

ETHIOPIA

Impact of drought: Oromia and Somali regions

OVERVIEW

The duration and severity of the current drought in Ethiopia, which began in late 2020, has surpassed the droughts of 2010–2011 and 2016–2017, with the country facing a fifth failed rainy season (Save the Children 13/01/2023; WMO 25/08/2022). By September 2022, an estimated 24.1 million people were affected by the drought, up from 13.8 million people in August (OCHA 21/09/2022 and 24/08/2022).

As at November 2022, the drought had left approximately 11.9 million people in Ethiopia severely food-insecure, mainly in the southern and southeastern pastoral areas. With the drought expected to last until at least mid-2023, food insecurity is likely to worsen (FEWS NET 12/2022; OCHA 29/11/2022). Currently, the drought-affected regions of Ethiopia are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity levels. Of these, Oromia and Somali regions have a larger proportion of the population facing IPC 4 levels as well as a higher drought-affected population (FEWS NET 12/2022 and 27/09/2022; OCHA 08/09/2022). The classification of areas facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels in December 2022 has been predicted to worsen to IPC 3 by May 2023 (FEWS NET 12/2022 and 27/09/2022). This projection is worse than the September 2022 prediction of FEWS NET on the food insecurity situation.

The population in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia is heavily reliant on livestock for income, food, and nutrition. Between late 2021 and mid-May 2022, an estimated 3.5 million livestock died in these areas, with a further 25 million livestock weakened and at risk of death, meaning that herd sizes were likely to have decreased further (OCHA 08/09/2022).

More than 2.2 million children across Ethiopia were suffering from acute malnutrition in August 2022 (OCHA 24/08/2022). Pastoralist production in Somali and Oromia was typically responsible for roughly 80% of the annual milk supply in Ethiopia (Agrilinks 08/07/2022). The loss of livestock has resulted in little to no milk production in pastoral areas (FEWS NET 12/2022). Limited food and milk availability for children, combined with limited access to health and nutrition

services, has resulted in the acute malnutrition rate for children under five being higher than the emergency threshold in most drought-affected areas (OCHA 08/09/2022).

As at November 2022, the drought that began in late 2020 had internally displaced 590,000 people in the country. Oromia had registered over 275,000 IDPs, and Somali had over 308,000, but the actual numbers could be higher, especially in areas where insecurity has constrained humanitarian access and data collection (UNHCR 21/12/2022).

More than 13 million people are estimated to need WASH assistance across drought-affected areas, with 8.2 million people living with not enough water for drinking and household usage (OCHA 24/08/2022 and 08/09/2022). In June 2022, the cost of water increased by 100% in Oromia and by 50% in Somali compared to the prices in October 2021 (UNICEF 23/08/2022).

Aside from the impact of the drought, a cholera outbreak is also affecting Oromia and Somali regions. As at 30 January 2023, there were 1,055 reported cholera cases, including 28 deaths, in eight woredas in Oromia and two woredas in Somali. Almost one million people were at high risk (OCHA 30/01/2023 and 18/01/2023). The most likely causes of the outbreak are the use of unsafe water from contaminated water points, a lack of adequate WASH services, poor hygiene practices (such as open defecation), and limited resources for water treatment (OCHA 24/11/2022).

This report is part of a series of analysis from ACAPS on the drought situation in Horn of Africa, benefitted from support by the H2H Network's H2H Fund.



KEY FIGURES

+24M

PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED
BY THE DROUGHT BY
SEPTEMBER 2022

+11M

PEOPLE IN ETHIOPIA
ARE SEVERELY FOOD
INSECURE

+2.8M

CHILDREN WERE
SUFFERING FROM
SEVERE ACUTE
MALNUTRITION IN
AUGUST 2022

+13M

PEOPLE ARE
ESTIMATED TO NEED
WASH ASSISTANCE
ACROSS DROUGHT
AFFECTED AREAS



About this report

Aim: this report provides an overview of the humanitarian needs resulting from the current drought in particularly affected areas of Ethiopia (eastern/southeastern Oromia and Somali regions). The report highlights key needs, the key population groups affected, coping mechanisms, compounding factors, access constraints, and response capacities in the respective regions.

Methodology: this report is mainly based on a secondary data review of public sources. Additional non-public sources and key stakeholders were consulted. Oromia and Somali regions were selected because they report high numbers of people facing IPC 4 acute food insecurity levels and the highest numbers of drought-affected people and drought-related displacement in the country.

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INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT SITUATION PER REGION

Key characteristics/information

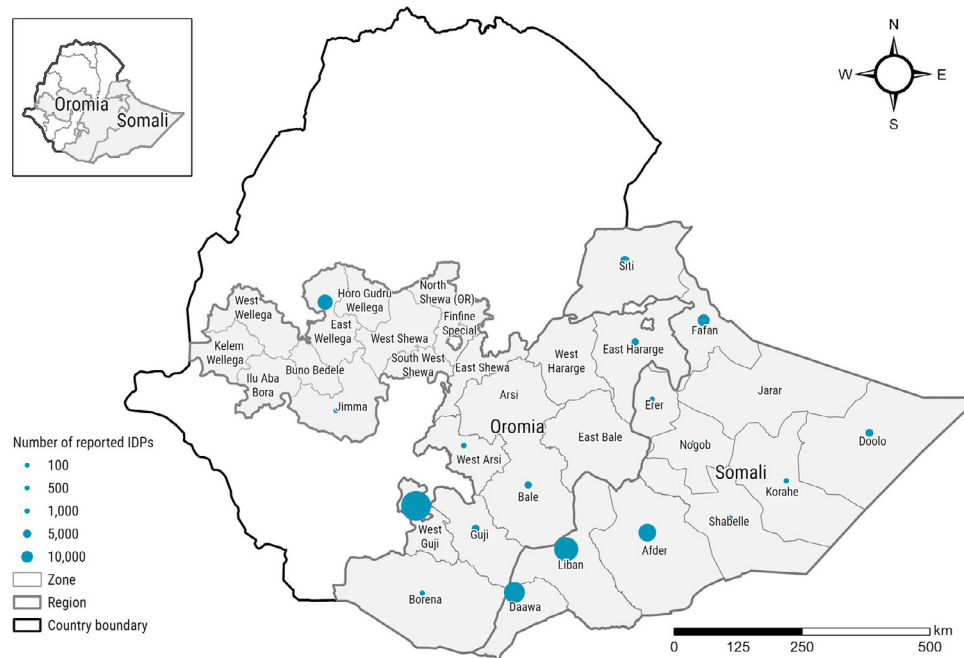
	OROMIA REGION	SOMALI REGION	ETHIOPIA
Total population in 2022 as projected from the 2007 census (StatsEthiopia 07/2021; Worldometers accessed 30/01/2023)	39,075,002	6,397,806	122,774,037
People affected by drought (as at July 2022)	3,400,000 (OCHA 03/06/2022)	3,500,000 (OCHA 03/06/2022)	24,100,000 (OCHA 08/09/2022)
People displaced by drought (as at November 2022)	275,000 (UNHCR 21/12/2022)	308,000 (UNHCR 21/12/2022)	590,000 (UNHCR 21/12/2022)
Absolute poverty rate (2015–2016)	23.9% (UNICEF 06/2022 a)	22% (UNICEF 06/2022 b)	24% (WB 01/04/2020)
Refugees hosted (as at 31 October 2022)	4,037 (UNHCR accessed 02/02/2023)	250,333 (UNHCR accessed 02/02/2023)	882,276 (UNHCR accessed 02/02/2023)
Main source of livelihood	Agropastoralism and pastoralism (UNICEF 06/2022 a)	Agropastoralism and pastoralism (UNICEF 06/2022 b)	Agriculture (Damtie et al. 12/12/2022)

As at November 2022, there were over 270,000 drought-induced IDPs in Oromia and over 308,000 in Somali region (UNHCR 21/12/2022). They are particularly vulnerable to the impact of the drought. Drought is the main reason of displacement in Borena zone in Oromia region and Daawa zone in Somali region. IDPs are exposed to contagious diseases in overcrowded IDPs sites, and women and girls are at risk of gender-based violence (GBV) (IMMAP 31/08/2022).

The last two IOM National Displacement Reports found that Oromia and Somali regions had the highest proportion of people internally displaced for more than a year, including over five years (IOM 27/12/2022 and 20/10/2022). Roughly 62% of all Ethiopians internally displaced for over five years were in Somali region, followed by 31% in Oromia (IOM 27/12/2022). It is difficult to assess whether all these IDPs were displaced because of the drought, but protracted displacement highlights the compounded vulnerability of people in the affected areas.

It is important to note that any reductions in reported IDP figures do not necessarily indicate an actual reduction or lack of IDP presence. Lower numbers may be a result of access challenges in the affected areas.

Number of reported IDPs across Somali and eastern/southeastern Oromia for the 2021 to 2022 period



See full and more detailed map on page 12 for reference of areas discussed in this report.

Source: (ACAPS) using data from IOM (19/10/2022)

Oromia region

As at June 2022, more than 3.4 million people in Oromia were affected by the drought, all of whom were reported to be pastoralists and agropastoralists (OCHA 03/06/2022). Between October 2021 and June 2022, over 163,000 people were displaced because of the drought (OCHA 08/09/2022). The drought is mainly affecting eastern and southeastern Oromia, particularly Borena zone. In Borena zone, around 372,000 people, roughly 30% of the population, were displaced between March–September 2022 (FEWS NET 12/2022). In July 2022, there was a reported 108% increase in drought-induced displacement within Borena zone (IOM 20/10/2022). Although the local government has been pushing for IDP returns, such as in Borena zone, the number of IDPs are still increasing (FEWS NET 12/2022).

The presence of IDPs is likely to affect the living conditions of host communities, whose resources are already overwhelmed because of the drought. Some host communities are characterised by pre-existing insecurity, such as in Guji and West Guji zones, given the presence of armed groups and underlying ethnic tensions (OCHA 08/09/2022 and 30/04/2021; ACLED accessed 06/01/2022).

Somali region

As at June 2022, over 3.5 million people in Somali region (30% of the Somali population) were affected by the drought, all of whom were reported to be pastoralists and agropastoralists (OCHA 03/06/2022). Afder, Daawa, Liban, and parts of Shabelle in Somali region are facing the most severe humanitarian impacts (FEWS NET 12/2022). Between October 2021 and June 2022, more than 175,000 people in Somali region were displaced because of the impact of the drought (OCHA 08/09/2022). In July, there was a reported 23% increase in displacement as a result of the drought in Nogob zone (Somali region) (IOM 20/10/2022). Since the previous IOM National Displacement Report for March–April 2022, there has been a decrease of 18,000 IDPs in Somali region, but mainly as a result of IDPs leaving sites in search of assistance and basic services. Somali is the most agropastoral region of Ethiopia, and 86% of its population primarily depends on livestock for livelihood and subsistence (IOM 18/08/2022).

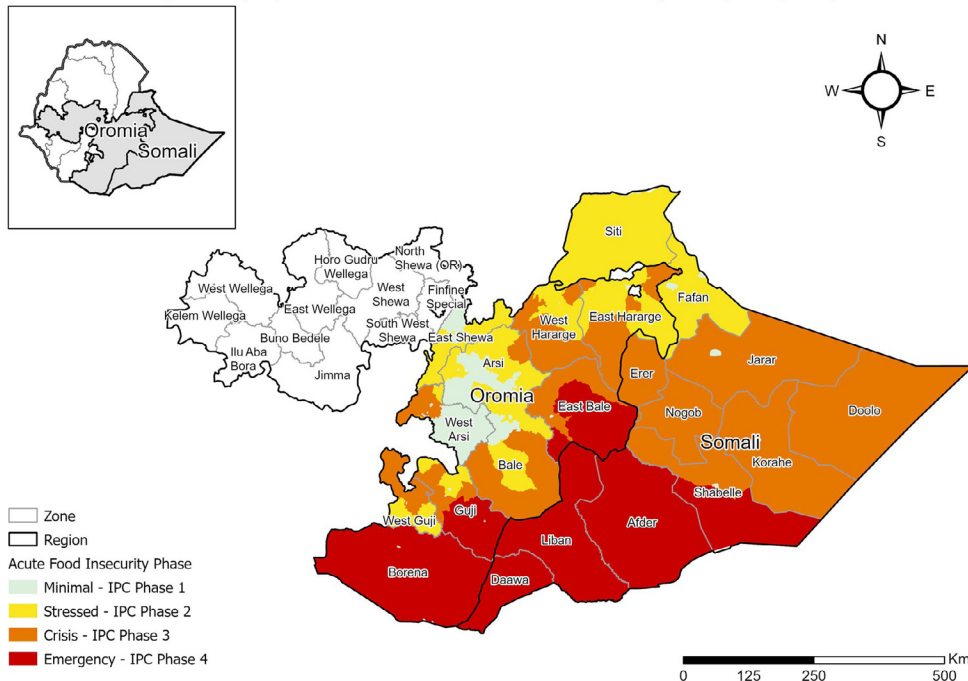
KEY NEEDS

Food security

Information on food security in Ethiopia is limited, as there has not been an IPC analysis in the country since 2021. The country experiences severe levels of acute food insecurity and high levels of acute malnutrition, particularly in drought- and conflict-affected areas. Macroeconomic conditions that increase inflation, below-average rain affecting crops and livestock, and limited access to food and income are some of the causes of persistent food insecurity. IPC 4 and IPC 3 outcomes are expected to continue, with the absence of continued humanitarian food aid possibly leading to outcomes worse than IPC 4 (FEWS NET 12/2022).

Staple food prices in Ethiopia remain high. The price of maize, one of the most consumed cereals by rural communities, slightly declined by around 4–5% in October–November 2022 because of the Meher harvests but remained 125% higher than the five-year average (FAO 11/11/2022; FEWS NET 11/2022). The war in Ukraine has affected the local prices of grains and sunflower seed oil and reduced the import of grains and fertilisers (UK Parliament 18/01/2023; WFP 02/06/2022).

Acute Food Insecurity Phase (IPC) across Somali and eastern/southeastern Oromia (February to May 2023)



See full and more detailed map on page 11 for reference of areas discussed in this report.

Source: FEWS NET (accessed 08/02/2023)

Oromia

The conflict in Oromia has affected supply flows in local markets and the movement of grain from western producing areas to deficit-producing and drought-affected areas in the east, south, and southeast. The constraints are increasing prices and reducing the already low market supply (FEWS NET 11/2022). As at June 2022, nearly 70,000 IDPs in Oromia lacked access to food (IMMAP 31/08/2022). There are information gaps around the specific food needs of drought-affected people in eastern and southeastern Oromia, although disruptions to agropastoral and pastoral livelihoods are likely to have reduced the availability of food in affected areas.

Somali

The drought has had a direct impact on the food security of Somali region. As at June 2022, an estimated 100,000 IDPs in Somali lacked access to food, while approximately 3.3 million people were in need of food assistance as at October 2022 (IMMAP 31/08/2022; WFP 28/10/2022). Since many affected people experience prolonged gaps in food consumption, acute food insecurity is prevalent among drought-affected communities. 90% of the people in Nogob and Erer zones in Somali region depend on livestock-rearing as a source of food and income, but many people have been displaced after their livestock perished and they lost access to food and water (OCHA 17/05/2022). The prices of staple and non-staple foods have also increased significantly (e.g. the doubling of the cost of grains), affecting people's purchasing power (OCHA 03/06/2022).

Nutrition

The lack of food and resources because of the drought is causing severe malnutrition in Oromia, Somali, and the southern regions of Ethiopia. The fifth consecutive failed rainy season has caused more erosion in the soil and made it impossible for agropastoral communities to save their crops. More than 4.5 million livestock have died since late 2021, and at least 30 million weakened and emaciated livestock are at risk of death (OCHA 05/01/2023; NASA 13/12/2022; WFP 28/10/2022). All of this combined has impacted the availability of food, resulting in a poor nutrition situation among the affected communities.

Oromia

In Borena zone, over 15% of children under five in half of the kebeles and 58% of pregnant and nursing women across the zone are malnourished (WFP 28/10/2022). In another study conducted in 36 woredas covering 560,000 children under five, 2% (11,063 children) were severely malnourished or had severe wasting, and 102,967 (18%) experienced moderate wasting. The proxy wasting was above emergency levels at 20% (UNICEF 01/12/2022).

Somali

children and women are particularly affected. As at October 2022, 26% of children under two and 28% of pregnant and nursing women were malnourished (WFP 28/10/2022). There has been an increase in the number of new severe acute malnutrition cases; in June 2022, 37% more children were treated in health facilities in Somali than in the same period in 2021 (OCHA 03/06/2022).



Health

Ethiopia has been experiencing a cholera outbreak since August 2022, with Oromia and Somali being two of the most affected areas. As at 30 January 2023, 1,055 cholera cases had been reported countrywide, including 28 associated deaths., which were all in Oromia and Somali regions. Close to one million people were at high risk in the ten affected woredas (OCHA 30/01/2023; WHO 13/01/2023). IDPs in drought-affected areas, particularly in Somali and followed by Oromia, are vulnerable to cholera and several diseases, the most common of which are pneumonia, malaria, and diarrhoea. Only 274 IDP sites in Afar, Oromia, and Somali have access to health facilities, while 81 sites lack health facilities (IMMAP 31/08/2022). Many IDPs arrive at sites experiencing acute malnutrition, and many refugees come from places with poor health systems and have not received routine vaccinations (MPI 18/01/2023).

Oromia

There is currently a cholera outbreak reported in three woredas of Bale zone in Oromia, with the first case reported on 27 August 2022 in Harena Buluk woreda. As at 30 January 2023, 13 people were reported dead in Oromia region (OCHA 30/01/2023 and 01/11/2022). The displacement of drought-affected communities present the risk of a further spread of diseases in IDP sites and host communities because of overcrowding in sites, and the overall deterioration of people's health and nutrition statuses (OCHA 08/09/2022). As the drought persists, the lack of access to appropriate food and safe water weakens people's immunity and increases their vulnerability to diseases (OCHA 08/09/2022 and 01/11/2022). An outbreak of malaria across Oromia has also infected more than 131,000 people and killed 37 across 12 zones since August (Addis Standard 29/10/2022).

Somali

As at 30 January 2023, a cholera outbreak had spread to two woredas of Liban zone of Somali region. Across Somali, 15 people have died from the disease. Over 190 of the reported cases involve IDPs at spontaneous sites. The reported cases mostly involve minors 0–14 years of age (25% are children under five years old). Vaccines are highly needed, with 77% of the cases not having had any doses of the oral cholera vaccine (OCHA 30/01/2023, 15/12/2022, and 24/11/2022; UNICEF 01/12/2022). There is a high risk of other waterborne diseases because of the large number of livestock carcasses contaminating surface water sources across all woredas in Afder, Daawa, and Liban zones (OCHA 17/11/2022).

WASH

Water quality in drought-affected areas is dire, putting communities at risk of illness (OCHA 01/11/2022). Both Oromia and Somali regions are affected by the cholera bacteria, which is usually found in contaminated water sources. The provision of adequate WASH services to drought-affected people and host communities is critical to mitigating the spread of diseases.

Oromia

Many people, especially IDPs, are currently unable to access the minimum humanitarian standard of 7.5L of water daily as a result of severe water shortages because of the drought (OCHA 01/11/2022).

Somali

Water is scarce in the region; only 33% of people were reported to have access to potable water in 2021, an improvement from around 28% in 2020 (NBE 07/04/2022). Access to effective water management is one of the most critical needs of affected people in the region (UNHCR 28/06/2022). IDP sites in Somali region must rely on water-trucking distribution and unprotected wells, which respectively cover 33% and 31% of the water needs of 273 IDP sites (IMMAP 31/08/2022). In Daawa zone, 43% of water facilities are non-functional, and over 227,000 people in 53 sites need water-trucking support (Govt. of Ethiopia et al. 26/06/2022).

Livelihoods

As at January 2023, over 4.5 million livestock had died since late 2021 in eastern and southern Ethiopia, and an additional 30 million weakened and emaciated livestock remained at risk. This increases the dependency of pastoralist communities on humanitarian aid (OCHA 08/09/2022). Construction labour opportunities are also low because of the weak economy in the country, and remittances have decreased across Ethiopia, particularly in drought-affected areas (FEWS NET 12/2022).

Oromia

The drought has severely affected the livelihoods of pastoralist and agropastoralist communities in Oromia. The majority of people are reliant on farmland and livestock. Livestock mortality is high because of the lack of water in Borena, East Bale, Guji, and West Guji zones, as well as the lowland woredas of Bale, East Hararghe, East Shewa, and West Hararge zones (OCHA 08/09/2022). In 2022, central and eastern Oromia had below-average



harvest and short-cycle Meher crops (i.e. temporary crop harvested from September–February). This means people must rely on market products in 2023, which are already scarce. Milk availability has decreased since 2020; Borena zone reports a production of 0.5L per camel and less than 0.1L per goat, which are 80–85% below the average amount. Livestock trading has been difficult, and some households have left their livestock at the market because of the inability to sell them (FEWS NET 12/2022).

Somali

The drought has disrupted the livelihoods of the Somali population by hindering key survival activities, including the sale of agricultural products and livestock at local markets (UNSDG 10/05/2022). 98% of the respondents of a FAO study in 2021 in all displacement sites in Somali region reported that economic opportunities were the greatest need among IDPs. This was followed by the restoration of lost assets and greater availability of services. According to the same study, only 6% of people in IDP sites had access to some source of income, and only 11% of IDP sites had access to income-generating activities (FAO/Tufts University 03/12/2021). The purchasing power of households is also growing weaker. In Somali region, the drought has caused the deterioration of livestock body conditions, which means that the value of sheep and goat have declined in markets and people receive less maize and wheat flour in trade of their livestock (FEWS NET 12/2022). There has been a substantial hike in cereal prices (FEWS NET 12/2022; WFP 17/11/2022).

Shelter and NFI

Shelter is one of the priority needs in Ethiopia, with the different migration flows caused by conflict and drought resulting in thousands of IDPs and returnees needing safe shelter. Insecurity, limited humanitarian access and funding, and a lack of building supplies are some of the challenges for the shelter cluster (OCHA 01/11/2022). There is a lack of information regarding specific drought-related shelter needs in each region.

Pastoralists forced to leave their families in search of water, pasture, and basic services often stay in the open without any shelter protection. Affected people require the provision of NFIs, such as jerrycans, blankets, and cooking utensils, to be able to carry and store water and continue cooking (OCHA 07/02/2022).

Oromia

The conflict in western Oromia has increased the number of IDPs in need of shelter and NFI, and the drought situation in southern Oromia is continuing to displace people and increase their needs, including shelter. Humanitarian responders have reported operational challenges in providing shelter aid (Shelter Cluster 30/11/2022 and 31/10/2022). As at 30 November 2022, only

35% of the over 250,000 people targeted to receive shelter and NFIs had received aid (Shelter Cluster 30/11/2022).

Somali

The region experiences high emergency shelter and non-food needs as a result of the conflict, which has affected the Oromia-Somali border areas. As at 31 October 2022, the conflict had displaced 12,000 households in Guradamole woreda of Liban zone. At the same time, drought has affected Daawa, Liban, Nogob, and Shebelle zones (Shelter Cluster 31/10/2022). As at 31 July 2022, 1.5 million people in Somali needed shelter, with only 8% of the over 900,000 people targeted by the shelter cluster receiving emergency shelter and NFIs by mid-2022 (IMAPP et al. 16/08/2022). As at 30 November 2022, only 32% of the 350,000 people targeted to receive aid in the form of shelter and NFIs received help (Shelter Cluster 30/11/2022).

KEY POPULATION GROUPS AFFECTED BY DROUGHT ACROSS ETHIOPIA

Pastoral and agropastoral communities

In 2022, below-average rainfall levels resulted in poor Belg crop production, with some areas such as Borana, East Hararge, and West Hararge, as well as the lowlands of Bale, East Bale, Guji, and West Guji completely being unable to produce during the harvest season. A poor Belg harvest not only directly affects income-generation for agropastoralists but also indirectly affects the availability of food for their livestock. Along with their household food insecurity and nutrition situation, their agricultural and livestock productions are also affected, and by extension their livelihoods. Pastoralist and agropastoralist communities in southern and eastern Ethiopia are especially vulnerable to recurring shocks. Aside from the current and past droughts, desert locust infestations, conflict, and disease outbreaks are affecting these communities (OCHA 08/09/2022).

Children

Children are some of the people most affected by drought in Ethiopia. Malnutrition is of great concern among Ethiopian children, and the impact of diseases like cholera is worse in children with malnutrition. Drought is also disrupting education for children, particularly those who are displaced because of drought.

In Ethiopia, 3.9 million children are severely malnourished, but comprehensive data on nutrition for drought-affected areas in Oromia and Somali regions is not publicly available. The main source of nutrition for children in Ethiopia is milk, the availability of which has



drastically decreased because of the deaths of more than four million livestock (Save the Children 13/01/2023).

20% of the cholera cases reported in Oromia and Somali regions are children under five years of age, while the rest comprises children up to 14 years of age (OCHA 01/11/2022). Children suffering from malnutrition are much more likely to die if they contract cholera because of their weakened immunity. Acute malnutrition affects a significant proportion of children in drought-affected communities, meaning the impact of diseases is particularly high among these communities.

The 2022 drought has disrupted the education of almost 500,000 children and over 4,500 schools had closed. Girls, children with disabilities, and displaced children are among the most at risk of not having access to education (Education Cannot Wait 22/12/2022 and 07/12/2022; GPE 16/09/2022). There are no recent estimates of the number of out-of-school children in Oromia and Somali regions, but as at 2020, the highest figures were in Amhara, Oromia, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region. Somali region is not part of the list, but it has a smaller population. In terms of the highest percentages of children at risk of being out of school, Somali and Afar regions were on top of the list (MOE 02/2020). There is no updated information regarding the education response (OCHA 06/12/2022).

Women and girls

The drought affects women and girls in various ways. For one, they are at high risk of GBV. Women usually have to travel far distances to fetch water and are often left alone while male family members are looking for food or livelihoods. This puts them at risk of abuse from other people (OCHA 08/09/2022). Food insecurity can also heighten their risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, since the lack of food, water, and personal hygiene elements, such as sanitary pads, can push some girls to exchange sexual activities for money (PI 18/10/2022; OCHA 07/02/2022). Early marriage is also a common economic coping mechanism in drought-affected areas (UNICEF 04/2022). According to a Gender and Adolescence Global Evidence survey, 58% of girls were married before the age of 18 in Somali region, with the average age at marriage being 17.4 years, and 8% of girls in the region marry before the age of 15. In Somali, parents and religious leaders often encourage girls to marry immediately after their first menstruation (GAGE 24/08/2022). The limited availability of and a lack of confidence in response services often hampers GBV response. Cases of gender-based violence in the region are also under-reported because of fears of retaliation by the perpetrator or stigmatisation by communities and family members (IOM 18/08/2022).

Elderly

In 2022, 3.1% (approximately 3.6 million people) of the total population of Ethiopia was above 65 years of age (Knoema accessed 16/01/2023). According to a 2018 HelpAge study, 15% of people above 65 years of age reported that they lived completely alone without extended family or caregivers to assist them, and 45% were widows. There is no public income support for the elderly in Ethiopia, meaning older adults must keep working or rely on the support of family members, which is particularly scarce and difficult during drought. During the 2011 drought, older people also reported facing isolation, which affected their mental health and caused psychological distress (WB 13/05/2021; HelpAge 09/2019 and 01/2011).

During difficult situations, communities often tend to neglect people with specific needs, usually because of a lack of resources for care, such as in female- and minor-headed households or for unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, individuals with serious chronic illnesses, members of the elderly without caregivers, and those affected by mental health and psychosocial distress (IOM 18/08/2022; OCHA 08/09/2022).

COPING MECHANISMS

IDPs have been relying on the support of host communities to overcome the drought. Although host communities in Somali are also dealing with the impacts of the drought, many displaced pastoralists have been allowed to share pasture with their farmers (UNHCR 28/06/2022). This coping mechanism is likely to become even less feasible as the number of people affected by drought continues to increase.

As the recurrent drought worsens the availability and accessibility of food and other essential services, **households unable to afford to feed their daughters or ensure their safety are resorting to child marriage** (The Guardian 30/04/2022). The number of child marriage cases increased by 69% in Oromia and 264% in Somali region between January–April 2022 compared to the same period in 2021 (OCHA 08/09/2022; UNICEF 05/10/2022). In an assessment made in West and East Hararge, and Shewa, in Oromia, 76% of the respondents mentioned child marriage as a coping mechanism (UNICEF 01/12/2022). In instances of increased child marriage cases and school dropouts, there is a risk of GBV, particularly towards girls (The Guardian 30/04/2022). Child marriage, child labour, street begging, transactional sex, and an increase in school dropout cases are the negative coping mechanisms that have been reported in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia (OCHA 08/09/2022; UNICEF 29/06/2022).

Family separation has also been reported across drought-affected areas, as individuals leave their households in search of livelihood opportunities, food, and safe water (OCHA 08/09/2022).



COMPOUNDING FACTORS

Displacement

Ethiopia hosts the third-largest amount of refugees in Africa, with 870,000 currently staying in the country (UNHCR 24/03/2022). 28% (250,000 refugees) are in Somali region. Most refugees come from Eritrea, Somalia, and South Sudan (UNHCR accessed 31/10/2022).

Aside from hosting refugees, Somali and Oromia regions also host IDPs, some of whom have been displaced since before the current drought (UNHCR 28/06/2022). As at November 2022, there were 308,000 drought-induced IDPs in Somali region (UNHCR 21/12/2022). The main factors causing internal displacement are resource-based conflict between different ethnic communities and environmental hazards, such as drought and seasonal floods. Other causes of displacement include disruptions in livelihoods, a sharp fluctuation in terms of trade, and human and animal diseases (IOM 18/08/2022).

Interethnic conflict between the Afar and Somalis over resources, particularly over the watercourse of Awash River, intensified in August 2022. Renewed clashes in areas bordering Somali and Afar displaced thousands of civilians, who need humanitarian assistance (Addis Standard 18/08/2022; ACLED 17/08/2022). IDPs often cite safety and security as their reasons for not returning to their locations of origin (IOM 18/08/2022).

In Guradamole woreda in Somali region, territorial conflict between Somali and Oromos has escalated since September 2022, causing displacement towards the Adeley IDP site. The site currently hosts over 12,500 households (equivalent to approximately 75,400 individuals) (UNICEF 01/12/2022; OCHA 04/11/2022). The largest formal camp in Somali region is Qolaji camp, which is occupied by an estimated 80,000 ethnic Somalis who fled from Oromia (Development Tracker accessed 02/02/2023). The shelters at Qolaji are predominantly made of plastic sheets and clothing (IOM 18/08/2022).

As at July 2022, 315,492 people remained displaced across West Guji zone in Oromia, although drought does not typically affect these areas (UNHCR 11/07/2022). Information on displacement in eastern and southeastern Oromia is limited.

Oromia and Somali are likely to have below-average rainfall during the first half of 2023, expectedly worsening the situation of communities and causing displacement (FEWS NET 12/2022). Territorial conflict will also likely continue to result in displacement.

Intercommunal conflict

Afar and Somali have historically been in dispute over natural resources, such as grazing lands and water, including the Awash River. The main dispute is over the watercourse, because it is essential for both communities, who rely on pastoral activities to subsist during the dry season (ACLED accessed 16/11/2022; Ethiopia Insight 11/07/2022). In August 2022, thousands of civilians were displaced as a result of armed clashes between Afar and Somali ethnic militias in Cundhufo kebele in Gewane woreda and Danlahelay in Siti zone in Somali region (ACLED 17/08/2022). The three kebeles of Adaytu, Garba-Issa, and Cundhufo were added to Afar regional state through an agreement signed by the two regional states (Somali and Afar) granting Somalis residing in the disputed territory greater political autonomy as “special kebeles” within Afar regional state, but these territories are currently in dispute with the Somali government. This has caused clashes between regional forces in Afar and Somali, which is already severely affected by the current drought (Addis Standard 18/08/2022; ACLED accessed 30/01/2023).

Intercommunal clashes in Somali region, between Somali and Afar communities over resources and land control, can affect civilians and limit the humanitarian response in the area (Ethiopia Insight 11/10/2022; Addis Standard 18/08/2022).

Al-Shabaab, an armed group based in Somalia, has moved towards Somali region of Ethiopia. In July 2022, Al-Shabaab attacked two villages near the border with Ethiopia. As a result, 80 people died within Somali territory, including civilians and Ethiopian police officers (Reuters 22/07/2022; VOA 20/07/2022). Al-Shabaab has been conducting repeated attacks from Somalia in the boundary areas with Afder, Liban, and Shabelle zones of Somali region since July 2022. Improvised explosive devices were also reported along the main roads, presenting a risk to the transportation of commercial and humanitarian supplies in Somali (OCHA 12/01/2023). The conflict has constrained humanitarian access across Afder, Liban, and Shabelle, affecting their ability to reach people in need and disrupting the drought response. The attacks appear to have been contained, but there is a perceived interest from Al-Shabaab to expand beyond Somalia, and future attacks are likely to happen (LeMonde 14/09/2022; The Jamestown Foundation 09/09/2022).

Conflict in different zones of Oromia persist. From 10 December 2022 to 6 January 2023, 23 clashes were recorded between the Oromia Liberation Front and government forces in Borena, Guji, North Shewa, South West Shewa, West Guji, West Hararge, West Shewa, and West Wellega zones (ACLED 11/01/2023).

The drought has increased intercommunal violence among pastoralist communities, particularly along the border between Liban zone and Bale in Oromia (OCHA 12/01/2023). In southern Oromia, insecurity has constrained the delivery of humanitarian aid (OCHA



09/11/2022). Ethnic and resource-based intercommunal conflicts within the drier regions are expected to increase with the worsening of the current dire conditions and increasing influxes of IDPs and refugees.

Inflation

The annual inflation rate in Ethiopia was 33.8% in December 2022, slightly lower than 35.1% in November and 44% in May. Food inflation was at 33% in December, also lower than 34% in November. In January 2022, there was a small decrease in the prices of most cereal products, edible oil, meat, milk, and eggs. That said, prices remain high and above average, and the food supply remains low in drought-affected areas. The economy has been affected by the high global fuel and food prices associated with the war in Ukraine, low export revenue, the limited availability of hard currency, and high government expenditures (Business Insider 20/01/2023; FEWS NET 11/2022).

Textile exports have decreased as result of the removal of Ethiopia from the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a measure imposed by the US as a response to the human rights violations taking place in the conflict in northern Ethiopia and the involvement of the Ethiopian Government in the perpetration (USTR 01/01/2022; Al Jazeera 02/01/2022). The nationwide macroeconomic situation is likely to remain unstable, since global food and economic crises will continue to affect inflation levels in the countries of the Horn of Africa region, particularly in terms of food and fuel prices. This is likely to affect the population's purchasing power and raise poverty levels (IGC 08/08/2022; Islamic Relief 04/04/2022). The cereal market will remain unstable with highly volatile prices, as most of the Horn of Africa region's production is dependent on rain-fed agricultural imports, and humanitarian grain imports from the Black Sea Grain Initiative could fail to meet needs in many countries (UKRinform 23/01/2023; RFE/RL 21/01/2023).

Flooding

Oromia and Somali regions are susceptible to flooding. After intense drought, soil becomes unable to absorb water, resulting in water staying on the surface and causing damage to houses, crops, and infrastructure (Wired 19/08/2022). In Somali region, the Kiremt long rains (from June–September) occurred only in Fafan and Siti zones. The heavy rainfall levels caused road damage and prevented access for humanitarian assistance (Addis Standard 18/08/2022; WFP 21/07/2022). In 2020, flooding affected over 150,000 people in Somali region (Addis Standard 20/08/2020; OCHA 29/05/2020). There were not enough shelters or food for IDPs, who were forced to stay in overcrowded shelters or in the open air, and they had to rely on wild plants and roots for food (OCHA 24/10/2022; UNICEF 06/10/2022). In the case of moderate

to heavy rains, the susceptibility of dry soil to flooding in some areas can destroy farmlands, livestock, and essential infrastructure, leading to new livelihood losses and limiting humanitarian access.

Pest infestation

Ethiopia is prone to pest infestations. Since 2019, it has been facing a desert locust invasion, damaging crops, reducing food availability, and affecting livelihoods. The infestation has been affecting different regions through the years; currently, it is affecting Shabelle zone (FAO 23/12/2021; Al Jazeera 21/10/2020).

Oromia was the second region most affected by the desert locust infestation in 2020, particularly affecting East and West Hararge zones. It resulted in the loss of seeds for sowing for the Belg and Meher seasons. The resulting damage has long-term effects on people's ability to rebuild their savings, regrow crops and livestock, and prepare for future weather shocks (WB 01/07/2020). The impact of pest infestation on the food security situation of affected areas can be devastating, as it further limits the agricultural opportunities available during drought. Currently, an infestation is affecting Shabelle zone in Somali region, damaging irrigation and crop production in the zone (OCHA 18/01/2023). There is a threat of swarms from this locust infestation migrating and spreading, as in 2020 when swarms migrated southwards from breeding areas in eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia to southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya (GOAL 18/01/2021). If this happens, it could affect the remaining crops and livestock in Oromia and Somali regions, causing severe consequences for people already suffering from the effects of the drought.

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

Operational and geographic limitations

Although certain areas of western Oromia, such as in Guji and West Guji, face an increased presence of armed groups hindering humanitarian access, the main access constraints in the drought-affected areas of southern Oromia are a result of operational and geographical limitations. Similarly, in June 2022, in the drought-affected areas of Somali (such as Konso zone), conflict affected not only the access of humanitarian responders to the affected people but also the access of displaced people to their land and resources (OCHA 03/06/2022).

The remoteness of some woredas in Oromia prevent a timely response. At the same time, drought in the region can also areas result in intercommunal conflict over resources, hindering humanitarian access to affected populations (OCHA 01/11/2022, 21/09/2022, and 03/06/2022).



Violence and insecurity

The uptick of violence has affected the humanitarian response. In 2022, 50% of the aid response in Oromia decreased as a result of clashes. The hostilities have spread to new areas, such as Horo Gudru Wellega and Ilu Aba Bora zones, as well as East, North, and South West Shewa (central Oromia). Although these areas are not reported to be drought-affected zones of Oromia, the insecurity has restricted life-saving operations, stopped movements, forced humanitarian responders to hibernate in field locations in parts of Oromia, and blocked movements between Oromia and Somali regions, restricting access to drought-affected Daawa and Liban zones. In 2022, in southern Oromia, aid workers and supply transporters faced protection risks, including kidnappings by armed groups and arrests by regional security forces (OCHA 12/01/2023). As at 31 October 2022, hostilities continued to affect humanitarian access. Violence has affected the transport of relief supplies along the Addis Ababa-Ambo-Nekemte road and onwards to Assossa (Benishangul Gumuz region) (OCHA 09/11/2022). From July–December 2022, insecurity in southern Oromia also created challenges for humanitarians in responding to the needs of conflict- and drought-affected IDPs (OCHA 12/01/2023).

In Somali, violent events leading to road blockages constrained the delivery of humanitarian aid (OCHA 09/11/2022). Security risks from recent Al-Shabaab incursions within Ethiopian territory has also constrained access to some areas in Somali region bordering Somalia (OCHA 21/09/2022). There is limited information on current access conditions for humanitarian responders, but security is likely to remain an obstacle for the response.

RESPONSE CAPACITY

The country is facing overlapping crises (conflict in the north, cholera, and drought), and funding resources are not sufficient to respond to all of these (USAID 13/12/2022). In 2022, a total of 104 organisations, including UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, and government entities were engaged in the humanitarian response in Ethiopia, but most of them were concentrated in Tigray region. As a result, regions affected by the drought have received less resources and attention than needed. As at 14 December, the funding requirement for drought was a little over 50%, however, the overall 2022 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan to respond to conflict, violence, drought, and flood-induced humanitarian needs was only 47% funded (OCHA 09/11/2022). The least funded clusters are protection (9% funded), education (10%), camp coordination and management (19%), and shelter and NFI (23%) (OCHA 15/12/2022). There were significant delays in the access of animal vaccination, in the access of drinking water wells, and in fodder distributions for vulnerable livestock in drought-affected areas (TNH 24/03/2022).

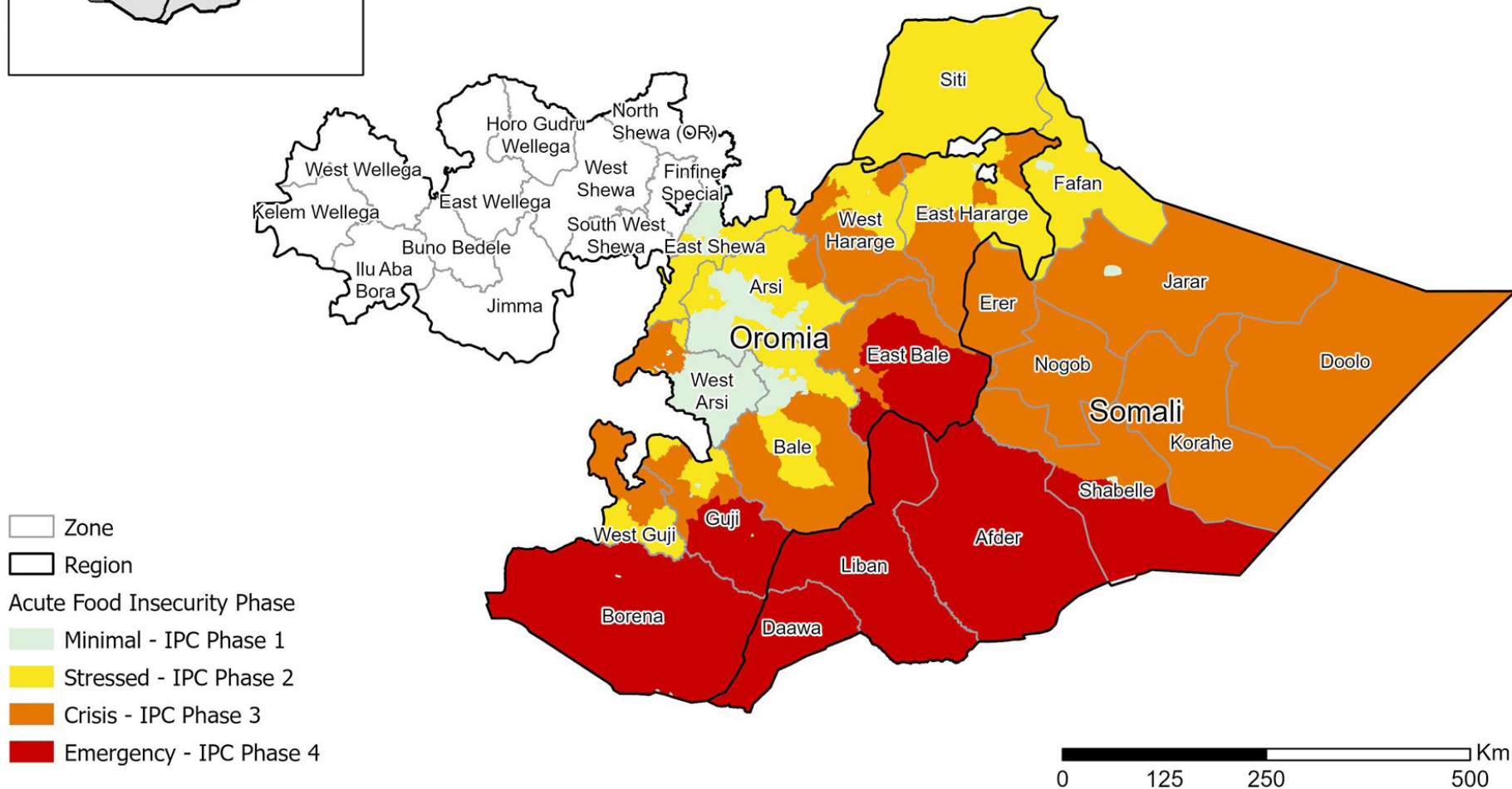
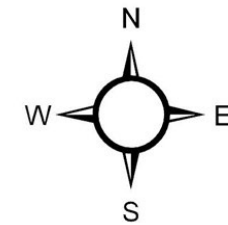
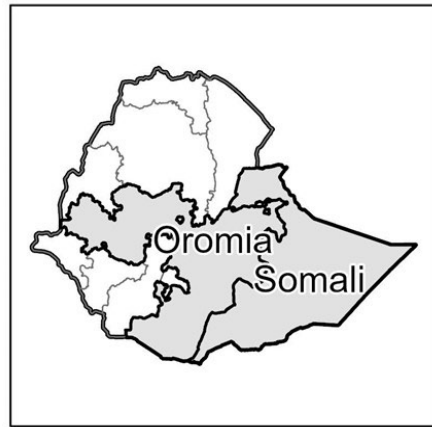
In Oromia, there are inadequate means for humanitarian response and cholera mitigation. In 2022, the humanitarian response capacity in western and southern Oromia decreased by 50% because of limited funding and the reprioritisation of resources to other crises in the country (OCHA 12/01/2023 and 09/11/2022). As a result, there were not enough organisations/responders to meet the needs for WASH, health, nutrition, shelter and NFI, protection, and education (OCHA 12/01/2023).

In Somali region, although 100% of the people in need had been targeted for humanitarian response in July 2022, there was still a significant lack of shelter and NFI, health, nutrition, protection, education and camp coordination responders present (OCHA 03/08/2022). Responders from the food sector had been the most prominent in the region, followed by some WASH responders. The longer-term impacts of the drought may not be adequately addressed in Somali given the lack of relevant responders.

INFORMATION GAPS

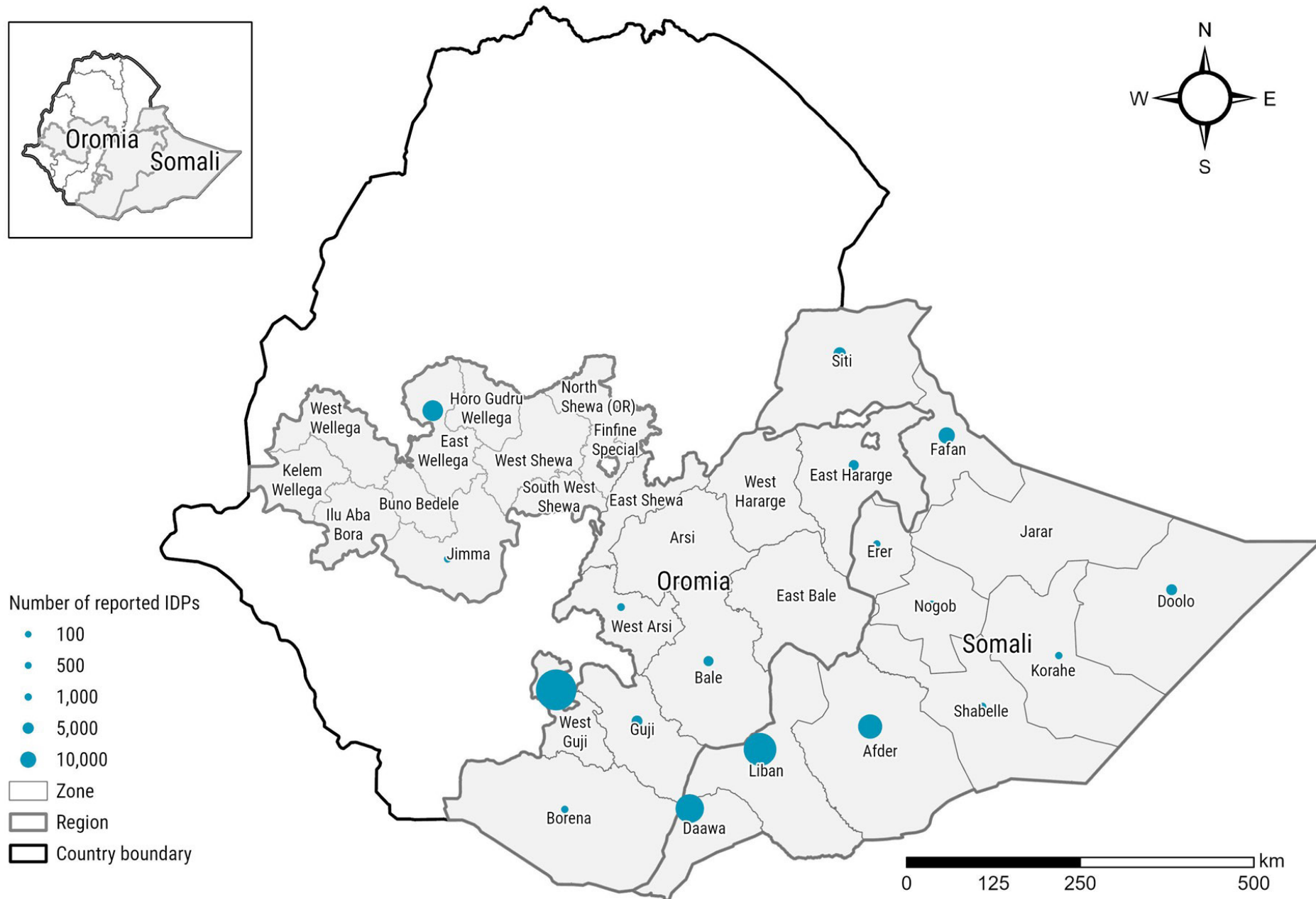
- The most recent census in Ethiopia was conducted in 2007, meaning population figures are based on projections and may be inaccurate.
- Information on displacement is particularly limited in areas where there is poor humanitarian access (IOM 20/10/2022).
- There is limited information on the needs of drought-affected and/or displaced people and host communities, particularly concerning WASH, shelter, health, and education. Available information can be outdated.
- Insecurity and limited internet and telephone connectivity hinder assessments in some parts of Oromia and Somali regions.
- Different assessment methodologies across reporting (e.g. local, zonal, and regional sources) result in varying information on the severity of needs, particularly for food insecurity.
- It is difficult to establish as to what extent needs are driven by drought, conflict, or drought-related conflict.
- Information on the impact of drought on refugees in these regions is lacking.
- No information is available on the extent and scale of drought-driven intercommunal violence (Ethiopia Insight 11/07/2022).
- There is no updated information on the response on education, particularly in drought-affected areas.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PHASE (IPC) ACROSS SOMALI AND EASTERN/SOUTHEASTERN OROMIA (FEBRUARY TO MAY 2023)



Source: FEWS NET (accessed 08/02/2023)

NUMBER OF REPORTED IDPS ACROSS SOMALI AND EASTERN/SOUTHEASTERN OROMIA FOR THE 2021 TO 2022 PERIOD



Source: ACAPS using data from IOM (19/10/2022)