



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Some 313 Somali IDPs from Dire Dawa returned to their areas of origin in West Hararge zone, Oromia region
- At least three other groups from the IDPs in Dire Dawa have spontaneously relocated themselves previously to Awbarre, Togwajale, and Tuliguled of Faafan zone in Somali region.

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## Some 313 Somali IDPs from Dire Dawa returned to their areas of origin in West Hararge zone, Oromia region

On 06 November 2019, some 313 Somali IDPs (46 households) who have been residing at the Millennium Park in Dire Dawa City and opted to return to their areas of origin returned to 18 *kebeles* in Habro and Darulabu *woredas* of West Hararge zone of Oromia region. The return process was jointly led by the Dire Dawa City Administration and West Hararge zone. The Dire Dawa Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO) assisted the IDPs with up to ETB1,200 for transport and pocket money, as well as food for one month. Further assessment of needs is currently ongoing. The 46 households are the first group to return to their places of origin from the Dire Dawa IDP site. While some of the returnees entered directly into their own houses because the houses were not damaged, others who had lost their houses are now living with the host community.

At least three other groups of IDPs from Dire Dawa previously spontaneously relocated themselves to Awbarre, Togwajale, and Tuliguled of Faafan zone in Somali region because no adequate assistance was provided to them. Somali IDPs have been in Dire Dawa since the peak of the inter-ethnic conflict in September 2017. Dire Dawa administration decided to put them at the Millennium Park, a newly constructed recreational facility.

According to Dire Dawa DRMO, there are currently some 3,337 IDPs sheltering at the Millennium Park, although the 17<sup>th</sup> round of DTM report suggest a larger number of IDPs. Some 180 households were relocated to Magaalo'ad site of Erer *woreda* in May while about 200 households were moved to Awbarre and 19 households went to Tuliguled.



Figure 1 IDPs from Millennium park, Dire Dawa, heading to their places of origin. Photo Credit: IOM

## HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 27,000 IDPs in Metekel (Benisahngul Gumuz) and Awi (Amhara region) are living in a precarious situation.
- The fact that IDPs in Awi zone are not recognized by the regional Government has made it difficult to mobilize assistance.

## More than 27,000 IDPs in Metekel (Benisahngul Gumuz) and Awi (Amhara region) in limbo

Ethnic violence that started in *Aysika kebele*, Metekel zone of Benishangul Gumuz (BG) region, in April 2019 spread through Metekel zone resulting in the displacement of thousands of people across the border between Amhara and BG regions. Currently, an estimated 17,000 ethnic Amhara who lived in Metekel for generations were displaced to Chagni and Jawi *woredas* of Awi zone, while some 10,000 ethnic Gumuz fled to BG.

An OCHA team visited IDPs in both Metekel and Awi, who claimed not having received any assistance – including food – for months. Regional authorities in Amhara did not officially recognize the newly displaced and want them to return to their areas of origin. IDPs have been denied access to assistance since April and their previous displacement sites were dismantled. Only those who agreed to return to their areas of origin have had limited assistance. Although the Awi zone authorities recognize the need for assistance for the IDPs and are willing to collaborate with partners, unrecognition by the regional Government has made it difficult to mobilize resources.



Figure 2 IDPs at Gilgel Beles High School, Metekel Zone. Photo Credit: OCHA/Jordi

In Metekel, the situation of IDPs is highly concerning, with reports of cases of severe acute malnutrition among children IDPs in Guba *woreda*. There are no international partner present in both Metekel and Awi despite the significant humanitarian needs.

The team visited a newly built high school in Gilgelle Beles Town, which hosts close to 1,200 ethnic-Gumuz who have been displaced since May from Jawi *woreda* (Awi zone). Taking advantage of the summer school break, the zonal government allowed IDPs to shelter in the school as a temporary solution. However, upon the start of the school year, IDPs were still there and the Government was unable to relocate them, forcing hundreds of students to attend another high school located in Pawi, 20 km away from Gilgelle Beles.

Visited IDPs raised their concerns about the limited assistance they have received so far. They also raised health and sanitation issues because no latrines are operational in the school. When asked about prospects, IDPs were adamant that they did not want to return either to their place of displacement in Metekel or to their place of origin in Amhara and asked the Government to provide them land in Metekel, but closer to Amhara region. Unfortunately, both administrations are coordinating to return IDPs to areas of origin across the regional border, despite concerns over security and their preferences. Achieving peace and reconciliation among communities who lived with each other for decades will take time.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Government and partners conducting the 2019 *meher/deyr* seasonal assessment to determine the humanitarian requirement for Ethiopia in 2020.
- The 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ethiopia is expected to be launched in December this year.
- FAO warned that desert locust could lead Ethiopia into problems of food security, if not controlled immediately.
- The trend of cholera cases is increasing in Afar region with at least 116 cases reported since the outbreak began in October 2019.
- The Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF) launched the second-round standard allocation of 2019 for US\$ 25 million to support critical humanitarian response priorities and funding gaps.

## Government and partners to conduct the 2019 Ethiopia *meher/deyr* seasonal assessment

The 2019 Government-led multi-agency needs assessment is planned for 16-26 November in all regions, except in Somali where it will extend until 30 November. Teams are deployed across regions to conduct a spot check exercise in 21 selected *woredas* across 12 zones, the result of which will help validate LEAP-LIAS analysis. In addition to the 21 *woredas* to be visited, it was agreed that the assessment team will come back with data for *woredas* affected by Non-LEAP factor such as the ongoing Desert Locust infestation and some pocket areas identified by regions.

A two-day regional consultation workshop on the *meher/deyr* seasonal assessment was conducted on 13-14 November at the Intercontinental Hotel, Addis Ababa. The workshop was organized by NDRMC (supported by OCHA, FAO and WFP) to inform regional representatives on changes to the seasonal assessment and consult the proposed methodology. Two Government staff (per region) participated from Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions. The result of the assessment will help determine the humanitarian requirement for Ethiopia in 2020. The 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ethiopia is expected to be launched in December this year.

## The trend of cholera cases increasing in Afar region

The trend of cholera cases is increasing in Afar region with at least 116 cases reported since the outbreak began in October 2019. Most of the patients are daily laborers who are working at the Tendaho Sugar Factory. The Cholera Task Force established by the Regional Health Bureau, with WHO support, is increasing case management and control measures. Shortage of potable water and insufficient availability of water treatment chemicals are driving the outbreak.

## Desert locust could challenge food security in Ethiopia

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) warned that desert locust could lead Ethiopia into further problems of food security, if not controlled immediately. The desert locust that migrated from Somalia and Yemen have swarmed grazing and crop land across the country, mainly in parts of Afar, Amhara, Somali, Tigray, Oromia and Dire Dawa. The desert locust crisis started around June 2019 and has now become a threat to agricultural production and fodder in the country. For more on this, go to <https://bit.ly/2NX9EUK>



Figure 3 Desert locust in Gashamo Woreda of Somali Region



## US\$ 25 million EHF Second Round allocation

### HIGHLIGHTS

- “I escaped with my children to the eastern villages in the Somali region, we walked for three days non-stop. We were many moving together and eventually divided into small groups as we moved deep into the bush,” says Hawa Abdullahi who is struggling to recover from the aftermath of the conflict in Moyale Town.
- “The best way to recover is to create livelihoods for the affected IDPs. Some IDPs are agro pastoralists, others business men and women,” adds Hawa.

The Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF) launched the second-round standard allocation of 2019 for US\$ 25 million. The allocation supports critical humanitarian response priorities and funding gaps that were agreed upon and presented in the ‘Prioritization’ section of the Mid-Year Review of the Humanitarian Response Plan (MYR-HRP) for the second half of 2019. In the context of the immediate priorities included in the MYR, funding is allocated to the highest priority sectors of Agriculture (\$2 million), Education (\$1.5 million), Health (\$2.5 million), NFI/Emergency Shelter (\$2.5 million), Protection (\$2 million), WaSH (\$ 3.5 million) and nutrition (\$4 million).

Additionally, an allocation of \$4 million is enveloped for Somali region response to be determined locally in consultation with sub-national inter-cluster group. A further \$3 million is dedicated to continuing a multi-sectoral integrated response in WaSH, Health and ES/NFI through a pilot INGO consortium response programme. Immediate and life-saving activities, including access to safe water, establishment of sanitation facilities, support to health and nutrition services; averting pipeline breaks, responding to the shelter and other needs of IDPs/ returnees, and ensuring continuity of presence of partners already implementing in priority woredas have been identified for support. Protection services for IDPs and other groups with specific needs are also prioritized for funding.

The EHF also allocated \$35 million in April 2019, supporting 69 multi-sector projects in response to the needs of returnees and IDPs and other drought like situations in the country.

## Struggle for recovery in the aftermath of the Moyale violence

### The Personal story of Hawa Abdullahi on one side of the town

Hawa Abdullahi lived all her life in Moyale, a market town between on the Ethiopia-Kenya border. Separated by a road, one side of the town serves as the administrative center for Moyale *woreda* of Somali region, while the other side serves as the center for Moyale *woreda* of Oromia region. Hawa Abdullahi is a married mother of seven living in Chamuk, the Somali side of the town, near the junction to Hudet road.



Figure 4 Hawa Abdullahi in front of her damaged house.  
Photo Credit: OCHA/Jodri

The conflict between the neighboring Moyale communities of the two regions in November 2018 left many houses burnt and destroyed, forcing many to flee holding only what they could get in their hands.

“My house was burnt down and all my assets robbed during the violence. I escaped with my children to the eastern villages in the Somali region, we walked for three days non-stop. We were many moving together and eventually divided into small groups as we moved deep into the bush,” says Hawa.

She was part of a tailoring women group who had ten sewing machines, five of them were black and used for design and decoration while the rest five were white and used for ordinary

sewing activities. It was a good sustainable business that allowed them to save money and support their families. The group had received a small grant from the NGO 'Veterinaires sans Frontiers – Suisse' (VSF).

All her livelihood was destroyed and she now lives in a temporary shelter in her place. "I lost all my livelihoods. The attackers took what they could and destroyed all the houses, including those of my neighbors," adds Hawa. "The best way to recover is to create livelihoods for the affected IDPs. Some IDPs are agro-pastoralists, others are business men and women."

Hawa pointed to nearby schools and clinics as well as the 'TVET' vocational training college to indicate the scope of the damage left by the violence. "You only need to look around to see the extent of the damage. Some people are now doing some repairs, but had you seen it before, you would cry".

When asked about the future, she says that leaders of the communities should come together and invest in sustainable peace. Hawa said, "If the leaders provide a common unifying position with clean hearts, the people will be at peace forever, with the involvement of religious leaders. It is women and children who suffer most. We pray to God peace will be maintained throughout Moyale area." She blames politicians for the loss and destruction.

### **The personal story of Adoi Abdula, on the other side of the town**

Adoi Abdula, 42, has lived all her life in Moyale Town with her 11 children. Adoi, an Oromo by ethnicity, fled Moyale Town with all her family due to the violence in November 2018. They fled to Gambo, neighboring village in Kenya. Adoi witnessed similar experiences of conflict in the past, including the conflict she had seen as a teenager in the 1990s, while Ethiopia was in a political transition. "The recent conflict with the neighboring Somali communities had been particularly tough," says Adoi.

In April 2019, Adoi and her family returned to Moyale. Some 1,200 returnee households, including Adoi received a cash grant of 2,500 Ethiopian Birr (some US\$100) from the NGO Dorcas. They also received food aid and some non-food items such as cooking utensils, blankets from the Government. Adoi and her community support each other in hut making from locally available materials. Adoi says, "They need support to rebuild their houses that were damaged during the violence, when militias from both sides – after receiving respective reinforcements – engaged in a fierce battle in every part in town, systematically looting and burning houses and business."

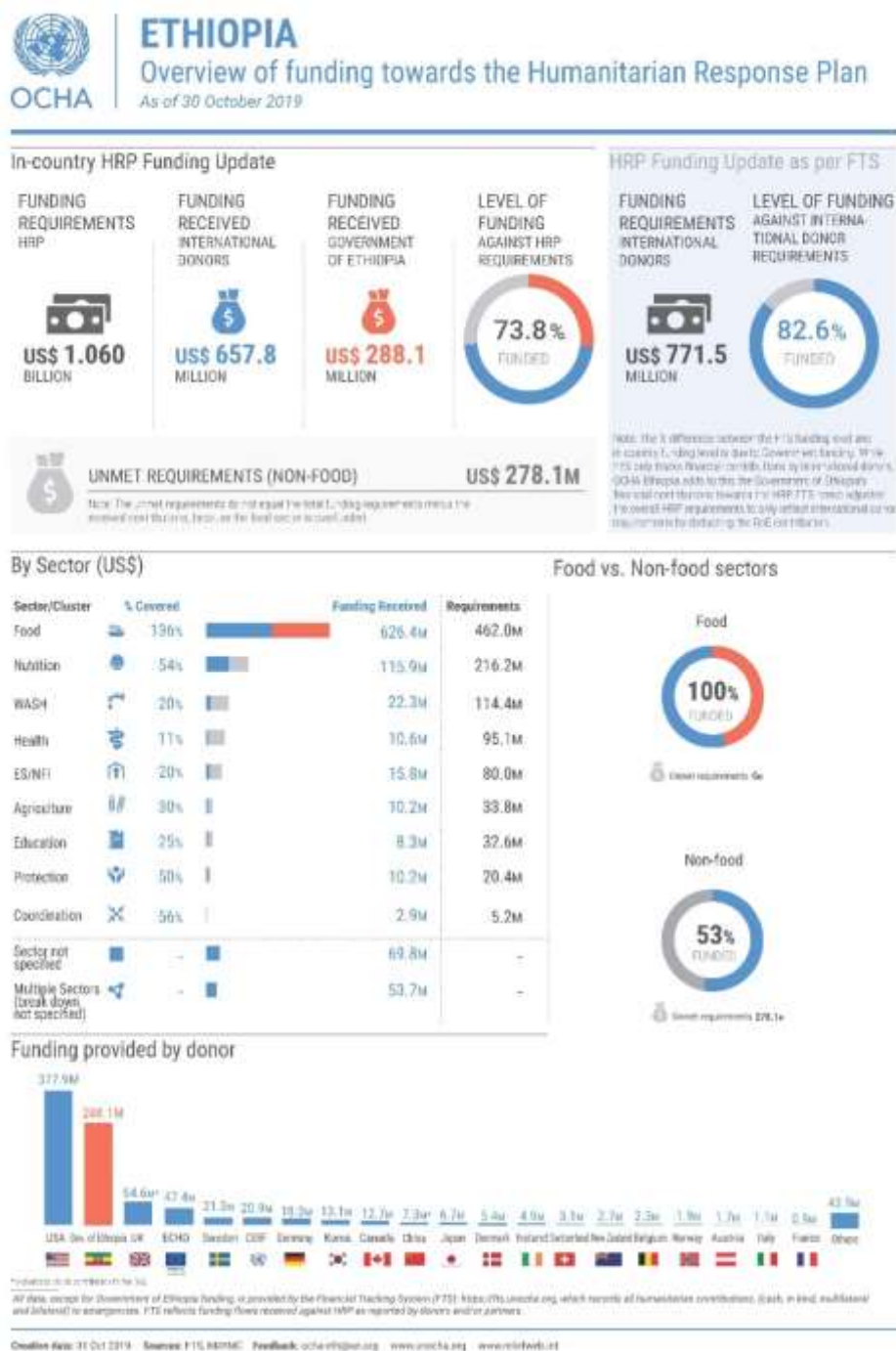
Adoi had been a leader of the local women association consisting of over 200 members. The association was established with an initial grant of the INGO CARE Ethiopia and funding from the European Union to initiate and sustain small entrepreneurial activities. She showed us, with a mix of regret and anger, how the association office had been looted, including the money they kept in the safe box and some 40 sacks of sugar. The place was also set on fire.

When we ask about her future, she answers, "no one asked me about my fate or future recently, as everyone in the community is struggling with rebuilding their lives after the violence." She says that with a group of women, they are using their resources to rebuild the office of the association and hopes to re-start activities soon.



*Figure 5 Adoi Abdula standing in front of the office of the association which she led.  
Photo Credit: OCHA/Jordi*

# Humanitarian funding update, as of 30 October 2019



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