ETHIOPIA | PROTECTION MONITORING AND SOLUTIONS (PMS)

Tigray Region | Central Zone | December 2024

OVERVIEW

UNHCR, in partnership with IHS, conducted Protection Monitoring and Solutions (PMS) Assessment. The assessment aimed to evaluate the situation of IDP returnees, the majority of whom were returned from Mekelle and Eastern zone (particularly from Adigrat town) and their protection concerns following their return to their places of origin. It also sought to examine the services provided to returnees, the integration process between returnees and host communities, and the reactions of host communities toward the returnees.

The PMS Assessment was conducted from 18 to 24 December 2024 in 5 Woredas of Central zone of Tigray. These were Hahayle (Feres-Mai)[1] , Emba Sieneti (Nebelet)[2], Edaga Arbi[3], Endafelasi (Mai-Kenetal)[4], and Kola Tembien[5].

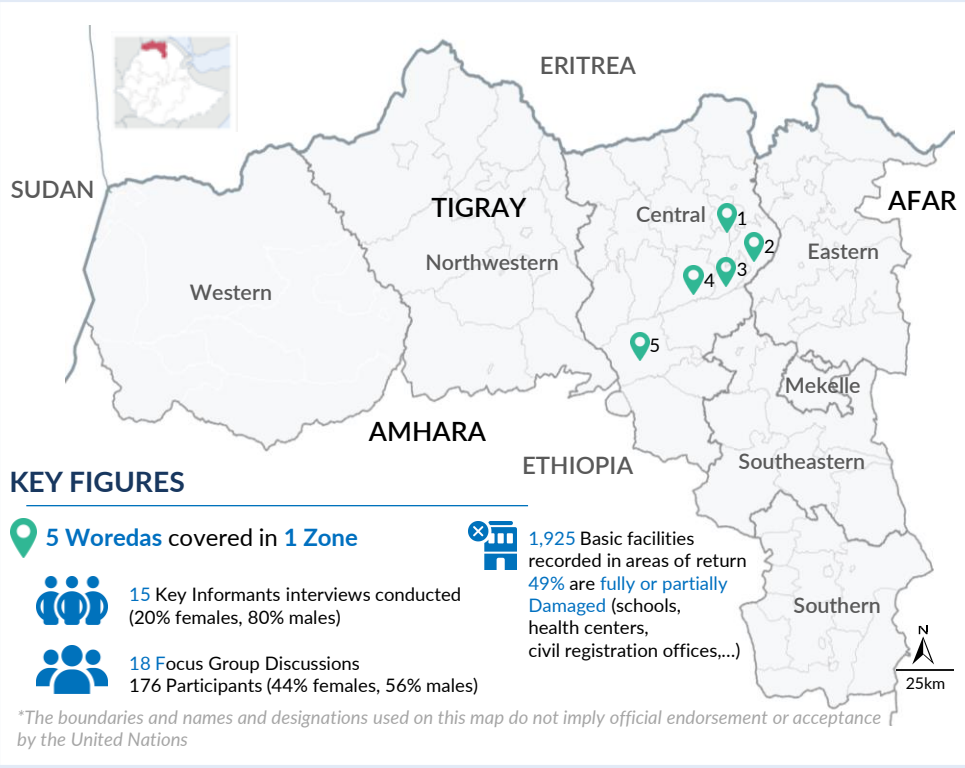

Figure 1: Locations of PMS Assessment

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This PMS Assessment report is based on the harmonized PMS Tools. The assessment employed four distinct tools to capture a comprehensive overview and gather detailed information about IDP returnee situation. These tools included focus group discussions (FGDs) with returnees and host community members, key informant interviews (KIIs) with community leaders and service providers, facility mapping to collect data on service infrastructures and direct observation to assess living conditions and service accessibility. According to the PMS Assessment methodology, data and information for this typical report were collected through:

- **15 Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) conducted**: 12 males (80%) and 3 females (20%). Of those interviewed, 27% were IDP returnees, 67% were from host community/affected population and 7% were IDPs.
- **18 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** organized for 176 participants of which 99 males (56%) and 77 females (44%). Of those participants, 65 (37%) participants were IDP returnees and 111 (63%) were host community/affected population.
- **1,925 basic facilities** (schools, health centers, markets, civil registration offices, etc.) recorded in the visited woredas, of which **49% are partially or fully damaged**.
- **Direct observation in each location:** documentation of visual and auditory observation to help shape the understanding of the situation.

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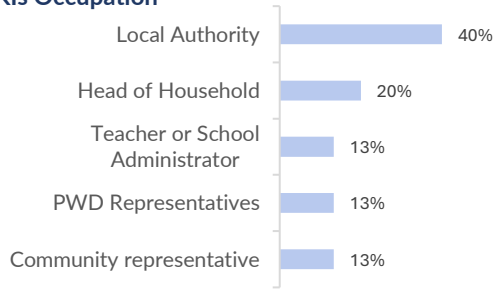
FINDINGS OF THE KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

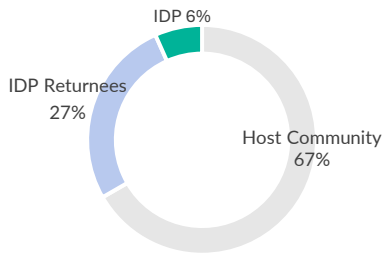
Key Informants (KIs) Information

The key informants were those who have basic information in the affected community and most of them were from government authority (40%), head of households (20%) followed by community representatives, PwD representatives and school administrators account for 13% each.

KIs Occupation



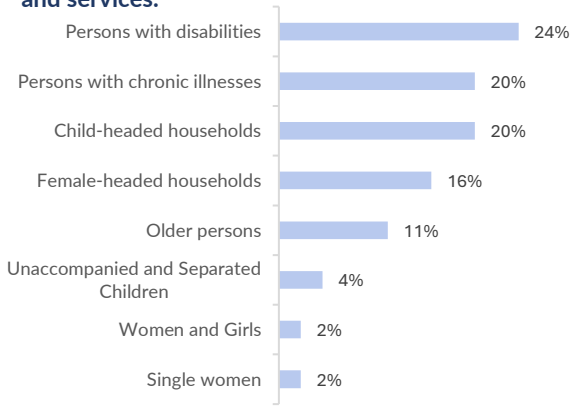
KIs Population Type



Access to Fundamental Rights and Basic Needs

Persons with specific needs facing the greatest challenges or particularly disadvantaged in accessing assistance and services that account for 24%.

Most disadvantaged people accessing assistance and services.



Main reasons why those affected people are particularly disadvantaged.

- **Assistance lacks specificity to their needs (73%).**
- **Specific needs are poorly identified (20%)**
- **Facing general marginalization (7%).**

Obstacles to access basic needs

Sector	Top 3 obstacles *Percentages are out of the total Key informant*	Actionable Insights
Food	▪ Lack of food (reported by 30% of Key informants) ▪ Shortage of cash (25%) ▪ Inflation (Can't afford to buy food/High price) (16%)	To tackle food insecurity, improve food distribution, offer financial support like cash transfers or vouchers, stabilize prices, and promote local agriculture. Long-term efforts should include community food programs and self-sufficient farming initiatives.
Health	▪ Health facilities destroyed (27%) ▪ Lack of medicine / medical supplies (25%) ▪ Can't afford medical fees (23%)	Urgent need to rehabilitate healthcare infrastructure, replenish medical supplies, and implement financial support mechanisms to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all community members, including IDP returnees.
Education	▪ Not enough teaching and learning materials (31%) ▪ Schools damaged, destroyed or looted (27%) ▪ Can't to afford scholastic materials and uniforms (24%)	These challenges emphasize the urgent need for investments in educational infrastructure, provision of essential resources, and financial support for vulnerable families to ensure that all children can access quality education.
WASH	▪ Lack of available water/wash facilities (23%) ▪ Insufficient water storage capacity (16%) ▪ Lack of awareness towards hygiene and sanitations (16%) ▪ Lack of female hygiene products (sanitary pad) (2%)	These issues collectively play a significant role in limiting access to essential WASH services, highlighting the need for infrastructure improvements, community education, and affordable access to hygiene materials.

Coping strategies to meet basic needs

Coping Mechanisms	Always	Never	Sometimes
Begging	15%	0%	6%
Buying food on credit or through borrowed money from relatives and friends	18%	0%	4%
Changing place of residence and accommodation to reduce expenses	12%	33%	7%
Child labor	17%	0%	5%
Early Marriage for girls	5%	0%	15%
Illegal activities (such as theft)	5%	0%	15%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	12%	0%	9%
Sold house and/or land	2%	33%	16%
Transactional sex for basic needs	2%	33%	16%
Withdrew children from school	12%	0%	9%

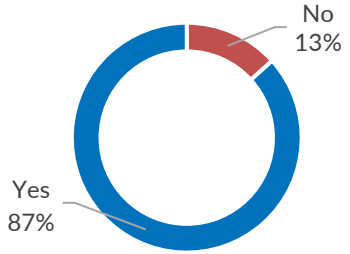
- Buying food on credit or through borrowed money from relatives and friends (18% of respondents), child labor (17%) and begging (15%) appear as the most common coping strategies (highest rate of **'Always'**).
- Transactional sex for basic needs and Selling of house/land was reported as **"Sometimes"** by 16% of respondents. Early marriage for girls and Illegal activities (such as theft) follow at 15%.

These findings highlight the severity of the challenges faced by affected populations, often leading to the adoption of harmful coping strategies with long-term social and economic consequences. Addressing these issues requires targeted interventions to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities and protection mechanisms.

Safety and Security

1 respondent out of 8 reported that men, boys, women, and girls are not able to move freely in their communities.

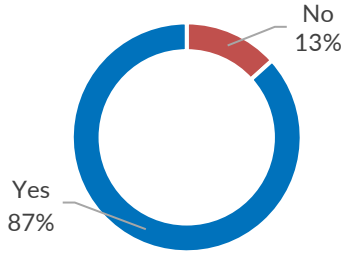
Are men and boys able to move freely in your community?



The primary factors limiting freedom of movement for women and girls

- Fear of kidnapping (33%)
- Fear of robbery (33%)
- Fear of rape/harassment (17%)

Are women and girls able to move freely in your community?



The primary factors limiting freedom of movement for boys and men

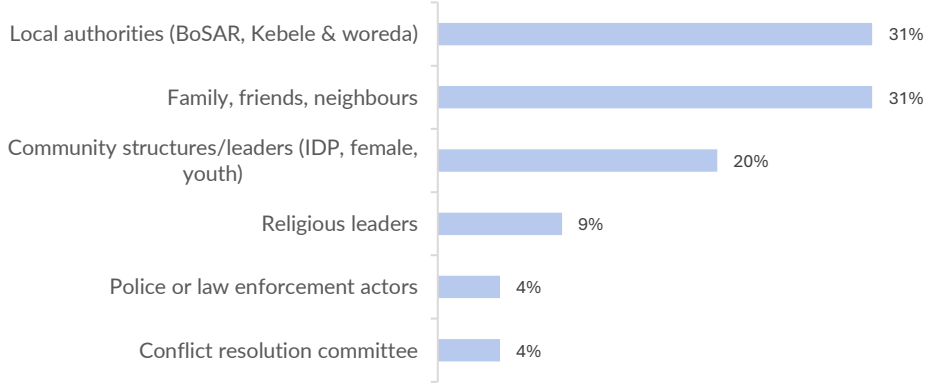
- Fear of robbery (33%)
- Fear of arrest (17%)
- Fear of kidnapping (17%)

These barriers highlight the urgent need for enhanced security measures to protect women and girls from harassment, kidnapping, and violence. Strengthening community-based protection mechanisms is critical to addressing their specific fears and ensuring their safety in conflict-affected areas.

Targeted interventions must focus on creating safe spaces, providing support networks, and implementing proactive measures that enable women and girls to move freely without the constant fear of violence, ensuring their mobility and well-being

Access to justice, assistance and conflict resolution

Who is the most likely person or authority that people would approach with protection concerns, problems, and disputes in your location?



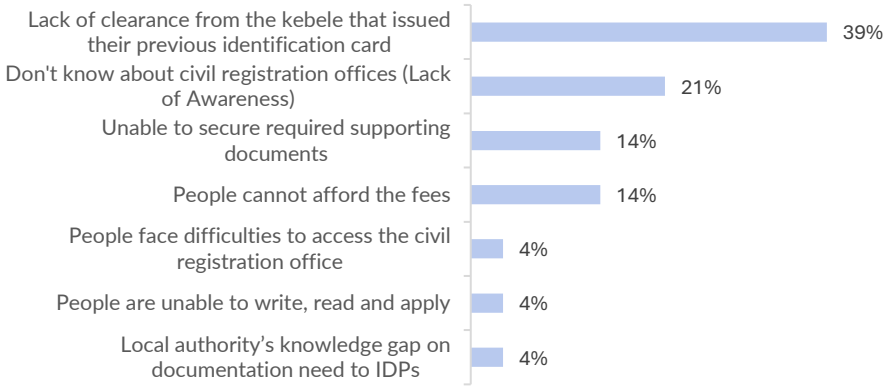
Family, friends, neighbors, and local authorities (such as BoSAR, Kebele, and Woreda representatives) were the most frequently consulted groups for addressing protection concerns, problems, and disputes, with each accounting for 31% of responses. Community-based structures and community leaders were also commonly approached, accounting for 20% of responses.

Furthermore, religious leaders also played a crucial role in this regard accounting for about 9%. This highlights the reliance on both informal social networks and formal community structures in resolving issues, emphasizing the importance of strengthening these mechanisms to effectively address the needs of the affected population. This is because the approach for protection concerns and disputes to law enforcement actors is still low (4%).

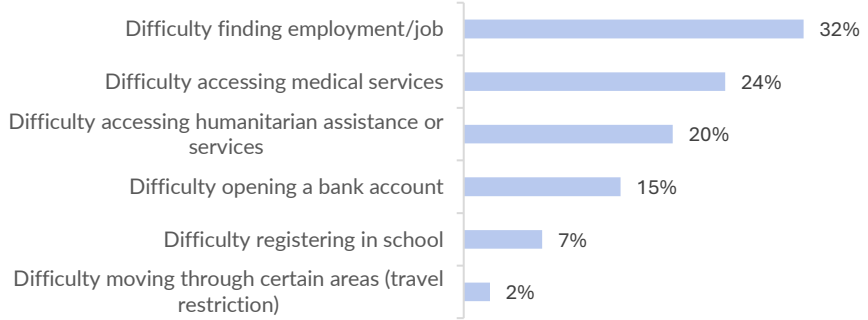
Documentation

In civil documentation offices communities including IDPs and IDP returnees can obtain different services such as **IDP cards (34%), birth certificate (32%), marriage certificate (32%)** and **Kebelle IDs (2%).**

Main barriers to having or obtaining legal documentation



Top 5 risks community members encounter as a result of lacking documentation



The main barriers to obtaining legal documentation are the lack of clearance from the kebele that issued their previous identification card as reported by 39% KIIs. Additionally, 21% of KIIs indicated that they were unaware of the existence or location of a civil registration office. Other reported challenges included the inability to secure all required supporting documents (14%) and the inability to afford the associated fees (14%). These findings underscore the need for targeted interventions, such as awareness campaigns, fee waivers, and streamlined processes, to improve access to legal documentation for affected populations.

Lack of civil documentation mainly leads to **difficulty finding employment/job, accessing medical services and humanitarian assistance.**

The lack of civil documentation significantly impacts individuals in various ways. The primary consequence is

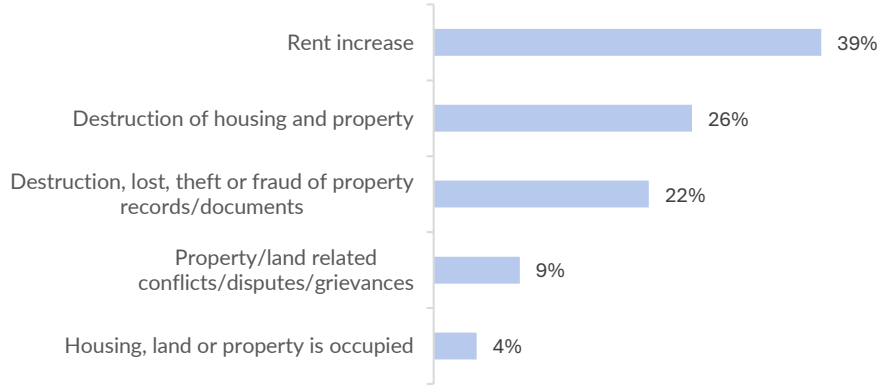
- Difficulty in finding jobs or securing employment (reported by 32% of KIs).
- Challenges in accessing medical services (24%)
- Restricted access to humanitarian assistance (20%).

Other barriers included limited access to basic services such as banking (15%) and enrollment in schools (7%).

These issues underscore the importance of civil documentation for accessing services, emphasizing the need to support the responsible government body and raise awareness to restore its capacity to issue documentation to affected populations.

Housing, Land and Property (HLP)

Issues IDP returnees are facing regarding housing, land and properties (Top 5)

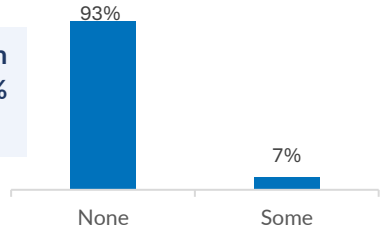


Rent increase (39%) and destruction of housing and property (26%) followed by destruction, lost, theft or fraud of proof of property (22%) have been reported in Central zone as main HLP issues faced by IDP returnees.

In Edaga Arbi and Emba Sieneti (Nebelet), KIs reported that majority of houses were **completely damaged**. In contrast, some houses were fully destroyed in other locations, including Endafelasi (Mai-Kental), Hahayle (Feres-Mai), and Kola Tembien.

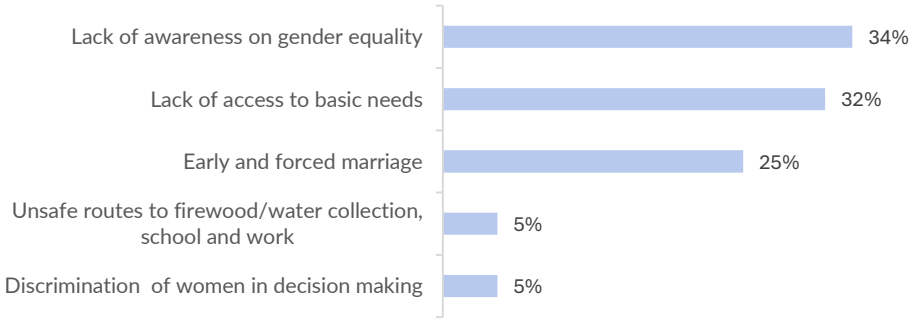
These findings underscore the widespread destruction of residential infrastructure across these areas due to the two-year long conflict, demanding the urgent need for housing reconstruction and rehabilitation to support IDP returnees and recovery of affected communities (See details of the damage below in *Facility Mapping*, which found more than **5,600 houses fully damaged** and more than **7,000 houses partially damaged**).

Proportion of IDPs in this location accessing land for farming is "None" at 93% and "Some" at 7%



Gender-Based Violence

Factors that currently increase the risk of GBV and other forms of violence (Top 5)



The PMS Assessment indicated that a lack of awareness about gender equality (34%) was a major factor increasing the risk of GBV and other forms of violence in the assessed Woredas, followed by limited access to basic needs, reported at 32%. Additionally, early and forced marriage was highlighted by 25% as a significant issue.

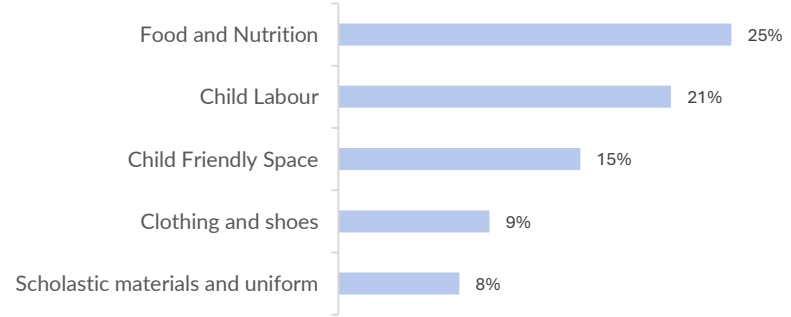
Other concerns, each reported by 5%, included the discrimination of women in decision-making processes and the risks posed by unsafe routes to collect firewood and water, traveling to school and work. These findings underscore the need for targeted interventions such as awareness raising campaigns on gender equality, improved access to essential services, and initiatives to enhance the safety and participation of women and girls in their communities.

The most significant problems faced by women and girls in assessed *Woreda* communities include early marriage (reported by 29% of respondents), and lack of income (cited by 27%). Additionally, 18% highlighted the need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), while 9% reported having no access to food and adequate nutrition.

Other challenges include risks encountered while fetching water (4%), as well as issues such as denial of resources, discrimination in accessing services, school dropout, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and similar concerns. These findings emphasize the critical need for comprehensive interventions addressing both immediate and structural factors contributing to GBV, including access to livelihoods, psychosocial care, education, and protective services for women and girls.

Child Protection

Top 5 protection issues children (boys and girls) encounter



The assessment reveals a critical need for child protection services, as many children are out of school and lack essential supplies, clothing, and shoes, leading to emotional distress. There is also a significant absence of safe spaces for play, learning, and recreational activities. Key challenges include inadequate access to food and nutrition, child labor, and the inability to afford basic educational materials and uniforms. These findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive interventions, including education support, provision of necessities, psychosocial services, and the establishment of child-friendly spaces.

These issues collectively hinder the overall well-being and development of children in these areas, creating an urgent need for targeted interventions that address both immediate and long-term needs, such as nutrition programs, educational support, and the establishment of safe spaces for children.

Main causes of unaccompanied children and separated children (UASC)

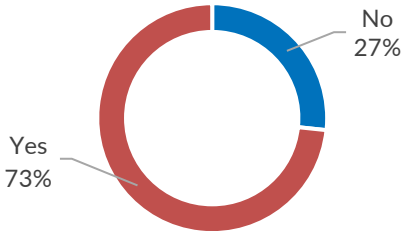
The primary cause of UASC is Separation during displacement (accounting for 40%) , followed by instances where children were abandoned or left behind due to parents or caregivers relocating in search of employment (reported at 36%). Abandonment during displacement was identified as the cause of 16%, while the loss of both parents (orphan) accounted for about 8%. These findings underscore the devastating impact of displacement on family unity and revealed the critical need for child protection services, including family tracing and reunification, psychosocial support, and targeted assistance for unaccompanied and separated children.

Explosive Ordinance

Are you aware of any incidents related to unexploded ordnance/UXO or other explosive remnants of war during the last 3 months?

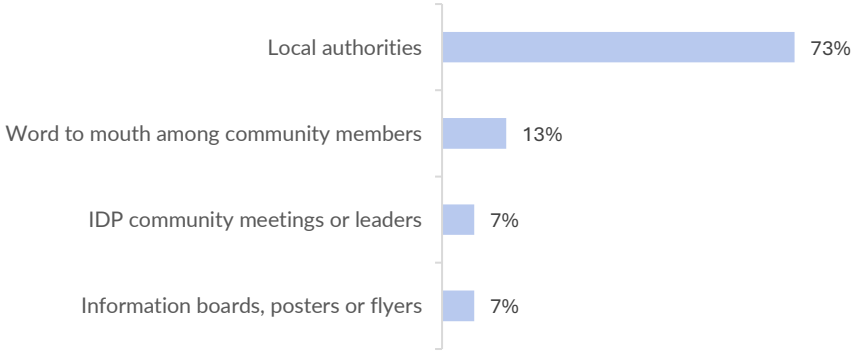
73% of total respondents reported being aware of incidents related to landmines.

All assessed areas except Endafelasi (Mai-Kental) reported being aware of incidents related to landmines.



Access to information, community representation and relations

What are the major communication channels that people receive information?



The analysis reveals that local authorities are the primary communication channel, with 73% of people relying on them for information. Word of mouth among community members follows at 13%, while information boards, posters, or flyers and IDP community meetings or leaders each account for 7%.

This highlights the importance of leveraging local authorities in information dissemination while also considering the role of community networks and visual communication tools.

Social Cohesion and Peaceful Coexistence

Woreda	Relationship between host community and IDPs	Relationship between IDPs Returnees and the community members
Edaga arbi	Positive	Positive
Emba Sieneti	Positive	Positive
Endafelasi	Positive	Positive
Hahayle	Positive	Positive
Kola Temben	Positive	Positive

The relationship between the host community, IDPs, and IDP returnees was described as smooth, characterized by mutual support during social interactions and at times of need. This relationship was rated as 'positive,' reflecting a sense of solidarity and cooperation among the groups. Such positive dynamics are crucial for fostering social cohesion, facilitating reintegration efforts, and building a supportive environment for recovery and resilience in affected communities.

Priority needs, Shelter, and Non-food Items (NFIs)

Top 3 priority needs

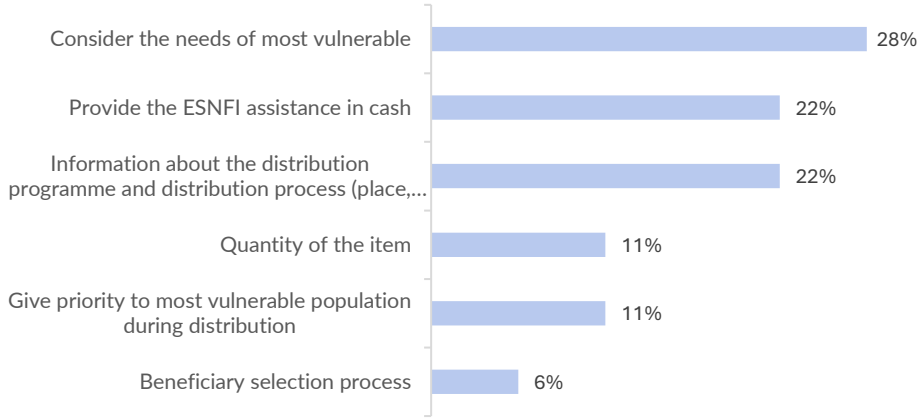
- Food and Nutrition at 24% of respondents.
- Child protection services at 18%
- GBV services at 13%

Main obstacles to access shelter/houses

- High rental price at 25% of respondents.
- Shelter materials not affordable at 20%
- Lack of service/ unavailability (shelter or NFI at 18%

Additionally, other critical needs were highlighted which underscore the importance of addressing basic needs, ensuring the safety and well-being of children, and providing essential support for survivors of GBV. Targeted interventions in these areas are crucial for improving the overall living conditions and protection of vulnerable groups within the community.

Needs to be improved during shelter and Non-food items assistance



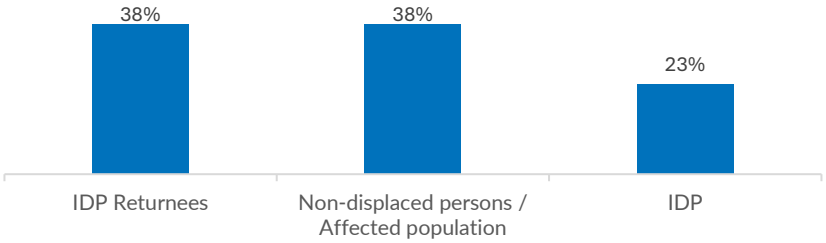
The analysis highlights key areas for improvement in shelter and non-food items (ESNFI) assistance. The most critical need is to better address the requirements of the most vulnerable populations (28%). Additionally, improving communication about distribution details (22%) and considering cash assistance options (22%) are crucial.

Prioritizing the most vulnerable during distribution, ensuring the adequate quantity of items, and enhancing the beneficiary selection process are also important & essential for fairness and effectiveness.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

The respondents revealed that there exists sign of distress among the different populations in all assessed Woredas.

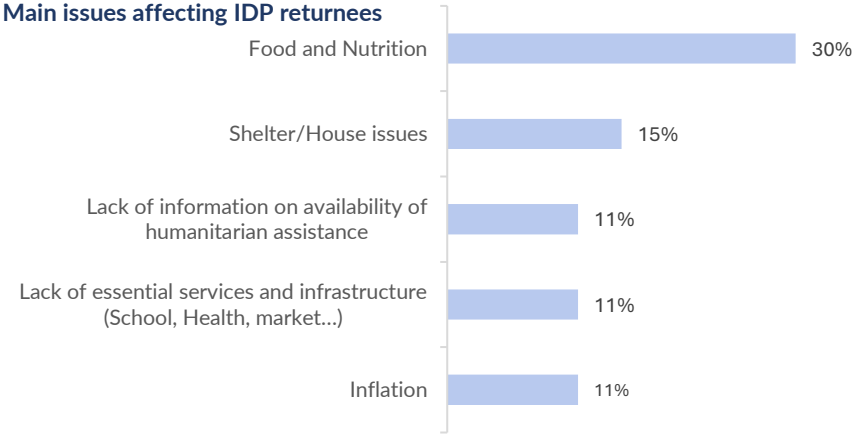
Groups of population most affected by signs of distress



The conflict has led to significant signs of distress across all population groups, including IDP returnees, non-displaced individuals, and the IDP population. While the level of distress is notably higher among returnees and non-displaced individuals, boys, girls, and men from the IDP population show the most distress (17%). Among the returnee population, older persons (20%), women (19%), and girls (17%) exhibit the highest levels of emotional strain. This underscores how the conflict impacts the entire community, with considerable emotional distress felt by all, regardless of displacement status.

Cumulatively, the high rates signs of distress reflect the necessity for building resilience through trauma-informed care, psychosocial support centered on communities, and accessible mental health services to ensure cohesion within the population.

Main issues affecting IDP returnees



The main challenges faced by IDP returnees are related to food and nutrition (30%), shelter/house issues (15%), and the lack of essential services and infrastructure (11%). The scarcity of food and nutrition is the most pressing concern, leaving many returnees vulnerable.

Majority of IDP returnees to this location are **Renting (39%), Sharing shelter with friends (39%) & Living in own houses (11%).**

Inadequate shelter further exacerbates their struggles, while the absence of services like education, healthcare, and markets hinders their ability to rebuild their lives. Addressing these core issues is crucial for supporting the returnee population effectively.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

This section reflects the findings of the 18 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) held with IDP returnees & host community/affected population to assess the durability of their returns, social cohesion, HLP issues, participation, safety and security, and participation in public affairs

A total of 176 (77F) respondents participated across 18 focus group discussions, providing valuable insights into the situation of IDP returnees, IDPs and host community as well.

18 Focus Groups

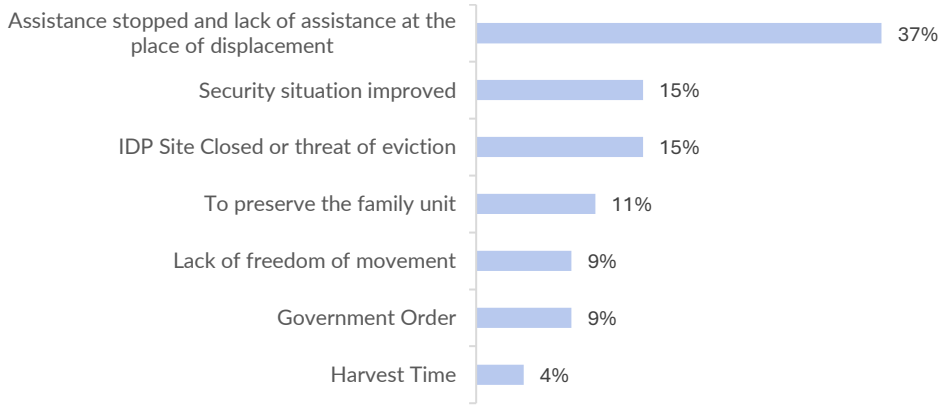
176 Respondents

44% Female

56% Males

Reasons for Return

The primary reason for the return of IDPs is the cessation of assistance or the absence of adequate support (37%) in the place of displacement.

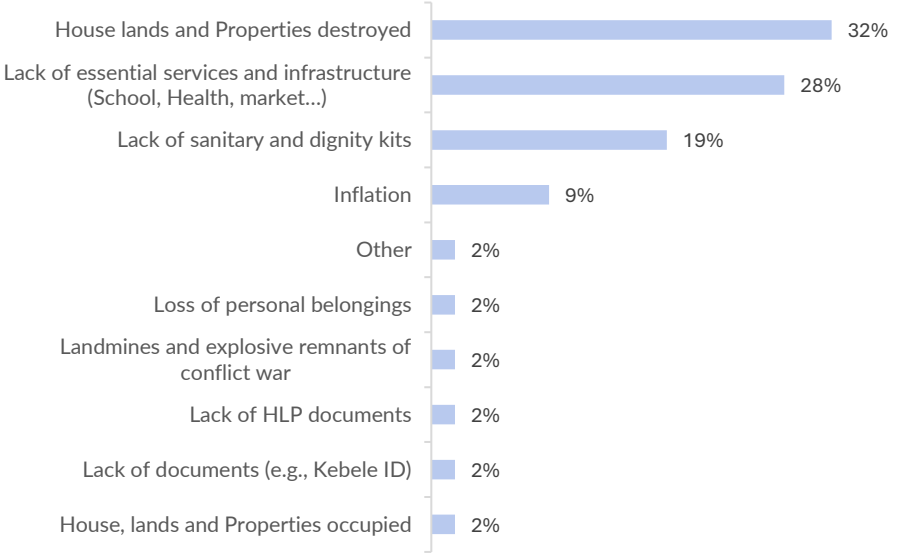


86% of participants stated that all their family members had returned with them, indicating a high level of family reunification among returnees.

Returnees traveled to places of return using various means, including public transport, arranged transport, and government-supported buses. Some returnees travel spontaneously on foot, while others are organized through government-led initiatives or use government buses.

90% of the FGD participants reported returnees were **registered immediately on arrival** by local authorities.

Main Protection issues IDP returnees are facing



Similar to other members of the host community and IDPs, IDP returnees encountered various protection concerns. These challenges included the destruction of their housing, lands, and property (HLP), which accounted for 32% of reported issues. Additionally, 28% of returnees highlighted the lack of access to essential services and infrastructure as a significant concern, while 19% pointed to the absence of sanitary and dignity kits. Market inflation was cited by 9% of respondents as a challenge affecting their ability to meet basic needs, with the remaining 12% of concerns encompassing other pressing issues (see details in figure below). These findings emphasize the multifaceted nature of the difficulties faced by returnees in rebuilding their lives.

Safety and Security

70%
Reported they FEEL SAFE in their neighborhood

Reasons for NOT FEELING SAFE (28%) include:
- insufficient food supply
- issues shelter
- lack of assistance
- damaged properties
- poor service
- low production due to unexpected rainfall,
- theft
- insufficient quality of services and service providers

Housing & Property

The returnees have faced significant challenges due to the loss of property, businesses, and means of subsistence following displacement.

Many individuals reported the destruction of small businesses, including shops and minibuses, along with personal property such as houses, documents, and animals.

Key infrastructure, including health posts, schools, and banks, were also damaged or destroyed. In addition, market centers, vehicles, and manufacturing businesses were looted or ruined which have severely impacted the IDP returnees' ability to sustain their livelihoods and support their families and communities.

55%
Reported they are LIVING in the SAME HOUSE they used to live BEFORE DISPLACEMENT.

49.8%
Reported their HOUSES are FULLY/ or PARTIALLY DAMAGED

94% of participants opt not to respond when asked whether their houses had been occupied by different groups, including armed groups.

55% of participants reported that they are **living in the same houses** they used to live before displacement. This suggests that a majority of returnees have been able to reclaim their pre displacement homes, potentially contributing to a sense of normalcy and stability. However, it also implies that **42%** of participants are living in **alternative arrangements**, which include **rented accommodations (24%)** and **living with relatives (15%).** The remaining are living in collective centers despite their return, and it highlights their IDP-like situation in the place of return as well.

The widespread destruction faced by returnees, significantly impacting their ability to rebuild their lives. The extent of damage underscores the need for targeted housing rehabilitation programs and support to ensure returnees have access to safe and adequate living conditions.

Social Cohesion

95%
have GOOD RELATIONSHIP with other members of the community.

24% in **Endafelasi** responded their relationship with other members of the community is **difficult.**

71% in **Hahayle** indicated **some things are forbidden** to do by other community members

78%
Reported there is NOTHING other community members DON'T ALLOW them to do.

Woreda	Good	Difficult
Edaga arbi	100%	0%
Emba Sieneti	100%	0%
Endafelasi	76%	24%
Hahayle	100%	0%
Kola Temben	100%	0%
Total	**95%**	**5%**

Woreda	Nothing Forbidden	Some Forbidden
Edaga arbi	100%	0%
Emba Sieneti	60%	14%
Endafelasi	73%	24%
Hahayle	14%	71%
Kola Temben	100%	0%
Total	**78%**	**14%**

Returnees are not allowed to collect firewood in the community. This restriction is in place to prevent deforestation and soil erosion, both of which can result from excessive firewood gathering. These environmental concerns are the primary reasons for the prohibition, aiming to protect the local ecosystem and maintain sustainable land use.

Participants suggested several ways to ease the relationship between IDP returnees and other community members, including fostering mutual support and maintaining smooth relationships. Most emphasized that the relationship is already positive, with no issues.

Future Living Preference

When asked about their preferences for the future, participants preferred to remain in their current location. Key preferences for the future included access to essential services like food, health, and education, as well as opportunities for income-generating activities (IGA), small businesses, urban agriculture, and economic empowerment. Some also emphasized the importance of maintaining schools and health institutions and improving livelihoods and psychological support services for their community.

Education for School Aged Children

41.5% of participants reported that all their children are attending school.

Woreda	All Attending	Some Attending	None Attending
Edaga arbi	52.4%	47.6%	0.0%
Emba Sieneti	51.2%	37.2%	11.6%
Endafelasi	39.4%	57.6%	3.0%
Hahayle	57.1%	42.9%	0.0%
Kola Temben	18.2%	70.5%	11.4%
Total	**41.5%**	**52.3%**	**6.3%**

Main reasons for low school attendance:

- financial difficulties
- lack of scholastic supplies
- insufficient clothing(school uniforms and shoes)
- food insecurity
- shortages in educational materials (books & stationery materials)
- lack of psychosocial support (PSS).

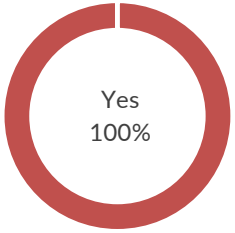
Children's Living Preference

As parents, participants were asked where it would be best for their children to live in the future, and they put various preferences for their children. Some believed it would be safer for their children to live abroad, citing security concerns in the current area. Others preferred their children to stay in the current location hoping for better living conditions and access to social services. Education was also a significant factor in their decision-making, with some mentioning the importance of better educational opportunities. Some participants suggested a combination of living in the current location and moving to places with better access to their children's education.

Landmines, and Unexploded Ordinances (UXO)

The presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) was reported in all assessed locations, with **100% of participants confirming this issue**. This highlights a critical safety concern that poses significant risks to the lives and livelihoods of returnees and the broader community, underscoring the urgent need for mine clearance and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) programs in these areas.

Presence of landmines and UXOs



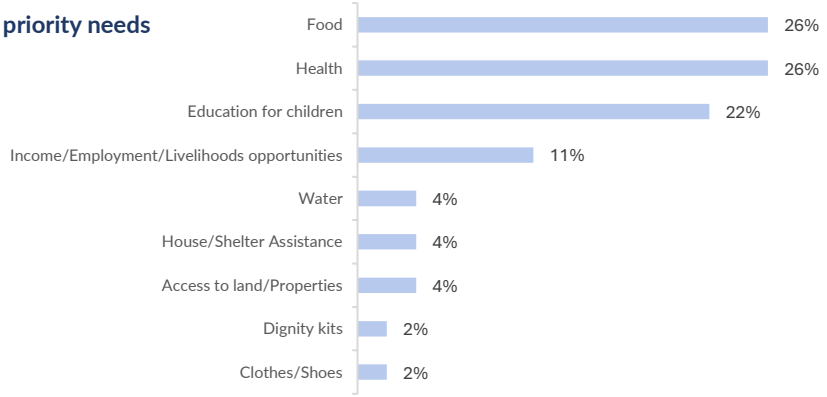
Humanitarian Needs & Assistance

78%
RECEIVE INFORMATION on the availability of humanitarian assistance

78% of participants reported receiving information about the availability of humanitarian assistance at the place of return. This indicates a relatively high level of awareness among the community, which is essential for ensuring access to aid. However, the remaining **22% who did not receive such information** may face challenges in accessing critical resources, highlighting the need for improved communication and outreach strategies to ensure no one is left behind.

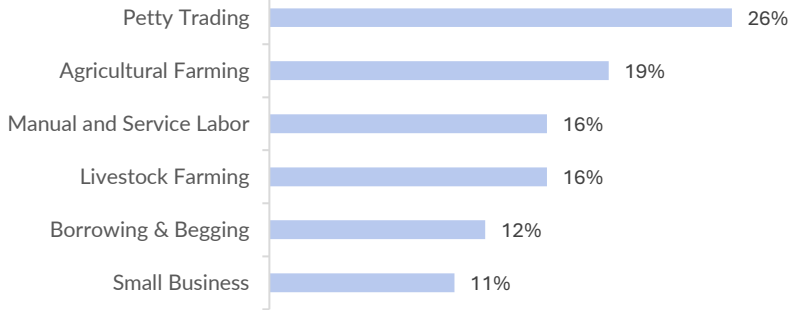
Information on humanitarian assistance is typically received through community-based structures, local authorities, and IDP representatives. Local authorities play a central role in disseminating information, along with community representatives and returnee committees. In certain instances, the involvement of government structures and returnee representatives helps facilitate the communication of humanitarian aid information.

Top priority needs



Livelihoods & Economic Empowerment

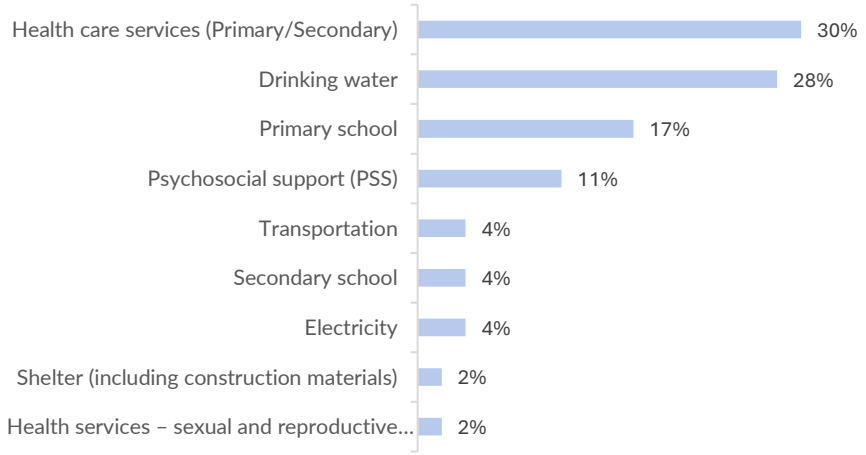
What do you do for work/livelihood?



For their livelihoods, participants engage in a variety of activities, of which the top 3 are Petty trading (26%), Agricultural Farming (19%) & Manual/Service Labor (16%)

Participants face several challenges in running their livelihood activities, with financial problems being the most common issue, which affects their ability to invest in their businesses or access resources. Other challenges include insufficient training, lack of business awareness, a shortage of land or suitable workplaces, difficulties with marketing, skills development, and access to necessary resources for manufacturing or processing. In addition, political instability, safety concerns, and the lack of mental health support further complicate their ability to sustain their livelihoods.

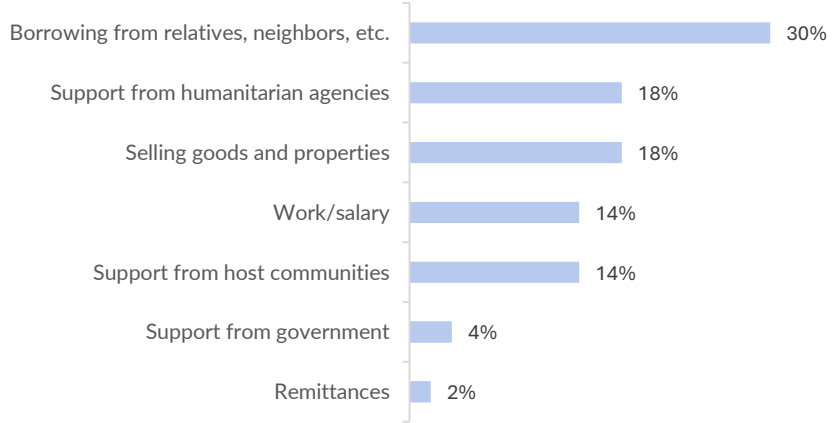
Basic services and infrastructures most in need and lacking



The findings highlighted key community priorities in essential services. Health care services (Primary/Secondary) and drinking water are the most critical needs, with 30% and 28% respectively. Primary school access follows at 17%, while psychosocial support (PSS) ranks fourth at 11%. Transportation, secondary school, and electricity each hold 4%, reflecting moderate concern. Shelter and sexual/reproductive health services are lowest at 2%, possibly indicating either lower demand or existing coverage. Overall, basic health and water access dominate community concerns.

To promote sustainability, strengthen national systems like health care, water, and education for long-term support. Enhance local clinics and schools through training, supervision, and better coordination. Equip community workers to offer psychosocial support and basic health information. Collaborate with local governments to improve service delivery using current transport and electricity networks. Include shelter and reproductive health in national plans, even when demand seems low, to ensure equity.

Coping Mechanisms/strategies in meeting basic needs



The top 3 coping mechanisms for the participants are borrowing (30%), reliance on humanitarian assistance (18%), and selling goods/properties (18%).

These findings illustrate the diverse approaches households use to manage their immediate needs, with a significant reliance on social networks and external assistance. However, the use of negative coping mechanisms, such as selling assets, may have long-term implications for the economic stability and resilience of the affected people.

Community Leadership Structures

90% Reported COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP STRUCTURES EXIST

Woreda	Yes	No	No Answer
Edaga arbi	90%	7%	2%
Emba Sieneti	79%	21%	0%
Endafelasi	94%	3%	3%
Hahayle	93%	7%	0%
Kola Temben	95%	5%	0%
Total	**90%**	**9%**	**1%**

91% Believe the community leadership structures are USEFUL

Woreda	Useful	NOT Useful	No Answer
Edaga arbi	92%	3%	5%
Emba Sieneti	97%	3%	0%
Endafelasi	81%	13%	6%
Hahayle	92%	0%	8%
Kola Temben	93%	2%	5%
Total	**91%**	**4%**	**4%**

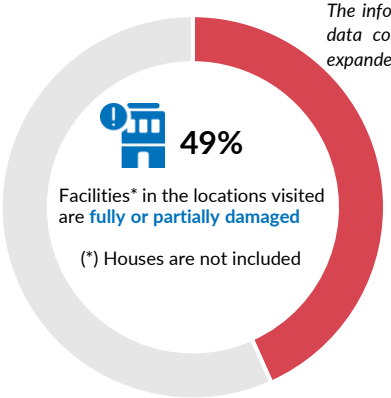
This high level of awareness suggests that community leadership systems play a significant role in local governance and decision-making.

It also indicates potential opportunities for leveraging these structures to facilitate communication, address community needs, and support the reintegration and recovery of IDP returnees and a strong recognition of the value these systems bring to the community, such as fostering social cohesion, facilitating conflict resolution, supporting collective decision-making, and addressing community needs.

91% of respondents agree that the community leadership structures are useful, highlighting the importance of these structures and underscoring their potential to play a pivotal role in recovery and development efforts, particularly for IDP returnees

MAPPING OF FACILITIES IN AREAS OF RETURN

The information in this section reflects the situation of basic facilities at the time of the data collection for the woredas covered in this report. The analysis should not be expanded at regional level.



The sum of Fully Functional, Partially Functional, Fully Damaged, and Partially Damaged facilities may not always equal the total number of facilities. This is due to the possibility of a facility being both partially functional and partially damaged, leading to overlap between categories.

Woreda	Full Damage	Partial Damage
Edaga arbi	21.5%	19.6%
Emba Sieneti	13.1%	19.0%
Endafelasi	27.7%	17.0%
Hahayle	13.7%	36.3%
Kola Temben	21.1%	25.4%

Primary Schools
Total: 132

Fully functional:	49
Partially Functional:	69
Occupied:	0
Fully Damaged:	26 (19.7%)
Partially Damaged:	67 (50.8%)

Secondary Schools
Total: 13

Fully functional:	7
Partially Functional:	6
Occupied:	0
Fully Damaged:	5 (38.5%)
Partially Damaged:	8 (61.5%)

Tertiary Schools
Total: 1

Fully functional:	0
Partially Functional:	1
Occupied:	0
Fully Damaged:	1 (100%)
Partially Damaged:	0 (0%)

Market Places
Total: 13

Fully functional:	12
Partially Functional:	2
Occupied:	0
Fully Damaged:	1 (7.7%)
Partially Damaged:	3 (23.1%)

Civil Registration Offices
Total: 56

Fully functional:	31
Partially Functional:	12
Occupied:	0
Fully Damaged:	13 (23.2%)
Partially Damaged:	11 (19.6%)

Health Facilities
Total: 55

Fully functional:	37
Partially Functional:	18
Occupied:	0
Fully Damaged:	12 (21.8)
Partially Damaged:	30 (54.5)

Water Points
Total: 1,424

Fully functional:	691
Partially Functional:	388
Occupied:	0
Fully Damaged:	340 (23.9%)
Partially Damaged:	388 (27.2%)

Grain Mills
Total: 212

Partially Functional:	159
Damaged:	40 (18.9%)

Houses

Fully Damaged:	5,636
Partially Damaged:	7,012

Banks
Total: 19

Partially Functional:	19
Damaged:	0 (0%)

This Facilities Mapping was conducted from 18 to 21 December in the Central Zone of Tigray covering 5 Woredas.

DIRECT OBSERVATION NOTES

Emba Sieneti (Nebelet)

- There is limited availability of services to support GBV survivors.
- There are 50 orphaned children (14 girls) and 214 children with single parents (102 girls).
- 166 children with disabilities (CWD) were identified, including 66 girls and 100 boys. These children are at heightened risk due to their limited access to essential child protection services, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions to ensure their safety, well-being, and access to necessary support systems.
- 441 boys and 477 girls migrated irregularly to the Middle East in search of jobs and income.
- Basic infrastructure services such as schools, health facilities, water points etc. were damaged by the conflict.
- The road from Edaga Arbi to Emba Sieneti is partially damaged and was not suitable for transportation due to floods and heavy trucks and tanks.

Hahayle (Feres-Mai)

- There is limited availability of services to support GBV survivors.
- A total of 139 orphaned children (14 girls) and 75 children with disabilities (CWD) were identified in Hahayle. These children face heightened risks due to their limited access to essential child protection services. This situation underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions to ensure their safety, well-being, and access to critical support systems, including education, healthcare, and psychosocial assistance.
- 1,050 children migrated irregularly to the Middle East in search of jobs and income.
- Similar to other Woredas, basic infrastructure services such as schools, health facilities, water points etc. were damaged by the conflict.
- The road from Emba Sieneti to Hahayle is partially damaged and in poor condition, making public transportation uncomfortable.

Endafelasi (Mai-Kental)

- Basic infrastructure services were heavily damaged including schools, health facilities, marketplaces, water points, civil administration offices, roads, etc.
- Several people at heightened risk were identified including GBV survivors, UASC, elders, CwDs with limited access to humanitarian services.

Edaga Arbi

- There is limited availability of services to support GBV survivors.
- A total of 145 children, including 101 boys and 44 girls, have become street children, facing severe challenges such as limited access to shelter, food, and proper nutrition.
- A total of 876 children, including 322 girls and 554 boys, were identified as victims of trafficking to the Middle East.
- A total of 594 orphaned children (309 girls) were reported. These children faced increased risks due to limited access to essential child protection services. This highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions to ensure their safety, well-being, and access to vital support systems, including education, healthcare, and psychosocial assistance.
- A total of 543 (265 females) individuals were identified as having chronic illnesses.
- 1,164 older persons without support network or family/caregivers (903 women) were found to be highly vulnerable.
- 42 (9 girls) child-headed households (CHH) were identified who are responsible for managing their households without adult support.
- 284 (52 females) individuals were reported to have disabilities, among them children with disabilities (CwD) with the need for specialized support services.
- Alarmingly, 43.2% of children in the assessed Woreda reported engaging in child labor activities, underscoring the urgent need for interventions to protect children's rights and ensure their access to education and safe living conditions.
- In the Woreda, 21,000 IDPs living in desperate situations with limited access to humanitarian support and essential services.
- Similar to Hahayle and Emba Sieneti, Edaga Arbi's basic infrastructure services such as schools, health facilities, water points, roads etc. including houses were damaged by the conflict.

Kola Tembien

- Children in the Woreda were forced to sleep on the streets, exposing them to extreme vulnerability, harsh living conditions, and various protection risks.
- There were high number of GBV survivors
- Kola Temben lack MHPSS support from any organizations or individuals.
- IDPs returned spontaneously on foot due to limited availability of assistance.
- In the Woreda, a significant number of IDPs have not yet returned and continue to suffer from harsh living conditions and limited access to essential humanitarian services.

CRITICAL NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Urgent need for child protection, MHPSS, and GBV services: There is an urgent need to implement child protection services, including Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) related activities. These interventions should target IDPs and IDP returnees, with a specific focus on children, women, and the elderly, and should include women and girls safe spaces (WGSS), case management, and livelihood support.

- Need for food and nutrition: It is crucial to address the heightened risk of food insecurity and malnutrition in the assessed woredas. Vulnerable populations, including IDPs, children, and the elderly, are facing severe shortages of essential food supplies and nutrients. Immediate interventions are needed to provide adequate food assistance and nutritional support to these groups to prevent further deterioration of their health and well-being.

- Diverse Livelihood, Vocational Training & Support: Provide vocational training and support returnees to engage in multiple livelihood activities such as agriculture, animal farming, small businesses, and skilled trades to reduce dependency on a single income source. Furthermore, facilitate access to microfinance and market to help returnees start or expand their businesses.

- Targeted Cash Support for Immediate and long-term relief: Implement cash transfer programs including conditional cash grants such as cash for rent, housing repair, education, etc., to provide immediate financial relief to returnees. Provide targeted cash assistance for the most vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, vulnerable women and girls. Supporting the formation of community-based savings and loan groups is also necessary to promote financial inclusion and mutual support among returnees.

- Mine clearance and Safety Education: Prioritize and fund comprehensive mine clearance operations in all affected areas to ensure the safety of returnees and the broader community. Implement reporting programs and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) to educate communities about the dangers of UXOs and safe practices to avoid accidents.

- Housing, Land and Property Support: Develop targeted housing and infrastructure rehabilitation programs to repair and rebuild damaged houses and key infrastructures, ensuring safe and adequate living conditions for returnees. Provide legal assistance to returnees to help them reclaim their property rights and resolve HLP disputes. Conduct comprehensive HLP assessments in the central zone to identify and address specific HLP needs.

- Need for humanitarian support: It is imperative to improve access to humanitarian assistance, restore livelihoods, and strengthen agricultural production in the assessed woredas to address the challenges of limited aid, disrupted livelihoods, and inadequate agricultural output, which have further exacerbated the crisis. Immediate interventions are necessary to tackle these issues and mitigate the factors driving illegal migration.

- Urgent need for basic infrastructural services: The community is suffering due to extensive damage to essential infrastructure. Addressing gaps in areas such as health, education, water supply, and roads is critical for improving the well-being of the affected population, especially vulnerable groups like IDPs, children, and the elderly.

- Shelter repair: Due to the two-year long conflict, which left many family houses either fully or partially damaged in the assessed woredas, there is a need for the maintenance and reconstruction of family homes, as well as cash assistance for shelter repairs.

Photo Gallery

Figure 2: Focus Group Discussion with communities

Figure 3: Students attending classes in severely inadequate conditions in damaged school.

Donor Support

UNHCR would like to thank the following donors for their support:

Partners