



Monthly Protection Overview

Attacks on Civilians

- **Oromia** - A continuing armed conflict between security forces and UAGs in East, West, Horo Guduru, and Qellem wollega, as well as in some parts of Kamashi zone, has resulted in civilian casualties, property damage and looting, and new displacements.
- **Oromia** - The deployment of massive security forces, combined with ongoing armed attack and armed conflict, increased the risk of further human rights violations (indiscriminate attack, aerial bombardment, and extra-judicial execution) against civilians, including IDPs and returnees, as well as new displacement in west Oromia.
- **Oromia** - During the reporting period, the security situation in West Guji Zone woredas specifically Kercha, Abbaya, Bule Hora, and Gelana, and their adjacent woredas of Gedeo zone, continued worsening. The government forces started offensive measures against the UAGs, increasing the risk for civilians in a war zone. Humanitarian organizations reported that, though information needs to be confirmed, civilian causality has been reported as a result of the clashes.
- **Oromia** - According to the DRMO two civilians and two unidentified gunmen were killed in rural kebeles of Chiro in West Hararge during the conflict between the unidentified armed group.
- **Gambella** - In the past few weeks, there were reports of significant violent attacks, physical assaults, armed robberies, and house break-ins against community members and UN staff- in Dimma woreda and in two kebeles of Gambella town.
- **Gambela:** Murle people (South Sudanese group living on the border of Ethiopia) run an attack in Dimma and Jor woredas and abducted one child. Movements of armed Murle people are being reported in Nuer and Anywaa Zones.
- **Gambella** – The movement of UAG suspected to be OLA/GLF has reportedly increased along the border between Gambella and Oromia regions, representing a major security concern.
- **Gambella** - On 14 January 2023, a teenage boy was reportedly kidnapped by UAGs suspected to be linked to OLA/GLF in the outskirts of Gambella town. The victim was later released after he was physically beaten and harmed.

New Displacement (mention the cause)

- **Tigray** - According to DTM, during the month of December 2022, a total of 72,951 individuals (20,301 HH) have been displaced within Tigray and displaced from the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions to Tigray. Fear and social tension, the search for livelihoods, and the shortage of food were three main reasons for displacement.

- **Oromia** - Due to the insecurity in West Guji zone, civilians are fleeing the boarder villages between Gedeo zone and West Guji zone to reach Buno kebele. – According to Busa Gonofa (DRMO), the number of IDPs in Oromia (East Wollega zone) has increased due to conflict from 190,791 to 351,196 as of January 26, 2023.
- **Oromia** - IOM-DTM report of 93,351 new displaced households as of December 2022 due to social tensions, drought, and other natural disasters
Oromia - West Guji: According to UNHCR and EECY-DASSC 4376 new people were displaced from Gedeo and West Guji woredas, Kochare and Galana due to the ongoing conflict. These new IDPs are currently gathered at different sites (host community, Kebele administration hall, health post, Food Targeting Committee (FTC) Satellite School and Mekane Yesus Church) in Buno Kebele.
- **Oromia** - According to the DTM matrix, 760 HHs (1,930 individuals) were displaced because of the inter-communal conflict between Geri and Jarso clans near the border of Chinaksen woreda, East Hararghe zone.
- **Somali** - Recent conflict clashes in Siti and Fafan zones displaced around 6,751 IDP families in 7 Sites. The living conditions of the families are reported to be dire as the majority are secondary displacements to different locations with no basic services available.

Food Insecurity and Inadequate Access to Services

- **Oromia** - IDPs are recurring to negative coping mechanisms like begging, child labor, transactional sex, among others, due to a lack of basic services and an inability to respond to basic needs.
- **Oromia** - IDPs in Gida, Sire, and Arjo towns continued to face obstacles to access to free health care since their insurance expired and cannot be renewed because they don't have either a valid kebele/national ID card or they cannot afford the cost of the renewal.
- **Oromia** - According to the cluster members and zonal DRMO, in East and West Hararghe zones food insecurity is being exacerbated by irregular and incomplete food basket distributions coupled with the impact of the drought. In East Hararghe zone food assistance has been delayed for more than 3 months. Children are increasingly emaciated and presents different health concerns. In West Hararghe Gumbi Bordede woreda, the situation is similar, with IDPs resorting to begging and engaging in intensive daily labour with meager payment, and child labour.
- **Oromia** - Due to a lack of water at Gibirina IDP site in Goro Gutu woreda East Haraghe zone IDPs are forced to travel for 1 hour and wait in long queues to purchase water at 5 birrs per 20 liters.
- **Oromia** - The volatile security situation in West Guji Zone and Gedeo border woredas and kebeles counting high concern of the centrality of the protection specially in the areas where access is restricted.

Returns

- **Tigray** - During the month of December, IOM DTM return figures indicated that 107,997 IDPs (28,367 HH) have returned to their places of origin in Tigray. Most returnees are within the region.
- **Oromia** - IDPs in the West Guji zone reported not wanting to return to their place of origin for the time being because of conflict and insecurity. There is fear of attacks specifically targeting returnees.

- **Oromia** - Kochare Woreda administrator said that the government is planning to return the IDPs to their areas of origin in a short period of time.
- **BGRS** - The Metekel Zonal government reported that 182,324 IDPs have already returned to their areas of origin. and it planned to return the remaining 110,751 IDPs to their areas of origins by the 7th February 2023. Partners were unable to conduct an intention survey. The government requested financial and logistics support form partners, and it is expecting humanitarian organizations to provide support in the areas of return. After the completion of the return operation, all sites would be closed.

GBV

- **Amhara** - 34 Clinical Management of rape (CMR) kits were received in Amhara region and will be handed over to Regional Health Bureau (RHB) under Japan, Canada, and Irish projects. This will target the following implementation zones.
 - West Gojjam, Awi, Oromo special zone, and North Shoa
 - North and South Wello and Waghemira zones.
 - South Gondar, Kombolcha, Awi, West Gojam
- **Afar** - The newly constructed safe house was inaugurated on Thursday 26th Jan by MoWSA.
- **Tigray** - The planned UNHCR-UNFPA joint GBV assessment in Tigray has been delayed as the regional government requires more details on data collection methods and tools to be used. UNHCR has been liaising with the authorities at Mekelle level on such matters.
- **Tigray** - UNHCR is rehabilitating the One Stop Center in Abi-Adi to support a large number of GBV survivors.
- **Oromia** - Rape and child marriage cases have been reported in East Wollega and Horo Guduru Wollega (G/Guto, Sasiga, Limu, Kiramu, Diga, G/Sayo, and Sibu Sire in East Wollega, and Abedongor, Jarte, Amuru, and Shambu town in Horo Guduru Wollega).
- **Gambella** - Cases of GBV (rape and forced marriage) are the main protection concern in the 5 woredas assessed by the EDRMC-led meher assessment.
- **Gambella** - UNHCR participated in the Meher Assessment that took place from 22 November 2022 to 5 December 2022. The assessment covered 5 woredas in Anyuwa zone and 2 woredas in Majang zone. The assessment finding indicated that cases of GBV (rape and forced marriage) and safety/security incidents are the main protection risks reportedly increased in 5 assessed woredas.
- **Gambella** - UNHCR distributed dignity kits through ANE to 2500 reproductive-age women and adolescent girls who were displaced by flooding in Lare, Jikawo, and Wanthowa woredas. Women's underwear, sanitary pads, and laundry soap were included in the kits.
- **Oromia** - 3 GVB cases have been reported by Kercha woreda, West Guji Zone. Survivors of SGBV are being stayed in police stations in the West Hararghe zone due to a lack of available housing while their cases are heard in court. Furthermore, because there are no juvenile correctional facilities, they are released to their families, which is traumatic for the survivors.
- **BSG** - Plan International provided dignity kits composed of sanitary pads, underwear, body soap, laundry soap, plastic comb, metallic whistles, batteries (solar and electrical), toothbrushes, and toothpaste to 60 girl returnees and young women.

Child Protection

- CP AoR coordination continued at national and sub-national levels, Zonal and Woreda levels. In **Oromia**, the coordination in the two Guji zones has been compromised because of the security situation, But UNICEF through its 3rd party consultant is trying to revitalize the zonal CP/GBV coordination.
- Regular CP activities were conducted including case management, identification, and response to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), parenting programs, child protection committees, MHPSS to children, multipurpose cash assistance, and awareness-raising topics.
- **Sidama**: Zonal women and children affairs conducted training on family tracing and reunification for 57 (35 Female) relevant service providers in South Omo zone targeted woredas at Bena-themy district.
- **Tigray**: The resumption of activities by CP/GBV partners improved, and all target woredas (except Asgede, Erob, Edagaarbi, and Embaseneiti) became accessible and started operations.
- **Benishangul Gumuz** – There is urgent needs to prevent and respond to the rising violence against children. CP AoR drafted a plan to build the capacity of the newly appointed judges, police, prosecutor, and frontline service providers in response to cases of violence against children in three zones. the estimated required budget is 100,000 USD. On other hand, Birth registration activities have severely been interrupted due to the conflict that resulted in the discontinuation of the service. Most importantly, the registration centers are damaged/looted, and documents are lost.
- **Tigray** - During January 2023, the CP partner Imagine1Day and ICRC reunited 55 children with their families in different locations of Tigray. Currently, 1147 UASC are accommodated in Elshadai center. In Tigray, World Vision, Plan International, imagine1Day and GOAL have been working on family tracing and reunification (FTR) of UASCs including the children in Elshadai Center.
- **Oromia** – Child migration from rural to urban has increased street children in Bule Hora town. More than 75 children registered under social affair office are street children. The number of children residing in the IDP sites in Galana and Kochare woreda of Gedeo Zone is high.
- **Oromia** - The number of children victims of trafficking identified by authorities in East Hararghe is increasing. 12 children’s victims of trafficking were apprehended by authorities. The perpetrators are apprehended and are being prosecuted. The children are currently being reunited with their parents.
- **Gambella** - Child marriage, child labor, and separation of children from their families were the main child protection concerns identified in five assessed woredas during the meher assessment.
- **Oromia** - The number of children in East Wollega who have lost their families because of displacements is growing. The main child protection concerns in both the East Wollega and the Horo Guduru Wollega zones are family separation, child labor, exploitation, and abuse. Hence, case management activities are ongoing to address these issues.
- **BSG** - Plan International delivered a two-day child protection training to community-based groups in Bullen, Dibate, Dangur, and Mandura, focusing on child rights, service mapping, and the referral pathway for 208 IDPs (141 M/67 F).

Mine and Explosive-related Incidents

- **Tigray** - MA activities in Tigray remained limited to mine awareness and mine risk education by RaDO, the only MA partner active in Tigray. Due to the lack of budget, the regional government structure “Tigray Humanitarian Mine Unit (THMU)” is unable to provide mine services in Tigray.

Housing Land and Property

According to the 5Ws report for December 2022, a total of 68,199 beneficiaries were assisted by 5 Implementing Partners (IOM, NRC, Arbaminch University/UNHCR, Bule hora University/UNHCR, and Wollega University/UNHCR) with various HLP services in 6 different Regions (Benishangul Gumuz, Amhara, Tigray, Oromia Somali, and SNNP) as follows:

- 31,913 beneficiaries reached through the provision of HLP information which represent 46.79% of total beneficiaries for the reporting period.
- 27,885 beneficiaries received technical assistance and legal representation, representing 40.89% of the total beneficiaries,
- 8,349 people reached with individual counseling on HLP, accounting for 12.24%,
- 52 beneficiaries’ access to alternative dispute resolution to resolve HLP-related disputes, 0.1% of the total beneficiaries.
- Women represent 49% of total beneficiaries and men 51%. 415 People with Disabilities benefited from HLP activities.

Durable solution

- **Tigray** - Discussions are at an advanced stage to transform the Return Working Group and Relocation Task Force in Mekelle into the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG).

Drought – highlights about the response, needs, gap, etc.

- **Oromia** - Drought significantly affecting communities’ livelihood in West Guji and Borena zone. It is increasing the number of food-insecure households which fall into chronic food insecurity levels. Assistance remains insufficient in terms of quality and quantity in Teltele district and other woredas of Borena and West Guji zone.
- **Somali** - Insufficient food distribution and lack of food assistance in many locations including drought-affected areas remain the primary concern of the displaced population which increased the vulnerability of those with heightened protection risks/specific needs.

Other concerns

- **Tigray** – Due to inadequate medicine and service providers coupled with access issues the cases of Malaria are raising.
- **Somali** - Fire incidents in markets, fuel stations, and at the household level, resulting in casualties and displacement of a few families were reported in the last month in Korahey, Jarar, Afdher, and Wardher zones.
- **Somali** - Reports of a measles outbreak with 130 cases in Nogob, Korahey, and Erer and an increase in malnutrition cases as a result of the droughts.
- **Somali** - There is a shortage of water reported in most zones of the region, particularly in Dawa, Afdher, and Liban zones, the poor water quality may result in waterborne diseases like AWD and Cholera.

Response

- **Tigray** – UNHCR, and Partners continue to provide material support to the displaced population in Tigray. Following several joint assessments conducted in Abi Adi, Mechew, and Adigrat, some 19,000 IDPs were reached with CRIs/NFIs, Dignity Kits, and clothing.
- **BSG** - NFIs: As of 30/12/2022 UNHCR partner WVE has distributed NFI, blankets, school bags, t-shirts, trousers, skirts, and multipurpose soap for a total of 40 (20 F) children at Bambasi IDPs site and host community, and to 40 children (20F) at Bildiglu woreda IDPs site and host community.
- **BSG** - As of December 30, 2022, UNHCR partner WVE had distributed kit materials, a floor mat, Cryon color and number, puzzle plastic, preschool picture books, and coloring books for Bambasi's child-friendly facilities (CFS). 14 office materials were provided for the Bureau of Women, Youth, and Children Affairs (BoWYCA) at Bambasi and Bildiglu woredas.
- **BSG** - In the Assosa and Metekel zones, 725 IDPs (320 female), hosting communities, and returnees received counselling and legal assistance.
- **Gambella** - DRC provided multi-purpose cash (3000ETB per HH) to 580 flood-displaced HHs in Lare woreda, while HelpAge International distributed NFI to 500 flood-displaced HHs in Makuey woreda, with items such as a blanket, laundry soap, a floor mat, and a cooking pot.
- **Gambella** - UNHCR distributed NFI through ANE to 1351HHs/6,755 individuals in Jikawo and 1000HHs/5,000 individuals in Makuey woredas who were displaced by the flood. Fleece blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, portable solar lamps, plastic buckets, laundry soaps, mosquito nets, plastic sheets, and jerrycans were among the items.
- **Gambella** - 60 government employees from Lare, Jikawo, Wanthowa, and Gog woredas attended a two-day training on fundamental IDP protection. ANE, UNHCR's implementing partner, also organized community awareness creation events on PSEA in Jikawo, Lare, Gog, and Wanthowa woredas.

Gaps

- **Tigray** – Limited banking systems continue to impede humanitarian response and operational support. Until recently, a large part of Tigray was inaccessible to humanitarian workers and the delivery of greatly needed aid. There are suspected mines in Tigray, and the threats have not been identified, marked, or cleared due to the absence of technical experts, including UNMAS.
- **Oromia** - A scarcity of humanitarian supplies, despite the enormous humanitarian need in Oromia West
- **Gambella** - Lack of adequate services to respond to the identified protection risks is the main gap in 5 woredas covered by meher assessment.

Takeaways

- Despite improvement in access for humanitarian aid in **Tigray**, the scale-up of assistance and services remain limited. This is related to various factors, like the gradual resumption of banking systems, telecommunications, and fuel supply, which are not yet fully rehabilitated across the region.
- The thematic of returns and relocations, especially in **Northern Ethiopia**, is among the major areas of focus for protection and non-protection actors. Government-led returns and relocations numbers are on the rise. At the same time spontaneous movements of returns have also been noticed. Partners are involved in supporting returns and relocations, at different level (region, kebele and woreda level specificities).
- Patterns of displacement are changing, particularly in **BGR** (due to the closure of camp and return to areas of origin of the IDPS), and in **Oromia**, due to the conflict coupled with lack of basic services and access constraints to deliver humanitarian aid.
- The conflict in **Oromia** keeps being worrisome. Access to services remain limited and hindered by the damage and destruction to infrastructures (schools, health centres, services for the provision of civil documentation, etc.).
- **Amhara** region is receiving increasing numbers of IDPs from Oromia. Amhara Region Government authorities are willing to reopen IDPs sites which were due to be decommissioned (previously hosting IDPs from the Northern Ethiopia conflict)
- Across **drought affected areas**, Protection Partners have reached so far 1.96M beneficiaries, out of 2.96M targeted by the Protection cluster. Protection activities remain focused in woredas classified as Priority 3 (as per OCHA classification of drought-affected woredas, the ones in priority 3 are the least severely affected). Protection Concerns in drought-affected woredas are worsening, as multiple failed rainy seasons goes by affecting the capacities of the resilience of families and individuals. The need for a scale up of humanitarian response in drought affected areas remains very high on the humanitarian community agenda.