

# Toward Durable Solutions: Legal aid & legal awareness

## Factsheet April - June 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 East and West Wollega, Gedeo and West Guji zones of Oromia, SNNP and Amhara regions.

- **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, 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.

**Total people supported: 7465**

**Women & girls: 45.5%**

**Men & boys: 60.8%**

**Legal aid: 39.1%**

**Legal Awareness: 69.7%**

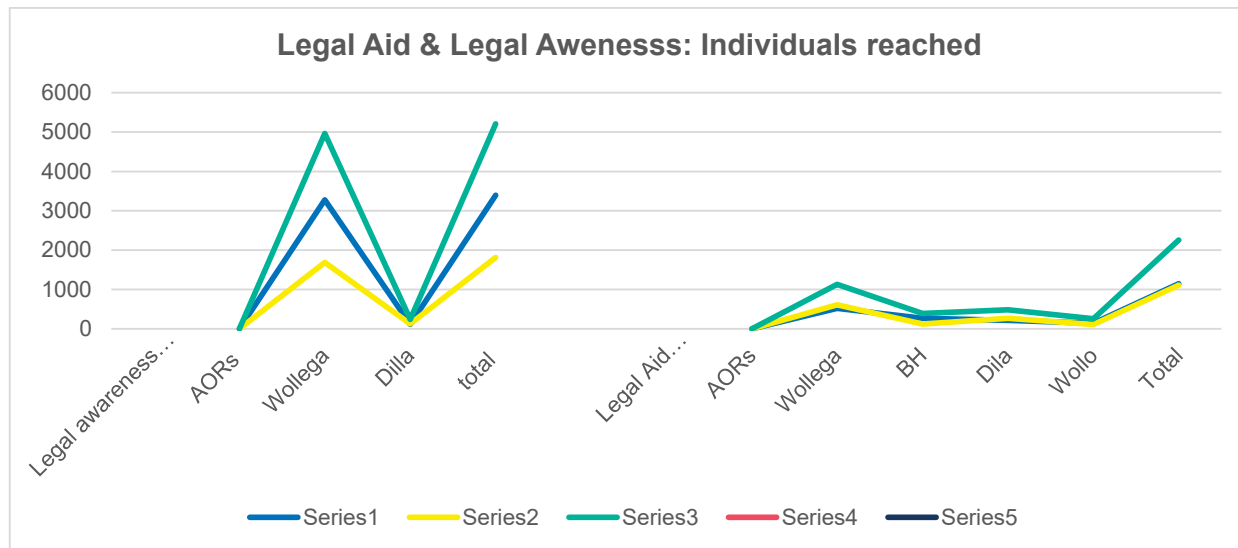


*“After being displaced from Begi woreda (West Wollega) I lost my husband. I was on the verge of losing my husband’s money, but the legal aid officers represented me and my children at court. My children received the inheritance, and we were also able to receive the money in his Bank Account.”*

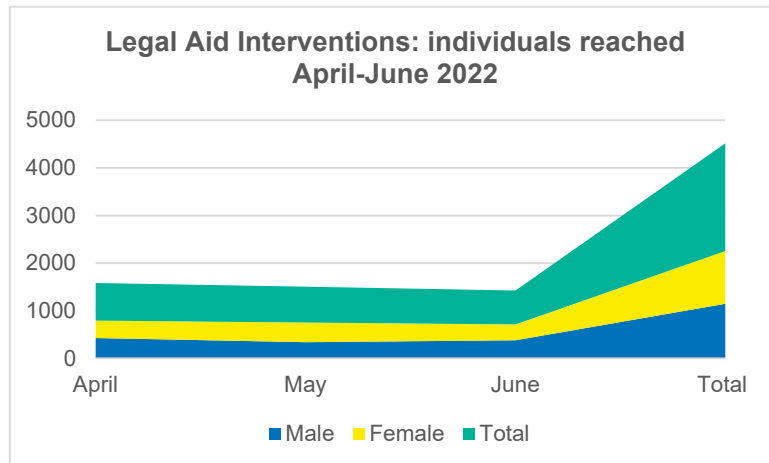
**Female IDP**

**Figure.1 legal awareness session in Nejo woreda of West Wollega zone, Oromia Region**

## People supported



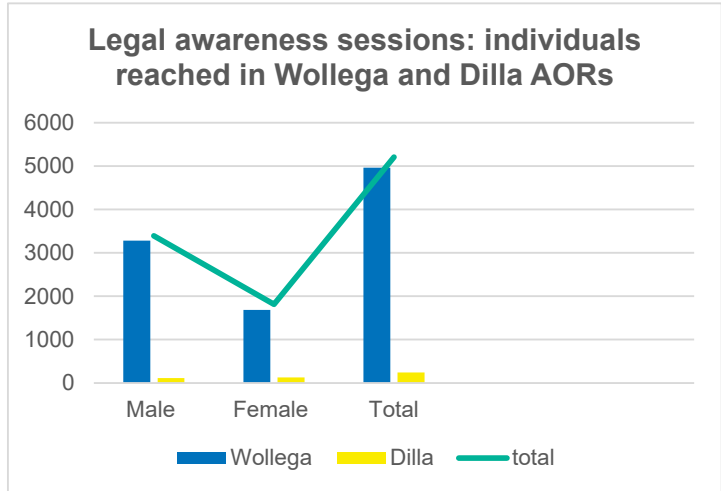
Between April and June 2022, **7465 individuals** benefited from legal aid and legal awareness activities, which is a **11%** increase from the previous quarter. Of those, 2258 individuals (**30.2%**) received legal aid, while 5207 individuals (**69.7%**) benefitted from legal awareness activities. Overall, of those supported with legal aid and legal awareness, **60.8%** were male and **39.1%** female.



In the second quarter of 2022, UNHCR in collaboration with Wollega, Dilla, Bule Hora, and Wollo Universities, provided free legal aid service for 2258 individuals: 1148 (50.80%) male and 1110 (49.10%) female beneficiaries. Among these, Wollega and Wollo Universities provided Court and/or Witness Fee assistance for 107 individuals 53 (49.5%) and 54 (50.4%) females.

The number of women and girls who received legal aid service is comparatively higher in the legal aid centres under Wollega (53.8%) and Dilla (55.3%) universities compared to the others, with a highest number of female beneficiaries in May 2022 with 241 and 92 female beneficiaries respectively.

Wollega and Dilla Universities have provided legal awareness sessions for 5207 individuals: 3394 (65.1% male and 1813 (34.8%) female beneficiaries. During this period, the legal aid centers under Dilla university have reached 52.6% of women out of the total legal awareness session beneficiaries. Moreover, Wollo university in coordination with UNHCR FO Dessie has conducted a broadcast media legal awareness campaign via Amhara Television (satellite television) and Fana FM Radio stations, which estimated to reach around 800,000 people. The free legal aid centers in West Guji were partially functioning while the newly established legal aid centers with Arba Minch University have not started activities due to the long-lasting security situation in the area and the inaccessibility of Woredas where the centers are located.



### Key Achievements

- A Partnership Agreement was signed with Wollo University from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 to deliver free legal aid service through establishing 4 free legal aid centres in the South Wollo, North Wollo, Waghimira and Kemisie zones of Amhara region.
- UNHCR in collaboration with Wollo university, provided a training for law enforcement organs in East Amhara. Furthermore, the law school established Mobile Free Legal Aid Centres and GBV Reporting Desks.
- UNHCR FO Nekemte in collaboration with zonal Court officials and thematic areas experts, provided a two-days training for legal aid workers on Human Rights, Humanitarian Principles, Civil and Criminal Justice, the Kampala Convention, HLP rights and PSEA.



Figure.2: training for law enforcement organs in East Amhara

*“I was displaced from Jalalle Kebele in 2021 and I started to live at the IDP camp in sibu Sire (East Wollega). Someone owned me 95,000 ETB but he refused to give me. I went to the legal aid center to gain some help and the officers represented me in court. I was able to recover my money.”*  
**Male IDP**

