



Joint UN Protection Monitoring Report

WEST GUJI ZONE - ETHIOPIA

SEPTEMBER 2019

Overview

During the reporting period, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF conducted joint protection monitoring in 18¹ kebeles in four woredas (Birbissa Kojowa, Kercha, Hambella Wamena and Bule Hora) in West Guji zone. This report outlines key findings from the protection monitoring during the month of September 2019. The information was collected through focus group discussions (FGDs) with IDPs and IDP returnees, as well as key informant interviews (KIIs) with government officials, kebele managers, humanitarian actors, social workers, health extension workers as well as with the host community.

Table One: Individuals Reached by Protection Monitoring in September 2019:

| Activities | Profile of People Reached | # of Sessions | # of Participants |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Key Informant Interview | Kebele administration, WoWCYA, Health extension workers, partner agencies, woreda education and health officers | 26 | 44 |
| Focus Group Discussions | Men and women IDPs and returnees | 12 | 132 |
| Total | | 39 | 176 |

Key Findings

Population Movements

During the reporting period, there were no new displacement or return movements reported. A total of 220 IDP households were newly identified in Chari Gololcha kebele in Bule Hora woreda, which protection monitors will follow-up on in October. These IDPs are living in dire conditions with no or limited access to humanitarian assistance. The main reason they are unwilling to return is due to insecurity in their kebeles of origin in Gedeb, Gedeo zone.

¹ Hambella Wamena Woreda: Dakarbor Badiya, Damu Dabaye, Haro Sorsa kebeles. Kercha Woreda: Layo Kuni, Chiga Kibicha, Ela Farda, Bilida Kojowa, Bilida Bulkissa, Badessa Funan, Sare Sabaa kebeles. Bule Hora Woreda: Bule Hora town, Muri Turkuma, Toma Mixi, Chari Gololcha, Sakicha, and Burka Ebella kebeles. Birbissa Kojowa Woreda: Birbissa Cheba, Birbissa town kebeles.

Safety and Security

- There was an improvement in the security situation in the six conflict-affected woredas: Kercha, Gelana, Hambella Wamena, Abaya, Birbissa Kojowa and Bule Hora. However, the population still reports fears of future attacks from Unknown Armed Groups (UAGs). Movement is still restricted in four kebeles in Gelana: Shamole Odo, Shamole Shida, Bore Meteri and Dango. During the first half of September, Chari Gololcha and Chari Saphalisa kebeles in Bule Hora woreda, were not accessible due to ongoing military operations.
- In Muri Turkuma, Badesa Funankawa and Ela Farda kebeles, IDP returnees reported they are unable to return and resettle due to insecurity in rural areas.
- In Cheri Saphalisa kebele, 29 members of the community accused of supporting a UAG (including three who allegedly threatened Tore town in Gelana woreda) have been apprehended by the military with the support of the community and moved to a military camp for rehabilitative training before returning to the community.
- In Sakicha kebele 70 alleged supporters of UAG from the community have been reportedly detained and five others were sent to rehabilitative training on a military camp before they were sent back to the community. In Burka Ebella kebele, 20 people suspected of supporting UAG were sent to a military training. Of the 20, 18 returned to their community and two were sent to prison.

Protection and Human Rights Concerns

Child Protection

- According to the WoWCYA officials in Birbissa Kojowa woreda, there are 53 unaccompanied and separated children (26 boys and 27 girls) in the woreda. Among them, 15 children (seven boys and eight girls) are living with their relatives such uncles and aunts, while 38 children are living with non-relatives. In coordination with UNICEF, there are plans to reunite them with their respective family members.
- In Chiga Kibicha kebele, 22 children lost their parents in the conflict are living with relatives and host community members. The children are exposed to common cold due to the cold weather and poor clothing and shelter conditions.
- In Bule Hora Woreda, according to the KII conducted with WoWCYA and Woreda Bureau of Social Affairs, the separated children in the woreda are enrolled in formal education. Protection Monitors will follow-up in October on their enrollment and number of separated children.
- According to them, with the contributions of local NGOs like the Compassion Project, in collaboration with WoWCYA, the Mayor, Social Affairs Bureau, and woreda education office are facilitating the formal education for the children living on the streets, separated children and other children with specific needs.
- With the upcoming opening of the school year 2019/2020, the most critical need identified in West Guji are scholastic materials such as bags, pencils, books and pens. FGDs and KII disclosed that although their children have been enrolled for the next school year, they still lack scholastic materials, as parents do not have the financial resources to provide these items for their children.

- According to the KII conducted with kebele administrator in Bilida Kojowa kebele, Kercha woreda, there are six separated children (four boys and two girls) in the kebele. Five of them live in one foster family and the Child Protection partners is monitoring the foster family.
- In Gerbicho Rogicha kebele, children are reportedly working on coffee farms, as families living in poor conditions allow their children to work on the farms to earn an income. A number of cases of child labour have been reported in Gorbicho Rogicicha kebele as families living in such poor conditions allow their children to work on farms in the community instead of sending them to school.
- In Sare Saba, Darse Sake, Ela Ferda Badiya, Bilida Kojowa and Badesa Funankawa kebeles, authorities revealed the existence of orphans and separated children though the exact number is not known. The lack of accurate information poses a risk for the vulnerable children.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

- According to WoWCYA officials in Birbissa Kojowa woreda, 12 cases of domestic violence/physical assault and three alleged cases of rape have been reported to their office. The cases were referred to woreda police, psychosocial support and the court for legal assistance. The cases of attempted rape in Birbissa allegedly occurred when women were going to the market or fetching water and/or firewood.
- Child marriage is reported in Birbissa Kojowa and Bule Hora woredas, but according to the WoWCYA in Birbissa Kojowa, it is still under-reported.
- Polygamous marriage is reported to have caused various challenges for women in Toma Mexi, Sare Saba, Gerbicho Rogicha, Birbirschebe and Cheri Gololcha kebeles. These challenges include a denial or lack of fair distribution of resources among wives and domestic violence.
- In Birbissa Kojowa woreda, WoWCYA has put in place a committee composed of seven members from kebele women representatives, influential elders and religious leaders, in all kebeles to prevent and report child protection and SGBV issues.

Housing, Land and Property and Civil Documentation

- An HLP referral form was developed and shared among the protection monitoring teams by the HLP working group coordinator.
- In most kebeles monitored shelters that belong to returnees have been destroyed. However, there has been no response from the government in reconstructing these homes.
- In Muri Turkuma kebele, Bule Hora woreda, some of the returnees were able to return to their lands of origin.
- Across all the six conflict-affected woredas, loss of land holding certificate and damaged houses are the main HLP issues. Women's access to land is inhibited by gender bias because it is culturally believed women are not supposed to own land.
- According to the kebele administrator in Ela Farda kebele, Kercha woreda, 252 houses were destroyed during the conflict, however, returnees have the access to visit and cultivate their farm without any restriction.

- Authorities in West Guji submitted a comprehensive list of damage and loss of properties during the conflict. This list was submitted to ES/NFI Cluster and HLP WG Coordinators in order to ensure timely and adequate response.
- In Gerbicho Rogicha, Haro Sorsa, Bilida Kojowa and Dekebor Badiya returnees reported the destruction of their land holding certificates. These returnees were unable to reclaim the legal entitlement document so far due to instability and lack of action from the government despite their repeated requests. Similarly, in Cheri Saphalisa land gained by returnees through inheritance is allegedly posing a problem upon return due to lack of documentation.
- In Bribirsa Chebe, CRS has registered 200 HHs and promised to construct their shelters but has not done anything so far. World Vision has also planned to reconstruct shelters for 214 households in Bilida Bukisa kebele.
- According to the kebele manager of Cheri Saphalisa kebele, Oromia Special Police allegedly destroyed five houses on the 16th of September 2019 as a punishment against owners for allegation of welcoming and supporting UAGs.

Humanitarian Assistance

Food

- Food partners targeted 169,097 beneficiaries for food distribution in Bule Hora, Hambella Wamena and Birbirsa Kojowa woredas.
- In Birbissa Chebi Kebele, Birbissa Kojowa woreda returnees complained about the lack of food. They claimed they have received only 15kgs of maize food for each household since their return in May 2019.
- In Muri Turkuma and Toma Mixi, kebeles in Bule Hora woreda, returnees claimed the last food distribution was received three months ago. The monitoring team referred this to food partners.
- The returnees in Sakicha kebele, Bule Hora woreda disclosed the last food distribution was made in July 2019. At this time, 45 kg of maize was distributed per HH for 366 HHs. According to food partners operating in the kebele, there is a plan to distribute food and other commodities in early October.

Health and Nutrition

- According to FGD participants in Sare Sabaa kebele, Kercha woreda, nutrition services are provided to malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women twice per month.
- Returnees and host community in Sare Sabaa kebele, Kercha woreda walk two hours to the closest health center situated in Bilida Kojowa kebele for health services.
- According to FGD participants, in Bilida Bukisa kebele, Kercha woreda, the health post is closed for unknown reasons and private health clinics are also closed. Mobile clinics from one health partner are the only source of health services and clinic only comes once per week.
- According to FGD participants in Ela Farda kebele, Kercha woreda, skin infections are commonly reported among the community including children who are the most affected.

- According to FGD participants in Dame Dabaye kebele, Hambella Wamena woreda, there is only one health extension worker in the kebele who is not regularly providing services during the week. Residents are obliged to travel to Deri kebele which is 12km away from their kebele to get health service. The situation was reported to health partners.
- In Chari Gololcha kebele, Bule Hora woreda, there are three extension health workers in the kebele. The health post is opened two days per week. The kebele administrators reported a drug shortage in the health post. Additionally, one health partner is providing nutrition services.

NFI and Shelter

- Authorities in West Guji submitted to shelter partners a consolidated list of loss and damaged shelters in all the six-conflict affected woredas.

WASH

- According to the FGD participants in Bilida Kojowa kebele, Kercha woreda, community members access to water both from spring source and water pump. They claimed they pay one birr per jerry can to use the water pump, limiting access those in poor financial means.
- In Dekebor kebele, Hambella Wamena woreda, there is only one source of clean pipe water in the kebele serving the whole community. Other potential sources of spring water in the kebele are not clean enough for domestic use.

Response Update

Persons with Specific Needs

- During the reporting period, a total of 17 persons (9 male and 8 female) with specific needs were identified and referred to appropriate service providers. Many are older person headed households with grandchildren who have serious health conditions or are living with physical disabilities. Some of them are suffering from mental health conditions. Three cases have been referred to UNICEF and 10 cases to EECMY for psychosocial support, provision of mobility materials and income generating activities (IGAs).
- EECMY has identified 66 persons living with physical disabilities and they are currently planning to provide them with assistive devices.
- Protection monitoring is currently strengthening the referral system between the Cluster by increasing the number of meetings, requesting from different clusters to provide a list of focal points by woreda to whom the referral can be addressed.

Humanitarian Actors

- WASH partners delivered 118,280 pieces of soap, 35,059 pieces of laundry soap, 4,680 pieces of 20-liter capacity jerrycans, 714,000 tablets of Aqua tab and 355, 200 sachets of Pur to Zonal water office to proceed with the distribution in the communities.

- A total number of 111 health workers were trained on cholera response (67) and case management services (34).
- IOM and UNHCR/ANE are launching of project for the construction of 4250 shelters in West Guji by two implementing partners.
- Verification and registration are ongoing for an upcoming distribution of 1000 ES/NFI in Kercha and 3000 ES/NFI in Gelana and 1537 shelters in Hambella, Kercha and Bule Hora.
- Food distribution reached 45,312 individuals in Hambella Wamena, Birbissa Kojowa and Bule Hora woredas.

Housing, Land and Property and Civil Documentation

- Group information sessions (GIS) on Housing, Land and Property were delivered in Kercha woreda Banko Baya kebele.
- Legal Aid Clinic services were held in Hambella Wamena Chorso Golja kebele, where 27 (8 female and 19 male) received counselling on disputes over land and the replacement of legal tenure documents that were destroyed during the conflict.
- Legal Aid Clinic services were held in Banko Baya kebele, Kercha woreda where 149 (54 female and 95 male) received counselling on disputes over land and the replacement of legal tenure documents that were destroyed during the conflict.
- Ongoing finalization on due diligence procedures for proposed 362 (119 female and 243 male) beneficiaries of shelter assistance in Banko Baya kebele, Kercha woreda.

Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence

- Two protection partners in West Guji in Kercha, Bule Hora and Hambella Wamena woredas distributed 923 dignity kits of which 500 targeted school-aged girls.
- In partnership with UNFPA, PAPDA is implementing SGBV response in Kercha and Gelana woredas. Their main focus is on sexual and reproductive health and awareness raising for communities and authorities.
- SGBV awareness raising campaign continues in the six conflict-affected woredas. A total of 8,356 persons were reached during the month of September
- A total of 31,000 scholastic materials such as books, pen, uniforms for some of them, bags are to be distributed in October.
- It is recommended to review the SGBV/CP referral pathways in place due to turnover of staff in West Guji.
- It is recommended that protection actors support the committee put in place in Birbissa Kojowa woreda by WoWCYA that aims to reduce GBV cases in Birbissa Kojowa with assistance in capacity development.