

## Protection monitoring report #6

### Oromia region | West Guji zone

May 2022

#### Context

The security situation in West Guji zone and its adjacent woredas of Gedeo zone is deteriorating and currently, it is estimated that over 315,492 people remain in a situation of internal displacement seeking a durable solution or are even newly displaced due to the repeated surge in violence in the zone. The long-standing security concern and ongoing military operation hindered access to the returnee areas and affected the activities of partners in the AORs. As of March 2022, around 20,180 households (125,571 individuals) are displaced from different parts of west Guji and hosted in relatively safe areas across the zone. Moreover, quite a lot of the community members are affected by drought and in urgent need of food and core relief items in the four main woredas (Suro barguda, Melka soda, Dugdawa and Bule hora) of west Guji zone.

#### Key informant profiles & areas covered

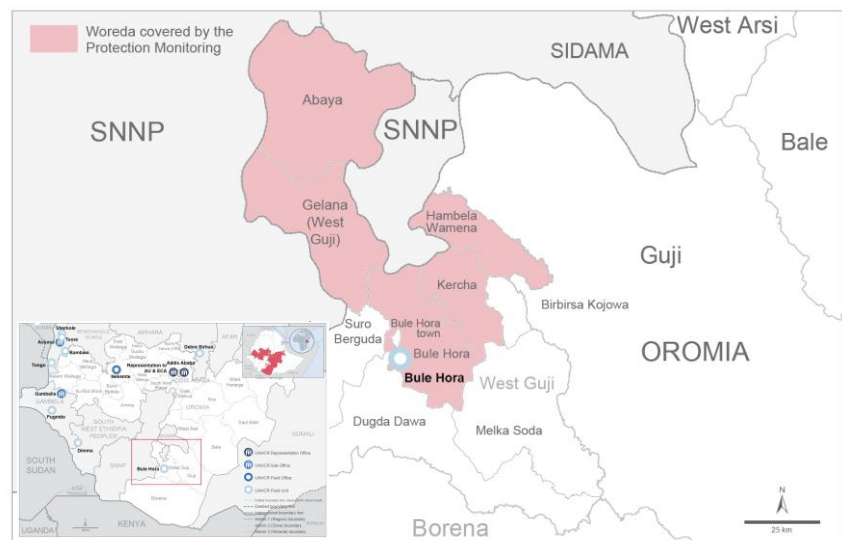
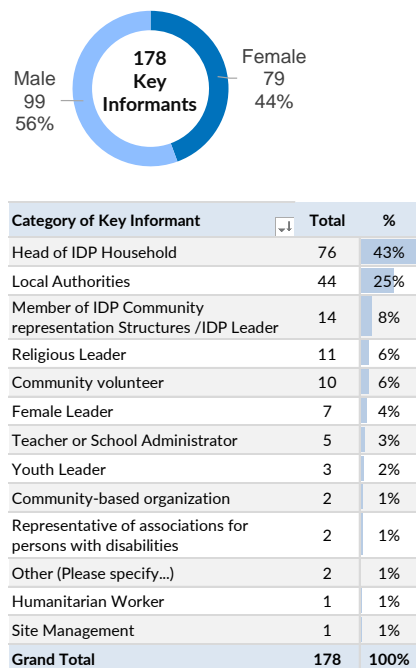


Figure 1. Locations covered by the protection monitoring in West Guji zone, Oromia region & category of Key informants

This protection monitoring report is based on the harmonized Ethiopia Protection Monitoring Tool (E-PMT). The data was collected in the months of February and March 2022.

- For this report, a total of 178 key informants (KIs)<sup>1</sup> were interviewed in the West Guji zone: 99 males (56%), 79 females (44%).
- Of those interviewed, 76 (43%) were heads of IDP households, 44 (25%) were local authorities, 14 (8%) were Member of IDP Community representation Structures /IDP Leader, 6% religious' leaders, 6% Community volunteer.

<sup>1</sup> The information is obtained through key informants. Therefore, the findings are not statistically representative. Limitations relate to the role of the KI, the respective level of information, knowledge and prevalent biases. Access by protection monitors provides a further constraint.

## Population Movements

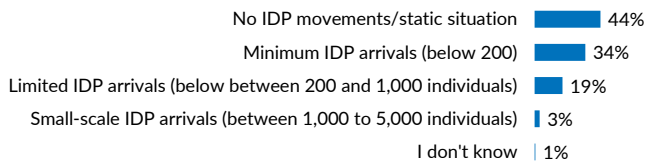


Figure 2a. Scale of new displacements observed during the past four weeks (Select one)

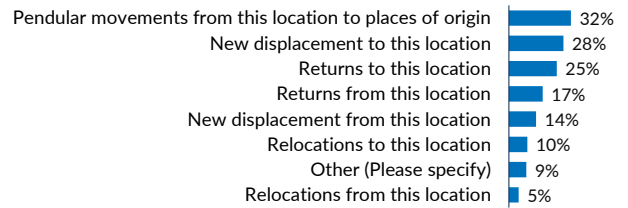


Figure 2b. Displacement patterns observed during the past four weeks (Select multiple)

According to 44% of KIs, the IDP population movement situation is static, with another 34% of KIs suggesting minimal new arrivals (below 200 persons) in the past month and limited IDP arrivals (below between 200 and 1,000 individuals) was recorded in Kercha Woreda, according to 71% of KIs in this location. Likewise, 43% of KIs stated that no return movements of IDPs from woredas of West Guji zone to their places of origin were observed. Abaya woreda stands out in terms of static IDP arrivals and returns according to 100% and 97% of KIs respectively.

Overall, no significant pendular movements (32%) to monitored locations of West Guji zone took place in the past month except substantial movements from Abaya woredas of West Guji zone to IDPs places of origin according to 100% of KIs.

## Access to Fundamental Rights and Basic Needs

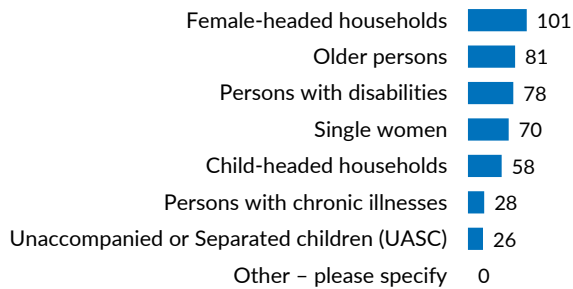


Figure 4a. Disadvantaged groups in accessing humanitarian assistance (# of respondents)

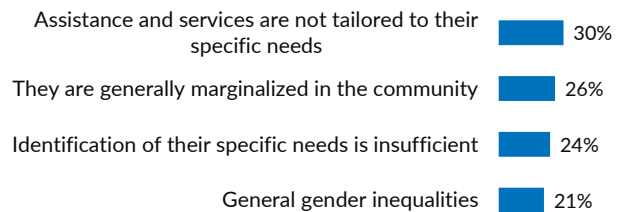


Figure 4b. Reasons for disadvantages in accessing assistance

According to the KIs, the **top three disadvantaged groups** in accessing humanitarian assistance and services are Female-headed households, older persons, and persons with disabilities. A high number of single women and older persons is recorded in Bule Hora woreda (54%) while the prevalence of female-headed households and persons with disability is relatively high in Kercha woreda (88%).

The main reason why these groups are particularly disadvantaged relate to 30% of respondents to inadequate tailoring of assistance to their specific needs while 26% of respondents noted their marginalization in the community.

**Access to humanitarian assistance and services**, including health, food, water, and sanitation is overwhelmingly characterized as 'bad' by key informants across the two zones.

- **Access to health services is assessed as bad or very bad at 100% by key informants. It has the highest inaccessibility rating.**
- Access to food, water, sanitation, shelter, and energy is rated bad or very bad by a range of 71 to 93% of key informants.

When prompted about priority needs, the top 2 priorities for female respondents are food and child protection while for male respondents top 2 priorities are food and shelter. At woreda-level, **Kercha woreda** in West Guji zone stands out in terms of poor access to humanitarian assistance and services across most sectors, including water (83% very bad), Food (88% very bad), Shelter (83% very bad), Health (61% very bad) and sanitation (63 very bad). Also access to education is 94% bad and access to market 68% bad in **Abaya woreda**. Access to Energy is 79% bad in **Gelana woreda**.

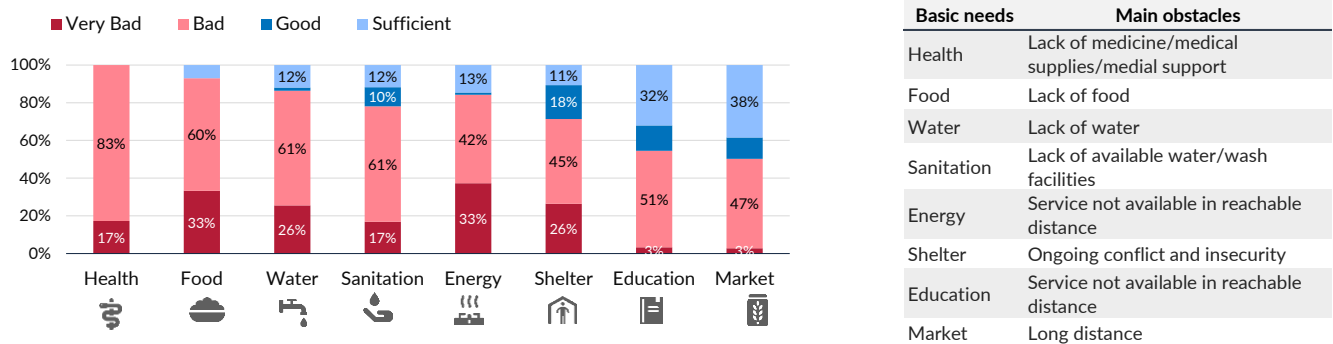


Figure 5. Rating of accessibility of basic needs and main obstacle to access basic needs

Main obstacles to access to humanitarian assistance and services relate predominantly to the unavailability of the respective commodity, service, or market in general, or within a reachable distance, the ongoing conflict and insecurity, including the presence of armed elements, lack of documents to pass checkpoints/move freely and safely as well as the lack or unaffordability of available transport.

## Coping mechanisms

	Never	Sometimes	Common	Very Common	Always	No Answer	Total
Early Marriage	13%	48%	38%	1%	0%	0%	100%
Girls dropping Out of School to Work	7%	44%	48%	1%	0%	0%	100%
Boys dropping Out of School to Work	6%	45%	44%	6%	0%	0%	100%
Humanitarian assistance	22%	62%	13%	1%	0%	2%	100%
Illegal activities (such as theft)	17%	62%	19%	1%	0%	1%	100%
Begging	16%	46%	38%	0%	0%	1%	100%
Support from local/host communities	37%	53%	9%	0%	0%	1%	100%
Support from local authorities	33%	59%	6%	1%	0%	1%	100%
Use savings	57%	28%	13%	1%	0%	1%	100%
Borrow or loan money	49%	30%	21%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Working and salaries	54%	16%	28%	0%	0%	2%	100%
Sell or exchange personal possessions or productive assets	29%	42%	29%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	43%	46%	11%	0%	0%	1%	100%

Figure 6. Coping

To meet basic needs, the IDP population in West Guji zone rely sometimes or commonly on coping mechanisms, some of them harmful.

- Early marriage (38%) and school dropouts, both among girls (48%) and boys (44%), as coping mechanisms are particularly alarming.

- Begging (38%) and illegal activities, such as theft (19%), also stand out as prevalent coping mechanisms. Considered together with borrowing, working, selling or exchange of personal possessions.

- Key informants also suggest a reliance on support from host community and local authorities to meet their basic needs is relatively minimum.

At woreda-level, Gelana woreda stands out particularly in terms of negative coping mechanism such as early marriage which is common for 69% of KIs, while Girls and boys dropping out of school to work are common for 81% and 75% of KIs.

## Freedom of movement

According to KIs, women and girls, and men and boys respectively face some limitations to their freedom of movement in their community, with males facing to a relatively higher restriction. For both genders movement restrictions are particularly prevalent in Bule Hora and Hambela Wamena woredas.

**Hindrances to the freedom of movement:** Insecurity or general violence and fighting in the area, restricted areas or checkpoints and lack of proper documentation to travel are mentioned as the major limitations to freedom of movement for men and boys, while women and girls are facing other reasons for limitations on movement, such as restrictions imposed by family or spouse and lack of transportation.

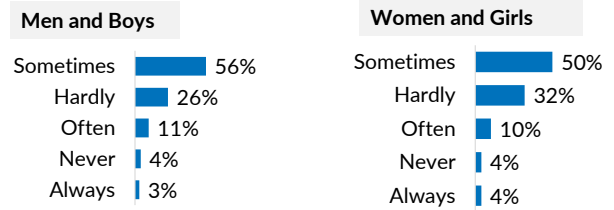


Figure 7. Freedom of movement  
Are men and boys able to move freely in your community?  
Are women and girls able to move freely in your community?

## Access to justice and conflict resolution

Family leaders (58%), community structures, committees, and leaders (20%), followed by religious leaders (15%) and are the main establishments people pursue to address protection concerns, problems, and disputes. To a lesser extent, police or law enforcement actors are approached (2%).

According to the KIs, there is some use of UNHCR protection desks to raise concerns (4%) mainly in Bule Hora (21%) and Hambela Wamena (6%) woredas.

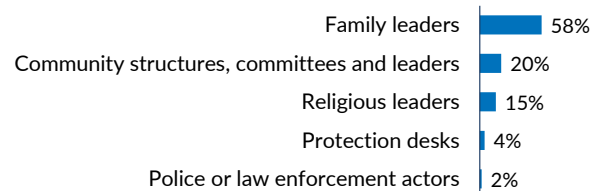


Figure 8. How are people most likely to approach with protection concerns, problems, and disputes

## Documentation

A significant number of IDPs have access to Kebele IDs (94-100%) in all woredas of West Guji zone, while as per to 6% of KIs, passport is exceptionally available in Hambela Wamena woreda. However, other documentations such as birth, divorce and death certificates are entirely unavailable in Abaya woreda.

Proof of ownership (land, housing, and property) is relatively attainable in the zone predominantly in Bule Hora (54%) and Gelana (50%) woredas. Likewise, birth and marriage certificates are largely accessible in Bule Hora woreda as per to 96% and 89% of KIs.

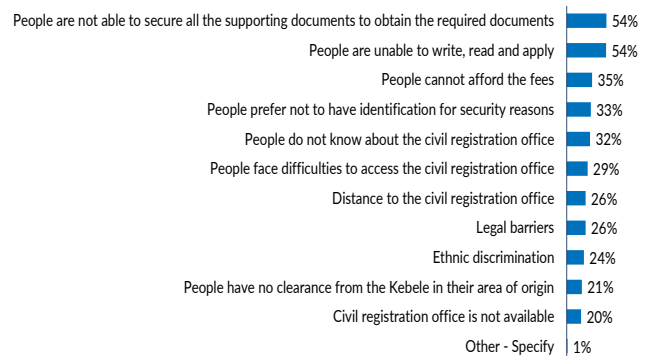


Figure 9. Obstacles to

According to KIs, the top three barriers to obtaining documentation are people not being able to secure all the supporting documents to obtain the required documents, inability to write, read and apply and lack of capacity to afford the fees. **Consequences of lack of documentation** reportedly include difficulty moving through certain areas, difficulty accessing humanitarian assistance or services, difficulty finding medical services.

## Housing, Land and Property (HLP)

Key informants have reported the loss of their properties or possessions (99%) and proof of ownership (96%) for housing, land, and property (HLP) across the areas monitored. Particularly, in Bule Hora and Gelana woreda, KIs report that most of their property and proof of ownership of property, is lost.

The biggest concern related to HLP by far is destruction of property at 40%, destruction, lost, theft or fraud of proof of property or property records was rated the second highest concern overall at 22%. However, property and land-related disputes, contamination of HLP with explosive hazards and land swapping, are far less of a concern in the region.

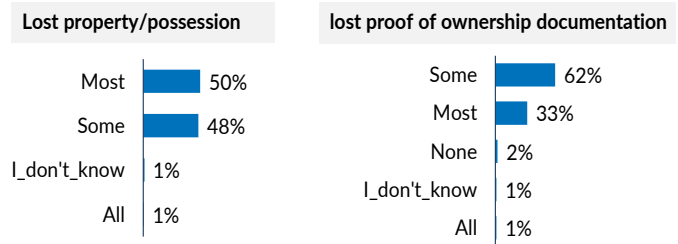


Figure 10. Have people hosted in this location or who have returned to this location lost property/possession or lost proof of ownership documentation?

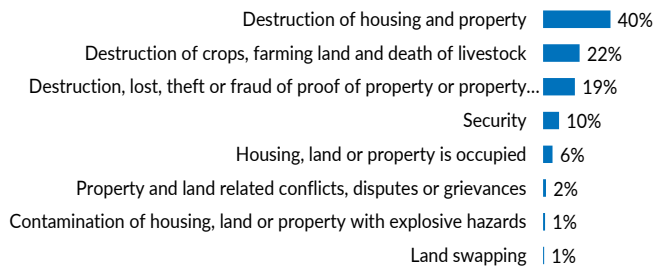


Figure 11 Main HLP concerns

## Gender-Based Violence

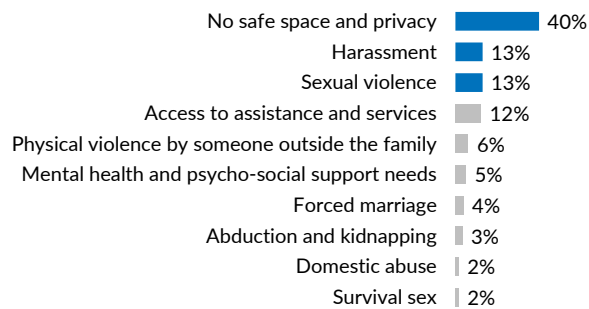


Figure 12a. Most significant problems women and girls are facing in the community

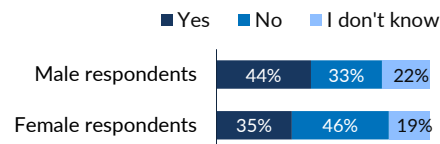


Figure 12b. In your view, is GBV currently a key concern in your location?

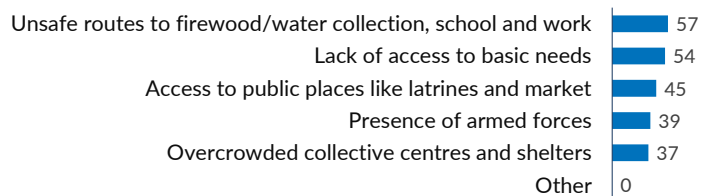


Figure 12c. Factors currently increasing the risk of GBV and other forms of violence

KIs reported that GBV is a key concern in the area monitored, at 79%, while 79% of them thought it is not. Out of this number, female key informants considered GBV as a main issue at 35%, while male respondents identified it as a main concern at 44%. According to key informants, the lack of safe space and privacy, harassment and sexual violence are the three most significant problems women and girls face.

**Factors increasing GBV risks:** Unsafe routes to firewood/water collection, school, and work, lack of access to basic needs as well as lack of access to public places like latrines and market are the main crucial factors currently increasing the risk of gender-based violence in the monitored areas, according to KIs.

**Access to GBV services:** According to the KIs, only 57% confirmed access to GBV services in their areas monitored, with comparatively better access to GBV services in Hambela Wamena (89%) and Kecha (67%) woredas, as compared to the other areas monitored.

## Child Protection

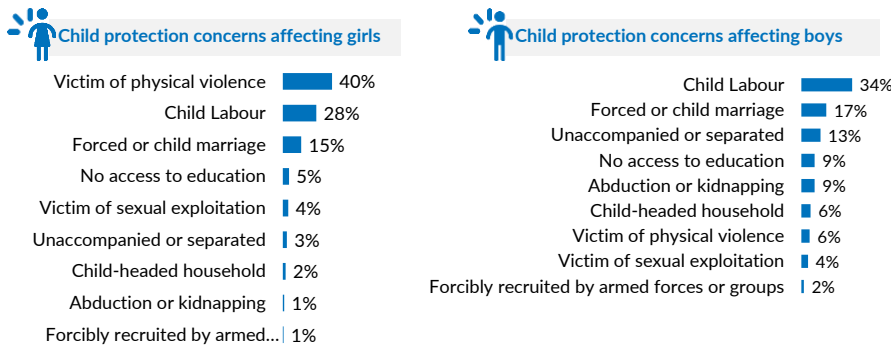


Figure 13a. Child protection concern affecting girls and boys

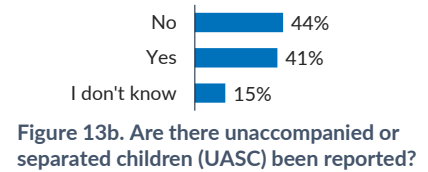


Figure 13b. Are there unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) been reported?

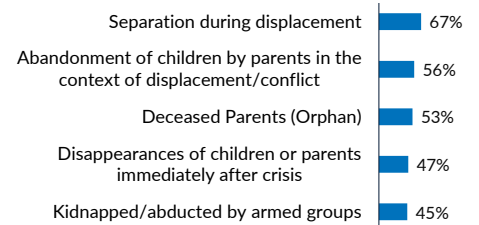


Figure 13c. Main causes of UASC

According to the KIs, the top three protection concern affecting girls: Victim of physical violence (40%), Child labor (28%), Forced or child marriage (15%). A slightly higher incidence of separation from their parents was reported among boys, and slightly higher incidence of child labour than girls. Boys were reported to be more often heads of households. 41% of key informants confirm that UASC live in their respective community. Main causes for this include separation during flight (67%) and abandonment of children by parents in the context of displacement (56%). Alarming, 97% of KIs explained that children are affected or at risk to be affected by violence or exploitation, most predominantly in Bule Hora woreda. Most children have no care givers and stay alone at 55% most predominantly in Abaya woreda (90%) while neighbours, friends, and acquaintances in the areas of origin are the predominant alternative caregiver to parents at 27% particularly in Gelana and Bule Hora woredas.

## Explosive hazards

34% of KIs are aware of the presence of explosive hazards in the site monitored, among this number the majority are in Kercha (88%), Hambela Wamena (53%) and Bule Hora (50%) woredas. However, a vast number of respondents (31%) are not aware of the presence of explosive hazards, or related accidents in the areas monitored.

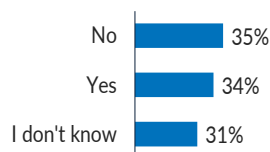


Figure 13a. aware of any incidents related to landmines, unexploded ordnances, or other explosive remnants of war during the last 3 months (All respondents)

Region   Zone   Woreda	No	Yes	I don't know
Oromia			
West Guji	35%	34%	31%
Abaya	66%	13%	21%
Gelana (West G)	15%	2%	83%
Hambela Wame	36%	53%	11%
Kercha	13%	88%	0%
Bule Hora	50%	50%	0%
Grand Total	35%	34%	31%

Figure 13a. awareness of any incidents related to landmines, during the last 3 months (By woreda)



## Access to information, community representation and relations

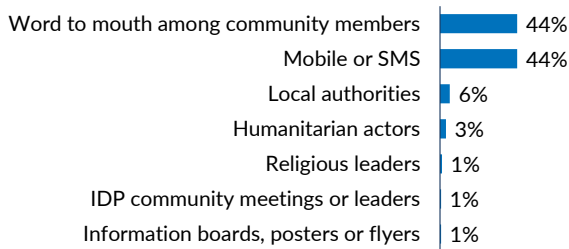


Figure 14. Means by which people receive information in general

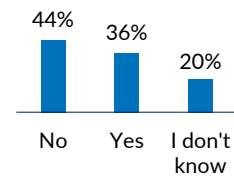


Figure 15. Existence of any IDP community structure to discuss and address issues and needs of the IDP community

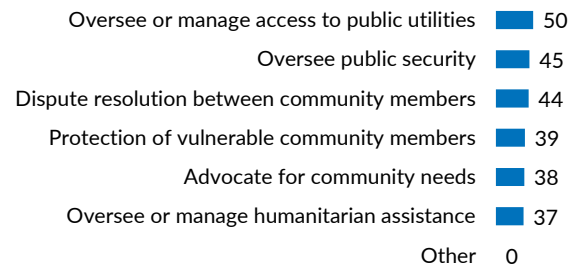


Figure 16. Purpose of IDP community structures (Multiple choices)

The two main means through which people receive information are word to mouth among community members (44%) mainly in Kercha woreda (88%) and Mobile or SMS (44%) with high prevalence in Bule Hora woreda (75%). However, the information reliance of the community on religious leaders, IDP community meetings or IDP leaders and Information messages is very low.

36% of KIs state that there are IDP community structures in place in the area monitored. Where such structures exist, they are generally considered to be at least somewhat legitimate (83%), representative (86%) and useful (72%). Exceptionally, the legitimacy, representativeness, as well as usefulness of such structures were reported to be higher in Kercha and Hambela Wamena woredas. The main purposes of such structures were reported to be oversight or management of access to public utilities, oversee public security and community-based dispute resolution, in Abaya and Hambela Wamena woredas

## Partners



## Donor support

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