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- Opening of Gaaluun bridge at Dawa river improves humanitarian access to Dawa zone.

New bridge improves humanitarian access to Dawa zone of Somali region

On 10 January 2018, the Somali Regional Government officially opened Gaaluun bridge at Dawa river for public use, boosting humanitarian access to beneficiaries in Dawa zone of the region. The completion of the bridge coupled with improvements in security situation along the border between Oromia and Somali regions provides humanitarian actors access to reach affected communities with essential services. Light vehicles as well as heavy trucks with heavy loads (maximum 40 Metric Tons) can access the route to Dawa via this bridge. Inaccessibility to Dawa zone for the past five months impeded the delivery of relief food and non-food items to drought and conflict-affected communities within the zone.



Figure 1 Recently opened Gaaluun bridge is one of the main access routes to Dawa zone. Photo Credit: UNOCHA/Gode



Figure 2 Humanitarian workers attempt to cross Dawa river back in October 2017. Photo Credit: UNOCHA/Abdikadir

Dawa is one of the most severely affected zones by drought and conflict where WFP alone, in support of the government of Ethiopia, provides assistance to more than 300,000 beneficiaries in four *woredas*/districts, of which 140,000 (including 95,000 internally displaced persons) receive relief food, 147,224 benefit from productive safety net programme and 14,822 are supported by targeted supplementary feeding programmes.

FIGURES

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- As part of the national plan to rehabilitate internally displaced persons in Oromia and Somali regions, the Oromia region is settling some 86,000 IDPs in 12 towns across the region.

The construction of this bridge could also be taken as a classic example of linking development work to support humanitarian access. Partners are advised to prioritize the preposition of supplies before the seasonal *Gu* rains (April-June) make the roads impassable.

Ethiopia Government commences with implementing IDP rehabilitation plan

The federal and regional governments of Ethiopia are rehabilitating people displaced by inter-communal clashes between the Oromia and Somali regions. According to a public statement by the Minister of Government Communication Affairs on 16 January 2018, some US\$40 million has been raised from state and private organizations to rehabilitate the displaced.

In Oromia, the regional Government has started implementing the rehabilitation program on a phase by phase basis. During the first phase, some 86,000 persons are scheduled to settle in 12 towns of the region according to the regional disaster prevention and preparedness bureau. The resettlement programme is based on the ongoing IDPs verifications. A regional committee has been set up to follow up on the implementation of the IDPs rehabilitation plan.

Meanwhile a tentative joint Government and humanitarian partners mission to monitor IDP response is scheduled to take place in Oromia region between 5-17 February 2018. The objective of the mission is to verify partners' presence and response in the region, strengthen zonal and *woreda* level coordination mechanisms, identify prevailing outstanding gaps and monitor humanitarian access issues in the IDP sites.

With improvement in the border of the Oromia and Somali regions; the Government is calling on partners to scale up their response efforts to address the needs of some 857,000 displaced persons from both regions that are now residing in 370 different locations– both formal camps and informal sites. Outstanding IDPs needs which humanitarian partners are encouraged to support include: emergency shelter nonfood items (ES/NFI), water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH), therapeutic feeding program (TFP), targeted supplementary feeding program, education and food assistance up on the arrival of the IDPs to the new locations.



Figure 3 IDPS at Hamaressa camp are among those to benefit from the rehabilitation plan.
Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

Up to 7million people will require assistance in the first half of 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- An 'Alert' released by Government and humanitarian partners estimated up to 7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the first half of 2018, requiring some US\$895 million

On 29 December 2017, the National Disaster and Risk Management Commission and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator released an 'Alert' highlighting immediate humanitarian requirements for the first half of 2018. This estimation targets 5-7 million people in need of relief assistance in the first half of the year, requiring some US\$895 million. The precise humanitarian needs and requirements for Ethiopia will be finalized when the *meher* season assessment (November-December humanitarian needs assessment) results are finalized. The humanitarian response in 2017 was well-supported with both donor and Government resources: over \$1 billion was mobilized to assist 8.5 million people. Similar levels of financial support will be required early in 2018, both to address immediate, priority humanitarian needs, and to protect development gains.

Additionally, efforts are underway between Government, humanitarian and development partners to develop a multiyear framework that will: a) increase the quality and predictable delivery of required multi sectoral humanitarian response; b) mitigate future needs in areas that experience recurrent climate induced shock; c) support the strengthening of national service provision to address chronic and acute needs; and, d) support the recovery and resilience of affected communities. This will continue to help identify areas which require longer term solutions.

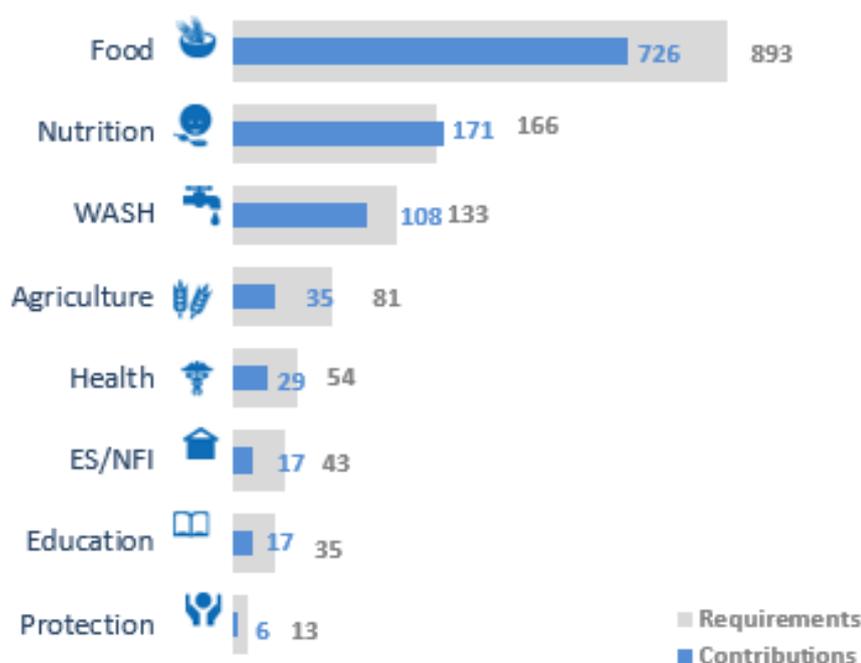


Figure 4 2017 Humanitarian funding update (as of 11 January 2018). Source: OCHA Ethiopia

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