

Civil Peace Service /Internally Displaced Persons

Prevention of displacement and durable reintegration of former displaced persons-IDP component in Southern Ethiopia (Sidama, Southwest Ethiopia, Southern Ethiopia & Central Ethiopia people’s regions).

The Challenge

Ethiopia has been affected by internal conflicts whose complex causes are attributed to the competition for land and natural resource and politicization of ethnic affiliation. In 2018 and 2019 the number of Internally Displaced Persons increased in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional States 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 Sidama, Southwest and SNNPR, the displacement and conflict has been triggered in most cases by the quest of administrative structure and self-determination. This in its turn, has resulted in loosening social cohesion, eroding tolerance, and 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. To that end, the programme was officially launched on 7 October 2022 in the presence of delegates from BMZ, German Embassy, FDRE Ministry of Peace, Mayor of Hawassa, Peace and Security Bureau Heads of SNNPR, Sidama and Southwest Ethiopia, representative of UN agencies and various CSO partners.

Our Approach

CPS IDP uses non-violent conflict transformation and peace building mechanisms to prevent displacement and to reintegrate internally displaced persons in Sidama and SNNPR regional states.

Project name	Prevention of displacement and durable reintegration of former displaced persons-IDP component in Southern Ethiopia (Sidama, Southwest Ethiopia, Southern Ethiopia & Central Ethiopia people’s regions).
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	SNR, SWEPR, SEPR, CEPR
Lead executing agency	Civil Peace Service – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Partners	RCSC, ECMY-DASSC, Peace & security bureau of the regions.
Duration	2020-2024

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

Objectives

CPS IDP program 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.



1. Official opening of CPS IDP office in Hawassa Southern Ethiopia.

2. Training & Community discussion at Bura woreda



Participants - official opening ceremony of CPS IDP office.



Training & Community discussion at Bura woreda

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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.

The Conflict Setting

Amaro-Guji conflicts

Several ethnic groups including Amaro in the SNNPRs are neighbors 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 Gedeo-Guji conflicts

The case of Yirgachefe and Gedeb: In post-1991 Ethiopia, the Gedeo and Guji ethnic groups repeatedly experienced inter-ethnic conflicts. Many reports are showing the impacts of these conflicts in terms of loss of lives, material destruction, and displacements. At the center of many of these conflicts lays the issue of self-administration that breeds administrative and political problems.

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 Arsi community, although they have a long period of amicable groups since 2008 over ownership and use of natural resources. Economic and natural resources that are vital and causing 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 - specifically found fruitful grounds in Amaro, a woreda (district) in SNNPR bordering Gelana, a woreda in Oromia. The people from both woredas have been disconnected for years because of - often armed - conflict. Following the training held by CPS partner EECMY - DASSC, the Amaro local Bureau of Peace and Security organised a joint forum for people from Amaro and Gelana. Local leaders, peace committee members and youth groups participated in discussions. Considering, capacity building training on conflict transformation conducted by GIZ - CPS partner RCSC the latter has developed into community-led trainings in Bura woreda - Karamo kebele and Kokosa woreda - Aroresa kebele in boardering areas of Oromia. The peace and security administration of Bura used the material & inputs from the RCSC training to train community elders, youth and security officials from woredas of both conflicting regions, titled "the owner of peace is you"

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