

Ethiopia Monthly Protection Overview – September 2025

PROTECTION RISKS AND THREATS

Attacks on Civilians	Afar: September 24 in Chiffra woreda, local dispute reportedly escalated into clan-related conflict, significantly disrupting social stability in the area. Amhara: Reported abduction of two humanitarian staff by UAGs near Gondar City, highlighting persistent insecurity along the Dabark–Gondar road, which remains unsafe for humanitarian movements and poses significant risks to civilians. Somali: Renewed tensions between communities in Tuli-Guled and Chenaksan (Oromia and Somali regions) resulted in death of one civilian and injuries of two others. Situation remains volatile, with armed groups mobilizing around disputed villages. Tigray: Ongoing reports of fragile security situation in the Western Zone, with incidents of kidnappings and forced displacement of individuals by various armed groups.
New Displacements	Gambella: Total of 7,082 HHs, comprising 35,410 individuals displaced across three woredas (Lare, Jikawo, Wanthoa) of Nuer Zone due to seasonal flooding. Tigray: Total of 38 HHs, comprising 229 individuals newly arrived in Sheraro from Western Zone. Movement attributed to prevailing threats and unstable political situation in the area.
Returns, Relocations and Durable Solutions	Somali: Western Sitti, 74 displaced HHs (401 individuals) relocated from Biki to Qaraf under a government-led resettlement plan targeting 1,000 HHs. Tigray: 12,155 internally displaced HHs, comprising 62,707 individuals, returned to their areas of origin across six woredas, reflecting ongoing self-organized return movement of IDPs: - Irob woreda: 127 HHs / 638 individuals - Gulomekada woreda: 154 HHs / 1,189 individuals - Zala-Anbassa: 1,569 HHs / 17,839 individuals - Egela: 231 HHs / 1,835 individuals - Central Adiyabo: 219 HHs / 1,814 individuals - Tahtay Adiyabo (highest number of returnees) 3,391 HHs / 29,392 individuals

Socio-economic Developments	Amhara: Ongoing conflict and persistent road blockages and 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. Somali: Staple food prices rising due to failed rains and poor agricultural performance, contributing to worsening economic hardship and inflation across the region.
Drought, Floods and Other Hazards	Afar: 5,264+ HHs displaced by series of floods and windstorms impacting six woredas: Afambo, Golina, Kilalu, Yangudi, Awash Fantale, and Dul-elle-as. IDPs residing in temporary shelters, schools and roadside encampments. Amhara: Heavy windstorms damaged and disrupted shelters of IDPs living in camps across North Wollo, North Shewa, and North Gondar. Gambella: Flooding in Lare, Jikawo and Wanthoa woredas of Nuer zone damaged 4,958 hectares of crops, including maize, sorghum, and vegetables, also affecting one health centre and 8 health posts, and damaging 10 primary and 9 secondary schools. Somali: Forecasted below-normal Deyr rains, with Fafan and Sitti zones already experiencing delayed and poor Karan rains. Water scarcity severe due to failed Gu rains. Over 300 sites across Afder, Korahe, and Liban zones require emergency water trucking. Agricultural production is critically impacted, with halted farming activities and widespread crop failure.

ACCESS

Access by Protection Actors to Affected Population	Improved	Afar
	Remained similar	Amhara, Gambella, Tigray
	Deteriorated	Somali
Most Critical Barriers	Insecurity or hostilities (incl. presence of ERWs)	Amhara: Due to conflict and deteriorated security situation Mekaneselam IDP site became inaccessible for humanitarian actors. Tigray: Humanitarian access has improved, with most areas now reachable. However, some locations, particularly in Erob, Gule Mekeda, and Tahtay Adiyabo, remain difficult to access due to proximity to the Eritrean border and ongoing security concerns. While access has expanded in several parts of the region, large portions, especially in western areas, remain inaccessible, and the overall security situation remains unpredictable. Ongoing insecurity and the presence of ERW hinder humanitarian assistance in newly accessible areas.

	Lack of partners / funding	Afar, Amhara, Gambella: Low protection partner presence due to funding cuts. Somali: Protracted caseloads in hard-to-reach areas remain without access to essential protection services. Tigray: Funding shortfall means withdrawal or scale-down of many humanitarian actors, creating service vacuum and limitations on service availability.
	Environmental and Logistical Constraints	Tigray: Fuel shortage in the Region impacts, amongst others, humanitarian operations.
Access for Affected Population to Protection Services	Improved	Afar
	Remained similar	Amhara, Gambella, Tigray
	Deteriorated	Somali
Most Critical Barriers	Insecurity or hostilities (incl. presence of ERWs)	Amhara: Security concerns high in Jarra IDP camps, especially when residents collect firewood, attend schools, or travel to markets, and the presence of military forces nearby. Tigray: Landmine contamination of several schools, severely disrupting children's access to education and putting safety at risk.
	Protection services unavailable / available but limited resources	Afar, Gambella: Low protection partner presence due to funding cuts. Somali: Persistent delays and inaccuracies in monthly reporting from GBV and Child Protection partners hinders performance monitoring and accountability. Tigray: Families returning to their areas of origin continue to face significant protection risks, incl. inadequate shelter, limited access to essential services, and ongoing insecurity, particularly in hard-to-reach areas such as Endalgeda and Weraetile in Erob, as well as border villages in Gule Mekeda and Tahtay Adiyabo. Unavailability of protection partners in the newly accessible woredas, except for a few partners with a limited target population.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND BASIC SERVICES

Service / Need	Region	Specific Areas	Details
GBV Core Services	Gambella	Lare, Jikawo, Wanthoa	Women moving long distances on foot to fetch water at heightened risk of GBV and involved in conflict with the nearby community members and South Sudanese asylum seekers on sharing the waterpoint. Significant number of girls and women of reproductive age among displaced population, but basic GBV services not yet provided.
	Tigray	All	Risks remain high in newly accessible areas of Tigray, particularly in IDP camps where inadequate shelter, poor sanitation, and lack of lighting continue to expose women and girls to harm. While walk-in services and mobile teams are operational, challenges persist due to limited internet connectivity, insufficient equipment, and lack of standardized tools.
Child Protection Services	Tigray	All	Low school enrollment, particularly for children with disabilities, and increasing concerns over children on the streets, in prisons, and at risk of trafficking.
Access to Justice	Tigray	Alamata	Challenges persist due to unstable civil administration and the absence of consistent legal aid services.
Health	Gambella	Lare, Jikawo, Wanthoa	One health centre and eight health posts affected by flooding, and exacerbated communicable diseases,
	Tigray	All	Low supply of medicines for chronic diseases such as TB, ART for HIV patients, hypertension, and diabetes.
Civil Documentation	Somali	All	83% of IDPs and 50% of host community members lack documentation, restricting their freedom of movement and access to basic services.
Food / Nutrition	Amhara	All	Food assistance delayed for more than two months.
	Gambella	Lare, Jikawo, Wanthoa	Flooding damaged 4,958 hectares of crops, including maize, sorghum, and vegetables exacerbating food insecurity.
Shelter / NFI	Amhara	North Shewa / IDP sites	More than 75% of IDPs shelters are damaged due to wind and rain, coupled with limited number of partners in operation. Around 41 shelters require immediate maintenance in Jarri 1 and Kutaber IDP sites.
	Amhara	All	Absence of fire wood serious issue across all IDP sites.

	Gambella	Lare, Jikawo, Wanthoa	Floods damaged basic household items. IDPs lack mosquito nets, cooking implements and jerricans. Whole properties also lost, or partially damaged.
Education	Amhara	All	Lack of educational support has led to a significant number of school dropouts among IDP children.
	Amhara	Jarra IDP Site	Provision of education services highly affected, with adolescence girls experiencing violence on the way to school due to long distance walking.
	Amhara	All	Parents of IDP children struggle to provide basic educational materials, significantly hampering their children's ability to engage in school activities.
	Gambella	Lare, Jikawo, Wanthoa	10 primary and 9 secondary schools damaged by floods. Furthermore, schools used as temporary shelters by IDPs and compromising learning services.
	Somali	Aysha Woreda (Sitti Zone)	Recent assessment identified 60 schools, including 20 formal schools and 40 Alternative Basic Education (ABE) centers. However, only 44 schools are currently functional, with just 26 operational ABE centers, highlighting significant gaps in access to education for children in remote areas.
WASH	Amhara	Jarri 2 IDP Site	Due to lack of water, IDPs forced to travel for one hour, exposing them various risks. Latrines not gender-segregated and lack privacy and lighting.
	Amhara	All	Shortage of hygiene kits such as soap, hand sanitiser, menstrual hygiene products, and other essentials to maintain personal hygiene.
	Amhara	Jarri 1 IDP Site	Water tank is contaminated, posing immediate health risks and necessitating urgent interventions. Latrines not gender-segregated and lack privacy and lighting.
	Gambella	Lare, Jikawo, Wanthoa	Unprotected sources like ponds and stagnant water bodies are main means of water supply available for the entire displaced community. Open defecation is commonly practiced. Absence of protected water source for daily drinking needs could exacerbate communicable diseases like cholera.

TRAININGS, PROTECTION MONITORING AND ASSESSMENTS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Protection Monitoring	Amhara: Protection monitoring shows rising child marriage and illegal migration in Debark, while in North Wollo, expired flour distribution, a large military presence near Jarra, and community fears of targeting remain key concerns.
Assessments	Amhara: North Gondar IDP site gap analysis shows IDP face critical gaps in water, health, WASH, livelihoods, and cash support, with poor hygiene driving disease and distress. Gambella: 8 – 10 September, flood assessment mission conducted to Nuer and Anyuwaa zones. Somali: MIRA in Sitti zone of Somali region, shows severe food security crisis. Many residents fled conflict in Afar Region, abandoning livestock and essential possessions, leaving them extremely food insecure. Tigray: August 2025, protection-related assessment conducted by the Bureau of Social Affairs and Rehabilitation, covering returned IDPs in the Northwest, Central, and Eastern zones of Tigray, aiming to quantify returnee populations, identify their vulnerabilities, and inform targeted support.

For further information, contact Protection Cluster Coordinators: **Rehema Miiro** (miiro@unhcr.org) and **Emma Wynne** (emma.wynne@drc.ngo).