

HIGHLIGHTS

- A “National Integrated Food-Cash Relief Plan” was released on 5 October in an effort to streamline the ongoing humanitarian response in line with the new approach to food/cash relief assistance.
- The Government and partners are developing an ‘HRD Status Update’, highlighting all outstanding 2017 HRD MYR requirements against revised sector requirements to address new needs since August.



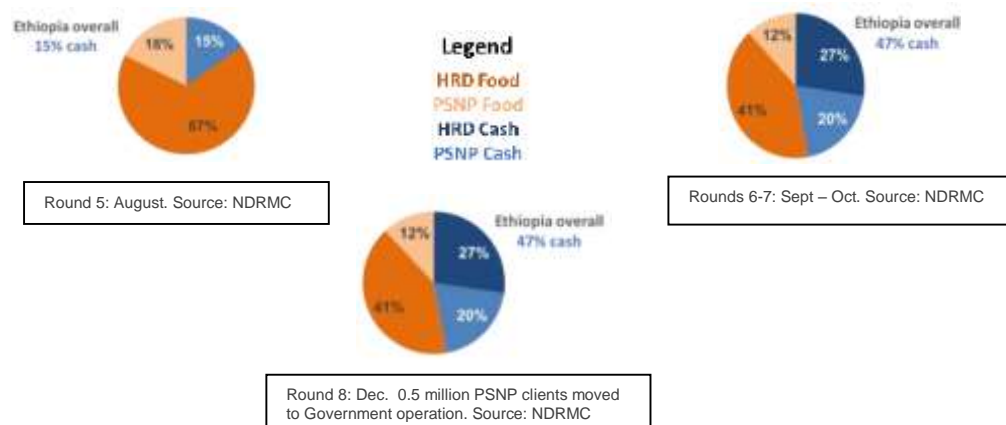
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Government releases the National Integrated Food-Cash Relief Plan for September-December 2017

A “National Integrated Food-Cash Relief Plan” was released on 5 October in an effort to align ongoing humanitarian responses with the new approach to food/cash relief assistance and the planned increase of cash-based assistance, where markets allow. The Plan represents an integrated and prioritized approach to delivering relief food and cash to the 8.5 million relief beneficiaries identified in the Humanitarian Requirements Document Mid-Year Review (HRD MYR), and the 4 million people who had been ‘public works clients’ of the six-months (January-June) Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) identified as requiring continued assistance to the end of the year.

The Plan proposed a) eight relief food rounds for 2017, instead of the initially planned nine rounds, b) full pulse ration for all beneficiaries depending on stock availability, c) increased proportion of the planned cash-based assistance, which lowers operational costs, and d) nutritional support to be provided using a combination of other approaches, including Blanket Supplementary Feeding, Target Supplementary Feeding and through the mobile health and nutrition teams, instead of the standard procedure of including corn soya blend (fortified food) in the HRD relief basket. These interventions will prioritize children under-5 and pregnant and lactating women.



FIGURES

Affected pop.	8.5 m
MAM	3.6 m
SAM	375,000

The Plan was developed under the leadership of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, the World Food Program, the JEOP (US-funded NGO consortium), the World Bank, USAID (OFDA

and Food for Peace), DFID, ECHO and OCHA. (please go to <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ethiopia/documents> to find the full document)

HRD sector requirements adjusted based on the changing humanitarian context

The Government and partners are developing an 'HRD Status Update', highlighting all outstanding 2017 HRD MYR requirements against revised sector requirements. The revision takes into account new needs since the release of the HRD MYR in early August, including a) the increase in internally displaced people, which increased the risk of acute watery diarrhea outbreak and the need for ES/NFI and WaSH interventions among others, b) the deterioration of the nutrition situation necessitating the introduction of Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program in 45 critically drought-affected districts in seven zones of Somali region, c) reports of crop failure in eastern Amhara, most parts of Oromia and SNNP regions due to frost and failed rains necessitating seed support for replanting, and d) funding for the prevention and control of Fall Armyworm infestation.

While this update adjusts the overall HRD requirements, the strategic objectives and other contents of the HRD MYR remain the same, and the HRD is still the common plan and implementation framework to address humanitarian needs in Ethiopia in 2017.

Government and partners are conducting several joint assessments to gauge the scope of needs of the conflict-affected people

The Government and humanitarian partners have jointly conducted several verification assessments in areas affected by the Oromia-Somali community conflict to identify the scope of humanitarian needs. Several additional assessments are also planned to be conducted in the coming days, where security permits. Although verification assessments were conducted in Dire Dawa, Harar and several areas of Oromia region (Bale, East and West Hararge, Guji, Borena and Moyale) by different agencies, access to the Somali region remains difficult notably to Dawa and Liben zones. To date, two multi-sector assessments were conducted in Maaenso and Qoloji site. Several additional verification and market assessments (for cash-based assistance) are planned. (See table below. Source: OCHA).

Type of assessment	Locations	Dates	By whom
Needs and verification assessments	Gura Damole, Dawe Kachen and Rayitu, Bale zone, Oromia region	11-21 Sept.	ERCS
Rapid health risk assessment	East Hararge zone, Oromia	25-30 Sept.	Led by Oromia Regional Health Bureau (RHB) and EPHI, with participation of IMC and CARE
Rapid health threats and response capacity	Harar Chenaksen Chiro and Mieso camps in East and West Hararge zones, Oromia	27-28 Sept.	MSF-S
Verification assessment	Haramassi site, Harar	26 Sept.	ICRC
Verification assessment and situation update	Chinaksen and Jarso, East Hargergha zone, Oromia	27-30 Sept.	ICRC and ERCS
Health assessment	Qoloji site in Fafan zone, Somali	1 Oct.	RHB and WHO
Needs assessment	Babile, Fafan zone, Somali region	2 Oct.	Led by Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) and OCHA, with

HIGHLIGHT

- The Government and humanitarian partners have jointly conducted several verification assessments in areas affected by the Oromia-Somali community conflict to gauge the scale of the emergency and identify the scope of humanitarian needs.

			participation of UNICEF, WHO, WFP, IOM, UNHCR, NRC, and DRC.
Needs and verification assessments	Maayso, Siti zone, Somali	2-3 Oct.	Led by Early Warning Coordinator and OCHA, with participation of WFP, UNICEF, WHO, NRC, Islamic Relief, Save the Children and IRC.
Market studies for possible cash-based interventions	Deder, Ferdis and Jarso, East Hararge zone, Oromia	2-6 Oct.	IOM, NRC, IRC and Care
Verification assessment and situational update	Additional areas in East and West Hararge zones, Oromia	2-6 Oct.	ERCS
Needs and verification assessments	Fik zone, Somali region	4 Oct.	NRC
Needs assessment	Elgof <i>kebele</i>	7 Oct.	Multi-sector
Health and nutrition situation	Maaiso, Denbel, Sitti zone, Somali region	9 Oct.	MSF-S and RHB
Needs and verification assessments	Bale, Borena, Guji and Moyale zones, Oromia	5-15 Oct.	Multi-sector, zonal DRM and OCHA led
Needs and verification assessments	East Hararghe Chinaksen, Fedis, Deder and Gorogutu, East Hararge, Oromia	9-12 Oct.	Multi-sector, zonal DRM and OCHA led
Needs and verification assessments	Miesso, Dorba, Chiro, Gumbi Bordode, West Hararge, Oromia	14-15 Oct.	Multi-sector, zonal DRM and OCHA led

Meanwhile, the Government and partners continue to provide multi-sector assistances to the displaced people in both regions. So far, the Government, through the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) has provided 16,000 metric tons (MT) of food for the displaced people. This food was taken as loan from the sixth round relief food stock, which NDRMC plans to restock with the expected relief food shipment in the coming days.

The Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster, in coordination with the WaSH Cluster, is distributing ES/NFI kits or the equivalent in cash based on assessment results. To date, ICRC has distributed 3,000 partial kits in Harar and East Hararge zone of Oromia region, and 1,935 full kits in East Hararge zone of Oromia; the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) distributed 900 kits in Fik zone, Somali region, and IOM distributed 1,200 kits in Dawe Kashan, Bale zone, Oromia region. Upcoming activities include the distribution of 830 ICRC kits by the Ethiopian Red Cross in Fafan zone, Somali; the distribution of 650 kits by IRC in West Hararge zone and 642 kits in East Hararge zone, Oromia region; distribution of 2,500 cash grants to IDPs in Qoloji, Somali region by IOM and NRC; distribution of 1,250 kits in Maaiso, Somali region by IOM; distribution of 700 kits by NRC in Fik zone, Somali region; and the distribution of 7,000 cash grants in the Hararges notably by IOM and Care.

Health partners are also supporting the Federal and Regional Health authorities address health risks and outbreaks amongst the displaced population, including reported AWD cases in Fafan zone of Somali region responded to by the Regional Health Bureau, WHO and Oxfam. Given heightened protection concerns in displacements settings, humanitarian partners are increasingly working to scale up protection interventions.

At the federal level, the response to the conflict-induced displacements continues to be coordinated through the NDRMC-chaired DRM Focus Group forum. Co-chaired by UNOCHA, this forum regularly meets twice a week at NDRMC in the presence of cluster coordinators, donors and Line Ministries. At regional level, response coordination is conducted through regular humanitarian response coordination channels.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government and humanitarian partners are pursuing multi-purpose, unconditional cash-based assistance for the conflict-displaced population in Oromia and Somali regions where assessments confirm the viability of this modality.
- The UN Country teams of Ethiopia and Kenya have committed to support both governments in the implementation of the “joint Cross-Border Integrated Program for Sustainable Peace and Socio-economic Transformation: Marsabit County, Kenya, and Borana and Dawa zones, Ethiopia”.

Cash-based assistance for conflict-IDPs where markets allow

The Government and humanitarian partners are pursuing multi-purpose, unconditional cash-based assistance for the conflict-displaced population in Oromia and Somali regions where assessments confirm the viability of this modality. Accordingly, several market assessments have been conducted in affected areas by the Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster (ES/NFI) members. According to the ES/NFI Cluster, assessments have confirmed that a cash-based response is possible in East and West Hararge zones of Oromia region and Fafan zone of Somali region. The Cluster has targeted 7,000 displaced households for cash grants and vouchers in its upcoming response. The OCHA-managed Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF) has allocated \$3 million for ES/NFI response, of which nearly half is for cash-based assistance for 3,100 households (25,500 individuals), implemented by IOM, NRC and IRC.

Ethiopia and Kenya UN Country Teams Collaborate to address recurrent crisis in the Borena – Moyale border areas

Following the agreement by the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya to implement a joint Cross-Border Integrated Program for Sustainable Peace and Socio-economic Transformation: Marsabit County, Kenya, and Borena and Dawa zones, Ethiopia in June this year, the UN Country teams (UNCT) of Ethiopia and Kenya have committed to support both governments in the implementation of the 4-year plan.

The overall budget requirement of \$550 million will support the conflict-ridden region to strengthen conflict resolution and peace building mechanisms, improve natural resources management, enhance market for the majority pastoralists who reside in the region and improve livelihood support.

The cross-border program builds on ongoing development initiatives in the area, and will engage a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, private sector, faith-based organizations, peace committees, development partners and philanthropic organizations.

Ethiopia and Kenya share a border of over 860 kilometres, home to diverse communities: Moyale is divided between the two countries; Borena, Garri, Gabra and Burji. With well-developed trade and social connections across the border, the Ethiopia-Kenya border has great potential to foster a vibrant cross-border economy, but the region has long been a source of inter-communal conflict.

At the end of a two-day retreat in Addis Ababa (8 - 9 October), UNCTs of Ethiopia and Kenya committed to support both governments through alignment of existing activities and initiatives of the UN, technical support on governance structures and resource mobilization.



UN Resident Coordinator (RC) for Ethiopia Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa Onochie and the RC for Kenya Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee at the Cross Border Retreat in Addis Ababa, 9-10 October 2017. Photo Credit: RCO

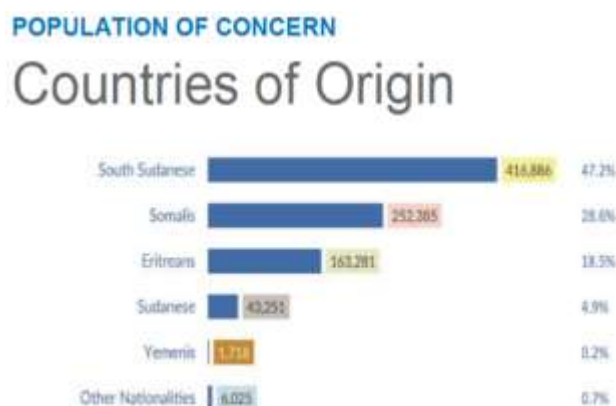
HIGHLIGHT

- As of 30 September, Ethiopia was sheltering 883,546 registered refugees and asylum seekers, making it the second largest refugee-hosting country in Africa.

Ethiopia's refugee population rapidly nearing the 1 million mark

As of 30 September, Ethiopia was sheltering 883,546 registered refugees and asylum seekers, making it the second largest refugee-hosting country in Africa.

At least 100,034 refugees arrived in Ethiopia in 2017, the majority from South Sudan (over 73,000) followed by Eritrea (over 18,000) and Somalia (over 6,500). 65 per cent of the total registered South Sudanese new arrivals since September 2016 are children, including 23,203 unaccompanied and separated children. A larger influx of South Sudanese refugees is expected in the coming weeks due to increased insecurity in South Sudan and the end of the rainy season, which makes road access easier.



Refugee pop. in Eth. Source: UNHCR Ethiopia

Meanwhile, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP and SCI have conducted a rapid assessment together with South Omo Zonal Sector Government Offices in the first week of October, to identify the needs of the South Sudanese refugee population reported to have settled in four sites in Gngangatom *woreda*/district of South Omo zone, SNNPR. More than 8,000 refugees have reportedly arrived in the district since December 2016, and the number is increasing.

The assessment identified 5,617 refugees around Kangaten and 132 unaccompanied school children who are most in need of assistance. The refugees were welcomed by the host community, with whom they share socio-economic, cultural and linguistic ties. Despite their vulnerable status due to food insecurity, the host community reportedly shared relief and PSNP resources with the refugees. The refugees have not received external assistance in the last 7 to 8 months.

The assessment team recommended immediate food and non-food item support to the refugee population to sustain their lives, and reduce the burden on the host community. (please go to

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ethiopia/assessment/joint-rapid-refugees-and-food-security-situation-assessment-gngangatom> to find the full document)

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