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Monthly Protection Overview – September 2022

Attacks on Civilians

- **Northern Ethiopia:** During the month of September 2022, armed clashes continued and/or intensified in several areas of **Tigray** bordering Sudan, Eritrea, **Amhara** (North - West Gondar) and Tigray's North-Western zone. Airstrikes were also reported in Mekelle, South Tigray, Shire and Sheraro, Dedebeit and May-Tsebri.
- **Amhara:** Police in Debre Birhan were accused of mistreating and beating IDPs in China site following a violent protest in the town in which the IDPs participated. Two IDPs at Jarri Turkish site were also shot and injured while trying to escape from the camp by defying off-camp movement restrictions imposed by the Federal Police.
Through OHCHR's advocacy, 44 refugees who were arbitrarily arrested and detained by the police in Dabat, Gondar were released. The OHCHR also visited 24 IDPs arrested by police in Debre Birhan for their alleged participation in a violent protest that took place in the town on 11 August.
- **Gambella:** No attacks on civilians were reported during the month of September 2022 in **Gambella** region, however, the movement of Gambella Liberation Front/Oromo Liberation Front in Oromia areas bordering Gambella region is still perceived as a threat to the security situation in the area.
- **BGRS:** clashes were reported in Keshamando Woreda and Kondola Woreda (Assosa zone) affecting an estimated 6,000 individuals who traveled for safety to Bambasi and were temporarily hosted in the Bambasi Secondary School. These IDPs were returned by the military to their areas of origin, as the woredas were able to regain control of their territory.
Sporadic attacks have been registered in Qedo, Dibate woreda and in Edida, Mandura woreda in **Benishangul Gumuz Region**.
- **Oromia:** During the reporting period, the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and Security Forces have continued to pose a security threat to the inhabitants of Wollega and Guji. During the month of August 2022, OHCHR found that 36 people were killed as a result of inter-communal conflict and attacks by a rebel group. 23 men were killed by OLA-Shene in Bosset woreda, **Oromia region**, while 5 others were killed because of inter-clan conflict in Tuliguleg woreda, **Somali region**.

New Displacement

- **Tigray:** According to local authorities in Northwest zone, an estimated 210,000 individuals are displaced from Sheraro, Tahtay Adiabo and Tsiliom to Ziban Gedena and the local communities. A joint mission of humanitarian partners visited the IDPs sites and noted critical needs in food, shelter, health/medicine and Core Relief Items (CRIs).

On September 14th 2022, the Protection Cluster in Shire led an assessment mission to two new displacement areas: **Zelazile and Kalawelo (Tigray)**. Most of the IDPs in the two sites are displaced for the second time and are coming from Shiraro. IDPs are currently hosted in schools, farmers' houses or open fields. 90,000 individuals were already registered in three sites. Registration continues in a fourth site. The following are reported as critical concerns: there are no available public services or infrastructures in the area; the majority of IDPs have not eaten for days, making very urgent to receive food items; there are not enough shelters and core relief items in both locations; the health situation is critical and worrying since basic health services are not available; increasing health and protection risks especially for people with chronic disease, children, elders, pregnant women, mothers, and people with disability. A significant number of individuals have serious to severe mental health and trauma issues related to GBV, SEA and brutalities directly experienced or witnessed. They urgently need appropriate care and support.

GBV cases were not reported, however GBV risk remains high, considering the precarious living conditions in the sites. In terms of CP in Kelawelo, there are 200 unaccompanied children displaced only from one kebele in T/Adeyabo. Another 230 UASC from Kafta humera are living without any support. An additional 400 separated children from another kebele in T/Adeyabo are exposed to different child protection risks, including child labour and exploitation.

- **Afar:** Discussions are underway to relocate new IDPs from Afar to Sebacare 4 and other sites in Mekelle. Consultations will be held with the IDPs on the planned relocations. In the meanwhile, some of the IDPs have opted to remain in host communities in Quiha and Enderta areas.
- **Gambella:** Over 187,000 individuals are reportedly affected and newly displaced by **flood** in 11 woredas of Gambella region.
- **Somali:** In western Siti zone displacement, the sub-national protection cluster jointly with the regional ICCG conducted field missions to three IDP sites namely Badhiweyn (928HHs), Aska (1967HHs) and Asbuli (2028HHs) where more than **4,923** IDP families/**29,538** are displaced. These figures do not include IDPs in the rural areas where access and data remain a huge challenge. The ICCG was not able to assess other reported displacement areas due to security constraints and bad road conditions.

Food Insecurity and Inadequate Access to Services

- **Gambella:** Shortage of food, safe drinking water and lack of adequate health services are the main concerns for individuals displaced by the flood in different woredas of Gambella region.
- In **BGRS**, access to food remains the main concern, followed by access to health services, especially drugs. IDP children in some woredas of BGRS are not included in the back-to-school campaign.
- **Oromia:** Irregular and incomplete food distributions in areas already hit by the effect of the drought are exacerbating food insecurity in **East and West Hararghe** zones. Due to the drought, malnutrition in both zones is drastically increasing, particularly affecting children and pregnant and lactating women. Access to safe potable water is severely impeded with the worsening drought situation on both zones: the safe water coverage of East Hararghe and West Hararghe zones is reported as 64.35% and 49.41%. respectively. The access to safe water supply within West Hararghe ranges from 4.77% in Burqa Dimtu to 70% in Doba woredas. Due to the prolonged drought, the individual and community ponds in the area are drying up. Accessing water sources from unprotected and unsafe rivers with average walking time of over three hours (9km/day) is common for the local lowland communities. One jerry can of water costs 100 Birr even in rural areas.

IDPs who cannot access health services through health insurance, were able to receive health services for free using the same fund reserved for the poor by the Kebele.

IDPs in drought affected areas are more vulnerable as they are dependent on humanitarian aid. The delay in food distribution, limited access to water, limited livelihood opportunities, and living in congested shelters without partitions aggravate their protection risks.

- **Somali** - Access to basic needs and services such as food, water, health, nutrition, specialized protection services, shelter and NFI remains a major challenge, particularly in new displacement locations and for protracted IDPs living in hard-to-reach areas where there are no protection partners.
- In all the IDP sites OHCHR monitored in August, lack of access to adequate food remains a major problem affecting communities facing a humanitarian crisis. Malnutrition is commonplace in most IDP sites, notably Debre Birhan (**Amhara**) and Guji (**Oromia**). Insecurity in places such as Guji (**Oromia**) and lack of fuel in **Tigray** represent major access constraints. In addition, the amount of food distributed to households is inadequate, mostly consisting of grains and not including other cooking ingredients such as oil required to prepare meals.
- The inadequate WASH services, most notably provision of safe drinking water, is subjecting IDPs in **Tigray, Oromia, Afar and Amhara** regions to water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases. Also, latrines in Debre Birhan (**Amhara**) are inadequate for disabled persons.
- There is a shortage of shelter and NFI interventions to support dignified and safer living conditions in almost all areas monitored by OHCHR during the month of August. The growing number of IDPs from **Tigray** in Debre Birhan (**Amhara**) and heavy rain and flooding in the **Tigray and Afar** regions have contributed significantly to the increase in the number of IDPs. As a result, vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly are disproportionately subjected to various protection risks from a lack of adequate shelter.
- Children affected by displacement in **Somali, Gondar (Amhara), and Debre Birhan (Amhara)** have continued to face challenges in accessing education because of restrictions in movement, and families' lack of money to cover school expenses. Moreover, the schools available for IDPs in **Debre Birhan, Amhara** do not cater for the special needs of children with disabilities.
- There is a wide gap in free or affordable health care services provision for IDPs in all the areas visited by OHCHR in the August. There is particularly a pressing need for essential medicine in locations monitored in **Tigray, Afar, Oromia, and Amhara regions, as well as Dire Dawa**.

Returns

- In Sherkole, **BGRS**, voluntary returns to Awel Begu have started with no support neither by partners nor by the government. During Protection Monitoring activities the returnees requested shelter and NFIs to support their reinstallation. 396 HHs received family tents in Metekel Zone

According to the recent DRMC information on IDP return situation in **Benishangul Gumuz**, 253,442 individuals have returned. Out of this total, 178,198 are registered in Metekel zone. It is foreseen that HLP concerns can be ground for conflicts in cases of reclaiming housing, land and properties left behind by returning IDPs. The lack of documentation to prove ownership of plots is reported as main challenge.

- **Amhara** - IDPs who had fled Welleh and Tirkit camps due to fighting and were relocated to Sekota town, **WagHimra**, have been returned to the camps by the authorities. So far 5,167 individuals have returned to Welleh and 5,768 to Tirkit. Some IDPs are however reluctant to return to the camps, and protection partners are monitoring their situation to establish the reasons of their reluctance. It is assumed that some IDPs are still traumatised by the fighting that arose in the camps that resulted in killings and injuries of some of them.
- **Afar** - There are 1,240 IDPs living with host communities in Semera and Logiya who have expressed their intention to return to their areas of origin in Konnaba and Berahle. Plans for support to the IDPs are being discussed by UNHCR and the local Return Task Force. UNHCR and the Protection Cluster also plan to support IDPs who have expressed intention to relocate to Tigray, once EDRMO approves the relocation.

GBV

During the month of August 2022, a total of 184,032 beneficiaries were supported with different GBV services in nine regions as follows:

- **GBV Awareness raising activities:** These activities benefited some 121,730 individuals from different populations groups in nine regions.
 - **Dignity Kits distribution:** Dignity kits were distributed to 22,326 persons. Some 6,967 (31%) of them were vulnerable girls and 15,359 (69%) were women in four different regions.
 - **Case management:** 1,494 GBV survivors' women and girls were registered and assessed in case management service in different regions.
 - **Psychological support:** PSS was provided for 19,168 beneficiaries in six regions.
 - **GBV Referral:** 441 GBV survivors were referred to multi-sectoral services.
 - **Socio economic support:** 722 individuals were supported with income-generating activities.
 - **Emergency material support** was provided to 5,333 beneficiaries in Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia and Tigray regions.
 - **Capacity Building:** Different types of training were provided to 1,354 persons: community members were trained on provision of community-based GBV intervention, frontline responders were trained on CMR, PSS, PFA and case management, and humanitarian actors received training on GBV mainstreaming and the GBV pocket guide.
 - **Women and girls accessing women centres:** About **11,464** female beneficiaries accessed women and girls' friendly space.
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- **Amhara** - cases of sexual violence have been reported in North Gondar, North Wello and South Wello due to the resurgence of the conflict. Survivors received medical care and psychosocial support although some arrived after the 72hrs window. In Mersa - North Wollo, there are 11 IDP sites hosting 12,437 female individuals. None of these camps have a Women and Girls Friendly Space (WGFS). UNFPA, WHO and ICRC dispatched CMR Kits to **Amhara and Afar**. UNFPA also dispatched dignity kits.
 - GBV services were affected due to temporary suspension of activities in Chifra – **Afar**, Kobo, Woldiya and other areas affected by conflict in **Amhara** as well as Afder – **Somali** region.
 - **Amhara:** A new Women and Girls Friendly Space is about to be completed in Debark, while another one was renovated in Dessie and is already providing various GBV services.

- A three-day GBV minimum standard training was provided by UNFPA to CP/ GBV AoR members in Bahir Dar, **Amhara**. 21 participants from different NGOs and government sectors attended the training.
- Recurrent drought and current flooding exacerbate the situation of children in **South Omo, SNNP**. Migration of children into other areas and resorting to harmful practices such as child marriage, and GBV are reportedly on the rise.
- In **Afar** a training on GBV pocket guide was conducted for non GBV actors with 31 participants (12 women). 710 vulnerable women and young girls in 4 Woredas (Asaiyata, Dibti, Afambo and Mile) affected by the flood received dignity kits. A training on minimum standards for prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies was conducted for 28 participants (17 women). A Women and Girls Friendly Space (WGFS) was built using Afar traditional housing systems and currently the space is ready to benefit women and girls from Ewa and surrounding communities.
- **Gambella** - Attempted rape and early marriages are a great concern to women and adolescent girls who were displaced by the flood and are now sheltered in different communal buildings such as schools and health centers in flood affected woredas.
- **Oromia** - In the drought affected areas, the number of GBV cases is rapidly increasing. Critical water shortage forces women and girls to travel long distance to fetch water and firewood exposing them to high risk for GBV. Moreover, the lack of adequate lighting in IDP sites in **East and West Hararghe**, Oromia, continues to pose a security risk for women and children.
- **BGRS** - Among the IDPs arrived in Dar Aldab, Bildigilu, from Qedo, 96 women and girls were raped and abused, at the time of displacement witnessed by their family members.
- **Somali** - In western Siti zone, women and girls continued to face serious protection concerns. They reported rape, beatings, sexual harassment and violence, fear in accessing services, and discrimination against their access to assistance (during the ICCG mission women reported that they are not assisted properly and often chased from the queue). They also expressed concern about having to travel long distances to access water and firewood, often using unsafe routes, and the poor shelter conditions with no privacy and protection. Female-headed households and those without male protection during travel to distant locations to access markets and other services are the most vulnerable ones.
- **Somali** - From July-September, more than 29,872 women, girls, boys, and men were reached with awareness-raising messages on violence against children, gender-based violence including harmful practices, PSEA messages as well as COVID-19 messages through community-based outreach activities including mobile outreach, to raise awareness about GBV and CP and other protection concerns to increase access to services. In addition, protection monitoring assessments were conducted in eight IDP sites in Jarar (2), Doolo (2), Erer (2) and Nogob (2) and assisted more than **24,342** individuals with specific needs, affected by the drought, with immediate lifesaving core relief items and NFIs consisting of plastic sheet, blankets, kitchen set, jerrycans, solar lanterns, buckets, laundry soap, mosquito net, clothes and sleeping mats.
- Lack of proper GBV management mechanism and tailored protection services for disabled women and girls in Debre Birhan (**Amhara**) were the major challenges identified confronting IDP women and girls.

The **GBV AoR** identified the following concerns for the month of September 2022

- Lack of consistency in project funding.
- Lack of long-term projects.
- Short period interventions versus area coverage (>1200km apart woredas)
- Numerous emergencies particularly in the north.

Child Protection

- The revised CP AoR Dashboard for mid-year was published in August. Only 23 partners are reporting using the 5W whereas the AoR has over 98 members. Data cleaning exercise is ongoing and will be concluded in October.
- CP AoR partners provided **case management service for 8,638 girls and boys** including linking with other service providers during. The case management service includes Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) and placement in alternative care arrangements. About 14,000 individuals of whom 8,259 children were reached with MHPSS services, whereas 919 parents were provided with parenting skill trainings. A total of 45,955 individuals were also reached with awareness raising on CP risk prevention and mitigation interventions.
- In **Tigray** the regional government estimated 2,000 children to be in street situation. An assessment was conducted in July when 248 children were interviewed. The assessment suggests that 80% of the children came to the streets due to the current crisis in the region. 80% expressed interest to be reunified with their families and 64% said they were in contact with their families. 55.6% of children attached to street are engaged in child labor. 24.9% of the children have only one meal a day regardless of its quality and quantity. 13.1 % of the children are addicted to cigarettes, alcohol, Kchat, and sniffing glues as that substance abuse negatively contributes for lowering food appetite. Relocation of children in street situation to Elshadai started on August 26th. Up to date, 590 children (90% are boys) have been already relocated. This relocation has been planned as part of the transitional process to support children to progressively reunite and be reintegrated with their families. Elshadai has been identified as an operational centre/base for provision of support including case management, mental health and psychosocial support, recreational services, medical support, child friendly informal education and rehabilitation services, while ensuring family tracing and reunification is kicked. Implementing partners are Plan International, IHS, LWF, MFM, WVE, IID, SCI, UNHCR, IOM, Goal, UNICEF, Elshadai, BOSEGE, and City Administration.
- On 14th of September 2022, a meeting was conducted in Bani Changual at **Bulen Woreda** office of WCY in the presence of 15 participants from UNICEF (CPiE consultant), Plan International Ethiopia, Ethiopian red cross society, zonal office of WCY, Woreda office, Woreda education office, Woreda WASH office, Woreda agricultural office, Woreda Police office and other sectors. Outcome of the meetings was to strengthen woreda level CP/GBV AoR meeting and coordination among governmental and non-governmental actors and strengthening referral and linkage system, proper documentation of cases, community-based structures, awareness raising on CP/GBV issues, and GBV case management.
- CP response for children affected by **flood, drought, and conflict** continued. Interventions included case management, identification and support to UASC, prevention and awareness raising, CFS recreational and educational activities, MHPSS and parenting.
- **Gambella** - family separation in **flood** affected woredas is a main child protection concern. Verified numbers of UASC in such woredas are currently unavailable.
- **BGRS** - In the IDP sites of Bambasi, Sherkole and Bildigilu, Assosa, the rise of child labour is pronounced and exacerbated by insufficient food supply and means of livelihood. 26 individuals of whom 13 children (boys and girls) were reunited with their families through the assistance of the military, in Dar Aldab in Bildigilu, **BGRS**. These Children are IDPs from Qedo, Oromia. They were exposed to abuse and exploitation and need immediate case management services.

- An increase in resorting to negative coping mechanisms has been noticed in **Oromia's** drought affected areas. It includes early marriage, child labour and exploitative practices, human and child trafficking, migration from rural to urban areas, begging in the streets. In drought affected areas women and children have started migrating to the nearby towns in search of food. Lack of school uniforms and educational materials for IDP children remains a major challenge. With the starting of the new academic year an increased number of IDP children dropout is expected especially in the drought affected areas.
Somali - In western Siti, primary child protection concerns include: early child marriage; school dropout; child labor; family separation; psychological distress; trauma; children participating in fighting; lack of access to education; lack of GBV and CP services. Very low humanitarian intervention in nutrition and lack of preferential treatment support for children with disabilities were identified as major concerns by IDPs in **Tigray** and Debre Birhan in **Amhara** regions. IDP girls in **Dire Dawa** are on the other hand subjected to early marriage and female genital mutilation.

Mine and Explosive-related Incidents

- The UNMAS team undertook a field mission to the **Amhara** region, to monitor EORE activities provided by implementing partners, conduct threat assessment on level of EO contamination, and monitor the victim caseload and data for possible protection interventions and referral. Monitored field locations in Amhara region included: Debrešina/Tarmaber, Shewarobit, Kemissie, Dewa Chefa, Bati, Kalu, Dessie, Hayik, Tehuldere and Werababo. Hot spot hazard areas were also identified during the field mission.
- Humanitarian partners such as the ICRC, DRC, iMMAP, UNICEF, HI, EPSS, RADO, SRaRO and Halo Trust participated in the monthly MA AoR meeting hosted by the Survivors Recovery and Rehabilitation Organization (SRaRO). Focal point from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Peace and security) was also in attendance. The draft ToRs for the National Mine Action Implementation Inter-Ministerial Committee (Board) was shared with AoR members for review.
- UNMAS contributed to the draft contingency plan of the protection cluster for Amhara, Tigray and Afar. The contingency plan incorporates key Mine Action-related objectives, indicators and activities. The MA team also reviewed regional specific scenarios and preparedness plans developed by the regional DPFSCO
- **EO Incidents and Victims:** as per the field missions conducted in **Amhara** region, a total of 14 explosive ordnance victims were reported (04M, 01B, 02G survivors), and 2 death (one 18y boy and one 9y girl) in Tarmaber; 04 EO victims (3F,1M) in Bati and 1 EO victim (1M) in Teweledhere.
- **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education:** Explosive Ordnance risk education (EORE) activities were conducted with affected populations in **Amhara and Afar regions**. A total of 15,277 (5399W,2003M, 4673G and 3288B) benefited from risk education.

House Land and Property

A total of 4092 beneficiaries were supported by 4 Implementing partners (IOM, NRC, Arbaminch University/UNHCR, and Wollega University/UNHCR) with various HLP services in 3 different Regions (**Benishangul Gumuz, Somali, and SNNP**).

- Main HLP interventions provided were provision of information, counselling, training to duty bearers, legal assistance and legal representation and access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Provision of information on HLP: the total beneficiaries reached were 1,860 for **Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia and, SNNP** Regions for different Population Groups.
- Provision of individual counseling on HLP: total beneficiaries reached were 398 in **Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia, and SNNP** Regions for different Population Groups.
- HLP Technical assistance and legal representation on HLP: total beneficiaries were 1,838 in **Oromia and SNNP** Regions for different population groups.
- Provision of access for alternative dispute resolution to resolve HLP-related disputes: a total of 3 Beneficiaries which accounts in **Oromia** Region are reported.
- Training was delivered for 128 stakeholders regional Court officials, zone, woreda and kebele administrations, VER focal points, land administration officials, health official on HLP and legal identity documentation in **Metekel and Assosa zones, BGRS**.

Durable solution

- **BGRS** - In all the protection monitoring activities done in Assosa region, BGRS, the IDPs requested assistance for alternative sources of livelihood, while returnees asked for ESNFIs to ease their return.
- **Somali** - As part of the durable solutions pilots to support voluntary relocation to various areas in the Somali Region, regional DRMB and partners are working on the relocation of the first wave of departures starting with Dhurwele-Kebreibey and Awbare in Fafan Zone, Bayahaw-Gode in Shabelle Zone, and Dhugub-Galadi in Dollo Zone out of the 36 selected sites to support durable solutions. The first departure from Qoloji camp with approximately **125 households relocating to Dhurwele Kebele- Kebribeyeh woreda in Fafan zone is confirmed for October 2nd**.
- **Amhara**- Returnees and IDPs in Zarima kebele, Gondar, **Amhara Region**, complained about the lack of durable solutions to restore their lives which were significantly disrupted by the conflict with TF. Despite the government initiating the return of IDPs from Aykel town, only 2000 out of an estimated 15,600 shelters are available in Gondar town, Azezo sub-city. The reluctance to return was partly motivated by the destruction of the IDPs houses and the lack of support to rebuild them. IDPs at Kebero Meda IDP site complained to OHCHR about the absence of durable solutions despite having stayed at the site for almost two years. The Central Gondar Zone DRMO told OHCHR that, for the time being, the government lacks the resources to initiate sustainable solutions for IDPs in the zone, but discussions are underway to find funding for the purpose.

Drought – highlights about the response, needs, gap, etc.

- In East Hararghe, **Oromia**, 73,820 livestock deaths were reported and 228,457 livestock are found on critical situation as impact of the drought. In West Hararghe over 67,763 livestock death were reported by the Zonal DRMO.

- In **Somali**, the entire region is affected by compounding shocks with gaps in support to ensure full access to basic needs. The continued drought and protracted displacement exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and risks amongst the communities. Although the host community is willing to support displaced communities, their capacity has been weakened as result of the prolonged drought and inflation.
- Similarly, as result of the drought, displacement continued in the region with livestock and population migration. The situation of IDPs is dire with limited access to basic services in most of the IDP sites across the region. Government and humanitarians are challenged by vast continuous displacement and funding gaps to respond immediately.
- Dignity kits were distributed to 4,500 vulnerable women and girls in the reproductive age affected by the drought in Gabicas IDPs of Gode woreda and Garbo, Duhun and Hararey Woreda of Nogob zones while 8,150 individuals affected by the drought were reached with psychosocial support activities through Child Friendly Spaces, Women and Girls Friendly Spaces, community-based dialogues and house to house visit. Moreover, 2356 children's survivors of violence (1450 Girls and 906 Boys) were referred to response services (MHPSS provided by trained social workers, health, and legal services) across 32 IDP sites in the drought affected areas of 28 *Woredas* in Somali region. In drought affected areas, 220 front-line workers of which 176 are social workers and child protection officers were trained on Clinical management of rape, and GBV service providers were trained in provision of psychosocial support, GBV case management, MHPSS, PSEA and GBV data management to facilitate coordinated and multi-sectoral referral support for girls and boys.

Other concerns

- **Amhara/Afar**: Approximately 2000 IDPs that were formerly hosted in Turkish IDP site in Amhara were relocated by authorities to Awash Shabat in Afar region, where it is foreseen that the living conditions and protection concerns will be similar to the Turkish IDPs camp. Humanitarian actors are assessing the situation.
- **Gambella**: Individuals who were displaced by the flood and sought refuge at communal buildings are concerned about the lack of freedom of movement, safety and the risk of wild animals' attacks.
- **BGRS**: The security vacuum left following the transfer of the military to Northern Ethiopia provided a vacuum and opportunity for conflict.
- **Somali** - In Western Siti zone of Somali region, lack of attention to protection risks, negative coping strategies among community, price inflation, lack of referral pathways, school closures and student dropouts, presence of people with disabilities, older persons without family members, UASC, female-headed households and lack of specialized protection services are among the identified issues during the field mission conducted by ICCG to IDP sites from 13-20 September 2022.
- In August, schools, health facilities, and private houses sustained significant damage in **Afar** region because of heavy rain and accompanying flooding. Meanwhile, IDPs displaced from Unduffo kebele, **Afar**, complained about being told by federal and Afar regional security forces to leave without their belongings during their displacement.
- In **Tigray**, Debre Birhan (**Amhara**), and Togo-Chale (**Somali**), lack of proper IDP registration is curtailing IDPs' access to humanitarian aid. Requests for hefty administrative fees by local authorities to obtain ID cards and other vital documentation has further limited the movement of relocatees in Goljano woreda, **Somali** region.

Takeaways

- Limited resources and limited protection partner presence (in Tigray, Oromia, Gambella, Somali, MA activities) remains an obstacle to reach the most vulnerable with protection services.
- Food insecurity is a major concern and cause of protection risks across the country (conflict, flood and drought affected areas)
- Advocacy on freedom of movement for IDPs is necessary, as movement limitation are reported in IDP sites, and triggered serious incidents during the month (e.g. incidents in China site and Jarri Turkish site reported by UNHCR)
- Attention/advocacy necessary about the respect of the humanitarian character of IDP sites (e.g. Turkish and Awash Shabat sites, former police training sites)
- Attention to new displacements and IDPs needs within Tigray and between Tigray, Amhara and Afar
- Concerning Northern Ethiopia, access to humanitarian aid remain limited, while several displacement movements have been registered during the month, following the intensification of clashes. Access for actors, goods and services has been limited, increasing the needs in the already dire situation. NPC and partners need to keep the attention of the humanitarian community on the protection needs and gaps. Some assessments have been conducted in new displacement areas and sites to fine tune the response and continue advocacy. Gaps were identified in core relief items distribution, access to food and drinking water and health services.
- In Oromia region, while clashes among OLA and security forces remain a protection concerns, the limited presence of protection partners is identified as a relevant gap for service provision.
- Drought response to be scaled up. Need to better focus and communicate about protection response for drought affected beneficiaries. Coordination with non-protection actors is recommended.
- Attention to increasing GBV and CP risks in flood-affected areas.