

Country Situation Highlights

UN's Central Emergency Response Fund allocates USD15 million to Ethiopia

On July 12 2018, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the release of USD15 million to assist people affected by localized inter-communal violence in Ethiopia. This is the third allocation by the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF1) to Ethiopia in 2018. The latest allocation has enabled humanitarian partners to scale up life-saving assistance, in support of the Government-led response to the Gedeo-West Guji displacement crisis, since April this year. More than 36,600 people will receive urgent nutrition assistance, some 600,000 people will be supported with water, sanitation and hygiene service, 71,200 households will receive non-food item kits and 175,000 people will benefit from health-care services.

Gedeo-West Guji Displacement Crisis: Highlights

- The Government and partners have taken several measures to enhance response coordination and to boost response capacity at site level. Two Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) were established in Dilla Town and in Bule Hora Town;
- The response is swiftly scaled-up with new resources being allocated, as well as diverted resources from life-saving responses to drought, flood and conflict-displacements elsewhere in the country;
- The Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT) endorsed the re-activation of the Logistics Cluster to urgently fill gaps in transportation, storage and distribution/staffing capacity, and speed-up ongoing relief efforts;
- There are still significant resource and commodity gaps. IDPs' living condition is still cramped; relief food deliveries are still not adequate; protection risks, hygiene and sanitation issues are still rife; while health outbreak risks are still high. The level of acute malnutrition among IDP children is also a grave concern.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

7.9 million* People in need of relief food/cash

350,111* Children in need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition

2.2 million* School-aged children, including adolescents, in need of emergency school feeding and learning material assistance

2.8 million** internally displaced persons in Ethiopia (79 per cent displaced due to conflict)

822,187** IDPs in Gedeo Zone of which 307,741 are in collective centers/camp settings, and 514,446 are in host communities

188,747***** IDPs in west Guji Zone of which 76,093 (40% in 10 collective centers and 112,654 (60%0 hosted by 18 communities

923,863*** Registered refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia.

*2018 Humanitarian and Disaster Resilience Plan for Ethiopia, March 2018

** DTM Ethiopia National Dashboard Round 11, (IOM MAY – JUNE 2018)

*** Ethiopia, refugee and asylum seekers (UNHCR, June 2018),

**** West Guji Zonal Authorities

NATIONAL FLOOD ALERT: In August 2018, the National Metrology Agency issued a new mid-season weather analysis for the Mid-Kiremt season (June & July) focusing on Climate assessment and a Forecast for the remaining months (August & September) 2018. According to this forecast, for the remaining months of the rainy season the NMA indicated that heavy falls and thundery

showers are anticipated to occur in some parts of the country, and dominantly normal rainfall activity for a few other areas.

Mid-Kiremt Forecast for August and September 2018:

- In the upcoming months, western and central Tigray, western and central Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, western and central Oromia, western parts of SNNPR will have normal and above normal rainfall activity;
- On the other hand, Eastern Tigray and Amhara, Afar, Eastern Oromia, DireDawa, Harari, Northern Somali, Eastern part of SNNPR will have normal precipitations;
- Heavy falls and thundery showers are anticipated to occur from convective cloud developments;
- After Mid of September, the seasonal Bega rain is expected to commence over southern Ethiopia and the amount is anticipated to be near normal.

ChildFund Ethiopia Response

Fundraising:

While the emergency continues to get complex with increasing number of internally displaced people (IDPs), the funding opportunities have not matched the current vast need. As such, the CO has embarked on scoping and data collection exercises in different geographical areas in order to develop funding proposals. Currently, the CO pursues the following opportunities:

- A proposal on Natural Disaster Recovery Project at Siraro was submitted to ChildFund-Australia for their support.
- A final proposal on resilience building project submitted to ChildFund Korea.
- With regards to addressing the needs of IDP's, the Country Office has submitted a proposal for a call from UNOCHA on sectors such as, WASH NFI, hygiene promotion, emergency latrine construction and WASH. Emphasis was not given to Child protection activities, for IDPs in Oromia (Kercha and Bule-Hora district/sites), as priority was given by UNOCHA to those who have been addressing the needs of IDPs by their internal funding sources.
- The Country Office (CO) developed a proposal on IDPs WASH response at Gedee Zone of two districts for a call from ECHO/IRC and shared the draft proposal to RD/GAM for their review and approval. IO has reviewed the proposal and the CO is on due process of submitting the proposal to ECHO/IRC of EMERGENCY RESPONSE MECHANISM-VI (ERM-VI).

Networking and partnership

The Country Office has maintained its participation and engagement in different forums, clusters and technical working group meetings. Maintaining relationships and regularly participating in coordination meetings has proved to be crucial on getting updates on humanitarian situations as well as, development of response plans, reduce duplication of efforts, and pooling resources. The CO actively participates in Emergency WASH and Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) Clusters and Emergency communication groups where members share information and coordinate humanitarian responses.

Coordination

ChildFund and its local partners work closely with the local government structures in all districts and regions where they implement emergency responses. The CO also works in collaboration

with NRDMC at federal level, WFP, UNOCHA, UNICEF and international and local Non-Governmental Organizations.

Communication and Advocacy

At the invitation of UNOCHA, the CO participated in a discussion session on historical analysis of climate change in the Horn of Africa on August 9. At this session, participants from UN agencies and INGOs attend the presentation by Climate Scientist, Dr. Diriba Korecha, on the frequency of droughts, its impact on lives and livelihoods in Ethiopia.

The World Humanitarian Day commemorated in Addis Ababa under the banner "Give Blood, Save Lives" on 23 August. The event sought to pay tribute to millions of men and women who dedicated their lives for the service of humanity: community members, Red Cross volunteers or Government, national and international humanitarian workers. The CO staff participated in a blood donation drive organized at the ECA compound. ChildFund Ethiopia featured on the UNOCHA bi-weekly bulletin.

Emergency Response Strategy - Revised Strategy

The Country Office with the support from EMU (IO), has developed a two-year strategy on Recovery and Resilience-building starting from April 2018 to March 2020. The strategy mainly focuses on two regions; Oromia region and South Nations Nationality People's region (SNNPR), as these regions are prone to natural disasters, mainly drought and flooding.

The strategy is in its final stage at the CO level and ready to be shared to IO for their final review and to be widely used for resource mobilization purpose.

Annexes:



Figure 1: IDPs in Gedeo Zone (Source:Oxfam Rapid Assessment report)



Figure 2: IDPs sheltered in a church in Kercha town, West Guji



Figure 3: Woman baking bread in West Guji makeshift IDP "camp"



Figure 5: Flood incident in Kality Sub-City, Addis Ababa, August 2018