



## ETHIOPIA NATIONAL DISPLACEMENT REPORT 16

SITE ASSESSMENT ROUND 33 AND VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY ROUND 16  
NOVEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2023

IN COOPERATION WITH:



THE DTM PROGRAMME IS  
SUPPORTED BY:



From  
the People of Japan



## **ADDRESS**

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
Special Liaison Office (SLO) Ethiopia  
Kirkos Sub City, Woreda 8  
YeMez Building (Behind Zequala Building)  
P.O.Box 25283 Code 1000  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.  
Tel.: +251 1155 71 707  
Website: <http://www.ethiopia.iom.int>

For more information, kindly contact DTM Ethiopia at [dtmethiopia@iom.int](mailto:dtmethiopia@iom.int).

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## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND: POPULATION MOBILITY AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia faces significant internal displacement. In 2021, Ethiopia recorded "the highest annual displacement figure ever recorded for a single country".<sup>1</sup> A significant portion of these displacements is conflict-induced, largely related to ethnic and border-based disputes. Old tensions such as the contestation of the Oromia-Somali regional border which first flared up in 2017 continue to persist, while new conflicts have also emerged. Conflict broke out in 2016 over the administrative designation of then Konso woreda in SNNP region; in 2018 Konso was formally recognized as a zone, but in the years since conflict has only continued. In April and later in June 2018, conflict which was aggravated by competition for land and resources broke out between Gedeo and Guji Oromo tribes in West Guji. It is estimated that by August 2018, 748,499 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were displaced from the Gedeo-West Guji conflict alone.<sup>2</sup> In September 2020, frequent attacks from unidentified armed groups (UAGs) on the border of Benishangul Gumz region led to increasing displacement to Awi zone in Amhara region. This continued to intensify and in January 2021 displacement reached a peak of 76,000.<sup>3</sup>

In early November 2020, the regional party of Tigray allegedly attacked the Northern Command of Ethiopia's National Defense Force in Mekelle, Tigray region, prompting a military offensive from the federal government of Ethiopia. Following this, conflict broke out in the North of Ethiopia resulting in significant displacement. After a change of administration in Tigray region at the end of

June 2021, the conflict moved further south into Afar and Amhara regions but began to subside around January 2022. In August 2022, the conflict resumed for a period though remained largely contained in Tigray region. On 2 November 2022, the regional party of Tigray and the Government of Ethiopia signed an agreement on a permanent cessation of hostilities.<sup>4</sup> As of June 2023, Tigray hosted the highest number of IDPs primarily displaced by conflict nationwide (1,011,636 individuals or 34.73% of national conflict caseload).

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. Estimated displacement following the conflict, according to government sources, reached 310,000 IDPs at its peak.

Climate-induced displacement has become increasingly prominent in Ethiopia. Beginning in 2015, Ethiopia faced one of the strongest onsets of El Niño, a periodic heating of the eastern tropical Pacific, which reduced the kiremt rainfall<sup>5</sup> and successively resulted in drought in the Southern and Southeastern parts of the country.<sup>6</sup> Recent recurrent droughts have mostly affected Oromia and Somali regions, particularly the zones of Dawa, Liban, Afder, and some parts of Shabelle in the Somali region, as well as the Borena zone in the Oromia region. Acute food insecurity levels are increasing throughout the affected regions.<sup>7</sup>

1. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2022. Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2022 Report. Available at: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/2022-global-report-on-internal-displacement>

2. Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), 2018. Ethiopia — Gedeo/West Guji Rapid Response Assessment Round 2 (11 — 23 August 2018)— Host Community Dataset. Available at: <https://dtm.iom.int/datasets/ethiopia---gedeowest-guji-rapid-response---host-community-dataset---site-assessment---round>

3. Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), 2021. Ethiopia — National Displacement Report 8 (March - April 2021). Available at: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia---national-displacement-report-8-march---april-2021?close=true>

4. Reuters, 2022. Factbox: Key points in Ethiopia's ceasefire agreement. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/key-points-ethiopias-ceasefire-agreement-2022-11-04/>.

5. Kiremt rain is the summer rain that normally lasts between June to September. This rain is crucial for the main meher harvest. Conversely, the belg rain is the spring rain that usually spans between March to August.

6. USAID, 2016. El Niño in Ethiopia 2015 – 2016: A Real-Time Review Of Impacts And Responses. Available at: <https://www.agri-learning-ethiopia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/AKLDP-El-Nino-Review-March-2016.pdf>

As of June 2023, drought was the primary cause of displacement for 810,855 IDPs (18.49% of the national IDP caseload), with IDPs reporting this reason concentrated in Somali, Oromia and Afar regions.

In addition, in both Round 32 (November 2022 - January 2023) and Round 33 (April 2023 - June 2023), other climate-induced changes impacted the rate of displacement throughout the country, predominately because of flooding, thereby highlighting the continuing effects of displacement on populations whose livelihoods are largely climate-dependent. Ethiopia continues to cope with the lasting impact of the damage to crops caused by

the overflowing of the Shabelle, Ganale, and Dawa rivers in 2020. Flooding and landslide incidents in six regions affected nearly 1.1m people according to the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC).<sup>8</sup> As of March 2023, drought-affected areas in Oromia and Somali regions witnessed flash floods causing temporary displacement, and an increase in cholera cases was registered.<sup>9</sup>

Adding to the high mobility landscape of Ethiopia is the number and rate of returns. High returns have been seen in Amhara, Tigray and Afar regions, following the cessation of hostilities of the Northern Ethiopia crisis.

## IOM POPULATION OBSERVATION IN ETHIOPIA

In order to capture population mobility and internal displacement in Ethiopia, the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology is deployed to track IDPs, returning IDPs, migrants and returned migrants. IOM entered into partnership with the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) in August 2016, and has been regularly implementing DTM assessments in Ethiopia since September 2016.

DTM tools active in Ethiopia include a Site Assessment (SA) which focuses on tracking internal displacement and a Village Assessment Survey (VAS) aimed at tracking returns. SA covers areas where there are reports of 20 or more IDP households, whereas VAS covers areas where there are reportedly 20 or more returning IDP households that returned on or after 1 January 2021.



Amhara region, Ethiopia © IOM 2022

7. FEWS, October 2022 - May 2023. Food Security Outlook. Available at: <https://fews.net/east-africa/ethiopia/food-security-outlook/october-2022>

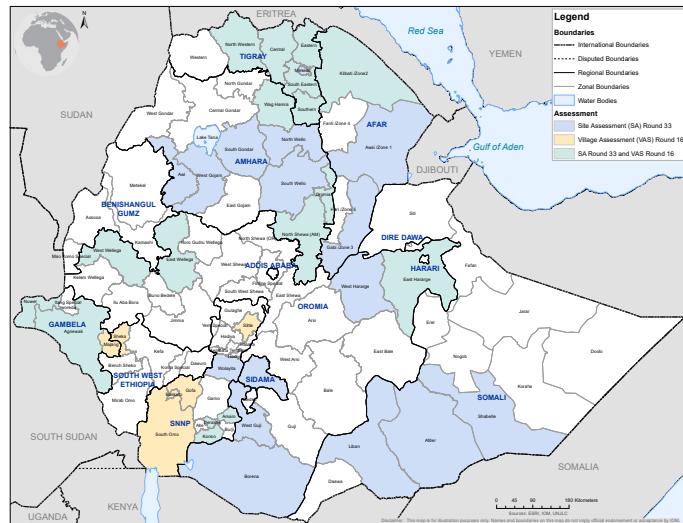
8. UNFPA, 2022. UNFPA Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Situation Report - July 2022. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/unfpa-ethiopia-humanitarian-response-situation-report-july-2022>

9. UNFPA, 2022. UNFPA Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Situation Report - March 2023. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/unfpa-ethiopia-humanitarian-response-situation-report-march-2023>

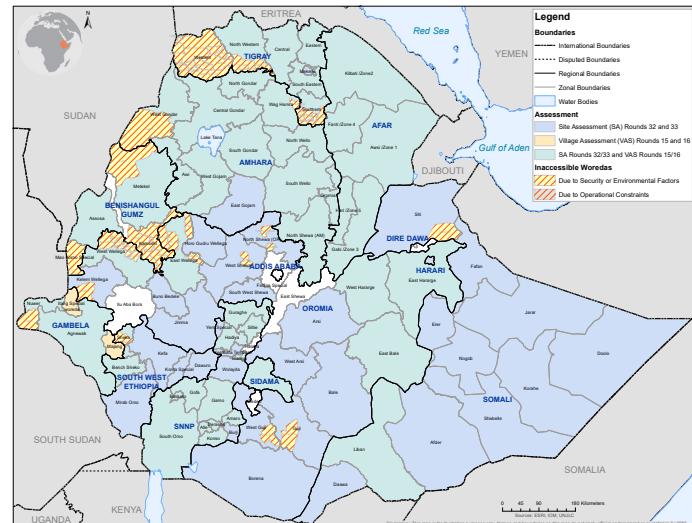
Between April and June 2023, IOM DTM deployed the SA Round 33 and VAS Round 16, carrying out a full multisectoral location assessment in Tigray region, and a figure update in high mobility sites and villages across the rest of the country, as seen in Figure 1.

The November 2022 - January 2023 data (Round 32 for SA and Round 15 for VAS) was compiled with the April - June 2023 data (Round 33 for SA and Round 16 for VAS) to consolidate national IDP and returning IDP figures updated to June 2023. The locations assessed during both rounds of data collection are not duplicated in the consolidated figures. The coverage of the consolidated figures for SA and VAS can be seen in Figure 2.

**FIGURE 1. COVERAGE OF SITE ASSESSMENT (SA) ROUND 33 AND VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY (VAS) ROUND 16 FIGURE UPDATES AND MULTISECTORAL LOCATION ASSESSMENT IN TIGRAY REGION (APRIL - JUNE 2023)**



**FIGURE 2. COVERAGE OF CONSOLIDATED SITE ASSESSMENT (SA) ROUNDS 32 AND 33 AND CONSOLIDATED VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY (VAS) ROUNDS 15 AND 16 (NOVEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2023)**



The areas in blue represent areas that were exclusively covered by SA, while the areas in yellow represent areas that were only covered by VAS. The areas in green represent areas where both SA and VAS were deployed. The grey areas covered in red stripes represent areas that were inaccessible due to operational constraints, while the yellow with red stripes represents areas inaccessible due to security and environmental factors.

# SECTION I:

# SITE ASSESSMENT (SA)

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TRACKING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT  
IN ETHIOPIA



Afar region, Ethiopia © IOM 2022

## I.I METHODOLOGY: SITE ASSESSMENT (SA)

IOM Ethiopia employs a series of tools in its DTM. The present methodology section refers to the Site Assessment (SA) tool which falls under the Mobility Tracking (MT) component of the DTM. Since September 2016, IOM Ethiopia has conducted 33 rounds of data collection. The DTM programme is implemented in collaboration with the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) and lower admin level counterparts. The data collection methodology is divided into three administrative levels:

**Zone level:** Data is collected through interviews with key informants from the Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO), community representatives, and the education and health offices. This data includes the estimated number of displaced individuals, a list of woredas within the zone that host IDPs, their reasons for displacement, time of arrival and locations.

**Woreda level:** Information is collected through key informants at woreda level and includes number of displaced households and individuals at woreda and kebele level, site typology and approximate locations of identifiable displacement sites, among other indicators. The information is used to plan the roll out of the SA.

**Site level:** SA is conducted in locations hosting a reported 20 or more IDP households defined through previous rounds of data collection and the above mentioned interviews at the higher administrative levels. Sites with fewer than 20 IDP households are not assessed. Information is collected through group discussions with key informants (IDP representatives, including men, woman, elderly and youth), key informant interviews and direct observation. SA gathers information on IDPs, including on their locations, their areas of origin, reasons for displacement, household demographics and the availability of services in their areas of displacement.

Demographic information was collected through representative sampling at the site level at a 95% confidence interval and a 10% margin of error. Overall, 171,322 households were interviewed nationwide to inform the demographic information, length of displacement and reasons for displacement. In Mekelle zone and Shire woreda in North Western zone in Tigray region, demographic information was collected through key informants due to operational constraints.

Between April and June 2023, IOM DTM deployed the SA Round 33 in 924 high mobility sites across Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, SNNP and Somali regions. In Tigray region, the SA was deployed in 643 accessible sites, 640 of which were opened before 2023 and 3 had reopened. Out of the 88 woredas in Tigray, 20 woredas were inaccessible. Therefore, the IDP regional and national figures should likely be higher.

In Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, SNNP and Somali regions, SA Round 33 (figure update) was deployed in 281 sites, 254 of which were new and had not been assessed previously, 23 had reopened and 4 were opened before 2023.

The SA Round 32 (November 2022 - January 2023) data was compiled with the SA Round 33 (April - June 2023) data to consolidate a national IDP figure updated to June 2023 for 3,393 sites. The sites assessed during both Round 32 and Round 33 are not duplicated in the consolidated figure.

**FIGURE 3. NUMBER OF ASSESSED SITES INCLUDED IN UPDATED IDP FIGURE (NOVEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2023), BY REGION AND ROUND OF DATA COLLECTION**

Regions	Sites assessed in Round 32 included in updated figure	Sites assessed in Round 33 included in updated figure	Total sites included in updated figure
Afar	67	8	75
Amhara	622	104	726
Benishangul Gumz	82	0	82
Dire Dawa	0	0	0
Gambela	17	0	17
Harari	9	0	9
Oromia	663	103	766
Sidama	59	4	63
SNNP	307	2	309
Somali	605	60	665
South West Ethiopia Peoples	38	0	38
Tigray	0	643	643
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,469</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>3,393</b>

## 1.2 KEY FINDINGS: SITE ASSESSMENT (SA)

FIGURE 4. SA COVERAGE IN ETHIOPIA



FIGURE 5. NUMBER OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) IN ASSESSED SITES IN ETHIOPIA



FIGURE 6. TOP 3 PRIMARY REASONS FOR DISPLACEMENT IN ASSESSED SITES IN ETHIOPIA



2,912,556 IDPs were primarily displaced by conflict (66.41%)



810,855 IDPs were primarily displaced by drought (18.49%)



323,881 IDPs were primarily displaced by social tension (7.38%)

FIGURE 7. SEX-AGE PYRAMID IN ASSESSED SITES IN ETHIOPIA, BY SHARE OF IDPs

Legend:    Male    Female

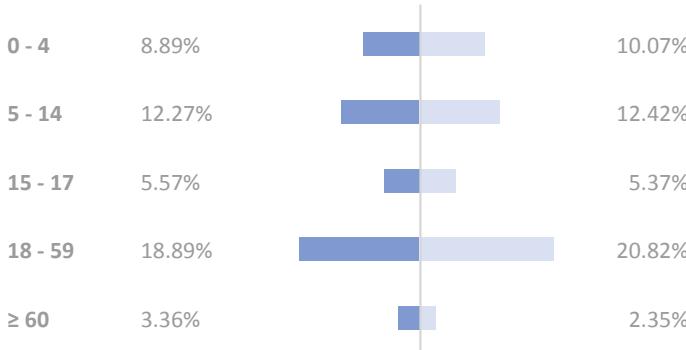
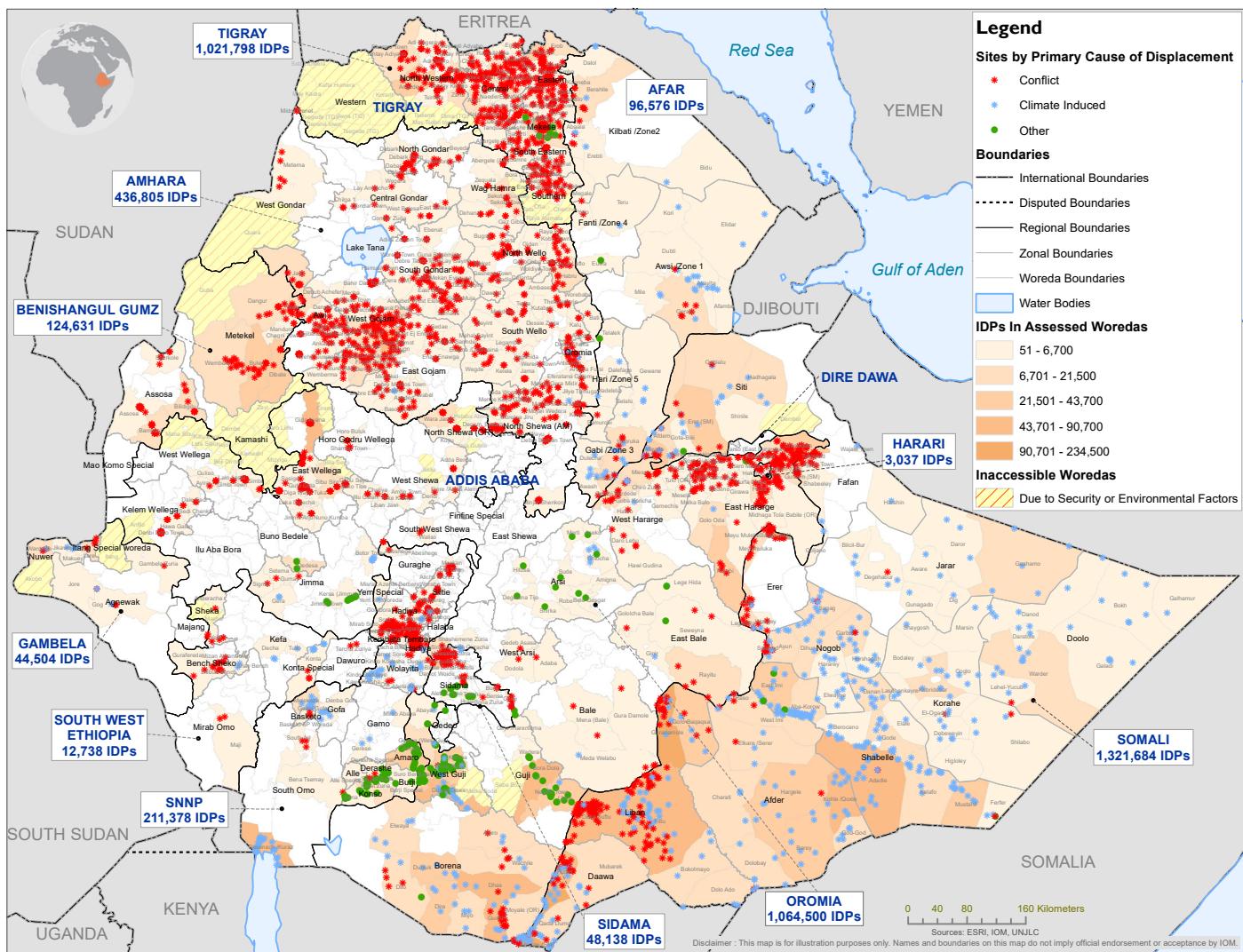


FIGURE 8. IDP CASELOAD IN ASSESSED SITES IN ETHIOPIA, BY REGION

Region	No. of IDP individuals	% of IDP individuals
Afar	96,576	2.20%
Amhara	436,805	9.96%
Benishangul Gumz	124,631	2.84%
Dire Dawa	0	0.00%
Gambela	44,504	1.01%
Harari	3,037	0.07%
Oromia	1,064,500	24.27%
Sidama	48,138	1.10%
SNNP	211,378	4.82%
Somali	1,321,684	30.14%
South West Ethiopia Peoples	12,738	0.29%
Tigray	1,021,798	23.30%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,385,789</b>	<b>100%</b>

## I.3 OVERVIEW OF DISPLACEMENT

**FIGURE 9. DISPLACEMENT CASELOAD IN ACCESSIBLE SITES IN ETHIOPIA BASED ON IOM-DTM SITE ASSESSMENT (SA) CONSOLIDATED FIGURE FROM ROUND 32 (NOV 2022 - JAN 2023) AND ROUND 33 (APRIL - JUNE 2023)**



As of June 2023, 4,385,789 IDPs (872,483 IDP households) were internally displaced across 3,393 assessed, accessible sites in Ethiopia.

Conflict is the primary cause of displacement and displaced 2.9 million IDPs (66.41%), followed by drought which displaced 810,855 IDPs (18.49%). Social tension displaced 323,881 IDPs (7.38%), other-climate induced factors (seasonal floods, flash floods, landslides and fire) displaced 320,244 IDPs (7.3%) and other factors (hydropower project, relocation, wind and swampy land) displaced 18,253 IDPs (0.42%).

As seen in Figure 8 on previous page, the regions of Somali (1,321,684 IDPs or 30.14%), Oromia (1,064,500 IDPs or 24.27%) and Tigray (1,021,798 IDPs or 23.3%) present the highest IDP caseloads nationwide.

Somali region also hosts the highest number of IDPs primarily displaced by drought nationwide (542,807 individuals or 66.94% of national drought caseload), while Tigray region hosts the highest number of IDPs primarily displaced by conflict nationwide (1,011,636 individuals or 34.73% of national conflict caseload).

# SECTION 2:

# VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY

## (VAS)

TRACKING RETURNS  
IN ETHIOPIA

## 2.1 METHODOLOGY: VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY (VAS)

The Village Assessment Survey (VAS) was used for the first time in IOM Ethiopia in July 2019 in response to the government-led return movement in an effort to capture return trends and sectoral needs in areas reporting high return concentrations. This is the 16th round of VAS data collection. VAS targets villages with reported returns equal to or greater than 20 returning IDP households that returned from 1 January 2021. The purpose of VAS is to assess the capacity of villages to absorb returns through the availability of services with a focus on reintegration. All VAS data is collected in collaboration with the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) at the federal and lower administrative levels.

**Zone level:** Data is collected through interviews with key informants from the Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO), community representatives, and the education and health offices. This data includes the estimated number of returning IDPs individuals, a list of woredas within the zone that host returning IDPs, their reasons for initial displacement, time of return and locations.

**Woreda level:** Information is collected through key informants at woreda level and includes number of returning IDP households and individuals at woreda and kebele level, village typology and approximate locations of identifiable villages of return, among other indicators. The information is used to plan the roll out of the Village Assessment Survey (VAS).

**Village level:** Village Assessment Survey (VAS) is conducted in locations hosting a reported 20 or more returning IDP households defined through previous rounds of data collection and the above mentioned interviews at the higher administrative levels. Villages with fewer than 20 returning IDP households are not assessed. Information is collected through group discussions with key informants, key informant interviews and direct observation. VAS gathers information on returning IDPs, including on their locations, reasons for initial displacement and household demographics.

Demographic information was collected through representative sampling at the village level at a 95% confidence interval and a 10% margin of error. Overall, 168,424 households were interviewed nationwide to inform the demographic information and initial reasons for displacement. In Shire woreda (North Western zone, in Tigray region) demographic information was collected

through key informants due to operational constraints.

Between April and June 2023, IOM DTM deployed the VAS Round 16 in 1,027 villages across Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and South West Ethiopia Peoples regions. In Tigray region, DTM deployed the VAS in 963 accessible villages. Out of the 88 woredas in Tigray, 24 woredas were inaccessible for the VAS. Therefore, the returning IDP regional and national figures should likely be higher.

IOM DTM deployed the VAS Round 16 (figure update) in 64 villages across Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and South West Ethiopia Peoples regions. Out of the 64 assessed villages, 61 villages had not been assessed before and 3 had reopened.

The VAS Round 15 (November 2022 - January 2023) data was compiled with the VAS Round 16 (April - June 2023) data to consolidate a national returning IDP figure updated to June 2023 for 2,754 villages. The villages assessed during both Round 15 and Round 16 are not duplicated in the consolidated figure.

**FIGURE 10. NUMBER OF ASSESSED VILLAGES INCLUDED IN UPDATED RETURNING IDP FIGURE (NOVEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2023), BY REGION AND ROUND OF DATA COLLECTION**

Regions	Villages assessed in Round 15 included in updated figure	Villages assessed in Round 16 included in updated figure	Total villages included in updated figure
Afar	177	16	193
Amhara	1,139	21	1,160
Benishangul Gumz	93	0	93
Dire Dawa	0	0	0
Gambela	36	0	36
Harari	0	0	0
Oromia	83	10	93
Sidama	14	0	14
SNNP	91	16	107
Somali	11	0	11
South West Ethiopia Peoples	83	1	84
Tigray	0	963	963
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>2,754</b>

## 2.2 KEY FINDINGS: VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY (VAS)

FIGURE 11. VAS COVERAGE IN ETHIOPIA

 2,754 villages covered

FIGURE 12. NUMBER OF RETURNING IDPs IN ASSESSED VILLAGES IN ETHIOPIA

 3,238,803 returning IDPs  
(737,873 HHs)

FIGURE 13. PRIMARY REASONS FOR INITIAL DISPLACEMENT IN ASSESSED VILLAGES IN ETHIOPIA

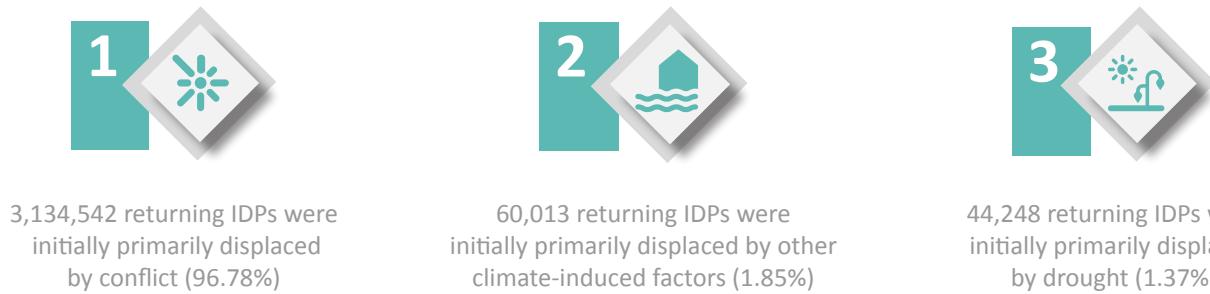


FIGURE 14. SEX-AGE PYRAMID IN ASSESSED VILLAGES IN ETHIOPIA, BY SHARE OF RETURNING IDPs

Legend:  Male  Female

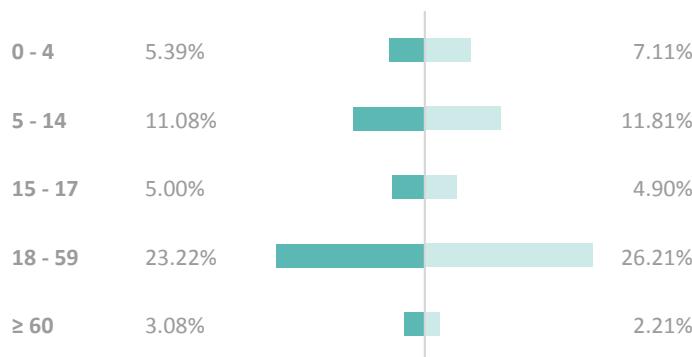
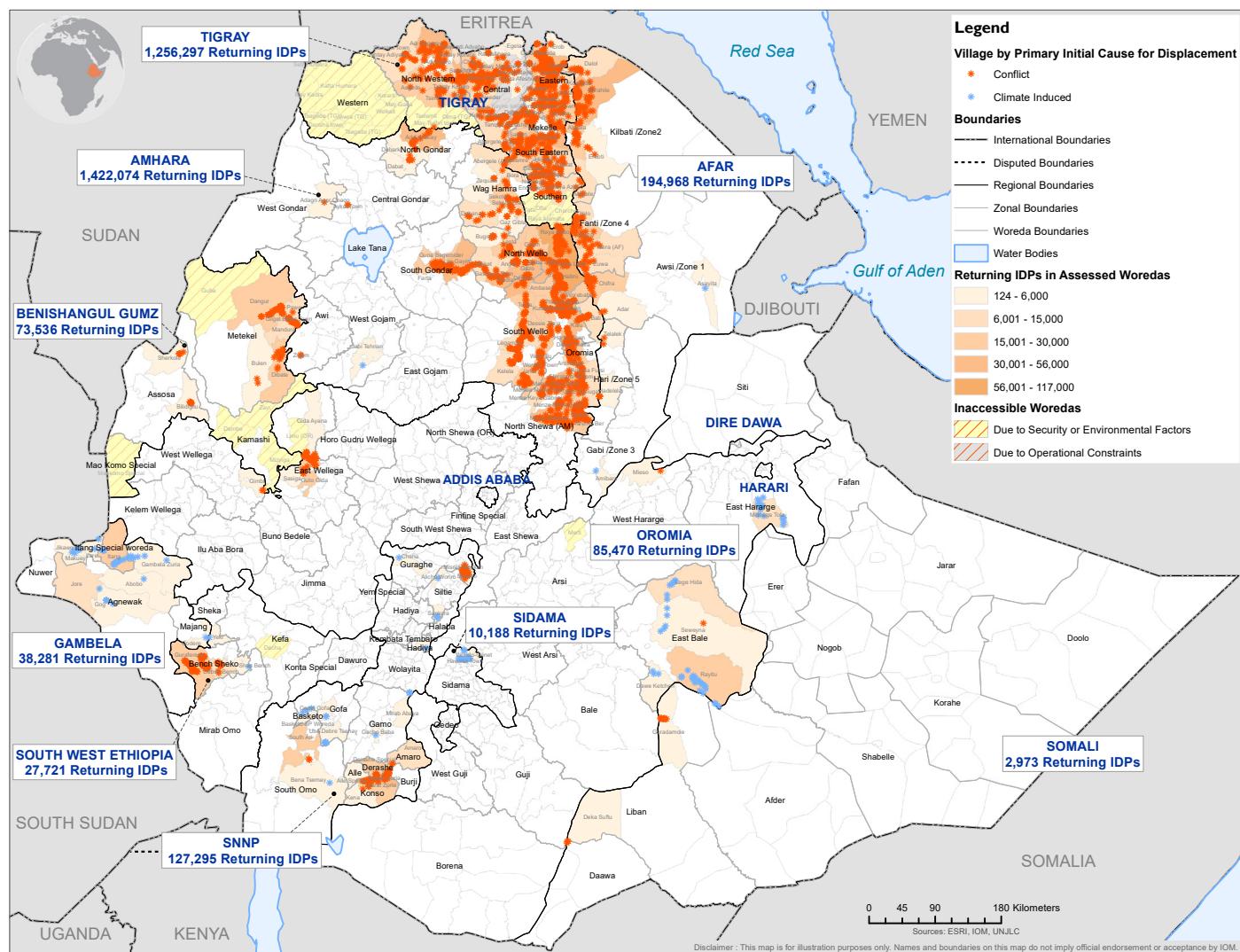


FIGURE 15. RETURNING IDP CASELOAD IN ASSESSED VILLAGES IN ETHIOPIA, BY REGION

Region	No. of returning IDP individuals	% of returning IDP individuals
Afar	194,968	6.02%
Amhara	1,422,074	43.91%
Benishangul Gumz	73,536	2.27%
Dire Dawa	0	0.00%
Gambela	38,281	1.18%
Harari	0	0.00%
Oromia	85,470	2.64%
Sidama	10,188	0.31%
SNNP	127,295	3.93%
Somali	2,973	0.09%
South West Ethiopia Peoples	27,721	0.86%
Tigray	1,256,297	38.79%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,238,803</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## 2.3 OVERVIEW OF RETURN

**FIGURE 16. RETURNING IDP CASELOAD IN ACCESSIBLE VILLAGES IN ETHIOPIA BASED ON IOM-DTM VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY (VAS) CONSOLIDATED FIGURE FROM ROUND 15 (NOV 2022 - JAN 2023) AND ROUND 16 (APRIL - JUNE 2023)**



As of June 2023, IOM DTM estimated 3,238,803 returning IDPs (737,873 returning IDP households) across 2,754 assessed, accessible villages in Ethiopia.

Conflict was reported as the primary reason for initial displacement for the majority of returning IDPs (3,134,542 returning IDPs, 96.78%). This is followed by 60,013 returning IDPs initially primarily displaced by other climate-

induced factors (1.85%) and 44,248 returning IDPs initially primarily displaced by drought (1.37%).

As seen on Figure 15 on previous page, as of June 2023, the highest returning IDP caseloads nationwide were in the regions of Amhara (1,422,074 returning IDPs, 43.91%), Tigray (1,256,297 returning IDPs, 38.79%) and Afar (194,968 returning IDPs, 6.02%).















































[dtmethiopia@iom.int](mailto:dtmethiopia@iom.int)



<https://dtm.iom.int/ethiopia>

