

Monthly Protection Overview – February 2023

Part 1

Context update:

Attacks on civilians <i>(including humanitarian workers and civilian infrastructures/facilities)</i>	Oromia	The security situation in East Wollega, Kellem Wollega, and Horo Gudru Wollega remains volatile the ongoing hostilities between Government forces and UAGs. On February 02, 2023, there were simultaneous UAG attacks in the Wollegas. UAGs temporarily took control of the In Ano town (East Wollega), and operated a jailbreak of several prisoners in Dambi Dollo (Kellem Wollega). Several other security incidents were reported in Bako (West Shewa), Sibu Sire, and Diga town (East Wollega), resulting in temporary traffic and supply restrictions on the axis: Nekemte-Gimbi, Nekemte-Bako, and Nekemte-Ambo-Addis Ababa. Government security forces are active to search for illegal weapons and UAG infiltrators.
	Gambella	On 08 February 2023, an unknown armed element, suspected Murle from South Sudan, attacked a farm in Gog woreda and killed two people. The ongoing fighting between government security forces and OLA in neighbouring Kellem Wollega, Oromia remains a security threat to Gambella region.
	Somali	– On Feb 22, 2023, heavy fighting was reported in Siti zone, causing several casualties.
New displacements <i>(specify the reason for displacement)</i>	Amhara	– North Shewa: DRMO in Debre Behan reported 303.110 new conflict affected IDPs – Oromo special zone: local authorities reported 164.269 new displaced in Kemisse due to armed clashes and violence in the area.
	Benishangul Gumuz	According to RDRMC, estimated 5000 individuals who fled to Sudan during the conflict in Tongo, Mao Komo woreda, returned to Assosa. This number, however, needs to be validated by RDRMC and RRS.
	Oromia	– Western Oromia: According to government sources, as of 31 January 2023 of IDPs has reached 157,204 HHs (859,910 individuals), which includes over 20,000 IDPs hosted in Nekemte town. Conflict is the main trigger of displacement – East Hararghe: According to local DRMO 1,257 HHs (5,542 individuals) were displaced as a result of ethnic violence in Chinkasen.
	Somali	– Unknown numbers of IDPs in Aydid town, Duniyar district, Siti zone, are in secondary displacement because of the ongoing hostilities in the zone. – The recurrent inter-communal conflict between Hawiya and Issa tribes continues to seriously affect relocated IDPs and other vulnerable groups in Miesso woreda.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As a result of the Gari-Jarso communities fight, and around 20 IDP families are reported displaced from Masle Kebele to Tuliguled town. – 1,109 newly drought-induced displaced households were reported in Siti and Fafan zone (across 7 sites).
Returns, relocations and durable solutions	Amhara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Authorities in Waghimra are encouraging IDPs to return and humanitarian organizations to support the returns. Many IDPs are worried to return, because of the security situation, transportation conditions, inadequate or lack of food, livelihood, and basic services at destination. This is particularly relevant in the Kebeles where government services and security personnel are not yet deployed. – In February, 1900 IDPs returned to Abergele and Sagbejjii Woredas from Sekota sites – 5000 IDPs returning from North Wollo IDP sites, are currently in Alamata town, unable to reach their (kebele of origin).

Access to fundamental rights and basic services

Item	Please use the drop-down menu)	Please briefly explain
Did the access situation by protection actors to affected population improved, remained similar or deteriorated? (compared with the last reporting period)	Access situation remained similar	Country wide the access situation differs from regions, zones and woredas. While an overall improvement in access has been seen in Northern Ethiopia in the last few months, some woredas remain hard to reach, especially in Tigray (road condition, presence of armed elements, banking services and availability of cash not fully restored in all locations). Access in Oromia remain limited and/or difficult, with transportation of goods on the main access affected during this reporting period.
Most critical barriers for protection actors to access to affected population	On-going insecurity or hostilities affecting humanitarian assistance (incl. presence of ERWs)	
	Environmental and logistical constraints	
Did the access situation for affected populations to protection services improved, remained similar, or deteriorated? (compared with the last reporting period)	Access situation remained similar	
Most critical barriers for affected populations to access protection services:	Ongoing insecurity or hostilities	While the situation differs, the hostilities in Western Oromia are posing a threat for the civilian population, many are limiting their movement for fear of their safety.

	Environmental and logistical constraints	In Drought affected areas (e.g. in After Zone, Somali Region) the limited presence of partners and limited availability of services, coupled with the mobility of the IDPs in search of better livelihood opportunity is reducing access to life saving services, including protection services, for IDPs and non-displaced population
	Unavailability of protection services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited presence of protection actors (across the country, with differences per Zones/woredas) • Limited and/or damaged protection services infrastructure (across the country) • Difficulties to scale up the response both in Northern Ethiopia and Drought affected areas. • Protection services affected by hostilities in Western Oromia
With whom has the Protection Cluster/AoR consistently engaged on access for protection (during this reporting period)?	Coordination forum (e.g. Access WG, CM Coord, other)	At National Level the Protection cluster has regularly engaged with the Access WG.
	National or local authorities	At Sub-national level the Cluster Coordinators are in constant contact and dialogue with regional and zonal authorities.

Service/need	Region/woreda(s)	Protection impact of lack of service
Food and nutrition	Somali	In Afder zone, access to food and livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of people were disrupted during extensive fighting between the Al-Shabaab and government security forces.
	Oromia	Due to insufficient access to food, some female-headed HHs and children resort to negative coping mechanisms like begging.
Child protection services	Somali	Low humanitarian response and lack of protection partners in Afder (Elkari, Godgod, Barey), Erer, Nogob, Doolo, and Korahey leave a huge gap in response, especially on GBV and child protection issues.
GBV core services	Somali	Low humanitarian response and lack of protection partners in Afder (Elkari, Godgod, Barey), Erer, Nogob, Doolo, and Korahey leave a huge gap in response, especially on GBV and child protection issues. Referral pathways are needed.
Education	Oromia	18 schools in Chinaksen woreda closed due to the conflict. Other 6 schools are fully damaged and 5 schools are partially damaged because of the conflict. 2,838 students were affected by the school damage and closure. In West Hararghe, 1 school is closed due to the shortage of water in the area. The students and the teachers were assigned to the other schools. Since the beginning of the year, 17,456

		children dropped out of school in West Hararghe, while in the same zone 55 schools are at risk of closure due to the drought.
Shelter/NFI	Somali	In Siti zone, living conditions of IDPs in camps keep deteriorating. Communities' priority needs include shelter.
WASH	Oromia	Severe shortage of water and food in drought-affected areas increases social tension in West Guji.
	Somali	In Siti zone, women, girls, and boys reported difficulties faced during water collection over long distances as the water yields are diminishing

Part 2

GBV

Main Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one-stop center (OSC) coordination working group has been established with representation from 3 government ministries, one UN agency, three INGOs, and the GBV AoR. The working group will work on identifying the best way of dealing with challenges facing OSCs including coordination of support from humanitarian actors. • GBV AoR, CP AoR, UNFPA, and UNICEF held a meeting on 6th February with the Oromia Bureau of Women & Children Affairs in their offices. The purpose of the meeting was to deliberate on how to strengthen the coordination of GBV and CP response in the region. A meeting for Oromia partners to revitalize the coordination has been scheduled on Wednesday 22nd February in Adama. • Oromia - Despite the GBV cases, rape, and sexual assault among IDP women and girls in Wollega zones – hindered access to services, non-disclosure for fear of retaliation, and social stigma if identified as rape survivors.
Additional information	The GBV AoR is in the process of developing the GBV SOPs for GBV Interventions in humanitarian settings. The process will be led by MoWSA and is supported by UNFPA. A consultant is already on board to facilitate the process.

Child Protection

Main Achievements	The Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) working group in Tigray carried an exercise to better understand the profile of the documented UASC caseload. The exercise suggested that only 70% of the cases are expected to have their caregivers staying in Tigray. While 100 cases have their caregivers outside Tigray-mainly in Amhara, 350 children have their caregivers outside of Ethiopia mainly in Sudan and South Sudan. Cases were referred to ICRC and UNHCR to support with the family tracing outside if Ethiopia, while the cases of UASC with caregivers inside Ethiopia are referred to the partners presents in the relevant regions.
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Housing Land and Property

Main Achievements	5406 individuals (2440F and 2966M) were reached with the following services: access to alternative dispute resolution, individual counseling, HLP information, and technical assistance, by Wollega University and NRC.
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Part 3

Coordination mechanisms and outcomes for the reporting period

Cluster/AoR presence/functioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The protection cluster with the CP, GBV, MA AoRs and HLP WG, are among the first group of clusters engaged in using Activity Info as a new reporting platform. The Cluster and AoRs will organize a training for the members on its use during the months of March. The Strategic Advisory Group of the NPC, supported by some advocacy specialists from NPC members, have started working on a Stakeholders mapping exercise. More partners as well as the sub-national protection Clusters will be involved in the following phases of the exercise, which aim at structuring better the advocacy capacities and activities of the cluster. The Protection Cluster, under the initiative of the Northern Ethiopia Sub-National level, has organized a webinar on Access Negotiation for protection actors working in Tigray, Amhara, Afar and Oromia. The Webinar has been delivered by the Center of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN). 	
Protection monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR has released The Protection Monitoring and Solutions (PMS)-Report #1 about Tigray Region. Regular Protection monitoring Activities carried in Somali region revealed that, due to the extensive fighting between the Al-Shabaab and government security forces in Afder zone, parts of Liban, Siti, and Fafan bordering areas, there have been casualties and disruption in humanitarian services. Community checkpoints, and limited freedom of movement were among the concerns identified during regular protection monitoring. 	
Working Groups, Task Forces, collaborations	Protection Assessment and Monitoring Working Group (PAM WG)	<p>The PAM WG is currently finalizing the Information Sharing protocol for the WG and a capacity building plan concerning assessment and protection monitoring. Both documents will be shared with the Protection Cluster members once finalized.</p> <p>Moreover, the PAMWG will conduct the first joint protection analysis of 2023 by the end of March.</p> <p>All Protection cluster members who conducted assessment and protection monitoring activities are invited to share the relevant reports with the cluster (NPC email ethadpcc@unhcr.org)</p>
	Disability WG (Northern Ethiopia)	<p>The northern Ethiopia Sub-national cluster coordination team has been working with the GPC on the elaboration of tools for barrier assessment faced by persons with disabilities. The tool will be piloted in Northern Ethiopia and presented to the NPC during a following monthly meeting</p>
