

Protection Cluster Monthly Report

July 2019

Humanitarian Needs/Latest Assessment Findings

East Wollega (Oromia) / Kamashi Zone (Benishangul-Gumuz)

Durable Solutions team, with Dr. Walter Kaelin, Special Advisor on Internal Displacement to the UN RC/HC and the Protection Cluster colleagues undertook a mission East Wollega and Kamashi zone from 16-19 July. The purpose of the mission was to understand the displacement and return context in the area as well as context explore opportunities for durable solutions with a protection lens. The Protection Cluster Coordinator, GBV AoR Coordinator and a representative from the HLP WG attended. Key mission findings from the Protection Cluster include:

- Returnees are in need of basic services, including food, potable water, shelter, CRIs/dignity kits and access to subsidized medical services. The overall humanitarian response in the region has been weak with limited funds/capacity to provide more than lifesaving and short-term interventions.
- There is a need for peace and reconciliation initiatives in areas of return in the East Wollega, West Wollega and Kamashi zones. Returnees expressed an interest in remaining in their areas of origin, but due to ongoing insecurity, the returnees requested support from the GoE to initiate peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives with the host communities.
- Health facilities are short of medicines and medical supplies. The local health centres and health posts do not have funds to provide services and are in high need of emergency reproductive health kits to provide proper service for host and returnee communities.
- Authorities highlighted the need for psychosocial support services (PSS) as an ongoing need.
- FGD with female returnees highlighted safety and security needs among returnees, as they are not able to collect firewood and water without risking being attacked
- Rape and sexual violence during the conflict highlighted by women, children and youth affairs offices, with inadequate capacity and funds to respond to such violence.
- Individuals that were renting land or engaging in sharecropping are now having difficulty in accessing land for farming and the majority have returned to Oromia region where they were hosted as IDP.
- Support is needed to local authorities to address complaints related to those denied access to their housing, land and property (HLP) rights.
- Capacity development initiatives are needed with local authorities to ensure strong coordination and adherence to humanitarian principles.

West Wollega (Oromia)

The rapid needs assessment was conducted in West Wollega and Kamashi zones from 04-13 July 2019. Key protection findings are outlined below:

- In West Wollega, returnees expressed an interest in remaining in their areas of origin, but due to ongoing insecurity, the returnees demanded immediate support from the government to initiate peace building and reconciliation initiative with the Gumuz people.
- In the majority of return areas visited, the assessment team observed houses, schools and health facilities completely burned down. There is no access to health services and returnees are fetching

water from unprotected water sources with no water treatment chemicals.

- People are being accommodated under very crowded communal shades. The lack of shade does not facilitate privacy or provide protection from weather conditions. No NFI distribute in the areas of return. Due to lack of services in the area of return in West Wollega, persons with specific needs, including children, women, persons with disabilities and older persons, have returned to community/places where they were hosted as IDPs.
- In Nedjo town (West Wollega) about 500 IDPs/persons approached the assessment team complaining that the government has denied them access to any services except in the area of return.
- Focus group discussions (FGDs) with women and girls has confirmed that women and girls have engaged in transactional sex work as they “fail to get any other source of income”. The FGD participants also reported many cases of rape and sexual harassment.

Somali Region

- Gu assessment across the region has now been completed, with the final reports and results being produced. Of the 93 woredas in the region, 44 were selected for assessment. The Protection Cluster focused on the availability of services on the ground through government-mandated agencies (BoWCYA, BoLSA). Key findings indicate very limited services for children, GBV survivors, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Humanitarian Response

Somali Region

- OHCHR ran a 3-day workshop on “Human Rights in the Administration of Justice for Somali Region Judges and Prosecutors” which was also attended by members of the cluster coordination team. This included an interesting discussion on the role of Judges/ Prosecutors in addressing FGM, a designated illegal activity.
- In Somali region, UNICEF in partnership with International Rescue Committee (IRC), created opportunities for 5,364 women and girls (3,714 women, 1650 girls) to participate in psychosocial support activities and access to awareness raising sessions on FGM, child marriage, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and emergency contraceptives in Women and Girls’ Safe Spaces.
- With support from UNICEF, IRC conducted a survey to participants attending the Women and Girls’ Safe Spaces to measure their satisfaction and knowledge of services available for GBV survivors and importance of accessing the services. Accordingly, 72% (3,862 women and girls) of the participants know where to go for support for services if themselves or someone they know experiences violence.
- 1,500 women and girls were provided with dignity kits at Gabogabo, Dhagahale, Qudamatan and Bombas IDP sites.

Gedeo (SNNP) and West Guji (Oromia)

- NRC ICLA continued to support displacement affected communities to increase their awareness on HLP and pursue their HLP rights through the provision of ICLA services.
- In Gedeo zone, case management services continue for UASC who haven’t returned to their place of origin. Among the 3,399 UASC caseload (1422 girls, 1977 boys) in the region, 42 UASC (17 girls, 25 boys) were reunified with their families, 6 UASC (girls) were placed in alternative care arrangement and 746 UASC (301 girls, 445 boys) were verified to have returned to West Guji.
- In addition, 220 UASC (115 girls, 105 boys) were identified as new returnees from West Guji with rapid registration completed for all children and partners are waiting for case handover from West Guji. These makes the total UASC caseload for Gedeo 2,821 (1,209 girls, 1,612 boys) which needs further verification as the children are found to be spread across the host communities. In the same region 30 GBV cases were reported and survivors were supported to receive various multi sectoral response services including medical, psychosocial support and legal aid services.

Site Management Support (SMS)

- Site Management Support (SMS) continues with the decommissioning of sites.
- Materials delivery is ongoing for the rehabilitation of six schools identified to make sure the continuity of schooling by the IDPs in the return areas. Supply of school stationaries included.
- Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) training was conducted in Dire Dawa by IOM protection Officer, 16 IOM staff participated.
- SMS mobile team established in Dire Dawa and roving to cover East Hararghe.

Inter-Cluster Issues

Shortage of Food: Shortage of food delivery was raised as a concern across the Somali region; clarity is needed by the Food Cluster on the frequency and scope of the food distribution in the region as well as the procedure to add individuals to food distributions lists if they are assessed to be in-need.

Reproductive Health and Access to Health Care: In Boji Dirmaji, Nejo woreda and Gimbi woreda in West Wollega, returnees and IDPs report they are not able to access health care, as IDP hosting woredas that have been providing free health care services for IDPs are now facing shortages of medicines and medical supplies. They do not have funds to provide services and they are in high need of emergency reproductive health kits to provide proper service for the host and returnee communities.

Advocacy Messages

- Through joint targeting in Gedeo and West Guji zones, assistance is still not reaching the persons most in need, and in particular those IDPs who have not returned.
- Incidents of child trafficking have been reported in the Wollegas.
- IDPs residing in Millennium Park in Dire Dawa are at risk of immediate forced eviction.

Gaps and Constraints

- Peace and reconciliation initiatives in areas of return, in particular West Wollega and Kamashi zones.
- Access to free reproductive health services in West Wollega; high need of emergency reproductive health kits to provide proper service for the host and returnee communities.
- Support to the Kamashi zonal administration's committee to address complaints related to those denied access to their housing, land and property (HLP) rights.
- Adequate provision of child protection services. For example, in the 120 kebeles in West Guji, child protection services cover only 15 kebeles (12.5%), leaving a significant gap that needs to be addressed through capacity development and support to the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA) and local level ZoWCYA and WoWCYA.

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