Protection and Solutions in Tigray Region
January - December 2023

Guiding Frameworks
- UNHCR Strategic Directions 2022-2026
- UN Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement
- IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons
- Kampala Convention (2009)
- Ethiopia Durable Solutions Initiative

People Targeted
- Internally Displaced
- Population returnees
- Affected Host Communities

Area Based Approach
- Drop-in centers
- Site maintenance and decommissioning
- Facilitating IDP returns
- Livelihoods for Solutions
- Protection Monitoring and Solutions (PMS)

Legal Aid and Documentation
- Child Protection and Education
- Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)
- Protection Desk
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Shelter and Core Relief Item
The Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) in Tigray endeavors to function as a technical coordination body to advance durable solutions for displaced persons through a consultative and rights-based approach.

**Composition of the Durable Solutions Working Group Tigray**

**Chair**
Early Recovery Project Management Office (ERPMO)
Bureau of Social Affairs & Rehabilitation

**Co-chairs**
UNHCR, UNDP, IOM

**Participants**
UN Agencies, Development actors, Cluster coordinators, (I)NGOs, Civil Society Organizations

The DSWG in Tigray is to assist the Regional Government and other represented humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors:

- To formulate and develop a framework that allows the engagement of displaced persons, regional government authorities, local academia, private partners, and development and peacebuilding actors in a caucus that seeks to engage in finding durable solutions for displaced persons.
- Together with the displaced population and the regional Government, develop, and prioritize community action plans that are geared to providing durable solutions and lasting peace.
- To engage donors and other beneficiaries in seeking funding to implement durable solution and lasting peace activities.
- Together with displaced persons and the regional government authorities develop work plan, engage in evaluation and monitoring activities.

**UNHCR IDP RESPONSE**

1.3M Target
725K Reached (56%)

**DISPLACEMENT FIGURES**

DTM - National Displacement Report 17 – December 2023

- **949K** Total IDPs
  - 47% Male | 53% Female
- **1.5M** Total IDP returnees
  - 47% Male | 53% Female

**Top 3 zones of displacement**
- North-Western (324K)
- Mekelle (224K)
- Central (211K)

**Top 3 zones of return**
- North-Western (406K)
- Eastern (375K)
- Central (366K)

**INTENTION SURVEY**

March 2023
68 IDP sites covered
10,457 respondents

- 95% of respondents have indicated their preference to return to their place of residence prior to displacement.
- 4% of respondents have indicated local integration.

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**UNHCR leads Protection Cluster, co-leads Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and contributes to Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster.**
Context
Under the auspices of the Durable Solutions Working Group (DWSG) chaired by the regional/zonal authorities, UNHCR and partners are facilitating voluntary returns in safe and dignified conditions to their places of origin in Tigray.

Upon arrival in their place of origin, the displaced population benefited from Core Relief Items (CRIs) and Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) for transportation and multi-purposes such as food and medicines.

Post return monitoring is conducted through Protection Monitoring and Solutions (PMS) to identify protection needs in the areas of return and advocate for solutions to make returns sustainable.

Major achievements
- 213,925 Individuals counselled
- 110,920 Voluntary IDP returns facilitated
- 103,005 IDPs counselled and ready to return

Facilitated IDP returns trends
- 536 in 2021
- 33,434 in 2022
- 110,920 in 2023

9,733 Persons with specific needs reached

Objectives
• Inform the protection and multi-sectoral response from a centrality of protection point of view through regular protection analysis.

• Assess the sustainability of returns in alignment with the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, the Kampala Convention and the Ethiopia Durable Solutions Initiative.

Findings Focus Group Discussion with IDP returnees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of living</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Same house they used to live before displacement</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renting house</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In friends and relatives houses</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In collective centers (shool, churches, mosques...)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the street</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In IDP sites</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues with houses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully or partially damaged</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landmines and explosive remnants of conflict around their houses</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evicted from their previous house (can’t afford rent)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houses occupied</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of armed groups preventing them to access their houses</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings Key Informant Interviews

Factors increasing the risk of GBV (Multiple choices)
- Lack of access to basic needs: 63%
- Limited awareness on gender on equality: 48%
- Presence of armed forces: 24%
- Access to latrines and market: 21%
- Unsafe routes: 15%

Top 4 problems boys and girls are facing (Multiples choices)
- Lack of food and Nutrition: 78%
- Access to Education: 65%
- Anxiety/Stress/Trauma: 50%
- Clothing and shoes: 48%
- Child Labor: 40%

Major achievements

- 9 out of 10 key informants reported to have observed signs of distress among the different populations in their locations.
- Amongst IDPs and IDP returnees, women emerged as the group showing more signs of distress.
- 1 returnee in 3 doesn’t feel safe in their area of return and 1 returnee out of 4 has left a family member behind (at the place of displacement) before returning.

Top 4 basic facilities most in need and missing in the areas of return
- Health services
- Primary school
- Shelter
- Bank service

60% of basic facilities partially or fully destroyed in the areas of return
PROTECTION DESK

Overview

Protection Desks are enclosed structures where forcibly displaced people can access information, counseling, awareness raising and, as appropriate, be referred to other service providers and/or case management for health concerns or psychosocial and legal support for example.

Protection Desks are also used for community outreach functions and is an informational collection tool to complement protection monitoring and analysis about the overall protection environment and trends observed in their area of operation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Protection Desks</th>
<th># of queries</th>
<th># of referrals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>2,797</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59% Female</td>
<td>41% Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General concerns at Protection desks

- Food Assistance: 24%
- WASH Ustensils: 20%
- Blankets: 12%
- Solar Lamp: 12%
- Kitchen Set: 10%

General objective

Enhancing self-reliance, local solutions’ opportunities for IDPs, returnees and at-risk community and make returns more sustainable and dignified.

Target

IDPs, returnees, host community and at-risk communities including GBV survivors.

100,000 Total beneficiary reached

PROMOTING LIVELIHOODS FOR SOLUTIONS

- Training business skills
- Provision of cash
- Addressing sustainability by linking with microfinance institutions and local authorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Households reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renovation of communal fertilizer warehouse</td>
<td>Jira Kebele, Adet Woreda, Central zone</td>
<td>Returnees and conflict affected host communities</td>
<td>8,677 (6,762M; 1,915F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovation of animal health clinic</td>
<td>Jira Kebele, Adet Woreda, Central zone</td>
<td>Returnees and conflict affected host communities</td>
<td>6,829 (5,357M; 1,472F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of communal kitchens</td>
<td>Selekleka Kebele, Selekleka woreda, Northwestern zone</td>
<td>IDPs, and affected host community</td>
<td>1,024 (500M; 524F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(on going)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of grinding mill</td>
<td>Maekelay-Adiabo woreda, Northwestern zone</td>
<td>Returnees, IDPs, and conflict affected host communities</td>
<td>690 (390M; 300F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business skill training</td>
<td>Adet, Adigrat, Fatsi, Irob, Aby Adi, Maichew, Sheraro, Selekleka</td>
<td>IDPs, returnees and at-risk community</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Protection and Solutions in Tigray region**

**CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCC&M)**

107 Total IDP sites in Tigray.
- 71 are Education facilities (66%)

55 Total IDP sites managed by UNHCR
- 205,415 individuals managed

**Partners:** ANE and OSSHD

**IDP sites under UNHCR coordination by zone**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
<th>Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Western</td>
<td>107,803</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>91,324</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>1,274</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mekele</td>
<td>5,014</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Site maintenance and decommissioning**

In collaboration with WASH and Education clusters

**Objective:** Facilitate the resumption of elementary and secondary schools by renovation of classrooms, provision of scholastic materials and student desks

**Major achievements**
- 3 schools decommissioned and rehabilitated
- 66 classrooms renovated
- 600 student desks renovated or provided
- 5,220 students have benefited from these interventions and resumed school

Students in a renovated primary school in Axum ©UNHCR

**AREA BASED APPROACH | DROP-IN CENTERS (DIC)**

**Context and Objectives**

The conflict in Tigray which started in November 2020, resulted in mass displacements of the population across the region. Amongst the IDPs, 30% sought safety in collective sites supported by humanitarian organizations, in coordination with the regional/local authorities, and 70% sheltered within the host communities. While the sites are getting most of the attention and services, IDPs living in host communities face considerable challenges accessing services, except for food provision.

To address the needs of the IDPs in host communities, UNHCR introduced the ABA (Areas Based Approach), set up Drop-in Centers (DIC), where IDPs living out of sites can access services. The 1st DIC was established in Quiha, located on the outskirts of Mekele City as a pilot project (see images below) in April 2023.

UNHCR runs the DICs through local partners OSSHD and ANE, in collaboration with sectoral service providers.

The DICs are established on government property (public or communal facilities) requiring very little site improvement activities to function properly.

To date, UNHCR has expanded these community outreach programs, by establishing 08 additional DICs in Eastern, Southern, Northwestern and Central Zones of Tigray region.

Over time, in addition to IDPs living in host communities and their hosts, these DICs have also been serving IDP returnees, Urban Refugees and recently, Returnees from Sudan.

**Major achievements**

- **24** Weekly community IDP leaders meetings & 04 Women association meetings to ensure participation.
- **845** individuals (434 F:411M) received training on various topics including CP, UXOs, IDP leaders’ coordination skills, business skill and MHPSS.
- **5,100** beneficiaries received ID cards and other civil documentations.
- **436** MHPSS recipients, and various support to children with specific needs.
- **4,110** Women and Girls within the reproductive age received sanitary material.
- In total, across all centers in Tigray, including their catchment areas, **162,897** Individuals / **32,215** households have been reached with DIC services.  

**Services available at the DIC**

- Multipurpose hall
- WIFI Services
- Women and Girls Safe Space
- Protection Desk
- Information and Recreational services
- Access to Justice and Documentation
- Persons with Specific Needs services
- Communal Facilities Like Kitchen, WASH services

IDP and youths from host community playing at the recreational facility at Quiha drop-in center

**IDP women using communal WASH services at Quiha drop-in center, Mekele ©UNHCR**
UNHCR is implementing access to justice project through its partner EECMY in Mekele, Maichew, Adigrat, Shire and Axum.

Major achievements

**Support to legal institution**
36 legal institutions (Courts, Prosecutor office, social affairs office, Justice bureau, Police) received material support: computers, printers, photocopy machines and stationery materials.

**Capacity building**
1,570 (653 F) justice professional trained on the rights of the displaced community.

**Legal aid**
2 university based legal aid centers capacitated (Mekelle university and Raya university in Maichew).

**Legal counselling**
467 individuals (238 F) represented through legal aid centers.

**Documentation**
66,418 ID card restored.
1,443 civil status restored.

**House, Land and Property**
2,939 cases identified and recorded.

**Human rights monitoring**
18 human rights monitoring conducted.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)**

**Strategic objectives**
- Reducing the risk of GBV for all forcibly displaced people.
- Ensuring all survivors of GBV have adequate and timely access to quality services that meet their needs.
- Promoting gender equality and protecting displaced people from GBV.

**Major achievements**
- 36,410 women and girls at risk provided with dignity kits.
- 9,389 women and girls supported with MHM kits.
- 1,224 women and girls at risk supported with CRIs.
- 462 women and girls at risk supported with cash.
- 836 Counselling and case management for women and girls at risk including GBV survivors.
- 200 women and girls at risk supported with food.

“My ID card helped me freely move from place to place and search for jobs. I am also very happy to register my newborn child on the vital registration and receive his birth certificate”.

Kibrti Zihon, 24 years old female IDP from Western Tigray displaced in Seba-Kare IDP site, Mekele
**CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION**

**Major achievements**

- **6** Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) supported: 1,229 (504G) children were passed through CFS indoor and outdoor play, learning, and recreational activities in all intervention areas.
- **299** children supported with scholastic materials.
- **644** children received case management services.
- **18** children supported with family tracing and reunification.

**Challenges**

Access and security issues for children coming from certain areas in western Tigray.

**SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS**

**Objective**

Forcibly displaced people have access to safe settlements, adequate shelter and coordinated infrastructures services.

- **356,617** Individuals reached with UNHCR ES/NFI Assistance
- **314,960** Persons received NFIs
- **41,657** Persons benefited shelter reconstruction/repair
- **1,870** Vulnerable IDP returnees (out of the total) with destroyed houses received cash for shelter reconstructions

**Categories of beneficiaries assisted**

- **IDP Returnees** 59,663 17%
- **Host community** 8,078 2%
- **IDPs** 288,876 81%

**Beneficiaries by zones**

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<th>Persons</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mekelle</td>
<td>35,802</td>
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<td>Southern</td>
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<td>Eastern</td>
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**Shelter reconstruction process**

- Shelter needs assessments (emergency and damaged shelters)
- Distribution / Provision of NFIs
- Post distribution monitoring

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**For more information, please contact:**

- MANTEAW Martin, Principal Situation Coordinator, manteaw@unhcr.org
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- SEIFU Redeat, Associate Reporting Officer, seifure@unhcr.org
- BARO Hayelom, External Relations Associate, baro@unhcr.org

**FRONT COVER – CLOCKWISE**

- IDP return Convoy from Five Angels IDP site towards Selekleka, North Western
- Material Support to Governmental and Justice offices in Mekelle
- IDP Returnee after receiving cash and CRI in Selekleka, North Western
- Scholastic material support at Child Friendly Space

**BACK COVER**

Return exercise in Ayder primary School, Mekelle, November 2023

Design Information Management Unit Addis Ababa and Mekelle