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The IOM Special Liaison Office (SLO) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, along with the global IOM family and partners from other UN agencies, particularly the UN Economic Commission for Africa, actively participated in process that culminated in the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Marrakesh, Morocco in December 2018. The GCM is of particular importance to the IOM Addis Ababa office given its responsibilities for support to the migration-related agendas of the African Union (AU), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), UNECA, and of Ethiopia, a country that played a key role in the discussions leading up to the adoption of the GCM. The Global Compact is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It is a non-binding document that respects states’ sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in their territory and demonstrates commitment to international cooperation on migration. It presents a significant opportunity to improve the governance of migration, to address the challenges associated with today’s migration, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development. IOM Ethiopia joined in the applause that followed the adoption of the GCM and will work in 2019 and beyond to ensure that our support to the Government of Ethiopia on migration matters draws heavily from the provisions of the GCM.

At the sub-regional level, steady progress continued with deliberations on the IGAD free movement protocol. In 2018, significant progress towards institutionalizing National Coordination Mechanisms on migration (NCMs) in IGAD Member States, with IOM support, was achieved. With the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia, the IGAD region saw significant progress towards achieving lasting solutions to the region’s persistent refugees and internal displacement related challenges, while also taking account of the needs of host communities and returnees.

March 2018 witnessed a peaceful transition of power in Ethiopia, and with the new leadership came significant reforms and accomplishments, most notable being the reestablishment of peace with Eritrea. The new administration instituted a visa on arrival policy for all African Nationals arriving in Ethiopia, which was widely applauded as an important step towards the realization of the AU aspiration for continental integration through free movement of persons. The Government of Ethiopia also established the Ethiopia Diaspora Trust Fund which has not only served as a vehicle for mobilizing financial resources from the country’s diaspora community to meet development needs in Ethiopia, but provided an avenue for the diaspora’s participation in Ethiopia’s governance reform process. Important steps were also initiated towards having a National Migration Policy for Ethiopia, and along with it, robust programming related to integrated border management so as to assist the government in operationalizing the visa-upon-arrival policy without compromising on Ethiopia’s legitimate security concerns.

Despite the excellent progress Ethiopia achieved on many fronts, there were some setbacks. The numbers of stranded Ethiopian migrants on all three migratory routes increased in 2018, with the largest numbers being on the eastern migratory route, resulting in large numbers of deportees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Further, inter-communal conflict greatly increased the number of conflict-induced displacements in West Guji and Gedeo zones. IOM remained active on both fronts to support the returnees and affected populations. Following the amnesty offered by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed to members of formerly proscribed groups to return to Ethiopia and join in the efforts aimed at ensuring a peaceful transition, IOM engaged in discussions on the need for livelihood alternatives during this period under the framework of a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process.

At national level, IOM Addis Ababa takes cognizance of the challenges that the ongoing transition in Ethiopia portend and will redouble its efforts to ensure enhanced support to the Government and people of Ethiopia to ensure that migration from Ethiopia takes place through safe, orderly and regular migration, and that as much as possible, root causes of unsafe migratory movements are mitigated through a raft of targeted program interventions.

Last, and certainly not least, is the role that the IOM staff in Ethiopia have played in 2018 as in previous years. Without the committed cadre of IOM staff, most of them Ethiopian nationals, who continuously give of themselves over and above the call of duty, many of the 2018 achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible.

To all 700 plus of you, IOM and myself owe you and debt of gratitude.

Maureen Achieng, Chief of Mission to Ethiopia and Representative to the AU, IGAD, UNECA
The Emergency and Post-Crisis (EPC) unit, which is the humanitarian arm of IOM-SLO Addis Ababa, effectively addresses the mobility dimensions of a crisis. The EPC unit operates in 7 regions and 1 city administration of Ethiopia, utilizing IOM’s 7 sub-offices and 4 emergency field offices nationwide. The unit’s humanitarian response activities in Ethiopia include gender and protection-conscious interventions for refugees, disaster-affected and displaced communities. They include internal displacement information management through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), provision of emergency shelter and non-food items (ES/NFI); transitional shelter (TS); water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services; mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); site management support (SMS) for displacement communities; transportation and relocation support for refugees; and transition and recovery (TR) programming linking humanitarian assistance to recovery. IOM also coordinates the shelter and non-food items (ES/NFI) cluster at national and regional level as part of its mandate as the global cluster lead.

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2018

**FEBRUARY**
WASH program launches. First intervention targets Dolo Ado, Somali Region

**MARCH**
IOM releases $88,550,000 Ethiopia Crisis Response Appeal

**MAY**
IOM and US/OFDA launch the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) to support emergency response

**JUNE**
CERF project launches to assist flood-affected IDPs with ES/NFIs

$40 million raised

17 active projects

11 donor partnerships

Assistance provided in 7 regions of Ethiopia
ABOUT EPC

701,950
IDPs and host community members assisted

66,278
Refugee assisted

140
personnel across 11 field offices and Addis Ababa

Assistance provided in
37 zones and 1 city administration

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JULY
IOM releases $22,200,000 Flash Appeal for Gedeo & West Guji Crisis
IOM and UNHCR launch Site Management Support as a sector in Ethiopia

SEPTEMBER
By September, Flash Appeal is 50% funded thanks to ECHO, OFDA, Italy, Germany, and EHF

DECEMBER
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) program launches.
IOM providing humanitarian assistance in 37 zones and 7 sectors.

AUGUST
Emergency Health program launches. Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams operate in Gedeo and West Guji

OCTOBER
Durable Solution intentions surveys completed in 299 IDP sites of Oromia and Somali Regions

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DISPLACED CHILDREN OUTSIDE AN IOM COMMUNAL SHELTER, EAST WOLLEGA

IOM ETHIOPIA / EPC ANNUAL REPORT 2018 / 10 MAY 2019
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The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to identify and monitor displacement and population movements across the country. It was designed to capture, process and disseminate information regularly and to systematically provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile populations in places of displacement or transit.

DTM has been implemented in 72 countries worldwide to support humanitarian responses to natural disasters and conflicts or to track migrant mobility, and was launched in Ethiopia in 2016.

In 2018, DTM conducted six national mobility tracking rounds in ten regions and launched the Emergency Tracking Tool and the Rapid Response Assessment to support humanitarian response in highly mobile displacement crises such as in Gedeo and West Guji Zones.

It is the only source of displacement data to be officially endorsed by the Ethiopian government and serves a critical role of informing the humanitarian community by giving voice to millions of displaced persons and their needs across the country.

**2019 STRATEGY**

- DTM aims to modify its site assessment methodology to adapt to the rising levels of assessment fatigue.
- DTM will revise its current site assessment tools in coordination with OCHA and the Clusters to adapt to the changing data needs of DTM data users.
- DTM seeks to develop and expand Rapid Response Assessment capacity and continue to improve on weekly mobility tracking tools developed for Gedeo and West Guji which may be adapted for other high mobility contexts.
In 2018, IOM’s EPC Unit was able to support over 17,700 households (approximately 97,350 individuals) with Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) kits. Distribution of these life-saving items were carried out by IOM’s Shelter and NFI field teams as well as partner agencies.

Assistance targeted internally displaced persons across Ethiopia suffering from conflict (68%), drought (20%) and flood events (12%). Of the total caseload served, 5,666 households (about 29%) were given cash support, empowering recipients to choose the most important items for their family while supporting local market economies.

While IOM’s Shelter program continued to construct emergency and communal shelters for disaster-affected IDPs and host communities, it also conducted much needed transitional and recovery activities in IDP and refugee sites. Shelter repair, rehabilitation and recovery for affected communities is essential to supporting lasting and peaceful development, reaching the nexus between emergency and recovery phases of response. Shelter interventions were also coupled with the launch of Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) awareness activities.

Key areas of work

- Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Kits
- Cash-based interventions (CBI)
- Emergency communal shelter construction
- Communal multi-purpose shelter construction
- Institutional facilities rehabilitation and construction
- Shelter repair, rehabilitation, and recovery
- Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) awareness

2019 STRATEGY

⇒ IOM’s 2019 Shelter and NFI program will pursue interventions supporting the nexus between emergency and recovery phases. Emergency response interventions will ensure critical steps are taken to promote social cohesion between communities (i.e. institutional building rehabilitation), while recovery programs will pursue participatory shelter repairs and rehabilitation. HLP issues will be assessed and prioritized for support in all relevant contexts.

⇒ Assistance modalities of both emergency and recovery phases will be informed through assessments exploring potential cash assistance options (i.e. cash for work, for rent, for NFIs) and the risks and trade-offs compared to in-kind support.

⇒ 2019 key areas of focus: beneficiary inclusion, protection mainstreaming, social cohesion between communities
IOM Ethiopia launched its Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) program in 2018 to assist disaster-affected populations across Ethiopia. IOM WASH interventions include the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities, including the distribution of Hygiene Kits. The program grew rapidly thanks to a dedicated team and supportive donors. In its inaugural year, IOM WASH reached approximately 500,000 disaster-affected people in three regions across Ethiopia (Somali, SNNPR, and Oromia). Key donor contributions came from US-OFDA, ECHO, Germany, and the Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF).

In 2018 IOM became an active participant in the WASH Cluster and was a leading agency for emergency WASH responses in the Gedeo and West Guji zone displacement crisis. The team also participated in WASH humanitarian coordination mechanisms such as the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs).

Kicking off in Afdheer and Liban zones of Somali Region, IOM’s first WASH intervention aimed to support IDPs displaced by years of drought. Services included construction of communal sanitation facilities for informal settlements along with hygiene promotion and the formation of sanitation committees to ensure proper care and maintenance of latrines. The program was coupled with distribution of hygiene kits, including menstrual hygiene management (MHM) components. IOM then supported IDPs in Dawa zone with a modified version of Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) suitable for emergency responses, before expanding rapidly into Gedeo and West Guji zones.

IOM’s response in Gedeo and West Guji solidified the program’s growth, as the team was among the first humanitarian agencies to provide with large-scale emergency WASH interventions for tens of thousands of displaced people. The program continues to pursue high quality service interventions into 2019.

**2019 STRATEGY**

⇒ IOM’s 2019 WASH strategy will focus on the expansion of emergency response capacity and the consolidation of the IOM WASH team to ensure timely response to emergencies across the country. Interventions will also prioritize reducing the likelihood of public health outbreaks in emergency settings. Where possible, IOM will conduct WASH interventions alongside Shelter, SMS, and Health sectors to increase the impact of the response.

⇒ IOM is also interested to further explore cash-based intervention opportunities within the WASH sector.

⇒ In all WASH interventions IOM will pursue the goal of promoting social cohesion and sustainability of actions.
Site Management Support (SMS) was launched as an area of humanitarian response for the first time in Ethiopia in 2018. Through coordination between IOM, UNHCR, humanitarian partners, and the Ethiopian government, SMS teams began supporting internally displaced persons living in settlements and host communities across the country.

Launched by IOM and UNHCR, the four pillars of SMS response in Ethiopia include:

- Improved information on IDP needs and conditions in critical collective centers and IDP locations
- Increased Site Management knowledge, skills, and attitudes
- Upgraded collective centers (including quick impact interventions)
- Site closure and durable solutions

In its first six months of operation (July—December 2018), IOM’s SMS team facilitated equitable access to protection, assistance and information for internally displaced persons, and helped improve living conditions in 35 displacement sites across Gedeo / West Guji Zones and Somali Region. Interventions were carried out in support of SMS working groups that were established at the zonal level. Coordination and training with local authorities’ was critical in 2018 to build knowledge regarding site management, humanitarian principles, and protection services.

Key Achievements

- 35 internal displacement sites supported
- 30 staff hired, trained, and stationed in sites
- 390 community committees established/supported
- 16 SMS training workshops conducted

2019 STRATEGY

- Capacity building of SMS stakeholders — displaced communities, government, humanitarian agencies
- Site upgrades and rehabilitation of collective sites
- Community mobilization and engagement
- Information management and coordination
In 2018, IOM’s TR team generated a substantial body of evidence to inform policy-makers of IDPs’ durable solution intentions through comprehensive data collection in Oromia and the Somali region. It furthered policy advocacy for durable solutions agendas on platforms such as the Federal IDP and the Somali regional Durable Solutions Working Groups (DSWGs) led by the Ethiopian government. Additionally, it laid foundations for further IOM engagement on the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus through building partnerships with the Ministry of Peace (MoP) and other institutional stakeholders.

IOM was instrumental in supporting the establishment of a Federal DSWG chaired by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and co chaired by IOM and the UN Resident Coordinators Office (RCO). The TR team further supported the already established Somali regional DSWG and the Somali Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) with critical exercises such as IDP validation and household registration across 23 sites, and the joint identification and assessment of pilot relocation and resettlement sites for IDPs in 22 sites across 6 zones of the region.

IDP Intention Surveys

- 299 IDP sites across 16 zones of Oromia and Somali Regions
- 37,127 HHs (approx. 204,000 people) profiled

Village Assessment Surveys

- 36 focus group discussions with IDPs and host communities in 20 sites across 9 zones of Oromia and Somali regions

2019 STRATEGY

⇒ Joint peacebuilding programming for resolution of inter-regional displacement situations in Somali-Oromia and Oromia-SNNPR border areas in collaboration with UNDP and UN WOMEN
⇒ Transition recovery responses in West Guji and Gedeo Zones through the provision of improved cooking stoves
⇒ Establishing and strengthening national and regional DSWG
⇒ Livelihood and economic recovery
⇒ Improving national information management system on durable solutions for IDPs
⇒ Supporting former combatants, their families and sympathizers, and receiving communities with reinsertion and reintegration assistance

“What IOM provided is life changing. Now I have a steady income”

- IOM Livelihoods project beneficiary, Somali region
Refugee Transportation

In 2018, IOM continued the provision of timely, safe and dignified emergency transportation services for refugees arriving to Ethiopia. Upon arrival at border entry points, refugees were met by IOM staff at reception centers and provided Pre-Departure Medical Screening (PDMS), medical referrals or escorts as needed, and high energy biscuits and drinking water for the drive. Next, IOM staff accompany the newly arrived refugees on buses bound for designated camps across Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, Tigray, and Somali regions.

Through the year, IOM staff assisted 66,278 refugees with post-arrival support and onward transportation. The transportation program connects newly arrived refugees from neighboring countries to essential services (such as food, WASH, Health, and livelihoods support) in existing camps managed by the UNHCR and ARRA. IOM-deployed operational and medical staff ensure the most vulnerable individuals (including children, people with disabilities, and the elderly) receive the support they need through referral mechanisms to partners such as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) or the Ethiopian ARRA, and providing medical escort if necessary.

2019 STRATEGY

⇒ Partner with additional donors in order to expand services
⇒ Assist 100,000 newly arriving refugees with transportation from border points to designated camps
⇒ Expand operational presence in key locations such as Gambella, Assosa, Shire and Dolo Ado
⇒ Bolster referral services for vulnerable cases, optimizing humanitarian partnerships and collaboration
HEALTH & MHPSS

In 2018, IOM Ethiopia launched Emergency Health interventions to support displaced and host communities lacking essential health services in disaster-affected areas. The pilot intervention deployed three Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) across Gedeo and West Guji zones and included the rehabilitation of a government health facility.

MHNTs operated in four woredas of conflict-affected Gedeo and West Guji zones, conducting medical consultations from existing but under-resourced government health posts. All children under age-5 seen were screened for malnutrition. IOM medical staff trained 60 government health extension workers on addressing outbreaks such as scabies, and conducted health education sessions for health post workers and local communities on topics such as HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, ante-natal care (ANC), acute water diarrhea (AWD), scabies, respiratory infections and eye care.

Following the launch of Emergency Health services, IOM further expanded its programming to target a critical and unaddressed gap in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services for disaster-affected individuals.

After conducting an assessment in Gedeo and West Guji, IOM established mobile PSS teams which were integrated within existing mobile health teams. PSS mobile teams consist of counsellors and community workers, and are able to provide a range of services from awareness campaigns to individual counselling. The teams also help to provide opportunities for positive socialization such as coffee ceremonies and recreational activities, and educate on Psychological First Aid, positive coping mechanisms, and the rights of those suffering from mental illness. PSS services are often provided in collaboration with SMS teams, in order to better promote social cohesion and rehabilitation.

2018: August → December

- 5,184 children screened for malnutrition
- 10,944 medical consultations
- 13,330 people reached with health awareness
- 11,648 total participants in MHPSS activities field
- 25 staff trained on Psychological First Aid
- 10 PSS staff deployed on mobile teams

2019 STRATEGY

Emergency Health

⇒ Expand MHNT pilot interventions to other emergencies
⇒ Continue capacity building of local health bureaus through on-the-job and formal trainings
⇒ Rehabilitate government health posts in critical under-serviced areas

MHPSS

⇒ Expand provision of services to additional locations: such as East/West Wollega and Dire Dawa
⇒ Scale up activities & staff to reach more people in need
⇒ Increase capacity building of PSS mobile teams
The Rapid Response Fund – Ethiopia (RRF-E) began operations in May 2018 with support from USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). The RRF-E responded to emergencies in Oromia and Somali Regions through support to partner organization covering non-food items (NFI), emergency shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs of the affected populations.

RRF-E supported eight organizations to respond to emergencies in Gedeo, SNNP and West Guji, Oromia after conflict displaced over 800,000 people on the border of the two regions. The RRF-E also responded to conflict-related displacement from Kamashi zone, Benishangul-Gumuz to West Wollega, Oromia. Since beginning in May 2018, the RRF has supported almost 8,000 households to receive emergency shelter, supported 17,429 households to receive NFIs for either WASH or household items and raised awareness of over 100,000 people through hygiene promotion.

The RRF-E plans to increase coverage across Ethiopia in 2019 and proposes to increase sectoral coverage to include protection activities.

Based on lessons learned in 2018, RRF-E will also work with a greater number of national organizations and provide additional capacity building opportunities.
IOM has been mandated by the United Nations Country Team in Ethiopia (UNCT/EHCT) to lead the Emergency Shelter and Non Food items (ES/NFI) cluster coordination system since 2010 and regularly track, monitor, map and disseminate information on internal displacements in the country. IOM has been playing an active role in creating a forum for humanitarian partners to convene regularly and to facilitate a culture of joint planning, resource mobilization, pre-positioning and rapid response mechanisms within the domain of ES/NFI.

In 2018, the Cluster was active in coordinating humanitarian responses across 9 regions of the country through 18 partner organizations. The Cluster rapidly scaled up to address urgent needs in Gedeo and West Guji, including deploying a sub-national Cluster Coordinator to support partners and liaise with local authorities. This field-level presence has been critical to coordinate and further the humanitarian response and advocate for partners. The sub-national cluster coordinator has worked to improve the available data to enable partners to provide a response based on a strong understanding of needs. They have also facilitated the cluster membership’s development of rigorous targeting and verification methodologies to more effectively link assistance with needs on an impartial basis. Under the cluster leadership implementing partners and donors alike advocated for greater access to those affected by the conflict in both Zones.

2019 STRATEGY

The immediate availability of basic stock items is essential to ensure swift delivery of assistance to meet acute needs.

Due to funding gaps, the cluster’s response has been limited in high priority areas, as stocks are distributed immediately once procured with no opportunity for agencies to preposition. As it can take months to raise funds and procure S/NFI kits for distribution to affected populations, as reserve stock of essential kits is critical.
IOM would like to take this opportunity to thank its partners and donors, without whom none of this work could have been accomplished. Your contributions make a life-saving difference to thousands of disaster-affected communities across Ethiopia.