



Peace and Reconciliation Efforts in Gedeo-Guji

Since 2018, CRS Ethiopia has taken the lead in providing life-saving, holistic, multi-sector emergency response to displaced people in Gedeo, Guji, Bule Hora, Gedeb, Babile and Deder woredas. Our emergency response initiatives focus on providing multipurpose cash and Non-Food Items (NFIs), transitional shelters, peace and reconciliation programmes and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assistance. CRS Ethiopia has been collaborating with local government, the Ethiopian Catholic Church and community and religious leaders to facilitate social cohesion through integrated reconciliation efforts in the Gedeo and West Guji zones.

LIFE-SAVING MULTI-SECTOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

To facilitate social cohesion in Gedeo and Guji zones, CRS Ethiopia implemented holistic, multi-sector emergency response activities. These included transitional shelter construction, cash distribution, non-food-item kit distribution and shelter kit distribution. The project helped nearly 22,000 people find dignity in an otherwise dire situation.

In Gedeo zone, CRS has been working in Gedeb woreda where it has reached a total of 2,275 households in Gelcha, Banko Dadatu and Gotiti kebeles through non-food emergency interventions:

- 178 emergency shelters were constructed.
- 750 households received NFI.
- 500 households received partial shelter kits.
- 990 households received cash support of approximately US\$130 per household.

In West Guji, emergency response activities have taken place in Bule Hora woreda and in Dogo Sodo, Kelenso-Ras, Kelenso-Ache, Hera Qutu, Heralipthu and Gerbich-Rogicha kebeles.

In East Haraghe zone, Babile and Deder woredas, CRS has provided:

- Emergency shelter construction for 148 families.
- Shelter kits for 45 households.
- US\$130 cash support for each family in 138 households.



Shiferaw Berakew and Dinknesh Shiferaw, a husband and wife with nine children, receive food at a distribution centre for displaced people. Photo by Maheder Tadese for CRS.

EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Led by CRS, the Joint Emergency Operation, or JEOP, is a consortium which provides monthly emergency food distributions in four regions and Dire Dawa Administration. On average, JEOP covers 33 percent of the national emergency food distribution response. The JEOP management structure has the flexibility and experience necessary to adapt to changing priorities as expressed by the Ethiopian Government or dictated by circumstances at the woreda level. This flexibility was on full display during the 2018 emergency response in West Guji and Gedeozones. During fiscal year 2018, JEOP served an average of 1.5 million beneficiaries each round.

Due to violence in 2018, which displaced more than 900,000 people in West Guji and Gedeo zones, the consortium scaled up its operations and is currently providing food to nearly 600,000 beneficiaries. JEOP has also allocated more than 42,617 metric tons of wheat, yellow split peas, refined vegetable oil and corn/soy blended food in 13 woredas across the two zones and in more than 170 kebeles. To reach the affected internally displaced people, JEOP is active in more than 60 satellite distribution points.

EMERGENCY WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE INTERVENTIONS

CRS' emergency WASH interventions have reached nearly 75,000 displaced families. In Kercha town, a water supply project is focusing on rehabilitating existing spring capping structures that will supply water to several life-



Yousef Deneshe (center), an IDP returnee and father of eight, sits at the entrance of his family's new home, provided by CRS. Photo by Maheder Tadese for CRS.

saving water points. The project will eventually enable 15,700 people to access water. CRS is also drilling 3 new shallow wells in 3 kebeles of Bule Hora woreda, as well as in Here Lippitu kebele. A total of 1,380 displaced people, returnees and host community members will benefit from these new wells. According to Regassa Jilo Sorsa, Water Engineer of the Bule Hora Woreda Water, Mineral and Energy Office, the residents of Here Lippitu kebele have never had a well in their village, and their new CRS well will not only provide people with access to clean and safe water, but also offer a solution to minimizing resource-based conflict. "This bore-hole exists on the [Gedeo-West Guji] border. CRS' work here is actively connecting the Gedeo – Guji people together," says Regassa Jilo Sorsa.

Additionally, in West Wolloga and East Haraghe zones, CRS has been successfully delivering water after implementing an integrated approach to supply water, trucking, drill 3 shallow wells, rehabilitate 9 water systems, construct of 5 water points, and install pumps, generators, and over 4200m of piping.

PEACEBUILDING

In November 2018, CRS Ethiopia implemented a peace building project in Gedeo and West Guji. The project brought together and facilitated peaceful, productive conversations among the Abba Gedas and youth, zonal and woreda cabinet members, law enforcement, woreda education bureau heads, school supervisors and inter-religious council members. These stakeholders also participated in capacity building training on peace building, conflict early warning and conflict resolution.

The project was active in 13 woredas: seven in Gedeo and six in West Guji. The seven woredas in Gedeo are Dilla Zuria, Dilla Town, Wenago, Gedeb, Kochere, and both Yirgachefe and Yirgachefe Town. The six woredas in West Guji are Abaya, Hambella, Birbirs Kojowa, Gelana, Bule Hora, and Kercha.



CRS drills the first deep well in Here Lippitu Kebele, Hora woreda. Photo by Maheder Tadese for CRS.



Religious and traditional leaders meet at the first collaborative action for sustainable peace forum. Photo by Terhas Clarke/CRS.