

Ethiopia Monthly Protection Overview – February 2026

PROTECTION RISKS AND THREATS

<p>Attacks on Civilians</p>	<p>Benishangul: Ongoing armed conflict in Wombera Woreda of Metekel Zone, more than 11,000 individuals have been reportedly displaced, and unknown number of homes and livelihoods destroyed.</p>
<p>New Displacements</p>	<p>Amhara: Since January 2026, total of 434 HHs (1,662 individuals) have arrived and been temporarily registered at the Woyneshet IDP site of North Shewa zone (Debre Birhan).</p> <p>Amhara: Significant number of new arrivals remain unregistered. Due to conflict, total of 80,387 individuals have displaced from from the Alamata area to Kobo in North Wello zone.</p> <p>Benishangul: Clashes in Metekel zone (Dibatie, Bullen, Wombera) have displaced 11,404 people (2,541 households, including 586 female-headed), now sheltering in schools, host communities, rented homes, and temporary structures.</p> <p>Tigray: In the Northwestern Zone, BoSAR reports that an estimated 835 households (around 2,500 people) have been displaced. In the Southeast, displacement is far more extensive, with 6,684 households (approximately 37,000 people) uprooted within the zone. Of these, roughly 30,000 individuals have reportedly returned to their areas of origin, while about 7,000 remain displaced and in urgent need of assistance.</p>
<p>Socio-economic Developments</p>	<p>Benishangul: The ongoing conflict in surrounding regions has led to a significant influx of displaced people into BGR, placing additional pressure on local markets and contributing to inflation and an increase in the cost of living.</p> <p>Tigray: Reported further decline in the fuel supply, and a shortage of physical cash in the banks resulting in long queues daily at the banks. The banks only provide maximum of 2,000 ETB or less daily and often no cash at all, impacting overall humanitarian interventions.</p>
<p>Drought, Floods and Other Hazards</p>	<p>Oromia: Severe drought has caused significant livestock deaths due to acute shortages of fodder and water in Kumbi, Midaga, Babile, Chinaksen, and Mekanisa Oromo woredas of East Hararghe Zone. Prolonged moisture deficits have reduced pasture regeneration, depleted water sources, and lowered agricultural productivity, significantly undermining household food security.</p>

ACCESS

Access by Protection Actors to Affected Population	Improved	
	Remained similar	Amhara
	Deteriorated	Benishangul, Oromia, Tigray
Most Critical Barriers	Insecurity or hostilities (incl. presence of ERWs)	<p>Benishangul: Ongoing conflict in four woredas of Metekel zone, with full scale unverified due to deteriorating security and access constraints, which are severely limiting the delivery of essential humanitarian services.</p> <p>Tigray: Many planned missions have been postponed or placed on hold, and overall operational movement has decreased in response to security concerns.</p>
	Lack of partners / funding	Amhara: Significant shortage of funding to support protection activities and other essential services, even though no other major obstacles are currently hindering the response.
	Environmental and Logistical Constraints	<p>Oromia: Critical fuel shortage in the Hararge zones, significantly affecting humanitarian operations.</p> <p>Tigray: Humanitarian access has been significantly constrained due to a lack of fuel.</p>
Access for Affected Population to Protection Services	Improved	Oromia
	Remained similar	Amhara
	Deteriorated	Benishangul, Tigray
Most Critical Barriers	Environmental and Logistical	<p>Amhara: In South Wollo Zone IDP sites, access to the displaced population continues to be particularly challenging, further hindering effective delivery of protection interventions and other critical assistance.</p> <p>Tigray: Lack of fuel and cash in affected populations movement and access to services.</p>
	Protection services unavailable / available but limited resources	<p>Benishangul: Due to significant funding constraints, delivery of most protection services limited, resulting in the withdrawal of several implementing partners from the operation.</p> <p>Oromia: In East Hararge Zone, access to services improved in Kersa, Deder, Gorogutu, Midaga, and Babile woredas. In contrast, access in Mekanisa, Chinaksen, Gola Oda, and Kumbi woredas remained limited due to high needs and insufficient resources.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Gender-Based Violence	
Major Updates, Gaps and Challenges	<p>2026 Performance: Reached 216K beneficiaries across 7 regions, with 70% of implementation led by international partners. Beneficiaries 173K through prevention, 13k through risk mitigation, and 25k through core services.</p> <p>GBVIMS+ Readness: The system deployment and configuration are officially finalized, and the system is ready for testing.</p> <p>Critical Gaps & Challenges: Severe fuel scarcity and cash shortages are severely restricting humanitarian operations and mobility across the regions.</p> <p>Economic Empowerment Gap: There is a limited number of partners implementing IGA to support the long-term economic recovery of survivors.</p> <p>Security and Access Constraints: Volatile security conditions in the Amhara & Tigray are creating persistent access constraints for GBV partners.</p>
Key Regional Highlights	<p>Tigray: 5,314 newly displaced persons (Northwest & Southern zones) 11,330 W&G reached via response services; 4,725 W&G received cash support; 3,362 dignity kits distributed Main gap: Cash liquidity crisis + fuel shortage + high demand for IGA</p> <p>Somali: Severe drought in Afder, Liban, Dawa 2 new OSCs operational (Filtu & Hargelle) 2,569 people reached with awareness Main concern: Informal traditional case resolution mechanisms increasing</p> <p>Amhara: 80,000+ new IDPs in Kobo area, Only 11/25 partners operational, 8 zones without safe houses Protection Cluster revitalization discussions ongoing</p>

<p>Recent Guidance, Assessments, AoB</p>	<p>Rapid Assessment – Kobo (Amhara): Identified urgent protection and GBV service gaps among newly displaced populations.</p> <p>Joint Displacement Assessment – Tigray (Feb 2026): Confirmed new displacement and priority humanitarian needs.</p> <p>GIZ Assessment – Somali: Study on religious leaders’ perspectives on FGM, validated with regional stakeholders to inform prevention strategies.</p> <p>Referral Pathway Updates: RPWs for Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Benishangul Gumuz and the Somali regions have been updated and disseminated to all partners.</p>
<p>Mine Action</p>	
<p>Major Updates, Gaps and Challenges</p>	<p>One EO-related accident reported in Tigray since January 2026.</p> <p>Multi-task teams continue operations across Afar and Tigray, conducting Explosive Ordnance (EO) assessments and Non-Technical Surveys (NTS).</p> <p>Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) delivered by NGOs in community centres, targeting returnees and IDPs in Contested Area 3, North-Western, and Central Tigray, reaching 1,315 beneficiaries.</p> <p>EO contamination continues to restrict humanitarian access, particularly in parts of Afar and Amhara.</p> <p>Newly accessible areas require urgent EORE follow-up, especially for children and IDPs.</p> <p>Victim Assistance (VA) coverage remains limited, while survivors require continued psychosocial support and mobility aids.</p> <p>Incident underreporting persists due to limited partner presence and coverage.</p>
<p>Key Regional Highlights</p>	<p>Due to the current security situation in Tigray, stockpiles located in police stations and other locations may remain abandoned and unsecured.</p> <p>Abandoned and unexploded ordnance continues to contaminate agricultural and pastoralist areas, restricting livestock movement and affecting food production.</p>
<p>Recent Guidance, Assessments, AoB</p>	<p>Recent Guidance</p> <p>Continued emphasis on integrating EHAT sessions into humanitarian partner training.</p> <p>IMSMA Core implementation by the EMAO is nearing finalization, with preparations for rollout underway.</p> <p>Information Management (IM) and Resource Mobilization (RM) training provided to EMAO personnel.</p>

	<p>Assessments</p> <p>Need for EO assessments in newly accessible woredas in Tigray, including areas where IDPs are settling.</p> <p>Any Other Business (AoB)</p> <p>UNMAS donated various equipment to EMAO, including office furniture, IT equipment, and mine action (MA) equipment.</p> <p>Mine Action Day is scheduled to be celebrated on April 2, 2026.</p>
<p>Child Protection</p>	
<p>Major Updates, Gaps and Challenges</p>	<p>Major Updates & Gaps</p> <p>Northern regions and Oromia: CP TWG are re-activating and working with BoWCSA offices, with leading roles in most regions</p> <p>Afar: New partnership agreements with national NGOs for implementation of activities in critical woredas</p> <p>Amhara: UNICEF prepared a Response plan to be presented at national level for Kobo (North Wollo) crisis (out of 101,000 people,46% being children) following multi sector joint assessment</p> <p>Tigray: CP TWG participation in the drafting of the Multi-scenario Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP)</p> <p>Oromia: Regional ICCG initiating drought preparedness and response plan with the engagement of all clusters including women and children affairs office as protection lead</p> <p>Presentation at the National CP TWG of the FTS (Funding Tracking System) by OCHA.</p> <p>Challenges</p> <p>Role/positioning of CP TWG in the Reset. To ensure with OCHA and NPC of each TWG mandate and importance of advocacy</p> <p>Important budget gap and lack of consideration for CP for CERF/EHF (inputs shared with support of NPC). Need to build up a CP updates from each region to showcase actual situation.</p> <p>Limited availability of partners delivering CP services (eg Afar).</p>
<p>Key Regional Highlights</p>	<p>Afar: following conflict end 2025 (Megale Woreda Zone 2), 18,000 displaced population is now concentrated in two collective centers Arori Elementary School in Tonsa Kebele and Elakalu Elementary School in Adu Kebele. Response Plan under development under BoWSA’s leadership</p> <p>Amhara: continuous risks for children in the region, Kobo (North Wollo) crisis (out of 101,000 people,46% being children)</p>

	<p>Oromia: In western Oromia the region is facing protracted Crisis and Service Collapse marked by conflict, displacement, leaving <u>116,151 children</u> without basic social services; There is anticipation of drought in eastern and south-eastern part of Oromia</p> <p>Tigray: 2,151 children (940 girls) reached across Tigray, through CP/GBV and EORE activities</p>
<p>Recent Guidance, Assessments, AoB</p>	<p>Afar: Recent MIRA assessment for Megale Woreda (Zone 2), published in Feb 2026</p> <p>Amhara: Multi agency Rapid Needs assessment made in Kobo Town for current IDP (Feb 2026)</p> <p>Tigray: Regional DRMC conducted an assessment (Feb 2026) on new IDP arrivals from Tselemti (5,340 IDPs from 3 woredas, 42% children, with 663 highly vulnerable children) to identify emerging humanitarian and protection needs.</p> <p>With a multi-scenario Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) developed and shared with OCHA to support coordinated inter-agency readiness.</p> <p>The Child Protection sector has actively contributing scenario-based risk analysis, response capacity mapping, and priority preparedness actions to the UNICEF EPP process.</p> <p>Preliminary findings indicate increased vulnerabilities among children and newly displaced children, requiring strengthened child protection monitoring and response.</p>

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