



Joint UN Protection Monitoring Report

IDPS IN WEST GUJI ZONE - ETHIOPIA

JULY 2019

Overview

During the reporting period, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF conducted joint protection monitoring in 24 kebeles in five woredas (Gelana, Birbissa Kojowa, Kercha, Hambella Wamena and Bule Hora). This report outlines key findings from discussions and interviews with government officials, kebele managers, humanitarian actors, social workers, health extension workers as well as with the affected population including women, children and persons with specific needs.

In July, several security incidents were reported in Bule Hora, Gelana, Birbissa Kojowa and Kercha woredas. As a result, military operations were launched by the federal security forces against unidentified armed groups (UAGs) operating in these areas. The presence of military operations restricted protection monitoring activities in some kebeles of return/displacement.

Number of Individuals Reached

Activities	Profile of People Reached	# of Sessions	# of Participants
Key Informant Interview	Kebele administration, WoWCYA Health extension workers and partner agencies.	43	62
Focus Group Discussions	Men and women returnees	31	191
Individual Interviews	Persons with specific needs (older persons, persons with disabilities, female-headed households)	29	29
Awareness Raising Sessions	Awareness raising sessions for kebele leaders, health extension workers, WoWCYA staff, and community representatives on GBV prevention and response.	01	12
Total		104	294

Key Findings

1. Population Movement

Displacement and Return

- During the reporting period, protection monitors identified 607 Guji IDP households dispersed within three woredas (Bule Hora, Kercha and Hambella Wamena) living in the community either with relatives or in rented houses.
- Of the 607 HHs, 414 HHs (in Hambella and Bule Hora woredas) are unwilling to return to their places of origin/habitual residence for reasons related to insecurity and/or difficulties accessing their land and property.
- During the reporting period, 59 HHs reportedly returned from Chorso Golja kebele in West Guji, to Gedeo. The reason for return was reported to be an improvement in the security situation in their kebele of origin in Gedeo.

Safety and Security

- Residents report continued fear of displacement due to the insecurity caused by various military operations in West Guji.
- Tensions persist in Chari Gololcha kebele, Bule Hora woreda, where the kebele manager was allegedly killed by UAGs at the end of June. On the 26 July, in Melka Soda woreda, West Guji zone, UAG allegedly killed three persons and nine houses were burned down in the kebele. On 30th July, two returnees were reportedly killed by an UAG in Badessa kebele, Kercha woreda.
- According to the key informant interviews (KIIs) conducted with the security personnel in Kercha woreda, the kebeles of Dibisa, Sokke and Galasa Burqa, are insecure due to clashes with UAGs.

2. Protection and Human Rights Concerns

Child Protection / Education

- In Chorso Golja kebele, four separated children were identified. These children are registered with kebele officials and are currently receiving support from child protection partners providing case management services. In Kercha Inshe kebele, out of eight separated children identified, seven have been registered by a child protection partners and follow-up is scheduled for the remaining separated child. WoWCYA confirmed that there are 69 unaccompanied and separated children Gelana woreda.
- In Dogo Bulchani kebele, the FGD participants reported that nine children lost one of their parents during the conflict. The nine children are now benefiting from case management services by a child protection partner.
- During the conflict, school items such as desks, chairs, chalkboards and other materials were destroyed. Interventions to support the rehabilitation of schools is urgently needed prior to the beginning of the new school year in September.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence / Reproductive Health

- According to the female FGD participants at Lami Kercha kebele, the males in the family are controlling financial resources and land, without adequately distributing resources to women and children. This inequal distribution of resources is particularly detrimental to women in polygamous marriages that have children.
- Individual cases of early marriage are identified and referred to WoWCYA and other partners for services. According to the WoWCYA office in Gelana, Girmi kebele, domestic violence is a common occurrence and persistent insecurity has restricted movement and thus prevented survivors from accessing adequate and timely interventions.
- In Dogo Sodu kebele, female FGD participants stated that due to lack of transportation, distance between the kebele and the health centre, as well as lack of medical staff at the kebele level, pregnant women have no other option than to deliver at home. Some women have reported having complications during deliveries. These issues have been raised with the Health Cluster.

Shelter / Housing, Land and Property

- Authorities released a master land ownership list in the kebeles of the six woredas in West Guji zone. Reportedly the list is as a means to ensure the community pays their annual land tax.
- Most Gedeo returnees in West Guji have been able to access their land and have started constructing their homes from local materials like false banana leaves.
- In Giwe Megala kebele, the returnees revealed that out of 526 houses destroyed during the conflict, the homes of 500 returnees, are being constructed or rehabilitated, by a shelter partner.
- In Kercha Inshe, Kercha 01 kebele, 502 houses were burned down. A shelter actor is currently carrying out an verification exercise of land ownership that will result in the reconstruction of these shelters. In Goro'mee kebele, officials revealed that 359 houses were destroyed during the conflict. The government is currently planning the reconstruction of 160 shelters. In Lami Kercha kebele, after the verification of ownership process, shelter partners are currently providing support to reconstruct 77 houses.

Persons with Specific Needs

- During the reporting period, a total of 29 persons with specific needs (PSN) were identified, interviewed and referred to appropriate services providers. In Birbissa Kojowa woreda, the Woreda Social and Labour Affairs Office has identified 300 persons with disabilities, 293 children at-risk which includes 38 separated children, 353 older persons at-risk and 675 women at-risk. In Goro'mee kebele, administrators reportedly identified 28 persons with physical disabilities.
- In Kercha 01, 62 women at-risk were given NFI assistance by IOM. In Kercha 02 kebele, IOM identified and registered 105 older persons for issuance of NFI kits.

3. Humanitarian Assistance

Food

- In Hambella Wamena and Gelana woredas, no food assistance has been provided to returnees since the return in May. In Lami Kercha woreda, it was reported 1534 returnees did not receive food assistance since their return to the kebele. Meanwhile in Kercha, according to Kercha woreda and zonal DRRMO expert, preparation has been undergoing in collaboration with food actors to support over 126,000 returnees with food distribution.
- The zonal DRMO expert revealed that the government has allocated 27 million Ethiopian Birr for seeds to be distributed for returnees in West Guji.

Health and Nutrition

- A local health non-government organization is providing weekly health services in some kebeles of Kercha, Hambella Wamena, Birbissa Kojowa and Bule Hora. Unfortunately, the service is reportedly not comprehensive enough as the organization mostly provides mothers and child health (MCH) service.

NFI and Shelter

- There is a need for NFI items as all returnees in need are not reached.
- Given the limited resources and items available, an information campaign is recommended in order to avoid complaints and misunderstanding among the affected population.
- UNHCR and its shelter partner has completed the targeting for 550 shelters reconstruction in Hambella, Kercha and Abaya, and Birbissa Kojowa Woreda

WASH

- Potable water and latrines are limited or non-existent in some kebeles. Most of the kebeles in West Guji zone do not have water points or the water points are far away. This makes access very difficult for persons with specific needs including pregnant women, older persons and persons with disabilities. Moreover, the quantity of potable water points is not sufficient for the entire community including the IDP returnees and as a coping mechanism, the populations fetch water in springs or rivers close to them. This is the case in Chari Gollolcha kebele, where the returnees mentioned that they have no potable water point nearby therefore they are using river water and they have never been provided with any treatment for the water.
- In Giwe Megala, during the reconstruction of shelter to 275 households of returnees, IOM also constructed latrines.

Peacebuilding

- Protection cluster members are currently initiating peacebuilding activities in West Guji that will reinforce the peaceful co-existence between the two communities and mitigate the risk of inter-ethnic conflict