A Submission by Civil Society Coalition\(^1\) to the 3\(^{rd}\) Universal Periodic Review of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

State of vulnerability of internally displaced people and children in Ethiopia

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I. Introduction
1. The report is a joint submission of the coalition of 11 civil society organizations working in the promotion and protection of human rights in Ethiopia.

2. This report highlights the state of protection of the rights of some vulnerable groups in Ethiopia on priority areas identified by the coalition. The report is limited in scope as it does not cover every aspect of the rights of vulnerable groups, rather mainly focuses on current violations against and vulnerability of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and children.

3. Both secondary and primary data was used in preparing this report. Primary data was collected from the Federal and the regional state government offices of Oromia, Amhara, Afar and Gambella. Secondary data was obtained from government reports, UN reports, academic researches, and studies and report of NGOs. The report also benefited from a stakeholder’s consultation held in August 2018.

II. Protection of IDPs
A. Areas of concern

i) Growing Trends of Internal Displacement in Ethiopia

4. According to data obtained from the International Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), the number of IDPs has shown a decline between 2012 and 2014 but showed increment in 2015 as the figure reached 450,000. The new IDPs figure of 2016 shows massive increase (increased by 528.6%), compared to the 2015 new IDPs. This has further increased in 2017 by nearly 245% as compared to the 2016 new IDPs flow. The number of new IDPs flow in 2017 was 725,000, while the IDPs stock in the same year has escalated shockingly to 1,078,000.

5. It is apparent that in 2016, 2017 and 2018, more people are displaced than before due to drought and conflict. UN data shows that the current status of IDPs, as of July 2018, is 2.7 million with 500,003, 643,201 and 822,187 displacements from Somali, Oromia and Southern Regional states respectively due to conflicts while 373, 663 and 112,949 people are displaced from Somali and Oromia due climate change that caused drought and flood. There are also a significant number of IDPs in Bahir Dar, Amhara Regional state displaced from Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regional states. Likewise, displacement of 3490 persons has been reported in Gambella as a result of the clan based conflict that erupted in Nuer Zone on 19 and 20 June 2018.

6. Ethnic clashes along the border between the Oromia and Somali regional states-the longest internal border in Ethiopia and the Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples regional states (Southern Region) have led to the displacement of millions of Ethiopians since
These clashes and attendant displacement are not only driven by ethnic animosity and in many cases the regional states themselves were directly involved in ethnically motivated attacks, mostly through their police forces.iii

7. The inter-ethnic or inter-communal violence along the Oromia-Somali border has caused the displacement of more than half a million people in 2017.iv Moreover, recent reports released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)v had documented that the first ethnic conflict that broke out on the 13th of April 2018 between West Guji (Oromia Regional State) and Gedeo zones (Southern Regional State) has resulted in the displacement of over 200,000 people (around 100,000 in each zone). Later, thousands of IDPs had started returning back to their areas of origin as a result of reconciliation efforts between the two ethnic groups. Unfortunately, the reconciliation and the deployment of security forces to the area did not prevent the reescalation of the violence, and the renewed violence in June 2018 resulted in the mass displacement of 818,250 people from both zones.vi

ii) The Impact of Internal Displacement in Ethiopia

8. The widespread displacement has affected the lives of thousands of Ethiopians from loss of livelihood and healthy living to loss of life. It has disproportionately impacted women, children, persons with disabilities and elderly, posing risks such as family separation, sexual violence and labour exploitation.vii

Education

9. The displacement has resulted in hundreds of thousands of children losing access to education due to limited education services in temporary shelters.viii Retaining those who have access to education has been a daunting task as many children dropout of school because of child marriage, labor exploitation and migration. An assessment conducted in December 2017 maintains that the displacement interrupted the education of thousands of children. Accordingly, among 444,839 displaced school-age children, 125,035 children do not have access to educational services.ix Recently alone conflict and consequent displacement has interrupted the education of 54 students in Gambella.x

10. On the positive side, school-feeding programs in drought affected areas have been effective in reducing the closure of schools and students dropout rate.xi The 2018 Humanitarian and Disaster Resilience Plan (HDRP) also envisage for accelerated educational program to speed up the reintegration of displaced children in the regular school for the academic year 2018/19 to cover up the lost learning time during the emergency. In addition, it aims for temporary learning service for displaced children.xii
11. Notwithstanding, various reports compiled by different organs including UNOCHA on IDPs in Ethiopia still show gaps in terms of responding to the education need of IDPs. The response gap is exacerbated by constraints such as: limited resource to provide education in emergencies; shortage of teachers in IDP sites, and limited capacity of schools in hosting areas to accommodate school-aged displaced children.

12. Further, retention of children in schools has been a big challenge in IDPs context. Among those who accessed education, it was not possible to retain them as a result of child marriage and child labor exploitation. In Oromia region, 368 internally displaced children dropped out of school because of child marriage while in one district alone in Somali region, 500 internally displaced unaccompanied children have migrated to another place in search of livelihood leaving school. These separated and unaccompanied children face the risk of sexual violence and labor exploitation.¹³

Food, shelter and basic items

13. In most instances the displaced are not provided with adequate and dignified shelters which affected the privacy of IDPs specially women and girls. IDPs from Gedeo and West Guji Zones, for example, are sheltered in churches, schools, tents, administration compounds, among local community, and even in open spaces.¹⁴ In many instances, these places are overcrowded and not segregated based on sex and age inevitably leading to incidents of sexual abuse and rape.¹⁵ In some places, it’s reported that, over 60 individuals live in one mixed gender and age room. Similarly, the IDPs in Gambella are living in dire situation with shortage of food, shelter, cooking utensils, non-food items and exposed to diseases. Currently IDPs are facing shortage of regular food supplies and clean water in most of the IDPs sites.

14. The UN report¹⁶ released on 08th of February 2018 further claims the existence of response gaps in matters regarding emergency shelter and non-food items. According to the report, the gaps are generally high. Due to the existence of severe funding constraints to cover all reported needs of emergency shelter and non-food items, many vulnerable beneficiaries are excluded in distribution and left in unsafe and life threatening conditions.

Health

15. The IDPs are also facing the break out of various diseases. According to the report, 87 people died in Bule Hora in June 2018 because of “cold, hunger, malnutrition and disease (pneumonia and diarrhea)”¹⁷ Considerable response gaps exist in IDP sites in terms of healthcare especially with respect to access to health facilities and services, distance to health facilities and availability of medicines. This puts IDPs vulnerable to diseases such as acute watery
diarrhea resulted from limited sanitation services accompanied by limited access to clean and safe water, and hand washing practices.

*Children and the elderly*

16. Children are also separated from their parents and unaccompanied children are not given the protection needed.\(^{xviii}\) In one instance twenty six Gedeo children of 5-12 years were separated from their parents.\(^{xix}\) Elders are also left behind without care when other family members and care takers migrate to another place in search of livelihood.\(^{xx}\)

*Risk of violence in IDP camps*

17. Cases of sexual abuse and rape and other forms of gender based violence have been reported in IDP camps.\(^{xxi}\) Even worse, some of such violations are alleged to have been perpetrated by security forces that are supposed to protect the IDPs. For example, in Kercha, defense soldiers are implicated in the sexual harassment and rape cases reported.\(^{xxii}\) The 2017 assessment revealed 295 cases of sexual violence, 742 cases of physical violence and 628 cases of discrimination in service provisions to women.\(^{xxiii}\) There are also huge gaps in terms of providing gender and victim friendly services and psycho-social support,\(^{xxiv}\) which left the IDP women and girls to suffer from a cycle of domestic violence, sexual violence, psychological disorder and acute stress.

18. Reports from different news sources have also showed that IDPs are facing other human right violations ranging from physical abuse to loss of life. For example, Addis Gazetta Portal, Africa News and others reported that on 12\(^{th}\) of February 2018 Ethiopian army killed 6 IDPs, and wounded others in Hamaressa IDP Camp which was the home of 4,000 people displaced due to the Oromo-Somali inter communal conflict that broke out in 2017.

19. With heightened inter-ethnic tensions and the erupting violence in many parts of the country, there is a continuing risk of further displacements. This needs to be addressed with comprehensive conflict prevention, resolution and management strategy to prevent and timely address conflicts and resulting displacements. A sustainable Peace Plan should also be envisaged by the government. According to the recommendations of Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, an early warning system should be designed to address the ethnic based conflicts.\(^{xxv}\)
B) Recommendations

20. The Government of Ethiopia should:

a) Put appropriate measures in place to protect the right to life, personal security and freedom from inhuman treatment of IDPs in different camps in the country;
b) Enhance accessibility and availability of basic necessities and services such as food, shelter, clean water, health service, etc. to IDPs, and should give special attention to the needs of women, children and persons with disability in IDPs camps;
c) Ensure access to safe, quality and inclusive education to school-age girls and boys in emergencies through constructing temporary educational facilities and maintaining the safety of the school environment, and strengthen school feeding programs in drought affected areas to reduce the student drop outs;
d) Facilitate family tracing and reunification of displaced children separated from their families, and alternative care for separated children should be made available in the absence of reunification;
e) investigate and prosecute alleged cases sexual abuse and rape perpetrated by security forces in IDP sites, and put appropriate structures in place for a comprehensive multi-sectoral support for survivors of GBV in IDPs communities;
f) Strengthen its early warning system to prevent and respond timely to conflicts and displacements; and design and implement sustainable solutions for the displaced;
g) Strengthen conflict resolution and peace building mechanisms by involving the community alongside ensuring accountability of perpetrators of ethnic violence and availing redress for victims.

II. Protection of children from Abduction

A. Areas of concern

21. According to a report by the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs of Gambella regional state, cases of child abduction have been reported in Gambella from different Woredas in particular the Jikow, Mekuay, Lare, Dima, Jore and Begoge Woredas. The abduction is reportedly carried out by Murle ethnic group of South Sudan. The abduction of children from Gambella to South Sudan has been recurring since 2010.xxvi

22. In April 2016, following an attack of 13 Nuer villages in the Jikow and Lare districts by Murle ethnic group, 159 children were abducted of whom 91 were rescued. The attack has subjected 662 children to loss of one or both parents and left them orphans.xxvii According to the regional government reports, more than 116 children (65 boys and 51 girls) were abducted in Begoge and Jore Woreda during the last four years and remained missing. Close to hundred additional children are also abducted from Dima and Mekuay Woredas.xxviii According to reports, these children might face the risk of being sold and exploited by their captors.xxix
B. Recommendations

23. The Government of Ethiopia should:

   a. Continue negotiations and accelerate efforts with the South Sudanese government to return the abducted children from South Sudan.
   b. Introduce community based preventive measures to prevent the recurring abduction of children in the Gambella region.
   c. Strengthen security at the border and take measures to ensure the protection of children within its territory

IV. Child Prostitution

A. Areas of concern

Alarming increase

24. Even though it has been a problem in Ethiopia for a long time, recent years have seen a steep rise in child prostitution especially in the capital, Addis Ababa, and other major cities. It is very difficult to provide exact figures on the prevalence of child prostitution, but many observers agree that it is increasing at an alarming rate. One of the very few studies on the child prostitution in Addis Ababa reaches the same conclusion. Though over a decade old study, the findings of the study are very relevant today as the problem has grown.

25. Most girls who end up as prostitutes come from rural areas. They are driven away from their rural homes for various reasons including death of parents, to escape forced marriage, poverty, and family disputes, failure in school, and violence within the home.

Trafficking and exploitation

26. Many of the girls in prostitution are victims of trafficking. Unscrupulous local recruiters manipulate parents into believing that their girls would be employed and get access to education in the big cities. These girls end up working as domestic workers for low or no pay, under exploitative conditions and are exposed to physical, psychological and sexual abuse at the hands of their employers. To escape such an environment, many become street children where they face similar abuses and are forced to engage in sex work to survive, and others are recruited by bars and brothels to work as prostitutes. Some are directly recruited by traffickers from their rural homes to be exploited in the sex industry. The alarming increase in child prostitution can be seen in the increasing number of adolescent girls that stand on street corners all over Addis Ababa waiting for men to pick them up. This phenomenon has been a topic of discussion on radio shows with wide audiences, newspapers and social media.

27. Child sex tourism has also increased in recent years driving up the demand for child sex workers. Child sex tourism is a growing problem in major tourist hubs, including Addis Aaba,
Bahir Dar, Hawassa, and Bishoftu. Both foreign and domestic nationals are involved in child sex tourism, with local hotels, brokers and taxi drivers serving as middle men. At its worst, girls as young as eight are reported to be working in brothels around Addis Ababa’s central market.

28. Nonetheless, government focus has so far concentrated much on cross-border trafficking. For this reason, prosecution and conviction rates for internal trafficking for women and children for sexual exploitation remained low. Government reports also do not show the number of people that have been convicted for such crimes. CEDAW committee stated its concerns “about the lack of data and the low prosecution and conviction rates in relation to, in particular, internal trafficking in women and children for forced labor and sexual exploitation” in its concluding observations on Ethiopia’s periodic report in 2011.xxxii The issues identified by the Committee are still persistent today.

Safety and wellbeing

29. It is well documented that girls engaged in sex work are highly vulnerable to physical abuse, rape, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies, and a whole host of mental health problems. Despite the increase in child prostitution and the multifaceted impact it has on the welfare of girl children and adolescent girls, the government has done little to tackle the problem. Although the government has made repeated efforts to curb cross-border trafficking, little has been done on tackling internal sex and labor trafficking.

C. Recommendations

30. The Government of Ethiopia should:

- Commission a national survey that would identify the prevalence of child prostitution in the country, hot spot regions/regions of origin for child prostitutes, root causes and trafficking routes;
- Develop and implement strategic interventions to prevent child prostitution, protect victims, and prosecute actors involved in child prostitution including traffickers, owners of hotels, bars and brothels, and customers;
- Develop and implement awareness creation campaigns about the dangerous of child prostitution, especially in hot spot regions; and
- Devote ample resources to combat internal sex and labor trafficking.

V. Justice for Children

A. Positive Aspects

31. Children might involve in the criminal justice system either as victims of a crime or/and as witness of a crime as well as suspects of a crime. In this regard, it is to be recalled that various
measures have been introduced over the years to make the justice system responsive to children in contact with the law by introducing child friendly courts, engagement of social workers to assist judges, legal aid and trainings and awareness to ensure child friendly judicial response.xxxiii These measures have been strengthened are taken through the establishment of Child Legal Protection Centers (CLPCs) by the Federal Supreme Court, Child Justice Project Office (FSC-CJPO) at the Federal level and through similar initiatives at regional level.xxxiv The FSC-CJPO established a referral network among governmental and non-governmental service providers for children through CLPC in Addis Ababa.xxxv Such a referral system has also been established at regional level by regional organs.

32. Furthermore, measures are taken to make prosecution procedures child friendly especially to victims of sexual violence. In this regard, the creation of one stop centers created that provide psycho-social, medical services and investigation of the crime and special investigation units for crimes committed against children was among the important steps taken.xxxvi In addition to the one stop center established at Gandi Hospital, two other similar centers were established at Menelik and Paolos Hospitals. Reportedly, there were also initiatives to open similar centers in Gambella and Benshangul regions in addition to the Del Chora Hospital Center at Dire Dawa.xxxvii

B. Areas of concern

33. Notwithstanding the expansion of child friendly courts in the country, there is still a huge gap towards improving the quality and performance of these courts.xxxviii Awareness creation programs on the rights of children are not planned and coordinated as it should be.xxxix Legal aid service provided by various institutions for children and other vulnerable groups is not adequate in terms of accessibility, scope of service and effectiveness.xl Costs related to transportation to access justice and medical test (such as DNA test) also pose challenges for the protection of children’s rights.

34. A limited number of offences committed against children are reported to the law enforcement organs. To a limited extent, reporting of cases of crimes against children is made through hotlines, child clubs in schools and child parliament in some places. The law does not put an obligation on health workers, educators, religious leaders, and other individuals and institutions that are bestowed with care and protection of a child to report crimes against children.xli

35. Most of the initiatives for child friendly justice systems are on a project basis financed by non-state stakeholders. These initiatives need to be integrated in the government system for their sustainability.xlii Inadequacy of the technical capacity of professionals such as the police, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, social and medical workers working in child justice system also remains to be one of the major challenges in child justice system.xliii

36. Absence of a strategic approach to prevent juvenile delinquency is a gap witnessed in the justice system. The UN Guidelines for the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency underline ‘the
need for and importance of progressive delinquency prevention policies. Similarly, General Comment No. 10 of CRC provides that state should develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy.

37. Under the Ethiopian criminal law, the age of criminal responsibility is 9. However, the CRC Committee has been recommending Ethiopia to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12 in compliance with international recommendations.

38. Furthermore, Art.37 of the CRC provides that “children should be arrested, detained, or imprisoned only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time.” However, the Ethiopian law allows children aged 15-18 to be detained and imprisoned in the same term as adults for a commission of a crime. The age of the child is considered only as a mitigating circumstance based on the discretion of the judge. Among the prison population, children between the age of 15-18 constitute a significant number. There are also cases of children under the 15 years of age imprisoned for serious crimes.

39. Most prisons do not have a separate place for child offenders between the age of 15-18 though the law requires children to be imprisoned separately from adults. However, child offenders belonging to the age group should be subjected to measures of reform and education.

40. The Addis Ababa Rehabilitation Centre (AARC) is the only institution in the country that caters for the needs of children in conflict and contact with the law. Two other specialized rehabilitation and reintegration centers were built in Hawassa and Bahir Dar, but they are not functional. The AARC serves children from Addis Ababa and other regions. This made it overburdened and inadequate to provide the needed service to all children from all regions. The fact that the Center is only in Addis Ababa also preclude the children from regions to have contacts and visits from their family. As education is the key to rehabilitation, the Center provides formal education to the children in the Center. However, it has a budget constraint and shortage of trained manpower. Corporal punishment is also applied by staffs of the Center.

41. The CRC requires state to have alternative mechanisms to deal with children in conflict and in contact with the law which do not involve the formal justice system. There are some efforts by various organs to alternative mechanisms such the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the customary system (Gadaa system) to resolve disputes that arise because of the involvement of children in a crime. The Federal Attorney General also reconciles the victims and child suspects without resorting to formal judicial proceedings. Community based rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law used to run for some years in Addis Ababa under the auspices of an NGO (Forum on Street Children) which is no longer operational. Various initiatives were taken to establish diversion centers and community based correction
centers in different regions. However, these efforts are still donor dependent and have not been institutionalized and systematized.iv

B. Recommendations

42. To improve justice for children in Ethiopia in line with international standards:

   a. The state should institutionalize initiatives related to child justice system by making it part of government structure with allocation of adequate state budget;
   b. A law should be adopted that provide for a reformative and educational approach for children aged 15-18 who came in conflict and contact with the law;
   c. Age of criminal responsibility for children should be raised to 12 from 9 as recommended by CRC Committee;
   d. Laws and guidelines should be developed for community based corrections or diversion of children in conflict with the law. The diversion centers already in place should be institutionalized and scaled-up;
   e. Law enforcement professionals should be trained and equipped to properly deal with cases involving children according to the law;
   f. Rehabilitation centers for children in conflict and contact with law should be established throughout the country at least at regional level, while institutionalization being a measure of last resort;
   g. A strategy for crime prevention including prevention of juvenile delinquency should be designed and adopted;
   h. Regulations for mandatory reporting of crimes against children by personnel of child care or education institutions (and other groups and individuals bestowed with care and protection of children) should be put in place.

End Notes


iii See for example HRCO 144th Report on the on Human Rights Violations Committed in Different Zones of Oromia and Somali and Regional States (31 JLY, 2018) for detailed account of the involvement of regional police forces in ethnic clashes in Somali and Oromia regions
iv Emergency Response Coordination Center (ERCC), cited above 1.


vi Over 642,152 and 176,098 displaced from Gedeo Zone of SNNPR and West Guji Zone of Oromia region respectively. See Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners’ Document, 2018 Response Plan to Internal Displacement around Gedeo (SNNPR) and West Guji (Oromia) Zones, 22 June 2018, 3 available on https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Ethiopia_Response%20Plan%20to%20Internal%20Displacement%20between%20Gedeo%20and%20West%20Guji%20zones_22%20June_0.pdf (accessed on 10 August 2018)


xi Gambella Regional Disaster Prevention and Food Security Agency and other international humanitarian agencies, as cited above 2.

x During the 2016/17 academic year, the number of schools closed due to drought reduced from 400 to 158 in Somali region and from 137 to 45 in Oromia region because of the school feeding program and water supply in these areas. See Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners’ Document, as cited above 6, 22.

xi Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners’ Document, as cited above 6, 22.

xii Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners’ Document, as cited above 6, 39.

xiii Ibid


xix Ethiopian Government and IOM , as cited above 17, 17.

xx Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners’ Document, as cited above 6, 39.

xx Ethiopian Government and IOM, as above 17, 1.

xxi Ethiopian Government and IOM, as cited above 17, 9.

xxii Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners’ Document, as cited above 6, 39.

xxiii Ibid

xxiv Interview with Ethiopian Human Rights Commission on 7 August 2018.

xxv Gambella Regional States Bureau of Women and Children Affairs, Reported cases of Abduction to the Woreda Women and Children Offices.


xxviii UN Human Rights Council, as cited 27.


xxx Addis Ababa City Admin Social & NGO Affairs Office (SNGOA), Save the Children Denmark (SCD) and ANPPCCAN-Ethiopian. Child Labor in Ethiopia with special focus on Child Prostitution Study. ‘Child Prostitution in Addis Ababa 2006 (CPAA)

xxxi CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women: Ethiopia (CEDAW/C/ETH/CO6-7) 27 July 2011, para 24


Addis Ababa University, as above.

Addis Ababa University, cited above 34 and interview with Coordinator of Child Justice Project cited above 34.

Interview, cited above 34.


Addis Ababa University, cited above , 161-162.

Legal aid is provided by Federal Attorney General, Federal Supreme Court –Child Justice Project, NGOs, regional justice bureaus, Ministry of Women, children and youth Affairs of the Federal government and the counter-part regional bureaus, universities, lawyers, prison administrations, etc. Addis Ababa University, cited above 55, 162. See also Ethiopian Lawyers’ Association, 2015, Needs Assessment Report on the State of Legal Aid Service in Addis Ababa, Adama, Assosa, Bahirdar, Hawassa, Jigjiga and Mekele.

Addis Ababa University, cited above 38, 164.

Interview , cited above 34. See also Addis Ababa University, cited above 34, 33.

Addis Ababa University, cited above 38, 166.

Addis Ababa University, as above, 167.

Addis Ababa University, as above, 168.

Addis Ababa University, as above, 170.

Addis Ababa University, as above, 167

Tigabu Haregewoin, 2016, Children In Conflict with the Law and Their Right to Education in Addis Ababa Rehabilitation Centre (with Special Emphasis on Primary Education), MA Thesis, Center for Human Rights (unpublished), 42

Tigabu Haregewoin, 2016, as above, 88. See also የጭበት ከራገጋው የግራቀኝ የነበረው የሆነ የሚስራ የስራ መጡ ቤት የሚስራ የስራ መጡ ቤት (2007) የሆነ የሚስራ የስራ መጡ ቤት ያስራ የሆነ የሚስራ የስራ መጡ ቤት የሚስራ የስራ መጡ ቤት (Literally translated as: FDRE Institute of Ombudsman, 2015, Monitoring Report on Addis Ababa Rehabilitation Centre for children in conflict with the law)

Tigabu Haregewoin, 2016, as cited above 47, 87. See also FDRE Institute of Ombudsman, as above.

Tigabu Haregewoin, 2016, as cited above 47, 64.

Article (3(b)) of CRC

Addis Ababa University, as cited above 38, 173.

Diversion Centers has been established in various regions with the support of donors such as in Bahir Dar, Hawassa, Jimma, Arba minch, Jigjiga, Gambella. See also Addis Ababa University, Office of the Research Director, 2017, The System of Justice for Children in Ethiopia: An Assessment of Key Processes, Actors and Initiatives, Part II, Regional reports.