SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in Ethiopia has deteriorated over the past four months. Since April 2018, continued insecurity and localized conflict between communities in Gedeo Zone (Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Region – SNNPR) and West Guji Zone (Oromia Region) have led to the rapid displacement of some 970,000 people. Assets have been lost, livelihoods disrupted and basic services and infrastructure damaged. The majority fled their homes in early June when a significant increase in violence further aggravated the situation bringing the number of people internally displaced in Gedeo to over 820,000, according to IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) July rapid assessments, and nearly 150,000 in West Guji*. The crisis in Gedeo and West Guji is occurring alongside existing displacement in other parts of the country. IOM’s DTM Round 11, conducted in May and June 2018, identified 1,776,685 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, of which 1,204,577 are displaced due to conflict and 536,321 due to climate related factors.

Most of the displaced population are staying with host communities, while others are sheltering in collective sites like schools, Government buildings and disused factories. For example, in Gedeo, one of the most densely populated areas in the country, 514,456 people are staying with host communities and 307,741 in collective sites, of which there are at least 80. Those staying in the local communities still come to the collective sites during the day to access humanitarian services. Overcrowded living conditions and open fire cooking next to sleeping areas, combined with a lack of safe sanitation access and hygiene items, as well as adverse weather conditions, are all contributing to a worsening environment from both health and protection perspectives. With Ethiopia experiencing its rainy season, ensuring that internally displaced people have adequate shelter to protect them from heavy rain and flooding is a priority.

*Only four of six woredas with recent displacement in West Guji assessed due to security concerns
Nearly 400,000 people, if not more, are sheltering in crowded areas, which lack privacy, deteriorate health conditions and put women and girls, in particular, at risk of gender based violence (GBV). Health needs are high with respiratory and diarrheal diseases and malnutrition being major concerns, as well as the potential for disease outbreaks. The capacity of local hospitals and clinics to address these needs is outweighed by the sheer amount of people displaced in such a small area and time period.

The Government of Ethiopia is leading the response in Gedeo and West Guji Zones with support from local and international organizations, but resources are already overstretched and cannot meet the scale of need. In June, national authorities launched a specific multi-sectoral plan to respond to internal displacement, which requires USD 117.7 million to be implemented.

Since June, IOM has been scaling up its response in Gedeo and West Guji Zones. However, with the large amount of people in need, urgent funding is required to carry out urgent life-saving interventions. This appeal outlines IOM’s funding requirement for the next six months in line with the Government’s West Guji-Gedeo response plan. IOM operations focus on providing humanitarian assistance to displaced populations in collective sites and within host communities through an integrated approach, encompassing Non-Food Items (NFIs) and Emergency Shelter (ES) support; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assistance; as well as primary health care. IOM’s Site Management Support (SMS) facilitates the improvement of service delivery of humanitarian interventions and the local authorities’ capacity to address protection concerns in displacement sites. In addition to this, IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is supporting the overall response by monitoring population movements and needs. IOM carries out all of its activities in support of the Government and is aiding them in establishing Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) in Dilla, Gedeo and Bule Hora, West Guji. As a lead emergency response agency on the ground, IOM is also establishing a humanitarian hub and supporting enhanced logistics capacity to support humanitarian actors in communicating, planning and delivering aid more efficiently and effectively.

*SMS, DTM and Part 4 of ES/NFI (Shelter Recovery Assistance) are currently not included in the Government’s West Guji-Gedeo response plan. However, as the situation and response have rapidly developed, these areas of work have become priorities for the humanitarian community and the Government.*

This appeal is complementary to the [IOM Appeal – Ethiopia Crisis Response 2018](#).

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**SITE MANAGEMENT**

With the scale and complexity of internal displacement in Gedeo and West Guji Zones, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and regional authorities have identified support for site management as a priority. From the onset of the emergency, federal and regional authorities deployed dedicated staff to manage and coordinate the response in all affected woredas with Zonal-level committees to facilitate the overall response. Enhancing capacities of local authorities to establish site management and coordination structures is vital to achieving an effective response, which meets the needs of the internally displaced population.

IOM’s Site Management Support (SMS) facilitates equitable access to protection, assistance and information for internally displaced persons, as well as helps improve living conditions in critical areas of internal displacement in Gedeo and West Guji Zones. The support centres around site management, site improvement and capacity building. Interventions will be carried out in support of the local authorities’ coordination of humanitarian response at displacement sites, while aiming to enhance their technical and resource capacity.

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**Funding required**

$2,000,000

**Target no. of individuals**

400,000
1. STATIC AND MOBILE SMS TEAMS

Static and Mobile SMS teams will ensure protection of rights, safety and dignity, and community participation in the management and coordination of sites.

For sites with 6,000 or more people residing in them or based on greater assessed needs, IOM will provide dedicated SMS staff, who will support the Government Site Coordinator and work with the internally displaced community leaders and host community groups, establishing and training committees where possible, to ensure their participation, representation and engagement.

Due to the scale and geographical distribution of displacement sites, and in consultation and coordination with regional and local authorities and other potential SMS agencies, IOM will deploy mobile SMS teams, supporting multiple sites. Deploying mobile teams in areas with clusters of smaller sites will maximize available resources, while ensuring that the traditional SMS activities can reach a larger number of displaced people. Improving the services at the collective sites also benefits the many displaced people staying with host communities, as they access services and assistance at the collective sites during the day.

2. PLANNED RESPONSE

The SMS teams will support the Government Site Coordinator and other local authorities to establish site management services, carry out site improvement works, and establish governance and community groups, where possible.

SMS will aim to implement the following services inside sites:

- **An information desk** providing site-specific data, referral information, log-in of service providers and service mapping information;

- **Complaints and feedback mechanisms** along with ensuring established referral pathways and communication of feedback to relevant stakeholders;

- **Support or establish governance structures and community groups** ensuring participation of the communities and engagement of the communities;

- **Site/area level coordination meetings** with community members (both displaced and host communities), local authorities and partners in attendance;

- **Service mapping and monitoring** to regularly identify critical gaps and needs, and facilitate multi-sectoral responses in the sites;

- **Information management** at site level, including carrying out rapid need assessments, as required;

- **Physical site planning** and safety audit in larger and more congested sites in collaboration with the shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene experts, as well as displaced and host communities;

- **Site improvement works** to improve living conditions and provide a more safe and dignified environment (for example, room partitions for families, construction of communal kitchen, etc.);

- **Site maintenance** through existing site committees, establish site maintenance plans (for example, organizing cleanup efforts, fire safety awareness campaign and committee, debris removal and management, etc.);

- **Capacity building workshops** with Site Government Coordinators and community trainings for the displaced and host community leaders.
**DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)**

The movements of the displaced population in both Gedeo and West Guji zones remain fluid as the communities commute on a regular basis between internal displacement sites and host community locations. Better understanding of their movements and needs is paramount to a more informed and effective response.

DTM was established in Ethiopia in 2016 to support the Government to collect information on population movements. Following the displacement in Gedeo and West Guji, DTM extended its activities to SNPR and reinforced its presence in Oromia.

Given the scale of displacement in both zones and the needs identified on the ground, IOM proposes to continue implementing targeted DTM assessments in Gedeo and West Guji and to provide regular updates on the movements and evolving needs of the population affected by the crisis. Reports will be frequently released on displacement and needs at woreda and site levels.

The DTM assessments will provide humanitarian partners with a mapping of displacement sites and host communities as well as detailed inter-sectoral information on all accessible sites. These reports will provide much needed information on the demographic profile and locations of the internally displaced population, as well as on the inter-sectoral needs identified in displacement sites.

The DTM results will inform the humanitarian response and contribute to support areas prioritization and beneficiary targeting.

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**EMERGENCY SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS (ES/NFI)**

The majority of those displaced by this conflict have lost most or all of their household items, often fleeing with nothing more than a few personal possessions. The displaced population also no longer have their other assets, including farms and livestock, as well as cash reserves. At the collective sites, they are not able to engage in their usual livelihood generating activities, such as farming and daily labour work. During the ongoing rainy season, NFIs such as blankets, mattresses and other household items or cash equivalents are critically required. The collective sites where they are displaced to are seriously overcrowded and are in need of drastic improvements to ensure the displaced population’s safety.

1. **NFI KITS**

IOM will support displaced communities with NFI kits that include blankets, sleeping mats for thermal comfort, jerry cans for water storage, kitchen sets for hygienic food preparation and consumption and mosquito nets to protect against vector borne diseases. IOM will also provide dignity kits consisting of reusable sanitary pads, underwear, solar flashlight, laundry soap, body soap, scarf, traditional female clothing, glycerin, whistle and paper bags to meet the basic hygiene needs of women and girls of reproductive age. The items will be procured both nationally and internationally based on availability and costs, and shipped by plane to ensure the fastest response. Building on Site Management Support and in coordination with local authorities on the ground, IOM will distribute following prioritization criteria and guidelines from the ES/NFI Cluster, to ensure proper targeting of the most vulnerable IDP households.

2. **COMMUNAL SHELTER CONSTRUCTION**

To help provide immediate shelter assistance and decongest overcrowded buildings to improve living conditions, IOM will also construct temporary communal shelters in collective sites in coordination with the local authorities. As the displaced population in the collective sites are already living together in shared spaces, communal shelters have been chosen to avoid conflict over
differentiated standards of service. The communal shelters built by IOM will be separated internally to give privacy to families and to minimize protection related concerns. These emergency life-saving measures will protect displaced people from the adverse weather conditions and reduce the health risks associated with open-air living, such as respiratory diseases.

3. ES/NFI CLUSTER COORDINATION

As the ES/NFI Cluster lead in Ethiopia, IOM has proven expertise in coordinating and implementing life-saving emergency ES/NFI response in multiple regions enduring coordination at national and subnational levels in support of the Cluster response strategy. IOM will provide procurement, logistics and transportation of NFI kits to the target areas where partners will undertake distribution of the items, building on existing capacity, including on-the-ground presence and logistic networks. To support coordination and effective delivery, IOM will conduct ES/NFI training targeting staff from Cluster agencies and the Government of Ethiopia, as well as market assessments of whether cash-based interventions are appropriate. This is a key part of the Government response plan.

4. SHELTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

In addition to the immediate life-saving shelter assistance and in order to support IDPs living with host communities IOM will provide customized shelter solutions for house expansions (when IDPs are being hosted by the local community) and shelter repairs in the context of returns. This intervention constitutes an integral component of the immediate emergency response phase to support return of the displaced population when feasible.

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**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

As the displacement sites are overcrowded, public health risks and disease outbreaks are a major concern, especially with regards to acute watery diarrhea (AWD). IOM is using its WASH intervention to decrease the likelihood of outbreaks and make sure the most vulnerable internally displaced communities, as well as the communities hosting them have access to basic WASH facilities. In coordination with the Government of Ethiopia, IOM will rehabilitate water supply schemes, construct safe sanitation facilities and conduct hygiene awareness raising among the displaced populations in Gedeo and West Guji Zones.

1. ADEQUATE AND SAFE ACCESS TO WATER

IOM will rehabilitate and expand water supply schemes and water points, which are not functional or do not provide enough water for the affected sites. This intervention will target both internally displaced persons and host communities to ensure equal access to resources and avoid conflict. To ensure sustainability of this intervention, IOM will train relevant local authorities and community members on proper maintenance and operation of the water schemes.

2. EMERGENCY AND SAFE ACCESS TO SANITATION

IOM will promote and implement the construction of sanitation facilities, as no adequate access currently exists. Construction will begin after consultation with all community representatives and a culturally accepted design is approved. The sanitation facilities will be gender segregated (included colour codes) and placed in locations agreed with the communities following consultations, with adequate distances between shelters, as well as lockable doors. Specific cases for people with special needs will be evaluated and adequately addressed to ensure easy and safe access to sanitation facilities.

3. PROMOTION OF SAFE HYGIENE PRACTICES

IOM will use different methods to raise awareness on key hygiene issues, such as the formation of committees, household visits, group sessions and campaigns. Hygiene and health promotion materials will be tailored for the response using a mix of text and graphics to reach all ages and literacy levels. IOM will train hygiene promoters on hand-washing, point-of-use water treatment, safe excreta disposal, AWD prevention and other health issues such as malaria prevention and waterborne related disease outbreaks. Safe excreta disposal and correct latrine usage aiming to eliminate open defecation will be a paramount part of the awareness.
Gender awareness will be mainstreamed in the hygiene and health promoters' trainings and in the implementation of their work. IOM will also support and build the capacity of local NGOs to carry out hygiene and health promotion activities. In addition to hygiene promotion, IOM will distribute basic hygiene kits to vulnerable members of the displaced community.

**HEALTH**

Already overstretched health service providers are struggling to meet the needs of the internally displaced population in addition to the local community. Due to the sheer amount of people becoming displaced in such a short space of time, the capacity of health clinics and partners requires great support. At present, most reported health concerns among the internally displaced population are diarrhea and pneumonia. Access to services for pregnant and lactating women is extremely lacking. The risk of outbreaks such as AWD, measles, meningitis and malaria is very high due to the lack of shelter and poor access to safe water and sanitation, which is further complicated by the rainy season.

1. **MOBILE HEALTH CLINICS**

IOM will operate mobile health clinics in Gedeo and West Guji Zones to ensure displaced populations in collective sites and host communities have access to health care. Those in need of urgent treatment will be brought to hospitals or referred via ambulance. The mobile teams will provide care under three pillars: maternal health, child health and the identification, notification and response to rapid-onset health emergencies.

2. **SUPPORT TO PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES**

In coordination with the Health Cluster and local health authorities, IOM will provide health care staff and medical equipment to public health facilities in Gedeo and West Guji Zones to supplement their response to the health needs of both the internally displaced population and host communities. IOM will also carry out capacity building activities for local health professionals and community health workers, so quality care can continue to be delivered after the IOM facilities are phased out.

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**Funding required**

$1,200,000

**Target no. of individuals**

200,000