Ethiopia

Towards Durable Solutions: Legal aid & legal awareness

Factsheet October – December 2022

UNHCR Ethiopia in partnership with the Universities of Bule Hora, Dila, Wollega, Arba-Minch and Wollo, provides free legal aid and legal awareness services to internally displaced persons (IDPs), returning IDPs and members of the host community with specific needs. Currently, there are 35 legal aid clinics in Oromia, SNNP and Amhara regions.

Total people supported: 12,483

Women & girls: 58.62%
Men & boys: 41.38%

Legal aid: 16.2%

Legal Awareness: 82.4%

Court Fee Assistance: 1.4%

- Providing quality legal services: Legal aid and awareness are critical protection services. They are needed to ensure that people know their rights, to address challenges IDPs and others in need face in obtaining and restoring identity and civil documentation and housing, land, and property rights, as well as to facilitate access to justice, including for survivors of gender-based violence. The services provided range from awareness raising sessions, to the provision of legal information, legal counselling and advice, legal assistance, as well as legal representation before courts, tailored to the needs of the community and individuals.
- Supporting IDPs in achieving durable solutions: Internally displaced people need a long-term solution to their situation. Being able to access justice, receive needed documentation and have land and property rights restored is an important step towards durable solutions such as, such as voluntary return, relocation, or local integration.
- Leveraging expertise through local partnerships: The partnership with the Universities of Bule Hora, Dila, Wollega, Arba-Minch and Wollo is an asset and allows to leverage local legal expertise for quality services to people in need.

" I lost my eyesight as a child, and my son, who used to look after me, recently died. I didn't have anyone to look after me or my grandchildren. The legal aid center then assisted me in preparing the paperwork to appoint a guardian who can assist me in raising grandchildren and gaining inheritance."

An elderly IDP living with disability, in West Wollega zone, Oromia Region.

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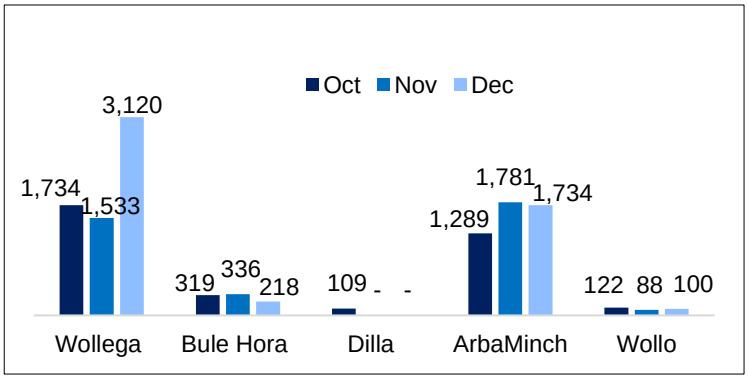
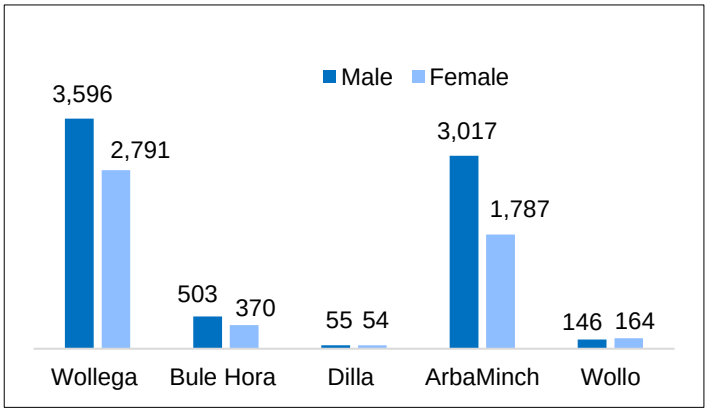
People supported



Between October and December 2022,12,483 individuals (7,317 male and 5,166 female) benefited from legal aid and legal awareness activities, which is a 64.4% increase from the previous quarter. Of those, 2,023 individuals (16.2%) received legal aid, while 10,283 individuals (83.4%) benefitted from legal awareness activities. A total of 177 individuals (1.4%) received court fee assistance.

In the last quarter of 2022, UNHCR in collaboration with Universities of Wollega, Dilla, Bule Hora, Arba Minch and Wollo, provided free legal aid services for 2,023 individuals (50.1% male and 49.9% female). In this quarter, most of the Universities have provided court fee assistance for 177 (44.6% male and 55.4% female) beneficiaries. Likewise, the legal aid centers under Wollega (50.6%), Arba Minch (60.2%) and Wollo (53%) Universities have reached the relatively highest number of women and girls out of their total legal aid beneficiaries.



UNHCR, through the Universities, provided legal awareness sessions to 10,283 beneficiaries (60.5% male and 39.5% female). During this period, Wollega (54.3%) and Arba Minch (42.7%) Universities have reached the highest number of legal awareness beneficiaries. In addition, Wollo University, in coordination with UNHCR Field Office Dessie has conducted a weekly broadcast of legal awareness campaign, focused on human rights and protection of IDPs, on the Fana FM Radio station, which is estimated to reach around 300,000 people.

Key Achievements

- Wollo University filed 35 complaints representing IDPs, returnees and members of host communities with specific needs.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with Wollega and Wollo Universities, conducted capacity building workshops on IDP protection, Kampala Convention, and House Land Property rights for 148 (27 women and 121 men) participants from government offices and law enforcement bodies.

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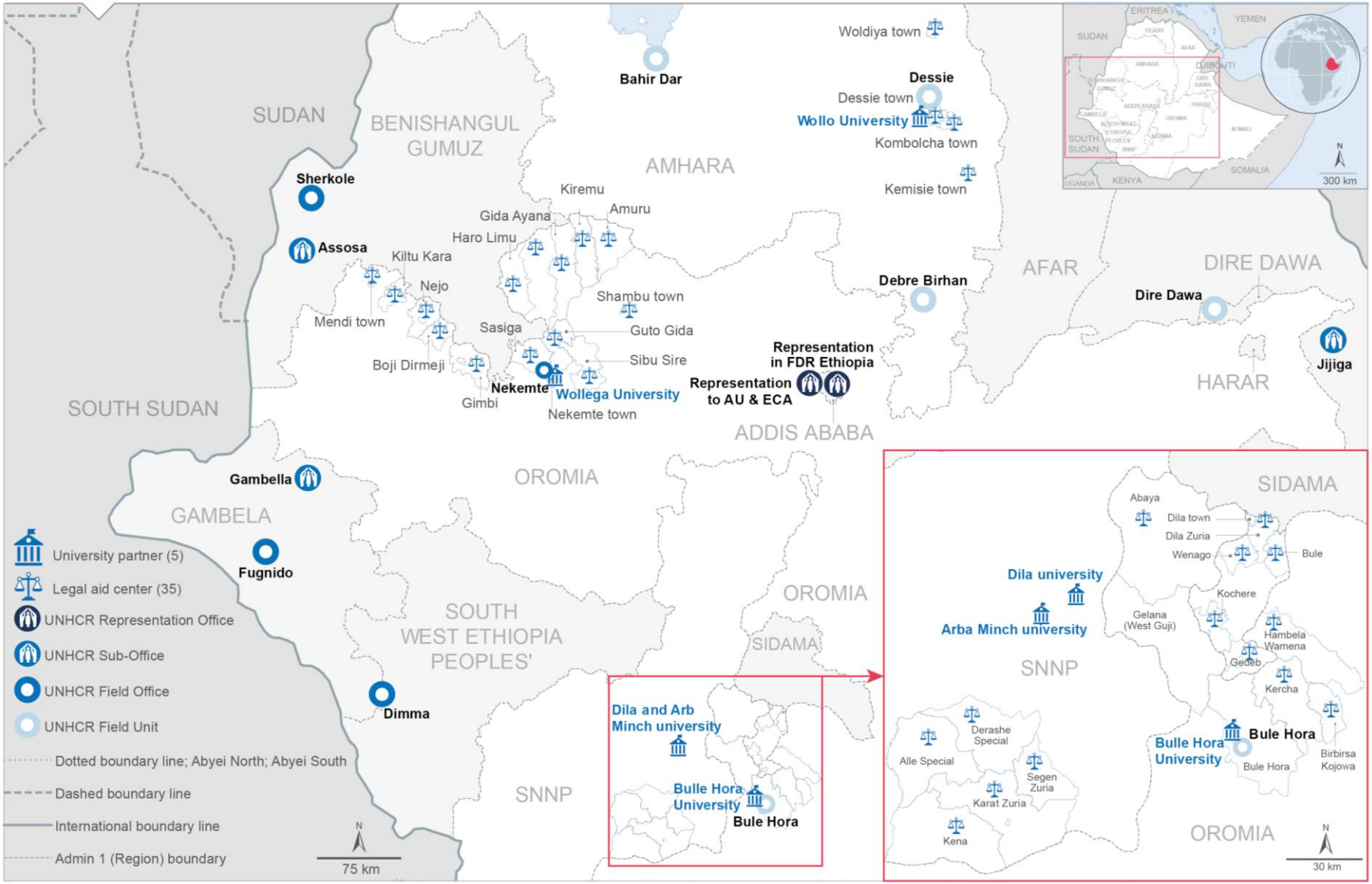
University Partners and Legal Aid Centers in Oromia, SNNP and Amhara Regions

As of December 2022



*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. * Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan; and between Ethiopia and Somalia has not yet been determined.*

Printing date: December 2022 **Sources:** UNCS, UNHCR - IDP Team, CSA Ethiopia **Author:** UNHCR - CO Ethiopia **Feedback:** Wubrest Fantahun Adamu <fantahun@unhcr.org>, Meba Teklewold Teklemariam <teklewol@unhcr.org>