



**Damage and  
Loss Assessment  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



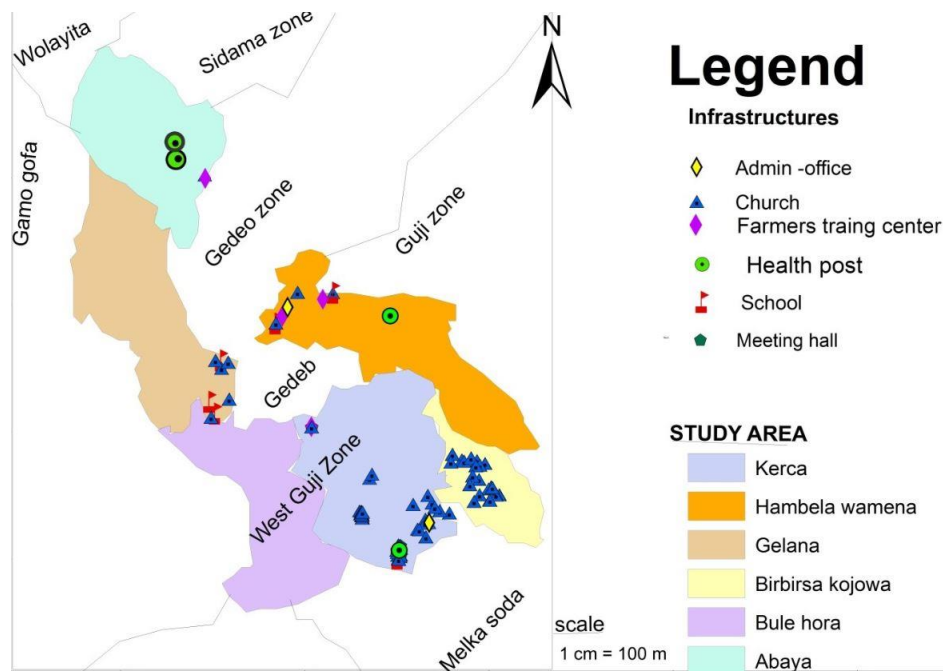
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Damage and Loss Assessment in West Guji

Bule Hora University initiated a Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) in West Guji zone in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the West Guji Zonal Disaster Risk Management Office to assess loss and damages incurred during the intercommunal conflict between the Gedeo and Guji people in 2018, which displaced hundreds of thousands. The assessment also analyzed legal assistance needs, as well as the potential for peace-building and social cohesion. A total of **78,257HHs (508,671 individuals)** with an average family size of **6.5/HH** were severely exposed to multiple socio-economic crises due to the conflict. Following the Government’s initiated return process based on the alleged improved safety and security situation (assessed by the Government) in May 2019, according to the Government, the majority of the IDPs were returned to their places of habitual residence <sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> The return figures include 32,647HHs to Kercha, 14,170HHs to Galana, 11,245HHs to Hambala wamana, 8,223HHs to Bule hora, 7,746HHs to Abaya and 4,226HHs to Birbirs Kojowa. (Joint re-targeting exercise of October,2019)



# DAMAGE AND LOSS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SECTORS

Agriculture is the economic backbone of the West Guji zone. IDPs were unable to continue their engagement in agriculture due to their internal displacement. Residents rear animals, produce crops, and implement an intercropping production system<sup>2</sup>. The crops grown in the area include coffee, false banana, maize, teff, barley, wheat, peas, beans, chickpeas, onion, sugarcane, cabbage, potatoes, sweet potatoes, bananas, and apples. Among the crops severely damaged by the conflict were coffee and false banana/enset.

**Table 1: Summary of the Estimated Damage and Loss of the Crop Production (ETB)**

S. No	District	Total no. of HHs/woreda	Damage	Loss
1	Abaya		5,612,049	7,890,672
2	B/Kojowa	2519	6,050,769	18,527,417
3	Bule Hora	2118	24,489,494	10,631,756
4	Galena	1073	4,921,554	27,696,662
5	H/Wamana	3080	2,954,244	27,945,237
6	Kercha	1773	11,649,085	123,362,253
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,563</b>	<b>52,405,275</b>	<b>216,054,000</b>

<sup>2</sup> Intercropping is a farming system of planting more than one product types such as haricot beans, maize, green pepper, onion on a given plot of land by the returnee households. (FGD participants at the return areas).



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## DAMAGE ON LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEM

The total livestock population of the affected six woreda was estimated to be **1,737,777**. Out of this estimated animal species, cattle accounts for (56%), sheep (15.3%), goat (17.98%), donkey (3.6%), mule (1.6%), and horse (5.34%) (West Guji Zone Livestock and Fishery Office, 2019).

The result of the data analysis showed that the total estimated cost of the damaged animals due to the conflict was **370,500,000 ETB**, out of which the proportion of Kercha district was highest (39%) and that of Bule Hora district was the lowest (4%).

**Table 2: Estimated Price/Cost of the livestock damaged from the respondents due to the conflict as per the districts.**

Woreda	Household size	Estimated Income Loss (ETB)	Percentage
Kercha	3938	145951000	39
Hambela Wamana	1032	41067000	11
Galana	1762	66911000	18
Bule Hora	361	13546000	4
Birbirsa Kojowa	1135	46767500	13
Abaya	1270	56257500	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>9498</b>	<b>370,500,000</b>	<b>100</b>



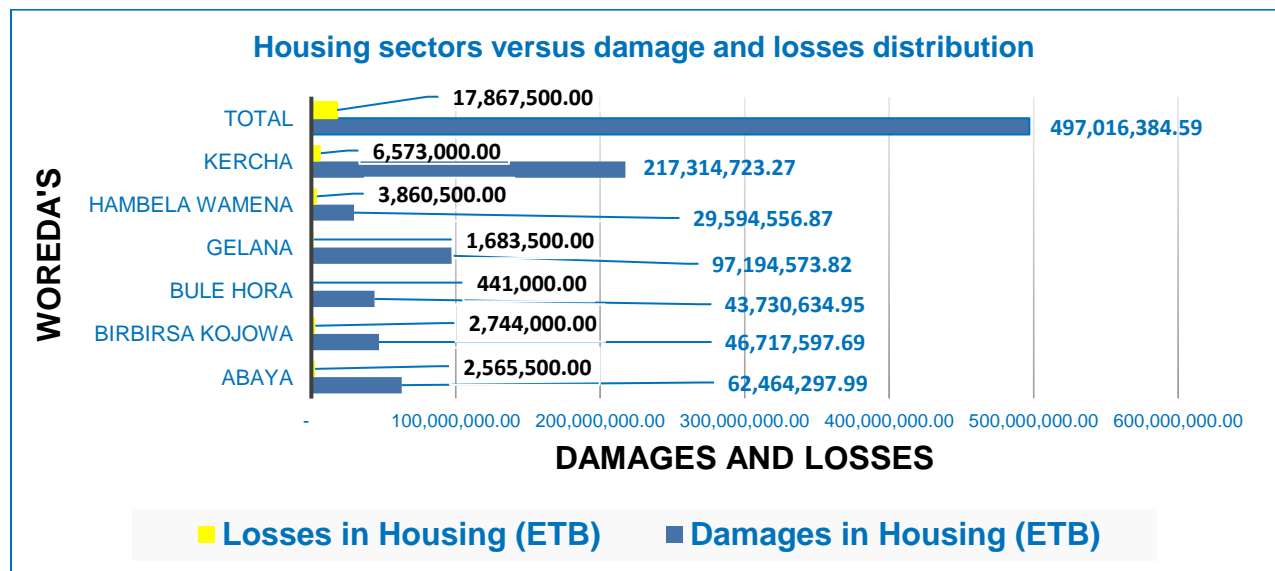
# DAMAGE AND LOSS ON SOCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS

## Private houses

A total of 21,226 households lost their houses (8754 HHs in Kercha, 2121 HHs in Hambala wamana, 3656 HHs in Galana, 1286 HHs in Bule hora, 2524 HHs in Birbirsa Kojowa and 2285 HHs in Abaya). The total damages to the housing sector across the six woredas are estimated to range between **29,594,556** ETB and **217,314,723** ETB. The estimated losses were between **441,000** ETB and **6,573,000** ETB depending on the woreda.

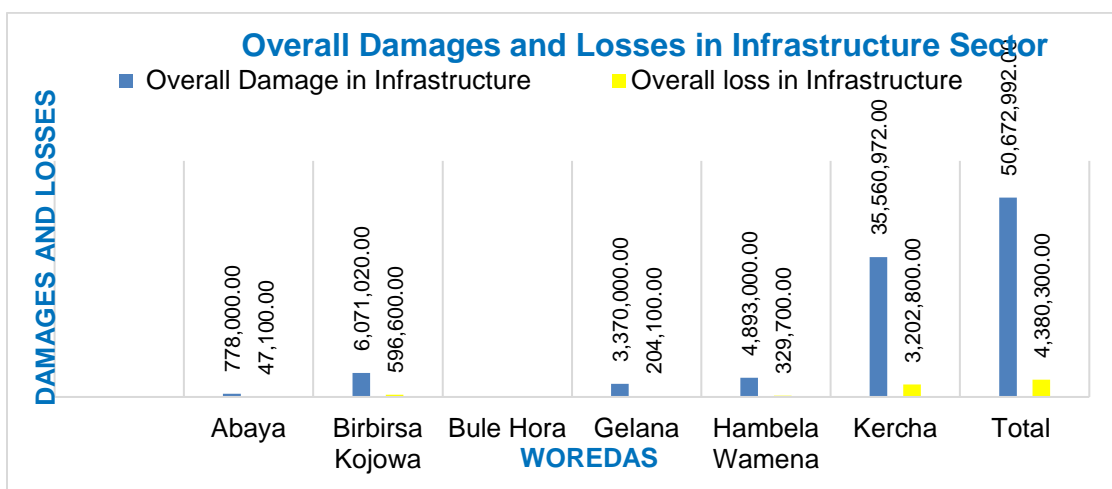
Relatively minimal losses were incurred in Bule Hora and Hambala Wamana woredas. The monetary value of destruction in Kercha woreda exceeded that of the other woredas due to the large amount of housing damage. Therefore, Kercha alone is estimated to bear **43.72%** in damages and **36.79%** in losses.

Figure 01. Private Houses Vs Damage and Losses



## Public Infrastructure

Severe damage and loss of infrastructure was noted in Kercha woreda with total monetary damage valued at **35,560,972 ETB** and **3,202,800 ETB** respectively. Out of the total damage incurred in West Guji, Kercha woreda shared about **70.17%** of the damage and **73.11%** of the loss. The second most affected woreda was Birbirsa Kojowa, which shared **11.98%** out of the total damage and **13.62%** out of the total loss. Bule Hora woreda was the least affected by West Guji-Gedeo conflict.



### Summary of the overall damages & losses incurred due to the conflict in ETB

Sector & Sub-Sector	Damage	Loss	Ownership
<b>Agriculture</b>			
Crops	33,751,275	211,877,008	Private
Livestock	370,500,000	73,253,397	Private
<b>Total</b>	<b>404,251,275</b>	<b>285,130,405</b>	<b>681,966,143</b>

	Damaged (no.)	Damage	Loss
<b>Social Sectors</b>			
Housing	21,226	497,016,384	17,867,500
Education	10	2,650,934	94,200
Health	6	3,889,513	0
Others	92	16,163,618	1,287,400
Religious institution	264	27,968,927	2,449,200
<b>Total</b>		<b>547,689,376</b>	<b>21,698,300</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1,258,769,357</b>	



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## Recommendations

- Rehabilitation and recovery for the affected **agricultural production sector** such as coffee, enset or false banana (or its scientific name is enset ventricosum), and other crops, as well as the farm tools such as plough, knife, should be addressed by the joint effort of Bule hora University, Disaster risk management Office at national, regional and zonal levels, and Ministry of Agriculture at levels. Moreover, consolidated intervention is highly required from humanitarian agencies including UNHCR, UNDP, FAO, development partners, the NGOs intervention is required. The National Peace and Reconciliation commission in collaboration with the Ministry of Peace, National Disaster Risk commission and regional, zonal and woreda levels Government authorities should facilitate compensation package for the affected households. Further, humanitarian agencies are highly encouraged to design and intervene on restocking and other asset building activities to economically empower the affected households (e.g. purchasing diary animals, oxen, and the like).
- The government at various levels and other concerned partners, stakeholders and agencies should restock the affected animals like cattle, goat, poultry, etc. for the affected households (e.g. purchasing diary animals, oxen, and the like);
- For the stressed animals during the conflict, there should be livestock vaccination against threats such as anthrax and pasturollosis by developmental agencies' personnel and animal health professionals from Animal Health Bureaus at different governmental levels in collaboration with UNDP, FAO, UNHCR, OCHA, and other concerned stakeholders.
- The Government at various levels and other concerned partners, stakeholders and agencies should construct veterinary clinics because of the lack/inaccessibility of such centers in the nearby areas of the affected communities;
- Bule Hora University should work collaboratively with the UNHCR offices, other humanitarian agencies, development partners, NGOs, other international partners and stakeholders, and the Disaster Risk Management Offices at the national and regional levels both in the Oromia and SNNP regions, the West Guji zonal, woreda, and kebele authorities, as well as communities to facilitate the recovery and reconstruction of all destroyed private houses and health posts, public infrastructure and places of worship of any denomination and damaged properties during the conflict;





- Information about damages and loss should be shared with the Shelter/NFI Cluster partners and other related partners to ensure a proper operational response to the shelter needs of affected populations.
- The collected data will be helpful for Government line Offices such as NDRMC, M. of Peace, M. of Agriculture, and UN agencies including UNHCR and NGOs to design an appropriate strategy on shelter construction and reconstruction phase implementation as solutions and to replace other damaged and lost assets.
- The Government should incorporate disaster risk assessment factors into the planning process before commencing construction of any infrastructure projects.
- Non-Governmental Organizations operating under cluster shelter and HLP working group members should support Disaster Risk Management Office and Land Management Authorities for land use planning and involved in infrastructure development.
- The Government and responsible stakeholders should ensure that disaster risk reduction is specifically identified as a component of any infrastructure project planning.
- The Government and non-governmental organizations should consider the implications and scope of infrastructural maintenance, as well as the heightened susceptibility to structural failure<sup>3</sup>, if maintenance is not factored into the infrastructure project during planning
- The Government, UNOCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and other non-governmental organization should jointly work to rehabilitate the damaged infrastructure in the assessed districts.
- The Government and Non-Government Organizations working on humanitarian activities should construct appropriate, multi hazard resilient school, health and administration facility structures, which not only adhere to safety measures but have additional features added like using fire proof construction materials (i.e. Housing Concrete Bricks and dressed stones)
- The Government should promote the development of curricula and institutionalization of safety drills that provide information to the population on damages controlling during risks.
- The Government and other stakeholders should ensure the availability of and accessibility to goods and services especially during times of emergency.

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<sup>3</sup> Structure failure represents the damaged public service facilities like school, health centers and posts, Government Offices and religious institutions.



## LEGAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

### Access to Justice

The legal thematic area of the assessment was coordinated by the Law Faculty of Bule Hora University. The legal status of the rights of IDPs/returnees in general and their land holding rights were studied by analyzing the issue of land holding certificates.

As a result of internal displacement, the land holding rights and the property rights of the IDPs were prone to different violation of rights such as appropriation of assets, damage of property on the land, dispossession of land and secondary occupation. In case there is violation of one's own rights of any nature, the person, who is legally entitled to claim such rights, can bring his/her claims to the kebele officials, first instance court for the civil matter and Police station to initiate criminal proceeding . The assessment's findings confirmed that IDPs/IDP returnees encounter challenges exercising their land holding rights. The problems emanate from insecurity related to conflict, destruction of social structures and the failure of various governmental structures, including the justice system, to discharge their duties.

There are many obstacles hindering IDPs/IDP returnees from bringing their claims to courts of law, which consist of kebele officials' misconduct, security problems, the failure of police officers in summoning and bringing the witnesses to the court, where requested by the latter, and the misconduct of the persons, who were called as witnesses to the courts. According to the



assessment, IDPs face challenges in accessing land holding certificates replacement services rendered by local kebele administration, which adversely has affected their ability to substantiate their claims in court. It was also identified that IDPs have no confidence in the impartiality of the court system located in the jurisdiction of the ethnic group against whom they lodged the case. This discourages them from bringing their claims to court.

The law places the burden on the police administration to bring witnesses before the courts in case the latter failed to appear before the court to give testimony. This study identified that in some areas there are gaps in this respect particularly, where the police officers' disregard in their obligation to bring witnesses to court. The intentional and negligent conducts of police officers in some areas under study put the rights of the IDPs in general and their land holding rights at stake. This is a chronic challenge for IDPs during conflict situations, and sometimes even after IDPs become IDP returnees.

## Access to Land Holding Certificates

The data collected revealed that most, if not all, of the residents of the kebeles including the IDPs, were not given first-level land holding certificates called 'Green Book.' The study covered a total of 41 kebeles from five woredas of the West Guji zone. It must be underlined that participants replied to interview questions in terms of percentage rather than in terms of the number of households. Accordingly, only 20 heads of household have been given green books in the Birbirsa Kojowa woreda, about **85-90%** of the total number of HHs in Bule Hora woreda have been given the certificates, and only a few families have been given the certificate in the Hambala Wamana woreda. Only a small portion of HHs have been given the certificate in the Abaya woreda. Around 80% of the land in the Galana woreda has been measured and 80% of the family have received land holding certificate. Certificates have been given to most HHs in the Kercha woreda as well. As land measurement and certification in rural area is a cumbersome task, it was not possible to certify all the HHs in all the woredas under study, even though each of the woredas were doing their best to complete the data.



## Customary/Traditional Justice System

There are established committees at the kebele level, which are comprised of Abbaa Gadaas<sup>3</sup>, the local elders, religious leaders, and other structures in the community that serve as a source of remedy for the IDPs/IDP returnees in relation to claims over land holding rights.

The committees play a crucial role in maintaining peace and security of the kebeles at the preventive stage and post-conflict stage. The findings show that committee members contribute towards peaceful co-existence of the two communities by amicably resolving disputes among the individuals including land holding concerns. According to the respondents, Abbaa Gadaas also play a significant role in resolving conflicts, including land disputes among the communities peacefully in a way that it establishes sustainable peaceful co-existence. The IDP/IDP Returnees mentioned that Abbaa Gadaas are more effective in resolving land holding disputes/conflicts than formal government structures.

## Recommendations

- The Government of Ethiopia has signed and ratified the 2009 Kampala Convention. Therefore, Ministry of Peace, Attorney General, respective justice bureaus of both Federal and regional, Bule hora and Dilla University Law schools, UNHCR, Ethiopia human right commission and other civil society organization should work jointly for policy development for its implementation.
- In all the woredas under study, land administration authorities should undertake both the first and second level land registration and certification to secure security of tenure for individuals both in normal situations and during internal displacement.
- Responsible humanitarian actors need to introduce and strengthen legal aid support mechanisms for IDPs/IDP returnees to access justice, land holding certificates and other legal issues.
- The Government and humanitarian actors should enhance activities on prevention of internal displacement, especially conflict-induced displacement in addition to working on post-displacement, early recovery and durable solutions.
- The Government and humanitarian actors need to reinforce the involvement of local elders, Abbaa Gadaas, on dispute resolution and conflict mitigation, including their roles on the prevention of internal displacement and if it occurs try to mitigate the associated risks and play their role in the conflict resolution process.



First Gondoroo Ceremony (Guji and Gedeo Abba Gadaa) Source: FBC- Date July 29, 2018

## CONFLICT, PEACE BUILDING AND SOCIAL COHESION

While the Guji and Gedeo ethnic groups have a long history of harmonious co-existence that is built on cultural, economic and ancestral ties, they have entered serious conflicts beginning from the restructuring of the Ethiopian State along ethno-linguistic lines. Since 1991, the Government and civil society have been continually attempting to prevent conflict between the two ethnic groups. Three major conflicts took place between the two groups **in 1995, 1998 and 2018**. The frequency of conflict shows that despite their efforts at peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction interventions, the conflict is cyclical. As a result, developing context-specific and culturally sensitive post-conflict peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction strategies are imperative.

The conflict, peace-building and social cohesion aspects of the assessment are an attempt to come up with relevant peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction strategies in the Guji and Gedeo context.

The main stakeholders identified as relevant peace-building agents in West Guji include elders, Abbaa Gadaas, governmental institutions, community groups, including women, youth and children, religious councils, universities and civil society organizations. As such, the strategy for possible conflict transformation and peacebuilding for resilient peaceful co-existence in the



context of Guji-Gedeo conflict needs the lion's share of local community participation and other relevant stakeholders.

The results of the study call for integrated peacebuilding and recovery strategies that are more participatory and locally based to enhance synergies among conflicting parties. Thus, integrating the cumulative effects of building trust among the two groups, developing social cohesion, supporting their indigenous knowledge for local ownership, responding to socio-economic and security issues, and capacity development can serve as post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding elements in West Guji.

A peacebuilding strategy needs to be informed by a robust and participatory conflict assessment to address its drivers built on local capacities to manage and resolve it peacefully. Fundamentally, building consensus and trust among all relevant stakeholders throughout programming and implementation is very important.

## Building Trust

During the assessment, one interviewee stated that **“yoo namuu keessa ofii ofitti amane, waal sodaan gidduu keenyaa ni bada”** which translates to **‘if all of us believe each other, the fear amongst us can be minimized’**. Building trust in West Guji will help as a bond that will hold the two groups together by giving lasting legitimacy to the extent of reducing tension among the two ethnic groups and enhance mutual trust which helps individuals and groups to remain engaged in the long and demanding process of building durable peace. This will pull together the groups both at the vertical and horizontal levels (UNICEF, 2016). Therefore, as healthy relationships between the groups improve, the likelihood of violence between them declines. For instance, Mr. Abera Buno, leader of West Guji zone explains the relationship between the two groups as “ሁለቱም የነጭ ጤፍና ቀይ ጤፍ ዱቄት ናቸዉ” which is literally translated as ‘the two groups are the mix of red and white teff flour, which is difficult to separate’. This implies that the healthy relationship between the two groups which can be attributed to their commonly shared languages, Gedegna and Afan Oromo, which is interchangeably spoken by both groups and existence of sense of belongingness to the same ancestor from time in memorial. This can strengthen the attempt to build trust for harmonious relationship and peaceful co-existence among the two groups.



## Developing Social Cohesion

Through social cohesion between the Gedeo and Guji, they can become less prone to slip into destructive patterns of tension and conflict, when their different interests coincide. This can be achieved through joint service delivery activities between them, associations that bring them together, and joint cultural or work initiatives.

This in turn harnesses the social capital of the two groups through their pre-existing social networks, connections and sense of belonging to each other that enable them to tackle challenges and realize opportunities in their lives together. As such, factors leading to social exclusion need to be addressed at the societal levels, as well as at the individual level in order to achieve the desired positive change of peaceful coexistence among the two groups.

## Supporting Local Buy-In

Building local buy-in begins by ensuring that priorities are determined locally and not imposed through outside agendas to ensure that local concerns are at the centre of peacebuilding. If local people and groups participate in defining the problem, they can begin to take ownership over the solutions. When people are able to participate in shaping their future and are able to voice their concerns, they may develop a subjective interest in ensuring partnerships based on respect for the lead role that the local partner must assume in the design and implementation of the peacebuilding strategy.

In the study areas, using indigenous knowledge systems (such the Abba *Gadaa* system particularly the *Gondooroo* ritual practice) can best help to manage the conflict in comparison to formal state institutions which might not be trusted by either of the group. The indigenous institutions are more trusted because they are not state-centric and hence credited with legitimacy by providing comprehensive inclusion and participation, especially by supporting the psycho-social and spiritual dimension of conflict transformation. Further, the decisions of the Abba *Gadaa* should be autonomous and free from political influence, and the expected ritual procedures in the *Gondooroo*<sup>4</sup> practice should be respected and protected accordingly.

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<sup>4</sup> *Gondooroo* connotes both ritual and reconciliation process. It is the process of purifying a perpetrator from the blood of the deceased through a ritual practice in Guji and Gedeo context for reconciling the two groups during a conflict.







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- National and Regional government authorities should enhance the capacity of both the government and social structures like Abbaa Gadaas, Qaalluu Institutions and the like to respond for the existing security and political concerns in the study area.
- National and Regional government authorities like the Ministry of Peace and Bule Hora and Dilla University should collaboratively and other institutions organize regular public dialogue forums on peaceful co-existence to mitigate the conditions which led to the deterioration of peace in the area.
- National and Regional government authorities should harmonize indigenous and formal institutions to strengthen local peace infrastructure among the two ethnic groups.
- Ethiopian Ministry of Science, and Higher Education and Regional government Education Bureau in cooperation with Universities should mainstream conflict resolution and peace education in educational curriculum to maximize the culture of peace and minimize the culture of hatred and violence.
- National and Regional government authorities should capitalize on the roles of the indigenous institutions (e.g. Gadaa system, Qaalluu institution and Gondooroo rituals) and the local communities.
- National and regional government authorities should harmonize indigenous and formal institutions to strengthen local peace infrastructure among the two ethnic groups.
- The Ethiopian Ministry of Science, and Higher Education and Regional government Education Bureau in cooperation with Universities, should mainstream conflict resolution and peace education in educational curriculum to maximize the culture of peace and minimize the culture of hatred and violence.
- National and regional government authorities should capitalize on the roles of indigenous institutions (e.g. Abbaa Gadaa system, Qaalluu institution and Gondoroo rituals) and the local communities.



## APPENDIX 1

Woreda	Fully Damaged	Partially Damaged Repairable	Severely Damaged Not Repairable	Total
Abaya	2,276	569	40	2,885
Birbirsa Kojowa	2,007	495	22	2,524
Bule Hora	1,117	161	8	1,286
Gelana	3,013	627	16	3,656
Hambela Wamena	1,742	361	18	2,121
Kercha	7,267	1,444	43	8,754
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,422</b>	<b>3,657</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>21,226</b>

Woreda	TESO- (Transitional, Emergency and shelter others)	PM-HCB-METAL	PM-MUD-GRASS	PM-MUD-METAL	Total
Abaya	733	7	1,302	845	2,887
Birbirsa Kojowa	784	7	361	1,375	2,527
Bule Hora	126	36	438	687	1,287
Gelana	481	23	1,453	1,704	3,661
Hambela Wamena	1,103	6	551	463	2,123
Kercha	1,878	186	1,931	4,763	8,758
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>6,036</b>	<b>9,837</b>	<b>21,243</b>

### Numbers of public infrastructure damage across all woredas

- Education Sector -10
- Health sector -6
- Religious sectors -264
- Other sector- 92

