The inter-communal conflict which erupted between Gedeo and Guji Communities in the southern part of Ethiopia in April and June 2018 has displaced significantly large number of people. In terms of the direction of population movement in search of safety and protection following the conflict, majority of the displaced people have moved from West Guji Zone of Oromia Region to Gedeo Zone of SNWP Region while some have also moved from Gedeo Zone to West Guji Zone. When it comes to return, majority of the people are expected to move into West Guji Zone.

As part of the search for durable solutions to the Gedeo-Guji IDP crisis, the government has initiated return process twice since the onset of the conflict in April 2018. This first government return was attempted in August/September 2018 and the second one started in early May 2019 and still underway.

All the IDP collective sites in West Guji are now evacuated and all returnees are reportedly returned to their home sites. However, given the scale of devastation to houses and other properties and the level of assistance made available to the returnees, it is difficult to conclude that all have actually returned to their home sites. SMS team’s monitoring in the return kebeles indicates that some people are staying within the community sharing houses.