

Ethiopia Monthly Protection Overview – May 2025

OVERVIEW

Attacks on Civilians	<p>Amhara: Jarra IDP site in North Wollo zone, 25+ IDPs reportedly detained and remain in custody.</p> <p>Benishangul: May 20, Mijiga Woreda of Kamashi zone reportedly attacked by armed group with 16 casualties, incl. women and children. 5,899 individuals (1,470 HHs) were displaced, 200+ houses burned.</p> <p>Gambella: 25 May, public bus traveling between Dimma woreda and Pinyudo reportedly attacked by armed group, 5 killed and 3 wounded. 30 May, vehicle ambushed in Godere woreda of Majang Zone with one person killed.</p> <p>Oromia: Reported attacks on civilians by armed groups reported in Gedeb woreda, 6 individuals sustained injury and assets looted. Casualties reported in Taltale woreda of Borana zone, incl. damage to civilian infrastructures and unconfirmed number of deaths. Western Oromia remains volatile due to ongoing armed conflict.</p> <p>Somali: No major clashes reported at Afar-Somali border, but 2 fatalities reflect underlying tensions.</p> <p>Tigray: Reports of kidnappings, disappearances, forced displacement of individuals by various armed groups.</p>
New Displacements	<p>Gambella: 2,234 individuals displaced from villages along the Ethio-South Sudan border in Lare and Jekawo woredas due to reported cross-border attacks.</p> <p>Oromia: 22 May 2025, reported armed conflict triggered a new wave of displacement affecting 5,180 individuals (740 HHs), adding to existing caseload of 7,743 IDPs in Sassiga woreda of East Wollega zone and resulting in deaths of 3 civilians and destruction of 75+ private shelters.</p> <p>South Ethiopia: Konso zone DRMO indicated that plan is underway for re-construction of shelter for 100 returnees. Re-construction of shelters for 1,136 HH in Kolme woreda is planned by the regional Government.</p>
Returns, Relocations and Durable Solutions	<p>Tigray: May 18, 82 returning migrants (82 HHs) returned from Eritrea to Rama Adi Arbaete woreda in Central zone.</p>
Socio-economic Developments	<p>Amhara: Due to ongoing conflict and persistent road blockages, growing shortage of essential commodities, resulting in noticeable price increases. Transportation infrastructure severely impacted, with reports of kidnappings targeting truck and cross-country bus drivers, further disrupting trade, supply chains, and overall mobility of goods and people.</p> <p>Oromia: Many IDPs lost access to their traditional means of income, such as farming and small businesses, due to displacement, insecurity, and lack of resources. Absence of sustainable livelihood opportunities left most households dependent on sporadic humanitarian assistance, which is insufficient to meet long-term needs.</p>

	<p>South Ethiopia: Inflation affecting all communities in the region, with IDPs and returnees among most severely impacted. Volatile security situation not only limits freedom of movement, but also severely affects economic activities with significant challenges in getting free access and opportunity to markets, as well as inflated transportation cost to communities.</p> <p>Tigray: Increased individual-level movement across the border, particularly in Adigrat and Rama, where the removal of checkpoints has facilitated informal trade and market exchanges between communities. However, broader socio-economic environment remains fragile. IDPs report significant rise in food commodity prices.</p>
Drought / Flood	<p>Somali: Areas within Fafan, along with Sitti zone, experienced below normal rainfall. Reports of livestock migrating in search of water and pasture in Harshin. May 14–17 heavy rainfall caused Shabelle River to overflow, severely affecting Kelafo Woreda, displacing 3,802 of the 6,038 affected people, destroying over 1,100 acres of crops, 1,000 livestock, damaging schools, health facilities, and water sources.</p> <p>Oromia: Floods displaced 609 HHs displaced in Galana woreda of West Guji zone. Approx. 300 hectares of land covered with agricultural crops destroyed.</p> <p>South Ethiopia: 6 hectares of farming land affected by floods in Konso zone.</p>

ACCESS

Access by Protection Actors to Affected Population	Improved	Benishangul, Gambella, Tigray
	Remained similar	Amhara, Somali
	Deteriorated	Oromia, South Ethiopia
Most Critical Barriers	Insecurity or hostilities (incl. presence of ERWs)	<p>Amhara: Security concerns persist in Jarra IDP camps, particularly when residents access firewood, attend public schools, or travel long distances to reach marketplaces. Presence of armed forces near the camp further heightens insecurity for IDPs and implementing partners.</p> <p>Benishangul: With exception of some woredas in Kamashi zone which border Oromia region (inaccessible due to conflict), access situation has improved.</p> <p>Oromia: Ongoing military operation in West Guji, Guji and Borana zones intensified during reporting period. Free movement to woredas and kebeles hardly possible. Ongoing armed conflict has negative impact on accessing IDP kebeles in Wollega zones.</p>

		South Ethiopia: Access in Gedeo Zone challenging due to security concerns in the border districts, logistical barriers, and ongoing tensions.
	Lack of partners / funding	Somali: Major implementing partners, including IRC, FHI-360, and OWDA, have entirely ceased GBV response initiatives in the Afder and Sitti zones (OWDA: 25,779 individuals affected and IRC: 16,000 individuals affected). Oromia: West Guji zone protection partners are fewer or not active. Borena zone challenges of logistics and other environmental constraints.
	Bureaucratic and administrative constraints	Tigray: Contested areas, absence of civil administration and essential public services—including justice systems, education, and health—hinders the delivery of protection services. poor infrastructure, incl. damaged roads and limited telecommunications.

Access for Affected Population to Protection Services	Improved	Benishangul, Tigray
	Remained similar	Oromia
	Deteriorated	Amhara, Gambella, Somali, South Ethiopia
Most Critical Barriers	Protection services unavailable / available but limited resources	<p>Amhara: Number of IDPs exceeds the capacity of available protection actors.</p> <p>Benishangul, Tigray: Funding shortages further widened gap between humanitarian needs and response capacity.</p> <p>Gambella: Poor road conditions, limited protection funding.</p> <p>Somali: In hard-to-reach areas partners currently lack the capacity to respond if an emergency arises, leaving already vulnerable populations at even greater risk. Advocacy has lost momentum without the funds to support real action. Nutrition, healthcare, and education disrupted. Long-term development efforts have stalled, increasing the vulnerability of IDP communities and threatening the stability of affected areas.</p> <p>South Ethiopia: Funding restrictions limiting protection response. Heavy flooding.</p>
	Direct attacks or threats against affected populations	Tigray: Newly arrived IDPs in Western Tigray facing arbitrary detention, with no humanitarian access.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND BASIC SERVICES

Service / Need	Region	Specific Areas	Details
MHPSS	Oromia	Wollega Zones	The trauma of displacement, loss, and ongoing insecurity severely affects the mental well-being of IDPs. Limited availability of MHPSS hinders recovery and coping, resulting in increased stress, anxiety, and social fragmentation. Strengthening MHPSS is essential for rebuilding community resilience and social cohesion.
	Somali	Afar-Somali Border	The recent Afar-Somali border conflict has caused serious humanitarian impacts, especially for vulnerable groups. In the western Sitti zone—particularly Badiweyn and Madane IDP sites—2,506 unaccompanied and separated children have been registered. Many were separated from their families due to violence and displacement. The situation demands urgent psychosocial support, protection services, and basic assistance to safeguard these children's well-being.
GBV Core Services	Amhara	Debre Birhan	The limited number of protection partners, combined with budget delays, is disrupting the referral system for survivors to access the One-Stop Center. Additionally, the One-Stop Center at Debre Birhan Hospital lacks social workers, further hindering the delivery of comprehensive support services.
	Gambella	Lare & Jekawo	Displacement areas are not safe for women and girls, which could pose potential risks of GBV.
	South Ethiopia	Konso, Gedeo, Darashe, Segen zuria	Few specialized partners are still available to provide GBV services, especially in conflict and climate-affected areas.
	Oromia	Conflict / drought affected areas of West Guji, Guji & Borana	There is limited capacity of GBV actors to deliver services due to budget cuts.
	Tigray	All	The GBV AoR reports rising intimate partner violence, more child survivors, and service disruptions due to closed support centers. Harmful norms, poor shelter, and weak accountability heighten risks for women and girls. Key gaps include the lack of referral cash assistance and need for child case management training for One-Stop Center staff.
Child Protection Services	Amhara	IDP sites	The complete absence of child protection services in IDP settings hinders children's cognitive, social, and brain development, while also negatively impacting the psychosocial well-being of their parents. For some school-aged children attending public schools, long-distance travel exposes them to risks such as insecurity, violence, and road traffic accidents.
	Tigray	All	A CP AoR assessment shows a sharp decline in services due to reduced foreign aid and phased-out projects. CP coverage has dropped by 85%, with only two child-friendly spaces still active (e.g., in Mai Dimu). This has led to a surge in child labor (80%), psychological distress (64%), violence (55%), and early marriage (43%). Services for unaccompanied/separated children, children with disabilities, and GBV survivors are severely limited—only 6% of sites are disability-friendly, and

			psychosocial/referral support is scarce. Staffing has fallen below 42% of 2023 levels, affecting case management and oversight.
HLP	Tigray	Alamata	The situation in Alamata remains particularly challenging. The absence of a functioning civil administration and legal institutions has severely hindered the implementation of legal support activities in the areas. This continues to limit the population's access to justice and protection services, leaving vulnerable groups without recourse to address housing, land, and property issues or other legal concerns.
Civil Documentation	Benishangul	Bambasi	Most IDPs in Bambasi woreda have not received IDs, limiting their movement.
Livelihood Opportunities (incl. Cash)	Benishangul	Bambasi, Dangur & Mandura	There is no cash-based interventions, while the needs are surpluses.
	Gambella	Lare & Jekawo	Crops and livestock have been robbed, meaning many IDPs missed the farming season, heightening the risk of food insecurity.
	Oromia	Wollega Zones	Restricted livelihood opportunities limit the ability of IDPs to generate income and become self-reliant, increasing their dependence on humanitarian aid. Without access to work or cash assistance, many resort to harmful coping strategies, including exploitative labor or negative coping mechanisms.
Education	Amhara	Jarra IDP site	In the Jarra IDP camp, there is a total absence of education services, which is a major concern for both parents and school-aged children. This lack of access to education has led to a rising dropout rate and leaves many children without essential learning opportunities. As a result, most school-aged children spend their time engaged in unproductive indoor and outdoor activities. The long-term impact of this educational gap extends beyond the individual, affecting the socio-economic well-being of families and the country as a whole.
Food / Nutrition	Amhara	IDP sites	Over the past two months, the conditions for IDPs across all sites have significantly worsened, particularly in access to protection, CP, GBV, WASH, health, and nutrition services. Despite irregular and insufficient food distributions, IDPs remain deeply concerned about the food baskets, which currently consist only of dry food items.
	Benishangul	Bambasi, Dangur, Mandura & Mijiga	There is no adequate food distribution, including no provision of nutritious food. The numbers of children at the risk of malnutrition are increasing, and there is no health facility that provides screening, outpatient care and inpatient care for malnutrition.
	Gambella	Lare & Jekawo	IDPs are experiencing a critical shortage of food and are forced to resort to eating wild leaves.
	Oromia	Wollega Zones	Limited access to sufficient and nutritious food has led to widespread malnutrition among IDPs, especially vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women. The scarcity of food supplies often forces families to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as skipping meals or selling

			essential assets, which undermines their long-term resilience. Over the past three months alone, seven children have died from malnutrition at the IDP site in Jardega Jarte Woreda.
Shelter / NFI	Amhara	IDP sites	There are no shelter or NFI partners operating across any of the IDP sites, which has become a major protection concern for all displaced populations and requires urgent attention.
	Benishangul	Bambasi, Dangur & Mandura	There is critical need for shelter for both IDPs and returnees, as there are no partners working on these services. For IDPs in Bambasi woreda, for the last four years they have been living in plastic sheets, which are deteriorating. IDPs in Matekele zone at Dangur and Mandura are also in the same conditions.
	Gambella	Lare & Jekawo	The majority of IDPs are living under the trees in the displacement areas, which could expose them to harsh weather as the rainy season begins.
	Oromia	Wollega Zones	Inadequate shelter and lack of essential NFI expose IDPs to extreme weather conditions and increase their vulnerability to protection risks such as exploitation and GBV. Displaced families struggle to maintain dignity and security in unfamiliar environments.
	Oromia	Conflict / drought affected areas of West Guji, Guji and Borana	Budget cuts significantly impact ES/NFI responses and activities.
	South Ethiopia	Konso, Gedeo, Darashe	There are currently no ES/NFI projects in the Southern regions, with budget cuts significantly impacting responses and activities.
WASH	Amhara	China & Woynishet IDP sites	The number of WASH partners is severely limited. There are no gender-segregated toilet facilities in the China and Woynishet IDP sites. Additionally, existing WASH facilities fall below minimum standards and do not accommodate persons with disabilities. For the past year, there has been a consistent lack of support for essential sanitary materials, including soap. This shortage of hygiene supplies has had a significant negative impact on the health and well-being of the affected population.
	Benishangul	Bambasi, Dangur & Mandura	There are no adequate WASH response/services, in most IDPs camps water facility is inadequate; for IDPs at Bambasi 01 site there was no water facility for the last two years, with IDPs drinking river water, exposing them to water born disease and GBV incidents.
	Gambella	Lare & Jekawo	IDPs are using untreated water from the pond for both drinking and washing, exposing them to waterborne diseases.
Health	Benishangul	Bambasi, Dangur and Mandura & Kamashi zone	There is a critical shortage of health service due to damage to health centers during the conflict, as well as a shortage of drugs.

	Gambella	Lare & Jekawo	The conditions in which IDPs are living exposes them to the potential spread of malaria, cholera, and other communicable diseases.
	Oromia	Wollega Zones	Access to quality health services for IDPs is often limited due to disrupted infrastructure, shortage of medical supplies, and insecurity. This leads to untreated illnesses, increased morbidity, and higher mortality rates. Children's health is particularly affected. Communicable disease outbreaks are able to spread rapidly in overcrowded displacement sites.
Education	Oromia	Wollega Zones	Displacement disrupts children's access to education, leading to significant learning losses and increased dropout rates. The lack of safe and accessible schooling limits children's development and future opportunities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and vulnerability.
	Somali	Gode, Degahbur	As a result of the closure of school due to drought and the absence of recreational centers for the youth in the region, there are 86 boys in Jijiga, 27 boys in Gode, and 12 boys in Degahbur who are engaged with the legal systems.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

CHILD PROTECTION	
Main Updates	The North Wello Women, Children and Social Affairs Office (WCSAO) reported that more than ten children, aged between 7 and 11, were injured in an explosion at the Jara IDP camp on the afternoon of 02 June 2025. The incident occurred while the children were playing with an explosive device they had found within the camp.
MINE ACTION	
Main Updates	<p>A joint assessment by the Ethiopian Mine Action Office and UNMAS evaluated Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Non-Technical Survey, and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education operations by three NGOs in Tigray: DRC, HI, and Empowering People for Sustainable Solutions.</p> <p>UNMAS conducted a pre deployment visit to Dessie, Amhara to expand its operational footprint in the region as of June, with a specific focus on Explosive Ordnance Assessments, Explosive hazard awareness training to humanitarian staff, mobilization of Community Focal Points and provision of EORE. The following zones will be targeted given the high-risk prevalence of explosive contamination based on geospatial analysis of battlefields and EO incident reports: North Wollo Zone, South Wollo Zone, Wag Hemra Zone, North Shewa Zone and Oromo Special Zone.</p>
Additional Information	A total of 12,256 (4,374 girls, 4,153 boys, 1,809 women and 1,920 men) people were reached in Tigray, Amhara and Contested Area 3 during the months of April and May.

	<p>The UNMAS hotline (#8543) for the reporting of EO in affected communities in Tigray and Afar received 29 calls during the months of April and May.</p> <p>In its role as MA AoR Cluster Lead, UNMAS delivered a presentation on ‘Explosive ordnance contamination in Ethiopia’ to the Food Cluster on April 30.</p>
HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY	
Main Updates	<p>As of April 2025, total of 7,921 people reached in three Regions: 5,472 in Benishangul Gumuz, 988 in Contested areas, Tigray 1,167 and 294 in Somali Region. Age and sex disaggregation: 47% female and 53% male.</p> <p>Reached people by activity:</p> <p>Information on HLP: 6,896 Capacity Building: 921 Individual counselling: 44 Access to alternative mechanisms to resolve HLP disputes: 60</p>
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	
Main Updates	<p>GBV IMS: Final road map already prepared to be shared with the global team.</p> <p>Funding Proposals: GBV AoR along with different representatives from NNGO, INGOs and WLOs formed a review Committee (SRC) and reviewed several GBV proposals submitted for the EHF Reserve Allocation from Amhara, Tigray, Benishangul Gumuz and Oromia.</p>
Main Challenges	<p>Survivors continue to face delayed and limited access to justice, while high demand for GBV and livelihood support remains largely unmet.</p> <p>Escalating security issues in IDP camps and inconsistent emergency food support increase vulnerability, especially for those traveling long distances for services.</p> <p>Returnee women and girls are exposed to negative coping mechanisms due to insufficient humanitarian and government support.</p> <p>Fuel shortages are significantly disrupting program implementation.</p>

Additional Information	Around 611,000 beneficiaries were reached as of April 30, in 8 regions by 53 implementing partners . Out of the total reached majority were female adults 268,421 followed by 146,032 girls.
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COORDINATION MECHANISMS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Cluster / AoR Presence / Functioning	<p>Amhara: Sub national protection cluster coordination meeting.</p> <p>Somali: Protection, CP, GBV, HLP, DSWG meetings.</p>
Assessments and Monitoring	<p>Benishangul: Livelihoods assessment conducted jointly in the Kamshi zone in five woredas. MIRA assessment conducted in Mijiga woreda for 1,999 IDPs.</p> <p>Gambella: DRMS shared Inter-Agency Assessment conducted in Lare woreda on 9 May 2025. UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, Regional President's office, Regional DRMC, Plan International, ZOA, OXFAM and Action Against Hunger participated in assessment.</p>

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