



Protection Monitoring Report

IDPS IN WEST GUJI ZONE - ETHIOPIA

APRIL 2019

Overview

This report covers the month of April 2019 and outlines key protection issues and challenges faced by the displaced population as well as sector gaps that were either addressed or referred to relevant agencies/clusters for which a response is in progress. During the reporting period, joint protection monitoring was conducted in four woredas in West Guji¹ involving 24 kebeles and 11 collective sites.

Protection monitoring is a key humanitarian intervention. It involves collecting, verifying and analysing information in order to identify violations of rights, protection threats and risks encountered by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees for the purpose of advocacy as well as informing and facilitating effective response by humanitarian actors. Data was gathered using the following methods: key informant interviews (KII), focus group discussions (FDGs) and observation. When persons with specific needs are identified, the protection monitors provide referrals to appropriate services.

At the end of April 2019, the Government announced a return plan for West Guji and Gedeo. Kercha woreda was the first woreda chosen in West Guji zone; the woreda with the largest numbers of persons who had been displaced. Regional and zonal authorities in West Guji zone and Gedeo zones held meetings to discuss the return of 526,000² IDPs living in both zones within 14 days starting on 24 April 2019. The Orthodox Easter holidays delayed the return plan, but protection monitors immediately started to observe the return situation by visiting areas of return and IDP sites, to monitor the process of return. The monitoring of this return plan will be reflected in the May report.

Access

On 08 April 2019, during the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) meeting, West Guji zonal authorities gave a security briefing restricting humanitarian activities in some kebeles in three woredas of West Guji zone: Ela Farda, Galesa Burka, Galesa Negeso, Soke and Melka Soda in Kercha woreda; Kilenso Mokenisa and Kilenso Rasa in Bule Hora woreda; Shamole Shida, Shamole Oda, Bore, Kersa and Eregmsa kebeles in Gelana woreda. By the end of April, only three of the kebeles (Ela Farda, Galesa Burka, Galesa Soke) were still reporting security concerns that restricted access.

¹ Kercha, Gelena, Hambela Wamena and Bule Hora

² The figure was provided by Gedeo zonal officials and has been contested by West Guji officials.

Key Findings

1. Population Movement

Situation of Return

- Spontaneous returns have been observed in Kercha and Hambella Wamena woredas. The reasons IDPs are returning is due to the lack of humanitarian assistance in their areas of displacement and the improvement of the security situation in their kebeles of origin. In April, on average, five households a week were returning to their kebeles of origin in Kercha woreda
- On 11 April, during the joint protection monitoring mission in Birbissa Kajorwa, one key informant confirmed the presence of 1501 Gedeo households (HH) and 433 Guji returnee HH dispersed in various kebeles in the woreda. However, in-depth protection monitoring missions are planned in May to verify these figures.
- In Hebo Molicha kebele, nine households returned. According to Hebo Molicha kebele officials, the main reasons for the low number of households returning are for personal reasons and not a security concern. The authorities believe that the distribution of more humanitarian assistance in other places is a pull-factor IDPs. Consequently, the security officials of the kebele suggested dismantling all collective sites and delivering humanitarian assistance at a kebele and host community level to push IDPs to return to their place of origin.
- An official from Kercha woreda who was present during the monitoring in Banko Guduba kebele revealed that the woreda administration has started discussions with host communities and kebele officials to facilitate the safe and durable return of Gedeo IDPs. The next part of the plan was to discuss with and encourage Gedeo IDPs to return by reassuring them about their safety. Religious and traditional elders also took part in these grassroots level discussions.
- On the 23 April 2019, SNNPR and Oromia Regional Governments authorities initiated a meeting in Kercha. A delegation of 150 Gedeo IDP representatives coming from Gedeb were part of this meeting which was to discuss the return plan in ten kebeles in Kercha namely: Kercha 01, Kercha 02, Gurachu Jaldu, Gurachu Jalda Megala, Gurachu Jalda Badiya, Bilida Kojowa Megala, Bilida Kojowa Badiya, Bilida Saba, Bilida Saree Sabaa, Egu Abayi and Kercha Inshe.
- The assigning of local militias and lack of any reported security incidents was considered as proof by government officials of good security in some kebeles; a sentiment which was not shared by IDPs/returnees.

Safety and Security

- There is growing tension and a sense of distrust expressed between Guji and Gedeos, and fear of reprisal and attack is preventing IDPs from returning to their habitual residence.
- Guji IDPs living in Banko Baya kebele, which shares a border with Gedeo zone, reported their displacement following the intimidation and hate speech directed at them by the Gedeos. Kebele officials at Banko Guduba also reported the same treatment against Guji IDPs in their place of origin calling them 'Bolodu' which means 'dirty or smelly' in Gedeffa. The kebele has assigned one official to

conduct a dialogue between the two ethnic groups in an attempt to defuse the situation and build peace.

- Gedeo returnees in Goro Bedessa kebele reported that gunfire is common at night although things are calm during the day. The cause of the gunfire is unknown, but it does instil fear and discourage IDPs from returning.
- Adult female adult FGD participants in Seke Bokossa kebele reported being threatened by Gedeos living in the border kebeles whenever they return to their homes. They also reported the Gedeos living along the border are committing cattle raiding.
- IDPs currently displaced in Toma Mate and Hera Lipitu in Bule Hora woreda reported attacks and throwing of stones while those from Hera Kuto claimed of being fired at when they returned to their places of origin in Gedeb woreda, discouraging them to return and settle down on their land. IDPs in Suke Chiga reported being assaulted by Gedeos when they try to visit their kebele of origin. Gedeo IDPs living in Banko Baya kebele reported that every time they try to visit their land and farm, they have been attacked and their farm products are looted. In Sakicha kebele, Bule Hora woreda, focus group discussion participants reported an IDP who attempted to go to his place of origin in Gelcha kebele was reportedly shot, physically assaulted and arrested by a militia.
- On the 15 April 2019, in Tore town kebele in Gelana woreda, clashes between unidentified armed groups and Ethiopian security forces were reported. The group burned one government car and some documents from the police station. This restricted humanitarian access for days. Once the restriction lifted, the joint protection monitoring team carried out a mission in the woreda. No new displacement and protection incident were reported due to this security incident.
- On the 24 April 2019, in Soke kebele, Kercha woreda, clashes were reported between unidentified armed groups and Ethiopian Defence Forces (EDF). No casualties were reported, and no new displacements reportedly occurred due to this incident.

2. Protection and Human Rights Concerns

Capacity Development

- Three members of the joint protection monitoring team took part in the Protection Information Management (PIM) training in Addis Ababa. Afterwards, the staff organised a training session for the rest of the team in Bule Hora based on the knowledge and skills they had learned.
- The joint protection monitoring team and UNHCR are planning a capacity building exercise that will target woreda and kebele officials (DRRMO, WOWCYA, kebele managers) and humanitarian partners. This training will cover the topics on Prevention Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), child protection, human rights and housing, land, property (HLP).

Child Protection

- Children continue to suffer from various protection concerns and lack of basic services such as education and poor shelter conditions. The number of unaccompanied and separated children as well as lack of services for children with specific needs remain the most alarming concerns.

- In Kercha, the number of separated children is reported to be increasing and the majority are reported to be working as daily labourers, they are fetching water from long distances, collecting coffee beans during harvest and transporting materials using hand pushed carts.
- Similarly, in Bilida Bukisa kebele for example, the children are mostly under 15 years old working to support their families; two child-headed households were observed in Bilida Bukisa described to be facing various risks and challenges of survival.
- In Hambela woreda, there are 101 separated children (48 in Sike Bokossa kebele, 16 including 08 with physical disabilities in Bule Hambela kebele, seven in Tirtiraa kebele and 30 in Dimtu 01 kebele), they are living with their relatives, but they are confronted with challenges such as food shortages.
- In Gelana, 150 unaccompanied minors were reported to be in Addado kebele, and 60 of them are assisted by the host community. In Chekata kebele, 10-15 separated children are living together in congested shelters exposing them to various health and protection risks. Apparently in Gelana, due to limited capacity of WOWCYA there are no mechanisms in place to address the needs of the children.

Harmful practices, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

- In Gelana woreda, most victims and survivors of SGBV cases are not coming forward to report their cases to the police. Whenever they report their case to the police they are asked to resolve their case by alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. This has been confirmed through official records in the kebele. Such handling of SGBV cases is a very dangerous precedent and it discourages victims from coming forward.
- In Addado kebele, 15 child marriages were reported with an average age of 14 years. Kebele officials reported that there are 170 widows and divorced women at-risk.
- A Gedeo IDP in Kercha revealed two SGBV cases that took place during the conflict. Similarly, two cases of rape that occurred during recent displacement was reported in Mate Tome kebele and the team has referred these cases to WOWCYA and UNFPA SGBV staff.
- In a kebele in Bule Hora woreda, it was disclosed that six women were reportedly raped by a group of men when they were coming back from the market. Follow-up is required to verify the incident.

Persons with Specific Needs

- In Gerba 01 kebele, Bule Hora woreda and Kercha 01 kebele, Kercha woreda, young girls are reportedly engaging in transactional/survival sex. In response, the Protection cluster requested UNFPA to follow-up on the cases.
- It was widely reported that lactating and pregnant women lack special attention. For instance, in Bule Hambela kebele there are 82 women identified as at risk who are lactating, pregnant, older persons, female headed households and persons with disabilities, who are all without specialized assistance.
- Pregnant and lactating women in Bada Qawa are also facing challenges because they have to travel a long distance to fetch water. There are several single mothers in Suke Chiga who are not receiving any special assistance. Similarly, lactating and pregnant women in Kercha Inshe and Dimtu 01 kebele have reported not getting enough support nor special attention.

- Family separation has been reported. There are many Gedeo women in Sekoricha kebele of Birbirsa Kajowa woreda residing without their husbands and some without their children as their Gedeo husbands and children stayed behind in their place of displacement out of fear of intimidation and targeting by Gujis in the host community.

Housing, Land and Property

- Gedeo IDPs widely reported losses of property including houses, household items and coffee trees in four woredas³. Damage and Loss Assessments (DaLA) have been conducted in some kebeles, but shelter reconstruction based on the outcomes of the assessments, has not yet started. A total of 870 houses of Gedeo IDPs were fully destroyed in Addado kebele and 126 houses were destroyed in Banko Guduba. In Seke Bokossa, 488 houses with iron sheet roofs, 721 houses made of straw and mud, 48 livestock and 18 hectares of various plants including coffee, false banana, eucalyptus tree have been destroyed. The destruction in Seke Bokossa also included two schools (one from grade 1-6 and another from grade 1-8), one health post, and seventeen homes that belong to teachers built by the community.
- In Gerba 01 kebele, Guji IDPs have stated that they are renting houses belonging to Gedeo IDPs and at the end of the month owners come and collect the rent. Nevertheless, the Guji IDPs are running out of financial resources to pay the rent and are being forced to leave the houses.
- A Guji woman in Hebo Molicha kebele reported being kicked off her land and out of her house in Gedeb by the family of her Gedeo husband following his death. She added she was told that as a Guji she does not deserve the land, house and property from her Gedeo husband.
- Guji IDPs in Bule Hambela kebele reported that their houses in Gedeo zone are currently occupied by Gedeos whereas houses that belong to Gedeos in the kebele are still intact and unoccupied.
- Gedeo returnees who try to reconstruct their houses in Chelbesa kebele have reported being told to stop by unidentified men. Those who defy the instructions and start the reconstruction have been subject to theft and destruction of property during the night.
- All houses belonging to Gedeo returnees are completely destroyed in Dango and Bilida Bukisa kebeles while 223 houses were discovered destroyed in Chekata kebele. Proper DaLA has not been conducted in Dango, Bilida Bukisa kebeles. In Tirtiraa Damo kebele 125 houses, cattle and crops were destroyed during the conflict. In Birbirsa Kajowa DaLA discovered 180 houses made of iron sheets and 69 houses made of thatched cottage were destroyed. Owners of these houses have tried to repair their houses using plastic sheets and false banana leaves, but they were again destroyed in December 2018. Most of these returnees are currently living in rented houses and not in their own homes.
- Kebele officials of Dimtu 01 kebele reported that none of the houses that belong to Gedeos have been destroyed in the kebele. This account has yet to be confirmed by Gedeo returnees who were not accessible at the time. On the other hand, despite kebele officials of Tirtiraa kebele claiming all houses that belong to Gedeos are intact and accessible to owners, Gedeo returnees divulged that eight houses were fully destroyed and few more were partially destroyed while household items inside

³ Kercha, Gelena, Hambela Wamena and Bule Hora

were all looted. Meanwhile some Guji IDPs reported that farms that belong to Gedeos have been sold to them.

- Officials of the West Guji Zonal Land Administration Bureau explained they have started to conduct land measurements using a Global Position System (GPS) in Bule Hora woreda because their office burned down during the conflict and all the land related documentation has been destroyed. Once the exercise is complete in Bule Hora, the Bureau plans to continue the same land measurement exercise, in other woredas.
- IDPs currently displaced to Toma Mate and Hera Kuto reported being attacked when they went back to visit their places of origin. IDPs in Hera Lipitu are buying land from the host community to permanently settle in the kebele. Up to 52 individuals (2 Gujis and 50 Gedeos) were reportedly prosecuted and sentenced by courts for destruction of property in Kercha woreda. The Land Administration Bureau of Kercha woreda explained the office holding the documents of land title deeds was burned down during the conflict. This is making it difficult to know which plot of land belongs to whom. The Bureau started conducting a damage and loss assessments.
- In Kercha Inshe and Kercha 01 kebeles, many houses were reported to be secondarily occupied. The kebele managers during the conflict, installed Guji IDPs in houses left by Gedeos. Due to the return of these IDPs, the kebele managers are currently undertaking the eviction of the Guji IDPs, expecting them to return to their places of origin.
- In Shamole kebele, Gelana woreda, women have difficulties accessing their farms. They are threatened by the Duriye.
- In Kercha woreda, it was reported that the host community members are demanding compensation for guarding the homes of IDPs to prevent their destruction. These IDPs cannot return home because they cannot afford to pay what the host community is demanding.
- In Sike Bokessa kebele, in Hambella Wamena woreda, both Gedeo and Guji returnees are accessing their land without any impediment. Some of them have lost their documents proving their land possession right. The kebele has applied to the DRMO for replacement documents to be issued.

3. Humanitarian Assistance

Food

- Lack of food distribution is reported in various kebeles. For instance, in Hebo Molicha, Banko Guduba, Goro Badessa and Banko Baya kebeles, food has not been distributed for more than six months according to Gedeo FGD participants. Hence food remains their number one priority. Despite the willingness of the host community to support IDPs, the lack of capacity of the host community and the passing of coffee harvesting season, community-level support is not available and IDPs are facing various challenges to meet their basic needs. Additionally, food quota deductions are reported in some kebeles. For instance, the 3kgs of maize, 1 litre of oil and 3kgs lentils, commonly distributed per person is reported to be inadequate for families.

- The last time food distribution occurred in Chekata and Bilida Bukisa kebele was in February 2019, in Dimtu 01 kebele back in January 2019 and in Kerch Inshe kebele December 2018. Similarly, returnees and IDPs in Birbirsra Kajowa reported there is a food distribution gap for the past three months. Woreda authorities have mentioned the lack of warehouse space as one reason for the delay.
- In Chari Saphalis both kebele officials and IDPs/returnees have confirmed missing out on food distributions due to woreda officials ignoring the beneficiary list prepared by the kebele administrators. Despite being on the beneficiary list, returnees are not receiving food.
- In Oda Muda kebele there is an extreme food shortage since last distribution of food in September 2018. The gravity of the problem has forced lactating mothers to stop breast feeding. This issue was referred to the Food Cluster.
- The monitoring team has observed that IDPs from Sakicha kebele have to travel for one hour to get food, which is very challenging for women, persons with disabilities and older persons.
- While in Chorso Golja, the interval between the last two food distributions span from June 2018 to April 2019 and the IDPs there have no idea why and how that happened. One thing they know for sure is they are all registered but for more than ten months they have not received food distributions.
- In Sike Bokessa, spontaneous returnees have not received food distribution since they returned to the kebele in January. Before then however, they used to receive food at in the neighbouring kebele, Chorso Golja.

Access to Health Services

- The mobile health centres at various kebeles are not fully equipped nor fully functional to provide health services for IDPs and returnees. They cannot address serious and emergency health problems and hence people go to nearby towns which may be upwards of 12 km away. With the ban on motor bikes and difficult terrain, IDPs need to walk long distances. The most common health cases affecting IDP and returnee community includes diarrhoea, eye infection/trachoma, cold/flu and scabies.
- Adult female Gedeo IDPs in Gadu Jabasire kebele reported harassment by health extension workers when they try to obtain health services which is discouraging them from visiting the health centre. There is one health post managed by extension workers who lack technical support to respond in an appropriate manner to serious health concerns in the community. No mobile medical support is provided for IDPs particularly for lactating and pregnant women. Thus, women are delivering at their homes due to lack of finances and lack of an ambulance service in times of emergency.
- Distance is impeding women in Chari Gololcha, Chari Saphalis, Hera lipitu, Hera Kuto and Toma Mate kebeles from accessing health services. The health centres are located 10-20km away at Gerba town and with limited transportation access. Moreover, due to the lack of ambulance services, pregnant women are having complications during delivery at home. One woman reportedly died during childbirth in Chari Saphalis kebele.
- The health post in Seke Bokossa kebele was burned down during the conflict. Hence, the residents of the kebele are obliged to go to Chorso Golja kebele to seek medical treatment which takes three hours by foot. They also pay up to 300 ETB to receive medical treatment.

- In Bule Hambela kebele the health post is not functional. It has neither staff nor medicine. The community therefore goes to Dimtu and Golja kebele health centres (3.5 hour walk) to access health services.
- There is no functional health centre in Hera Lipitu. IDPs and returnees walk 16km to Gerba 01 town health centre, in which they are requested to pay on average 80 ETB to benefit health services.

Nutrition

- FGD participants mentioned children, women and persons with specific needs (PSN) are exposed to malnutrition in many kebeles. Malnutrition, trachoma and diarrhoea is common in children in Gadu Jabasire and Kilinso Mokonisa kebeles. A total of 35 cases of severe malnutrition are being treated by a local health organization in Goro Badessa kebele. In Seke Bokossa kebele following the destruction of the health post, malnutrition cases have not been addressed properly or on time.
- In Sike Bokessa, Hambella Wamena woreda, before the conflict children affected by malnutrition used to be addressed. However, after the conflict, because the health posts were destroyed such services have been disrupted. It is therefore difficult to track cases of children receiving support for malnutrition.

Accessibility of Education

- In Hambela Wamena woreda the tension between the two ethnic groups is discouraging parents from sending their kids to school. Gedeo returnees added that their children are subject to bullying by Guji students and hence have decided not to send their children to school.
- Children from grade 1-8 are all going to school in Bule Hambela kebele, while only those who can afford it, are sending their children to Dimtu high school found in a neighbouring kebele. To reach to Dimtu high school it takes up to three hours to reach by foot. The high school, unlike the elementary school, is in a kebele that requires mandatory uniforms which IDPs and returnees cannot afford.
- According to FGD respondents at Gerba 01 kebele, their children have been dismissed from St. Mary Catholic School as they are not able to pay the annual school fees or afford uniforms.
- In Bilida Bukisa Gedeo, returnees' children are not going to school and that was confirmed by the elementary school director who reported a decline of school enrolment in the 2018/19 academic year, from 1344 in the previous year to 544 in the current school year. He mentioned the conflict and its impact as a major reason of school drop-outs. He added, the Gedeos have asked to learn in their own language which also sparks the ethnic conflict and in the aftermath of the conflict they became hesitant to enrol their children again. Additionally, Gedeo IDPs in these kebeles have divulged that their children are not going to school due to bullying and discrimination they suffer by Guji children a felling also shared by school director.
- In Seke Bokossa kebele, Hambella Wemena woreda, the children have continued their education in tents built by one humanitarian agency whose name they do not remember. The tent now is falling apart, which is to some degree impeding the education delivery. One NGO has also distributed school materials for all students in the kebele.

- In Mate Toma kebele, the children of Gedeo returnees have dropped out of school because their families cannot afford food and school materials. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) participants added that humanitarian support for them was rejected by kebele authorities and host community who gave priority to poor host community members.
- The children at Hera Lipitu Kebele of Jajaba Buyo collective site are not going to school because the schools in the area are not operational.

NFI and Shelter

- Most Guji IDPs currently living in Hebo Molicha kebele used to be in Banko Buna Gebeya site, Banko Michicha kebele until they were told to leave by the land owner as he needed the site for a coffee market. Gedeo IDP returnees feel that the government is pushing them out of the collective sites to return to their houses. However, they cannot return home as most of their houses were destroyed.
- IDPs and returnees in Seke Bokossa kebele need plastic sheets to cope with the rain.
- Returnees in Muri Turkuma kebele are suffering from various shelter related challenges because their houses of the IDPs are destroyed. UNHCR's shelter partners are engaged in shelter reconstruction, water point and latrine construction in Chorso Golja kebele. However, as the collective site is on private land, UNHCR's partner is facing challenges in obtaining permission to conduct construction of latrines.
- In Dango kebele even though returnees are living on their own land, in their houses and their household materials are destroyed. Furthermore, the recent weather conditions (rain and cold temperatures) are destroying their plastic shades and putting IDPs at greater risk in most kebeles monitored. For instance, only two households have so far reconstructed their houses while other returnees are living in their farm in temporary shelters in Dango kebele. Most returnees are also asking for farming tools to start farming at the right time and be self-reliant in terms of food security for the next year.
- In Tirtiraa Damo kebele, only 15 NFI items were distributed to people prioritized with special needs, the elderly and persons with disability. Returnees in Birbirsa Kajowa woreda have expressed challenges in affording the rented houses they live in. Their own houses were destroyed. In Oda Muda kebele only eight houses are reconstructed by the kebele for Gedeo returnees while most IDPs are still living in flimsy sheds exposed to various health and safety risks.
- There are shelter gaps for returnees in Toma Mate. IDPs living in collective sites at Hera Kuto on a land belonging to a private person were told to leave, with no direction as to where they should relocate.
- A shelter partner has distributed partial shelter kit in Hera Lipitu for 250 households in Bonsho collective site and is conducting verification of 135 households to build their houses which totally burned down during the conflict.

Livelihoods

- The returnees are trying to plough their land to grow maize but the lack of rain has prevented the crops from growing. With the responsibility to support their families and natural need to sustain their life, some returnees are engaging in labour works for the host community mostly for free in return for free housing.
- IDPs and returnees are engaged in daily labour in coffee farms where they earned between 10 and 250 ETB per day.
- Farming tools remains the top priority mentioned by the spontaneous returnees in the four woredas.

WASH

- A lack of water and toilets are two of the major issues facing IDPs and returnees living in the four woredas⁴. Streams are serving as the only sources of water. Even to access to those streams requires IDPs and returnees to walk up to 30 minutes. Stomach aches and diarrhoea are common complaints. For example, in Kale Hiwot collective site 1 and 2 Hebo Molicha, Kercha woreda, the lack of water and poor sanitation facilities are major issues faced by IDPs and returnees living in the kebele. There is no water point/borehole for both IDPs and host communities. As a result, a river is serving as a source of water, which is a 30-minute walk away.
- In Melka Gerbi, Kercha woreda, the IDPs are fetching water by walking for one hour. UNICEF has brought a water container for the IDPs but has never been filled with water. The IDPs were using stream water at nearby, but it is not enough for the kebele. They indicated that they don't have latrines to use in the collective site.
- IDPs have also mentioned an absence of latrines in Hebo Molicha and Seke Bokossa kebeles. The IDPs are using bushes as toilets. The IDPs are afraid for the health of their children as they are becoming vulnerable to communicable diseases. Female IDPs are also scared for their safety. Similarly, there is only one latrine built by MCMDO and it has no separation for women and men in Chelbesa kebele.
- At Gadu Jabasire kebele IDPs are sharing the only available water source, a spring, with the host community which is not enough for all IDPs. At Gerba 01 kebele, a WASH partner built water points and latrines although they are not yet operational.
- In Kilenso Mokonisa kebele, for instance, IDPs are forced to buy one pail of water for 1 ETB. Despite the presence of showers and latrines in some kebeles, they are not operational due to the lack of water.

Recommendations

Humanitarian Actors

- Continued follow-up with the Food Cluster on prioritization of persons with specific needs, individual cases of exclusion and request that food distributions are held in places that are accessible place for all beneficiaries.

⁴ Kercha, Gelena, Hambela Wamena and Bule Hora

- Advocating for immediate shelter response before the upcoming rainy season.
- Shelter/NFI cluster and local authorities need to enhance efforts in responding timely and adequately for shelter related gaps before the upcoming rainy season.

Lack of Documentation & Housing, Land, Property (HLP) issues

- Follow-up with local authorities on response to HLP issues in Kercha woreda during the return process. All documentation regarding land title deeds kept in the land administration bureau were completely destroyed during the conflict and therefore concerns remain that land could be redistributed unlawfully and denied to persons without documentation.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

- Provide trainings on the Prevention Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) to government officials and members of the Protection Cluster.

Child Protection/GBV Sub-Cluster

- More capacity building activities is required for WoWCYA of Kercha and Hambela Wamena woredas to address child protection and SGBV issues.
- Advocacy towards Kercha and Hambela Wamena administrations to ensure the presence of WoWCYA in all kebeles in their respective woredas is crucial.

Human Rights Violations, including SGBV

- While it may have been difficult to investigate and prosecute all the crimes committed during the ethnic conflict, due to the capacity of the Hambella Prosecution Office (only four prosecutors), at least, serious offences like homicide, commission of grave bodily injury and arson of property should have been separately dealt with under the criminal justice system. Lack of justice could embolden some perpetrators to commit more crimes in the future, while it is also discouraging returns of those who were displaced due to fear and lack of trust in the formal justice system. A shift in government policy regarding accountability is therefore one main issue that should be advocated for by OHCHR, emphasising its potential contribution towards bringing peace and stability in the affected area.
- One of the challenges reported by GBV survivors preventing them to bring their case to the police is lack of money for witness accommodation. For these women to seek justice, the government with support of the GBV Sub-Cluster, should prioritize funding to cover costs related to legal aid services. Based on the information received by the protection monitors thus far, only Hambella woreda allocated a lawyer to WoWCYA, for the provision of free legal service to SGBV survivors.

Persons with Specific Needs

- Subsidized health care for all IDPs and returnees, particularly for persons with specific needs such as pregnant and lactating women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons people, is required uniformly in all kebeles. The provision of mobile health services by government or humanitarian agencies needs to be strengthened to treat commonly observed health problems.

Response Plan

Action Item	Focal Point	Timeline
<p>Multi-Sector</p> <p>1. Monitoring of service provision in return areas should be undertaken by all humanitarian actors. The multi-sector approach will help to identify the needs and gaps.</p>	<p>National Protection Cluster Regional Protection Cluster in Bule Hora</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>Livelihoods / Cash</p> <p>2. Provision of cash assistance should be provided to persons with specific needs, including persons with serious medical conditions and women and girls to mitigate risk of GBV and negative coping mechanisms such as transactional sex.</p>	<p>Development and humanitarian actors</p>	<p>July-August 2019</p>
<p>Child Protection</p> <p>3. Carry out monitoring of returnee and IDP areas in order to identify separated and unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>4. Continued technical support for child protection case management by WoWCYA.</p>	<p>Interagency Protection Monitoring teams</p> <p>UNICEF in coordination with child protection partners in West Guji</p>	<p>Ongoing support</p> <p>Ongoing support</p>
<p>GBV</p> <p>5. Assessment be carried out to identify Female-Headed Households, including those abandoned by spouses in displacement.</p>	<p>Interagency Protection Monitoring teams</p>	<p>June-July 2019</p>

<p>6. Assessment on prevalence of transactional sex work in Hambella Womena woreda.</p>	<p>All cases referred to be referred to respective WOWCYA offices, as per the referral pathway for further verification and documentation with a view to ensuring targeted responsive (or at least referral) measures are in place.</p>	<p>June 2019-July 2019</p>
<p>Human Rights</p> <p>7. The joint protection monitoring team document and verify the alleged human rights violations cases and referred them to respective service providers and authorities</p> <p>8. Organize capacity building workshop on basic human rights for government officials</p>	<p>Allegations of human rights violations, to be referred to the appropriate protection team for further verification and documentation, with the aim to ensure targeted responsive (or at least referral) measures are in place</p> <p>The National and Regional Protection Clusters to advocate with zonal, regional and federal level respective government bodies (police, prosecutors and court) to ensure the accountability on alleged human rights violation cases</p> <p>OHCHR in collaboration with protection cluster will organize human rights training for responsible government officials.</p>	<p>Ongoing support</p> <p>Ongoing support</p>
<p>Persons with Specific Needs</p> <p>9. Persons with specific needs identified through protection monitoring to be registered by the monitoring team and referred to relevant I/NGOs who can respond to their needs, or the government Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA) for follow up.</p> <p>10. Request OCHA to share results of the targeting exercise conducted in Kercha Woreda (five kebeles) to implement the newly approved targeting guidelines.</p>	<p>Interagency Protection Monitoring teams</p> <p>Interagency Protection Monitoring teams</p>	<p>Ongoing support</p> <p>June 2019</p>

<p>HLP</p> <p>11. Initiate an HLP Working Group (HLP WG) in Bule Hora, to bring relevant actors together regarding HLP issues and potential solutions.</p> <p>12. Provide outcomes of DaLA assessments carried out by Bule Hora University.</p> <p>13. HLP Training in Bule Hora</p>	<p>National HLP WG and Regional Protection Cluster in Bule Hora.</p> <p>UNHCR</p> <p>HLP Work Group</p>	<p>June 2019</p> <p>June 2019</p> <p>July 2019</p>
<p>Education</p> <p>14. Advocacy with government authorities for the re-enrolment of Gedeo children.</p>	<p>Interagency Protection Monitoring teams</p>	<p>June 2019</p>
<p>Communication with Communities</p> <p>15. Develop information-sharing mechanisms with the returnee community to ensure procedures for assistance provision are clear.</p> <p>Increase transparency in regard to criteria for selection of persons with specific needs among communities.</p> <p>16. Community-level complaints and feedback mechanisms for returnees to be put-in place in IDP locations.</p>	<p>Protection cluster and Interagency Protection Monitoring teams</p> <p>UNHCR and Interagency Protection Monitoring teams</p>	<p>June-July 2019</p> <p>June-July 2019</p>