



## Ethiopia Overview

### April to December 2018

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#### Glossary

OLF	Oromo Liberation Front
PM	Prime Minister
GDP	Gross Domestic Product – used to determine the economic performance of a whole country or region, and to make international comparisons.

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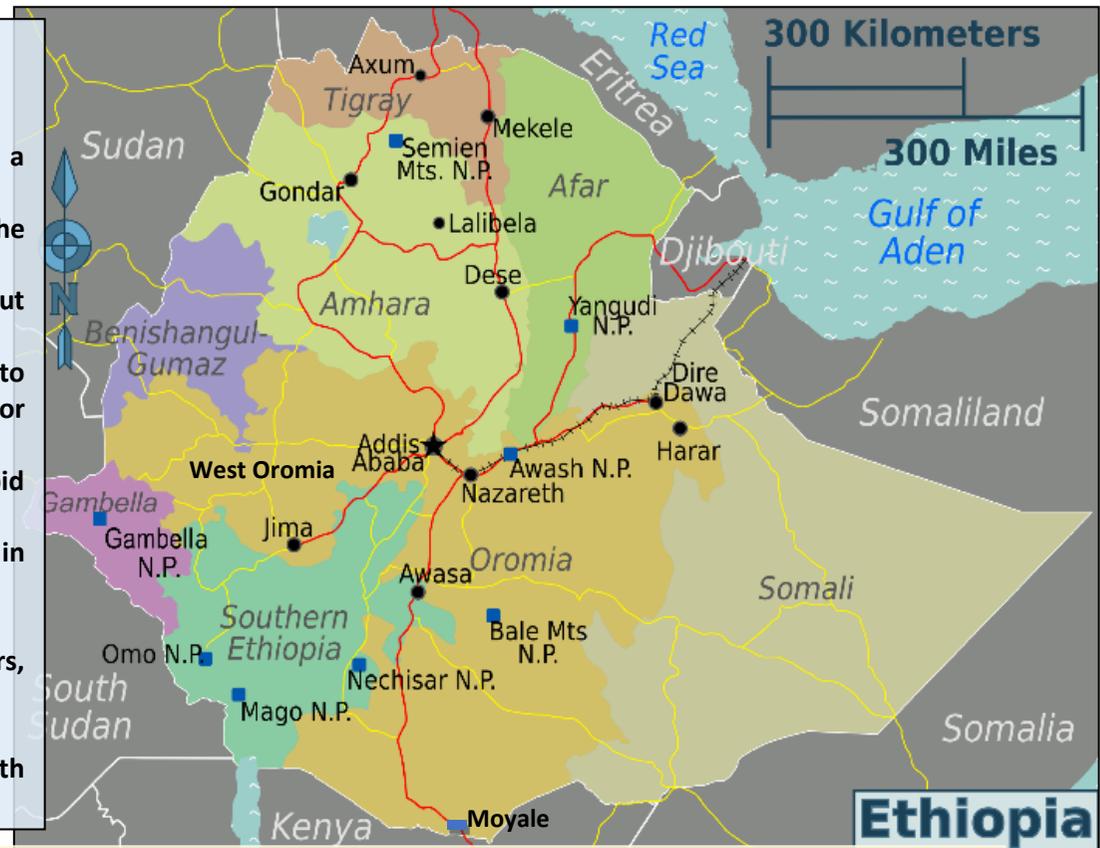
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Locations	Risk Level	Comment	Forecast
Addis Ababa	Low	<i>Whilst there have been violent demonstrations in the capital, risk levels remain low. The vulnerability of humanitarian staff in Addis is lower than elsewhere in the country, where staff are more isolated.</i>	<b><i>President Abiy's reforms have been profound and welcomed. However, they come with risk. Ethiopia is a large country with strong ethnic and religious divides. A strong security apparatus is probably still necessary to ensure ethnic violence does not spread and undermine reform. Abiy will also face internal threats from the political and military establishment who will oppose his anti-corruption and political reform policies. Abiy seems to be on course to continue his reforms, but these do not guarantee stability.</i></b>
Ethiopia outside Addis	Moderate	<i>Prior to visits outside Addis, Risk assessments of the locations must be carried out to ensure any local ethnic violence is avoided. The main risks faced by international humanitarian workers is the threat of a road traffic accident, poor medical and health facilities, and the remoteness of the locations.</i>	

## 1. Domestic News

### ETHIOPIA IN BRIEF

- Population of 105 million
- More than 14 ethnic groups and 16 languages.
- Approximately 40% of the population is below the age of 15 and a fertility rate is over 5 children per woman.
- Ethiopian Orthodox 43.5%, Protestant 18.5%, and Muslim 33.9% of the population.
- 70% of Ethiopia's population is employed in the agricultural sector, but services have surpassed agriculture as the principal source of GDP.
- The economy is growing at a rate between 8% and 11% annually due to government investment in infrastructure, growth in the service sector and sustained progress in agriculture.
- Remains one of the poorest countries in the world, due to rapid population growth
- Violent clashes over land and resources left 1.4 million displaced in 2018
- Approx. 4 million are on welfare schemes every year
- Due to poor weather conditions affecting agriculture in the last 2 years, about 8 million people have needed help with basic food.
- Agriculture is reliant rain and is vulnerable to climate change
- The country hosts more than 900,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea.



### POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REFORM

In Apr 2018 the unexpected resignation of PM Hailemariam Desalegn brought his deputy Abiy Ahmed to power. PM Abiy immediately started a significant reform programme that included:

- May – the freeing of thousands of political detainees, including opposition leader Andargachew Tsege. Later a law was passed granting amnesty to former political prisoners.
- Jun – lifting the state of emergency two months early.
- Jun – accepting a border ruling giving disputed territory to Eritrea.
- Jul – unblocking hundreds of websites and TV channels in July.
- Jul – removal from list of terrorist organisations three rebel groups (Oromo Liberation Front, Ogaden National Liberation Front and Ginbot 7).
- Jul – alongside the Eritrean president declares the end of war between the two countries.
- Sep – reopening the land border crossing with Eritrea.
- Oct – appointing women to half of the ministerial posts and a female President.
- Nov – a crackdown against corrupt officials with the arrest of 79 people, including senior military officials.

### ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

In June 2018, PM Abiy was targeted in an explosion that killed two people at a rally held to show support for him. *Comment: Abiy's reform challenge the political and military establishment. His main threats may come from within his political party and the military – his previous employers.*

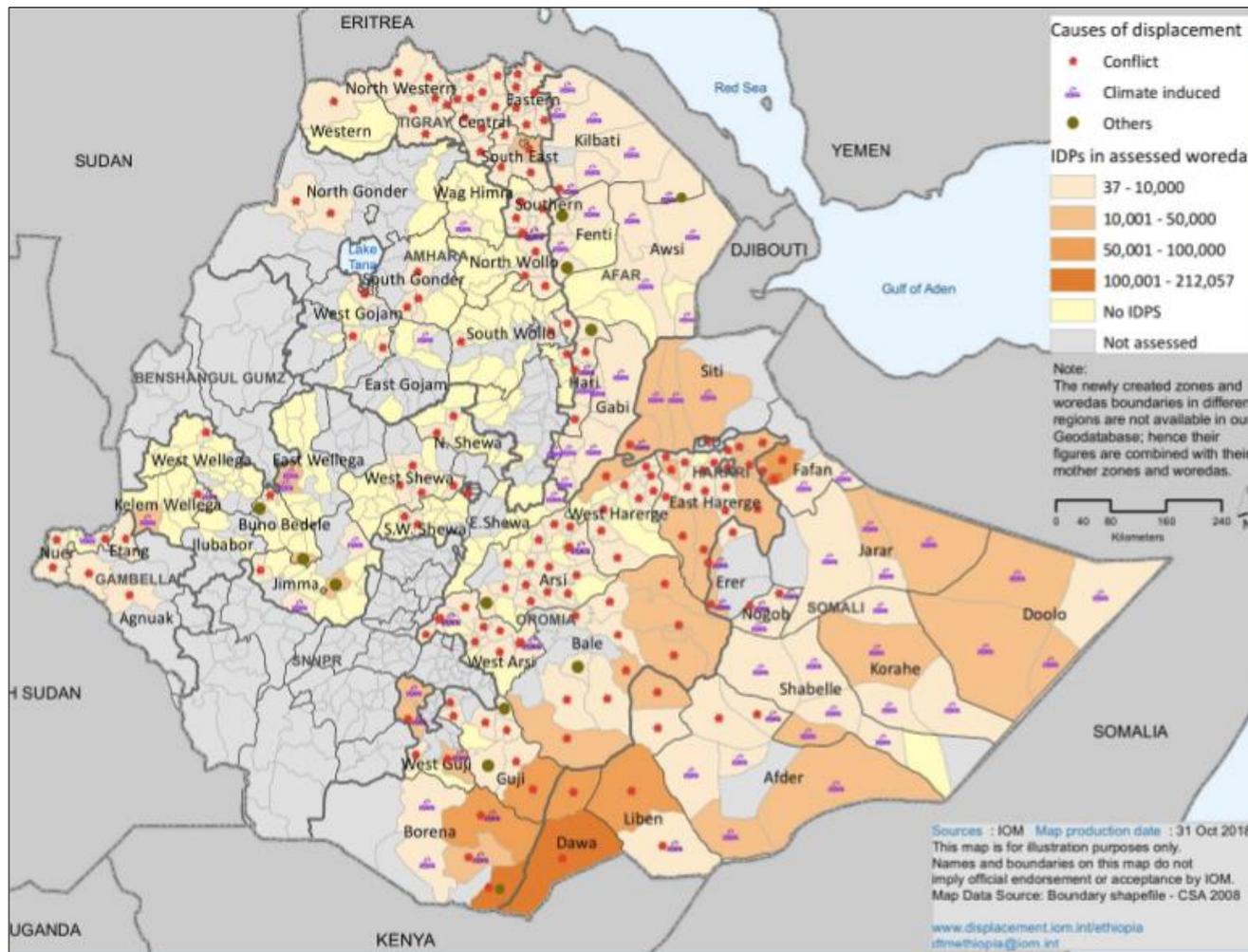
### MILITARY PROTEST

In Oct 2018, 300 soldiers held a protest march through capital Addis Ababa to PM Abiy's office. Once disarmed and admitted, they expressed grievances relating to salary and other benefits. In Dec, a military court jailed 66 of 200 for between five and fourteen years.

### ECONOMIC REFORM

Planned economy include privatising state enterprises. *Comment: There are fears this will enrich some but hinder progress on poverty reduction. With ethnic tensions high, any perception some are profiting from the sell-off of state assets could create further unrest.*

## 2. Humanitarian Situation



### IDP AND REFUGEE SUMMARY

Ethiopia is prone to drought and seasonal flash floods. It is also facing an internal displacement crisis due to inter-communal violence and conflicts. The crisis started in autumn 2017 and has escalated and spread in the second half of 2018. Additionally, Ethiopia currently hosts refugees from countries including Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

**Total number of IDPs: 2,075,278 (as of Oct 18)**

- Conflict Affected IDPs: 1,472,209
- Climate Induced IDPs: 531,001
- Other IDPs: 72,068

**Total number of Refugees: 900,000**

**Population of Concern: Approx. 3 million**

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

### DISPLACEMENT DUE TO INTER-COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

There are 4 main inter-communal conflicts. Two occurred in the second half of 2018.

- Gedeo-Guji conflict: As of 30 Nov 2018, 560,293 individuals were displaced (284,566 in West Guji and 275,727 in Gedeo).
- Oromia conflict
- Somali conflict
- Benishangul conflict: Estimated that at least 240,000 individuals displaced inside Benishangul Gumuz region since Sept 2018.

IOM DTM releases monthly reports per region on the displacement and needs. <https://displacement.iom.int/ethiopia>  
<https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-humanitarian-response-situation-report-no19-november-2018>

### RECENT EVENTS

#### Aug 2018

- In the Somali Region 13 people were killed in several protests and attacks on non-Somalis. Some of the attacks were carried out by the regional police force – Liyu Police.
- The Liyu Police also crossed into Oromia Region killing at least 40 ethnic Oromos. 13 ethnic Somalis were later murdered in same area. *Comment: This was most probably a retaliatory attack by Oromos.*

#### Sept 2018

- In Addis 13 people were killed when Oromos at a pro-Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) rally attacked non-Oromos. The OLF had recently signed a reconciliation agreement with the government. In subsequent violence, a further 28 people were killed. Several days later police broke-up a protests against the violence, killing 5!
- Violence between ethnic Gumuz and Oromos in Benishangul-Gumuz region in late Sept reportedly left another 5 people dead.

#### Oct 2018

- In the Tigray Region, Raya people protested demanding that they be recognised as belonging to wider Amhara community. Security forces forcibly dispersed the crowds, killing at least 3.

#### Nov 2018

- Ethnic Oromo militias reportedly killed 10 Somalis in Moyale, on the border with Kenya.
- Oromo militia also reportedly attacked and killed dozens of civilians and 17 Oromia state police in west Oromia close to the Benishangul-Gumuz region.

#### Dec 2018

- Clashes between Oromos and Somalis near Moyale on the border with Kenya left at least 21 people dead and forced hundreds to flee into Kenya.
- 25 Dec Parliament approved the creation of a reconciliation commission to counter intercommunal ethnic violence.

### KEY HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- **Livelihood** is a key response for IDPs due to climate effected and man-made conflicts. Most commonly reported type of support required is the need to facilitate safe return (179 sites). **Life-saving** interventions needed are emergency supply of safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene promotion, shelter, food assistance, cash transfers, healthcare including the detection and treatment of malnourished children, and the prevention of and response to disease outbreaks such as cholera.
- Refugees rely on aid to meet their basic needs, including **education** and **protection** from gender-based violence.
- In 2019 UNHCR will focus on **protection**, **humanitarian assistance**, and the **registration** of refugees – 77,300 new arrivals expected, mostly from Eritrea and South Sudan.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-food-security-outlook-december-2018>

[https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/africa/ethiopia\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/africa/ethiopia_en)