

1. Background

Deefow village is located about 40km north east of Belet Weyne town along the Shabelle River. The land around Deefow has huge potential for agricultural activities, is irrigable and is a vast grazing area for livestock. Competition for this land between residents of Deefow and Dom-Caday villages led to inter-klan conflict. The fighting between Dir and Hawadle clans has been ongoing since 2013 and has led to death of at least 100 people and several injured. This inter clan fighting has also resulted in displacement of about 90 per cent of people from Deefow, Kabxanle and Dom-Caday villages into Belet Weyne. Those who arrive in Belet Weyne normally settle among their friends and relatives and tracking them is usually not easy. The three villages are now reported to be completely empty after residents sought refuge elsewhere in fear of attacks.

Previous efforts by the local clan leaders and government authorities to reconcile the warring clans have failed. The first fight in the area broke out in end of December 2013 when Kabxanley village was completely burned down but before that, there were a series of skirmishes between the two clans over ownership of the farmland. The latest confrontation began on 3 June, 2015 when militia from both sides clashed, leading to the involvement of Liyu police from Ethiopia. On 22 June, militias from the Dir clan reportedly burnt down eight houses in Guri Caddo village about 28km northeast of Belet Weyne, Hiraan region leading to more displacements.

Since the conflict between Dir and Hawadle clans began almost three years ago, it is reportedly expanding to the surrounding locations and across the Ethiopian border. Reports indicate that the Ethiopian Liyu police of Zone 5 are involved in the conflict by supporting the Dir clan. The Dir clan burnt eight houses in Guri Caddo village (28 km north east of Belet Weyne) following the fighting of 22 June 2015. The affected were from the Hawaadle clan, who had been early displaced from other villages. According to local estimates, about 1500 HHs (7000 – 9000 people) of Hawaadle clan have been displaced to various areas especially from the villages of Guri Caddo, Bacaad, BiyoQurun, Dusmo and Gasle and Burjada. However, these numbers have not been verified as partners have not been able to access the area.. The conflict has also isolated the neighboring minority Bantu villages of Jeerey, Tawakal, Luuqdhare, BuuloRaaxo and Qarsooni which are around Deefow.

On 25 June, humanitarian partners including DRC, CESVI and WARDI undertook an initial investigation following a recommendation from the Regional Inter Cluster Coordination Group meeting in Hiraan. The objective was to get a preliminary of the impact of the inter-klan fighting. .

2. Findings

- The assessment team estimates that about 1500 HHs (9000 people) are displaced in Deefow and surrounding villages.
- Over 90% of the displaced fled to Belet Weyne where the majority are living among friends and relatives especially in the villages near Jawiilwadi, Ilkacaddo, Qoqane and Hiran villages. The people settled in scattered manner.
- Some of the displaced are from previous inter clan fights since three years ago.
- An estimated 90% of the IDP households are comprised of women, children and elderly people.
- Major needs are shelter, water and food and sources of livelihood.

3. Recommendations

- Emergency Shelter and NFIs assistance as all the displaced are in makeshift houses. Free food distributions and food voucher is again good option to help IDPs in meeting HH FS in the adaptation period (4-6) months
- Livelihood assistance through unconditional cash transfers.

Medium to long-term recommendation

- Reconciliation and peace building efforts to resolve the inter clan conflict over the agricultural land in Deefow. Conflict resolution support in giving additional support of the ongoing reconciliation meetings
- Support to rebuild the houses of those whose houses were razed once peace returns. Providing production assets such as canal rehabilitation, provision of Irrigation pumps, seeds, agriculture tools, fuel for irrigation, fertilizers and Agricultural extension trainings to farmers in the areas affected.
- Cash for Work activities for the rehabilitation of community assets such as water catchments, feeder roads and canal rehabilitation once there is peace.

4. Ongoing response

- Humanitarian partners have made effort to assist those affected and reachable. DRC has supported most vulnerable 3600 persons (600 HHs) with shelter materials and NFIs as well as cash relief of US\$_80 per household for three months in Belet Weyne.
- Save the Children International provided relief food to the affected persons through a food voucher programme. The food consists of rice, wheat flour, sugar, cooking oil, beans, tea and salt and can last the beneficiaries for three months.
- WARDI also provided hygiene kits to the affected persons targeting 280 HHs (1680 persons).



Newly displaced IDPs in Qoqane and Hiran Village



Homeless children and women from displaced villages around Deefow



Newly displaced people from Deefow seeking shelter under trees around Jawiil village