



# Protection Cluster Monthly Report

May 2019

## Humanitarian Needs/Latest Assessment Findings

### Addis

- UNHCR met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on 13 May 2019 to follow-up on key action points from the Kampala Convention Workshop organized by MoFA and UNHCR. The ratification document is expected to be submitted to the Council of Ministers before June 2019 for further discussion, possible endorsement, and sharing with the House of People's Representatives (HoPR). The HoPR will conduct a review led by the different Standing Committees of the House for possibly ratification by 22 June 2019.

### West Guji (Oromia) / Gedeo (SNNPR)

- Joint protection/return monitoring by Protection Cluster members continue in Gedeb and Kercha. Key findings include: IDP returnees report they are not able to oppose the return process; IDP committee members are being arrested if openly opposing the return plan; IDPs are evicted from temporary transit facilities to coerce the return process; assistance was promised to IDPs in areas or origin however the assistance provided varied from kebele to kebele; IDPs are mostly land owners without land holding certificates; ppriority needs of IDPs include: food, WASH, shelter, NFIs and individual assistance for Persons with Specific Needs (PSN).
- Protection staff in Yergachefe and Kercha have been arrested.
- UNICEF and the Zonal Woman, Children and Youth Affairs (ZoWCYA) undertook joint missions in Gedeb woreda to assess the situation of the IDP return process from Gedeo to West Guji. Following the return of IDPs and dismantling of the collective sites, child protection partners have reported difficulty in tracking the whereabouts of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) who were under their case management caseload prior to the return of IDPs. UNICEF is supporting its partners to properly track children who have returned to west Guji and those who remained in Gedeo. The updated list of UASC who are confirmed to be returned will be ready by the end of May and will be shared to child protection partners in West Guji for their follow up.
- Safety and security in and around IDP sites remain an issue. In Kercha during returns monitoring women expressed fear to return due to risk of being attacked and raped and In Gelena woreda, women specifically reported attacks and sexual assaults by bandits or vagrants (commonly known as 'Duriye' in Amharic) while on their way to fetch water and firewood.

### Housing, Land and Property (HLP)

- Regarding HLP issues in West Guji, as most recent returns have been to a "site" within a kebele, not to individual homes, the full picture of housing, land and property (HLP) issues is still to be determined. The issues of HLP are likely to manifest after the IDP returnees start going back to their original homes/land.
  - There have been some anecdotal reports of secondary occupation, however, the government has taken responsibility and has attempted to resolve the issue by "requesting" the secondary occupants to vacate and "go to their homes". The displacement status of the secondary occupants that left the property needs to be confirmed.
  - It has been reported that "host community" members are requesting remuneration from

returnees for protecting their land/houses during displacement. Further assessment and verification of these reports is needed.

- The situation regarding HLP violations and potential solutions varies significantly from kebele to kebele.
- Instance of HLP issues are identified through protection monitoring teams to be referred to the Protection Cluster, NRC and HLP WG for documentation and follow-up.

#### Site Management Support (SMS)

- SMS partners agreed to put on hold all construction related activities at sites.
- Given the ongoing return plan, SMS partners agreed to focus on the following activities: community service activities such as service monitoring and referral pathway, coordination and information management for IDP movement tracking, meetings, gaps identification and reports, capacity development activities such as sensitization for sanitation and hygiene promotion.
- Challenges: IDPs and returnee movement tracking, restricted implementation of site activities by local authorities and in some instances, local authorities are not allowing IDP returnees to enter sites even if they expressed fear to return to their land and/or their shelters are destroyed/damaged.

#### **Wollegas (Oromia)**

- The Protection Cluster continues to raise concerns regarding the return process. Partners were restricted from accessing sites in East Wollega on 11 May 2019. IDPs overwhelming report they do not want to return to Kamashi or border areas in the Oromia region along the Kamashi zone border. Family separation is occurring as children are being left at sites while the parents return to their land to assess the security situation. There have been reported instances of IDPs returning to the IDP site after returning to their places of origin due to insecurity.
- It was reported that 269 households/991 persons from a site near Gimbi moved to Gimbi town and the surrounding areas. The IDPs stated they are not willing to return to Kamashi as per the government's plan.

#### **Somali Region**

##### Drought

- The rains were below expectation in April resulting in significant negative impact on pastoralists as death of many animals have been reported across the region. As a result, the Somali Region ICCG has prepared a mini Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) which is being signed off by regional government this week. It requests US\$20m for the next three months.

##### Flood

- The rains started late (end April) but have been heavy and caused significant flooding with death of up to 200 animals and some people (numbers not yet confirmed). It is however, expected that the rain will cease at the end of May and not restart until October, so the drought situation is still of concern.

##### Durable Solutions for IDPs (return, resettlement/relocation)

- A "go-and-see" mission to assess the returns of IDPs in Sitti and Fafan zones took place from 09 to 17 May. The visit to Dawa is underway. The team visited seven locations in Tuliguled woreda, Fafan zone, and Erer woreda, Siti zone where some 2,000 HH are returned. The plan to visit a site in Babile woreda was cancelled due to that specific site being in Oromia.
- Some IDPs returned voluntarily to their places of origin, while others were returned with assistance of government (including woreda DPPB). Other IDPs from Dire Dawa sites were relocated to Erer zone (while those who did not want to be relocated remain in Dire Dawa). The movements started in early March and is continuing. The situation for IDPs in these sites is uncertain as the conflict in 2017

caused not only destruction of houses, but also infrastructure and livelihoods, which have not been rebuilt. Households are resorting to extreme coping strategies such as increased livestock selling, begging, child labor, child marriage, etc.

- While most returnees expressed happiness to be home (despite the poor living conditions), they have reservations about safety and security because they are living next to, or even together with, the individuals and communities they were in conflict with in the recent past. In some locations, IDP returnees are not free to access different public services such as education, water, health, etc. due to fear and ongoing intimidation.

## Humanitarian Response

### Wollegas (Oromia)

- World Vision has launched a child protection project in the Wollegas funded by UNICEF aimed at building the capacity of WoWCYA and ZoWCYA in both zones. World Vision conducted training on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for 24 (8 women, 16 men) social workers, women and child affairs experts. The training equipped participants with the knowledge and skills required to provide Psychological First Aid (PFA) to children and adults in distress as well as identify and plan for other types of psychosocial interventions at the grass-root level.
- World Vision is assisting WoWCYA and ZoWCYA to track the cases of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in the return process.

### Somali

- In the Somali region 40 cases of GBV (18 girls and 19 women / 3 rape and 37 physical violence) were referred to various services. The survivors were provided with psychosocial support, medical treatment, and legal aid services.

### West Guji (Oromia)

#### Child Protection

- Distribution of dignity kits was provided to 6,219 IDPs, IDPs returnees and host community members.
- Capacity building was conducted on child protection for 28 government counterparts and child protection volunteers.
- Construction of Child Friendly Spaces in Banko Michicha and Suke kebeles.
- Established intervention plan with government counterparts to intervene in return locations: FTR in government temporary reception facilities; awareness raising to address discrimination at schools, deployment of workers in Kebeles of return to address child protection issues.

#### SGBV

- Awareness raising on SGBV conducted in three woredas (Abaya, Kercha, Gelena) for 783 individuals (362 male and 421 female) on early marriage, referral path ways, community involvement in preventing and mitigating GBV, clinical management of rape for community health workers as well as the IDP community.
- Training conducted for religious leaders in Abaya Woreda. 55 (3 female & 52 male).
- Psychosocial support for returnees (children and women) is ongoing at each Child Friendly and Women safe space sites in Bule Hora, Abaya and Kercha woredas.
- In collaboration with Ethiopia Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology a four days training on Clinical Management of Rape is given for 24 clinicians (focal persons of GBV referral pathway).
- 35 post rape treatment kit is provided to health facilities of Gedeo and West Guji zone
- A total of 5,221 IDP, returnee and host communities addressed on how to prevent, identify and report GBV incidents, availability of services like health, PSS, legal and security for GBV survivors. This month a total of 13 sexual violence cases received comprehensive response services in both zones.

### Protection Monitoring

- Published inter-agency protection monitoring report (Jan-March 2019)
- # of FDG (71) & KII (61) and observation conducted
- # of Persons reached by IPM include the following: 138 (25 F & 113) key informants (Government officials, IDPs and host community, partners), 1500 (45% F) FDG (IDPs and host community)
- Return monitoring conducted in Kercha, Hambella, Gelena and Bule Hora.

### Housing Land and Property

- NRC's ICLA team completed a pilot project which involved the signing of 10 MOUs by beneficiaries receiving conditional cash assistance for the reconstruction of shelter. All beneficiaries received legal advice on HLP issues and participated in a due diligence process. Approximately 700 further beneficiaries are expected to receive HLP assistance in the coming weeks.
- NRC's ICLA team provided mobile group information sessions to a total of 710 beneficiaries on HLP related issues

### **Gedeo (SNNP)**

- Following the IDP return process, most child protection response services are interrupted. As IDPs were moving and collective centers were dismantled, UNICEF partners-including BOWCYA were not able to undertake case management activities.

### **Amhara**

- UNICEF provided technical support to zonal and woreda women and children affairs offices in Central Gondar, West Gojjam, North Wollo zones on identification/registration of UASC, children and women who experienced violence, provision of response services including arrangement of alternative care for UASC.
- 119 UASC were reunified with their families and 241 vulnerable children were provided with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces with multi-sectoral programming interventions.
- Two women who have experienced physical violence have also been identified and supported to receive treatment.

## **Inter-Cluster Issues**

- The child protection response relies on multi-sectorial approach and limited support from other clusters (e.g. shelter and food) will indirectly impact child protection response service.
- During returnees monitoring, family separation has been observed, with men going to the areas of origin, while women and children remain behind. IDP returnees may be forced to bring their family members to register, and separated families experience increased vulnerabilities.

## **Advocacy Messages**

- In the context of the current return process the government is undertaking, the Protection Cluster strongly advocates that returns of IDPs should be dignified and voluntary. Any forced return that may be committed by government is a violation of human rights and against protection principles. Principles of dignified return and do no harm should be respected by government authorities.
- Administrative decisions related to children should rely on the "best interest of the child".
- Maintain family unity and prevent family separation during the return process.

## Gaps and Constraints

### Wollegas (Oromia)

- Insecurity in West Wollega has limited access by humanitarian actors and therefore negatively affected their ability to respond to the needs of IDPs.
- There are significant gaps in these zones, which includes protection monitoring, support to SGBV, and SMS. Child protection activities are limited geographically, they do not cover all woredas and sites.
- Tracking child protection cases due to the return plan is a significant concern.

### Gedeo (SNNP) and West Guji (Oromia)

- Case management services for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are negatively affected by the sudden return process and dismantling of collective sites.
- Arrest of protection monitoring staff in Gedeo and West Guji remains an ongoing concern for the safety and security of staff carrying out protection services in the region.

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