


OROMIA REGIONAL STATE	
Accessibility	<p>All the areas of return are accessible by road. From Addis Ababa, the options are either to take a bus from Addis Ababa to any of the final areas of return or to take a commercial flight to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hawassa in the SNNPR region and continue to Arsi, East and West Shewa by road; - Dodola in Bale and continue to Arsi by road - Ghinnir in Bale and continue to East Hararghe by road - Gobe/Robe in Arsi and continue by road to West Hararghe, Bale or Jimma. <p>The fare depends on the distance from Addis Ababa to each location and on the transportation company. Fares are affordable.</p>
Population	<p>The population in the Oromia regional state is estimated to be 35 million given that each year the population increases by approximately 1.1 million. The rural population of the state accounts for 89.5% of the total.</p>
Ethnic Groups	<p>The major ethnic groups within the Oromia region include 85% Oromo, 9.1% Amhara and 1.3% Gurage (some of Sebatbet Guragie, Sodo Gurage and Siltie). The remaining 4.6% constitutes other ethnic groups.</p> <p>Oromifa, presently inscribed with Latin characters, is the official language.</p>
<p>Main areas of return</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arsi - Bale - Burayu - East Hararghe - East Shewa - Jimma - West Hararghe <p>Administrative map of Oromia</p> 	

POPULATION MOVEMENTS	
	<p>In 2017, Intercommunal violence in East and West Hararghe displaced over 400,000 Ethiopians. While some of these individuals have returned home, many remain internally displaced. The Somali regional Government has recently returned more of these individuals in July 2020, albeit in less than ideal conditions. The voluntary nature of these returns is questionable. Many have not returned home but live in communal buildings such as schools with security provided by the Ethiopian Defense Forces.</p>

	<p>In 2018, intercommunal violence erupted in the Gedeo, West Guji, East Wollega and West Wollega zones and drove over 1 million people out of their homes. In 2019, the Government progressively started returning these IDPs to their places of origin. Insufficient assistance and insecurity in areas of return led to secondary internal displacement for a small number of households. The Government does not recognize them as IDPs. West Wollega continues to experience violence and clashes between non-state actors and Ethiopian Defense Forces.</p> <p>The Ethiopian Defense Forces have clashed with non-state actors in the Bale and East Guji zones in 2020 leading to internal displacement of over 52,000 individuals.</p>
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RULE OF LAW

Local Authorities /Administration	<p>The lowest administrative level in the Oromia regional state is the kebele, which is under the responsibility of the woreda. The woreda is run by a woreda administrator. Like the structure at federal level, each woreda also has an elected council. On top of the woredas, each regional State is divided into zones. The authority at the zone level is the zonal administrator. There is also a council for which members are elected for a 3-year term. It is possible to consult with local authorities at each of these administrative levels.</p>
Civil Status and Documentation	<p>For civil status documentation, persons have to report to the desk for vital events registration (birth, marriage, death) in the woreda of residence, where childbirth can be registered for issuance of a birth certificate. As far as identity cards are concerned, the same desk provides residence identity cards. These two documents constitute the first step in obtaining a national passport, which is issued by the Immigration Nationality and Vital Events Agency (INVEA).</p> <p>Returnees, whose final destinations are Arsi and Jimma, can go to the INVEA in Adama, where they can apply for a national passport.</p> <p>Those, whose final destination is East Showa, can go to the INVEA in Addis Ababa (which is the closest to their location), whilst those, who are going to West Hararghe can apply with the INVEA office either in Adama or in Dire Dawa.</p> <p>It should be noted that fees for passports are much higher than for civil status documentation. For an identity card, one has to pay less than 50 ETB. A passport costs 600 ETB.</p>
Access to Justice	<p>On federal matters, regional judicial bodies carry the functions of federal bodies by delegation. They have three layers as in Addis Ababa: the first instance, the High Court and the Supreme Court. There are also Sharia courts in the Oromia region, but referral of case to these courts is optional. The competency of the Sharia courts is limited to personal and civil matters.</p>

SECURITY

General	<p>Following the killing of musician on 29 June 2020 there was a series civil disorder which swept Ethiopia, chiefly in the Oromia region, leading to the deaths of at least 200 people. Interfaith tensions added another layer of complexity. The government as a result made a firm response, arresting suspected persons causing the unrest, to restore order and provide accountability. Increased caution in general should be exercised due to sporadic civil unrest and communication disruptions.</p>
Law Enforcement	<p>People have unhindered access to the Police, which is the first port of call for reporting security incidents. Uniformed police solve minor disputes and conflict over farmland,</p>

	water and pastures and other communal assets. As law enforcement agents, they maintain law and order and in the woredas and kebeles.
Risks Related to Non-Exploded Devices	No reports on existing non-exploded devices found in the Oromia region have been recorded so far.

PROTECTION	
Persons with Specific Needs	Should they have particular concerns, persons with specific needs can report to the Regional Bureau of Women, Children’s and Youth Affairs that deals with specific matters relating to women, children and youth. They can also access the representations of the Bureau in their zones and woredas.
Child Protection	<p>ICRC and the Ethiopian National Red Cross (ERCS) Society conduct family tracing aiming at restoring family links. The process can be engaged provided that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the person asking for it is a family member of the person for whom family tracing is requested, - he or she has already tried to re-establish contact by all other possible means with no result and - there is precise and complete information from both sides. <p>Birth certification is done at the woreda level, where parents have to declare the birth of their child at the INVEA.</p> <p>Issues related to the protection of children, children’s rights, etc. are dealt with by the Bureau for Women, Children and Youth Affairs and its divisions at the zone and woreda levels.</p>
SGBV	<p>Due to East Shewa and Arsi being close to Addis Ababa, survivors can access one of the three (3) One-Stop-Centres in Addis Ababa that provide a comprehensive response to SGBV. In Oromia, there are One-Stop-Centres in Adama, Jimma and Shashemene towns. One-Stop-Centres are usually located in government hospitals; these centres are public structures, where a survivor can report a SGBV incident and receive an adequate response, including medical, legal, psychosocial and safe space services. In locations, where there are no One-Stop-Centres, survivors can approach the Bureau of Women, Children’s and Youth Affairs at the zone level as the main point of entry for reporting SGBV and child protection incidents.</p> <p>The One-Stop-Centre is a public service and is free of charge.</p>
Social cohesion	<p>There are reports on resurgent inter-communal clashes, often along ethnic lines, spilling over from other regional states into the Oromia regional state and/or arising within the Oromia region itself. This negatively impacts the fragile cohesion existing in those locations.</p> <p>Community leaders and elders assemble at the kebele under the chairmanship of the kebele administration and conduct mediation to resolve problems. If the mediation fails, the issue is brought to the attention of the woreda administrator and his council. If not resolved, the matter is escalated to the zonal and regional level.</p>
Food Security and Livelihoods	<p>Over 90% of the population in the Oromia region live in rural areas, where agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the majority of the people. The main agricultural crops include maize, teff, wheat, barley, peas, bean and various types of oil seeds. Coffee is the main cash crop in the region. Oromia accounts for 51.2% of the crop production, 45.1% of the area under the above-mentioned crops and 44% of the total livestock population of Ethiopia.</p>

	<p>The Awash River is the longest river inside Ethiopia and a source of great agro-industrial and hydroelectric power. The lakes in this region have immense potential for recreation and fishery development.</p> <p>In each region, there is a Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs to which one can report matters relevant to employment. The Regional Bureaus have their representations at the zone and woreda levels.</p> <p>The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) has 37 branches in Arsi, 28 in Bale, 03 in Burayu, 29 in East Hararghe, 32 in East Showa, 30 in Jimma and 15 in West Hararghe and at the woreda level. One needs proper identification documents to open a bank account. There are also functioning ATMs from which money can be withdrawn.</p> <p>However, in order to assist Ethiopians returning to their country of origin with UNHCR support, exceptionally, the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) has accepted to use the VRFs as temporary identity document for the opening of bank accounts with the expectation that returnees will soon obtain their identity cards from the relevant authorities.</p> <p>There is also the Oromia International Bank that operates in almost all areas of return in the Oromia region. This micro-finance institution provides money transfer services and the use of mobile money is foreseen in the near future.</p> <p>Returnees are advised not to return to Ethiopia with the local currency of their countries of asylum and to change their local currencies in hard currency prior to repatriating.</p>
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ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Health	<p>There are 3 levels of health facilities that could be considered for returnees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In every kebele, health posts exist that provide outreach services, including preventative and referral services. The health posts serve as a link between the community and the higher-level health facilities. Minor diseases are also treated at the health posts by health extension workers. - At the woreda level, health centres exist that provide comprehensive primary health services both preventative and curative, in-patient and out-patient services. The health centres also provide vaccination and psychosocial support. However, not all health centres have psychiatric nurses. Services are provided by general practitioners and public health officers. - At the zone level, one can access the General Hospital to which patients needing surgery or obstetrical care, including other specialized care, are referred. <p>Payment at public health facilities is affordable. A consultation at a public health facility is between 5 - 20 ETB. An average cost for treatment at outpatient level is between 150 - 200 ETB.</p> <p>It is advisable that each person with a chronic medical condition that needs continuation of the treatment, returns with a 3-month supply of medicines. These conditions include among others tuberculosis, HIV, hypertension, diabetes, asthma and mental disability. The continued treatment can be done through the available services at the health centres.</p> <p>Services at private clinics are much more expensive than at public health facilities. Given the poor quality of services in some private clinics in the regions, it is advisable to use public facilities.</p>
WASH	<p>More than 24 woredas in the Oromia region benefit from the Government's efforts with the support of UNICEF's WASH programme to improve access to water in Oromia. This</p>

	<p>is part of the overall progress in WASH in Ethiopia, where 57 per cent of the population now relies on improved water supply sources such as water taps or hand pumps rather than unprotected and risky sources such as rivers and streams. The increased access to clean and safe water has benefitted children in Ethiopia significantly, contributing to the reduction of under-five child mortality by two-thirds and a significant reduction in child stunting.¹</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>Primary and secondary education is under the responsibility of the regional Education Bureaus. In each woreda, there is an Education Office that oversees the overall management of education.</p> <p>There are primary and secondary schools in each woreda in Ethiopia. Enrolment for primary and secondary education is free of charge, however, parents need to cover the cost of educational materials and uniforms. In the Oromia region, the main instruction language is Oromo from grade 1 to grade 4. English is introduced in the curriculum as the teaching language starting from grade 5.</p> <p>From grade 12, if a student does not meet the Government's threshold to enroll into University, he or she is oriented to a vocational skills training centre, which is curriculum-based. The student can obtain a certificate after one year of study and a diploma after three years.</p> <p>As far as tertiary education is concerned, certificates obtained while in asylum have to go through the equivalency mechanism to be valid in Ethiopia; as holders of foreign higher education certificates do not automatically qualify for admission to Ethiopian higher education programmes. In this regard, affected students need to get equivalency assessment or verification of foreign certificate through the <i>Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency (HERQA)</i>, the responsible agency.</p> <p>Once this process is completed, for those returning to Burayu close to Addis Ababa, they can enroll at Addis Ababa or Ambo Universities. For other areas of return, students can enroll at the following universities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Adama Science and Technology University for those returning to East Shewa ; - Arsi University located in Asela Town for those returning to Arsi ; - Meda Welabu University located in Bale Robe for students returnees to Bale; - Haramaya University and Dire Dawa University for those going back to East Hararghe; - Jimma University for those returning to Jimma ; - Haramaya University and Dire Dawa University for those returning to West Hararghe. <p>Students have to sign a cost-sharing commitment with the Government for the tuition fee of which 75 % is covered by the Government.</p> <p>Students can be placed at any of the universities in the country, as long as they get the placement from the Ministry of Education (MoE) after completion of grade 12 and scoring of the minimum grade points average established by the MoE or through special placement exams.</p>
<p>Shelter</p>	<p>In remote rural areas, the type of housing is a traditional cylindrical, single-cell house constructed from finely attached branches and small trees, then clad with mud and fitted with a conical roof made of grass thatch.</p> <p>In the towns and cities, houses are usually walled constructions fitted with corrugated iron sheet roofing.</p>

¹ <https://unicefethiopia.org/category/ethiopia-2/oromia/page/2/>

	Communities, whose main activity is cattle breeding, have seminomadic migration patterns that relate to the rain and greener pastures for their livestock. They usually do not build permanent structures in the landscape but merely temporary shelters.
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HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ACTORS	
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Oromia	<p>In the Oromia region, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, WFP, FAO, ERCS, as well as a number of NGOs, both international and national, such as ICRC, DRC, NRC, CRS, CARE International, World Vision International, Action Against Hunger, LWF, PLAN, the MCMDO and Goal Ethiopia implement activities in support of the Government. The main sectors in which they operate are agriculture, WASH, health, nutrition, education, food, CRIs and emergency shelter.</p> <p>In July 2018, UNHCR established a presence in Bule Hora in the West Guji zone, where there is a sizable number of IDPs.</p>
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CONTEMPORARY ISSUES	
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COVID-19	<p>The first Coronavirus case in Ethiopia was confirmed on 13 March 2020. The number of patients are on the rise from day to day. The Federal and state governments as a result have taken more and more restrictive measures to contain the Coronavirus. The country's borders have been closed. The Ethiopian Airlines has suspended all international flights, save for cargo flights. Individuals can only enter into the country on the condition that they agree to be quarantined for 14 days, at their own expense. The states are also taking similar actions. A State of Emergency has been declared by the Government in an effort to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. Bordering regional states have established quarantine centers at border crossings in response to illegal entry of migrants. Refugees are not advised to spontaneously return due to lack of services at the border and risk of ending up facing other protection risks. COVID-19 impacts are:</p> <p>Macroeconomic context and public finance : i) decline in economic growth. ii) decline in GDP growth rate iii) increase in prices due to reduced offers. iv) government revenue reduces due to less tax payment. v) less foreign exchange earnings required for much needed imports, plus hits on remittances and the tourism sector will also affect foreign exchange earnings hindering the ability to service debt payments entailing a mortgaging of the future.</p> <p>Health and Nutrition : i) increased rate of illness is expected to put pressure to the quality of health care in Ethiopia with potential service saturations and severe limitations for poorer households interms of affordability and accessibility. ii) disrupted health services for non-COVID-19 related needs. lii) Malnutrition due to : a) household food insecurity due to loss of income b) caring practices for children ad women are likely to go down as livelihoods are affected c) access to health services may be disrupted due to health workers' limited access to health facilities or lack of motivation or fear of infection.</p> <p>WASH: i) majority of poor households are most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to poor sanitation practices and hygienic conditions. ii) Movement restrictions will disproportionately affect poor households in underserved areas, who depend</p>
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	<p>on daily wages to pay for safe drinking water for their households amongst other daily needs</p> <p>Education: i) the most vulnerable and poor children will not benefit from home-schooling during school closures, hence widening inequalities in the learning gap between the lowest and highest quintiles. iii) school closures will lead to decline in food intake and nutrition, possibly increase school dropouts and adversely impact human capital development iv) school feeding programme has been suspended due to school closures</p> <p>Social Protection: i) COVID-19 will likely limit control and surveillance operations as well as the deployment of experts to the field to combat the desert locust upsurge. ii) rise in the price of key commodities, driven largely by behavioural changes in urban areas – food hoarding, etc., iii) widespread loss of income and deeper levels of poverty as social distancing intensifies which has an impact on the service industry, tourism and for the sizeable self-employed population. The combination of labor constraints and limited access markets will drive poverty and exacerbate food insecurity.</p> <p>Child Protection: i) new stressors on parents and child caregivers who may have to find new childcare options or forgo work. ii) disease control measures that do not consider the gender-specific needs of women and girls may increase their protection risks and lead to adverse coping mechanism. iii) heightened risk of domestic violence-in those settings where those who live with domestic abuse could be at greater risk of violence/abuse – particularly women, children, those with disabilities. iv) prevention and response services will be less accessible to victims of abuse and violence v) school closure puts additional burden of care on women and hence may affect their mental and physical wellbeing.</p>
<p>Locust invasion</p>	<p>About one million individuals have been affected by the desert locust invasion and require emergency food assistance. Of these, about 390 000 are in Somali, 360 000 in Oromia and Dire Dawa city (combined), 100 000 in Afar, 72 000 in Amhara, 43 000 in Tigray and 13 000 in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) region, reported in April 2020.</p> <p>Swarms declined in the South due to control and breeding while mature swarms moved into the nearest (Afar) and eastern (Somali) regions. Hopper bands continued to mature near Dire Dawa as well as in adjacent areas of northwest Somali. In central Somalia, mature adults are present near the Ethiopia border in Galguduud region. Huge swarms of locusts, the size of a city, forced more than 15,000 people to flee their homes in Southern Oromia region, the Wachile area affecting 12 villages in the Month of May 2020. These locusts have already destroyed large swaths of food and pasture in the region. Experts have described the ongoing desert locust infestation in the Horn as the worst in 25 years. Widespread rainfall in late March created an ideal environment for locust breeding. The situation may get worse when the insects mature and grow wings. The desert locust can fly up to 19 kilometers per hour and cover up to 130 kilometers per day.</p> <p>Ethiopia is aerial spraying the swarms in three locations: Arba Minch in Southern Ethiopia; Jijjiga, in the Somali region and Dire-Dawa in the eastern part of the country. Huge of swarms of locusts have been reported in six woredas of Gambella region on 19 May 2020.</p>

	The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated efforts to fight the locusts, mainly by delaying deliveries of pesticides.
Election	<p>It is public knowledge that the restrictive measures have been taken while the country is planning to hold its sixth national elections. Clearly, more restrictive measures that the federal and state governments are to take as the impacts of the pandemic progressively become severe will make the preparations towards the elections practically impossible. Political parties will not manage to campaign or hold meetings or public rallies which are critical pre-elections democratic activities which determine the legitimacy of election results. The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) will not manage to make the necessary preparations to successfully administer the elections. Federal and state authorities will also be unable to carry out functions that are critical for peacefully holding the elections since they will be preoccupied with fighting the pandemic. Moreover, voters will not be able to come out and vote in large number on election-day without taking a grave health risk, unless the pandemic is contained by then. Electronic or remote voting is not an option in Ethiopia for the simple reason that the country does not have the necessary technology and wherewithal to do this. Most of the opposition groups were quick to signal their support for the postponement. There is no clarity, whether election would take place without significant violence accompanying the polls.</p>