



Interagency Rapid Protection Assessment - Gondar, Amhara Region

11-14 March 2019

MISSION OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE

Starting in November 2018, inter-communal conflict between the Amhara and the Qemant communities, led to displacements in the western and central parts of the Amhara region. The majority of IDPs in Gondar have come from different woredas in West and Central part of Gondar. Most of the IDPs are living within the host communities while around 30% live in collective sites. It has also been reported that there are women and girls who feel at risk of protection concerns because of overcrowded shelter and poor living conditions. Moreover, there is limited protection presence in the area. The Protection Cluster organized a rapid protection and human rights assessment to Gondar and Bahir Dar from 11-14 March 2019 to assess the displacement situation and associated protection risks, needs and response.

METHODOLOGY

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with both male and female IDPs in sites in Central Gondar Zone. Two FGDs were conducted with female IDPs in Ayimba and Arbaba IDP sites while two FGDs were conducted with male IDPs in Ayimba and Arbaba sites. Key informant interviews were conducted with local authorities both in Gondar and Bahir Dar. Observations were also used in some of the sites to assess the access to basic services.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL TEAM MEMBERS

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MEETINGS HELD

Menberu Awdew DRM Head Central Gondar	Kenaw Getu IDP Response Team Leader Tikil Dingay IDP Site, Central Gondar
Abdella Nurhussien Early Warning and Response Team Leader Central Gondar	Bantihun Mekonnen Central Gondar Zonal Administration Deputy Head/ Inland Revenue Head
Asnaku Deres Bureau of Women, Children, Youth Affairs Head Bahir Dar	Eshetu Alene Attorney General Office, Human Rights Director Bahir Dar

OVERVIEW OF DISPLACEMENT

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS WITH DRM OFFICIALS - CENTRAL GONDAR

- Conflict followed by displacement started in Western and Central parts of Gondar around end of 2018 and the situation escalated in 2019. The root cause of the conflict in 2018 was reported to be the Qemant community's claim to include three kebeles in Metema woreda of West Gondar under the existing 69 Quemant kebeles. According to the various local authorities, claims of self-determination began a few years

back which eventually led to placing 69 kebeles under Quemant administration. The Quemant community again appealed to the local government to be entitled to additional three kebeles namely Meqa, Lynecha and Gubayetro. The three claimed kebeles are however allegedly inhabited by both Amharas and Quemant community. The government has not yet ruled in favour of this request which led to conflict that caused the current displacement.

- In November 2018, 15,042 IDPs were identified within Chilga 1 and 2 woredas from both communities. The population increased during the subsequent phases of displacement. Around 27,112 Quemant and Amhara community living in different woredas namely East and West Dembia, Tsegede, Tach Armachiho, West Armachiho and Lay Armachiho of Central Gondar Zone were reported to be displaced to locations inhabited by their respective communities for safety.
- In West Gondar there are 7,000 IDPs while in Central Gondar there are more than 50,000 IDPs.
- There are 10 IDP food distribution centres in Central Gondar.
- IDP sites in central Gondar are located in Ayimba town in East Dembia woreda, in Arbaba kebele in Gondar town and in Lay Armachiho, Tikil Dingay area.
- Similarly people have been displaced in West Gondar Zone. Around 1400 individuals from the Quemant community fled to Sudan but it is reported that they are currently returning to Ethiopia.
- Destruction and looting of properties, murder, and kidnapping for ransom were some of the security concerns reported during the conflict and displacement.
- It was also reported that Amhara IDPs are arriving in Gondar from Dansha in Tigray Region, due to the recent conflict related to the presence of trucks with Amhara plate numbers in Dansha and the surrounding areas. The conflict has caused burning of houses and cars.
- The number of women and children displaced is higher than the number of men. Reportedly most men have remained in the places of origin to keep their properties safe and to fight.
- Ethiopian Defense Force (EDF) was deployed at the request of the regional government. The Quemant have expressed distrust of the Amhara Regional Special Force (Liyu Police) for favouring the Amhara community. Similarly, the Amhara community accuse the EDF for favouring the Quemant community. The 33rd EDF division replaced the 24 EDF division after the Amharas made claims accusing the EDF of allegedly committing crimes against the Amharas.
- There is currently a plan to return IDPs to their original homes and according to the authorities in Gondar, this plan falls under the government's nationwide two months conflict induced IDP return plan. The return plan will be accompanied by rehabilitation measures that will consider needs in terms of seed, farming equipment and reconstruction of damaged houses.
- 95 primary schools and five high schools have been closed in Central Gondar. IDP children are not going to school because they lack school materials. Space to accommodate IDP children in the place of displacement is another challenge. The Zonal DRM is therefore providing plastic sheets to create additional spaces for children in schools.
- In terms of assistance to the IDPs, Federal NDRMC has allocated food and NFIs for one month for 45,900 IDPs and dispatch is underway. IRC, ICRC and ERC assisted 4,000 HH IDPs in Lay Armachiho in Chilga woreda with full NFI kits.
- Not all IDPs are registered, most of them live within the host communities, and are only registered when they approach the authorities for services such as food assistance. The vast majority of IDPs are farmers.
- Two cases of SGBV have been reported. According to the DRM head, one girl was gang raped in Ayimba allegedly by a member of the Quemant community. The girl reported the incident to the police and received medical attention. Similarly, another girl reportedly from the Quemant community, was allegedly raped by member of the EDF in Central Gondar. Another two cases of rape were reported in West Gondar Zone (Quara and Metema woredas) but these cases were never investigated for reasons which were not fully explained during the time of the assessment.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW WITH IDP RESPONSE TEAM LEADER - TIKIL DINGAY IDP SITE

- In Tikil Dingay town, there are estimated 13,142 IDPs out of which 10,454 are farmers and merchants and 2,688 are civil servants and their families. The total population in the area is 22,000. There are also newly arriving Quemant IDPs to this site who have been originally displaced to Sudan at the beginning of the recent conflict between the two communities.

- IDPs have come from Quara, Metema Yohannes, Metema, West Armachiho, Tach Armachiho and Tsegede.
- Civil servant IDPs have not received full salaries as a result of logistical and administrative challenges to pay them in their location of displacement.
- There are approximately 5,000 IDPs staying in the Tikil Dingay IDP site as the IDPs do not have relatives within the host community.
- The IDP site was previously a Youth Centre. The government obtained the youth's consent to allow IDPs to stay at the centre. The site is an open space which has become overcrowded.
- There is only one health centre in Tikil Dingay and there are challenges with regard to availability of medicines. Water is available, there are only four pit latrines for the entire IDP community living at the site. These toilets are already full and the pit needs to be emptied as soon as possible. There are shower rooms in the site but IDPs explained that they have to pay three birr to the youth to use the shower rooms.
- The host community supported the IDPs significantly until government assistance was in place.
- IDP children are not going to school because there is a lack of space in the existing host community schools. About 26 students are college dropouts because of the displacement.
- In terms of response, ICRC provided about 1000 HHs with NFIs.
- According to observation conducted, the site is divided per location of displacement. IDPs are sleeping in the open and they do not have mattresses. The shelters are not covered and only plastic tarps are available under which IDPs are sleeping. Women and men who are from different families sleep together outside in the open space which may create safety risks for women as no private space is available. IDP women who arrived earlier are staying inside a storage room in the centre but the rest are outside in the open air. Children are not seen playing as the area does not provide the space. The site is secured by the woreda security police.
- It was reported that there are persons with disabilities, older persons, and pregnant and lactating mothers living at the site, in need of specialized assistance.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW WITH CENTRAL GONDAR ZONAL ADMINISTRATION DEPUTY HEAD/HEAD OF INLAND REVENUE

- More than 50,000 IDPs are found in Central Gondar.
- Challenges with regard to people from the host communities obtaining resources allocated for IDPs has been reported as allegedly members of the host community pretend to be part of the IDP community.
- The current plan is to return IDPs to their original places of residence/homes.
- With respect to returning IDPs to their original homes, it was explained resource mobilization is taking place at the different administrative structure levels for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of houses and livelihoods. There are IDPs who have already returned to East and West Dembia woredas in Central Gondar zone. There are efforts being made to stabilize the security situation.
- In total, there are 4,360 burned houses. More than 1.2 billion Birr is required at the regional level to respond to the displacement situation in general that will include rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.
- The number of Amhara IDPs from Dansha area in Tigray is increasing. More than 5,000 IDPs from there has been recorded. No conflict has been reported between the Amhara and Tigray regions.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW WITH BUREAU OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS HEAD - BAHIR DAR

- IDPs in Amhara Region are from within the Gondar zone, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Somali and Tigray regions as well as Ethiopians from Djibouti. Command post is established at the regional level to respond to the crisis at hand in which the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs participates.
- The Bureau has established its own platform, other than the CP GBV Sub-Cluster, to specifically look at the protection issues of IDP women and children. The Bureau is trying to get disaggregated figures of IDP women and children by age and sex.
- The number of women and children is the highest among the overall displaced population. It is difficult to obtain accurate data as there are IDPs who are also hosted within the host community.
- Current response in terms of food, cloth and other NFIs is insufficient. Women and children are the worst affected in displacement as they have been physically attacked, sexually abused and psychologically distressed. Identifying those groups of people with high psychosocial need is getting difficult as the effects of displacement particularly psychosocial problems resulting from SGBV, sexual abuse and physical harm, loss

of family members and livelihood are not reported. Nothing has been done with regard to provision of Psychosocial Support (PSS).

- The Bureau is currently trying to identify the number of those in need of dignity kits and PSS. All lower level government structures have been made to participate in developing the Regional government's protection response plan. However, the woreda level structures have not been able to go down to the site level to gather protection related data due to security issues. There is also a lack of data for IDPs hosted within the host community. Moreover, the government task force that is established at the Regional level is not strengthened at the zonal level which contributes to the weak lower level coordination structure affecting protection identification and response.
- There are IDPs who have reported SGBV concerns and an effort was made by government to link these cases with health services.
- It is noted that a lot of assessments have been carried out but response remains minimal. It was requested that protection partners need to go beyond conducting assessments and start mobilizing resources to implement protection activities.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW WITH REGION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE - HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN UNIT - BAHIR DAR

- Within the Regional Attorney General's Office, there exists a human rights section. Limited financial capacity is one of the reported challenges hindering the implementation of its work plan.
- The office mentioned existing biases and lack of political willingness to ensure accountability particularly in the context of the current conflict.
- It was highlighted that the government should work towards ensuring stability through awareness raising and sensitization with the involvement of different stakeholders including religious leaders.
- The human rights unit creates linkages between administration and security field unit to have a discussion in the context of how lasting peace can be achieved.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH FEMALE AND MALE IDPs - ARBABA IDP SITE IN CENTRAL GONDAR (QUEMANT IDPs)

BACKGROUND

- IDPs in Arbaba have come from different locations in Gondar, namely Metema Yohannes, Quara, Gendewuha town, Abrha Jira woredas of West Gondar zone and Sanja, Ayimba, Tsegede and Ayimba Zuria, Deleguo, Azezo, and Chilga No. 2 woredas of Central Gondar zone.
- There are close to 6,488 IDPs in the site.

REASON FOR DISPLACEMENT

- IDPs in Arbaba are mainly Quemant. According to the testimony of a female IDP from Metema Yohannes, individuals from different locations were displaced since 28 September 2018. The IDPs tried to raise the issue at a higher level in Addis Ababa through signing a petition and presenting this to the Ministry of Peace, NDRMC and Ministry of Defense in Addis Ababa to get redress. The IDPs however mentioned the issue was never addressed.
- In Metema Yohannes, female IDPs claimed that the Regional Special Force burnt houses and a total of 57 people died, including children. The incident took place around Jan 2019. Although EDF was there at the time, the force did not take any measure to stop the situation saying no instruction has been received to intervene.
- Quemant IDPs stated that the Regional Special Force and youth group that are allegedly always in the forefront to create conflict, who are referred to as "*Gobez Aleka*", are primarily the ones who initiated the displacement and that they allegedly are responsible for all the crimes committed.
- Before the displacement occurred, an announcement was allegedly made by Gobez Aleka for civil servants belonging to the Quemant community to leave their area in a month's time. The time limitation however did not apply for the rest of the community who were ordered to leave immediately.
- The male IDPs indicated that they have been displaced since December 2018. They said that they speak the same language as the Amharas and have the same religion and culture. They added that religious and community leaders from both sides have discussed and agreed to avoid any disputes between the two

community groups but there are groups of men from both communities who have been working against this agreement.

- Some IDPs from the Quemant community at Arbaba site accused the Amhara special forces of allegedly burning houses, especially in Metema Yohannes. Similarly, Amhara IDPs accuse the national defence force of giving protection to Quemants only which, aggravated the displacement.
- There are Quemants, recently returning to Ethiopia from Sudan, and others from Dansha town in Tigray region.
- Around 931 primary school teachers and 126 high school teachers are displaced.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND RESPONSE

- **Food:** Food distribution and NFI has taken place for 1,064 IDPs in the area. However, within Arbaba it is estimated that there are close to 6,000 IDPs. Assistance was provided to those who were the first to arrive at the site. Those who arrived later did not receive assistance. It was reported, 15kgs/person/month and 0.45 litre of oil is provided to the IDPs. Concerns related to cash to have wheat milled was raised. Government has allocated food for distribution while ERC has contributed through the distribution of NFIs.
- **Shelter and Non-Food Items:** 80 mattresses have been distributed and 133 mats and canvas have been distributed by ERC. There are only four canvas tents, which were erected a week before the assessment period, used as a shelter for the whole IDPs. Most of the IDPs do not prefer to stay in the shelter set-up for the IDPs and look for relatives within the host communities to stay with. Those who do not have other alternatives, stay in the collective site. There are only four canvas tents which were erected a week before the assessment period used as a shelter all the IDPs.
- **WaSH:** Water is made available through roto tanks. There are no latrines in the site and IDPs practice open defecation.
- **Health:** With regard to health services, IDPs mentioned that they receive health services from a nearby Catholic health centre. Male IDPs however, mentioned that they need to travel to Gondar town which is 5km away from the site to get health care services but they do not have the cash to pay for treatment.
- **Education:** Children are not going to school because schools in the area of displacement require records from their previous schools which they do not have. Children under 10, however get the chance to spend the day time in the nearby catholic primary school where they play and learn.

GBV/CHILD PROTECTION AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS CONCERNS

- There are some unaccompanied and separated children but no response is being provided to date.
- There were some rape cases reported during flight. There have been however no GBV incidents reported after their arrival in the IDP sites.
- Although there are older persons within the IDPs, special attention has not been provided to them during the response.

RETURN TO THE PLACES OF ORIGIN

- Some Quemant IDPs in Arbaba mentioned that they were instructed by the Amhara Region Special Forces to return to their homes in Gende Wuha Woreda in West Gondar as they are considered to belong to Amhara ethnicity.
- IDPs explained that even if they return to their homes or places of origin, the tension will still remain and that they are not certain if they are willing to return. They state that the people who are responsible for the conflict have not been apprehended.

PRIORITY NEEDS

- IDPs highlighted that short term assistance is not sustainable and government needs to work more on sustainable long term solutions to put an end to the ongoing conflict and displacement.
- Food and shelter are priority needs according to IDPs.
- IDPs requested for the perpetrators of the violence to be brought to justice.



- IDPs requested that Quemant committee members who have been arrested to be released.
- The male IDPs also indicated that the food and NFI provision should be as per the number of IDPs.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH FEMALE AND MALE IDPs - AYIMBA IDP SITE IN CENTRAL GONDAR (AMHARA IDPs)

BACKGROUND

- There are about 13,800 IDPs living at the site. The IDPs are staying both in the host community and in privately constructed unfinished rural houses.
- IDPs in the site have come from seven locations in Gondar mainly in Chilga No. 1 woreda of central Gondar Zone (Laza and Anker Adeza Kebele) and Chilga No. 2 woreda of central Gondar Zone (Naraw Darda, Awdarda, Buhona, Alemtsehay, Zimamseg, Ahiya Mejob, Mar Huna, Jeyid, Daza, Mzaba and Akubi kebeles).

REASON FOR DISPLACEMENT

- Some of the Amhara IDPs from Bohena kebele explained, youth groups from the Quemant community allegedly instructed all Amharas and Muslims to leave the area because the kebele is dominated by Quemant and hence it belongs to Quemant. This allegedly took place in November 2018.
- People died during the process of displacement. Some of the IDPs in Ayimba explained they do not know the people who assisted in the displacement while others said their neighbours helped those forcing out the Amharas in identifying the people belonging to the Amhara community.
- The male IDPs also indicated that they traveled 15 to 20 klms to escape from conflict. They added that most of the men who killed their community members were wearing uniforms and armed with heavy artilleries. These groups allegedly also cut the body parts of the Amharas after they were murdered.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND RESPONSE

- **Food:** Food allocated by government was distributed twice for IDPs who arrived in November 2018 while newer arrivals have received food only once. Reportedly, a total of 15 kgs of wheat, 4 kgs of rice, 8 kgs of flour and 3kgs of Fafa flour and oil is what composed the food basket. IDPs staying in the host community reported they sell part of the food they receive to pay rent for the house they have rented in the host community. In terms of targeting, it was reported that persons with disabilities are counted as two for food distribution because of their vulnerable nature. Older persons on the other hand have been prioritized to receive mattresses. It was explained the community in different locations (Addis Ababa, Gondar, Gojam) have supported the IDPs mainly with food. The contribution goes to NDRMC and then gets dispatched.
Shelter and Non-food Items: 672 mattresses have been distributed by government for older persons and lactating mothers. ERC have so far distributed blankets to 90% of those IDPs that arrived earlier. In terms of shelter, a maximum of 15 IDPs stay in a single privately constructed houses. These houses are under construction and IDPs' stay in these houses depends on the willingness of the owners of the houses. Most services are provided by the government. It was mentioned that the ERC provided NFIs.
- **Health:** There is a health centre by the IDP site and referral to hospitals is made possible according to the female IDPs. On the other hand, the male IDPs indicated that one type of medicine (amoxicillin) is provided to the IDPs visiting the health post regardless of their cases. They also indicated that mothers spent three to four days in labour due to lack of referral services to Gondar town which is 20 kms away from the site.
- **WaSH:** There are pit latrines available on site covered by plastic sheets. However, there are no lights around the latrines nor in the site as a whole. Water is made available through roto tanks. The water trucking is done only from Gondar town and only 10 litres of water is provided to 15 family members per day.
- **Education:** Children are not going to school because of shortage of space in the existing schools in Ayimba. There are 6th, 8th and 10th grade children within the IDP community.
- **Livelihood:** IDPs try to obtain income through engaging in casual labour around the site. Some of the IDPs are engaged in daily labour activities (construction works) but usually accept work at lower wages. This opportunity is nevertheless limited as the work in the rural communities is seasonal.



CHILD PROTECTION, GBV AND PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

- Two GBV cases have been reported one of which happened in the site in Ayimba when IDPs started to arrive. It was explained that after the female survivor received medical attention she disappeared from the site and no one knows her current whereabouts.
- One woman reportedly survived a gang rape, at her place of origin, within a Quemant and Amhara dominated kebele in Ayimba.
- There were children who were separated from their families at the beginning of displacement but were later reunified with their parents.

RETURN TO PLACES OF ORIGIN

- Laza and Ankar Adaza kebeles are not completely damaged and because of this return process is underway for IDPs in Ayimba town. The voluntariness of the return is however an issue as IDPs report they do not feel safe. In order to address this, woreda administrators are going to the kebele level to ensure the safety of the people that will be returning and to sensitize on peace and reconciliation. EDF forces are also deployed in selected areas.
- The host community will be mobilized to participate in the reconstruction and recovery plan that is put together in the affected Kebeles.
- Woreda staff supporting the response in the area explained that representatives from the Regional House of People's Representatives, Peace Committee, Quemant community and religious Leaders have come to the site to understand the situation as part of the peace and reconciliation efforts.

PRIORITY NEEDS

- IDPs explained that short term assistance is not the way forward as this is not sustainable. IDPs underscored that in a four years period, the Amharas and the Quemant have had problems and they resolved their issues three times. IDPs stated there is no guarantee the same conflict will not erupt if they go back. As a way forward IDPs explained they need to be relocated where there are other Amharas.
- IDPs right to standard of living (i.e. essential food and potable water, basic shelter and housing, clothing, medical services and sanitation services) are not adequately fulfilled. Food and shelter were also highlighted as other priority needs.

ALLEGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES

- Based on the interaction made with local officials and IDPs, the major allegation of human rights violation at the place of origin includes deprivation of the right to life, SGBV, the right to bodily integrity, property, education and the right to standard of living. Specific allegations of human right abuses mentioned by IDPs includes destruction and looting of properties, murder, holding people for ransom, burning down houses and burning people alive.
- One female IDP at Arbaba site mentioned that 57 people, including children, were allegedly burned to death in Metema Yohannes and buried in a mass grave.
- Quemant IDPs at Arbaba site accused Amhara special forces for allegedly burning down their houses particularly in Metema Yohannes.

ACCOUNTABILITY CONCERNS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- According to local officials, warrants are issued to arrest perpetrators and instigators of violence. Some Quemant IDPs, at Arbaba Site, indicated that the arrests are only targeting members of the kimant self-administration inquiry committee.
- During discussions with the Human Right Action plan Directorate in the Regional Attorney General's Office, in 2017, the office made its investigations into conflicts that were created between the Quemant and Amhara community and recommended the arrest of instigators of the violence. These people were later released for



unknown reasons. The office stressed the lack of political willingness from the region's side to ensuring accountability.

SECURITY, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION EFFORTS

- With regard to government efforts to stabilize the security situation, it was explained that several steps are being undertaken one of which is deploying security teams in four divisions covering the following areas:
 - o 1st division covers the route from Lay Armachiho woreda of Central Gondar zone; 2nd division covers Tach Armachiho, Tsegede woredas of Central Gondar zone; 3rd division covers East and West Dembia of Central Gondar zone; 4th covers the route from Gondar town to Metema area of West Gondar zone including Chilga 1 & 2 woredas of Central Gondar zone.
- Each team is composed of EDF General, regional police, zonal police and militias. Furthermore, some of the perpetrators and instigators of violence have been identified and warrant is issued for their arrest. Similarly, 14 people belonging to both the Quemant and Amhara community have been apprehended in relation to the violence that occurred between the two communities.
- The government is also working on peace and reconciliation efforts whereby the regional and zonal authorities are trying to sensitize the community at the kebele level on the importance of calling truce between the two communities. There are already efforts for some of the IDPs to return to their original places of origin. It was however reported that not all IDPs are willing to return to their original places of residence because of uncertain security situation.
- Some Quemant IDPs mentioned that since the conflict is not between the two ethnic groups reconciliation efforts are not relevant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA

- The government of Ethiopia in cooperation with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) should undertake a thorough, impartial and independent investigation into the alleged human rights violations in the affected areas and hold alleged perpetrators accountable in line with national and international standards and obligations. By enforcing accountability and bringing perpetrators to justice, the government will ensure that impunity does not continue and that more violations do not occur.
- The Government of Ethiopia should adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to build peace and to address the root cause of the conflict in the region. Efforts to systematically address the underlying/root causes of the recurrent conflict by the government of Ethiopia needs to be accelerated in close and inclusive consultation with affected communities from both sides to ensure a sustainable solution.
- The Government of Ethiopia should adopt effective strategies to ensure the prohibition of arbitrary forced evictions of individuals leading to internal displacement.
- The needs of the host communities, that provide support and assistance to internally displaced persons, should also be addressed, to reduce tensions and promote community cohesion.
- Establish consultative and participatory mechanisms and platforms to ensure that internally displaced persons, including women and other persons with specific needs, are fully involved in decisions affecting them.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- The return process should follow protection principles taking into account the safety and dignity of IDPs. It should be sustainable and depend on the voluntariness of the IDPs to return to their homes.
- Government should lead the peace and reconciliation efforts and ensure security in return areas.
- Community members, including women and children, need to be included in the peace building and reconciliation discussions and process.
- Take all steps necessary to provide functioning educational facilities to IDP children in safe and accessible locations

PROTECTION CLUSTER AND PARTNERS

- The Protection Cluster and protection actors needs to advocate for funding to conduct protection related activities, such as monitoring and documentation of human rights abuses and violations of IDPs, in IDP sites and return locations. Additionally, psychosocial services are needed due to the overwhelming situation created as a result of GBV, physical attacks as well as destruction of properties. Children and women friendly spaces need to be constructed for provision of such services.
- Capacity building is needed to government partners on the types of specific needs and vulnerabilities in order to ensure appropriate targeting of assistance.
- Partners need to support the zonal and woreda level humanitarian coordination forums.

FOR SHELTER, HEALTH AND WASH ACTORS

- IDPs are living in poor shelter conditions and the overcrowding will likely expose women and children to protection risks. Shelter condition needs to be upgraded.
- Construction of latrines at the sites are needed, in-line with Sphere standards.
- IDP sites need to be properly lighted to reduce protection risks.
- Health centres close to IDP sites need to be equipped with sufficient medical supplies. As most of the IDPs are women and children, the health facilities need to be supported with emergency reproductive health kits and the services providers need to get on job training on Clinical Management of Rape and Basic Emergency Obstetric Newborn Care.

PHOTOS OF IDP SITES IN TIKIL DINGAY, ARBABA AND AYIMBA



PROPOSED RESPONSE PLAN

	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
1.	<p>Advocacy Protection Cluster position paper on return of IDPs to be revised and circulated</p> <p>Advocate for protection partners to enhance capacity in Gondar to identify, respond and address protection concerns.</p> <p>Advocate for vulnerability criteria to be developed and applied by service providers (government and humanitarian) to facilitate the identification and prioritization of persons with specific needs.</p> <p>Continue advocacy with the government on accountability and inclusion of community members, including women and children, in the peace and reconciliation process.</p> <p>Closely monitor the human rights situation of displaced persons and returnees.</p>	<p>Protection Cluster</p> <p>OHCHR and Protection Cluster</p>	<p>April-May 2019</p> <p>March-July 2019</p>
2.	<p>Child Protection and GBV Mobilize funds for construction of child friendly and women friendly spaces and distribution of dignity kits</p> <p>Train BOWCYA in CP and SGBV prevention and response.</p>	<p>UNICEF, UNFPA, SCI, IRC, CARE and others</p> <p>CP GBV Sub-Cluster</p>	<p>March – June 2019</p>
3.	<p>Psychosocial Support IDPs need to be provided with psychosocial support (PSS) services to address ongoing mental health needs.</p>	<p>Protection Cluster and relevant actors UNFPA, UNICEF, IRC, DRC and others CP/GBV sub-cluster</p>	<p>March – July 2019</p>
4.	<p>Education and Access to Basic Services Inform relevant clusters of gaps and needs identified in this assessment (Education, Health, WaSH, Shelter, and Food).</p>	<p>Protection Cluster to share the report with relevant Clusters to request their support.</p>	<p>March-April 2019</p>