

Ethiopia Monthly Protection Overview – April 2025

OVERVIEW

Attacks on Civilians	<p>Amhara: Civilian attacks in IDP sites across North Wollo and North Shewa zones affected approx. 72 individuals. In Jarra IDP site of North Wollo zone, more than 26 IDPs reportedly arrested, with only 6 individuals later returned to the camp.</p> <p>Oromia: Security situation in the East and Horo Guduru Wollega zone worsened with 12 civilians reported killed in Horo Guduru Wollega zone on 07 April.</p> <p>South Ethiopia: On 31 March, dispute over agricultural land between community members in the Derashe woreda reportedly triggered a conflict, resulting in loss of 15 lives and displacement of 4,665 individuals from three kebeles.</p> <p>Tigray: Ongoing reports of human rights violations in the Western zone, including among others, forced displacement of individuals by various armed groups, reportedly targeting people based on ethnicity.</p>
New Displacements	<p>Oromia: In Abe Dongoro woreda of Horo Guduru Wollega zone, 300 HHs (1,600 individuals) displaced following an attack by NSAGs, resulted in death of more than 15 civilians.</p> <p>Oromia: 378 HHs comprising 1,937 individuals (832 females and 1,101 males) displaced from Haro Limu and Kiremu woredas of East Wollega zone.</p> <p>Somali: Inter-communal conflict at the border areas in Doolo zone, near the Galadi district, resulted in displacement of 6,960 IDPs (1,160 HHs) within Galadi woreda in Doolo zone.</p> <p>Tigray: 42 new arrivals (30 men, 7 women, and 5 children) displaced from western Tigray and Sudan to Sheraro. In 2025 so far: total of 272 arrivals Sheraro.</p> <p>Tigray: February 24, 159 households living in Kuiha Sub-City block factory IDP site were issued eviction notices, all metal sheds on IDP site dismantled. Protection / Mekelle Relocation Task Force conducted an IDP consultations with 30 household leaders in Kuiha Sub-city.</p>
Returns, Relocations and Durable Solutions	<p>South Ethiopia: Conflict and violence in Darashe woreda are controlled and the majority of the IDPs (60%) started returning to their place of origin.</p>
Socio-economic Developments	<p>Amhara: Ongoing conflict, persistent roadblocks, supply shortages, and widespread insecurity have taken a heavy toll on the economy. Numerous businesses have been forced to shut down, resulting in significant job losses across the region. Additionally, the continued disruptions to transportation and supply chains have driven up prices, further straining local communities.</p>

	<p>Oromia: Limited employment opportunities have had devastating effects on IDPs and host communities, heightening their vulnerability to harmful coping mechanisms, incl. child labour, early marriage, and exploitative work.</p> <p>Somali: Price inflations and economic hardships with IDPs facing food insecurity, rising child labour, early marriages, adolescent migration, and movement to towns within and outside the region to seek economic opportunities, where IDPs face various challenges, including detention, due to lack of proper documentation.</p>
Drought / Flood	<p>Oromia: Heavy rain accompanied by poor weather displaced 2,384 individuals in 3 kebeles of Abaya woreda, West Guji zone. Destruction of 180 hectares of land covered by various agricultural products and 637 shelters.</p> <p>Somali: Despite light rains reported in certain zones of the region, reported to be below the expected results.</p> <p>South Ethiopia: Heavy rains on April 22/23 caused landslide and flooding in the mountainous areas affecting four kebeles in Geza Goffa woreda. Led to the loss of at least three 3 lives (flood), 11 houses completely or partially damaged, and over 55 individuals displaced. Agricultural land also impacted.</p>

ACCESS

Access by Protection Actors to Affected Population	Improved	<p>Tigray: Improved access to contested areas in the North-western zone and six contested woredas in southern Tigray. Access to western Tigray and some parts of eastern Tigray remains inaccessible.</p> <p>South Ethiopia: Security situation in West Guji, Guji and Borana relatively improved. Most of the rural areas recontrolled by Government forces.</p>
	Remained similar	<p>Oromia: Security situation in Wollega zones remains volatile due to ongoing armed conflict.</p> <p>Somali: UNDSS, UNHCR and WFP security team members undertook security risk assessment field mission to Degahbur, Yo'alle, Aware, Gashamo (Jarar zone) and Harshin (Fafan) zone.</p> <p>Amhara</p>
	Deteriorated	None reported
Most Critical Barriers	Insecurity or hostilities (incl. presence of ERWs)	Oromia: Ongoing armed conflict has had a negative impact on access to IDP kebeles in the Wollega zones.
	Lack of partners / funding	Somali: Funding shortages and lack of partner presence.

		Amhara: Significant absence of partners. South Ethiopia: Resource constraints.
	Bureaucratic and administrative constraints	Tigray
	Other	Tigray: Some kebelles in the eastern zone remain inaccessible due to the presence of external forces.

Access for Affected Population to Protection Services	Improved	
	Remained similar	Oromia, Tigray, South Ethiopia
	Deteriorated	Somali: No emergency partner presence or funding. Amhara: Number of IDPs exceeds capacity of operational partners.
Most Critical Barriers	Protection services unavailable / available but limited resources	Oromia: Funding shortages further widened gap between humanitarian needs and response capacity in the Wollega zones. Tigray: Limited protection services in the contested area of Alamata, Mai-Tsebri and Tselmti woredas. Somali: Absence of tailored protection services and assistance for older persons and persons with specific needs, incl. those with various disabilities. Limited infrastructure in Dunyar and Daymed woredas of Siti zone. South Ethiopia: Funding constraints affecting humanitarian service provision.
	Direct attacks or threats against affected populations	Tigray: Presence of armed groups and non-state actors in eastern parts and unpredictable security situation hindering the community from accessing protection services. New arrivals indicated arbitrary detention and dire situation in the western Tigray with no access for humanitarian actors.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND BASIC SERVICES

Service / Need	Region	Areas	Details
MHPSS	Somali	All IDP settings	Extremely low coverages of key mental health services in all IDP sites across the region. Lack of psychiatric professional support and low community awareness of MHPSS.
	Oromia	Wollega zones	Among most affected are survivors of GBV, women, and persons with disabilities, as a large proportion of IDPs and host communities grapple with deep psychological distress and trauma from experiencing or witnessing conflict-related violence and devastating loss of family members.
GBV Core Services	South Ethiopia	Konso, Gedeo, Darashe, Segen zuria woredas	Some of partners working on CP-GBV with foreign funding have halted services due to a stop-work directive. Few specialized partners in GBV, especially in conflict and climate-affected areas.
	Oromia	Conflict /drought affected areas of West Guji, Guji and Borana woredas	Some of partners working on CP-GBV with foreign funding have halted services due to a stop-work directive.
	Tigray	Across region, particularly Samre, Fina Riwa, and Lemlem Erara woredas	Concerning increase in GBV cases across the region, compounded by limited resources and shortage of GBV partners. Male and child survivors have limited access to services. Survivors face delays in accessing justice, jeopardizing recovery and safety.
Child Protection Services	Amhara	All IDP settings	Total absence of child protection services in IDP settings severely impacts children's cognitive, social, and brain development, while also negatively affecting psychosocial well-being of their parents.
	Tigray		Various CP AoR partners reported differing levels of engagement, e.g., IHS supported 52 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and managed 476 child protection cases, while PIE did not provide any support to UASC and managed only 23 cases. Gaps and challenges remain critical, particularly due to shifting operational dynamics and a high number of unserved IDPs. Additionally, reduction in active partners has limited scope of services. Inadequate support for IDP returnees, particularly in the Southern Zone, has exposed populations to heightened risks of neglect and exploitation.
HLP	Tigray		Currently, HLP issues are not represented in courts due to impairment of the justice organs; the support from HLP AoR are limited to registration, legal counselling and reporting
Civil Documentation	Tigray		UNHCR has been supporting IDPs and the government with their civil status and ID card documentation. However, the Bureau of Social Affairs has currently requested for the planned

			support to be relocated to their bureau as they are the ones to facilitate the ID card support/Kebelle ID for the IDPs. Cluster will engage with both parties to see the way forward.
Education	Amhara	Jarra IDP site	Jarra IDP site, the absence of both education and child protection services is critical concern, significantly hindering children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. This gap in essential services also undermines the psychosocial well-being of parents, with far-reaching, long-term effects on the socio-economic stability of individuals, families, and wider community.
	Somali	Across IDP settings	School dropouts remain critical as result of drought-like situations that resulted school closures, family separations and movement.
Food / Nutrition	Amhara	All IDP settings	Over past two months, condition of IDPs in all camps has significantly deteriorated, particularly regarding food supplies. Despite previous irregular and insufficient food distribution, there are growing concerns among IDPs about the food baskets, which only contain dry food items.
	Oromia	Wollega zones	The persistent funding shortages have steadily reduced the number of humanitarian actors on the ground, creating a significant gap between the needs of affected communities (IDPs and host communities) and the support available.
Shelter / NFI	Amhara	All IDP settings	There are no shelter/NFI partners operating in any of the IDP sites, which has become a major protection concern for all IDPs and requires urgent attention. Following rainy season, IDPs in Debre Birhan raised concerns about the maintenance of their shelters, seeking assistance to ensure living conditions remain safe and secure during this challenging period.
	South Ethiopia	Konso, Gedeo, Darashe woredas	Currently no ES/NFI projects in the Southern regions, and USAID's budget cuts are significantly impacting ES/NFI responses and activities in these regions.
	Oromia	Conflict /drought affected areas of West Guji, Guji and Borana woredas	Budget cuts significantly impacting ES/NFI responses and activities in the operation areas.
	Oromia	Wollega zones	Widespread destruction of shelters, coupled with severe shortage of non-food items and essential supplies, continues to hinder ability of IDPs to return to areas of origin
WASH	Amhara	All IDP settings	Number of WASH partners is extremely limited. WASH facilities across all IDP camps, including China and Woynishet IDP sites, are substandard and do not consider needs of persons with disabilities. Lack of gender-segregated toilet facilities, and almost all shelters, communal kitchens, WASH facilities (including toilets and shower areas), and other social gathering spaces urgently require maintenance to mitigate further protection risks. In Jarra IDP camp, situation is particularly severe, with no sex-segregated toilets or shower services. Additionally, there is a high demand for both the maintenance and dislodging of toilet facilities, similar to the need for shelter repairs.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

CHILD PROTECTION	
Main Achievements	<p>In D/Birhan town and North Shewa zone a joint CP - GBV AoR coordination was established with government leadership for sustainability.</p> <p>Afar regional movement plan to combat harmful traditional practices, targeting 100,000 people, is planned for May.</p> <p>ToT Training on Caring for Children Survival of Sexual Abuse: UNICEF will implement three rounds of training to train 120 people. GIZ have funding available to roll out the training through the trained individuals in Amhara. First round was completed, and second round took place end of April.</p>
Additional Information	<p>In North Shewa: Alarming rise in sexual violence cases reported (70% children), late reporting (>72 hours) limits service access.</p> <p>Several projects in North Shewa have ended with no funding and no child protection partners to continue services, including family tracing and children survival of sexual abuse.</p> <p>Lack of child protection partners in newly accessible woredas in Southern and Northwestern zones.</p>
MINE ACTION	
Main Achievements	<p>1,217 beneficiaries received EORE in Tigray.</p> <p>Following a request from UNOPS to provide Explosive Hazardous Awareness Training to staff involved in WASH activities in Raya Alamata and Endamohni woreda in Tigray, total of 53 workers - across two health facilities - Tao Health Post, and Gerjalle Health Centre and personnel in Endamhoni woreda received training.</p> <p>04 April, International Mine Awareness Day took place at the Ministry of Defense under the theme “Mine Action in Ethiopia – Update on Key Achievements and Challenges.”</p>
Additional Information	<p>UNMAS team conducted EO risk assessments at three UNOPS construction sites in Tigray—Tao Health Post and Gerjalle Health Centre. The assessments aimed to ensure the safety of workers and communities by identifying potential explosive hazards in these areas. Through site inspections, focus group discussions with local authorities, and community engagement, UNMAS verified that no EO contamination or incidents had been reported at the locations.</p> <p>The UNMAS hotline (#8543) for the reporting of EO in affected communities in Tigray and Afar received 19 calls during the period.</p> <p>Regional Mine Action AoR was held in Tigray on 29 April.</p>

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY	
Main Achievements	<p>As of March 2025, total of 2,342 people reached in three regions: 1,630 in Benishangul Gumuz, 425 in contested areas and 294 in Somali Region. Sex disaggregation, 55% female and 45% male.</p> <p>People reached by activity: Information on HLP - 2,056, Capacity building / training – 285, Individual counselling – 8.</p>
Additional Information	Main challenges include a low number of reporting partners .

COORDINATION MECHANISMS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Cluster / AoR Presence / Functioning	<p>Amhara: Sub national protection cluster coordination meeting, Sub national CP/GBV AoR meeting. Amhara regional Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group newly activated.</p> <p>Somali: Regular Protection, CP, GBV, HLP, DSWG, coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>Tigray: Regional Mine Action AoR.</p>
Protection Assessments	<p>Amhara: Rapid protection assessment has been conducted by the north Wollo zone protection cluster in different IDP settings. Protection assessment had also been conducted regarding the new IDP arrivals in North Shewa.</p> <p>CP AoR: conducted Assessment on the impact of foreign aid freeze and project phase-outs on child protection in Tigray (Mekelle and Shire AoR). Assessment report will be shared with Cluster when finalized.</p> <p>CP AoR: People in Need assessment in December in Amhara, Oromia, Somali, and Tigray. Assessment covered reasons for children to be out of school, girls access to schools, number of out of school children.</p>
Protection Monitoring	Amhara: Protection monitoring has been conducted in all zones - North & South Wollo, North Gondor and North Shewa - by DICA and OHCHR. Protection analysis is being consolidated and will be shared once completed.
Other	Amhara: Advocacy activities conducted regarding reported attacks on IDP youth.