-reaching, with children the worst affected, suggesting overcrowding, poor hygiene and a lack of clean water.

Returns have been happening since August 2018. While some returns have been successful, some have been affected by the renewed insecurity and lack of assistance in areas of return. There is a continuous trend of movement from West Guji into Gedeo zone generally.

### Inabu, an IDP child in Deder Town, East Hararge zone

Inabu Yasin is a 10-year-old IDP child in Deder Town, East Hararge zone of Oromia region. Born and raised in Jijiga Town of Somali region until she was 9 years old, Inabu is the second oldest child in the family and has two sisters and three brothers. The eldest is 15 years old and the youngest is 5.

Inabu lost her father in Jijiga Town during an inter-communal violence in September 2017. Her father, she said, was very supportive of her education and motivated her by giving her presents when she scored good results.

Inabu was enrolled in second grade when she was forced into displacement following the violence in Jijiga Town. "I loved learning and my ambition was to become a doctor and treat my family members and all others who fall sick," said Inabu. Inabu's request to continue her education was incessant. In response to her repeated request, her mother sold some portion of the relief food given to the family to buy exercise books and, after one year of interruption, Inabu was enrolled in the local public school in September 2018.

The first day of school, Inabu was told to share a bench with three other girls to whom she introduced herself, including her status as an IDP. But, after a couple of days, Inabu noticed that she was feeling lonely in her class. She realized that everybody was ignoring her and no one wanted to sit with her. "When the teachers are in the class, the students pretended to treat me well, but the moment the teachers leave the room they threw me to the ground, insulted me and called me names," Inabu recalled. As a result, she was forced to quit her beloved education after two months. She now stays at home.

A month ago, Inabu's mother left her and her siblings to look for job opportunities in another town. The mother will use the money to purchase additional food for the family since the relief food ration size is not sufficient. Inabu hasn't heard from her mother since she left and she does not know where she is.



Figure 1 Inabu, an internally displaced child in East Hararge zone, Oromia region.

Photo credit: OCHA

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