OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

The South Wollo Zone is one of the zones in Amhara region highly affected by internal displacement because of continuous, prolonged conflict and insecurity. According to the Amhara Disaster Risk Management Commission (ADRMC), as of November 2025, a total of 34,204 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are living in South Wollo Zone in general, and 2,995 IDPs are living in Delanta Woreda.

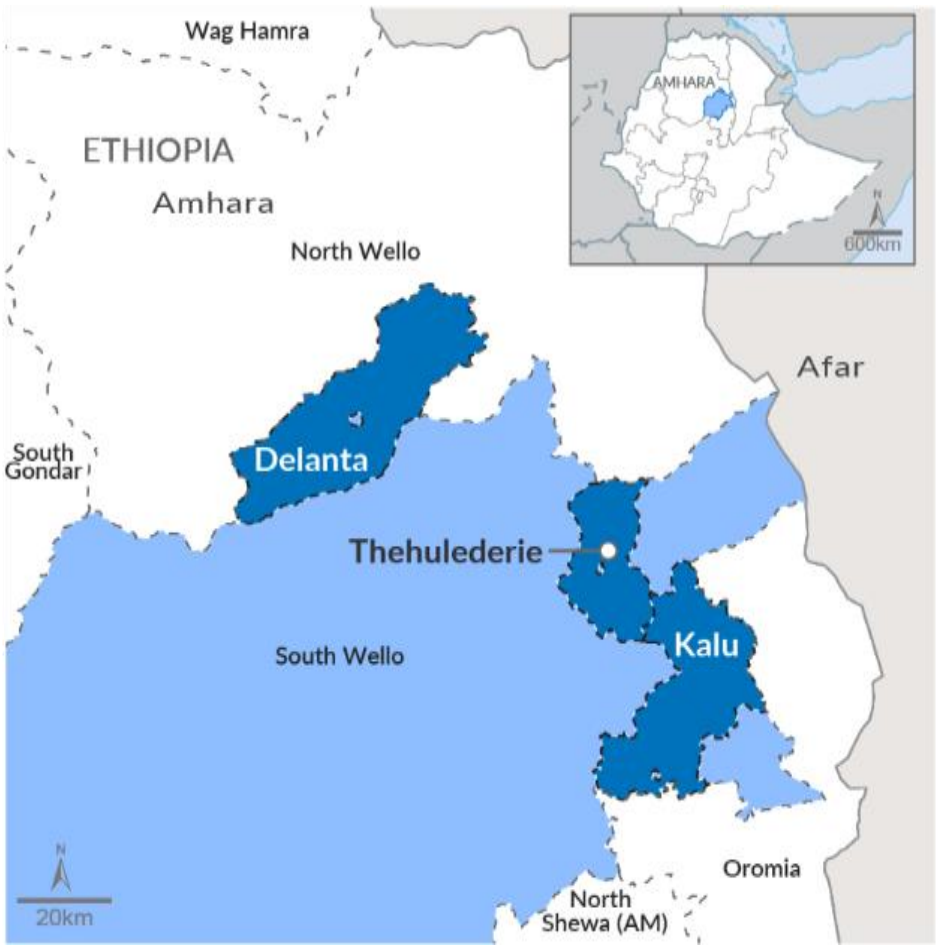
The area continues to experience the compounded effects of conflict, displacement, disrupted basic services, and livelihood erosion, significantly affecting protection outcomes for vulnerable populations.

To understand the protection concerns better, a protection monitoring and solutions assessment was conducted under the EU IM3 project's Protection Monitoring and Solutions (PMS) component.

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 December 1–3, 2025, in Delanta Woreda, South Wollo Zone of Amhara Region.

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



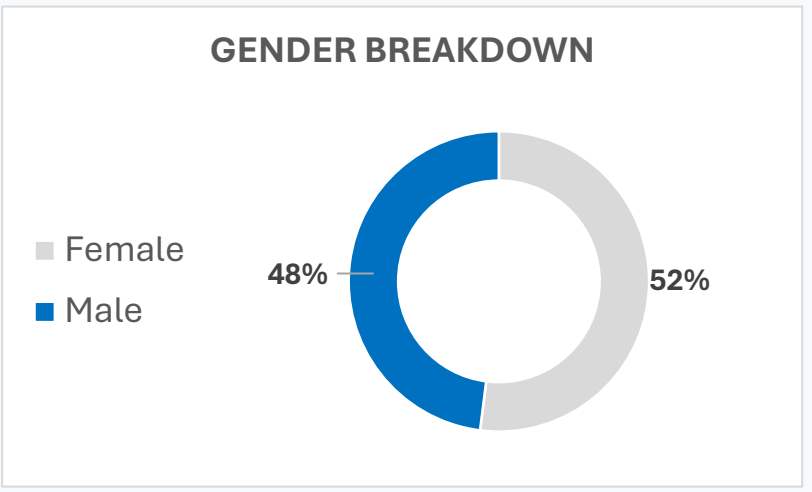
**The boundaries and names and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations*

METHODOLOGY & KEY FINDINGS

TOTAL INTERVIEWS Key Informants (KIs)

302 (Delanta Woreda)

299 IDPs, 1 IDP returnee and 2 Host Community participated)



RESPONDENT PROFILE

Heads of Households (50%)

Community Reps (18%)

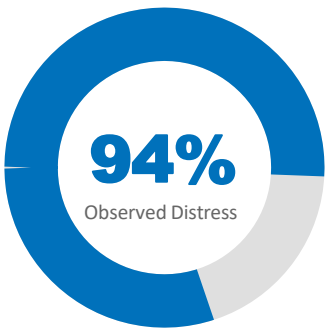
Community Volunteers (18%)

Religious Leaders (9%)

Disability Reps (1%)

Photo: Key informant interviews in South Wollo

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



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

OBSTACLES TO ACCESS BASIC NEEDS

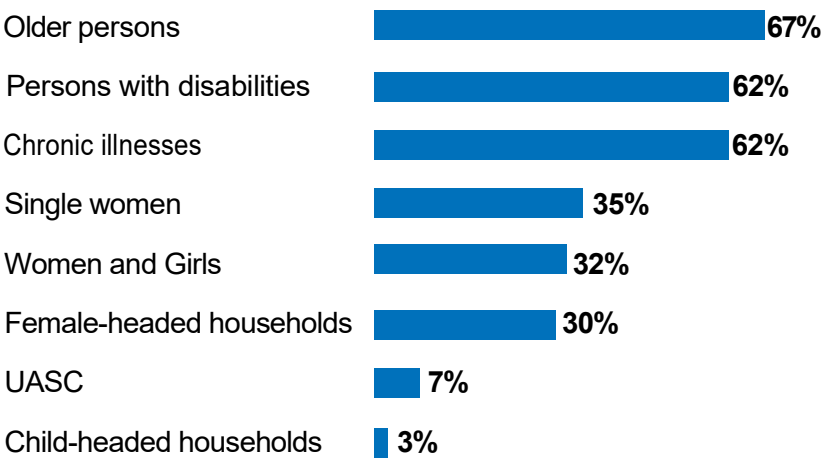
FOOD: Lack of food (91%), lack of cash (75%), and irregular supply (57%) are the top reported barriers to access food in Delanta.

HEALTH: Lack of medicine (74%), inability to afford medical fees (58%), lack of documents (34%), distance (17%), logistical challenges (15%), and conflict (13%) are the main obstacles to access health services, reported by the respondents.

EDUCATION: Lack of learning materials (96%), inability to afford scholastic materials (61%), and lack of safety for children (45%) the most reported barriers to access education.

WASH: Lack of water (56%), lack of sanitary pad (55%), lack of hygiene awareness (30%), absence of lighting on bathing facilities (30%), absence of separate latrine (28%), and long queues at water point (27%) are the top obstacles to access WASH services in the Woreda.

GROUPS FACING CHALLENGES ACCESSING ASSISTANCE



MOST AFFECTED GROUPS:
Older persons (67%), persons with disabilities (62%) and persons with chronic illnesses (62) are the top three groups facing most challenges in accessing assistance followed by single women, women and girls, and female-headed households.

COPING STRATEGIES

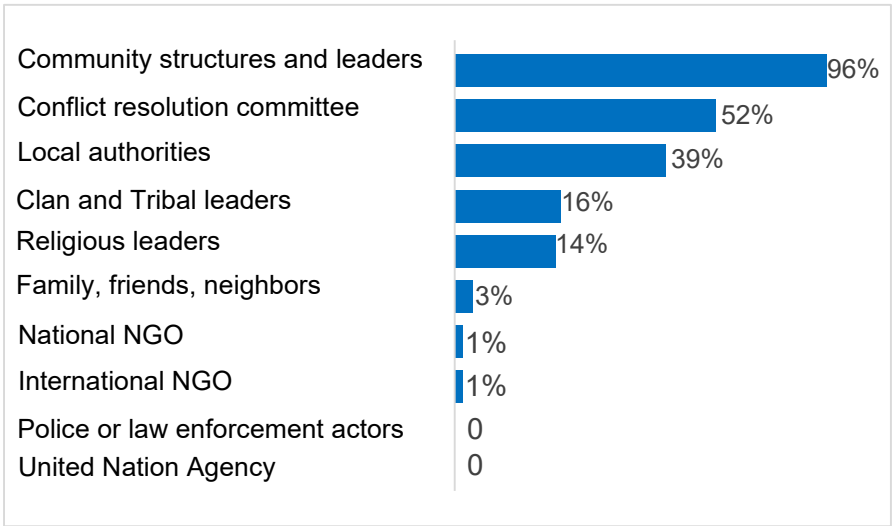
Coping Mechanism	Always	Don't know	Never	Sometimes
Begging	1%	1%	41%	58%
Buying food on credit or through borrowed money from relatives and friends	4%	0%	30%	66%
Changing place of residence and accommodation to reduce expenses		1%	43%	57%
Child labor	1%	1%	76%	22%
Early Marriage for girls		2%	94%	4%
Illegal activities (such as theft)		0%	90%	10%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	1%		17%	82%
Sold house and/or land		11%	88%	1%
Transactional sex		2%	79%	18%
Withdrew children from school	2%	0%	40%	58%

Selling humanitarian assistance (82% sometimes, 1% Always) and buying food on credit or through borrowed money from relatives and friends (66% Sometimes, 4% Always) appear as the most common coping strategies followed by begging (58%). Withdrawing children from school (58%) and change of residence (57%).

Households mainly rely 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

People who are most likely to approach with protection concerns, problems, and disputes in this location are :



The finding indicates that people overwhelmingly seek help for protection concerns and disputes from community structures and leaders (96%), followed by conflict-resolution committees (52%) and local authorities (39%).

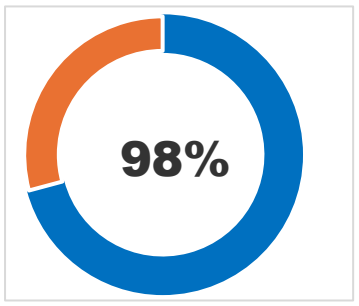
This pattern suggests high trust and accessibility of informal, community-based mechanisms, and comparatively low confidence or perceived accessibility in formal protection actors and statutory remedies.

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

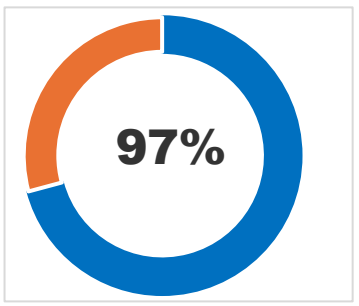
Women & Girls

98% Not restricted

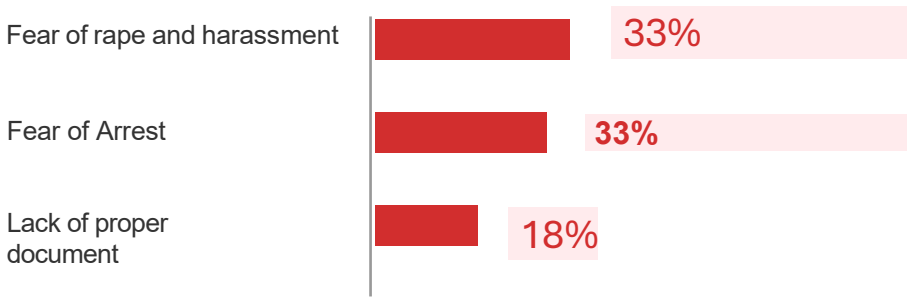


Men & Boys

97% Not restricted



Reasons Limiting Movement (Women & Girls)



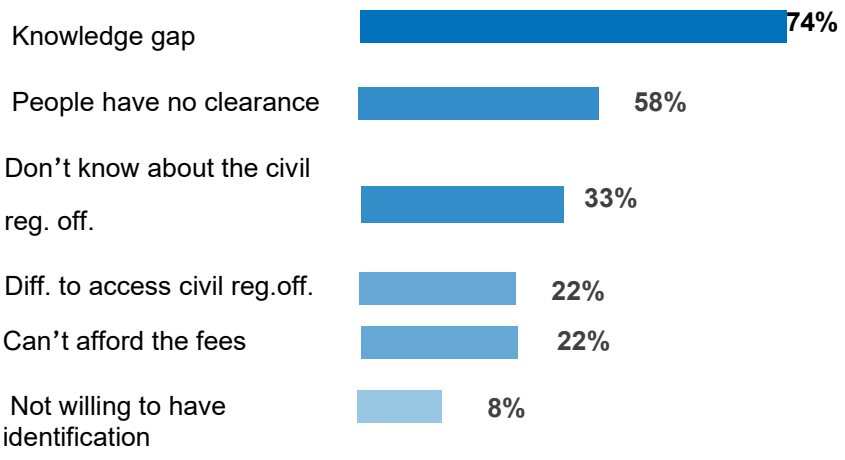
Overwhelming majority of women and girls (98%) and men and boys (97%) reported absence of mobility restrictions suggesting improvement in security conditions and functioning transport networks. Although a very small percentage, existence of some restrictions may disproportionately affect vulnerable households.

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

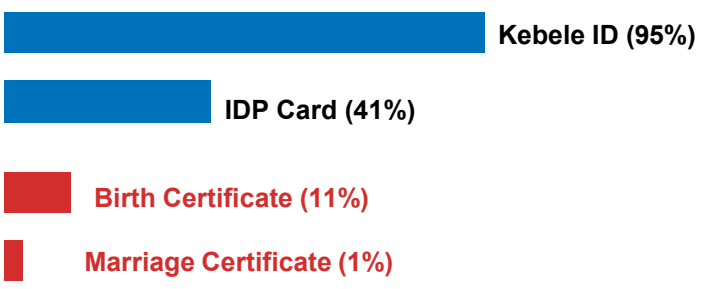
- Fear of rape and harassment: reported by 33% of total respondents
- Insecurity in the area: reported by 33% of the respondents.
- Lack of proper document: reported by 18% of the respondents.

DOCUMENTATION

What is/are the main barrier(s) to having or obtaining legal documentation?



Documents accessed by IDPs:

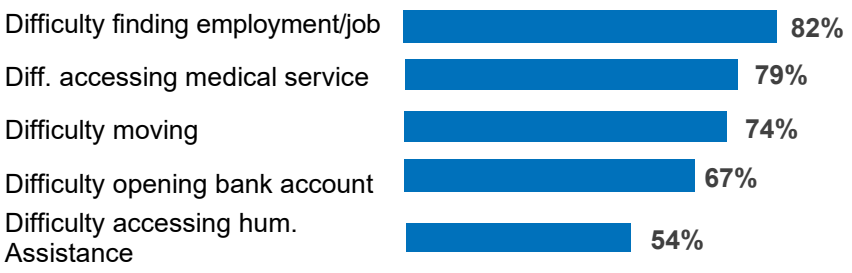


The most frequently cited barriers to obtain legal documentation are knowledge gap of local authority (74%), followed by people having no clearance necessary to obtain documentation (58%) and people not knowing about the registration office (33%). In addition, a significant proportion of respondents reported difficulty to access civil registration office (22%), inability to afford fees (22%) and lack of willingness to have identification (8%) as obstacles to have or obtain legal documentation.

The findings indicates that access to civil documentation in Delanta is largely limited to basic forms of identification, with 95% able to obtain a Kebele ID and 41% an IDP card. Access to key legal documents such as birth (11%) and marriage certificates (1%) remains very low, indicating the need to strengthen access to civil documentation.

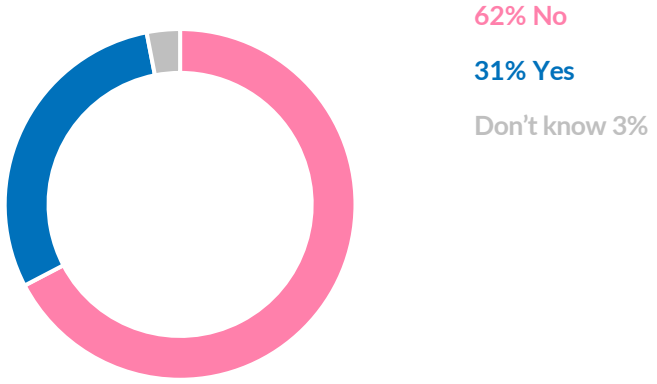
RISKS DUE TO LACK OF DOCUMENTATION

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



The top risks associated with lack of documentation, reported by the respondents, include difficulty finding employment (82%), difficulty accessing healthcare (79%) and mobility restrictions (74%). Challenges in opening bank accounts (67%) and accessing humanitarian assistance (54%) are also reported.

Access to Specialized GBV Services



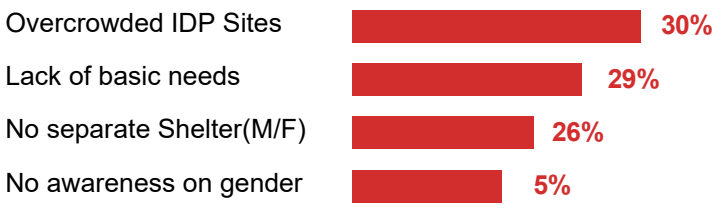
Access to specialized services for GBV survivors in Delanta Woreda remains uneven, with 62% reporting that services are not available. However, 31% indicated there is access and 3% were unsure, highlighting persistent service gaps and the need to strengthen coverage and awareness.

Access to Agricultural Land

Access to agricultural land for IDPs in Delanta Woreda is very limited, with 92% reporting no access while 8% of the respondents said they don't know, underscoring major livelihood constraints for most of the IDP population.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) RISKS

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



The GBV risk environment in the assessed locations shows multiple, overlapping protection concerns driven primarily by inadequate living conditions within IDP sites. The data highlights that overcrowded IDP sites (30%) are the most frequently reported contributor to heightened GBV risks. Overcrowding limits privacy, increases stress within households, and creates opportunities for perpetrators to exploit congested spaces where monitoring and community protection mechanisms are weak.

Closely following this, lack of basic needs (29%) including food, water, and essential household items further exposes women, girls, and other at-risk groups to negative coping mechanisms. In contexts where resources are scarce, individuals may be pressured into exploitative relationships, increasing vulnerability to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). The unmet needs also exacerbate tensions within families and communities, sometimes resulting in intimate partner violence.

A significant structural concern is the absence of separate shelters for men and women (26%), which severely undermines privacy and safety. Mixed-gender shelters increase the risk of harassment, sexual violence, and intrusion, especially at night. The lack of gender-segregated spaces also limits women's ability to access safe communal areas or maintain dignity and personal security.

Finally, limited awareness on gender issues (5%) reflects the gap in community knowledge around GBV prevention, reporting mechanisms, and available services. Low awareness can contribute to normalization of violence, underreporting, and weak community protection networks. It also indicates the need for continuous community-based sensitization, empowerment programs, and capacity building for both displaced populations and community leadership structures.

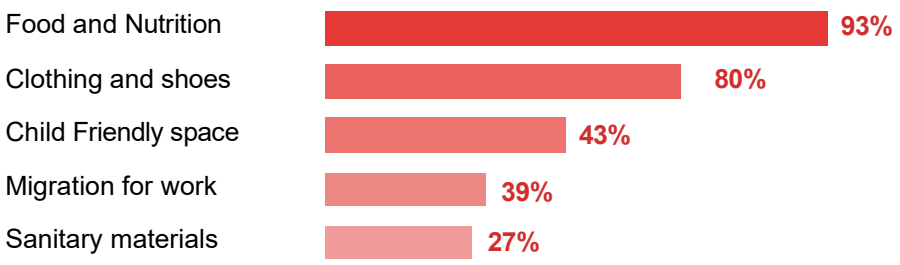
Overall, the data illustrates a GBV environment shaped by structural challenges, resource scarcity, and gaps in awareness. Addressing these risks requires coordinated interventions that enhance access to basic services, create safe and gender-appropriate infrastructure, and strengthen community-based protection mechanisms.

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

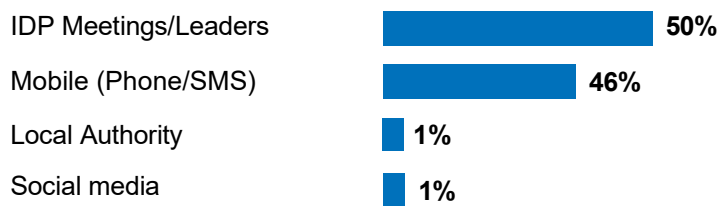
Top 5 protection issues children (boys and girls) encounter:



Children in Delanta face severe protection challenges, with food and nutrition insecurity reported by 93% of respondents. Significant proportion also reported lack of clothing and shoes (80%), CFS (43%), migration for work (25%) and scarcity of sanitary materials (dignity kit) (27%) reflecting deep economic and social vulnerability.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

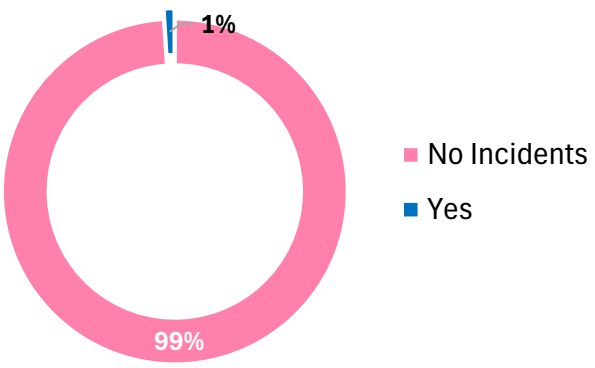
Major communication channels:



Most used communication channels in Delata Woreda include IDP meetings/leaders (50%) and mobile phone (46%), highlighting the importance of community based and digital communication channels., Reliance on local authorities, social media, humanitarian actors and television to access information is limited, indicating gaps in diversified information access.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

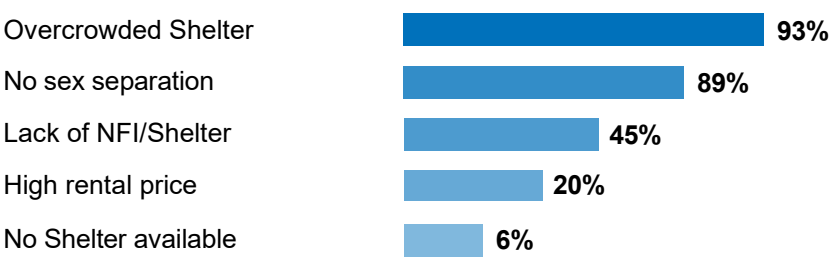
Are you aware of any incidents related to landmines, unexploded ordnances or other explosive remnants of war in your location or surrounding?



Awareness of landmines or unexploded ordnance in Delanta is mixed, with 1% reporting the presence of explosive hazards in their location. While 99% indicated no incident report, the finding still shows the need for continued risk education and monitoring.

SHELTER & NFI

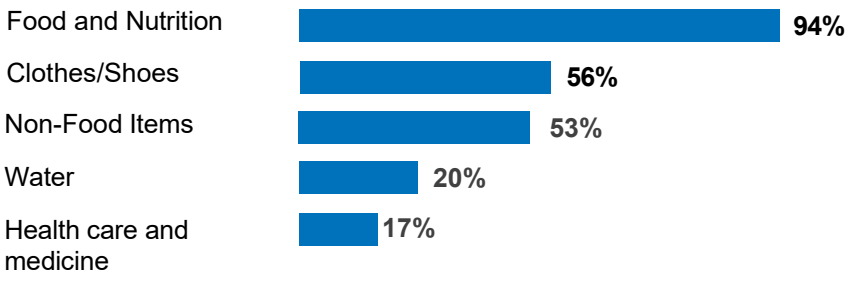
The main obstacles to access shelter/house for the community members:



IDPs in Delanta Woreda highlighted the need to address obstacles to access shelter and housing in the community. The main obstacles reported include overcrowded shelter (93%), lack of sex separation on the collective centers (89%), and lack of NFI/Shelter/NFI (45%). High rental price (20%) and unavailability of shelter (6%) were also indicated.

KEY RETURN CONTEXT & NEEDS

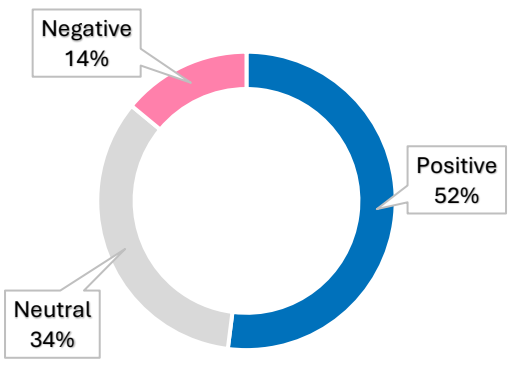
Top 5 Protection Issues (IDP Returnees)



The IDP returnee community's top protection concerns are 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 were also reported.

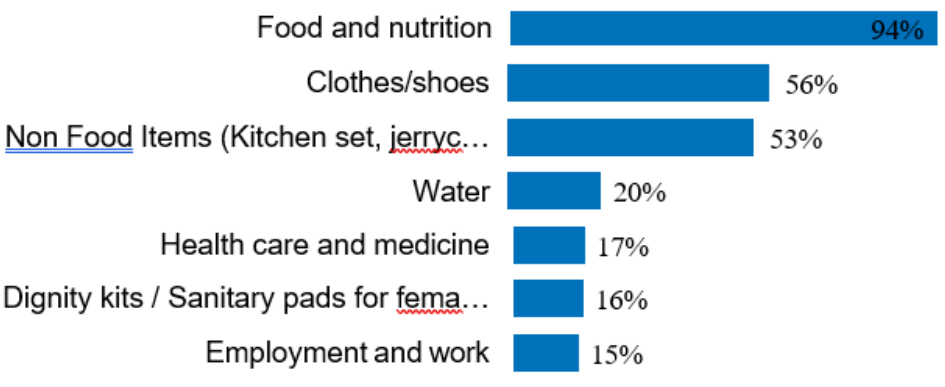
Social Cohesion and Peaceful Coexistence

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 AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Food Security & Economic Access (Top Critical Need) Critical Needs:
The community is facing severe food insecurity driven mainly by lack of cash and high food prices rather than food availability, resulting in widespread reliance on harmful coping mechanisms such as borrowing, selling assistance, begging, and withdrawing children from school, with older people with disabilities, and chronically ill individuals disproportionately affected by barriers to accessing assistance.
Priority Recommendations: It is recommended to scale up multi-purpose cash assistance to restore purchasing power and reduce harmful coping strategies, complement food assistance with market-based interventions to mitigate the impact of inflation, and introduce targeted top-ups or assisted delivery mechanisms to ensure equitable access for older people and people with disabilities.
Enhance durable solutions for IDPs in protracted situations by supporting income-generating activities that can supplement family livelihoods and promote self-reliance.

2. Shelter, Overcrowding & None Food Items (High Protection Relevance)
Critical Needs: Shelter conditions are critically constrained by extreme overcrowding and the lack of sex-segregated or private spaces, significantly heightening GBV and child protection risks, alongside acute shortages of basic bedding and household items, while current shelter and NFI responses fail to adequately address the specific needs of women, children, and persons with disabilities.
Priority Recommendations: It is recommended to provide core NFIs and bedding kits with priority given to households with specific needs, implement low-cost decongestion measures such as partitions and sex-segregated spaces, and integrate age, gender, and disability-sensitive shelter.

3. WASH & Health Access (Life-Saving Gaps)
Critical Needs: Water scarcity remains the dominant WASH challenge, exacerbated by limited household water storage and low hygiene awareness, while economic barriers significantly restrict access to health services and essential medicines, and the lack of dignity items undermines health, safety, and dignity particularly for women and girls.
Priority Recommendations: It is recommended to improve water supply systems and household water storage capacity, strengthen hygiene promotion linked to distributions, and provide dignity kits and essential health NFIs through targeted outreach to vulnerable groups.

4. Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (Cross-Cutting Emergency)
Critical Needs: Very high levels of psychosocial distress affect the community. Predominantly women, older persons, and persons with disabilities. While access to structured and accessible community-based MHPSS services remains limited.
Priority Recommendations: It is recommended to scale up community-based MHPSS embedded within protection and basic needs programming, strengthen the capacity of community leaders and frontline workers through training in psychological first aid and safe referral pathways, and prioritize women-led and disability-inclusive MHPSS approaches.

5. Education & Child Protection
Critical Needs: There is a severe shortage of learning materials (96%) and many families cannot afford scholastic items, leading some children to withdraw from school as a coping strategy, while the absence of child-friendly spaces persists despite high demand.

Priority Recommendations: Provide learning materials, uniforms, and back-to-school kits; establish child-friendly spaces integrated with protection monitoring; and link education support with cash assistance to help reduce school dropouts.

6. Protection, GBV & Community Mechanisms
Critical Needs: Elevated GBV and child protection risks are linked to overcrowding and unmet basic needs, while access to specialized GBV and child protection services remains limited, leading to a heavy reliance on informal community mechanisms that have weak connections to formal systems.
Priority Recommendations: Strengthen GBV and child protection case management and referral pathways, build the capacity of community leaders and committees on safeguarding, confidentiality, and do-no-harm, and establish safe, confidential reporting mechanisms, including mobile or community-based help desks. Additionally, to strengthen the community-based structures.

Partner

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

Donor support

UNHCR would like to thank the European Union for its support.

European Union