

**Protection Cluster
Key Messages
July 2019**

The Protection Cluster is concerned about the following:

- 1. Assistance is still not reaching the persons most in need, and in particular those IDPs who have not returned.**
- 2. Incidents of child trafficking have been reported in the Wollegas.**
- 3. IDPs residing in Millennium Park in Dire Dawa are at risk of immediate forced eviction.**

1. Assistance is still not reaching the persons most in need, and in particular those persons who have not returned.

- Monitoring undertaken by Protection partners in July 2019 re-confirms that the Ethiopian authorities continue to deny humanitarian assistance to persons who have not returned.
- The joint targeting exercise undertaken in Geddo and West Guji was intended to identify persons in need regardless of status. Persons who have not returned, however, were not included.
- Most at risk are persons with disabilities, older persons as well as women and children, among others.
- Host community members have also been excluded from the targeting exercise, which could lead to community tensions.
- There is an urgent need for area and community-based programming at village level, targeting persons in need, so as to reduce tensions and improve the humanitarian situation.
- Mechanisms need to be put in place to add individuals and families with protection-related vulnerabilities, to the list of beneficiaries produced by the joint targeting exercise.
- As an outcome of the EHCT meeting on 01 August, a meeting with the Protection and Food Clusters is set-up to discuss concerns with the joint targeting in Geddo and West Guji, as well as work together on solutions moving forward.

2. Incidents of child trafficking have been reported in the Wollegas

- One incident of trafficking involving 31 IDP children was reportedly stopped by BoWYCA and the local police in July 2019.
- Other reports of child trafficking in West and East Wollega have recently been discussed in the Child Protection AOR. A trafficking network, both within the region and/or cross-border, may be operational.
- There is an urgent need for a multi-stakeholder response. A communications with communities (CwC) strategy should be combined with an anti-trafficking awareness campaign. Persons should be encouraged to be vigilant and speak up if trafficking is suspected.
- The number of MoWCYA social workers at the field level should be increased, in order for all unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) to be identified and documented, as well as provided with individual counselling.
- The Protection Cluster and CP AoR will bring to the reports to the attention of the National Anti-Trafficking Taskforce for necessary follow-up.

3. IDPs residing in Millennium Park in Dire Dawa are at risk of immediate forced eviction.

- 180 IDP households were relocated from Millennium Park site in Dire Dawa to Erer, in Sitti zone of the Somali region. Due to lack of available services in Erer, the remaining IDPs in Millennium Park have refused to be relocated to Erer. There are reports of people leaving Erer to return to Dire Dawa.
- The Dire Dawa authorities need to provide clarification to the humanitarian actors on the future of the Millennium Park site as there is a risk of forced evictions from the site if an agreement is not reached between the IDPs and the Dire Dawa authorities.
- There is a need to ensure that movements to relocation sites are informed and voluntary and that IDPs are not subject to forced evictions as part of relocation attempts.
- Relocation initiatives in the Somali region need to ascertain the ownership of the land that people are moving to and what HLP rights they will have once they move.