

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Amhara Regional Government is facilitating the relocation of hundreds of thousands of people displaced from Tigray and Oromia due to conflict and violence.
- The Government is putting in place the required basic facilities in relocation sites and providing life-saving assistance to the IDPs. However, the needs far surpass the ongoing efforts.



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Urgent support needed for relocation of IDPs in new sites in Amhara Region

The Amhara Regional Government is facilitating the relocation of hundreds of thousands of people displaced mainly from Tigray and bordering areas as well as from Oromia regions due to conflict and violence, according to Amhara Regional authorities and recent multi-agency assessments. To date, the internally displaced people (IDPs) will be relocated from the Kobo Town in North Wollo Zone and Sekota Town in Waghemra Zone.

The relocation of an estimated 60,000 IDPs in Raya Kobo *Woreda* of North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region started on 14 March. The majority of IDPs were displaced from Raya Alamata, Ofra, Zata, Korem and Raya Azebo *woredas* of Southern Zone, Tigray Region. As of 23 March, nearly 10,000 IDPs were reported to have relocated to Jara in Dire Roka *Kebele* of Habru *Woreda*.



Figure 1 IDPs arriving at the new Jara site. Photo Credit: OCHA/Najib

The Government has started putting in place some basic facilities in relocation sites and providing life-saving assistance to the IDPs, with partners support. The needs far surpass the ongoing efforts and existing resources calling for additional capacity and funding. Ten large rubber tents have been erected, sheltering only a small fraction of the relocated population. At least 100 large tents are required to accommodate those displaced, with 20 of these tents needed urgently. Some 3,000 plastic sheets and 40 medium site tents for shelter construction have also been also dispatched to the new site in Jara. According to the Jara site multi-agency assessment conducted on 17 March, the Government is providing food assistance, while humanitarian partners are supporting with water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) interventions, with 20,000 liters of water delivered daily through water trucks. The construction of latrines is in progress. Shelter, food, WASH, health, nutrition,

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- Ongoing clashes along the Tigray and Afar regional boundary has left over 600,000 IDPs in Afar with little or no humanitarian assistance. Insecurity continues to prevent the movement of humanitarian supplies through the Semera-Abala-Mekelle road, leading to severe food, fuel and cash shortages in Tigray.
- Fatouma is an example of resilience in times of crisis. Together with her five children, her mother and other neighboring women, she fled fighting in Abala in December. Nine months pregnant at the time, she walked for days in search of security and assistance carrying her two-year old baby.

camp coordination and management as well as protection services remain the priority interventions required.

Since 7 March, the Government has also initiated the relocation of more than 14,000 IDPs from their current base in Sekota in Waghembra Zone to Weleh site, some 8 kilometres from Sekota Town. While tents and large rubber tents have already been provided by the Government, urgent additional multi-sector interventions are required.

Response to drought ongoing with severe limitations, more resources needed

Close to seven million people living in the lowlands of Oromia, Somali, SNNP and Southwest regions continue to experience the effects of drought, ongoing since late 2020. The situation is not expected to improve rapidly and will require a continuous engagement over the next months to come.

In Oromia and Somali regions, there are currently more than six million severely food insecure pastoralists and agro-pastoralists due to the drought. More than 1 million livestock have died eroding the communities' livelihood and more than 2,000 schools (1,800 schools in Somali and 334 in East/West Hararge zones of Oromia) are closed, affecting more than 682,000 students. Despite ongoing humanitarian response efforts, existing resources are not enough to meet all identified needs.



Weakened camels in drought-affected East Hararge Zone, Oromia. Photo Credit: East Hararge Disaster Risk Management Office

From the 3.6 million people receiving emergency food assistance (rice, sugar, vegetable cooking oil, wheat, lentils and oil) in the Somali Region, the Regional Government is supporting over one million people and each household receives 25kg sugar, 25kg rice and 5 litres of oil. An additional 2.4 million people (1.7 million people in 67 *woredas* for food relief and 649,724 people in 25 *woredas* for cash for relief) are being assisted by partners, though with a reduced rations of 12 kg per person (down from 15 kg) due to supply shortages. It is anticipated that a shortage of Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) supplies for malnourished mothers and children under five years after March 2022 could affect over 125,700 people across 72 *woredas* in Somali, currently being supported by WFP. Water trucking is provided to only 55 per cent of the affected areas, leaving 860,000 people unassisted. The Government has distributed some US\$5 million to around 311,000 people in Somali to mitigate further livelihood losses.

Increasing cases of malnutrition have been recorded in Southern Oromia where 68 severely affected *woredas* urgently require nutrition interventions. The regional Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO) is working with humanitarian partners to scale-up the Therapeutic Feeding Program to address rising malnutrition rates. Supply chain problems and increasing market prices are worsening conditions of the affected population.

The Somali Regional Drought Response Plan of nearly US\$78 million is facing a funding gap of at least \$54 million to address gaps in the ongoing humanitarian assistance to an estimated 3.6 million people. Meanwhile, the Regional Oromia Drought Response Plan calls for \$201 million to respond to the drought impact, out of which \$23.8 million is already available from the Government and partners, leaving a funding gap of \$177 million. The IDPs/returnees need continued lifesaving responses while efforts to initiate and step-up early recovery and durable solutions are in place to help support rebuild livelihoods. The latest Ethiopia drought update is available [here](#).

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The story of Fatouma, an IDP from Afar Region

“ I walked for two days with excruciating labor pain, with hardly enough water and food.”

From 6 to 10 March 2022, Afar Self-Help Development (APDA), a local NGO in Afar, visited conflict affected Afdera, Dallol and Konnaba areas. In Afdera, the team visited around 17,000 people who were displaced from Abala and some 43,000 from Berhale, including Fatouma (*name changed), a mother of five who fled from Abala.



Figure 2 Fatouma and her newborn child. Photo credit: APDA

Fatouma is an example of resilience in times of crisis. Together with her five children, her mother and other neighboring women, she fled fighting in Abala in December. Nine months pregnant at the time, she walked for days in search of security and assistance carrying her two-year old baby.

On the fourth day, labor pain kicked in. The women who fled with her encouraged her to keep walking to the nearest town, as there was no other help that could be provided in the wilderness.

Fatouma recalls her pain and suffering, “I walked for two days with excruciating labor pain, with hardly enough water and food.” After six days of fleeing her hometown and two days of labor, Fatouma collapsed under a tree. One of the women assisted her in giving birth to her sixth child.

The local community helped her until she regained her strength, and she continued on foot until she reached Harsuuma in Afdera, nine days later. The situation of Fatouma and thousands of other IDPs in Afdera is devastating, with humanitarian assistance impacted by ongoing conflict in the region.

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