

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government started IDP returns in Gedeo and West Guji zones.
- The Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT) continues to monitor the return process through the Protection Cluster, and to advocate for adherence of international humanitarian principles at all levels of Government.



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The Government started IDP returns in Gedeo and West Guji zones

On 25 April 2019, the Government officially announced its plan to immediately return over 550,000 IDPs in Gedeo and West Guji zones to their respective areas of origin (526,000 IDPs from Gedeo to West Guji and within Gedeo and 30,000 from West Guji to Gedeo). Reports from the Gedeo Zonal Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO) indicate that the return started on 03 May with the deployment of 40 trucks/buses to move an estimated 15,000 IDPs from Gedeb to 10 *kebeles* in Kercha *woreda* of West Guji zone.

Similarly, the West Guji DRMO reported that over 11,000 IDPs have returned from Kercha collective sites to their respective homes in rural *kebeles* as of 03 May 2019. On 06 May, seven buses were deployed to move the first batch of IDPs from Gedeb Town to 01,02, and 03 *kebeles* of Kercha, Birbisa, Egu, Gurrachu and Bilida areas. According to a report by the Emergency Operation Center in Dilla Town, a total of 19,014 IDPs returned to West Guji and 6,342 IDPs returned to Gedeo zone as of 10 May 2019.



Figure 1 Empty IDP site in kercha town.
Photo Credit: OCHA

The Government has reiterated that the return is voluntary and security conditions in return areas have been secured. The Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT) continues to monitor the return process through the Protection Cluster, and to advocate for adherence of international humanitarian principles at all levels of Government.

FIGURES

Affected population	8.3 million
MAM	4 million
SAM	609,000
# of people displaced due to conflict	2.4 million
# of people displaced due to climatic shocks	0.6 m

FUNDING

US\$1.314 billion

Requirement for the 2019 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan

- The recently released Flood Alert identified 187 woredas at risk of flooding in Oromia, SNNP, Somali, Amhara, Gambella, Afar, and Tigray regions, 104 woredas are hosting IDPs.

Similar return processes are ongoing in other IDP-hosting areas, including in East and West Wollega, Amhara and Somali regions. On 10 May, the Government announced that some 870,000 IDPs returned to their areas of origin nationwide.

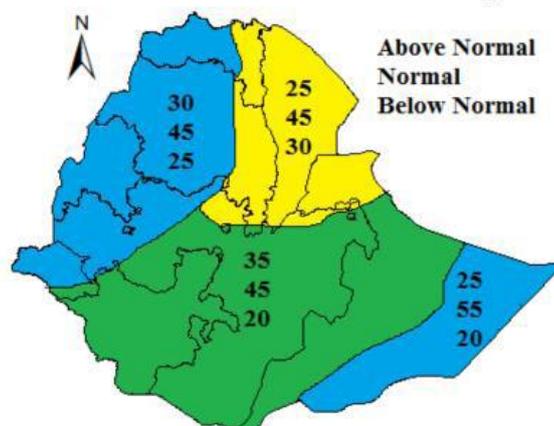
It is to be recalled that, on 8 April 2019, the Government of Ethiopia, through the Ministry of Peace (MoP) and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) presented a Strategic Plan to Address Internal Displacement in Ethiopia and a costed Recovery/Rehabilitation Plan to donors and international agencies



Figure 2 Distribution of NFIs to returnees from Gedeb and Kercha woreda. Photo Credit: OCHA

Taskforce issues a Flood Alert to inform preparedness measures

Tercile Probabilistic Forecast For Belg 2019



Based on weather forecast by the National Meteorological Agency (NMA), the NDRMC-led National Flood Taskforce issued a Flood Alert on 29 April to inform Government and partners' mitigation and preparedness measures. The Alert identified 187 *woredas* at risk of flooding in Oromia, SNNP, Somali, Amhara, Gambella, Afar, and Tigray regions, of which 104 *woredas* are hosting IDPs.

Meanwhile, reported flood incidences on 19 April displaced some 5,615 people and claimed the lives of some 1,000 livestock in Selti *woreda* of Selte zone, SNNP region. The flooding was due to heavy rains that impacted the natural course of three rivers and inundated farmlands and destroyed houses along the river beds.

According to NMA's forecast, heavy rains are expected to cause river or flash flooding in most *belg* rain-receiving areas. Near normal rainfall is anticipated over much of Oromia (East and West Wellega, Jimma, Ilu Ababora, West and North Shewa, West and East Hararge, Arsi, Bale, Borena and Guji), Addis Ababa, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Amhara (North and South Wello, North Shewa, West and East Gojam, the surrounding areas of Bahir Dar, a few areas of North and South Gondar), Afar (Zone 3, 4 and 5), Tigray (most Zones of Central, Eastern and Southern Tigray) and SNNP (Hadiya, Zones of Guragie, Kefa, Bench Maji, Wolayta, Dawuro, Gamo Gofa, Sidama, South Omo including Segen Peoples) regions.

Dry weather conditions will prevail over the remaining parts of the country, except few showers expected in Somali region.

Government and private partnership helping IDP durable solutions in Amhara region

- The contribution of the private sector to humanitarian response is gradually growing in Ethiopia.
- The April 2019 Ethiopia Food Security Outlook Update by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) foresees southeastern pastoral areas to experience Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes.

In addition to the effort of Government and aid agencies to respond to the rising humanitarian needs, the contribution of the private sector towards addressing the IDP situation is growing, particularly since the unprecedented displacement crisis in Ethiopia. The private sector and communities have been the first responders to the conflict displacement in Amhara region and beyond.

The Amhara regional Government held a fundraising event on 16 March 2019. The fundraising aimed at collecting money and in-kind resources in support of more than 107,000 conflict displaced people (60 per cent of them residing in Central and West Gonder zones).

According to Government source, of the required ETB 1.5 billion for IDP rehabilitation plan, ETB 626 million was pledged and ETB 306,863,634 collected (49 per cent from the pledge), as of May 05, 2019. Using the resource, the Amhara Regional Government was able to procure and supply 174,062 corrugated iron sheet and different size nails to support the reconstruction of 6,652 burned houses in Central and West Gonder zones.

So far, the Government returned 12,680 IDPs to their places of origin and reconstructed 629 houses in West Dembia, East Dembia, Chilga 1, Chilga 2 and Lay Armacho *woredas* of Central Gonder zone. In parallel, the Government is working on peacebuilding and reconciliation activities at regional, zone, *woreda* and *kebele* levels. The regional Government has called for humanitarian and development partners to do more in supporting the IDP durable solution initiatives in Amhara region.



Figure 2 Reconstruction of houses to IDPs in Amhara region.
Photo Credit: RDPFSP/ANSSCC, May 2019

Ethiopia Food Security Outlook Update, April 2019

The April 2019 Ethiopia Food Security Outlook Update by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), covering the period from October 2018 to May 2019, foresees southeastern pastoralist areas to experience Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes.

In southeastern pastoralist areas, pasture and water availability is expected to seasonally improve following the *deyr* rainfall through December 2018, and likely to typically deteriorate through the dry season until February 2019. Following the 2019 *gu* rainy season, regeneration of pasture and water is expected to be average, making it the second consecutive poor season, driving widespread Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes.

Food insecurity has further deteriorated in southern and southeastern pastoralist areas of SNNP, Oromia and Somali regions. This is particularly true in the southeastern parts of Somali region where rains did not start until the end of the first dekad of April. As a result, the entire region is expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through September.

2019 *belg* rainfall performance has been mixed but overall below average throughout the country, with relatively more favorable conditions in eastern Amhara, southern Tigray, and western SNNP reguibs beginning in the last week of March. Rainfall has been erratic and below-average in central and eastern Oromia, eastern SNNP and throughout Somali region. As a result, long-cycle and root crops are likely to be negatively impacted, and households in eastern SNNPR, Oromia and Amhara have planted less, reducing their typical total area planted.

Humanitarian food assistance needs exceed the number of total approved targeted beneficiaries and funding gaps are expected to persist. Taking into consideration the below average *gul/gana/belg* rainy season, the number of beneficiaries in need of humanitarian food assistance will likely increase. This will likely increase the number of poor households facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and above through September 2019.

- “We had lived there all our life and used to lead a humble life, taking care of our harvests and few animals before the violence happened,” says Boge.
- “The violence started in ‘Bilida’ (Oromia region). I still don’t know what motivated those people to attack my house, and I didn’t know them before either. They came from outside the community and started attacking us.”

Meanwhile, the result of a phone call exercise OCHA Somali region made with zonal early warnings and regional DPPB about rainfall status of *gu* rains indicated that 25 *woredas* have not received any rains while 68 *woredas* have received below normal rains.

The Story of Boge: An elderly woman at MSF Therapeutic Centre in Gotiti

Boge lived all her life in Dimtu *woreda* in West Guji zone. Her husband passed away a few years back. “We had lived there all our life and used to lead a humble life taking care of our harvest and few animals before the violence happened,” says Boge. Since last year, she and 16 other members of her family escaped violence in their community and moved to Kulesbure IDP site in Gotiti, Gedeo zone. She’s laying in a bed with a malnourished baby in her arms. A little girl sits by her with another baby, identical than the other one. They are twins.

“I’m the grandmother of the two babies. Their mother, Balanish, died while giving birth,” said Boge. The 7-year-old girl Tamara, who is holding one of the babies, imitating the moves and care of Boge, is not part of her family, but someone in the community who’s helping her with the babies. The health of the two malnourished babies who have been receiving treatment in MSF Therapeutic Centre for two days is progressing well and their life is no longer in danger. The babies were not given names yet because in this part of the world, communities often times do not name their children for few years. They generally call babies ‘Mamoush’ which means ‘small kid’.

She explained, “the violence started in ‘Bilida’ (Oromia region). I still don’t know what motivated those people to attack my house, and I didn’t know them before either. They came from outside the community and started attacking us.”

“Now”, she adds, “someone has occupied our land and our house was burned.” Some months ago, the Government returned Boge and many other thousands to their areas of origin where they were given some temporary shelter. But one night they were attacked again and fled across the border to Gedeo zone to settle in their current place. Boge said she wants to go back, but she won’t do it until security is guaranteed.



Figure 4 Boge and the little girl taking care of the twins.
Photo Credit: OCHA

Humanitarian funding update, as of 03 May 2019



ETHIOPIA

Humanitarian funding towards the appeal, 2017-2019



Funding situations at the same time in previous years



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