



Displaced individuals play Table Tennis in Chiriku collective site, Geddeo Zone.

IOM provides recreation equipment along with Shelter, WASH and Health services at the site. / D. Zimmerman IOM 2018

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Localized conflict and insecurity between communities in Ethiopia's Geddeo Zone (Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region – SNNPR) and West Guji Zone (Oromia Region) led to the rapid displacement of nearly 960,000 people between April and July 2018.

On 24th July, IOM launched an appeal for USD 22.2 million to respond with Site Management, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items (ES/NFI), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) services. The appeal aims to reach 400,000 affected individuals in IDP collective sites and host communities. Since the appeal, IOM has provided services in over 40 sites.

In mid-August, government-supported returns began toward areas of origin, though the situation for returnees remains precarious. Many are unable or unwilling to return to their original properties, and now gather in new collective sites in their kebele (town council) of origin.

By 1st October, over 330,000 IDPs were reportedly transported back to their area of origin by the government. The majority of this movement has been from Geddeo to West Guji, and has been conducted without notice or coordination with humanitarian partners. IOM teams are now rapidly scaling up operations in West Guji to serve new caseloads as they arrive. Emergency SMS, Shelter, and WASH services have now reached over 20 collective sites in West Guji, though additional support is urgently needed.

The situation has been further complicated by periodic access challenges to both IDP and returnee sites. Rain, insecurity, and area politics have limited teams' movements and compounded the difficulty of implementation. IOM is further increasing its field presence in West Guji through the expansion of its Bule Hora operation and the opening of the Bule Hora Humanitarian Hub. IOM and UN partners will base at the Hub to improve response coordination.

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SITE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

IOM's SMS response focuses on four key pillars: Community Services, Site Operations and Improvements, Coordination and Information Management, and Capacity Development.

Sites directly supported	41
Community committees established	74
PWSN registered for support	350
SMS trainings for government and partners	4

In West Guji Zone, SMS teams are establishing site committees in areas of return in Kercha Woreda. A PSEA referral pathway has been created alongside UNHCR Protection and OCHA, with IOM SMS serving as a vital point for reporting. IOM teams continue to conduct regular site visits and zonal-, woreda-, and kebele-level coordination meetings with humanitarian partners and government representatives.

In Gedeo Zone, decommissioning is underway in several now-empty IDP sites. Communal shelters and kitchens are being dismantled, and the sites cleaned and solid waste removed for use by host community as organic manure for agriculture. Both host community and IDPs are involved in the decommissioning of sites through Cash for Work initiatives. All building materials from dismantled kitchens and shelters will be recycled through distribution for returned IDPs in coordination with IOM Shelter and Woreda officials.



EMERGENCY SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS

IOM Shelter continues to support displaced communities across Gedeo and West Guji with emergency shelter kits, communal shelter construction, and rehabilitation support. IOM recently distributed 1,995 shelter kits provided through partnership with ShelterBox. Shelter teams are also currently renovating existing structures such as churches and marketplaces across West Guji to provide emergency communal shelter in collective sites.

People reached with full ES/NFI kits	75,020
DFID blankets distributed	47,400
USAID blankets distributed	5,000
DFID shelter kits distributed	9,400
ShelterBox kits distributed	1,995

In its role as cluster lead agency for ES/NFI, IOM supports partners and liaises with government authorities to coordinate emergency shelter and NFI interventions.

Recently, the cluster has been holding meetings with key partners and cluster coordinators to discuss joint ES/NFI and WASH assistance packages which will support emergency and recovery needs and improve conditions in collective sites. The cluster is also engaging host communities while continuing to procure and distribute for emergency shelter interventions where needed.



EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NFI KIT RECIPIENT, WEST GUJI © IOM 2018

To further support the interagency response, IOM has constructed Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in both Gedeo and West Guji for the humanitarian community's use. IOM's truck is regularly used by partner agencies to move supplies from the MSU and carry out distributions.



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM is concentrating its WASH response in 22 sites in Gedeb Woreda (Gedeo) and 18 sites in Kercha Woreda (West Guji). The intervention pursues comprehensive WASH packages tackling the most urgent needs in terms of adequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene awareness in collective sites. In the coming weeks, interventions such as WASH in institutions and rehabilitation of water schemes are planned to support the recovery process.

IOM WASH teams are rapidly scaling up operations across West Guji areas of returns and collective settlements.

In the past three weeks, 94 latrine stances have been constructed in West Guji and multiple water scheme rehabilitations carried out. Furthermore, the team has trained an additional 36 hygiene promoters to raise awareness and prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases such as Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD).

People Reached	94,924
Latrine stances constructed	860
Dignity kits distributed to women	8,827
Hygiene promoters trained	97
People reached with hygiene messaging	36,241

In the coming weeks, IOM will continue emergency interventions across West Guji and decommissioning activities in Gedeo. Teams will continue supporting interagency response through active participation in cluster activities, as IOM now serves as WASH Cluster co-lead for Kercha and Gedeb Woredas.



IOM WASH STAFF CONDUCT HYGIENE KIT DISTRIBUTION IN KERCHA, WEST GUJI © IOM 2018

IOM activities in response to the Gedeo and West Guji Crisis are supported by:



HEALTH

With funding from the Italian and German governments, IOM has launched Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) in Gedeo and West Guji zones. This intervention addresses a critical gap in primary healthcare and nutrition services among displaced communities.

People Reached	11,595
Mobile health and nutrition clinics operated	3
Patient consultations conducted	6,133
Children nutrition screenings	1,191
People reached with health messaging	4,271

In the past three weeks, 3,310 patient consultations were carried out at Chiriku returnee site in Yirgachfe (Gedeo Zone), Kochere Hanko site (Gedeo Zone), and Hambela site (West Guji Zone). Mobile health teams continue to work alongside the government health system to refer patients and support outreach. Additionally, the team is now in the planning and design phase of rehabilitating a government health post in Gedeo.



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

DTM has been tracking the movements of displaced populations as they are being relocated back to their locations of origin. Reports are released internally every Monday and Thursday with updated figures on new arrivals at Woreda- and Kebele-level. Along with finalizing DTM rapid response assessment round three, the DTM team in Dilla Town (Gedeo Zone) has begun preparations for launching round four.

Additionally, DTM has partnered with IOM's Protection Advisor to inform protection cluster partners of the ways in which DTM can support protection activities, particularly protection monitoring.



DISPLACED INDIVIDUALS CONSTRUCT TEMPORARY SHELTERS AT CHIRIKU, GEDEO ZONE © IOM 2018