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DTM ETHIOPIA MOBILITY OVERVIEW 2021



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OVERVIEW

In order to better understand mobility in Ethiopia in 2021, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has compiled this report detailing significant movements within the country and a national overview of displacement and return drawing on three rounds of the Site Assessment, Emergency Site Assessment, Village Assessment Survey and an extensive national network of key informants.

Ethiopia experienced a complex mix of both protracted and new displacement in 2021 driven by the continuation of the Northern Ethiopia Crisis, existing conflict in other parts of the country and climate induced displacement including seasonal floods, flash floods and drought. The country also continued to grapple with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected IDPs, returning IDPs and host communities.

As of September 2021, displacement was estimated at **4.23 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)** throughout Ethiopia. With the outbreak of the Northern Ethiopia Crisis in November 2020, the Emergency Site Assessment round 8 estimated that there were 2.11 million IDPs displaced due to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis; 1.8 million IDPs displaced in Tigray, 151,040 IDPs in Amhara and 149,329 IDPs in Afar regions.¹ For the first half of 2021, access in Tigray region continued to pose a significant challenge but improved significantly in July 2021, allowing DTM teams to track displacement throughout the region (except in Western zone where there is still conflict). Following the change in administration and as evidenced by the Household Level Intention Surveys conducted in Tigray region², it is expected that the IDP figures would have dropped considerably in Tigray region due to return movements.

In the second half of 2021, armed conflict moved further down south which resulted in an increase in the number of IDPs in Amhara and Afar regions which is estimated by key informants to have reached around 1.4 million IDPs and 470,000 IDPs respectively at the peak of displacement in early December 2021.³ Nevertheless, by the end of December 2021, it is estimated that around 500,000-600,000 IDPs have returned to their places of origin, mainly in North Shewa, South Wello, North Wello and Wag Hamra zones in Amhara region. The new displacement figures for all 3 regions will be confirmed by the ongoing Emergency Site Assessment round 9.

Displacement in the rest of Ethiopia is estimated at 2.12 million IDPs, according to Site Assessment round 27 which took place in

August and September 2021.⁴ The primary cause of displacement was conflict in 1,160 sites (74%), and the primary reason IDPs were unable to return was that their houses were either damaged or destroyed (1,138 sites, 72%). In addition to conflict, climate induced displacement (droughts, flash floods and seasonal floods) were the primary cause of displacement in 353 sites (22%). Conflict and insecurity were acute and impacted access particularly in Oromia region in West Wallega, East Wallega, Kellem Wallega, Guji and West Guji zones. Despite this, Oromia region recorded 506,133 IDPs in Site Assessment round 27. In addition to the high number of IDPs reported in Oromia region, 871,176 IDPs were reported in Somali region, particularly in Dawa and Afder zones. Site Assessment could not be carried out in Benishangul Gumz region due to access constraints.

Regarding returns, DTM identified 1.5 million returning IDPs as of Village Assessment Survey round 10. A large number of returning IDPs are concentrated in Dawa zone, Somali region and were first identified through round 9 of the Village Assessment Survey when they began to return following the dry season to reconstruct homes that were damaged and in West Guji zone, Oromia region, following the Gedeo-West Guji Crisis in 2018. The Village Assessment Survey was not carried out in Tigray and Benishangul Gumz regions due to resource and access constraints respectively.



IOM staff conducting the household level intention survey in Tigray region in 2021.

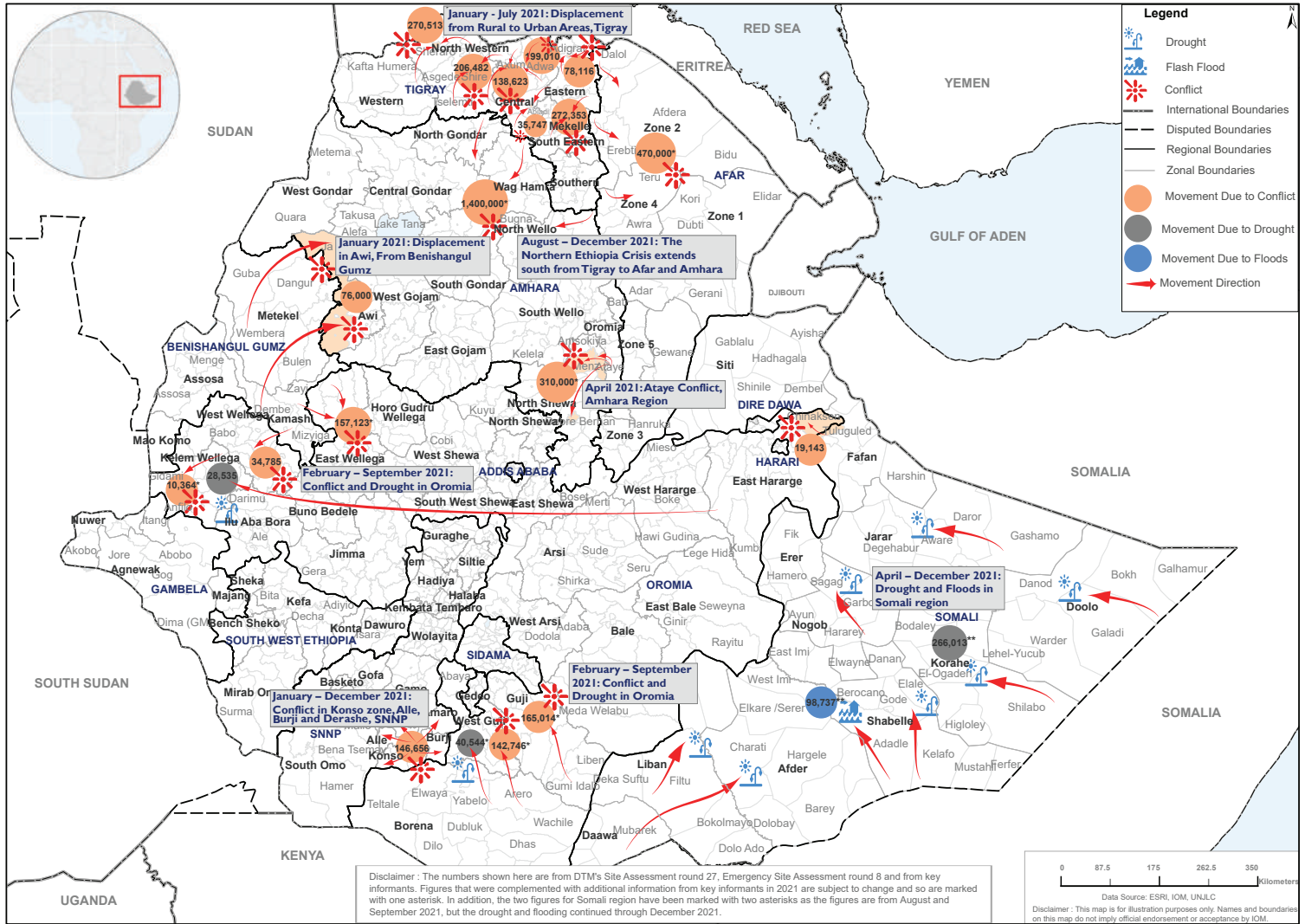
¹ Emergency Site Assessment round 8 can be found at the following link: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-%E2%80%94-emergency-site-assessment-8-27-july-4-october-2021>.

² IOM's Household Level Intention Survey can be found at the following link: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-%E2%80%94-household-level-intention-survey-tigray-region-july-2021>.

³ The figures in Amhara and Afar region could not be verified in person due to access constraints but will be confirmed in the coming round of Emergency Site Assessment.

⁴ National Displacement Report round 10 can be found at the following link: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-%E2%80%94-national-displacement-report-10-august-september-2021>.

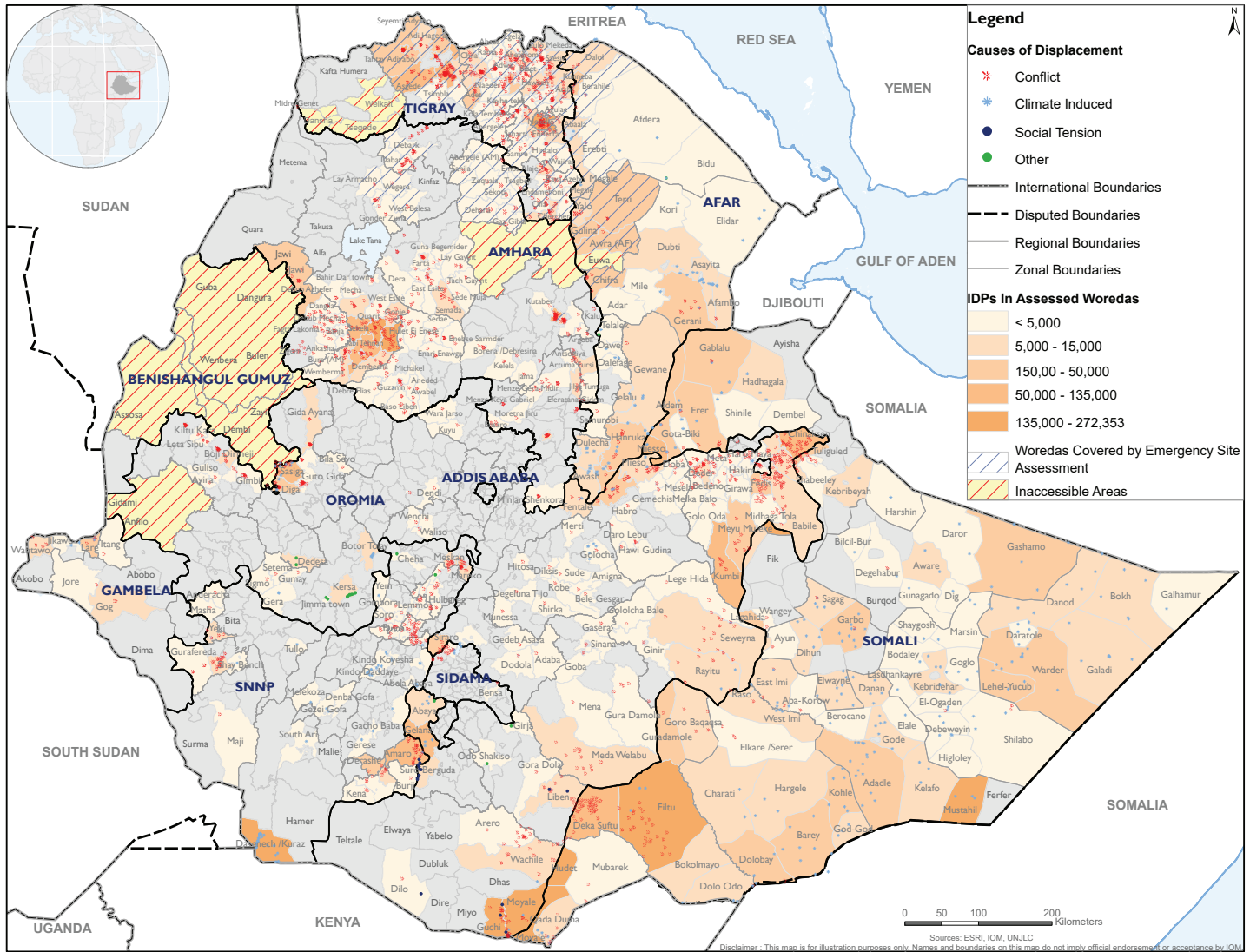
SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENTS OVERVIEW



NATIONAL DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

Reporting Period: Site Assessment round 27 (August — September 2021) and Emergency Site Assessment round 8 (August 2021)

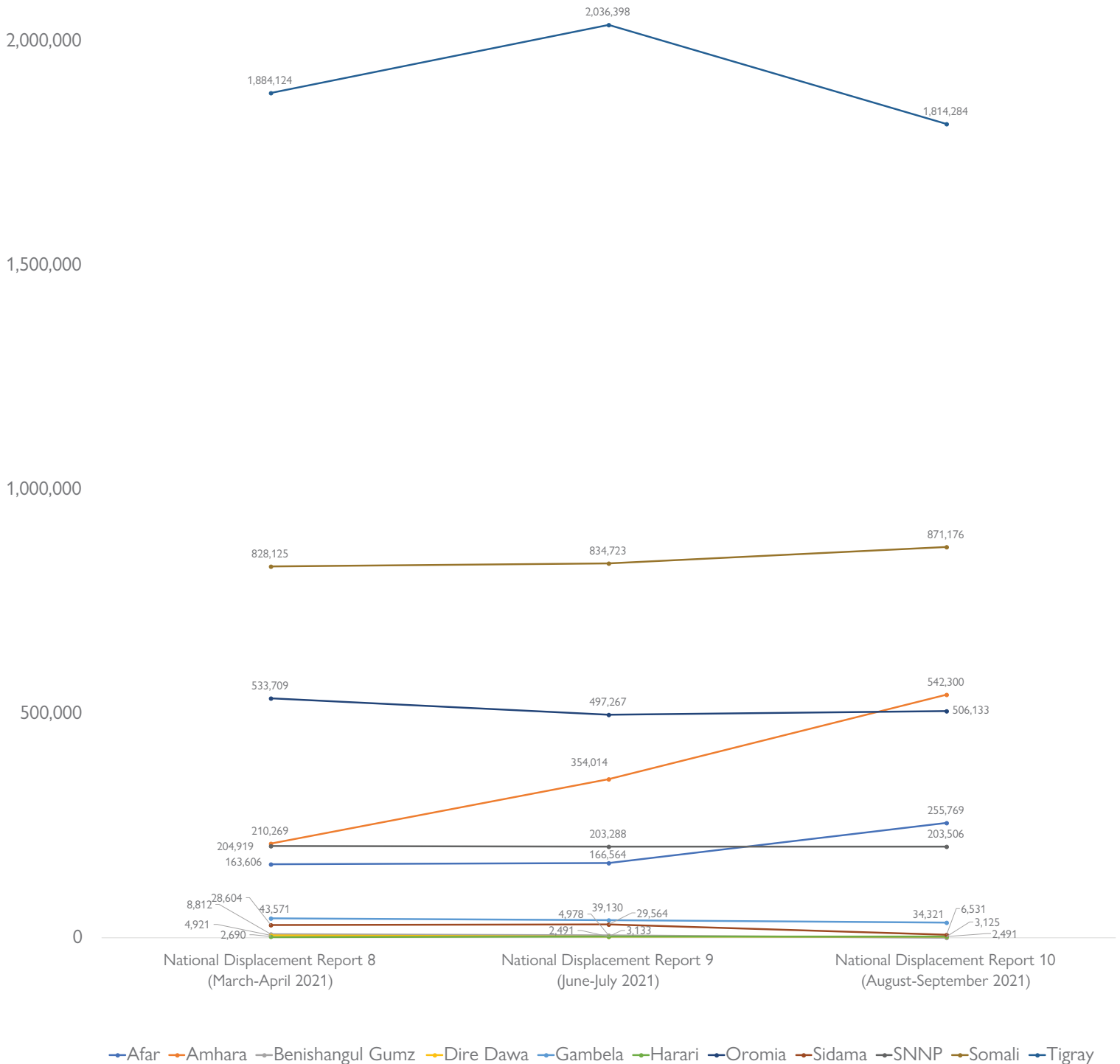
National Displacement Total: 4.23 million IDPs



The national displacement overview map includes information from Site Assessment round 27 which covered Afar, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Gambela, Harari, Oromia, Sidama, SNNP and Somali regions between August and September 2021; it also includes figures from the Emergency Site Assessment round 8 which was carried out in August 2021 in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.

NATIONAL DISPLACEMENT CHART

Reporting Period: January — September 2021^{5 6}

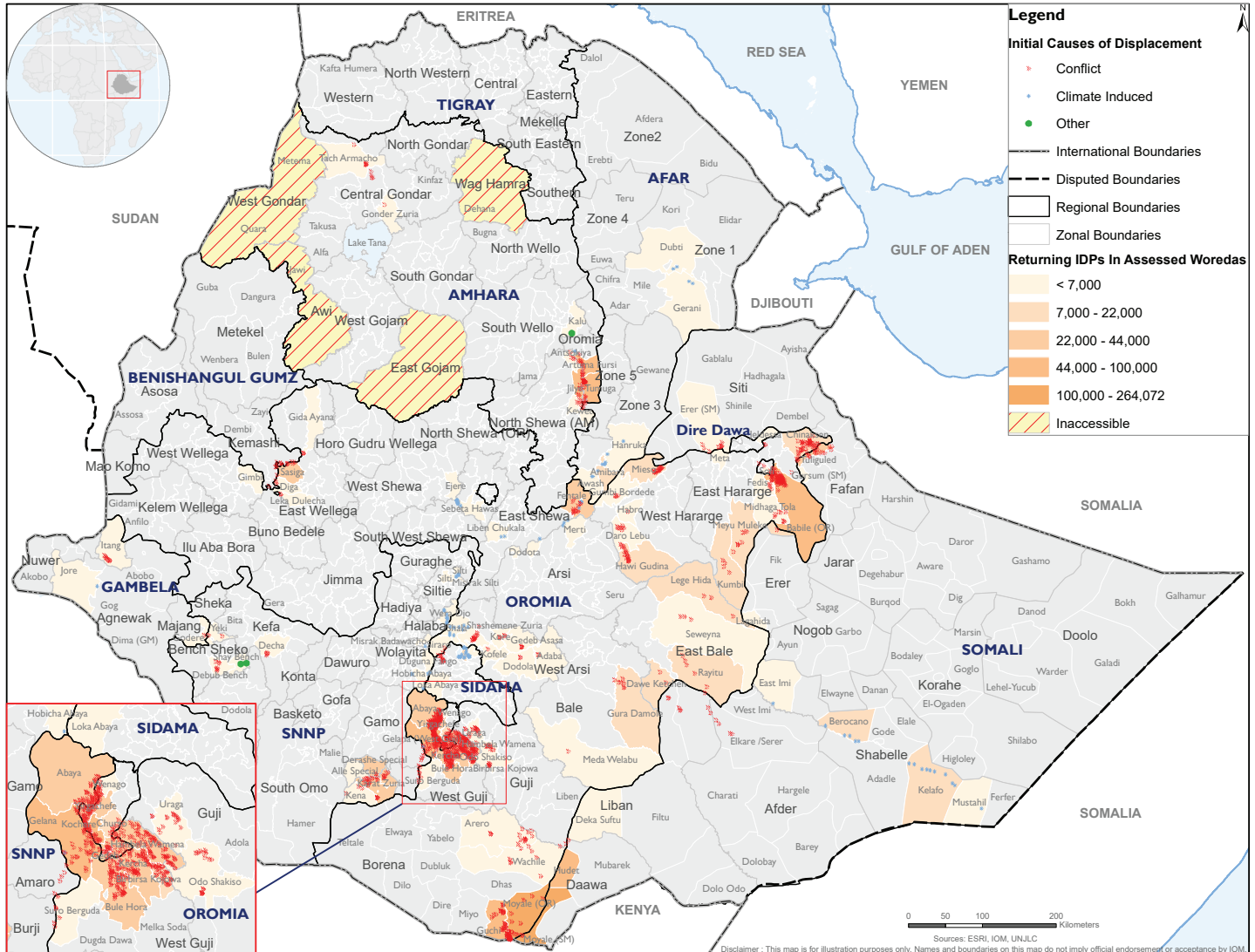


⁵ National Displacement Report 8 includes Site Assessment round 25, Village Assessment Survey round 8 and Emergency Site Assessment round 6; National Displacement Report 9 includes Site Assessment round 26, Village Assessment Survey round 9 and Emergency Site Assessment round 7; and National Displacement Report 10 includes Site Assessment round 27, Village Assessment Survey round 10 and Emergency Site Assessment round 8.

⁶ The figures presented for Benishangul Gumz region are lower than anticipated due to a significant lack of access due to conflict and insecurity throughout the region during 2021.

NATIONAL RETURN OVERVIEW

Reporting Period: Village Assessment Survey round 10, August — September 2021



Disclaimer: Tracking of returns in Tigray region through the Village Assessment Survey has not been done in Tigray since 2020 due to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis.

JANUARY 2021

Displacement in **Awi zone, Amhara region** from Benishangul Gumz region

OVERVIEW

Frequent attacks from unidentified armed groups (UAGs) on the border of Benishangul Gumz region led to the displacement of individuals from primarily Metekel and Kemashi zones in Benishangul Gumz region to Chagni and Guangua woredas in Awi zone. Displacement began in September 2020, but the highest frequency of movement occurred in January 2021, and IDP numbers reached **76,000 IDPs** at its height. According to DTM Site Assessment Round 25 (March-April 2021), 52,000 IDPs were in a planned site in Chagni woreda in Awi zone with the majority originating from Dangura woreda, Metekel zone of Benishangul Gumz region. An additional 15,776 IDPs were also reported through the DTM Site Assessment Round 25 in six host community sites in the surrounding Guangua woreda of Awi zone with the majority from Metekel zone. 50,514 IDPs have since returned to Benishangul Gumz, their region of origin, but some key informants report that some IDPs remain displaced in their zone of origin where they have not fully returned to their habitual residences. However, due to conflict and access constraints, it was difficult for DTM to verify this in-person in Benishangul Gumz region.



DTM staff interviewing internally displaced persons in Chagni Ranch IDP Site, Awi zone, Amhara region in 2021.

JANUARY — JULY 2021

Displacement from Rural to Urban Areas, **Tigray region**

OVERVIEW

In early November 2020 armed conflict broke out in Tigray region resulting in significant displacement throughout the region and in the neighboring regions of Afar and Amhara. While many rural areas could not be reached due to active conflict, it is believed that many IDPs fled from their homes across the region to urban areas which were accessible to DTM teams, in search of safety, food, shelter and access to basic services. In June 2021, according to Emergency Site Assessment round 7, 85% of IDPs (1,725,455 IDPs) identified were located in urban areas such as Abi Adi, Adigrat, Adwa, Axum, Mekelle, Sheraro and Shire.

On 28 June 2021 there was a change in administration in Tigray region, and IDPs started to return home. By August 2021, access had improved significantly throughout Tigray region, allowing DTM to track displacement in rural areas for the first time since the conflict broke out. By this round, 66% of IDPs or 1,200,844 of the total **1,814,284 IDPs** identified were located in urban areas. This decrease in the proportion is most likely due to a combination of improved access, perceptions of better safety from the IDPs, the impending harvest season and the reopening of schools that had been hosting IDPs, as well as the headcount conducted by IOM in September and October 2021 in Shire.

● JANUARY — DECEMBER 2021

Conflict in Konso zone, SNNP region

OVERVIEW

Conflict broke out in 2016 over the administrative designation of then Konso woreda in SNNP region. In May 2018 Konso was formally recognized by the regional parliament as a zone; since this decision, conflict has become more frequent leading to both loss of life and damaged property. As the conflict escalated in 2021, an estimated **146,656 people** were displaced from their places of origin in the five administrative units involved in the conflict: Konso Zone, as well as Ale, Derashe, Amaro and Burji Special Woredas. As of round 27 of Site Assessment, in Konso zone there are 13,999 IDPs (2,238 HHs), though there were some inaccessible sites, and the government has implemented considerable return operations which can be seen in the 56,163 returning IDPs (6,812 HHs) identified through round 10 of the Village Assessment Survey. Returns were also seen in Alle Special Woreda which reported 3,833 returning IDPs (728 HHs), and Derashe Special Woreda which reported 6,837 returning IDPs (1,292 HHs). Displacement was also identified in Derashe Special Woreda which reported 10,357 IDPs (1,779 HHs), Amaro Special Woreda which reported 28,969 individuals (5,184 HH) and Burji Special Woreda which reported 1,291 IDPs (250 HH). As a note, there were a number of inaccessible sites in both Derashe Special Woreda and Burji Special Woreda.



Internally displaced persons in host communities in SNNP region in 2021.

● FEBRUARY — SEPTEMBER 2021

Conflict and Drought in Oromia region

OVERVIEW

Oromia region faced both conflict and drought displacement in 2021. Due to inter-communal conflict and instability in the country, 19,143 individuals were displaced from Tulugilied woreda in Fafan zone in Somali region and fled to Chinaksen woreda in Oromia region from July to September 2021, according to DTM data collection. Many of the individuals displaced were of the Oromo ethnic group but had been born and spent much of their lives in Somali region. In addition to the displacement seen in Chinaksen woreda, according to information received from key informants at the end of 2021, 40,544 IDPs were displaced to West Guji zone primarily from Borena zone due to drought, as well as 142,746 IDPs displaced due to social tension. In Guji zone there were also reports of 165,014 IDPs displaced due to social tension. These figures will be confirmed in the next round of Site Assessment.

Kellem Wallaga zone experienced both clashes between unidentified armed groups (UAGs) and government forces, as well as inter-communal conflict in 2021. Due to conflict, DTM has been unable to access the zone through regular DTM rounds in 2021, but key informants indicate that 10,364 IDPs were displaced due to conflict in August, September and November 2021. In addition, prior to 2019, DTM identified 28,535 IDPs who had been displaced to Kellem Wallaga due to drought, and the government confirmed that these IDPs are still living in the zone in 2021.

Due to conflict in the bordering Kamashi zone in Benishangul Gumz region which broke out in mid-February 2021, West Wallaga began receiving an influx of IDPs which lasted until mid-September 2021. 34,785 IDPs were covered in Site Assessment round 27, and an estimated additional 42,275 IDPs were not covered due to access issues.⁷ As the conflict subsided, the government began to support returns, and in 2021 15,669 IDPs returned to their places of origin around the border between West Wallaga and Kamashi zones.

East Wallaga zone was relatively calm and stable compared to Kellam and West Wallagas at the beginning of 2021. However, starting in August 2021 the situation changed. Almost all woredas in the zone began receiving and sheltering significant numbers of IDPs. DTM has faced access constraints but still identified 99,339 IDPs through key informants and 57,784 IDPs through DTM regular rounds in 2021. Many of the IDPs displaced were from within the zone traveling from rural kebeles to woreda towns and some were displaced from Kamashi zone in Benishangul Gumz region. Through the Village Assessment Survey, 116,151 returning IDPs were identified.

● APRIL 2021

Ataye Conflict, Amhara region

OVERVIEW

In mid-April 2021, conflict broke out in Ataye City Administration in North Shewa zone of Amhara region and the surrounding areas, which led to mass displacement in the zone. IDPs were displaced to Menz Gera Midir and Eferatana Gidem woredas of North Shewa zone and Debre Berhan City Administration. Estimated displacement following the attack, according to government sources, reached 310,000 IDPs at its peak due to additional displacement in the surrounding woredas due to social tensions from the conflict.

As of December 2021, 119,640 IDPs have returned to the zone and have been confirmed through round 10 of DTM's Village Assessment Survey, though livelihoods and the reconstruction of damaged shelters are still critical needs.



Internally displaced persons residing with the host community in Amhara region in 2021.

⁷ This figure is based on the previous round of data collection and may increase if access is granted.

● APRIL — DECEMBER 2021

Drought and Floods in Somali region

OVERVIEW

Somali region is prone to climate induced displacement. In 2021, both the Gu (April-May) and Deyr (October-November) rainy seasons failed to provide sufficient rain to the region, which has caused a shortage of pastureland, water and food and led to an increase in pastoralists migrating in search of water and pasture for their livestock. As of Site Assessment round 27 (August-September 2021), 266,013 IDPs reported drought as the primary reason for displacement. According to current predictions, it is likely there will be additional displacements related to drought, especially in Dawa zone extending into Afder, Doolo, Erer, Jarar, Korah, Liban, Nogob and Shabelle zones which will be captured in the next round of Site Assessment. According to the Somali Region Drought Response Plan published in December 2021, many of the early warning triggers including poor performance of rains, crop failure and shortage of water for both humans and animals have anecdotally been observed in the region.

In addition to drought displacement, individuals were also displaced by both seasonal floods (65,541 IDPs) and flash floods (33,196 IDPs) as of Site Assessment round 27. According to predictions from the Ethiopia Meteorological Agency there is a high potential for upcoming severe flooding in the lowlands, and the region continues to cope with the lasting impact of the damage from the overflowing of the Shabelle, Ganale, and Dawa rivers in 2020 which damaged crops and has also contributed to food insecurity in the region.⁸

● AUGUST — DECEMBER 2021

The Northern Ethiopia Crisis extends south from Tigray to Afar and Amhara regions

OVERVIEW

When conflict broke out in November 2020 in Tigray region, it wasn't contained solely within Tigray region it also spilled into the neighboring regions of Afar and Amhara.

After the change of administration in Tigray at the end of June 2021, the conflict began to move south, and this is evident in the significant increase in IDPs between Emergency Site Assessment round 7 and round 8. In ESA round 8 which was collected during August 2021, 149,329 IDPs (+204.8%) were identified in Afar region and 151,040 IDPs (+655.7%) were identified in Amhara region. According to key informants, displacement is estimated to have peaked at 470,000 IDPs in Afar region and 1.4 million IDPs in Amhara region in early December 2021.⁹ Meanwhile, IDP figures continued to drop in Tigray region due to returns.



Internally displaced persons in Dabat in Amhara region in 2021.

⁸ Somali Region Drought Response Plan (December 2021)

⁹ These figures are based on reports from key informants in the region but may change if the areas become accessible.

METHODOLOGY

The Mobility Overview 2021 report draws on three rounds of the Site Assessment, rounds 25-27, which took place between March and April 2021; June and July 2021; and August and September 2021; as of round 27 the Site Assessment covered 9 regions, 66 zones, 362 woredas, 1,359 kebeles and 1,577 sites. It also includes the figures from 3 rounds of the Village Assessment Survey, rounds 8-10, which took place during the same months as the Site Assessment; as of round 10 the Village Assessment Survey covered 9 regions, 44 zones, 110 woredas, 535 kebeles and 1,172 villages. The Mobility Overview also includes 3 rounds of the Emergency Site Assessment, rounds 6-8, which took place in May, June and August 2021, and as of round 8 covered 3 regions, 14 zones, 106 woredas, 416 kebeles and 695 sites. For ease of reporting, analysis has been done using National Displacement Reports 8, 9 and 10 as points of reference through the year. This mobility overview report does not include the findings from the end of the year as they are pending endorsement by the Government of Ethiopia.

SITE ASSESSMENT

IOM Ethiopia employs a series of tools in its DTM. The present methodology refers to the Site Assessment tool which falls under the Mobility Tracking component of the DTM. Data for this tool is collected at the zonal, woreda and site level on a quarterly basis. Since September 2016, IOM Ethiopia has conducted 27 rounds of data collection.

IOM's DTM team is composed of 150 field enumerators, under the direct supervision of 15 field focal points, and the overall supervision of the DTM team based in IOM's Addis Ababa Country Office.

In-depth Site Assessments capture detailed information through focus group discussions, key informant interviews and direct observation on available services by sector, accessibility constraints, exact type, location and name of the site, place of origin of IDPs, estimated size and type of the site and most common type of shelter.

EMERGENCY SITE ASSESSMENT

The Emergency Site Assessment (ESA) captures detailed information through focus group discussions and direct observation. In camps and camp-like settings, CCCM actors are interviewed as key informants to ensure aligned estimates. Data collected covers the number of IDPs, site details, availability of infrastructure and services, shelter types, and access to food, water, healthcare, education and livelihoods. The ESA is conducted in any location in Tigray region, and in the neighboring zones of Afar and Amhara regions with reported displacements of 20 IDP households or more who were displaced due to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis, provided that access and security allow. The ESA is carried out on a bi-monthly basis.

VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The Village Assessment Survey (VAS) was used for the first time in IOM Ethiopia in July 2019 in response to government-led return movements in an effort to capture return trends and sectoral needs in areas reporting high return concentrations. Since July 2019, IOM Ethiopia has conducted 10 rounds of data collection.

VAS collects demographic data on returning IDPs, resettled IDPs, returned migrants and host community members. The purpose of VAS is to assess the capacity of villages to absorb returns through the availability of services with a focus on livelihoods and reintegration.

DTM works closely with national, zonal and woreda level officials who serve as key informants in identifying villages with high returns. At the village level, DTM collects its data through focus group discussions, key informants and through direct observation.

For More Information:

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