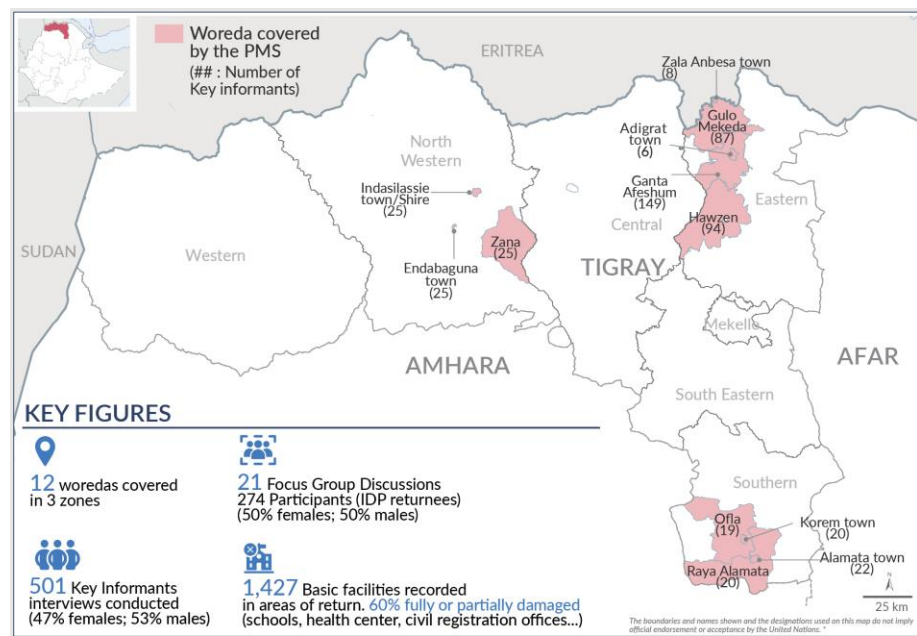


OVERVIEW

During the reporting period, a transitional administration was established in Tigray in accordance with the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed in Pretoria on the 2nd of November 2022. The partial resumption of services has improved humanitarian access to the region. Fuel and cash are currently available, and banking services are partially functioning. However, some areas including Western Tigray and a few remote border areas are still inaccessible.

This third¹ protection monitoring report on Tigray reflects the views of key informants across five zones, an effort that was achieved with the commitment of UNHCR’s partners to reach far-flung voices. The picture painted by the Key Informants (KI) remains dire, particularly for persons with disabilities, chronic illness, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), female-headed households and older persons.



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This protection monitoring report is based on the harmonized Protection Monitoring and Solutions (PMS) Tools. UNHCR and its partners, IHS, EECMY/DASSC and DICAC collected the data in February, March, and April 2023. This report covers 13 woredas in 3 zones (North-Western, Southern and Eastern). According to the PMS methodology, data and information for this report were collected through:

- **501 KIs interviews conducted:** 263 males (53%) and 238 females (47%). Of those interviewed, 58% were IDP returnees, 24% were from host community/affected population and 18% were IDPs).
- **21 focus group discussions** organized for 274 participants (IDP returnees: 50% males, 50% females).
- **1,427 basic facilities** (schools, health centers, markets, civil registration offices, etc.) recorded in the visited woredas, with 60% of them 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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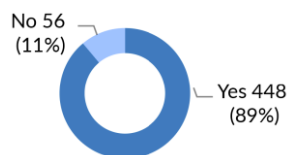
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¹ Previous protection monitoring reports are available [here](#)

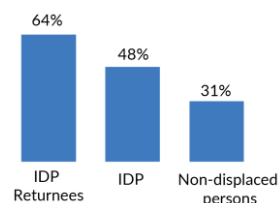
FINDINGS KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Have you observed signs of distress among the different populations in this location?



Groups of population most affected by those sign of distress



9 out of 10 key informants reported to have observed signs of distress among the different populations in their locations.





 **Women amongst IDPs and IDP returnees have been reported as the group showing more signs of distress**

Access to Fundamental Rights and Basic Needs

Persons with specific needs facing the greatest challenges or particularly disadvantaged in accessing assistance and services.



Obstacles to access basic needs

Sector	Top 3 obstacles <i>Percentages are out of the total Key informant</i>	Respondents' comments
Food* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of food (reported by 59% of Key informants) Infrequent food supply or irregular food (37%) Shortage of cash (33%) 	<i>"Even we have a land for farming our agricultural equipments are destroyed, no seed and fertilizers."</i> Female Key informant, 47 years old, IDP returnee in South Eastern zone, Saharti woreda.
Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health facilities destroyed (75%) Lack of medicine / medical supplies (72%) Healthcare staff not paid (37%) 	<i>"There is no Ambulance to facilitate health services, especially for pregnant/ birth giving women"</i> Female IDP returnee, 35 years old, Southern zone, Hintalo woreda
Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools are closed due to the conflict (72%) Schools damaged, destroyed or looted (69%) Not enough teaching and learning materials (32%) 	<i>"Food shortage, hunger, lack of food"</i> Various female IDP returnees in Southern zone.
WASH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of available water/wash facilities (57%) Insufficient water storage capacity (31%) Lack of female hygiene products (sanitary pad) (29%) 	<i>"There is no generator to pump water, the generator is looted."</i> Female IDP returnee, Zana Woreda, North-Western zone

*This report of food access during the reporting period was PRIOR to the food pause in Tigray in May

Lack of food and hunger have been reported by female IDP returnees in Southern Tigray as a main obstacle to Education of children.

Coping strategies to meet basic needs

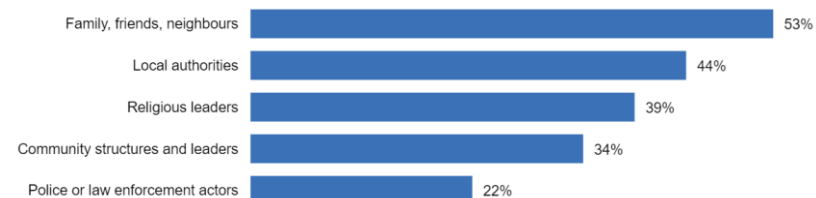
Coping Mechanism	Always	Don't know	Never	Sometimes
Begging	47%	1%	2%	50%
Buying food on credit or through borrowed money from relatives and friends	33%	1%	7%	59%
Changing place of residence and accommodation to reduce expenses	22%	7%	8%	62%
Child labor	28%	3%	14%	55%
Early Marriage for girls	9%	5%	39%	47%
Illegal activities (such as theft)	33%	3%	7%	57%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	43%	5%	8%	44%
Sold house and/or land	15%	16%	21%	49%
Transactional sex	9%	14%	18%	58%
Withdrew children from school	23%	5%	28%	45%

- Begging (47% of respondents) and selling humanitarian assistance received (43%) appear as the most common coping strategies (highest rate of 'Always').
- In North-Western zone, “Transactional sex” was reported as “Sometimes” by 58% of respondents.

Analysis: There are reports of women and girls sometimes engaging in transactional sex for meeting the most urgent life-saving needs including food, and cash for paying hospital bills or medicine etc. It is also known through observation and assessments that people are engaged in different negative coping mechanisms like begging, and substance abuse.

Access to justice and conflict resolution assistance

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



According to the respondents, families and friends are the most common source of assistance to justice or conflict resolution in the locations visited, followed by local authorities and religious leaders.

At the zonal level, families and friends were reported as the most common source of assistance to access justice in the Eastern zone (50% of respondents) and North-Western zone (70%) due to destroyed legal system at zonal, woreda, and kebele levels, except in the Southern zone where local authorities are considered as the most common source of assistance to justice (59% of respondents).

Documentation

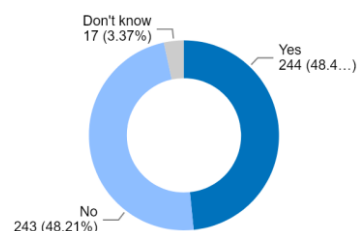
“All the civil registration office documents and materials are destroyed.”

Key informant, Head of Household, Female, 40yrs, Indasilassie town/Shire, North-Western

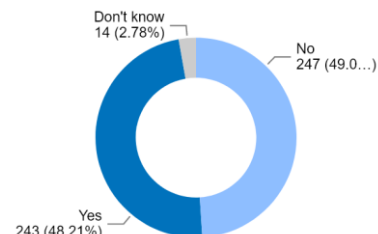
24 out of 25 respondents in Endabaguna town, North-Western zone, reported that no document could be obtained in their location. It is mainly due to the dysfunctional civil registration office at the Woreda and Kebele levels, where most of their documents and materials are looted or destroyed.

Safety and Security

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



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

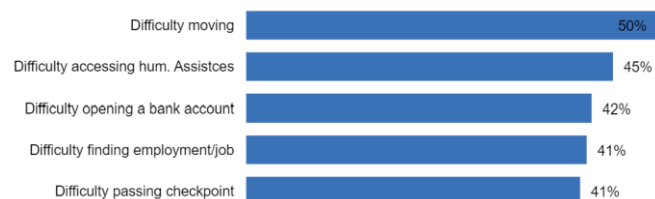


1 respondent out of 2 reported that men, boys, women, and girls are not able to move freely in their communities.

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

- **Fear of rape and harassment:** reported by 35% of total respondents, 68% of respondents in Endabaguna Town (North-Western), and 59% of respondents in Gulo Mekeda (Eastern zone).
- **Fear of robbery**
- **Insecurity or general violence and fighting in the area**

Top 5 protection risks community members encounter as a result of lacking documentation [All respondents]

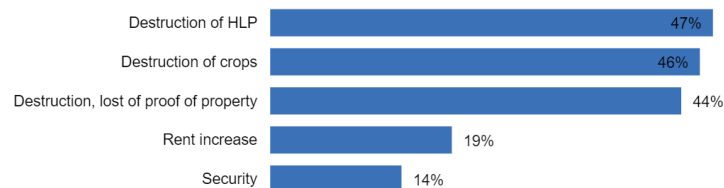


- In the Southern zone, lack of civil documentation mainly leads to limited access to basic services such as health, banking, school, etc.
- In the North-Western zone, lacking documentation mainly results in difficulty passing checkpoints and opening a bank account.
- In the Eastern zone, lacking documentation mainly result in difficulty passing checkpoint (Gulo Mekeda and Hawzen woredas) and travel restriction (Hawzen and Ganta Afeshum)

1 out of 2 respondents in all the visited locations have reported the destruction and limited presence of civil registration offices as the main barrier to having legal documentation.

Housing, Land and Property (HLP)

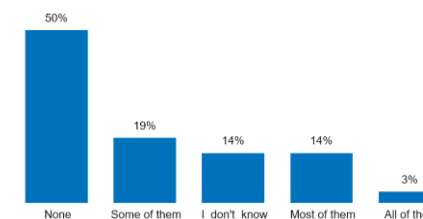
Top 5 issues faced by IDP returnees regarding housing, land and properties



- Rent increase and destruction of housing and property have been reported in Southern and North-Western as main HLP issues faced by IDP returnees.
- In Eastern zone, the main issues reported are the destruction of housing and property and the destruction of crops, and farming lands.

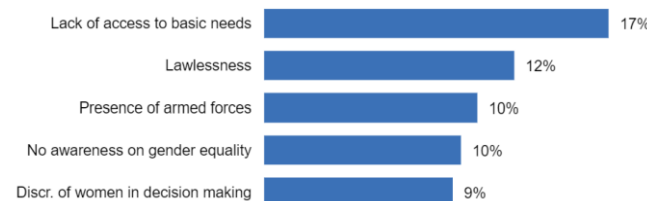
Proportion of IDPs in this location accessing land for farming

The majority of respondents said that IDPs don't have access to land for farming.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Top 5 factors currently increasing the risk of GBV and other forms of violence



During the reporting period, lack of access to basic needs, lawlessness and presence of armed groups are the top three risk factors increasing risk of GBV in all three zones covered for this report.

In the Eastern zone (Adigrat town, Ganta Afeshum and Gulo Mekeda), the presence of armed groups is a major risk factor for GBV.

In Ofla woreda (Southern zone), respondents reported early and forced marriage as a risk factor for GBV given the woman's role in the household due to her age and/or the predominance of the man's wills and opinions.

Overcrowded collective centers and shelters were reported as risk factors for GBV mostly in the North-Western zone.

Child Protection

“Lack of food, clothing and shoes leads children to beg. No safe space to play exposes them to physical violence”

Key informant, female IDP, person with disability, Female, 26yrs, Zala Anbesa town, Eastern Zone

Top 5 protection issues children (boys and girls) encounter



Anxiety/stress/trauma have been reported as significant problems affecting children in Endabaguna town (North-Western zone).

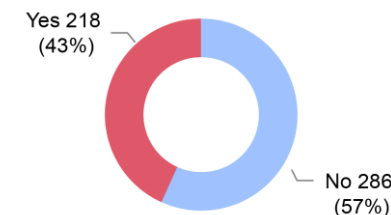
71% of respondents were aware of UASC living in their community. Separation during displacement is the key cause, followed by the death or disappearance of parents. Neighbors, friends, or acquaintances care for the vast majority of these children and very few are entirely on their own – highlighting the ongoing importance of supporting kinship or alternative care arrangements in Tigray while continuing to explore and pursue family tracing efforts.

Children are reportedly living without caregivers and need targeted assistance in Alamata town (reported by 20% of Key informants), Endabaguna town (26%) and Indasilassie Town (27%).

Explosive Ordnance

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

43% of total respondents reported being aware of incidents related to landmines.



The top 3 locations where respondents reported being aware of incidents related to unexploded ordnances and other explosives remnants of war are:

- Adigrat town, Eastern zone (83%);
- Zana, North-Western zone (60%) and
- Hawzen, Eastern zone (56%)

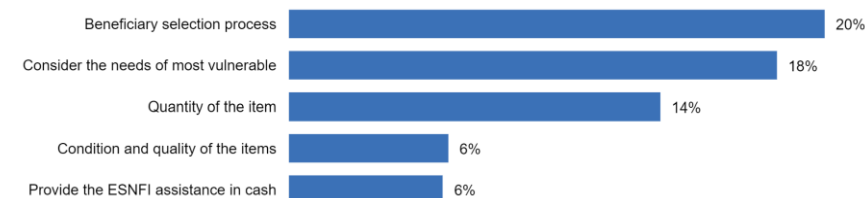
Access to information, community representation and relations

Major communication channels that people receive information

- **Local authorities**, reported by 36% of respondents.
- **Word of mouth among community members**, 19%
- **Radio** 10%

Shelter

Things to improve during shelter and Non-Food Item assistance



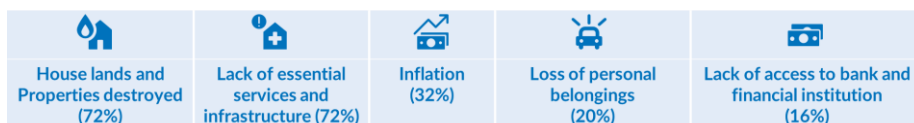
20% of respondents said that beneficiary selection process during NFI assistance has to be improved, 18% said needs of most vulnerable must be considered.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH IDP RETURNEES

This section reflects the findings of 21 focus group discussions organized with a total of 274 IDP returnees to assess [the durability of their returns, social cohesion, Housing, Land and Property \(HLP\) issues, participation, safety and security, participation in public affairs](#)



Top 5 protection issues IDP returnees are facing (Multiple selects)



Overall, 72% of respondents said destruction of house, land and property and lack of essentials services and infrastructure are the main Protection concern they are facing. 32% have reported inflation.

"We all came on foot from Adigrat or surrounding villages where we were displaced. We received no assistance to return and no assistance since we returned."

Group discussion with female returnees in Ganta Afeshum woreda, Tigray region

Where IDP returnees are currently living

Place of living	Total	Percentage
Same house they used to live before displacement	113	41%
Renting house	65	24%
In friends and relatives houses	30	11%
In the street	5	2%
In IDP sites	4	1%



Kokob Tsibah - Ganta Afeshum (Eastern zone) Home destroyed during the conflict © UNHCR

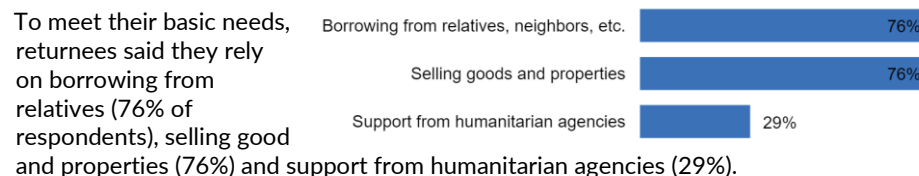
Issues IDP returnees are facing with housing

Issues with houses	Total	Percentage
Fully or partially damaged	137	41%
Evicted from their previous house (can't afford rent)	48	15%
Landmines and explosive remnants of conflict war around their houses	17	5%
Houses occupied	10	3%
Presence of armed groups preventing them to access their houses	8	2%

2 out of 5 returnees are living in their previous houses. 1 out of 5 are renting.

Regarding the issues returnees are facing with their houses, 2 out of 5 reported having their houses partially or fully damaged. Some returnees have reported being evicted from their houses as they cannot afford rent.

Basic needs, safety, family unity, relationship with other members of the community, social cohesion

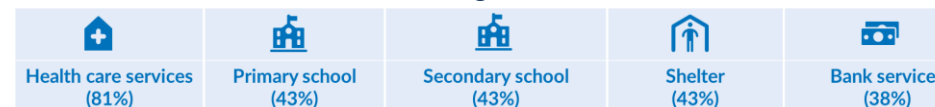


- 1 returnee in 3 doesn't feel safe in their area of return and 1 returnee out of 4 has left a family member behind (at the place of displacement) before returning.
- 86% of returnees reported good relationships with other members of their community and on the participation side, only 5% said there are things that other members of the community don't allow them to do.

"Up to now, we have not really recovered from our trauma and sometimes we hear gunshots."

Focus group discussion with female IDP returnees in Raya Alamata woreda, Southern zone

Basic facilities most in need and missing in the areas of return



Health is reported as the 2nd top priority need, and health facilities are the top basic facilities that are most in need and lacking in the return areas visited.

91% (134 out of 148) of health facilities in the locations visited are partially or fully damaged, cf. mapping of facilities page 7)

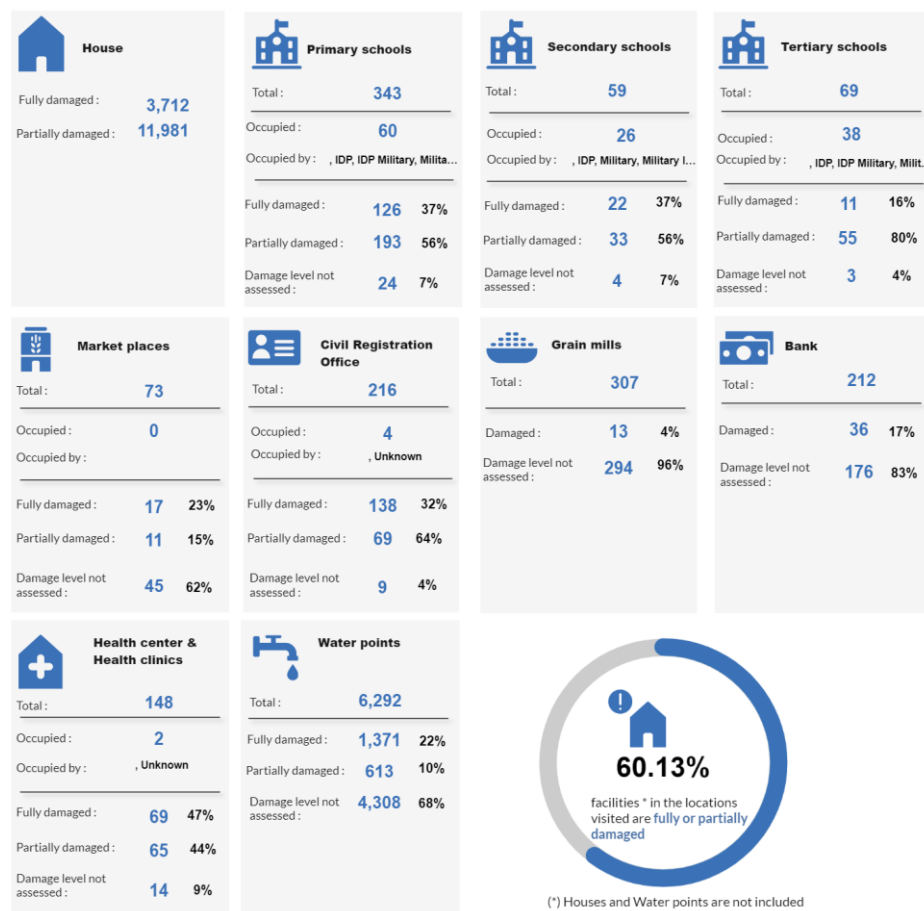
Resources:

The framework and the Questionnaires of Focus Group Discussion with 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](#)

MAPPING OF FACILITIES IN AREAS OF RETURN

60% of basic facilities in the woredas (return locations) visited are partially or fully damaged.

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.



DIRECT OBSERVATION NOTES

Zana Area (North-Western zone)

- 67 unaccompanied and separated children in the Zana IDP site with limited access to child protection services.
- Bekuretsion elementary school is occupied by armed groups, and some IDPs live with them.
- The road from Shire to Zana is damaged by floods and heavy trucks and tanks.

Shire Endasilassie Area (North-Western zone)

- The Northwestern zonal administration office is damaged /burnt.
- Cost of house rent is highly increased during the emergency period, an average of 2,000 ETB per month for a single room.
- Some community groups, such as children, women and girls are developing negative coping mechanisms such as theft, child labor, transactional sex and other harmful coping mechanisms.

Kokob Tsibah, Genta Afeshum (Eastern zone)

- All livestock, crops, grain stores and equipment have been looted or destroyed. No functioning school, health clinic, market, or woreda administration office. No police or security forces.
- Several people at heightened risk were identified, including 150 survivors of GBV, 120 HIV patients, lactating mothers, and older persons. They have limited access to medical assistance.

Fatsi, Gulo Mekeda (Eastern zone)

- IDPs returned spontaneously on foot due to the limited availability of assistance in Adigrat. Most are still registered as IDPs in Fatsi in order to continue to benefit from food assistance.
- The Fatsi Woreda administration is also displaced to Adigrat and has not yet returned.
- Acute food and WASH shortage reported.
- The Fatsi health center is destroyed.
- Most of the people run small businesses in Fatsi. Those interviewed were owners of bars, coffee shops, hair salons, teachers or daily labourers. It was a trading post and business-oriented town.

- Many lost the roof or doors of their homes – their property was looted or destroyed. They sleep in their damaged homes.

Families are reportedly split between Fatsi and Adigrat. Many female-headed households live in Fatsi while their husbands remain in Adigrat.

CRITICAL NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Urgent need for MHPSS activities targeting IDPs and IDP returnees with a focus on women.
- Urgent need for food: The food quotas in all visited woredas are too little or do not reach IDPs and IDP returnees. Food cluster partners responsible for these woredas should urgently distribute food to the entire population of each woreda and/or support other alternative feeding options.
- Urgent need for health interventions, including HIV medicines and nutrition support: To cover the limited functional health centers in the visited areas, the Health Cluster should support including with the urgent set up of mobile clinics, rotating health posts, field nurses and medicines.
- Shelter repair: Many family houses are totally or partially destroyed, especially in Kokob Tsibah. Affected people live in their damaged buildings and open spaces. There is an urgent need for cash assistance, emergency shelters and/or shelter repair kits for the most affected villages.
- CBI for livelihood and farming equipment/seeds and livestock: Many visited woredas direly need cash and material support to restart their economy scheme, local markets, and resume sustainable livelihoods to keep vulnerable populations away from negative coping mechanisms.
- Need for coordinated CP, MHPSS and GBV activities through the GBV/CP AORs and MHPSS working groups. Partners need to expand their reach beyond the Adigrat town center.
- UXO/EO education and clearance are urgently needed: Protection Cluster to continue advocacy for comprehensive Mine Actions in Tigray.
- Support to the resumption of public services: protection and humanitarian assistance will be better provided if official and public administration offices are fully functional.
- The African Union Joint Monitoring Mission to assess and ensure the effective implementation of the peace agreement at the local and field level.

Photo Gallery



FGD with men in Fatsi health center partially destroyed © UNHCR



Kokob Tsibah - Home destroyed during the conflict © UNHCR


Partners



Donor support

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



 To make PMS data more interactive and user-friendly for partners, an in-depth analysis on PMS data can also be obtained through the interactive below:

[Key informants](#)

[Focus group discussion with IDP returnees](#)

[Facility Mapping in areas of return](#)