# Report on Emergency Food Support to IDPs Sheltered in Debre-Birhan with the Support of Dir Biyabir – Phase 1

***March 2022, Ethiopia***

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## Executive Summary

On March 18, 2022, ADHENO with the support from **Dir Biyabir members and supporters** has delivered emergency food supports to 644 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) sheltered in four Kebele (public) Halls of Debre-Birhan town. This was Phase 1 of relief distribution for the IDP funded by Dir Biyabir and implemented by ADHENO.

The **Dir Biyabir members and supporters** provisions included hundred (100) quintals of Teff, five hundred (500) liters of oil, one (1) quintal pepper and four (4) quintals of roasted beans for making Shiro. The raw pepper, beans and the spices needed to be processed which is given to the IDP women to prepare it in their most convenient way for food consumption. These women are then paid minimum amount for their labor.

ADHINO-Dir-Biyabir support to the IDPs included supply of staple foods to people who are sheltered in isolated IDP settings and had fished their food stock.

The total financial amount for the program and logistics: expenses used for the purchase and supply of the food items for the IDPs is 604,860.00 (Six hundred four thousand eight hundred sixty) ETB which is equivalent to $11,860 (Eleven thousand eight hundred sixty) where the exchange rate was at 1USD = 51 ETB. The balance from the total budget is $140 (One Hundred Forty) ($12,000 -$11860) which is equivalent to 7,140 (Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty) ETB which is carried over to the second round of support.

The contribution was **relevant:** as the supplied local food items are those that are accustomed by the IDP community; **efficient**: since the food and non-food items were bought from local farmers and market; effective: since the delivered items were bought to address the highest priority needs as it was identified by the IDPs themselves.

# Report on Emergency Food Support to IDPs Sheltered in Debre-Birhan with the Support of Dir Biyabir

## Background

A large number of civilian members of the Amhara community who lived in East Wellega Zone, West Shoa Zone and other parts of Oromia region were displaced by months-long violence, persecution and brutal atrocities. Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kebele 04 Hall IDPs said that unidentified gunmen were attacking residents and religious institutions. The local authorities gave a deaf ear for the atrocities and destructions. IDPs expressed that their properties and houses were turned to ashes. They have lost many of their loved ones. There are still family members being kidnapped and whose whereabouts is unknown. Those who managed all the challenges through their ways were arrived Debre-Birhan and sheltered in different IDP settings.

On February 7 2022, Adheno's Debre-Birhan Coordination office paid a courteous visit to the Plan Commission of Mayor's office of the Debre-Birhan town looking for data of the IDPs. Thus, the coordination office has visited the situations of IDPs in different sites. Groups of IDPs have been sheltered in public halls located in 03, 04, 06 & 08 Kebeles.

In order to help IDPs, ADHENO has conducted needs assessment on IDPs sheltered in Kebele public halls in the town of Debre-Birhan to provide emergency food support donated from **Dir Biyabir members and supporters.** More than 30,000 ethnic Amhara have been facing brutal atrocities; their wealth has gotten looted and destroyed; and they were forced for displacement into different districts of the North Shoa Zone of the Amhara Region mainly due to their identities. As a result, they have been sheltered in different IDP sites. Some of the IDPs have been in Debre-Birhan since the assassination Artist Hachalu Hundessa. Aftermath of the killing of Artist Hachalu Hundessa, huge numbers of ethnic Amhara was displaced from Arsi, Bale Robe, Dodola, Shashamane, and Zeway. As a result, these IDPs have been staying in the town of Debre-Birhan.

Some of IDPs in these sites told that they escaped from atrocities in their place of origin and came to Zenebework, Addis Ababa. Officials from Addis Ababa City Administration accompanied with Security forces sent them to Arjo Desert in Oromia region. However, situations got worsened in the new place. They said that they stayed in forests with their children for three days. Finally, they decided to move to Amhara region for their survival and they made it to Debre-Birhan. When they arrived in Debre-Birhan, they were welcomed by the people and the Debre-Birhan town administration. They are thankful for being still alive and they feel like home except limited access to essential services such as sleeping area, food items, and hygiene and sanitation services. The shelter is very crowded where elders, children, women and girls are living together. It was also witnessed that lactating mothers who gave birth in the last two

months. From the IDPs, a priest told that they were targeted because of their identities and the region they follow. He told that they brought 80 covenants with them and put somewhere in the IDP center.

The result from the assessment has indicated that out of 30,000 IDPs, more than 9000 were born and raised in Oromia region. Even though they were born and raised in Oromia region, they were exposed for displacement to Amhara region and sheltered in Debre-Birhan due to fear of violent atrocities due to their identities.

During the assessment, ADHENO learnt that IDPs who are sheltered in Kebele public halls are not getting enough supports from government and aid organizations unlike IDPs sheltered in factories that do not start operations. Having considered their immediate need of food support, ADHENO was able to get funding from its longtime partner Dir Biyabir - Ethiopian American NGO based in the United States of America.

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Figure 1 preparation of Teff powder

**IDPs at Kebele 08 Hall**

ADHENO has delivered 47 quintals of Teff flour, 125 liters of oil, one quintal shiro (unprepared) and 25 kgs of pepper (unprepared) to IDPs sheltered at 08 Kebele public Hall. In this Kebele Hall, there are 318 IDPs who came from Danu district of West Shoa Zone and Dodola district of

Oromia region. The shelter is very crowded where elders, children/infants, women, men, youths and girls living together.

*Figure2: Items being stocked*

**IDPs at Kebele 03 Hall**

159 IDPs are sheltered at Kebele 03 public hall. For this IDP site, 25 quintals of Teff flour, 125 liters of oil, 25 kgs of pepper (unprepared), and one quintal of Shiro were delivered. Most of the IDPs came from East Wellega Zone.

*Figure 3: Items being inspected by the local authority*

*Figure 4: Kebele 03 supplied items*

**IDPs at Kebele 06 Hall**

ADHENO has also delivered 15 quintals of Teff flour/powder, 125 liters of oil, one quintal Shiro (unprepared) and 25 kgs of pepper (unprepared) to IDPs sheltered at 06 Kebele public Hall. In this Kebele Hall, there are 94 IDPs who came from Boneyabosh district of East Wellega Zone of Oromia region. Elders, children, women and girls living together are staying together in very crowded spaces.

*Figure 5: Kebele 06 beneficiaries*

**IDPs at Kebele 04 Hall**

13 quintals of Teff flour, 125 liters of oil, one quintal Shiro (unprepared) and 25 kgs of pepper (unprepared) were delivered to IDPs sheltered at 04 Kebele public Hall. In this Kebele Hall, there are 73 IDPs who came from different parts of Oromia region. More elders and children were observed in this site.

*Figure 6: Kebele 04 storing the items*

## Summary of 1st Round emergency support

| Shelter at Kebeles | Number of IDPs | Provided food items | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Teff powder/quintal | Roasted bean Shiro/ quintal | Pepper/raw/ kg | Cooking oil/litter |
| 03 | 159 | 25 | 1 | 25 | 125 |
| 04 | 73 | 13 | 1 | 25 | 125 |
| 06 | 94 | 15 | 1 | 25 | 125 |
| 08 | 318 | 47 | 1 | 25 | 125 |
| **Total** | **644** | **100** | **4** | **100** | **500** |

*Table 1: Summary of Food Items Distributed in Phase 1 Relief*

| | Amount Distributed | Unit of Measure | Cost Per Unit of Measure (in birr) | Total Cost (in birr) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Teff | 100 | Quintals | 4,400 | 440,000 |
| Shiro Roasted Peas | 4 | Quintals | 5,900 | 23,600 |
| Dry Berbere Pepper | 100 | Kgs | 320 | 32,000 |
| Oil | 500 | liters | 180 | 89,760 |
| Spices for Shiro & berbere for all 4 sites | 4 | lump sum | 1,000 | 4,000 |
| Running Cost | | | | |
| Transportation for food items | 4 | Number | 1,500 | 6,000 |
| Labor cost for preparation of Teff | 100 | Quintals | 75 | 7,500 |
| Allowance for 2 government facilitators during food distribution | 2 | People | 1000 | 2000 |
| | TOTAL | | | 604,860 |

*Table 2: Summary of Cost of Food Items Distributed in Phase 1 Relief*

**Messages from Staff and Government Officials**

Ato Isayias, ADHENO's Project Coordinator, conveyed a message to IDPs of the four sites that how challenging this time is to them and advised them to stay strong with prayers in such difficult times. He briefed them that the team comes from a not-for-profit non-governmental organization called ADHENO Integrated rural Development Organization. Moreover, he told the IDPs that the financial support came from America based Ethiopian American NGO called **Dir Biyabir and its Supporters**. In the meantime, IDPs expressed their heartfelt thanks to Dir Biyabir & ADHENO through giving warm applauding. Finally, Ato Isayias told them that ADHENO & Dir Biyabir will continue supporting them as much as possible until they get sustainable solutions. And he wished them good time to come soon.

*Picture 7: Ato Isayias conveying a message*

During the distribution of the emergency support, Ato Getachew from the Debre-Birhan town Plan Commission of Mayor's office and Ato Demeke from the office of Economic and Finance were also in attendance. Ato Getachew expressed his heartfelt thanks to ADHENO and Dir Biyabir for such great provisions when the IDPs have been in such a desperate need of food support. Finally, he advised them to stay strong in such challenging times.

Ato Demeke on his part gave an appreciation to ADHENO for such great humanitarian initiatives and Dir Biyabir for covering all the costs of the food items which gives priceless hopes to IDPs and enables them to feel that there are individuals and organizations that are on their sides. He also stated that most aid organizations provide their supports to other groups of IDPs sheltered in formal IDP settings such as factories which have not started operating in Debre-Birhan. Furthermore, he stated that ADHENO and Dir Biyabir have conducted needs

assessment to identify the pressing needs of IDPs before delivering the provision. Also, he expressed he was delighted that IDPs have gotten food items based on their needs.

*Picture 8: Ato Demeke conveying a message to IDPs at 08 IDP site*

Representatives and committee members of IDPs on their part said that the support reached at the right time when they finished everything in their respective IDP sites where significant number of children, the elderly, lactating and pregnant mothers sheltered in. They told that they are speechless for the type of delivery that they need it most which includes Teff flour, oil, Pepper, Shiro which helps them to make their daily typical food item 'Injera be Wot'. Some of them have been staying in such situations for long time. Most of the IDPs were displaced in October and November which was the right harvesting season for their matured agricultural productions which left them with nothing. Most of the IDPs told that they want to go back to their place of origin if there will not be any security threat. In the meantime, they said that they have lost their agricultural products; they have lost their animals; their school age children are not attending their education; the worst part is they are losing their hopes. They gravely expressed that they are staying in a very crowded IDP setting without any job, thinking of this season that they could be doing spring agricultural activities if they were in their place of origin.

*Figure 9: during transporting the provisions*

## Conclusion

Dir Biyabir's support for IDPs in Debre Birhan is unique for two reasons: the first is that Dir Biyabir's support is the first in its type to provide the IDPs with local flour (Teff). During the need assessment, ADHENO found out that some IDPs were given Macaroni, and Spaghetti by some other organizations which are foreign foods (which are not locally known) to these IDPs, some even refused to eat them. ADHENO has delivered what was locally appreciated staple food to these IDPs.

Secondly, much of the donors go to IDP sites that are located on the main road and highly visible to the public. Unlike such donors, ADHENO-Dir Biyabir's support looked into the IDP sites that are isolated and located hidden deep into the city and had finished their food stock.