Context:

- The ethnic conflict between the Guji and Gedeo people erupted in April 2018 and escalated in June, displacing an estimated 800,000 people in Gedeo and Guji zones. Following a series of peace and reconciliation efforts by the Aba Gadas (traditional leaders) of Gedeo and West Guji, a government-led return process commenced in mid-August 2018, with a substantial number of IDPs returning to their woredas. However, the resumption of hostilities and destruction of livelihoods in December 2018 in West Guji Zone displaced, once again, thousands of IDP returnees, forcing them to seek protection and assistance.

- As of July 2022, 690,364 persons are still displaced across Gedeo and 315,492 in West Guji. The Government-led return process was initiated in May 2019, following the consultative meetings conducted in March 2019 with participation of Government entities at different levels, including the Ministry of Peace, the two regional and Zonal Officials (Oromia-West Guji and SNNPR-Gedeo), IDPs and host communities. As a result, the majority of the IDPs were returned to either areas of their habitual residence or to places of origin. The majority of returnees were accommodated in host communities and collective centers, while others are housed in spontaneous sites and dispersed settlements.

- In 2022, 20,180 households (125,571 individuals) have been displaced from different parts of West Guji and hosted in relatively safe areas following the deterioration of the security in all woredas, except Hambela Wamena and Abaya.

- Over 470,000 community members are affected by the drought and need food assistance in four main woredas (Suro barguda, Melka soda, Dugdawa and Bule hora) of West Guji zone from February to July, 2022.

- In 2021, the ethnic conflict in the Konso zone and the surrounding special woredas including Amaro, Ale, Burji, and Derashe displaced 11,116 IDP households/HHs (66,711 individuals). An additional 3,603 HHs (22,167 individuals) were displaced by the inter-communal conflict in Ale special Woreda and Konso zone.

UNHCR response

- Since the outset of the emergency, UNHCR has been responding to internal displacement in Bule Hora by providing quality community-based protection support and services to IDPs, addressing basic needs of IDPs through shelter, core relief items, providing legal assistance and support in obtaining relevant documentation, and assisting the IDPs to find a durable solution of their choice.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1,600,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs/Returnee) benefited from UNHCR protection interventions, including from 61 Community-Based Protection structures that were established.

- 250,000 IDPs and host community members reached through assessments on vulnerability (Joint, rapid and scope, protection monitoring missions, home to home visits, individual interviews)

- 50,000 IDPs received core relief items

- 300 cases of GBV were identified and referred for appropriate response services including medical, legal, material support, and psychosocial services. 20,000 IDPs reached with awareness raising sessions on GBV Prevention and Response

- 4,000 Women and girls received dignity kits, and 1,564 vulnerable returnee women benefited from cash assistance and support of economic activities 1,500 pregnant/lactating women with serious health condition benefited from health linkages and cash grants covering annual medical insurance expense and transportation cost.

- 1,500 IDPs received emergency shelter kits. 1,000 household latrines constructed for shelter beneficiaries.

- 14,317 IDPs benefited from capacity building and training on basic protection principles and protection mainstreaming

- 150 returnee HHs received durable shelter assistance - reconstruction of damaged shelters with adequate living space and contextualized pre-conflict home design.
Additionally:

- 700 persons with disabilities, majority of whom are women and students, were provided with mobility items such as crunches, wheelchairs, hearing aid and walking sticks.
- Start-up capital and material support was provided to 42 Women Self-Help Groups, who were trained on various income-generating schemes. The beneficiaries included 60 women engaged in grinding mill service provision.
- 6 women centers with improved latrines were constructed and fully furnished in 6 Woredas of Gedeo and West Guji Zones.
- 650 Buckets were distributed to 650 vulnerable households, improving their access and health practices in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- COVID-19 Corona Sanitary Materials and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were provided to 6 priority health facilities in 6 Woredas.
- 16 free legal aid centers were established in 15 IDP returnee areas of West Guji, Konso-Alle and Gedeo zones, in partnership with Bule Hora, Dilla and Arbaminch universities. 1,041 vulnerable persons of concerns were assisted with free legal aid services provided by the said universities.
- Trainings on IDP Law, Kampala convention and Protection Issues of IDP/Returnees were provided to 544 participants from relevant Government offices of Gedeo and West Guji Zones.

COORDINATION:
Strong partnerships and collaboration with other international humanitarian actors and Government counterparts established:

- UNHCR leads Protection Cluster, and contributes to the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster, as well as to Durable Solutions Working Group

PARTNERSHIPS:

- EECMY: Community- Based Protection and provision of assistance to Persons with Special Needs (PSNs)
- ANE: Shelter/NFI
- Dilla, Bule Hora, and Arbaminch Universities: Legal assistance and support (HLP Documentation):

UNHCR is focusing to achieve the following targets:

- Continue to provide quality community-based protection support and services to IDPs, addressing basic needs of IDPs through shelter, core relief items, and enhancing their protection through legal assistance and support (HLP Documentation, achieving a durable solution of their choice to their displacement).
- Continue to enhance services and targeted assistance for persons with specific needs.
- Promote livelihood support for vulnerable women and job creation for youths.
- Enhance peacebuilding and reconciliation activities.

Donors

UNHCR is grateful to donors contributing towards the IDP response in 2022: Canada | CERF | Country-Based Pooled Funds | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Italy | Japan | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Norway | Private donors | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | USA

For More information
Meba Teklewold teklewol@unhcr.org  Samuel Amanuel amanuels@unhcr.org, Neven Crvenkovic, crvenkov@unhcr.org

www.unhcr.org