

Civil Peace Service - Internally Displaced Persons

Prevention of displacement and durable reintegration of former displaced persons - IDP component in southern Ethiopia (Sidama, Southwest Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia).

The Challenge

Ethiopia has been affected by internal conflicts whose complex causes are attributed to the competition for land and natural resources and a politicisation of ethnic affiliation. In 2018 and 2019 the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) increased in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPR) specifically.

The various overlapping humanitarian crises in Ethiopia have led to a surge in internal displacement, with an estimated total of 4.6 million IDPs across the country in 2023 ([Ethiopia: Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 \(February 2023\) - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb](#)). In the former SNNPR, the displacement and conflict has been triggered in most cases by the quest for administrative structure and self-determination. This has resulted in loosening social cohesion, and eroding tolerance. It created mistrust among various ethnic groups leading to displacement and flight.

The GIZ CPS-IDP programme was initiated in 2019 to support the implementation of activities that contribute to building trust and social cohesion among various population groups, traditional and religious leaders, state institutions and CSOs.

Our Approach

CPS-IDP uses non-violent conflict transformation and peace building mechanisms to prevent displacement and to reintegrate IDPs in the former SNNPR regional states: Sidama, Southwest Ethiopia, South Ethiopia and Central Ethiopia Regional States. CPS-IDP uses a multi-level and multi stakeholders' approach to build capacity for partners and relevant government institutions, as well as finance secondment of national peace experts to partner organisations. The programme promotes peace dialogues among community elders, religious leaders, women and youth associations, peace committees and local leaders to build trust and strengthen social cohesion.

Project name	Prevention of displacement and durable reintegration of former displaced persons-IDP component in southern Ethiopia (Sidama, Southwest Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia).
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions	SNR, SWEPR, SEPR, CEPR
Lead executing agency	Civil Peace Service – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Partners	RCSC, EECMY-DASSC, CISO, OMC, Fiker Behiwot, Hawassa University, Peace and Security Bureau of the regions
Duration	2020-2024

Moreover, the programme raises awareness with local populations on the rights, duties, and dialogue formats for positive conflict transformation.

Objectives

The CPS-IDP programme aims to achieve three objectives:

1. Capacity building for local government authorities, religious and community leaders to respond to population's needs and issues related to peace and conflict effectively and efficiently.
2. Creating awareness among civil society and population on rights and duties to empower communities to advocate for their rights, reflect and proper interpret information from different sources.
3. Reinforcing social cohesion through dialogue formats and social events in which different ethnic groups can (a) explore their interests and needs, and (b) experience the benefit of mutual coexistence and diversity.



1. Celebrating International Peace Day with key stakeholders.

2. Training & community discussion at Bura woreda



Training on the role of women in conflict transformation held in Shashemene



Training & community discussion at Bura woreda

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The Conflict Setting

Amaro-Guji conflicts

Several ethnic groups including Amaro in the SNNPRs are neighbours of the Guji Oromo. In recent years evidence shows that the areas inhabited by these groups have been experiencing border disputes and local conflicts.

The Suri- Bero conflicts

This conflict pertains to issues between pastoralist communities and farmers who live in West Omo Zone and Kafa Zone, Goba district. Through a series of consultations, a certain level of peace has been restored in the region. Nevertheless, armed groups persist in conducting frequent robberies and killings, particularly in the Surma, Goba, and Goldia districts.

The Sidama-West Arsi zones conflicts

One of the districts in newly formed Sidama region called Wondo-Genet is affected by the protracted conflict between Sidama and the West Arsi community. Although they have a long period of amicable groups since 2008/9 over disputed boundary issues between Oromia and Sidama states and competition on the use of natural resources. Economic and natural resources that are vital and trigger conflicts in the Woreda include agricultural lands, water sources, grasslands and forest areas.

The case of Hawassa Zuria, Bensa, Aroresa and Loka Abaya

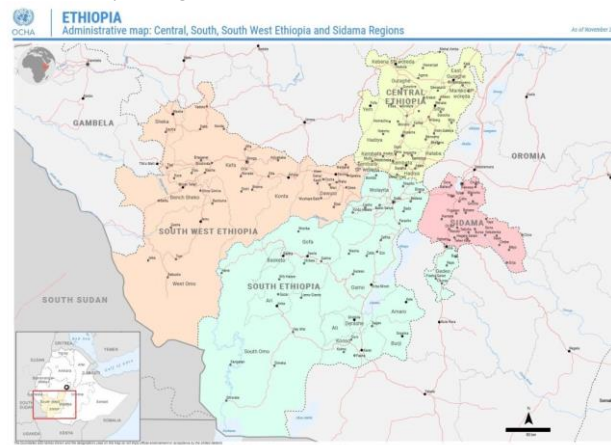
As it is the case with the other Woredas' bordering Oromia region, violent conflicts resulting from issues of land, resources, and boundary administration are prevalent in these areas. The case of Loka Abbaya further involves a dispute over boundaries with Wolayita zone. Along these boundaries competition for natural resources mainly water and grazing lands are severe.

The Konso-Derashe conflicts

It has been common for Derashe farmers to venture into Konso Zone and buy land for agriculture. These farmers pay their taxes to Konso administration for the use of the lands. Since there is no clear regulation that addresses this kind of arrangement, cases of disputes over the lands are sometimes reported.

Impact

Map of Project regions



The trainings on early warning signs of conflict dynamics and peaceful conflict transformation conducted by GIZ-CPS partners found fruitful grounds in various intervention areas. Due to religious fathers' and trained peace committees' persuasive efforts, which restored people-to-people connections and confidence, the Konso communities, have started to visit the Gewada Market and have resumed trading goods with the Ale community. The areas of Ale, Karat zuria, Amaro/Gelana/Burji and Daela/Bura woredas have witnessed the successful return and reimbursement of stolen cattle. 362 individuals, which accounts for 75% of the households, have made their way back to their homes in Segen-Genet kebele along with their families. Additionally, in Haibena, Melga and Dugaya, two communities who were among the 320 displaced individuals, were effectively repatriated, constituting 90% of the total 355 displaced people. Furthermore, a total of 455 households that had experienced displacement in Karat were able to successfully return to their original villages.

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