



የኢትዮጵያ
ሰብአዊ መብቶች ኮሚሽን
ETHIOPIAN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION

Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation of Internally Displaced Persons in Ethiopia



June 2021 – June 2022

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Contents

Message from the Deputy Chief Commissioner	iii
Executive Summary	iv
PART ONE.....	1
Introduction.....	3
Methodology	5
Limitations	6
PART TWO	7
Legal Framework	9
PART THREE	11
Overview of Displacement Situation in Ethiopia	13
Key Achievements	13
Main Human Rights Concerns.....	15
1. Lack of legal and institutional framework.....	15
2. Registration, civil documentation and freedom of movement	16
3. Right to safety and security and access to justice	18
4. Humanitarian assistance and access to social services	19
5. Special protection and assistance to vulnerable and marginalized groups	21
6. Implementation of durable solutions	23
PART FOUR	25
Conclusion	27
Recommendations	27

Message from the Deputy Chief Commissioner



Rakeb Messele
Deputy Chief Commissioner

Rakeb Messele

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC/the Commission) is an independent federal state body established as per the Federal Constitution as a national human rights institution and reporting to the House of Peoples' Representatives. Its core functions are promoting human rights and ensuring respect for human rights by all, including governmental and non-governmental institutions and their officials.

In response to the deteriorating human rights situation caused by an unprecedented rise in internal displacement, the Commission set up the Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Migrants' Rights Department in April 2021 and has been implementing various interventions since then. From June 2021 to June 2022, the Commission conducted human rights situation monitoring and investigation of human rights violations in 52 IDP camps, hosting communities and collective sites hosting 1.5 million IDPs in six regions and one city administration. It held discussions, shared experiences and carried out joint initiatives with various governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as with national and international organizations to improve the human rights situation of IDPs.

This report is an overall presentation of the findings and recommendations of various interventions and consultations mentioned above on the human rights situation of IDPs. Due to limitations discussed below, the report does not provide a detailed account of the human rights situation of IDPs at a national level. Moreover, the examples presented in the report are intended to describe the context and illustrate the human rights situation of IDPs. They are not intended to be exhaustive.

The report is also intended to help institutions working on IDP issues to re-examine and strengthen their interventions and to closely monitor institutions they oversee. It is expected that the Federal Government and relevant regional governments will ensure the implementation of the recommendations of this report. The report can also be used by civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, and various local and international organizations and partners as a resource for research and other interventions to improve the human rights situation of IDPs.

While some positive developments were documented during the reporting period (June 2021 - June 2022), increased violent conflicts throughout the country have aggravated the internal displacement crises. Therefore, the Commission calls on the Government to strengthen its commitment to prevent displacement, enhance the protection of IDPs' rights to improve their conditions, and find durable solutions to displacement. The Commission also calls on the Government to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to implement and ensure the implementation of the recommendations of this report.

Executive Summary

It is to be recalled that the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC/ the Commission) submitted on July 8, 2022 a first of its kind Annual Human Rights Situation Report covering the period of June 2021 to June 2022 to the House of Peoples' Representatives consisting of an overall assessment of the human rights situation in the country, key positive developments, main concerns, challenges and recommendations. While the Annual Report released on 8th of July briefly covered the human rights situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the current thematic report focuses on the human rights situation of IDPs and provides more details by outlining key positive developments and main concerns that need to be addressed by relevant stakeholders that the Commission identified during the period of June 2021 to June 2022 through its various interventions.

More specifically, the report incorporates issues of concern identified by the Commission through its monitoring and investigation missions in the areas hosting large numbers of IDPs, as well as its human rights monitoring of IDPs' participation in the 6th National Election. Feedback from consultations at the federal and regional levels on the findings and recommendations of these monitoring missions are also included in this report.

Although there is no comprehensive national or international legal framework, which specifically focus on IDPs, other international, regional and local human rights laws and humanitarian laws remain applicable to protect the human rights of IDPs. The African Union adopted in 2009, the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (also known as the Kampala Convention), which Ethiopia ratified in 2020. As per the FDRE Constitution, this Convention forms part of the laws of Ethiopia. According to the Kampala Convention, member states have the obligation to take appropriate measures to prevent internal displacement and ensure the protection of the human rights of IDPs.

In Ethiopia, it is estimated that over 4.5 million people are displaced from their homes as a result of various factors. Violent conflict is the main driving force behind the recent sharp rise in the number of IDPs. In particular, the violent conflict in the North of Ethiopia has forced a significant number of people in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions to flee their homes and seek shelter elsewhere. Having left their homes and properties behind, they are forced to live in precarious conditions, vulnerable to various forms of human rights violations. Protracted displacement further exacerbates the precarious living conditions of IDPs.

Though there are initiatives to put in place a legal and institutional framework in accordance with the Kampala Convention, currently Ethiopia does not have a governmental institution mandated by law to lead and coordinate interventions for the protection and provision of assistance to IDPs, as well as for the pursuit of durable solutions.

Although the Government has the primary responsibility to create and maintain a disaggregated and up-dated register of all IDPs, as well as to issue them with relevant documents, including personal identification cards and vital event documents, most IDPs do not have access to these services. This further affects their right of access to humanitarian assistance and to basic social services. As

registration is not disaggregated by sex, age and level of disability, services are not responsive to the special needs of vulnerable groups.

Even though in most areas monitored security risk was not identified as a main concern, some have raised fear of attack by armed groups in the absence of adequate security as an issue of concern. Those perceived as pro-government are threatened and intimidated by armed groups. In some cases, conflict break out between IDPs and host communities over limited resources. Women experience sexual violence as they travel long distances in search of food and water for their families.

IDPs and returnees repetitively indicated that humanitarian assistance remains inaccessible and provision of food and non-food items are inadequate, including nutritious food for children; shelter; clean drinking water; health care service; and hygiene and sanitary products. IDPs do not have jobs or any other means of income to support themselves and their family. In the absence of adequate humanitarian support from governmental and non-governmental organizations, the burden of support lies disproportionately on host communities. Resources and services that are already scarce get overstretched.

It is estimated that children make 50% of the displaced population globally. Children face a myriad of challenges while in displacement. Shortage of nutritious food, lack of access to education and lack of special protection for and assistance to displaced children with special needs have been identified as major concerns. Due to lack of adequate health care supplies and budget constraints, IDPs, in particular those with chronic diseases, breastfeeding mothers and children do not have access to medical care. In most areas, education is disrupted as schools are used to shelter IDPs and due to lack of education materials. There is acute shortage of dignity kits for women and girls and hygiene and sanitary products. IDPs with disabilities and older persons are unable to access humanitarian support as food distribution centers are located far away from IDP camps. Additionally, due to the absence of projects aimed at improving livelihoods and self-reliance, IDPs particularly women and children are exposed to negative coping mechanisms, such as human trafficking, early marriage, begging, labor and sexual exploitation.

While the Government's effort to return or relocate displaced people are commendable, it often fails to secure the informed choice of IDPs; take into account IDPs' former livelihoods or ability; the safety and security at the place of return or relocation; and the fulfillment of basic infrastructure and services at the place of return. These make durable solutions challenging. As internal displacement continues to rise, the Government often considers returning IDPs to their habitual residence as the only option for durable solution. However, forcefully returning IDPs to their habitual residence without ensuring safety and security through an inclusive peace and reconciliation efforts and while displacement is still ongoing may lead to secondary displacement. It will also not result in lasting solution.

Recommendations

Establish adequate legal framework and institutional structure

- Establish by law an institutional structure with the mandate to ensure protection of IDPs' rights and provision of humanitarian assistance;
- Ensure, in defining the powers and duties of the institution to be mandated for the protection and provision of assistance for displaced people, that such institution is granted with the required level of authority to effectively coordinate and lead the interventions; has the required structure from federal to regional, and even down to woreda level; and has the relevant knowledge, skills, expertise, competence and legitimacy to efficiently deliver on its mandate.

Registration and access to personal documentation

- Put in place a government structure responsible to create and maintain a comprehensive and up-dated register of IDPs;
- Ensure that IDPs are issued with relevant civil documentation, such as identification cards, as well as birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates that enable them exercise their rights, including freedom of movement and access to social services.

Right to safety and security, freedom of movement and access to justice

- Authorities responsible for peace and security, administrators of camps and other relevant institutions should identify safety and security risks of IDPs and take mitigation measures. Mitigation measures should take into account the vulnerability of children, women, persons with disabilities and older persons.
- In accordance with the Kampala Convention, all parties to conflict, including armed groups, shall refrain from acts that endanger the safety and security of IDPs.
- Ensure IDPs' access to justice and accountability by holding individuals and institutions accountable for acts that breached the safety and security of IDPs.
- Institutions mandated to administer IDP camps, as well as relevant regional authorities should ensure the safety and security of IDPs.

Humanitarian assistance and provision of social services

- Provide IDPs with timely, adequate and accessible humanitarian assistance that is responsive to the special needs of vulnerable groups of IDPs, such as children, women, persons with disability and older persons both during displacement and in the process of return and reintegration. To this end, the Government should strengthen its collaboration and coordination with humanitarian organizations.
- Ensure that healthcare and other social services are accessible in areas where IDPs are located.

Humanitarian assistance to vulnerable and marginalized groups of IDPs with special needs

- Support women, children, older persons and persons with disability by responding to their special needs and vulnerabilities, including through affirmative measures.
- Provide appropriate assistance to children in need of highly nutritious food and for those of school going age.
- Provide gender responsive services, including dignity kits, and sexual and reproductive health services to displaced women.
- Make services accessible to the special needs of persons with disability and older persons.

Implementation of durable solutions

- The planning and implementation of durable solutions must take into account the resolution of the immediate cause of displacement; the consent of displaced people; their former livelihoods and ability; access to basic infrastructure and services; and fulfillment of conditions conducive for lasting reintegration.
- Ensure that IDPs have access to justice and effective remedies for violation of their physical and emotional integrity and property rights.
- The provision of humanitarian assistance and services by humanitarian organizations should be timely, adequate, accessible, and enable durable reintegration of IDPs. Such interventions should also be responsive to the special needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups of IDPs.

PART ONE



Introduction

It is to be recalled that the Commission submitted on July 8, 2022 a first of its kind Annual Human Rights Situation Report to the House of Peoples' Representatives, accompanied by a press release. The report covers the period between June 2021 and June 2022 and consists of an overall assessment of the human rights situation in the country, highlights key positive developments, main concerns, challenges, and puts forward recommendations. It documents grave human rights violations, including mass killings, physical and psychological injuries; sexual and gender-based violence, displacement, destruction of property and inhuman and grave human rights violations against civilians, including women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons committed in the context of armed conflict between government forces and non-state armed groups.

This thematic report focuses on the human rights situation of internally displaced person (IDPs) covering the period between June 2021 to June 2022. It highlights key positive developments and main concerns relating to IDPs that the Commission identified through its interventions over the past 12 months, including monitoring, investigation, stakeholders' engagement, awareness raising and research.

The report has four parts. Part One follows the introduction and looks at data collection methods and limitations. While Part Two examines the national legal framework relating to IDPs, Part Three is an overall assessment of displacement situation in Ethiopia including key human rights issues, as well as, key positive development and main concerns in the protection of IDPs' rights. Part Four presents the conclusion and recommendations.

From June 2021 to June 2022, the Commission conducted extensive monitoring and investigation particularly in places and regions hosting the largest number of displaced persons (see the table below). Additionally, the Commission engaged with relevant stakeholders to lobby for the issuance of the directive on the participation of IDPs in the 6th national election. The Commission also documented displacement related human rights violations in the context of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia in three investigation reports. The findings of the monitoring and investigation missions were discussed at several consultative meetings both at federal and regional levels, and feedback has been incorporated. Furthermore, the Commission conducted awareness raising and advocacy targeting relevant government authorities to address the gaps identified in the legal and institutional framework and protection of IDPs. The main objective of the advocacy activities was to ensure the adoption of IDP specific legal and institutional framework.

No.	Regions where monitoring was conducted	Specific Places or Sites Covered by EHRC's monitoring and investigation missions from June 2021 to June 2022
1	Afar Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semera and Agatina camps; • Yegalimeda camp in Dubti City; and • Erebt Woreda in Kilbti Zone
2	Amhara Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chilga; Elay Armacho and West Dembiya in Central Gondar • Kebero Meda IDP Camp in Azezo Kifle Ketema in Central Gondar Zone • Dabat Woreda Talak Mesk IDP Camp • Cafeteria IDP camp in Debark Town in North Gondar Zone • Gondar City, North Gondar and Awi Peoples' Zone • Finote Selam in East Gojjam Zone, South Mecha, Bahir Dar City, Woreta town and Ebenat in South Gondar • Shewa Robit, Yelen, Mehal Meda, Senbete and Mezezo in North Showa and Oromo Peoples' Zone • Jara and Jare camps/sites and the temporary shelter in Kobo Town in North and South Wollo Zones
3	Benishangul-Gumuz Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasok Kebele in Menge Woreda and Kebele 02 in Kamashi Zone
4.	Dire Dawa City Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dire Dawa Millennium Park
5.	Oromia Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East and West Wollega zones: Bikiltu Gudina Kebele in Diga Woreda and Kenaf Kebele in Guto Gida Woreda. • Kebele 01 in Gimbi Woreda and Kebele 04 in Nejo Woreda in West Wollega Zone • Kercha Ense and Heralptu kebeles, Bule Hora Woreda, West Guji Zone • Guji Zone in Liben Woreda: Semento Kebele, Fina Agerso Kebele and Kersa Mele Kebele

No.	Regions where monitoring was conducted	Specific Places or Sites Covered by EHRC's monitoring and investigation missions from June 2021 to June 2022
6.	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gedeo Zone: Dako Kebele in Wenaga Woreda • Konso Zone and adjacent Special Woredas (Ale, Amaro and Derashe Special Woredas)
7.	Somali Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fafan Zone: Qoleji IDPs camp in Babile Woreda • Tulu Guled Woreda • Goljano Woreda • Sitti Zone: Keleme and Megala kebeles in Erer Woreda • Fafan Zone: Awbare Woreda in Awbare Town, Kotoberobele Kebele in Kebri Beyah Special Woreda in Togwechale Town • Sitti Zone: Mieso Woreda in Muli Town and Kurfaswa Kebele

Table 1: Locations where the Commission conducted monitoring and investigation missions

Methodology

The Commission undertakes its interventions based on indicators, tools and guidelines developed in compliance with appropriate human rights standards. Thus, the information and evidence used in this report are compiled based on the findings of monitoring and investigation missions; complaints lodged by individuals; and from research and feedback collected during consultation forums.

The Commission used a number of methodologies to gather information incorporated in the report, including questionnaires prepared in accordance with international and regional human rights instruments, and human rights standards. The process involved conducting interviews and focused group discussions with displaced persons and their representatives, coordinators of IDP camps and sites, and the relevant representatives of federal and regional government authorities at various levels. Additionally, site observations were conducted and relevant documents were reviewed. Displaced women, children persons with disabilities and older persons, and their representatives, took part in the focus group discussions.

The findings of monitoring missions, particularly issues that required immediate intervention were brought to the attention of relevant authorities through letters and in person meetings. Based on the findings, advocacy and consultation meetings have been conducted and feedback collected in Addis

Ababa and regional cities targeting relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. It must, however, be noted that the report is an overall assessment of the human rights situation of IDPs between June 2021 and June 2022. It does not capture the types, scope and details of all incidents of human rights violations of IDPs that occurred over the last 12 months period.

Limitations

The report does not present a full picture of the human rights situation of displaced persons in Ethiopia. The security concerns in various parts of the country coupled with the Commission's lack of adequate human and logistics capacity affected the scope and timeliness of monitoring missions during the reporting period.

PART TWO



Legal Framework

- Although there is no national or international IDP specific legal framework, the international, regional and national human rights laws and humanitarian laws remain applicable to the protection of IDPs' human rights.
- Conscious of the gravity of the situation of internally displaced persons and recognizing their specific vulnerability to human rights violations, the African Union adopted the Kampala Convention in 2009 for the protection and assistance of IDPs. Ethiopia ratified this Convention in 2020 by enacting the Kampala Convention Ratification Proclamation No. 1187/2020. In accordance with the FDRE Constitution, the Convention forms part of national law.¹ The Convention defines IDPs as "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border."² Although not a binding instrument, a similar definition is provided in the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement³ and the 2006 Great Lakes Protocol.⁴
- As per the Convention, State Parties have the obligation to take appropriate measures to prevent displacement of persons and to respond to displacement by providing protection and assistance for displaced persons during and after displacement. As such, the Government has the primary responsibility for providing, without any discrimination, protection and humanitarian assistance to all displaced persons in every part of the country. Hence, the Government must fulfill its duty to provide adequate food, water, shelter, healthcare, education and other social services to displaced persons, in cooperation with international organizations and humanitarian agencies, where needed.⁵
- Moreover, the Government has the duty to create and maintain an up-dated register of all IDPs, as well as to ensure that they are issued with relevant civil documents necessary for the enjoyment and exercise of their rights, such as personal identification documents, passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates.⁶
- The Convention prohibits restriction of IDPs' freedom of movement, except where restrictions are necessary, justified and proportionate to the requirements of ensuring their security or maintaining public security, public order and public health. Government also has the duty to

¹ FDRE Constitution Article 9 (4).

² The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) as endorsed by the Proclamation No. 1187/2020

³ Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Introduction, Scope and Purpose, No.2.

⁴ Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, 30th Nov. 2006, Art 1(4).

⁵ The Kampala Convention Article 5 (1) and Article 9 (2) and (3)

⁶ Ibid., Article 9 (3).

protect IDPs from arbitrary detention, abduction, torture or any other form of cruel or inhumane treatment, including sexual and gender-based violence.⁷

- Government has the duty to respect and maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of the places where IDPs are sheltered and to safeguard such locations against infiltration by armed groups, and to disarm such groups.⁸
- Government has the duty to provide special protection for and assistance to IDPs with special needs, including separated and unaccompanied children, female heads of households, expectant mothers with young children, the elderly and persons with disabilities or with communicable diseases.⁹
- Where the Government's resources are inadequate to provide sufficient humanitarian assistance, it shall cooperate in seeking the assistance of international organizations, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations and other appropriate actors.¹⁰
- In addition to the provision of protection and assistance during displacement, IDPs have a right to durable solutions. This can take the form of safe, dignified and voluntary return, relocation or local integration.¹¹ Government should also provide effective and durable remedies for IDPs and ensure just and fair compensation and other forms of reparations for damage incurred as a result of displacement.¹²
- In general, the Government has the duty to prevent internal displacement, to take the necessary measures to protect the rights of displaced people and to ensure rehabilitation. The Kampala Convention also imposes obligations on all parties to a conflict and humanitarian agencies.¹³

⁷ Ibid., Article 9 (2) (f) and Article 9 (1) (c) (d)

⁸ Ibid., Article 9 (2) (g)

⁹ Ibid., Article 9 (2) (c)

¹⁰ Ibid., Article 9 (3)

¹¹ Ibid., Article 11 (1)

¹² Ibid., Article 12

¹³ Ibid., Articles 6 and 7

PART THREE



Overview of Displacement Situation in Ethiopia

- In recent years, displacement in Ethiopia has drastically increased affecting every part of the country. IOM's National Displacement Tracking Matrix Report of 2022 shows that there are over 4.5 million IDPs across Ethiopia and an estimated 2.85 million returnees as of January 2022. This figure includes persons displaced for various reasons and those living in protracted displacement. Women and children represent the majority of IDP population. IOM's data from April 2022 indicated that women and children make 50% and 53% of the entire displaced population respectively.
- Conflict, natural disasters and violence are the primary drivers of displacement. Recently, the number of people displaced due to violent conflict has increased drastically overtaking the number of people displaced by natural disasters. The numbers are rising steadily as the root causes of displacement and related issues have not been addressed and durable solutions have not been secured for displaced persons. The conflict in the northern part of the country has forced many people in Afar, Amhara and Tigray to leave their homes and flee to other areas. The violent conflict at the Afar/Somalia border was also a major cause of displacement. Furthermore, draught, famine and natural disasters in Somali and Oromia regions were one of the primary causes for the rapid increase in the number of displaced persons.
- People who are forced to flee their homes or places of habitual residence are subject to heightened vulnerability. They are also vulnerable to human rights abuses as they have left behind their homes and possessions. In particular, women, children, older persons, person with disabilities and persons with chronic diseases are disproportionately affected in the course of displacement due to weak state support system, lack of responses tailored to the needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs. Additionally, protracted displacement and tensions with host communities put IDPs in precarious situations.

Key Achievements

- As indicated above, the Kampala Convention is ratified by the House of Peoples' Representatives through Proclamation No. 1187/2020 in February 2020. Although, the FDRE Constitution stipulates that international instruments ratified by Ethiopia form part and parcel of the national laws, the Kampala Convention explicitly obliges member states to enact or amend existing domestic legislations, in light of the Convention. In addition, State Parties are obliged to put in place institutional arrangement that coordinates protection and assistance for IDPs at national level. In this regard, the Government's initiative to domesticate the Kampala Convention is a commendable step.
- Directive on the Establishment of Special Polling Stations No. 13/2013 enabled at least some displaced persons to participate in the 6th National Election.

- The Somali Regional State has launched a strategy on durable solutions for the period of 2022 to 2025. As Somali Region is one of the regions hosting the largest numbers of IDPs, as well as people living in protracted displacement, the strategy provides a good opportunity to find durable solutions at local level.
- The National Council and National Partnership Coalition established by Proclamation No. 1178/2020 are entrusted with functions and responsibilities to coordinate concerned bodies for the development of policies, laws and strategic framework and implementation procedures, regarding internal displacement.¹⁴ In light of this, the National Partnership Coalition developed a draft National Migration Policy. After incorporating feedback from a series of consultation meetings, the draft is submitted to the Council of Ministers for adoption. This is a step in the right direction.
- Another positive development is the submission of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy to the Council of Ministers for adoption. The draft was developed by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission with inputs from various stakeholders.
- The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) is the main coordinating body for the distribution of food and non-food items to displaced persons. Previously the National DRMC was accountable to the Ministry of Peace at national level,¹⁵ and to the various sector bureaus at regional level. For instance, while in Somali and Oromia regions, the Regional Disaster Risk Management Bureaus (DRMB) are accountable to their respective regional administration bureau, Amhara Regional DRMB is accountable to the Bureau for Agriculture and Food Security. This rendered the work of NDRMC difficult, because being under a parallel ministry or regional bureau, it lacked the authority to coordinate other sector ministries and regional bureaus. However, this gap appears to have been addressed following the adoption of Definition of Power and Duties of the Executive Organs Proclamation No. 1263/2021. EDRMC is currently one of the institutions that are made accountable to the Office of the Prime Minister at the Federal level.¹⁶ This gives EDRMC a much needed authority at the highest leadership level to effectively coordinate interventions aimed at the protection and assistance for IDPs by engaging relevant governmental and non-governmental actors in a systematic manner. Article 10 of the Proclamation further provides clarification by defining a 'Commission' as an institution that coordinates the activities of different executive organs, formulate policies and strategies and oversees their implementation.
- The Digital ID system that is expected to be implemented in the near future may create an opportunity, at least to some extent, to solve the problem of registration of IDPs.

¹⁴ Proclamation to Provide for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Persons (Proclamation No. 1178/2020), Articles 34 (3) and 36 (3)

¹⁵ Proclamation No. 1097/2018, A Proclamation to Provide for the Definition of the Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Article 13 (m).

¹⁶ Proclamation No. 1263/2021 Definition of Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs, Article 79

- In some areas, displaced persons receive assistance from host communities. This not only fosters good relationship between IDPs and the host communities, it also facilitates durable solution by creating conditions conducive for local integration.
- The establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Taskforce (IMTF) in November 2021, to ensure accountability and redress, following the recommendations of the report on the joint investigation conducted by EHRC and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights into the alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws in the context of the conflict in Tigray, is a commendable development. It is further encouraging that one of the four committees formed by IMTF – Refugees and IDPs’ Affairs Committee – is mandated to address human rights violations encountered by refugees and IDPs in the context of the conflict in the Northern Ethiopia.

Main Human Rights Concerns

1. Lack of legal and institutional framework

- There is no state organ that has been specifically granted the powers and duties to lead and coordinate the protection of IDPs, provide assistance and facilitate durable solutions. According to the previous Proclamation Defining the Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs (Proclamation 1097/2018), the Ministry of Peace (MoP) was given the responsibility to identify factors that cause conflicts among communities; submit a study with recommendations to prevent conflicts and instability and implement the same upon approval; make appropriate preparations for natural and man-made disasters; and lead and oversee the national disaster risk management.¹⁷ Additionally, it has been given the powers to implement and oversee the implementation of the Convention pursuant to the Kampala Convention Ratification Proclamation No. 1187/2020. Accordingly, MoP had been in charge of setting up a conflict prevention and early warning system, and facilitating durable solutions at national level. However, as the new Proclamation Defining the Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs No. 1263/2021 does not explicitly confer MoP with powers relating to the protection of displaced persons, the Ministry’s operations and interventions in the protection of IDPs and durable solutions were halted since the adoption of the latter Proclamation. In particular, the Ethiopia Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI), which was launched by MoP in collaboration with international partners in 2019 with the aim at guiding and coordinating efforts in finding durable solutions for IDPs in Ethiopia, has stalled.

¹⁷ Proclamation No. 1097/2018, A Proclamation to Provide for the Definition of the Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Article 13 (g) (m).

- Moreover, it is not clear whether MoP's duty to implement and follow-up the implementation of the Kampala Convention, as conferred by Proclamation 1187/2020 remains intact. While, on the one hand, it might be argued that MoP's mandate remains intact, because Article 41 (2) of Proclamation No. 1263/2021 stipulates that powers and duties entrusted to the Ministry under other laws continue to be applicable, others might argue that the fact MoP no longer has the institutional capacity or structure to coordinate interventions related to displaced persons, limit its ability to execute its mandate of coordinating other institutions for the effective implementation of the Kampala Convention.
- Although a comprehensive protection of IDPs requires a whole-of-government approach, institutional framework has not been put in place to coordinate the interventions of relevant sector governmental and non-governmental organizations. One of the main gaps the Commission has identified through its monitoring activities relate to the lack of clearly mandated government institution, which coordinates interventions and responses to internal displacement, and lack of clearly defined powers and duties of the various governmental organizations in the management of internal displacement. For instance, in most areas covered by its monitoring missions, the Commission has found serious institutional gaps with regard to creating and maintaining disaggregated and up-dated register of IDPs, as well as, identifying and documenting special needs. The Commission also noted various gaps in issuance of civil documents, provision of assistance that takes into consideration the special needs of IDPs, coordination and implementation of durable solutions. Moreover, it was observed that the Government failed to use up-dated registration and profiling of IDPs for the purposes of policy development, programing and budgeting.
- Directive on the Establishment of Special Polling Stations No. 13/2013 enabled, at least, some displaced persons to vote. However, due to lack of legislation enabling absentee voting, displaced persons were obliged to return to their habitual residence to vote for their chosen candidate, exposing them to the risks they fled from. If their choice is not to return, they will not be able to exercise their voting rights. Lack of IDP targeted voters' education coupled with the absence of government structure specifically mandated to address this gap contributed to low awareness of voters' rights among IDPs.

2. Registration, civil documentation and freedom of movement

- Creating and maintaining up-dated register on IDPs, disaggregated by age and sex, as well as profiling of orphaned, separated and unaccompanied children, child-headed or female-headed households, expectant and breast-feeding mothers, person with disabilities and older persons is critical not only to know the figures, but also to provide responsive protection and assistance for IDPs and, ultimately, to seek durable solutions to displacement.
- Issuing documentation identifying them as IDPs enables them to access humanitarian assistance and social services. Ensuring registration and access to documentation, such as

replacement or new Kebele ID cards, birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates, is necessary for the enjoyment and exercise of other rights. For instance, IDPs who lost their ID card may not be able to exercise their right to move freely or to access banking, communication and judicial services.

- Lack of systematic and disaggregated data of IDPs is a common problem in most places monitored by the Commission. This is one of the reasons why there is considerable variation in reporting of IDP figures by different organizations. Moreover, registration is not often undertaken at individual level, but rather at the household level and even at male-headed household level, obscuring the special needs of individual IDPs and violating their right for special protection. As records are not regularly updated or maintained in a systematic manner, available data fail to represent the reality. This prevents delivery of appropriate and responsive support. Due to shortage of trained data collectors and lack of a systematic approach, current statistics do not take into account new displacement occurring in various parts of the country, inhibiting adequate understanding of the actual scope and magnitude of internal displacement.
- IDPs often face challenges in getting replacement for their ID card and other civil documents they left behind or lost in the course of displacement. In addition to weak registration system, issuing identification documents to displaced persons is not a common practice. This has resulted in humanitarian assistance not being adequately distributed to IDPs. For instance, in the displacement sites in Somali Region, as well as various relocation sites from Millennium Park in Dire Dawa City that were monitored, the Commission observed that lack of a uniform registration process and sex disaggregated data has limited the accessibility and responsiveness of the humanitarian assistance.
- Displaced persons who did not have personal documents were unable to move freely in the country and access basic services. In Amhara Region, IDPs faced difficulties in accessing basic services because the registration process lacked uniformity and ID cards and other civil documents were not issued to IDPs. As a temporary solution, the management of some IDP camps issued temporary ID cards that enabled IDPs to move freely and access basic services.
- IDPs living inside or outside camps have the right to freedom of movement like any other person. Freedom of movement is a right in itself and a means for the enjoyment of other rights. For instance, restriction of freedom of movement can restrict IDPs' access to work and social services, as well as, the freedom to choose their place of residence.
- During EHRC's monitoring mission in Debre Birhan City in Northern Showa from December 23, 2021 to January 4, 2022, IDPs hosted in the Teachers' College reported that they did not have access to civil documents, including ID card, birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates. While they were able to use ID card that they were given identifying them as IDPs to move inside and outside the camp, they were not allowed to use their own ID card outside the camp. Moreover, their freedom of movement was restricted for a limited period of time, due to an order stating that "displaced persons should not move in the City".

3. Right to safety and security and access to justice

- IDPs, like any other person, have the right to life, liberty and security of person. The primary responsibility to protect these rights and ensure the security of IDP camps is that of local security forces.
- Although security risk was not reported as a major concern in most of the places monitored by the Commission, it remained a concern in some areas. For instance, during the Commission's monitoring visit of IDP camps in Northern Showa from December 23, 2021 to January 4, 2022, where people displaced by the conflict in the Northern Ethiopia have sought refuge (in Debre Birhan City; Kara Kore; Antsokiya; Ataye; and Kemise Town of Oromiya Special Zone), it was observed that there were no security forces onsite. This rendered IDPs more vulnerable to violence and robbery. Similarly, during the Commission's monitoring visit of Zenzelma camp in the outskirts of Bahir Dar City in Amhara Region from October 26, to November 2, 2021, there were no security forces at the IDP site. Displaced persons further reported that they could hear multiple gun shots at night and, as the camps were not walled off effectively, they expressed concerns of easily becoming targets of attacks. Moreover, brawling among displaced persons had resulted in destruction of property. Similarly, the security situation in Guji Zone was serious, and displaced persons perceived to be government supporters were threatened and harassed by the Oromo Liberation Army (also known as "Oneg-Shene") and faced serious security risks.
- Limited infrastructure in host communities, especially adequate power supply, forced IDPs to use natural resources. This led to negative competition with host communities for scarce resources, which sometimes results in violent conflict. In some areas, ethnic or tribal differences between IDPs and host communities had resulted in violent conflict.
- Another safety and security issue of concern is gender-based violence. For instance, the monitoring visit conducted in Muli Primary School in Mieso Woreda of Somali Region, from November 18, to 28, 2021, showed that at least 18 women were raped during the conflict around Gedamayetu in Afar Region that led to their displacement. In addition, women and girls are exposed to sexual violence as they travel long distance in search of food and water. Absence of projects aimed at improving livelihoods and self-reliance, expose IDPs, particularly women and children to negative coping mechanisms, such as human trafficking, labour and sexual exploitation and irregular migration.
- The conflict in the North coupled with inter-communal disputes and violent conflicts over administrative issues in different parts of the country are triggering the displacement of a significant number of people. Even though most persons are displaced due to conflicts and have suffered physical and psychological injuries and destruction of property, there are major gaps in holding perpetrators accountable and providing effective remedies to victims. For instance, persons displaced from Kelem, East and West Wollega in Oromia Region and Metekel Zone and Kamashi Zone of Benishangul Gumuz Region, and hosted in Atse Teodros

Sub-city of Bahir Dar City; South Mecha; and Finote Selam in East Gojjam of Amhara Region, reported during EHRC's monitoring visit conducted from October 26, to November 2, 2021 that no action was taken to hold accountable individuals and groups for forced displacement, killings, physical injuries, destruction and looting of properties. Similarly, persons displaced from neighboring regions of Oromia and Afar, due to violent conflicts, reported during EHRC's monitoring visit conducted from November 18 to 28, 2021 in Kotoberobele Kebele, Mieso Woreda; Awbare Woreda; Togo Wechale in Kebri Beyah Woreda, that no action was taken to hold accountable those who caused physical injuries and destroyed properties.

4. Humanitarian assistance and access to social services

- When IDPs flee for safety, they leave behind their livelihoods and other sources of income. As a result, they are unable to meet their basic needs. The Government is thus required to provide humanitarian assistance and basic services to IDPs during displacement and in the process of reintegration; grant access to humanitarian organizations; and facilitate access to humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian assistance must be provided without discrimination, must be of acceptable quality, adequate, timely and responsive to the special needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.
- In all the camps monitored, IDPs and returnees repetitively reported that provision of food and non-food items were inadequate; health care services, shelter, clean drinking water and hygiene and sanitary products were inaccessible; and humanitarian assistance not responsive to the special needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including provision of nutritious food to children. Additionally, IDPs do not have livelihoods or other source of income to meet their basic needs and sustain themselves.
- Even though, IDPs indicated that they have access to ambulance service as the locals, IDPs faced difficulties because adequate healthcare service is not available close to IDP camps or sites. For instance, although IDPs, in most areas monitored, have the right to free basic healthcare at health centers like local community members, basic services, including education, healthcare and medicines are not available free of charge, either to IDPs or to the community members. As a result, both locals and IDPs have to pay for prescription medicines. However, having no income or assets, IDPs are not able to pay for healthcare. In addition, several IDP women had to give birth at home, because there were no health centers in the surroundings. Displaced persons in Woreta Town, Fogera Woreda, South Gondar Zone in the Amhara Region reported that they have no access to free healthcare. According to the Woreda Administration, it was unable to provide free healthcare as no budget has been allocated for IDPs. It was further reported that IDPs could not access free healthcare at government facilities as they did not have health insurance card. Even though the Amhara Regional Council issued a circular granting IDPs free access to healthcare across the Region, the

Regional Health Bureau admitted that there are administrative barriers to implement the circular.

- IDPs in Qoleji camp in Somali Region indicated that the amount of food supplied was not proportional to family size. Displaced persons who were relocated from Dire Dawa Millennium Park to Kotoberobele Kebele in Sitti Zone, Mieso Woreda reported that the Government failed to provide for their basic needs in their new location. They reported that food distribution is delayed and not regular. While the IDPs were mostly engaged in trade prior to displacement, they are unable to trade at their new location as there is no business transaction in the location.
- Distribution of non-food items is not accessible to all. Many IDPs are hosted in schools, inoperative factories, incomplete buildings or construction site and similar temporary sites. Overcrowding is a major problem, with as many as 80 IDPs crowded in a single room. This exposes IDPs to various communicable diseases, including COVID-19. Shortage of beddings also exposed them to the cold and health problems.
- The Commission has also observed that due to lack of adequate shelters, IDPs in Muli, Kotoberobele and Togo Wochale of Somali Region live in overcrowded conditions. In Kotoberobele, the Commission noted that 19 families (total 80 individuals) live in three 4m by 4m rooms, with men and women staying in the same rooms. This exposed women and girls to gender-based violence.
- In most of the monitored locations, IDPs did not have access to pipe water because either there is no water pump or the pipes are damaged. As a result, IDPs used water sourced from rivers or unimproved dug wells. This exposed IDPs to different diseases, while fetching water has added to the workload of women. Moreover, women did not have proper access to dignity kits.
- IDPs have indicated that the financial support they received is not sufficient to cover their basic needs and the situation is exacerbated as the number of IDPs in different parts of the country continued to rise. Constant shift in focus to new displacements was a challenge to regular humanitarian assistance. COVID-19, draught, locust invasion coupled with effects of climate change aggravated the problem.
- Due to these and other reasons where governmental and non-governmental organizations failed to provide adequate humanitarian assistance, a disproportionate burden fell on host communities putting a strain on limited resources and weak basic services. The situation was even worse when host communities are themselves targets of conflict. The weakening or dissolution of social support groups and interruption of basic services compounded the problem. Interruption of banking services complicated the situation. Due to poverty, locals in some locations got registered as displaced persons to access humanitarian assistance.

5. Special protection and assistance to vulnerable and marginalized groups

- Global data showed that 50% of displaced persons are children, most of whom are orphaned, unaccompanied or separated children. For instance, in Gedeo Zone, many children have been separated from their families as a result of the conflict. Moreover, children living with relatives in Kersa Mele and Fina Agerso kebeles, in Liben Woreda of Guji Zone, reported not having received any assistance from the Zonal Women and Children's Bureau. In contrast, children in Fina Agerso Kebele received assistance from a governmental organization.
- In most of the locations monitored, children faced a myriad of problems. This included lack of nutritious food, limited access to education, not identifying and responding to the special needs of children, and lack of follow up. Although in some areas visited, nutritious food was provided to malnourished children, in most places, powdered milk and nutritious diet did not form part of the regular food ration. As a result, the children were underweight and stunted.
- In locations monitored in Somali Region, including Awbare and Mieso woredas, even though IDPs were entitled to free medical care, IDPs, including those suffering from chronic diseases, expectant and breastfeeding mothers and children were unable to access medical care due to shortage of medical supplies and budgetary allocations. Health care service was inaccessible, and lack of medical care, including lack of antenatal care and ambulance service exposed pregnant women and children to great health risks. In addition, free healthcare was not available to IDPs who did not have any income, making healthcare inaccessible.
- In most areas monitored by the Commission, education was interrupted because schools were converted into IDP camps and shortage of education materials. For instance, in Heralptu and Deko kebeles in Guji Zone, displaced parents and returnees did not send their children to school for the following reasons. On the one hand, they were unable to provide school supplies to their children; while on the other hand parents wanted their children to work on farms and help with household chores. This has increased the number of displaced children who are out of school.
- The distribution of non-food items was not equally accessible to all displaced persons and the number of humanitarian organizations operating in most areas covered by the monitoring missions was limited. For instance, in Woreta town in South Gondar and in Jabi Tehnan Woreda in West Gojjam of Amhara Region, humanitarian assistance was not timely and regular. In all the areas monitored, dignity kits for women and girls and other hygiene and sanitary items were only distributed by humanitarian organizations. IDP camps or sites that were not served by humanitarian organizations thus suffered from shortage of dignity kits and other hygiene and sanitary items.
- The gaps in registration of IDPs and provision of humanitarian assistance had a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities and older persons. In most of the areas

the Commission monitored, it was observed that IDPs with disabilities and older persons faced additional barriers in accessing humanitarian assistance as food distribution points were far away from IDP camps and due to long queues. Similarly, even though IDPs relocated from Dire Dawa Millennium Park to Kurfasewa Kebele in Mieso Woreda were provided with canvas to set up tents, IDPs with disabilities and older persons faced difficulties as they could not go to the forest to cut trees and get wood on their own to set up their tents.

- Women and girls were exposed to gender-based violence as they traveled long distance to fetch food and water for their families. For instance, two girls (a 15-year-old and an 18-year-old) who fled from their homes in Showa Robit due to the northern conflict, were raped by Tigrayan security forces as they were going back to their residential area in search of food. Although there are a few organizations working on gender-based violence issues, the response was inadequate due to shortage of health and psychosocial support services in all the regions. For instance, displaced women in Guji Zone suffered from rape and other gender-based violence perpetrated by armed groups. The Zonal Women and Children Bureau indicated that it was unable to assess the extent of the problem and investigate incidents due to the security situation in the area and limited reporting by the victims. Similarly, women and girls in Keresamele Kebele were exposed to gender-based violence as they have to travel long distances in search of fire wood and water. There were no centers to lodge complaints or report gender-based violence. In Guji and West Guji, IDPs and returnees did not have access to adequate response and redress because there was no center to report gender-based violence.
- In Kercha Ense Kebele, Bule Hora Woreda of West Guji, it was observed that 194 female heads of household faced security risks, did not have their basic needs met, and were exposed to gender-based violence.
- As there were inadequate projects promoting sustainable livelihoods and self-reliance, IDPs were exposed to human trafficking and irregular migration. In search of opportunities to meet their basic needs, women and girls were exposed to negative coping mechanisms and made vulnerable to early marriage, begging, and labour and sexual exploitation. For instance, in Wenaga Town, Wenaga Woreda of Geddo Zone, children orphaned by the conflict in the area had to drop out of school and engage in begging to meet their basic needs. IDPs in Dako Kebele, Wenaga Woreda, and Liben Woreda of Guji Zone reported that they were unable to feed their children as food assistance was inadequate. As a desperate measure they gave away their children to relatives or close contacts so that the children would get food in exchange for work. Children in Qoleji, Goljano, Tuli Guled, Keleme, Megala, Millennium Park and Jaden IDP camps and sites in Fafan and Sitti zones of Somali Region, were forced to engage in harmful labour and enter into early marriage in order to support themselves and their families.

6. Implementation of durable solutions

- Durable solutions for IDPs can be achieved through voluntary, safe and dignified return to their habitual residence; or relocation to another part of the country; or integration in host communities. Like any other citizen or resident, the right of IDPs to live in any part of the country must be respected. Returning IDPs to their place of origin or habitual residence should not be considered as the only option for durable solution.
- Humanitarian assistance, social services, livelihood and employment opportunities, and access to justice, effective remedies and redress for harm caused in the course of displacement should be made available in locations where durable solution is pursued. Forcing IDPs to return to their habitual residence without their consent and ensuring safety and security, or closing down temporary shelters and dispersing IDPs will not result in lasting solution.
- Notwithstanding the need to rectify irregular working modalities and interventions, the Government's efforts to seek durable solutions by returning IDPs to their habitual residence or relocating them to other areas are commendable. For instance, IDPs in Semento, Fina Agerso and Heralptu in Guji and West Guji zones of Oromia Region were given livestock by a humanitarian organization as part of durable solution initiative. Similarly, the Government supplied IDPs in West Guji Zone, farming equipment, seeds and fertilizer.
- However, in some areas monitored, government led efforts to find durable solutions by relocating IDPs failed to consider their choice; to take into account their livelihood and ability prior to displacement, safety and security at the place of relocation and the fulfillment of basic infrastructure and services (food, water, shelter, health and education) at the place of relocation or return. For instance, IDPs relocated from Millennium Park to Kurfasewa Kebele, Mieso Woreda in Sitti Zone reported that the Government failed to consult them prior to their relocation; and that basic infrastructure and services, such as shelter were not fulfilled at the place of relocation. They further indicated that while they were engaged in trade prior to their displacement, they were not able to trade at the place of relocation because it was not conducive for business transactions. These kinds of challenges obstruct the effective reintegration of IDPs. Similarly, IDPs in Kotoberobele Kebele in Kebri Beyah Woreda and Togowechale town were relocated without proper prior planning and preparedness.
- Considering the steady rise of internal displacement, the Government often considers returning IDPs to their habitual residence as the only option for durable solution. However, there are many obstacles to this option. The most common challenge is that the conflicts that caused the displacement have not been resolved. In most cases, when conflicts occur, residents flee their homes leaving everything behind and move to nearby locations to escape immediate danger with the hope of returning within a short period of time. However, they are not able to return as soon as they initially anticipated, as conflicts are usually prolonged. Their properties are looted, destroyed or illegally grabbed. For instance, when displaced persons from Showa Robit, Mehal Meda and Mezezo in North Showa due to the Northern Ethiopian conflict, returned to their place of origin, they found their homes, and health and education

facilities destroyed and looted by TPLF security forces. Similarly, returnees in Senbete town found their homes and basic services looted and destroyed by the Oromo Liberation Army (also known as Oneg-Shene). IDPs in Guji and West Guji zones also confirmed that their homes were destroyed, their household items and harvests looted. On the other hand, out of the 265 houses destroyed in Heralptu, only 110 were rebuilt by a charitable organization. Moreover, IDPs and returnees indicated that they face challenges to get replacement documents, including title deeds destroyed due to the conflict. They also did not receive compensation for damage caused to their properties. In West Guji Zone, IDPs complained that assistance provided towards durable solution was discriminatory and biased in favor of one group.

- Returnees indicated that they have been unable to exit humanitarian assistance and realize self-reliance due to the damage caused to productivity and harvest by the conflict and climate change.
- IDPs who fled their homes in Wollega zones in Oromia Region and Benishangul Gumuz Region have repeatedly expressed their choice not to return to their homes due to serious safety and security risks at the place of habitual residence.
- In most cases, IDPs find it difficult to return to the habitual residence and might be forced into secondary displacement, if there is no immediate response to conflicts; if individuals and groups who forcefully displaced people, committed physical injuries and destroyed properties are not brought to justice and held accountable, and effective remedies are not rendered to victims. For instance, the return of IDPs in Gida Ayana Woreda, East Wollega Zone to their habitual residence and the reintegration of IDP returnees in Wayu Tuqa Woreda led some of them to secondary displacement because it was conducted before the conflict that led to their displacement was resolved in a sustainable manner; without adequate humanitarian assistance and holding accountable perpetrators of various abuses.
- Forcing IDPs to return to their habitual residence without ensuring safety and security through an inclusive and participatory peace and reconciliation efforts, and while displacement is still ongoing, may lead to secondary displacement. It may also not result in lasting solution.

PART FOUR



Conclusion

- Lack of a domestic legislation and government structure to implement the Kampala Convention, following its ratification, is an obstacle to the effective implementation of measures to prevent displacement, provide assistance for displaced persons and achieve durable solutions.
- Problems identified in the registration process of displaced persons and the issuance of civil documents emanate from the lack of a specific legal framework and absence of an institutional arrangement.
- The gaps, identified in the registration of displaced persons, and issuance of civil documents, have a negative impact on effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- The human rights situation of IDPs is of great concern because provision of humanitarian assistance and social services is not timely, adequate, regular and responsive to the special needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- Women and children in displacement live in conditions that expose them to further risk of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Implementation of durable solutions does not often consider attainment of long-term safety and security, ensure the participation of displaced persons and host communities, and consider IDPs' needs and livelihood opportunities at place of return or relocation. Due to these reasons, it often fails to result in lasting solutions and may even lead to secondary and protracted displacement.
- Failure to hold accountable individuals and groups who forcefully displaced people; committed killings and physical injuries, and destroyed property is a violation of the rule of law, accountability and IDPs' access to justice.

Recommendations

Establish adequate legal framework and institutional structure

- Establish by law an institutional structure with the mandate to ensure protection of IDPs' rights; and adopt a national legal framework establishing accountability by clearly defining the rights of IDPs and the responsibilities of the Government.
- Ensure, in defining the powers and duties of the institution that provide protection and humanitarian assistance for IDPs in accordance with Proclamation No.1263/2021, that such institution is granted with the required level of authority to effectively coordinate and lead the interventions of other governmental and non-governmental organizations; has the required institutional arrangement at all levels – from federal to regional, as well as woreda level - at least in regions where there is a large number of IDPs; and has the relevant

knowledge, skills, expertise, competence and legitimacy to efficiently deliver on its mandate. In addition, it should have the agility and the executive power for rapid response and capability to mobilize the required resources.

Registration of IDPs and issuance of civil documents

- Considering the significance of registration and issuance of civil documents on IDPs' rights to humanitarian assistance, freedom of movement, and access to social services, establish a comprehensive and regularly up-dated register of IDPs that takes into account the displacement situation across the country. The registration system should be supported by adequate number of trained experts and technology.
- Ensure that IDPs are issued with personal ID card and other relevant civil documentation, such as identification cards, as well as birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates to enable IDPs exercise their rights to humanitarian assistance, freedom of movement and access to social services. Systematic issuance of identity cards and other relevant documents should be facilitated in all areas where IDPs are hosted. The digital identification system, which is expected to be operationalized in the near future, must be implemented in a manner that addresses the specific challenges IDPs are facing in relation to registration and issuance of civil documents.

Right to safety and security, freedom of movement and access to justice

- Authorities responsible for peace and security, administrators of IDP camps and sites, and other relevant institutions should identify safety and security risks and take mitigation measures, and ensure the protection of IDPs' rights, especially in relation to freedom of movement. Measures to mitigate security risks should take into consideration the vulnerability of women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
- In accordance with the Kampala Convention, all parties to a conflict, including armed groups, shall refrain from acts that endanger the safety and security of displaced persons.
- Ensure IDPs' access to justice and accountability by holding individuals and institutions accountable for acts that breached the safety and security of displaced persons.
- Institutions mandated to administer IDP camps and sites, as well as regional authorities responsible for safety and security, and justice should ensure the safety and security of IDPs, in collaboration with federal authorities as needed.

Humanitarian assistance and provision of social services

- Recognizing that they are unable to meet their basic needs and are subjected to heightened vulnerability because they have left everything behind, including their livelihoods and properties, IDPs should be provided with timely, adequate and accessible humanitarian assistance responsive to the special needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, persons with disability and the elderly. To ensure effective delivery of humanitarian

assistance, Government should strengthen its coordination and collaboration with non-government organizations that provide humanitarian assistance.

- Ensure that healthcare and other social services are accessible in areas where IDPs are located. Psychosocial services should be made available to address the trauma IDPs experience during and after displacement. The disaster risk management and food security bureaus at regional and woreda levels, the Federal Disaster Risk Management Commission, and other relevant authorities at various levels, must ensure that humanitarian assistance is adequate and accessible.

Humanitarian assistance to vulnerable and marginalized groups of IDPs with special needs

- Recognizing that women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities have special needs and are disproportionately vulnerable to violence, and aware that special attention and affirmative measures should be taken in their favor, woreda and regional disaster risk management and food security bureaus, Federal Disaster Risk Management Commission and federal and regional women, children and social affairs bureaus should:
 - Identify orphaned, separated and unaccompanied children, child-headed household, malnourished and school-going age children, and enhance food ration, as well as provide education related support, such as starting school-feeding programs, supplying school materials and for families without means, providing financial support towards their children's education;
 - Provide gender sensitive humanitarian and social support to women and girls, including dignity kits and sexual and reproductive health services;
 - Ensure that humanitarian and social support is accessible to persons with disabilities and older persons;
 - Protect women and children from sexual violence; ensure that adequate medical, social and economic support, as well as legal services, is accessible to victims of sexual and gender-based violence and ensure accountability.

Implementation of durable solutions

- To prevent protracted and secondary displacement and ensure lasting solutions for IDPs, ensure the participation of IDPs and host communities in the planning and management of durable solutions.
- Measures to return, relocate or locally integrate IDPs should take into consideration whether the immediate cause of displacement has been resolved; the consent of displaced persons; their former livelihoods and ability; access to basic infrastructure and services; and fulfillment of conditions conducive for lasting reintegration.
- Government must promote accountability by facilitating IDPs' access to justice and effective remedies for violations against their physical and psychological integrity and property rights.

- Humanitarian organizations must work with the relevant authorities to ensure that humanitarian assistance in their areas of operation is timely, adequate, accessible and responsive to the special needs of vulnerable groups at greater risk of abuse. They must ensure that durable solutions and awareness raising that aim at improving the overall human rights situation of IDPs are part of their planning and programming.