

# Toward Durable Solutions: Legal aid & legal awareness

## Factsheet July – September 2022

UNHCR Ethiopia in partnership with University 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: 7592**

**Women & girls: 45.5%**

**Men & boys: 61.7%**

**Legal aid: 23.6%**

**Legal Awareness: 74.6%**

**Court/Witness fee: 1.7%**

- **Providing quality legal services:** Legal aid and awareness are critical protection services. They are needed to ensure 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 a durable solution.
- **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.



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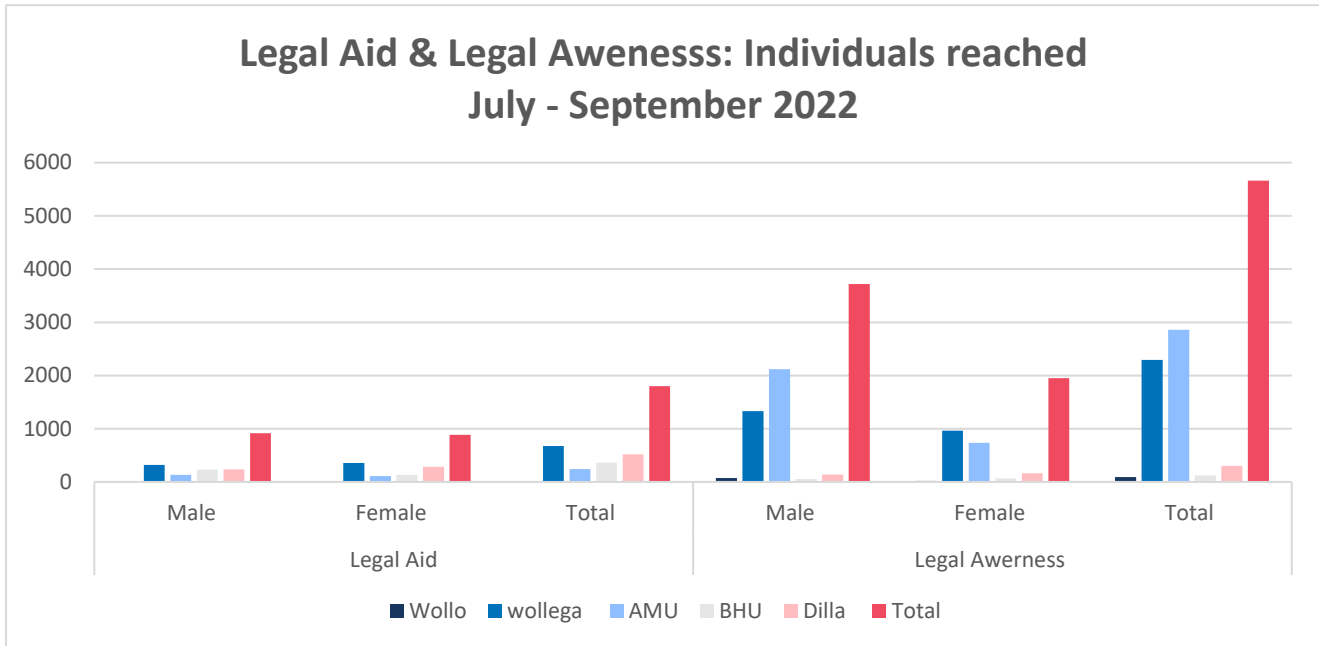
Wollo University School of Law in collaboration with UNHCR delivered a one-day training for IDPs who live in seven camps of South Wollo Zone in July 31, 2022 @ Golden Gate Hotel, Dessie, Ethiopia. A total of 91 participants (62 male and 29 Females) drawn from South Wollo Zone IDP Camps have participated on the workshop. The program included presentations followed by discussions on the: The rights of the IDP (Kampala Convention), Camp coordination management and the roles of law enforcement agencies in protecting IDPs.



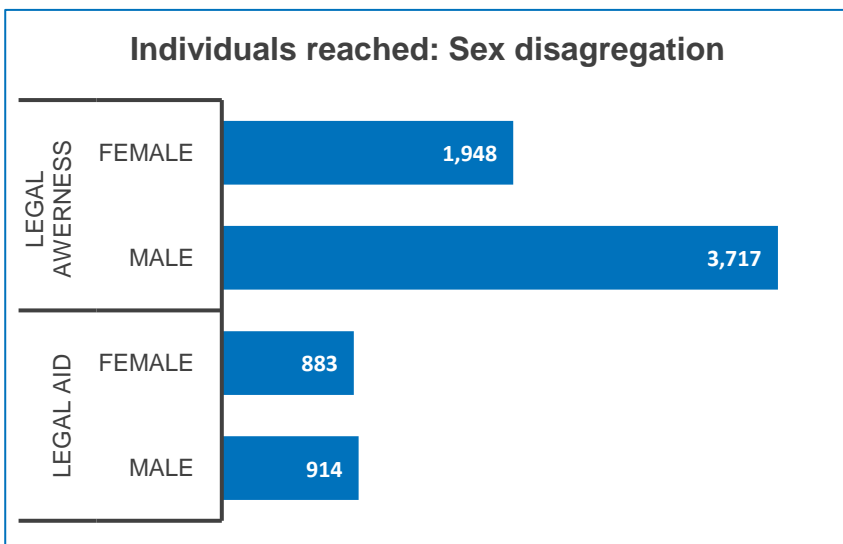
*“The free legal aid service greatly improved the behaviour of the community to seek justice from the formal court. After the introduction of AMU-UNHCR free legal aid centres to the area, women can bring their case to the court through the legal experts of AMU.”*  
**President, Konso zone High Court**

Figure.1 a training for IDPs on the camp coordination and role of law enforcement agencies

People supported



Between April and June 2022, **7592 individuals** benefited from legal aid and legal awareness activities, which is a **1.7 %** increase from the previous quarter. Of those, 1797 individuals (**23.6%**) received legal aid, while 5665 individuals (**74.6%**) benefitted from legal awareness activities while 130 individuals (**1.7%**) were provided with court/witness fee assistance. Overall, of those supported with legal aid and legal awareness, **4686** are male and **2906** female beneficiaries.



In the third quarter of 2022, UNHCR in collaboration with Wollega, Dilla, Bule Hora, Arba Minch and Wollo Universities, provided free legal aid service for 1797 individuals: 914 (50.8%) male and 883 (49.1%) female beneficiaries. In this quarter, Wollo Universities provided Court and/or Witness Fee assistance for 130 individuals, 55 (42.3%) male and 75 (57.6%) female beneficiaries.

The number of women and girls who received free legal aid and court fee assistance is comparatively higher in

the legal aid centres under Wollega and Dilla universities compared to the others, amounting to 40.3% and 32.3% of the total number of female beneficiaries respectively.

UNHCR through the Universities has provided legal awareness sessions for 5665 individuals: 3717 (65.6%) male and 1948 (34.3%) female beneficiaries. It is noted that the legal aid centers under Bule Hora and Dilla universities have reached 55.6% and 52.8% of women out of the total legal awareness session beneficiaries. Besides, Wollo university in coordination with UNHCR FO Dessie has conducted a weekly broadcast media legal awareness campaign focussed on the rights of IDPs via Fana FM Radio station, which is estimated to reach around 300,000 people.

## Key Achievements

- UNHCR in collaboration with Wollo university, provided training on Kampala Convention and the role and responsibilities of law enforcement bodies for 91 IDPs (75 Males and 16 Females) in Dessie Metropolitan city.
- In August 2022, UNHCR in collaboration with Wollega University, has provided training for 51 individuals on Kampala Convention, civil and criminal justice, and the role of justice system to protect IDPs. The training workshop was designed to build the capacity of local government officials, free legal aid workers and other stakeholders
- Arbaminch University organized a training on IDP Protection, national and international human right laws, and legal education for 34 trainees selected from a woreda social court. The participants were trained on the role of community structures including the social/customary courts towards the protection of IDPs.

*“I used to live with my wife and children in Shambu town. My wife summoned me to the legal aid center due to the difficulties of displacement and the high cost of living. The legal aid officers encouraged us to resolve our dispute peacefully, and with their assistance, we were able to reach an agreement.*

**Male IDP**



**Figure.2: legal aid assistance beneficiaries at Nekemte/ Gutu Gida center (East Wollega)**

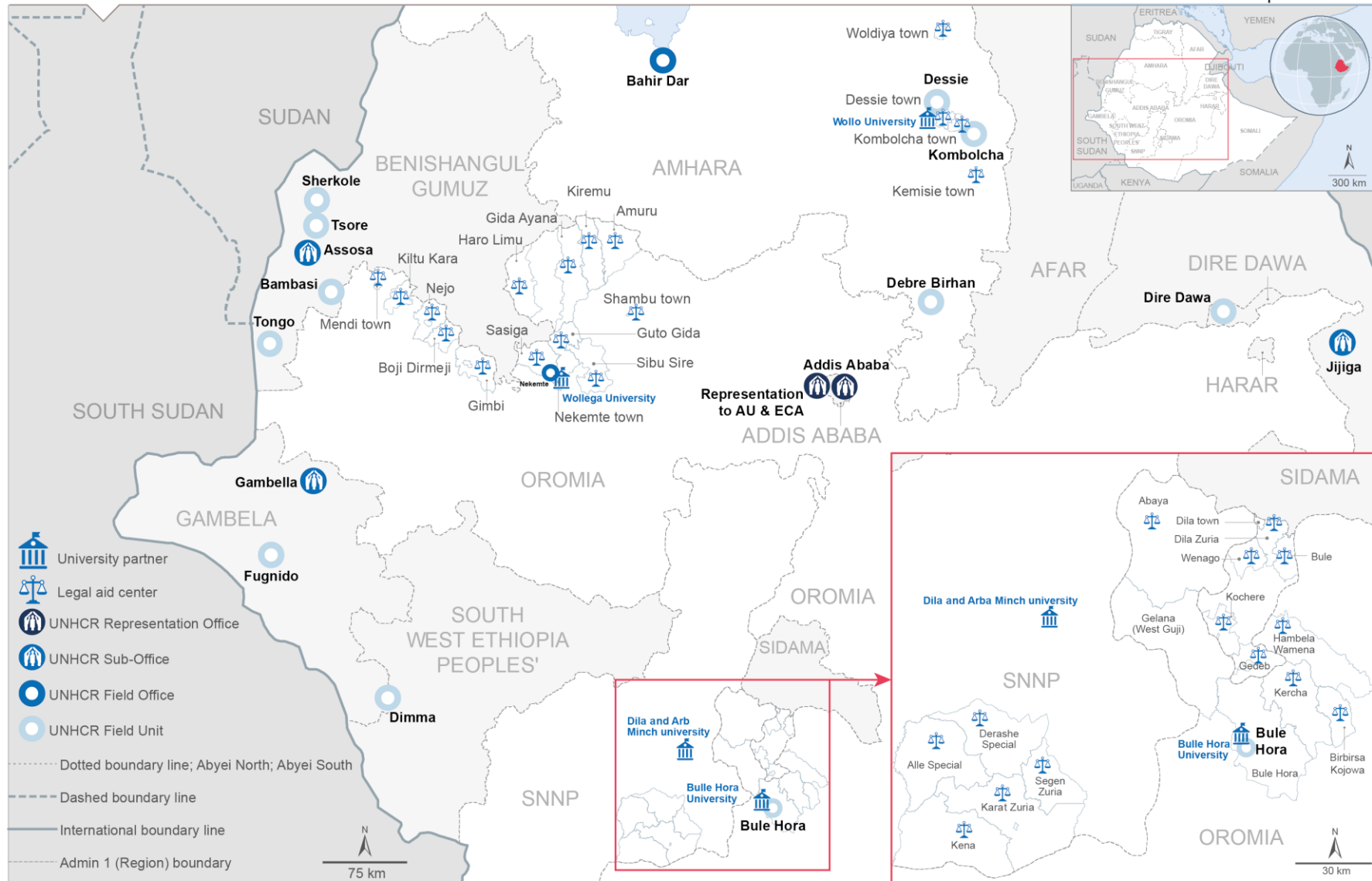
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# ETHIOPIA

## University partners and Legal aid in Oromia, SNP and Amhara Regions

As of September 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: September 2022 Sources: UNCS, UNHCR, CSA Ethiopia Author: UNHCR - CO Ethiopia Feedback: IM unit Addis Ababa, ethadim@unhcr.org