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Government Support to Displaced Gedeo

- Several months ago, some communities residing in East and West Guji as well as Gedeo zones were displaced due to conflict. A national committee was formed then to undertake activities in ensuring the displaced return to their original residence following reconciliation between the conflicting groups.
- A team led by the Deputy Prime Minister, including the Oromia and SNNPR regional presidents also deployed to the area in the aftermath to assess the situation.
- In East Guji up to 13,000 chose not to return to their original residence, following efforts to reinstate the displaced.
- The temporary food and material needs of those that returned were being addressed in parallel to tasks that the Federal Government has been undertaking to ensure long-term stabilization and reinstatement of the returnees.
- The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), as the government body mandated to coordinate activities in the prevention and management of disasters, has been working to ensure that food aid reaches displaced individuals (men, women and children) in various parts of the country, including Gedeo zone.
- Government activities to ensure security in the area have continued. However, there are no newly displaced persons in the area related to security threats. Gedeo community members that had originally returned to their residences have returned to the camps out of individual fear. There is also evidence suggesting that unaffected individuals have also entered the camps, thereby increasing the numbers.
- Following an official request submitted to the NDRMC on March 10, 2019 by the Gedeo Zone administration for the provision of food aid, the Government has further strengthened its support in collaboration with various international agencies, to deliver flour, oil, and enriched foods to those in the Gedeo Zone, particularly in Gedeb Woreda and Gotiti Kebele.

- It is to be noted that some criminal elements have also been occasionally seizing food received by the Gedeo. However, continuous food and non-food aid is being delivered, despite some disruptions on the Guji side.
- As at March 11, 2019 the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) has transported enriched foods, flour, legumes and oil from reserves in Adama city, ahead of the standard 72-hr dispatch time.
- On March 15, 2019 the Federal Government through the Minister of Peace, held consultations with members of displaced Gedeo communities in which some members acknowledged the inaccuracy of claims that no food aid has been received.
- The Federal Government remains seized of the matter and will continue efforts began several months ago to ensure sustainable reinstatement of the displaced.

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