OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

North Wollo Zone of Amhara region has experienced sustained humanitarian and protection challenges following conflict-related displacement, insecurity, and disruption of livelihoods. Recurrent displacement, limited access to basic services, and weakened community protection mechanisms continue to exacerbate vulnerabilities among internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host communities.

In Wadla Woreda, the protection environment remains fragile, with economic hardship, limited-service availability, and social pressures contributing to heightened protection risks, particularly for women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons.

Despite ongoing humanitarian efforts, gaps persist in protection service coverage, civil documentation, and access to livelihoods, constraining the ability of affected populations to recover and exercise their fundamental rights.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Protection Monitoring and Solutions (PMS) Report was produced in partnership with UNHCR's protection partner, EOTC-DICAC (Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission), as part of the EU IM3 Project under the Protection Monitoring and Solutions component. The PMS Assessment was conducted from November 22–27, 2025, in Wadla Woreda, North Wollo Zone of Amhara Region.

The PMS report provides a detailed analysis of protection needs and service gaps in Wadla Woreda. The assessment identifies individuals, groups with specific needs, and offers actionable recommendations for support based on both qualitative and quantitative data.

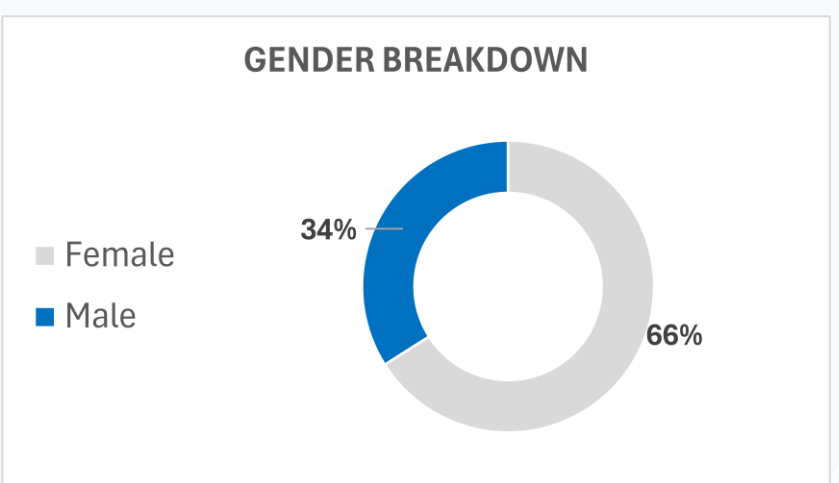
The boundaries and names and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

METHODOLOGY & KEY FINDINGS

TOTAL INTERVIEWS Key Informants (KIs)

423 **(Wadla Woreda)**

415 Host community affected population, 5 IDP returnee and 3 IDP



RESPONDENT PROFILE

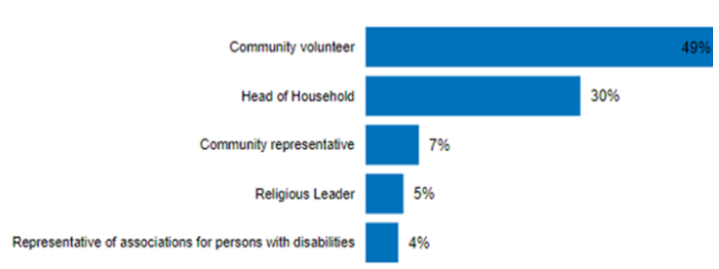
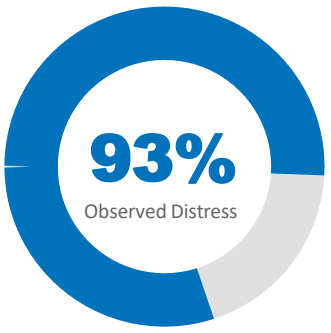


Photo: Key informant interviews in Delanta Woreda, North Wollo

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



Almost all the key informants (94%) reported to have observed signs of distress among the community in their locations highlighting the need for MHPSS interventions.

OBSTACLES TO ACCESS BASIC NEEDS

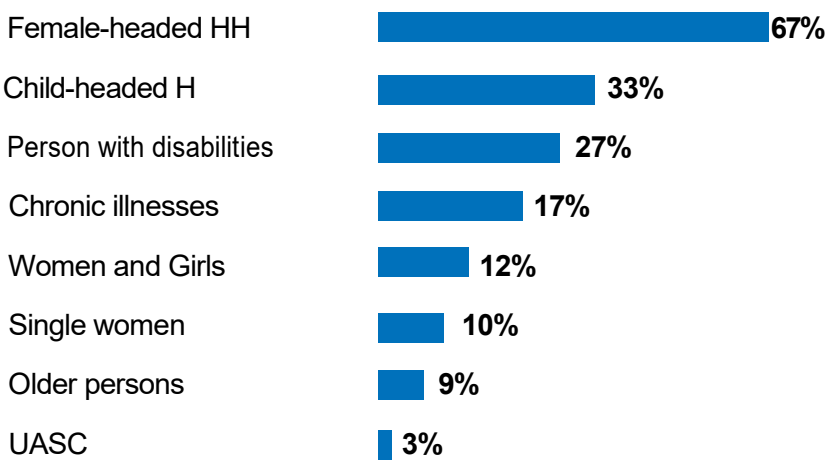
FOOD: Logistical constraint (36%), insecurity (34%), armed elements in the way (28%) and burning of food crops (27%) are mentioned as the top barriers to access food.

HEALTH: Inability to afford medical fees (24%), lack of medicine (14%), occupied health facilities (11%), and destroyed health facilities (7%) are the most reported obstacles to access health services.

EDUCATION: Inability to afford scholastic materials (27%), explosive hazard (27%), school being vulnerable to attacks (23%) and occupied schools (15%) are the main barriers reported to access education.

WASH: Lack of water (24%), insufficient water storage (14%), bathing facility having no light (12%), and condition of latrines (12%) are main barriers to access WASH services in Wadla.

GROUPS FACING CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING ASSISTANCE



MOST AFFECTED GROUPS:
Female headed households (67%), child headed households (33%), followed by persons with disabilities (27%) and persons with chronic illness (17%) have been reported as the groups showing greatest challenges in accessing assistances and services.

COPING STRATEGIES

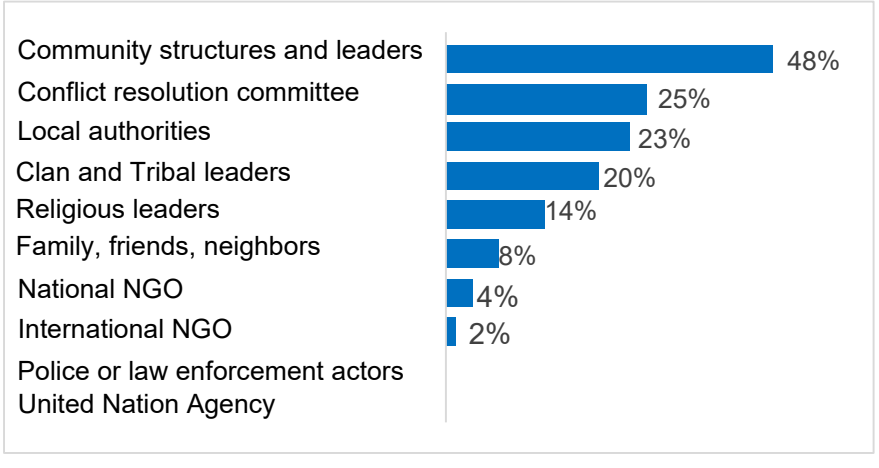
Coping Mechanism	Always	Always	Never	Sometimes
Begging	52%	4%	2%	42%
Buying food on credit or through borrowed money from relatives and friends	32%	0%	3%	65%
Changing place of residence and accommodation to reduce expenses	51%	6%	2%	42%
Child labor	46%	15%	0%	39%
Early Marriage for girls	36%	10%	2%	52%
Illegal activities (such as theft)	31%	1%	3%	64%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	30%	2%	3%	65%
Sold house and/or land	29%	1%	4%	66%
Transactional sex	44%	19%	4%	33%
Withdrew children from school	39%	3%	2%	56%

Selling house or land (66% sometimes, 29% Always), selling humanitarian assistance (65% Sometimes, 30% Always) and buying food on credit (65% Sometimes, 32% Always) are reported as the most common coping strategies.

Households reported relying on economic coping strategies, including borrowing, selling assistance, and begging, indicating widespread financial stress. Disruptive measures such as school withdrawal and changing residence are common, carrying long-term social risks. While most harmful strategies are largely avoided, the presence of child labor and other high-risk behaviors among some households highlights pockets of acute vulnerability requiring targeted support.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE, ASSISTANCE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Persons or authorities' people are most likely to approach with protection concerns, problems, and disputes in this location are:

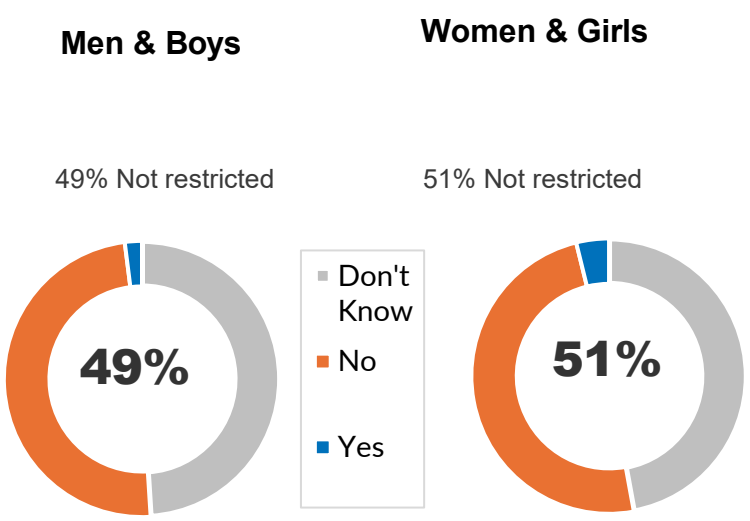


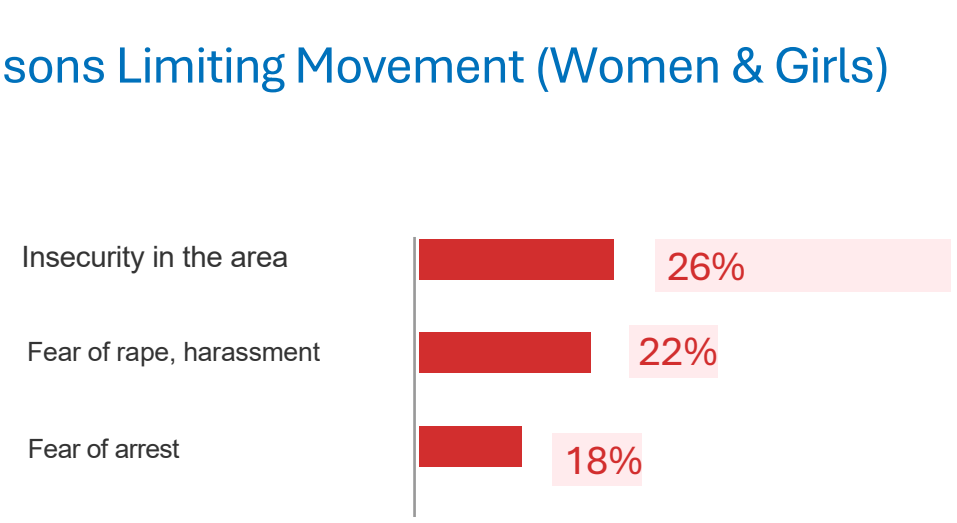
The finding shows that people overwhelmingly seek help for protection concerns from community structures and leaders (48%), followed by conflict-resolution committees (25%) and local authorities (23%).

This data suggests there is a trust and accessibility of informal, community-based mechanisms, and comparatively low confidence or perceived accessibility in formal protection actors and statutory remedies.

Continuous monitoring should ensure equitable access (women, youth, minorities) and mitigate risks of bias or informal sanctions within community processes.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT



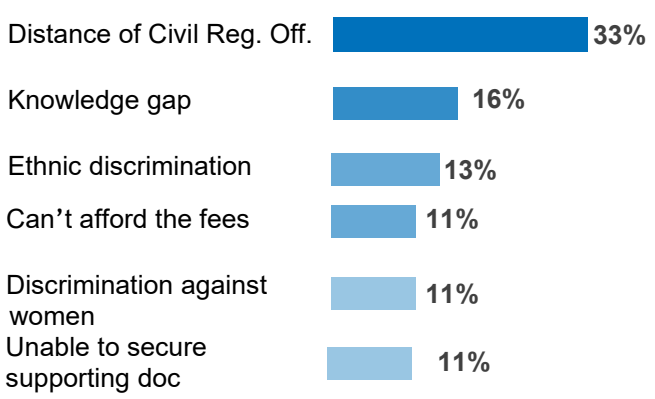


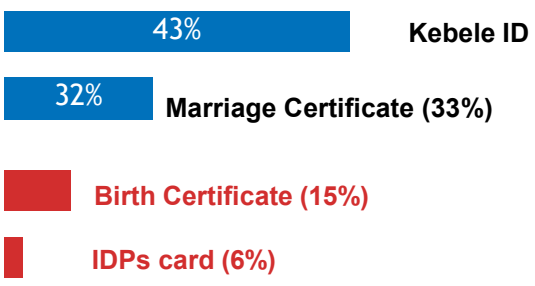
Women/girls and men/boys reported no mobility restrictions (51% and 49% respectively) implying improved security conditions and functioning transport networks while equally significant number reported "do not know". Compounded with the reasons limiting freedom of movement mentioned below, the data suggests the need to continue monitoring security incidents, strengthen GBV prevention measures and enhanced documentation support to mitigate risk of arrest.

The main reasons limiting freedom of movement for women and girls are:

- Insecurity in the area: reported by 26% of the respondents.
- Fear of rape and harassment: reported by 22% of total respondents
- Fear of arrest: reported by 18% of the respondents.
- Others notable reasons include restricted areas or checkpoints (13%), explosive hazard contamination (11%), and curfew (10%).

DOCUMENTATION



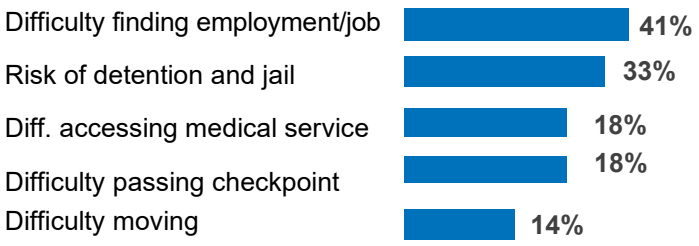


The primary barriers to accessing civil registration are institutional and informational, rather than physical availability. The most frequently cited challenges are distance to civil registration office (33%), the knowledge gap on civil registration (16%), followed by ethnic discrimination (13%). Inability to afford fees (11%), discrimination against women (11%) and being unable to secure supporting document (11%) are reported as additional challenges to obtain legal documentation.

The assessment shows access to civil documentation is largely limited to basic forms of identification, with 43% able to obtain a Kebele ID and 33% marriage certificate. Access to key legal documents such as birth certificate (15%) and IDPs card (6%) and other forms of documentation remains very low, indicating the need to strengthen civil documentation services in the area.

RISKS DUE TO LACK OF DOCUMENTATION

Top 5 protection risks community member's encounter because of lacking documentation.



The assessment highlights protection risks associated with documentation barriers. The main risks indicated are lack of employment (41%), risk of detention & jail (33%), difficult accessing medical service (18%) and difficulty moving 91(%). Challenges in opening bank accounts (8%) and accessing humanitarian assistance (9%) were also mentioned. Together, these risks reinforce each other, trapping households in a cycle of limited income and reduced access to essential services.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) RISKS

Top factors increasing the risk of GBV and other of violence:

The data indicates that several contextual and structural factors are contributing to an increased risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and other forms of violence within the community. The primary reported factor is **lawlessness (22%)**, suggesting weakened rule of law, limited accountability mechanisms, and reduced protection systems. In such environments, perpetrators may act with impunity, significantly heightening the vulnerability of women and girls.

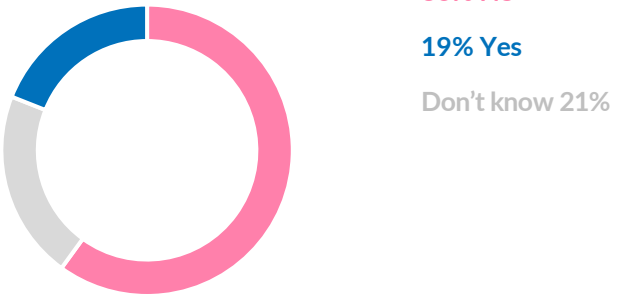
The **presence of armed forces (21%)** is identified as another major contributing factor. The presence of armed actors can create fear, intimidation, and power imbalances within communities, increasing the risk of exploitation, harassment, and other forms of GBV.

Additionally, **denial of access to farmland (6%)** contributes to economic instability and livelihood stress. Restricted access to productive land can increase household tensions, negative coping mechanisms, and dependency, which may indirectly elevate the risk of domestic and community-level violence.

Finally, **lack of awareness on gender equality (5%)** remains a contributing factor. Limited understanding of gender rights and equality reinforces harmful gender norms and discriminatory practices, which can normalize violence and reduce reporting or prevention efforts.

Overall, the data highlights that insecurity, restricted livelihoods, and structural gender inequalities collectively increase the risk of GBV and underscore the need for strengthened protection mechanisms, community awareness interventions, and rule-of-law support initiatives.

Access to Specialized GBV Services:



Access to specialized services for GBV survivors in Wadla remains uneven, with 60% reporting that services are not available. However, 19% indicated there is access and 21% were unsure, highlighting persistent service gaps and the need to strengthen coverage and awareness.

Access to Agricultural Land:

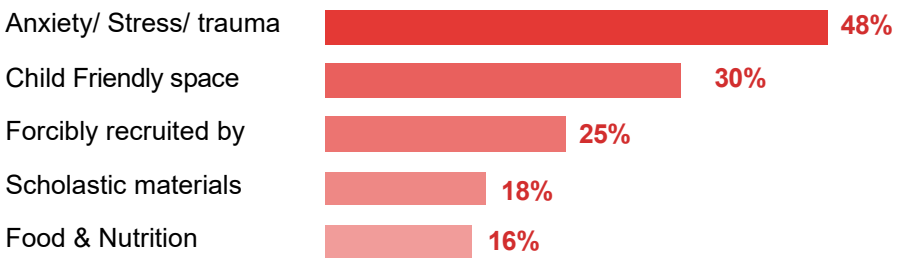
Full or partial access to agricultural land among IDPs in Wadla Woreda stands at 59%, reflecting relatively favorable conditions as many displaced households originate from the host community. However, 34% lack access to farmland, highlighting significant livelihood constraints for a substantial portion of the population.

RESOURCES & METHODOLOGY

The framework and the questionnaires of key informant interviews (KIIs) with IDPs and IDP returnees are based on the following global resources on internal displacement: the UN Secretary's General Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons and the Interagency Durable Solutions Indicator Library.

CHILD PROTECTION

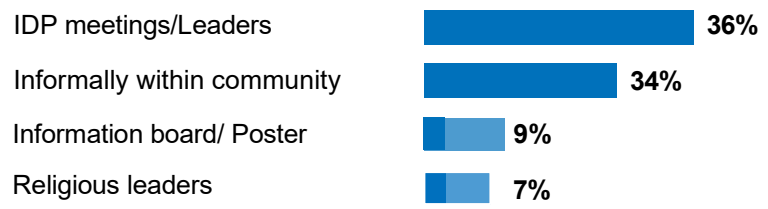
Top 5 protection issues children (boys and girls) encounter:



The most critical challenges affecting children in the community include anxiety, stress, and trauma (48%), limited access to child-friendly spaces (30%), and forced recruitment by armed forces (25%). These issues rank as the top concerns and require urgent attention to address the serious risks children are currently facing.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Major communication channels:



Access to information in Delanta mainly relies on community-based channels, including IDP meetings and leaders (36%), informal community sharing (34%), information boards (9%), and religious leaders (7%). This highlights the continued importance of local communication mechanisms, while limited use of humanitarian actors, social media, and television points to gaps in diversified information access.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

Are you aware of any incidents related to landmines, unexploded ordnances or other explosive remnants of war in your location or surrounding?

Awareness of landmines or unexploded ordnance in Wadla Woreda is mixed, with 41% reporting awareness of the presence of explosive hazards in their location. Although 59% reported no incident awareness, the findings highlight the need for continued mine risk education and monitoring.

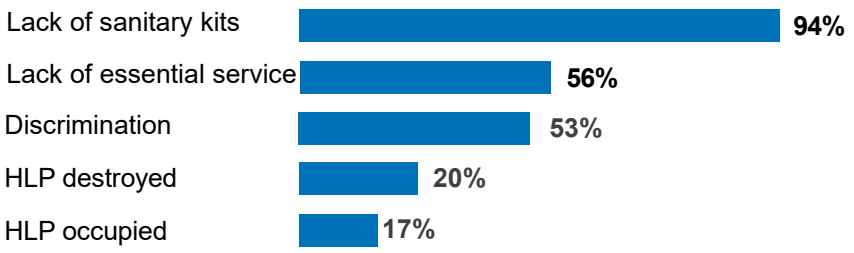
SHELTER & NFI

The main obstacles to access shelter/house for the community members:

The findings highlighted the need to improve access to shelter and NFI items. The main obstacles of Shelter/NFI in the area is unaffordable shelter materials (30%), explosive remnants of conflict/war (28%) and high rental price (27%).

KEY RETURN CONTEXT & NEEDS

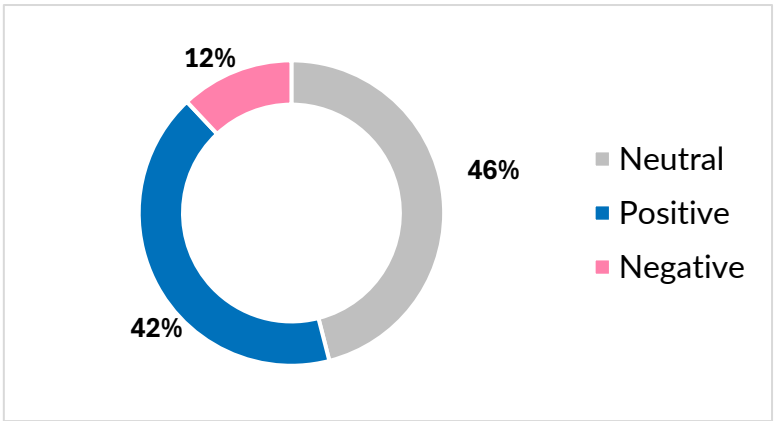
Top 5 Protection Issues (IDP Returnees)



The community's top concerns center on food security (94%), clothes and shoes (56%), non-food items (53%), alongside water (20%), and healthcare and medicine (17%). Additional needs, such as dignity kit, lack of employment and shelter repair sectors.

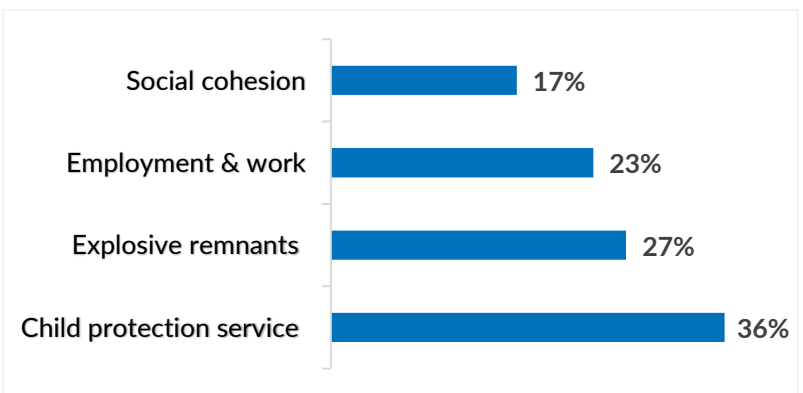
Social Cohesion and Peaceful Coexistence

How would you describe the relationship between host community members and IDPs in your location?



Priority Needs

The main priority needs in this location are



Critical Needs

1. **Protection and Safety**

Vulnerable groups including women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons face heightened protection risks due to displacement, economic hardship, and limited access to safe spaces, while exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) remains high, particularly among women and girls with restricted access to safe services.

2. **Child Protection**

School dropouts and child labor are increasing as families struggle with economic hardship, and limited child-friendly spaces along with a lack of child-focused support further exacerbate protection risks.

3. **Access to Services**

Health, psychosocial support, and legal aid services are insufficient to meet community needs, while protection referral pathways remain weak and service providers lack the capacity to address complex protection issues.

4. **Documentation and Mobility**

Limited access to civil documentation restricts individuals' freedom of movement, access to assistance, and opportunities for long-term livelihoods.

5. **Economic Vulnerability and Coping Mechanisms**

Households rely on negative coping mechanisms such as reduced food intake, child labor, and other survival strategies, particularly among displaced and female-headed households.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthening Protection Systems**

Expand and reinforce protection referral mechanisms and service mapping, while improving the capacity of service providers to respond to GBV, child protection, and other protection concerns.

2. **Child Protection and GBV Prevention**

Increase access to child-friendly spaces and psychosocial support for children and implement GBV prevention programs targeting women and girls with safe reporting mechanisms.

3. **Community-Based Approaches**

Enhance community protection structures and support informal networks by linking them to formal systems, while training community leaders on safeguarding, confidentiality, and do-no-harm principles.

4. **Access to Civil Documentation**

Collaborate with local authorities to facilitate access to civil documentation and conduct awareness campaigns on documentation requirements and their benefits.

5. **Livelihood and Economic Support**

Introduce income-generating activities to reduce reliance on negative coping strategies, and link cash assistance with education support to prevent school dropouts and alleviate economic pressures on vulnerable households.

Partner

Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC)

Donor support

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