

# ETHIOPIA

## Crisis Profile

Multiple internal conflicts have led to displacement and a significant increase in humanitarian needs across Ethiopia in 2018.

There are 2.8 million IDPs in the country, mainly due to insecurity and violence in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNPR) and Oromia border regions, Somali and Oromia border regions and Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia border regions (OCHA 28/10/2018). Ethiopia also hosts over 900,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. After the opening of the Eritrea-Ethiopia border, around 15,000 Eritreans have been registered at the Endabaguna Reception Centre since September 2018 (UNHCR 20/10/2018, ECHO 26/09/2018, UNHCR 20/10/2018). In addition, 220,000 Ethiopians returned from Saudi Arabia since 5 May 2017, with the majority being forced returns (IOM, 31/10/2018).

Needs are further exacerbated by protracted drought and episodes of severe flooding. Continuing food insecurity, malnutrition and water shortages, mainly in pastoral areas, as well as the risk of disease outbreaks are the main humanitarian concerns in the country. Humanitarian needs have increased across all sectors in 2018 (World Population 18/09/2018, HDRP MYR 08/10/2018).

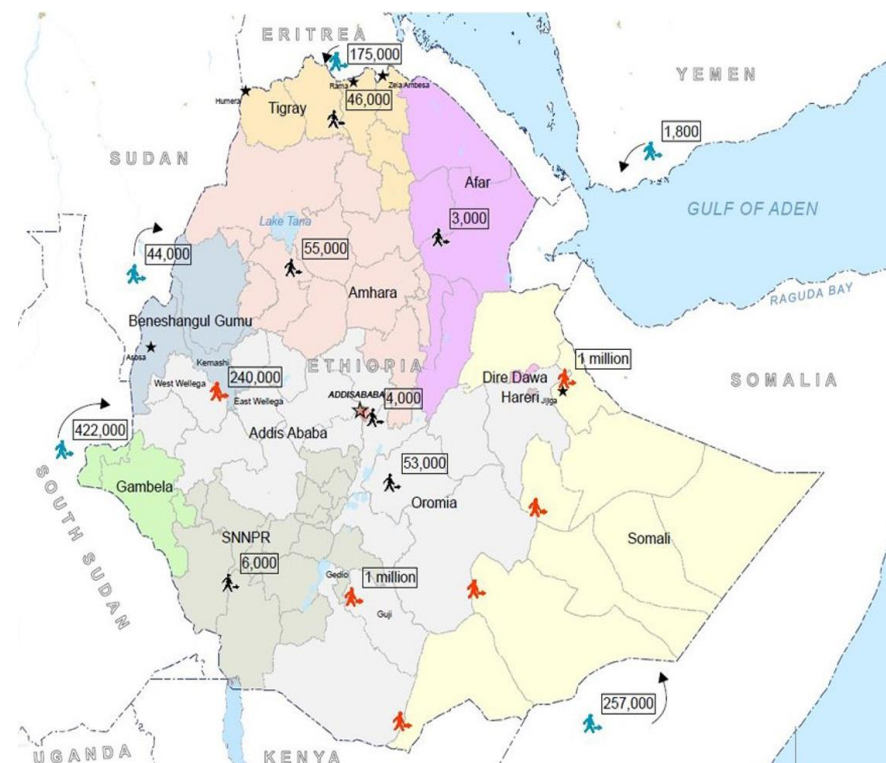
### Key priorities

-  **+2.8 million**  
IDPs
-  **+8.2 million**  
People in need of WASH
-  **+7.9 million**  
People in need of food
-  **+6.5 million**  
People in need of health

### Information Gaps

Lack of access has resulted in limited information on many hard-to-reach areas and areas where clashes continue. There is no information detailing to what extent the conflicts have damaged crops or homes. Health surveillance is a challenge in all regions with low reporting rates from health facilities at the *woreda* and zonal levels.

ACAPS welcomes all information that could complement this report. For additional comments or questions please contact Caroline Draveny at [cd@acaps.org](mailto:cd@acaps.org)



## Political context

In April 2018, the Ethiopian parliament elected Abiy Ahmed, head of the Oromo Peoples Democratic Organization (OPDO), to succeed Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, who resigned in February. Abiy Ahmed took office in April following more than two years of anti-government protests by the Oromo people (Ethiopia's largest ethnicity) and the Amhara (Ethiopia's second biggest ethnicity). Both groups claimed that they had been marginalised by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), the ruling coalition of 4 ethnically based political organisations: the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, the Amhara National Democratic Movement, the Oromo People's Democratic Organization, and the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (Africa Center 20/03/2018). The anti-government protests were repressed by the former government with force, leading to hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of arrests.

Abiy Ahmed is Ethiopia's first prime minister to come from the Oromia region (Foreign Affairs 10/09/2018, Africa News 03/04/2018, BBC 02/04/2018, Africa News 27/03/2018). The new government is pursuing a reformist agenda. In April, it immediately lifted a state of emergency that had been in place since February, released political prisoners, allowed exiled dissidents to return home, signed an agreement to end hostilities with the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and signed a peace deal with the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), an armed group operating in eastern Ethiopia (Reuters 22/10/2018, Times Live 22/10/2018, Reuters 12/08/2018, Al Jazeera 07/08/2018). Abiy Ahmed also proposed that Ethiopian prime ministers adhere to strict term limits. He admitted that the state had previously engaged in serious human rights abuses, and stated that he was committed to holding free and fair elections in 2020. Abiy Ahmed appointed women to half of the ministerial posts (Times Live 22/10/2018, Reuters 12/08/2018, Al Jazeera 07/08/2018). In September, the government signed a peace deal with Eritrea to restore diplomatic and trade relations (BBC 11/09/2018). Since October, Ethiopia has also been implementing a visa-on-arrival regime for all Africans entering the country (Africa News 09/10/2018) (Foreign Affairs 10/09/2018, BBC 14/09/2018).

Despite these reforms, protests continue in multiple locations across the country. Detention continues, but at a lower level compared to before Abiy Ahmed's election. Although the new government shows a progressive agenda, concerns

about further government crackdowns remain due to the number of conflicts in the country (Reuters 12/08/2018, Al Jazeera 07/08/2018, ACLED 13/10/2018).

As Ethiopia pushed forward political and economic reform, ethnic violence spread across the country. Throughout 2018, there has been a significant increase in clashes and hundreds of fatalities have occurred as a result of fighting between different ethnic groups. These clashes are mainly driven by scarcity of resources, such as food, farmland, and livestock. The scarcity of resources is a result of consecutive droughts and episodes of flooding during 2016 and 2017 and it is likely to be a root cause of the current conflicts across the country in 2018 (Devex 13/08/2018, Reuters 21/06/2018).

This recent rise in violence contrasts sharply with the more progressive changes in government policy. Many of the rivalries fuelling the violence have been present for decades. However, Ethiopia was previously led by an authoritarian regime that arguably helped suppress underlying tensions and kept violence at bay. Abiy Ahmed seeks to impose his leadership without authoritarianism. Some analysts believe that there will be no re-establishment of law and order without stronger leadership, and that the centralised decision-making behind the recent reforms has created ground for discontent and violence. The current violence risks tipping Abiy Ahmed's administration back to authoritarian rule (Daily Nation, 25/10/2018, LdWF 08/10/2018).

Ethiopia is partitioned into nine regions with borders that follow ethnic lines (Daily Nation, 25/10/2018, LWF 08/10/2018, Reuters 21/06/2018). Since 1991, Ethiopia is using ethnicity as a fundamental organising principle of a federal system of government. The 1995 constitution, written by the EPRDF, which many saw as dominated by the Tigrayan ethnic minority, was a pioneer experiment that placed ethnic diversity to accommodate democratic states. The constitution is one of a few in the world to allow not only self-governance, but also the option of secession (IJSRP, 10/10/2017). The intention was to address demands for local empowerment. The EPRDF also pursued economic expansion, hoping that if Ethiopia's poverty lessened, ethnic identity would fall away in favour of national unity. This has not been the case and ethnic differences remain pronounced despite economic improvement. Limited land and water resources, exacerbated by drought conditions, are likely a significant driver of conflict (ACLED 19/11/17, Ethioexplorer 15/02/2018).

## Ethnic groups in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is home to several ethno-linguistic communities with different histories, languages, and cultures. The country has more than 80 ethnic groups (The conversation 01/10/2018). Ethnic conflict in Ethiopia is not new, but the levels of violence taking place across the country have been rising in 2018, leading to increased internal displacement and humanitarian needs. Climate events resulting in a lack of water and land are a significant driver of need (Devex 13/08/2018).

More than 108 million people live in Ethiopia (World Meters, 26/11/2018).

**Oromos** - Around 34 million people in Ethiopia are Oromos (34% of the population). They are concentrated primarily in the central region of Ethiopia, the Oromia region, and practice subsistence farming (Nations Encyclopedia 2018, Reuters 16/02/2018, World Atlas 07/07/2017).

**Amharas** - Approximately 27 million people, Amharas, hail from the northern and central highlands. Amhara claim they are increasingly politically marginalised (Reuters 16/02/2018, World Atlas 07/07/2017).

**Tigrayans** – Totalling around 6 million people, most Tigrayans live in the northern region of Ethiopia. Tigrayans have dominated politics and the security forces from 1991 until April 2018 (Reuters 16/02/2018, World Atlas 07/07/2017).

**Somalis** - The dry and arid Somali region occupies the eastern third of the country and is home to 6 million people. It has a history of separatist rebellion against Addis Ababa, largely fuelled by resentment at its low level of development. Somali people are spread across Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, and Somalia and are divided into social units known as clans (Reuters 16/02/2018, World Atlas 07/07/2017).

**SNNP Region** - The Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region, located in the southwest abutting Kenya and South Sudan, is home to more than 40 ethnic groups (Reuters 16/02/2018, World Atlas 07/07/2017).

**Others** - Other ethnic groups in Ethiopia include the Sidana (4 million), the Gurage (2.3 million), the Welyata (2.2 million), the Afar (1.7 million), the Hadiya (1.7 million), and the Gamo (1.4 million) (Reuters 16/02/2018, World Atlas 07/07/2017).

## Overview of displacement situation

**IDPs:** Ethiopia is home to at least 2.8 million IDPs and has experienced the most new displacement associated with conflict and violence across the globe in the first half of 2018 (1.4 million new displaced people). Displacement has continued to increase from July (IDMC 12/09/2018, DTM 16/11/2018).

Intercommunal conflict in Gedeo zone (SNNP region) and West Guji zone (Oromia region) has displaced over 1 million people since 13 April (IDMC 12/09/2018). The capacity of hosting communities to absorb new IDPs is strained, and most of the newly displaced people are living in precarious conditions in overcrowded shelters (IDMC 12/09/2018, CARE 31/07/2018, OCHA 17/08/2018).

Since July, violence along the border between Oromia and Somali regions has displaced over 200,000 people to overcrowded camps in the Somali region (NRC 20/11/2018). Clashes have left up to 1 million people displaced in the two regions since September 2017 (IDMC 12/09/2018, OCHA 20/06/2018).

A conflict also erupted between Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia regions in October (ACLED 25/09/2018). About 240,000 people have been displaced in the region (OCHA 29/11/2018, UNICEF 31/10/2018).

**Refugees:** There are over 905,000 refugees and Asylum-seekers in Ethiopia. Most refugees in Ethiopia have been in protracted displacement and are in need of assistance (UNHCR 09/2018, UNHCR 31/08/2018).

Since December 2013, some 422,000 refugees from South Sudan crossed the border into Ethiopia. Of these, 115,000 refugees were fleeing renewed violence in their country in September 2016 (IOM, 22/09/2017, ECHO 04/12/2018). Ethiopia also hosts over 257,000 refugees from Somalia, 175,000 from Eritrea, 44,000 from Sudan, 1,800 from Yemen and around 6,000 from other nationalities. About 59% of all refugees in Ethiopia are under 18 years old (UNHCR 09/2018, UNHCR 09/2018, UNHCR 31/08/2018, UNHCR 08/2018, UNHCR 07/2018).

Gambella and Beneshangul-Gumuz regions are hosting the majority of South Sudanese refugees in camps. Sudanese refugees are mostly in Beneshangul-Gumuz region. Somali refugees are being hosted in the Somali region and Eritrean refugees in Tigray and Afar regions. The capital Addis Ababa hosts over

22,000 refugees from all the nationalities mentioned previously (UNHCR 31/08/2018, UNHCR 09/2018).

Since the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia was opened on 11 September, over 15,000 Eritreans were newly registered at the Endabaguna Reception Centre since 11 September. Refugees have been relocated to Adi Harush, Mai Aini and Hitsats camps (UNHCR 20/10/2018, Eritrea Hub 20/09/2018).

**Returnees:** Around 500,000 Ethiopians were living in Saudi Arabia when the amnesty period for irregular migrants expired in March 2017. From 5 May 2017 to 31 October 2018, around 220,000 people were returned to Ethiopia. 84% of the returnees were forced. The majority of returnees are living in Amhara (55,000), Oromia (53,000), Tigray (46,000), SNNP (6,000), and Afar (3,000) regions and in the capital Addis Ababa (4,000) (IOM 31/10/2018).

## Recent conflicts and incidents of internal displacement

**Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) and Oromia border regions:** In April 2018, historically recurring intercommunal clashes between communities along the border of Gedeo (SNNPR) and West Guji (Oromia) zones began again. Firearms, machetes, and spears were used in the violence (Borkena 11/06/2018). Fighting intensified in June, and hundreds of thousands of people fled their homes. Most of the displaced people originate from West Guji. The exact number of casualties is unknown, but the violence is reported to have left at least 200 people dead (IOM 14/08/2018). Although it is not clear specifically what triggered the violence on such a scale in 2018, land disputes over border demarcations and resources remain a source of tension (ICRC 29/08/2018, UNHCR 03/08/2018, Borkena 11/06/2018).

Some sources indicate that violence in the Gedeo (SNNP) and West Guji (Oromia) zones has displaced over 1 million people since 13 April (IDMC 12/09/2018). However, there is no official consensus on the actual number of IDPs and returnees in both zones (UNICEF 31/10/2018). In August, the government started to restrict the delivery of assistance, forcing IDPs to return home to receive aid. Many IDPs who tried to return home are in secondary displacement sites because return areas were destroyed and remain insecure (Refugees International 11/2018). By 9 October, some

sources indicate that around 456,000 IDPs had returned to their places of origin or moved to new IDP collective sites (OCHA 09/10/2018).

Prior to the new displacement, this area was already one of the most densely populated parts of the country. In some IDP-hosting *woredas*, the new influx of IDPs has almost doubled the population, placing strain on housing and other resources. The capacity of the hosting communities to absorb the new arrivals have been strained (CARE 31/07/2018, OCHA 29/06/2018). There is a lack of resources to promote relocation opportunities (ECHO 19/06/2018, OCHA 22/05/2018, OCHA 14/06/2018). IDPs and returnees require humanitarian assistance. Priorities are shelter and NFIs, food, health and WASH (WFP 10/2018, OCHA 17/08/2018).

**Somali and Oromia border regions:** Oromia and Somali regions share the longest border within Ethiopia. Although they share language, religion and culture, they have fought over the past 25 years. In 2004, after the referendum that gave part of the smallest administrative regions to Oromia, thousands of Somalis fled the contested areas in fear of repercussion (VOANEWS 29/11/2017, BBC 18/09/2017). Clashes between Oromos and Somali groups over border demarcations and natural resources have caused high numbers of casualties and deaths, as well as displacement, since September 2017, when protests turned violent and have left up to one million people displaced in the two regions (HDRP MYR 08/10/2018, OCHA 20/05/2018, OCHA 17/04/2018, VOA 13/08/2018, VOA 18/09/2018).

Since July, the conflict has displaced over 200,000 people to overcrowded camps in the Somali region, where humanitarian aid is overstretched. The majority of IDPs came from the Oromia region (NRC 20/11/2018).

On 4 August, renewed clashes broke out along the Somali-Oromia border region (BBC 04/08/2018). The Somali region's *Liyu* paramilitary forces and regional President Abdi Mohamoud Omer were accused of human rights violations, and the federal government forces tried to remove both. Violence broke out with armed actors attacking civilians and looting property in the regional capital Jijiga, leading to a massive internal displacement. The conflict quickly spread to Deghabur, Warder, Kabridahar, Gode and Babile areas. Civilians who were perceived to be non-Somali were particularly targeted. The cross-border conflict in the Somali and Oromia regions that started on 4 August has displaced 141,000 people alone (Reuters 04/08/2018).

On 11 and 12 August, violence also spread to the East Hararghe district of Oromia region, where at least 40 people were killed by *Liyu* paramilitary forces who are loyal to Somali region's former leader Abdi Mohammed Omer (OCHA 17/08/2018, OCHA 31/08/2018). The situation improved in mid-August as conflict decreased and there was a slow return movement of IDPs to their areas of origin. However, reports of violence since 28 August indicate that the crisis is ongoing and further casualties and displacement are likely to continue (OCHA 17/08/2018, Halbeeg 28/08/2018, Addis Standard 28/08/2018).

On 8 November, the Ethiopian police discovered a mass grave with 200 bodies at the border of Somali and Oromia regions. It is believed that the deaths were the result of the conflict between the regions (BBC 08/11/2018, The Washington Post 08/11/2018).

IDPs and host communities in Somali region face IPC 4 (Emergency) levels of food insecurity. Some 42% of the population in Somali region, or 2.3 million people, are food insecure (Fewsnet 17/08/2018, Fewsnet 27/07/2018). Particularly in Jijjiga, Degahbour, Wader, Kabridahar, and Gode cities, critical food shortages have been reported among IDPs and host communities (WHO 24/08/2018, OCHA 17/08/2018, Fewsnet 28/07/2018). Poor food-security outcomes are leading to critical levels of acute malnutrition, with 1.7% of the population affected by severe acute malnutrition (WHO 01/06/2018).

Hundreds of people have fled across the border to Kenya following violence between Oromo and Somali groups in Moyale town from 13-15 December. At least 34 people were killed and 161 people injured in the fighting (Reuters 15/12/2018, The Reporter 15/12/2018). On 17 December, a shooting incident involving the Ethiopian army also left 12 civilians dead inside the Bekele Molla Hotel located in Moyale town. An unknown number of people are wounded. Heavy artillery was used during the fighting army (Africa News 18/12/2018, All Africa 17/12/2018). Moyale town and region is claimed by both the Oromo and the Somali ethnic group and it has regularly been the scene of intercommunal violence in 2017 and 2018 (News24 15/12/2018). The conflict in December was more intense than previous clashes in the same area over the past few months (Reuters 15/12/2018).

Health needs are also critical. Most health sector partners suspended their operations due to security concerns, affecting the delivery of healthcare services (OCHA 17/08/2018). There is a shortage of drugs and medical supplies. Psychosocial

care and mental health services for IDPs are not available in several places, mainly because of an absence of qualified personnel. Hospitals and health facilities were left abandoned as health workers and professionals fled to different locations due to insecurity (WHO 24/08/2018).

**Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia border regions:** A number of ethnic clashes have occurred in the Benishangul-Gumuz region since May 2018. The region saw a wave of violence from 25–28 June, with 10 people killed in the regional capital, Assosa. The cause of the violence was unclear, though some sources referred to an ethnic conflict and fight over natural resources. The Berta and Gumuz ethnic groups are considered indigenous to Benishangul-Gumuz; however, there is also a large presence of ethnic Amharas and Oromos (Africa News 28/10/2018, AA 01/10/2018).

About 240,000 people have been displaced in Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia regions, following an attack on leaders of the Benishangul-Gumuz regional authority on 25 September (OCHA 29/11/2018, UNICEF 31/10/2018). At least 60 people were killed in clashes since 25 September. Local sources suggest the number of deaths is likely to be much higher because clashes also occurred in rural areas where casualty figures may not yet have been reported (The reporter Ethiopia 06/10/2018, OCHA 30/08/2018).

Access in Benishangul- Gumuz region is particularly difficult due to a lockdown of key roads by rival groups (The reporter Ethiopia 06/10/2018, Ezega 02/10/2018, OCHA 10/2018, Channel New Asia 05/10/2018, Voa News 02/10/2018). Information about the exact number of displaced people, their locations and needs remain limited, but reports since 25 September have consistently shown increasing estimates. Ongoing assessments will probably confirm a higher number of displaced people (OCHA 10/2018).

The conflict between the Oromo and Gumuz people in Kamashi and Eastern Wollega zones started in 2008 (Norad 27/06/2018).

## Eritrean refugee influx to Ethiopia

Following the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship signed by Eritrea and Ethiopia governments on 11 September, 18 border crossing points have been opened (Eritrea Hub 20/09/2018). The main crossing points are at Humera, Rama and

Zalambesa cities (UNHCR 20/10/2018). The reopening of the border has resulted in a significant increase in the number of new arrivals in Tigray and Afar regions, with the average daily rate of arrivals increasing from 53 to approximately 390 individuals. Since the border was opened, around 15,000 refugees from Eritrea were registered at the Endabaguna Reception Centre. Over 10,000 people were relocated from Endabaguna to Adi Harush, Mai Aini and Hitsats camps. Some refugees have joined friends and family already living in Ethiopia, so figures may be higher than those recorded (UNHCR 20/10/2018, Eritrea Hub 20/09/2018).

New arrivals are requested to present their asylum applications at temporary collection centres in Zalambessa, Rama, Humera, Gerhusirnay, Adinebried, and Chilla before heading to the Endabaguna Registration Center. 74% of the new arrivals mentioned family reunification as a secondary reason for the movement (MSF 10/07/2018).

It brings the total number of Eritrean refugees in the Tigray region to over 46,000 people as of November. There are over 173,000 Eritreans in Ethiopia, many unaccompanied minors (UNHCR 20/10/2018, UNHCR 05/10/2018). Around 40% of the population in camps is aged under 18. Half of them are travelling alone or have been separated from their families (MSF 10/07/2018).

Humanitarian needs are shelter, food, wash, healthcare and protection (ECHO 26/09/2018, UNHCR 20/10/2018, UNHCR 05/10/2018, NRC 10/10/2018, Refugee Sponsorship Training Program 2018). Mental health of refugees is a concern (MSF 10/07/2018). Women and children constitute around 90% of the new arrivals, in contrast with the profile of the existing population in camps in Tigray, where young men and children were the majority (UNHCR 01/09/2018, Refugee Sponsorship Training Program 2018). Sexual and gender-based violence has been reported in the camps (Refugee Sponsorship Training Program 2018).

## Crisis Impact overview

**WASH:** 8.2 million people are in need of wash assistance in Ethiopia as of October, an increase from 6.9 million people in January 2018 due to the new wave of internal displacement. 871,000 IDPs displaced by the Oromia-Somali conflict do not have access to safe drinking water or latrines. Hygiene and sanitation facilities in the SNNP and Oromia regions are also particularly limited

due to conflict and insecurity. IDP settlements are potential risk areas for AWD outbreaks, measles and other communicable diseases as there are no proper sanitation facilities or access to safe drinking water. Due to the lack of permanent water infrastructure, some sites require water trucking. Significant humanitarian needs across the country are likely to be a consequence of the scarcity of water and land issues due to climate events in 2016 and 2017 (HDRP MYR 08/10/2018, OCHA 15/06/2018).

**Food:** 7.95 million people are in need of food assistance as of October across Ethiopia, an increase from the 7.88 million people in January 2018. Areas of highest food insecurity include eastern Somali region, border pastoral areas of Oromia (parts of Guji and Borena) and Somali regions, parts of East and West Hararghe in Oromia, and West Guji of Oromia and Gedeo of SNNP region. Crisis (IPC 3) is projected to continue in these areas until January 2019, also due to drought, flooding and conflict (Fews Net 09/2018, OCHA 14/10/2018).

Prior to above-average *Belg* rains (March-May) and *Karan/Karma* rains (June-September), several consecutive failed rainy seasons and severe drought affected the south and southeast. Households largely lost their livestock and livelihoods in 2016 and 2017. The consequences of this loss are still felt across the country, with the limited capacity of households for full livelihood recovery. Although drought has been the main driver of food insecurity, flash floods in May-July also caused displacement and left people in dire need of food assistance. Afar, Oromia, Somali and SNNP regions reported severe flooding, and damage to crops and livelihoods (HDRP MYR 08/10/2018, OCHA 10/05/2018, FEWS NET 11/05/2018, World Vision 11/05/2018, UNITAR 04/05/2018). Loss of crops, food factories, food stocks and livelihoods have been reported and markets have been negatively affected in conflict zones (Ethsat 04/06/2018; OCHA 22/05/2018).

An infestation of fall armyworm contributed to crop damage in 2017, reducing food availability at the end of 2017 and throughout 2018, which led to reduced incomes and food supplies for poorer households (Fews Net 06/07/2018). High food prices are also a concern amongst poorer households (WFP 18/07/2018, WFP 06/2018).

**Health:** Around 7.5 million people are in need of health assistance in Ethiopia. The most reported diseases amongst IDPs are acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) with a total of 3,090 reported cases between 1 January and 25 November, and

pneumonia. Untreated wounds are also reported as a common problem (HDRP MYR 08/10/2018, WHO 14/12/2018). Measles continues to be a problem with a total of 3,832 suspected measles cases reported in 2018 as of 18 November. Between January – December 2017, 4,011 suspected cases were reported (WHO 14/12/2018, WHO 06/07/2018). There is limited access to health services due to shortages of supplies, facilities and staff. Low immunisation coverage predisposes the population to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases (WHO 30/11/2018). Lack of hygiene and overcrowded settlements also increase the risk of outbreaks of waterborne diseases, due to poor WASH conditions in collective sites and IDP shelters. There are 135 districts at high risk of AWD outbreaks. Malnutrition hotspots are Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions, mainly in IDP displacement sites (WHO 30/11/2018, HDRP MYR 08/10/2018). Health facilities in IDP-hosting districts in Gedeo zone are providing free health service for the IDPs, but it is limited and overstretched. Properties and public infrastructures, as health facilities, have been burnt down and/or looted in the region (OCHA 14/06/2018, OCHA 22/05/2018).

**Shelter:** 2.8 million people are in need of shelter in 2018, up from 1.5 million people in need of shelter in 2017. The escalation of the Guji and Gedeo conflict has resulted in the most severe shelter needs in 2018, since it displaced 1 million people alone during the year. The ongoing conflict between Somali and Oromia region has also contributed to increased shelter needs (HDRP MYR 08/10/2018).

**Protection:** Over 920,000 people are in need of protection. Protection concerns include child labour and separation of families, and the situation of older people left behind, as well as gender-based violence (GBV) (ICRC 11/12/2018, HDRP MYR 08/10/2018).

**Education:** 2.6 million children affected by conflict and drought are in need of education assistance as of October, an increase from the 2.2 million children in January. Unavailability of schools, the lack of water in schools and the lack of learning materials are the main factors preventing displaced children from attending schools in temporary settlements. There are 2014 districts in Ethiopia in high need of education. Main areas in need of education assistance are Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions due to conflict (HDRP MYR 08/10/2018).

## Aggravating factors

### Drought, underlying food insecurity and fall armyworm

Almost 8 million people in Ethiopia are food insecure and depend on assistance, mainly due to the effects of the drought in 2016 and 2017 (OCHA 29/11/2018, OCHA 03/08/2018). The country was one of the worst affected in East Africa during the *El Niño* drought of 2016–2017, reducing production by up to 90% in some areas. In 2018, many households are still recovering from the shock (OCHA 2018). Livelihoods and access to typical sources of food and income have been disrupted, which has led to a deterioration in nutritional status for children under five and pregnant and lactating women (Fews Net 09/2018). A large number of the IDPs fleeing conflict moved with their livestock. The influx of displaced people with livestock in areas that face livestock feed shortages is putting additional pressure on limited resources, and negatively impacting ongoing livestock interventions (DRMTWG 03/2018).

Fall armyworm has affected large parts of Ethiopia since February 2017, when it was first detected in Benishangul-Gumuz region (Addis Fortune 24/06/2017). By the end of August 2017, reports estimated that 500,000 hectares of land in 411 districts had been affected, accounting for roughly 25% of the total area planted (FAO 08/2017). Food-security outcomes were negatively impacted and the effects continue to be felt. In 2018, some farmers are growing special plants to combat fall armyworm (Farm Radio 07/08/2018, CGTN Africa 29/05/2018). Fall armyworm infestations may contribute to crop damage, reducing food availability (FEWSNET 06/07/2018).

### Seasonal information

The performance of the seasonal rains (October–December) has been below-average and erratic in southern pastoral areas, except in Shabelle and Nogob (Fews Net 11/2018). While consecutive years of drought have led to displacement in many areas across the country, flash floods in May - as well as Cyclone Sagar, which struck Ethiopia on 20 May - have affected people in Somali, Oromia, SNNP and Afar regions. Floods during the 2018 *Belg* rainfall season (February–June) affected some 382,000 people and displaced some 172,000 people in Somali

region alone. Livelihoods and crops were damaged in these regions (UNHCR 03/08/2018).

In southeastern Ethiopia, the 2019 *Gu/Genna/Long* rains (March-May) are likely to be average, but below-average rainfall is likely in localised areas of southern Somali Region. Rainfall during the *Belg* season (February- May) is likely to be above average in central areas and average elsewhere. The *Diraac/Sugum* rains (March-May) in northern pastoral areas is likely to be above average (OCHA, 10/10/2018, OCHA 14/10/2018). The probability of *El Niño* is about 65-70% during the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019 (OCHA, 10/10/2018). Forecasts of an early *El Niño* in the region are worrying because of the inevitable disruption of rainfall patterns, which could lead to drought and further population displacement (WHO, 30/11/2018).

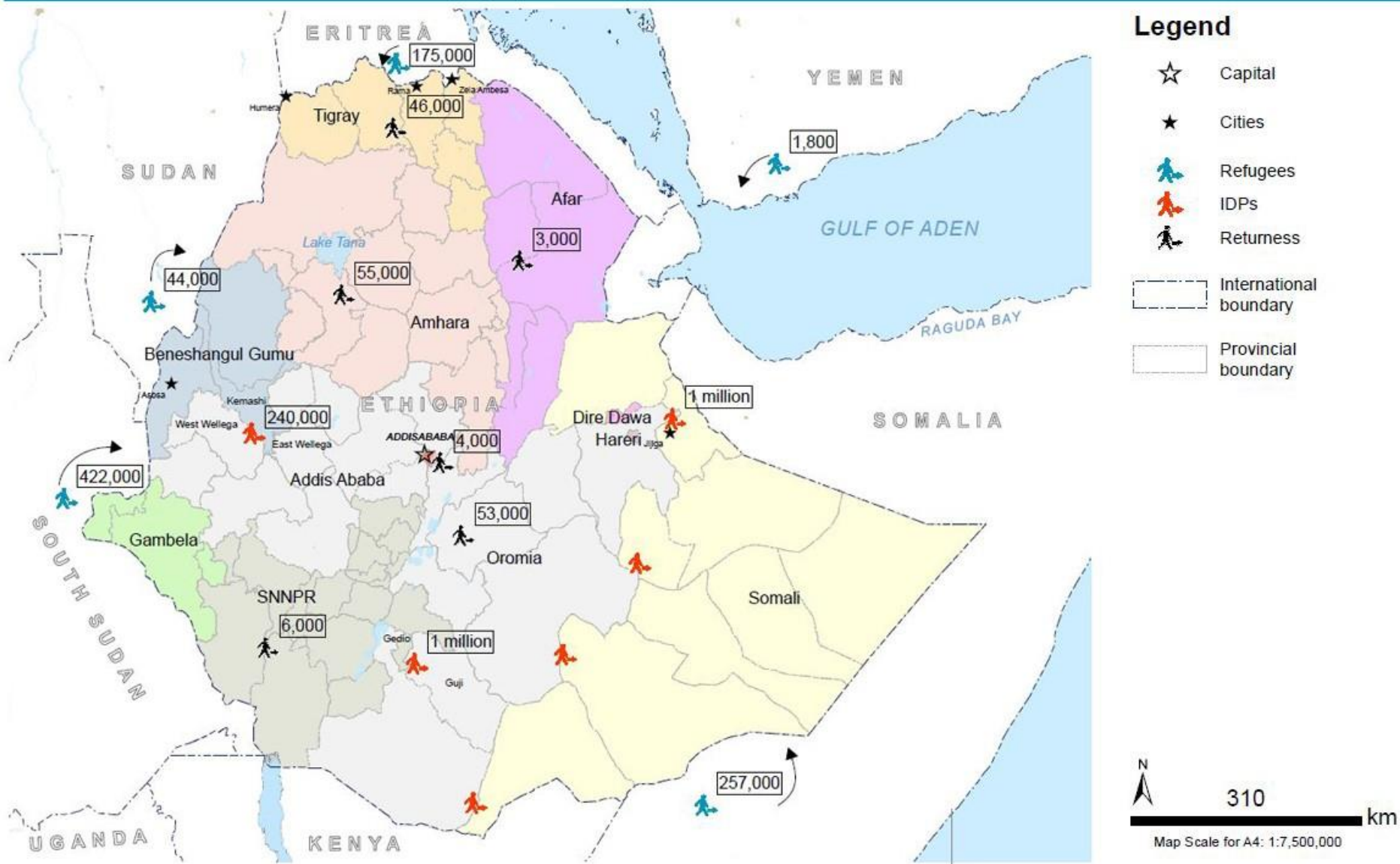
## Information gaps and needs

- There is no disaggregated data according to age and gender of IDPs.
- Lack of accurate information about where the displaced populations have moved to.
- Lack of information about how many IDPs have been displaced multiple times.
- Limited information on needs of host communities.
- Limited information on protection concerns, including information on gender-based violence.
- Lack of accurate information on casualties.
- There is no information on return movement of IDP populations.



# ETHIOPIA: DISPLACED POPULATION

As of December 2018



Date created: 15/12/2018  
 Data source: OCHA, UNHCR, IOM

The boundaries and names and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by ACAPS

## Timeline of developments in Ethiopia September 2017 - December 2018

