Humanitarian Bulletin
Ethiopia

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OCHA



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HIGHLIGHTS

- The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock, visited Ethiopia from 8 to 11 September 2019 on a joint with PBSO mission
- "Ethiopia is challenged by chronic and multi-faceted crises, including drought and flooding, disease outbreaks and inter-communal violence that forced millions of people to flee their homes," said Mr. Lowcock.

Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Mark Lowcock's mission to Ethiopia, 8-11 September 2019

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock, visited Ethiopia from 8 to 11 September 2019.

He was accompanied by Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support (PBSO) and Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons who is on a separate mission to Ethiopia. Mr. Lowcock called for urgent funding to ramp up support for the Government-led response to displacement and other humanitarian needs, as well as durable solutions efforts. More than 8 million people in Ethiopia need food, shelter, medicine or other emergency assistance.

Mr. Lowcock started his mission by visiting IDPs,returnees, and host community peacebuilders in Chitu kebele of Gedeo zone, SNNPR to see firsthand the impact of the displacement caused by ethnic conflict between the Gedeo and West Guji communities in April 2018. The Emergency Relief Coordinator was accompanied by Ethiopia's National Disaster Risk Management Commissioner, Mr. Mitiku Kassa, as well as local Government authorities who looked at urgent humanitarian assistance and durable support to displaced populations and returnees.



Figure 1USG Lowcock and Commissioner Mitiku visiting an IDP widow who lost her husband and three children in kercha woreda, Oromia region during the conflict. The widow decided not to return to her place of origin and is now living with her 6 children in a coffee market in Chitu kebele. Photo Credit: OCHA

HIGHLIGHTS

- "The Government of Ethiopia with partners is doing its best to rehabilitate IDPs who were displaced due to conflict. The Government has developed a strategic plan that will help to return IDPs in three phases," said Ato Mitiku Kasa, Commissioner of NDRMC.



Figure 2 USG in focus group discussion with members of the host community women at Chitu kebele, Gedeo zone, SNNP region. Photo Credit: OCHA

"Ethiopia is challenged by chronic and multi-faceted crises, including drought and flooding, disease outbreaks and inter-communal violence that forced millions of people to flee their homes," said Mr. Lowcock at the end of his visit.

Mr. Lowcock added, "Most of the people who have been returned to their areas of origin are still living in a situation of secondary displacement. We met with families that were in a limbo, living close by their destroyed homes and worried they would not have the opportunity to restart farming and other livelihoods they lost when they fled last year. These families and others in the host communities are in dire need of food, shelter and basic healthcare, as well as recovery support."

Ato Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), shared the Government of Ethiopia's strategy to help people affected by the displacement and what the international humanitarian community can support. "The Government of Ethiopia with partners is doing its best to rehabilitate IDPs who were displaced due to conflict. The Government has developed a strategic plan that will help to return IDPs in three phases: first phase being those displaced from border areas, the second being those displaced from one region to another, and, the third group being those returned and staying temporarily around their places," said the commissioner.

- I don't ever want to return to kercha woreda. I knew that the Gujis have already planted coffee and false banana in four of my farmlands. I would like to request the Government to let me sell all my farmlands there and buy a replacement here," said Yeshi.

Yeshi: the struggle for survival of an IDP widow in Chitu *kebele* who decided to not return

Ms. Yeshi Bogale is a widow who lost her husband and three children in kercha woreda, Hinchine kebele, Oromia region, during the conflict. They were killed while they were working in their farmland. Yeshi and her remaining six children managed to escape by hiding at a neighbor Guji family for that night and were then handed over to EDF who moved them out from Hinchini kebele to Kercha town via a military convoy. Yeshi is now one of the more than 800 IDPs in Chitu kebele who refused to return to their place of origin.

Currently, Yeshi is raising six children on her own, one of the children is a boy with special needs. She is trying all means to feed her children with some help from the host community and begging, since she was not allowed to be included in the list of beneficiaries targeted to receive food and non-food assistance. They are the only family left at the Coffee Market IDPs Site which used to shelter several IDPs households who have now retuned. "I am so traumatized by what happened to my family members, and I fear that the same thing could happen to me and my children if we return to Kercha" says Yeshi.



Figure 3 Widow Yeshi Bogale, says she will never return to her area of origin in which her husband and three of her children were brutally killed. Photo Credit: OCHA

HIGHLIGHTS

- "We've lived with our Gedeo brothers and sisters throughout our entire life. We never faced such a conflict, we never faced displacement, and we never faced drought before," says Mekonen Shote, a 38-year-old returnee, an Oromo by in Chitu Kebele, Gedeo zone of SNNP region.

Having lost her husband and her three elder boys, she feels too vulnerable to return and re-start her life in Kercha. She once went to Hinchini to see the condition of her farms and found out that the farmlands had been occupied by Gujis. "I don't ever want to return to kercha woreda. The Gujis have already planted coffee and false banana in four of my farmlands. I would like to request the Government to let me sell all my farmlands there and buy a replacement here," said Yeshi. She is not getting any form assistance from the Government or the partners because assistance is limited to returnees only. She has been receiving some support from the host communities who can no longer bear help because their capacity to share is depleted by now. Yeshi can't send her children to school nor can she feed them well. They sit in their big shanty IDP site and wait for support from some members of the host community like Felekech who still continue to share the little they have.

Mekonen: a returnee family re-starting life in Chitu *kebele*

Mr. Mekonen Shote, a 38-year-old ethnic Oromo was born and raised in Chitu kebele, in Yirgacheffe woreda. Mekonen's wife is from Gedeo. During the inter-communal conflict between the Gedeo and Guji communities in late April 2018, the whole family including their eight children and his elderly mother fled to Oromia region (Gelana woreda) of Oromia region following



Figure 4 Mekonen's family, 11 members, lives in this tiny makeshift. Photo Credit: OCHA

"We've lived with our Gedeo brothers and sisters throughout our entire life. We never faced such a conflict, we never faced displacement, and we never faced drought before," says Mekonen. Their concern increased when the first group of Gedeos who fled the violence in West Guji zone arrived in Chitu kebele. "Despite the fact that the kebele officials tried to calm us down and advised us to stay, we lived in the community in fear given the growing threats of revenge," adds Mekonen.

Mekonen hide in the bushes for some time, leaving the family at home, but this did not provide security and safety for his family. He eventually fled to Abaya woreda (Oromia region) with his four sons, leaving the females and a baby boy at home. Soon after, the remaining family members joined him in Oromia. "It was difficult for us to survive in an IDP setting for more than a month because we could not cook and feed ourselves." When the situation calmed down around October 2018, following a series of "Gondore" events (traditional peace and reconciliation practice by the elders, Abagadas), the whole family returned to Chitu. "When we came back after four months, we found out that our house was burnt together with household items and our livelihoods (four farmlands of coffee and false banana) destroyed."

Felekech: a host community first responder during the crisis and now a peace builder

HIGHLIGHTS

- "During those days of violent attacks, some of the IDPs had to pretend as if they were dead and did not move for days so that they could escape attacks and death," said Felkech, an IDP hosting woman in Chitu kebele.
- "I hosted 8 family members in my house, fed them from my false banana, and shared our clothes to them until they return," says Felekech.

Ms. Felekech Alemayehu, 32, has 8 children, two of whom alreadymarried and independent. Felekech has been supporting the IDPs who fled violence from the neighboring Oromia region since the onset of the violence, although she herself has very limited capacity. Like many of the community members in Chitu sheearns her living solely from seasonal coffee and false banana. Felekech remembers how ethnic Gedeos who were preparing to celebrate the Easter Holiday suddenly fled violence that left several injuries and deaths.

"When we heard that Gedeos in Kercha *woreda* were being attacked, we were very much worried and prayed for them to arrive safe and well and started mobilizing resources which we can provide when they arrive. They arrived in a very precarious situation. Parents were carrying two or more kids on their shoulder, withering away as they travelled on foot through the bushes for continuous days and nights. During those days of violent attacks, some of the IDPs had to pretend as if they were dead and did not move for days so that they could escape attacks and death," said Felkech.

Felekech remembers how the community welcomed them, and shared whatever they had, including coffee beans, clothes when the IDPs first arrived in Chitu. "I hosted 8 family members in my house, fed them from my false banana, and shared our clothes with them until they return," says Felekech. Felekech keeps contact with the IDPs she once hosted. Most have now returned to their places of origin, except one family who still feels threatened and doesn't want to return. Felekech continues to support these IDPs who decided not to return to their places of origin and are currently living in an extreme dire situation.



Figure 5 Felekech: The peace builder says she has been serving the community for the past 20 years and believes it is her calling and passion to do so

In addition to supporting IDPs and returnees, Felekech is also an active member of the Chitu peace building committee. It is her passion to serve the community. She has been doing this for the past 20 years and considers it as serving the will of God. She is one of the six women committee who promote peace over violence and hatred. The committee is working to promote and strengthen a harmonized environment for both the host community and returnees. The committee appease the returnees to remain hopeful and advise the host community members not to repeat the same mistake that happened last year. They also educate the youth to refrain from violent acts, theft, and addictive behavior. The peace building committee works closely with the *kebele* and *woreda* administration where they exchange information on trends, possible threats peace and security issues.

The peace committee also shares existing challenges on the delivery services such as water, health, and electricity. The peace committee refers violent acts to the elders and traditional leaders who will facilitate reconciliation and thereby avoid possible casualties. "When I sometimes notice signs of resistance from some men, I tell myself to remain strong because I believe in my calling," said Felekech. One critical challenge the peace committee has not been able to fully address is the fact that those who choose to not return have a very uncertain future, and are living in a progressively deteriorating situation because they don't get humanitarian assistance.

Flood continues to affect communities in several regions

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions continue to report incidences of flooding which affect the lives and livelihood of communities and causing displacement in several woredas.

Regions continue to report incidences of flooding which is affecting the lives and livelihood of communities and causing displacement in several woredas.

Official request from Afar, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regions indicate that flood has affected and displaced nearly 30,000 people (≈6,000 HHs). Dubti, Dolecha, Gelalo, Teru, Awash- fentale woredas in Afara region, Libo – kemekem and Fogera in Amhara reion, Illu and Sebeta Hawas woredas in oromia region, and Silte in SNNP are among the most severely affected by flood. The largest flood-induced IDPs (≈17,000) are found in Afar region, the majority of whom are in Dubti woreda.

Flood also displaced some 6,615 IDPs in Illu and Sebeta-hawase woredas in Southwest Shewa Zone of Oromia region, some 700 people in Libokemekem woreda South Gonder zone of Amhara region and some 1,284 people in Silite woreda, Silite Zone of SNNP region. Findings of the joint rapid assessment in flood affected woredas in Shaballe zone also indicate over 1,600 HH were displaced and 2,350HH affected by flash floods in Kalafo and Mustahil woredas, damaging over 2,600 hectares of farmland.

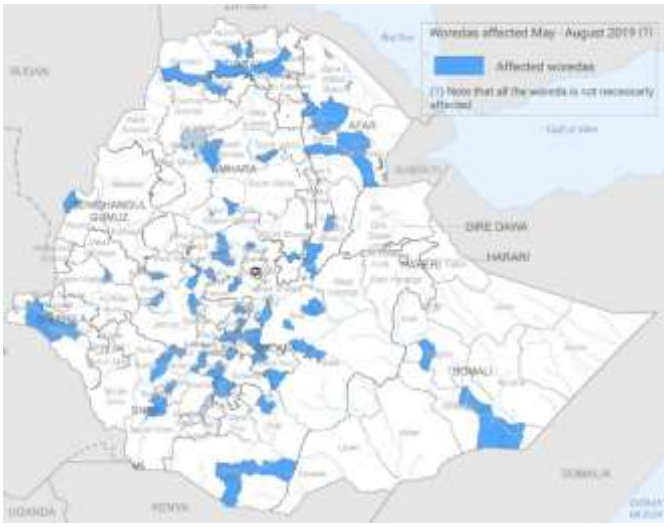


Figure 6 Flood affected woredas May-August 2019

The Government of Ethiopia has allocated and dispatched some 4,309 Quintals of food (Cereal, CSB, Biscuit, and Oil) and some partial kits of NFIs. Shelter and NFIs remain to be the biggest challenge in the ongoing flood response. IRC is planning to distribute NFIs in some affected woredas of Afar region.

On 16 September 2019, the National Flood Task Force, (NDRMC- chair, clusters, sectors, NGOs and NMA) estimated that flood will affect some 272,000 people, of whom 83,000 would likely be displaced across the country. Flood Alert released by the taskforce issued a flood alert on 23 August 2019 warned that the Northern and Western half parts of the country will receive heavy rainfall that is likely to cause flash and the river floods.

Partners implementing CERF allocation for secondary displacement, big gap remains

Implementing partners have started utilizing US$11.5 million the UN's Central Emergency Fund (CERF) allocated for secondarily displacement in July 2019 as promised in their proposals. The funding went to displaced population in East Hararge zone, (Oromia), West Guji zone, (Oromia), East Wollega zone, (Oromia); and Dawa zone, (Somali region) to provide Emergency Shelter/NFI, Health, Protection and Common Services interventions. However, the needs surpass the allocation, calling for an urgent additional funding.

ETHIOPIA

Overview of funding towards the Humanitarian Response Plan

As of 16 September 2019

In-country HRP Funding Update

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS HRP	FUNDING RECEIVED INTERNATIONAL DONORS	FUNDING RECEIVED GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA	LEVEL OF FUNDING AGAINST HRP REQUIREMENTS
US$ 1.313 BILLION	US$ 389.1 MILLION	US$ 288.1 MILLION	51.6% FUNDED

UNMET REQUIREMENTS US$ 636.3M

HRP Funding Update as per FTS

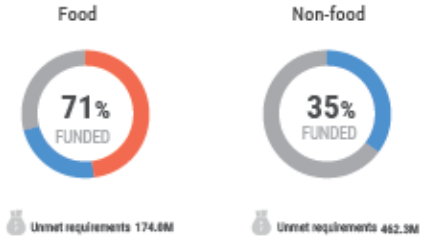
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS INTERNATIONAL DONORS	LEVEL OF FUNDING AGAINST INTERNATIONAL DONOR REQUIREMENTS
US$ 1.025 BILLION	35.4% FUNDED

Note: The % difference between the FTS funding level and in-country funding level is due to Government funding. While FTS only tracks financial contributions by international donors, OCHA Ethiopia adds to this the Government of Ethiopia's financial contributions towards the HRP. FTS hence adjusted the overall HRP requirements to only reflect international donor requirements by deducting the GoE contribution.

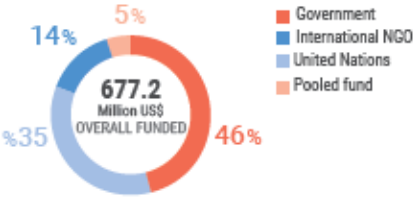
By Sector (US$)

Sector/Cluster	% Covered	Funding Received	Requirements
Food	71%	426.2M	600.3M
Nutrition	39%	78.3M	202.9M
Health	7%	10.6M	143.0M
WASH	17%	22.2M	133.7M
ES/NFI	13%	14.3M	112.2M
Agriculture	16%	10.2M	63.3M
Education	19%	8.3M	44.6M
Protection	59%	7.9M	13.4M
Sector not specified	-	56.9M	-
Multiple Sectors (break down not specified)	-	41.9M	-

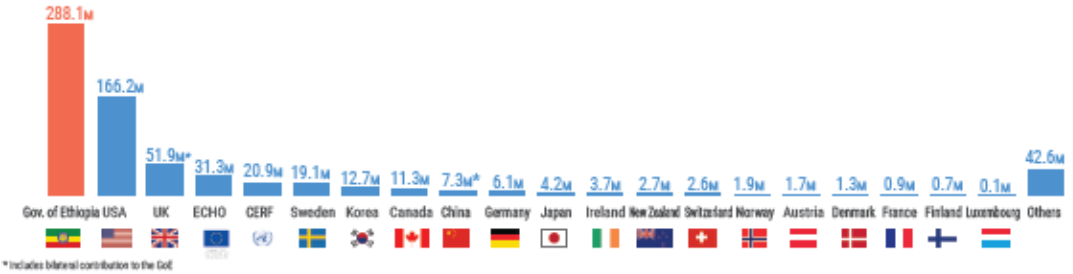
Food vs. Non-food sectors



By Type of Funding Recipient



Funding provided by donor



* Includes bilateral contribution to the GoE

All data, except for Government of Ethiopia funding, is provided by the Financial Tracking System (FTS): https://fts.unocha.org, which records all humanitarian contributions, (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. FTS reflects funding flows received against HRP as reported by donors and/or partners.

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