

# Response to Internal Displacement in Ethiopia

January to June 2021

1. To provide quality protection support and services to IDPs.

2. To address basic needs of IDPs through shelter, core relief items and camp management activities enhancing their protection.

3. To support IDPs in achieving a durable solution of their choice to their displacement.

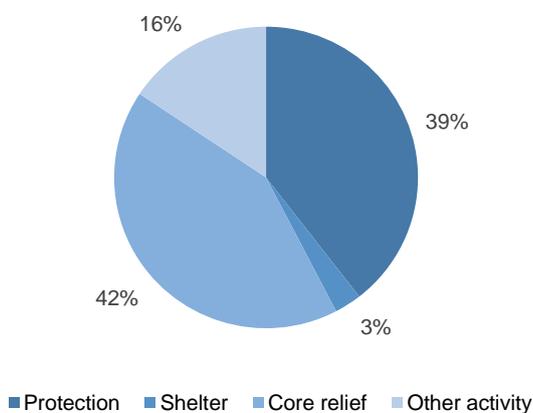
Conflict, inter-communal violence, natural disasters and other impacts of climate change continue to drive people into displacement. Some have lived in displacement for several years, while others have fled their homes very recently. It is estimated that some 4 million people are internally displaced across the country, while 1.4 million IDPs are returning to find a durable solution.<sup>1</sup> All of them need our attention. In response to this internal displacement situation, in the first half of the year, UNHCR reached **over 365,000 people in eight of Ethiopia's regions** including Afar, Benishangul Gumuz, Dire Dawa, Gambella, Oromia, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions.

From January to June 2021, UNHCR and its partners reached over **365,000** internally displaced people (IDPs) and returning IDPs with protection and assistance activities **in eight of Ethiopia's regions**.

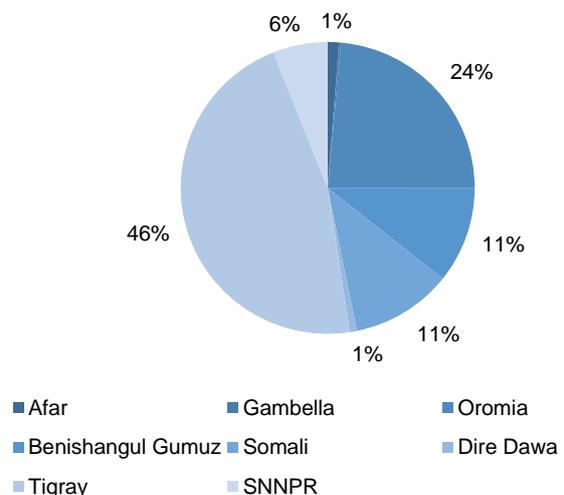
When responding to internal displacement, UNHCR responds on a needs-basis and works closely with partner organizations and coordinates its activities with authorities and through the respective humanitarian Cluster for Protection, Shelter/NFI and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCCM).

## Key Achievements

People reached by activity type  
January to June 2021



People reached by region  
January to June 2021



<sup>1</sup> DTM, National Displacement Report No.8, June 2021, and DTM Emergency Site Assessment No.7, August 2021.

## Operational Response

In **Afar region**, UNHCR together with its partner EECMY DASSC provided core relief items, including buckets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets and soap, to nearly 4,500 internally displaced people in the Digdiga and Hidaalu areas in Yalo and Awra woreda in zone four. The distribution prioritized persons with specific needs, such as single women with children or older people as the needs are high and are on the rise.



In **Benishangul Gumuz region**, over 39,000 internally displaced people were supported with shelter, core relief items as well as clothing. In **Gambella region**,

UNHCR assisted some 800 IDPs whose shelter suffered damage in a heavy windstorm in Abobo.

### Voice

“Me and my family have hope again.”

Female, 28 years lost her husband during conflict and was forced to flee. Earlier this year she received livestock support in Dire Dawa region.

In **Dire Dawa region**, UNHCR and partners supported nearly 3,000 IDPs and returning and relocated IDPs through protection, shelter and materials for permanent shelters as well as livelihoods, such as mini markets, to facilitate their durable solution path. Of those, over 300 women, including survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and female-headed households, received livestock support to help them generate an income.

Through its response to internal displacement in **the East and West Wollega zones of Oromia region**, UNHCR and partners reached nearly 58,000 IDPs and returning IDPs.

Of those, UNHCR in partnership with the Wollega University’s legal aid centres supported over 8,000 people with free legal aid and awareness aimed at restoring housing, land and property rights and to obtain identity and civil documentation. UNHCR further donated motorcycles to increase the outreach capacity of the free legal aid centres.

In order to prevent GBV, UNHCR and its partner AAH focused on training and sensitization, including through mass communication, reaching far over 25,000 people. In addition, through the same partnership, GBV survivors received support through dignity kits, financial aid to cover medical and other expenses, as well as psycho-social support and counselling, while small-scale income-generating activities aim at reducing vulnerabilities to GBV.

UNHCR and its partner ANE also provided core relief to over 5,000 people, and assisted others with cash to meet their basic needs or with rental subsidies.

### Voice

“With UNHCR’s support, I was represented in court which solved problems regarding my property. I am happy now and can raise my brothers without any worry of losing our house.”

Female, 19 years, lost her parents and fled from border kebeles of East Wollega zone.

In **West Guji and Gedeo zones of Oromia and SNNP regions**, UNHCR and its partners reached over 50,000 IDPs and returning IDPs.

Of those, over 13,000 people were reached with legal aid and awareness through UNHCR's partnership with Bule Hora and Dilla Universities and their free legal aid centres. This support has proven essential in assisting IDPs and returnees in restoring their housing, land and property or to obtain civil documentation. 200 heads of households also received land documentation from authorities, which facilitated demarcation and shelter support by UNHCR and its partner ANE.

### Voice

“Now we can see people, move around and be social, meeting with relatives and most importantly, we plan to join the school in the coming year.”

Children living with a disability, Abaya woreda, West Guji

UNHCR and its partner EECMY DASSC provides referral services and support to GBV survivors as well as tailored support services to persons with specific needs. For example, over 120 people with disabilities were provided with a wheelchair, while others with chronic health conditions were identified for community health insurance packages, and schoolgirls were provided with clothing.

In the **Somali region**, UNHCR responds to the needs of IDPs through our offices in Jijiga and Melkadida, reaching over 40,000 people.

In Dollo Ado and Filtu woredas, UNHCR with its partner PAPDA established five peacebuilding committees composed of male and female members of the displaced and host community to facilitate dialogue and help prevent and resolve tension and conflict, as well as offer a forum to settle disputes when they emerge. In eleven IDP sites in the Fafan zone, UNHCR together with partners established seven community-based protection committees and four community advocacy groups. These groups, equally composed of women and men, engage in inter-community dialogue to strengthen the peaceful co-existence and support community-based protection mechanisms, as well as to advocate on behalf of the community on pressing issues. In addition, UNHCR and its partners provided protection trainings, material support and working tools to the community-based protection committees and rehabilitated the community centres.



UNHCR and partners also undertook efforts to prevent and respond to GBV in Dollo Ado and Filtu woredas as well as in four sites of Fafan zone. This included case management and referral pathways, training of partners and government staff on case management and psychosocial support to GBV survivors, as well as awareness raising activities. Eight government departments and local authorities in Dollo Ado and Filtu woredas were supported with office equipment and furniture (computers, lockable cabinets, desks, and chairs)

### Voice

“Thanks to UNHCR’s through core relief items, now we have a solar lantern with all the accessories for both light and energy to charge our mobile phones and call our families and relatives elsewhere. It saves us money as we no longer need to travel and pay for transportation and charging our phones. This allows us to save money for other important things.”

Female, 27 years, fled from Wardher woreda, Doolo zone.

to enhance their capacity to adequately address and respond to protection issues, including management of individual GBV cases in the IDP sites.

In Tuli-Guled woreda, UNHCR with its partner constructed 50 improved shelters for returning IDPs, including older persons, people with disabilities, child-headed households, and women and girls at risk, who had lost their homes as result of conflict. Over 23,000 IDPs, including women and girls as well as older persons without family support, in Fafan, Siti, Korahey and Doolo zones benefited from core relief items to help lead a dignified life.

In the **Tigray region**, UNHCR and partners reached over 169,000 people.

UNHCR in collaboration with its partners IHS, EECMY and RaDO set up Protection Desks in over 40 IDP sites in Shire and Mekelle town and initiated outreach missions to other areas in the Tigray region which are hosting considerable numbers of IDPs. Protection Desks and outreach sessions aim to provide information and counselling to IDPs, identify individuals in need of protection or assistance and refer IDPs to the relevant services. The protection response was further strengthened by setting up GBV and Child Protection programming for IDPs, including the establishment of child friendly



spaces, setting up family tracing processes for unaccompanied and separated children, and identification and referrals of GBV survivors to specialized services.

Since the activation of the humanitarian coordination system in the Tigray region, UNHCR has since led the Protection Cluster and co-led the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster in Shire and Mekelle, and has supported inter-agency missions of the rapid response mechanism (RRM). UNHCR has provided camp management in 36 IDP sites in Shire, and will, together with its camp management partner ANE, provide camp management to an additional 7 IDP sites in Mekelle starting from July.

Together with its partners ANE, IHS and EECMY, UNHCR assisted over 100,000 IDPs with core relief items responding to the main needs they have expressed. This response was informed by protection monitoring and referrals with a view to prevent negative coping mechanisms, including child labour or survival sex, both of which have been reported. In addition, UNHCR in collaboration with its partner DEC, provided emergency shelter assistance to nearly 6,000 IDPs.

## Gaps and challenges

Humanitarian access to several areas of internal displacement including in Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia, and Tigray regions, as well as security concerns for partners and staff remain key challenges to the response. In Tigray specifically, the limitations related to the availability of cash, connectivity and fuel hamper the response. In other parts of the country, the limited presence of humanitarian responders or the reduction in the overall response capacity in locations with high needs, such as the Somali region, West Guji, Gedeo or the Wollega zones, has resulted in serious gaps in the response.

## Way forward

In the second half of the year, UNHCR together with its partners will:

- Scale up the response to internal displacement, focusing on areas experiencing large-scale new displacement, including in Afar and Amhara regions, and strengthen and solidify its protection response to internal displacement throughout the country.
- Strengthen the pursuit of durable solutions to internal displacement with the views and needs of the displaced communities at the centre.
- Leverage its Cluster lead roles to advocate for stronger presence and programmes of partner organizations for a more robust inter-agency response.

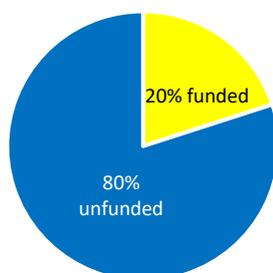
## Coordination and Partnerships

UNHCR's vision is for all internally displaced people to find protection from harm, live peacefully, learn, work and flourish as contributing members of the communities in which they live, and find longer term solutions to build a secure future.

In implementing its programme on internal displacement, UNHCR works closely with the Federal Government of Ethiopia, Regional authorities, other UN agencies, NGOs and the displaced and host communities. To ensure its response is well coordinated, UNHCR works in close collaboration with the three Clusters for Protection, Shelter/NFI and CCCM with a view to place the protection of IDPs central to the humanitarian response.

Read more on UNHCR's engagement in situations of internal displacement, in our [2019 policy](#).

## Funding (13 September 2021)



**USD 73 million** requested for the UNHCR Ethiopia IDP response in 2021 – 20% has been received to date.

**UNHCR is grateful for the direct contribution to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation in 2021**

US | Denmark | IKEA Foundation | Japan | European Union (ECHO) | Netherlands | Education Cannot Wait | The Lego Foundation | Canada | Norway | Ireland | Sweden | Switzerland | CERF | "la Caixa" Banking Foundation | Italy | CERF | Czechia | UN Children's Fund |

Country-based Pooled Funds| UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe| United Nations Foundation| UN Programme on HIV/AIDS| Toyota Tsusho Corporation| Laboratorios Viñas| Band Aid | UPS Corporate| Other private donors

#### **Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021**

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 55.7 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 28.5 million | United Kingdom 28.4 million | Germany 26 million | Japan 23.4 million | Private donors Japan 20.7 million | France 20.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Italy 14 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Sweden 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million

#### **For more information:**

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#### **LINKS**

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