

Protection monitoring report #9

Tigray region | Mekelle, North Western, Central, Southern and Eastern zones October 2022

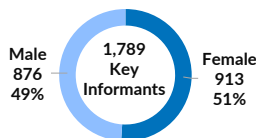
Context

During the reporting period (June-August 2022), a ceasefire remained in place between the Tigray Defense Force and Ethiopian National Defense Forces. Humanitarian access to the region improved. Despite the more frequent arrival of trucks carrying food and aid into Tigray, a lack of fuel, cash and affordability of vehicles to transport these items to remote areas greatly hindered the response. This second protection monitoring report on Tigray now reflects the views of Key Informants (KIs) across five zones, an effort that was achieved with the commitment of UNHCR's partners to reach far-flung voices. The picture they paint remains dire, particularly for persons with specific needs including disability, chronic illness, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), female-headed households and the elderly. On 24 August 2022, active warfare resumed at the Southern front of Tigray and Amhara, ending an almost eight-month truce.

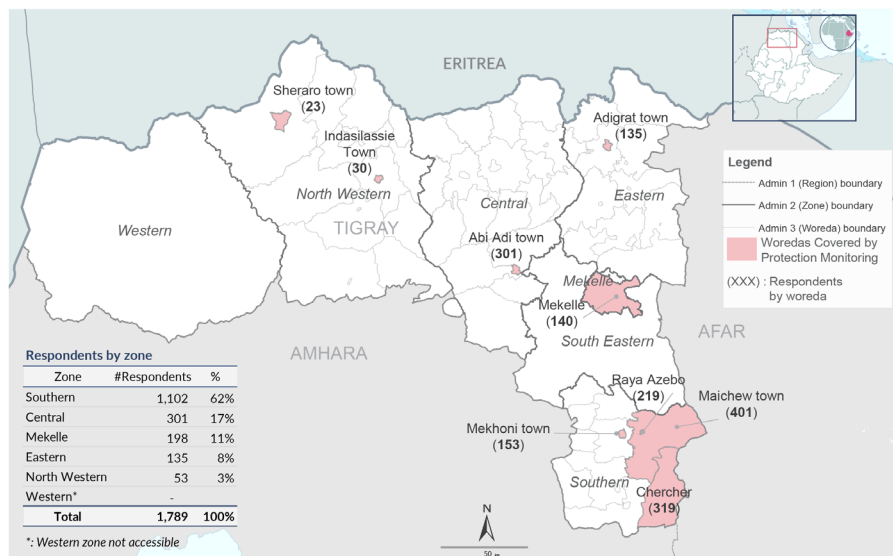
Key informant profiles & areas covered

This protection monitoring report is based on the harmonized Ethiopia Protection Monitoring Tool (E-PMT). Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS) and Imagine One Day (I1D) collected the data during the months of June, July and August 2022 under UNHCR partnership.

- For this report, a total of 1,789 KIs were interviewed in the Mekelle, North Western, Central, Southern and Eastern zones: 876 males (49%) and 913 females (51%).
- Of those interviewed, 277 (15%) were heads of IDP households, 153 (9%) were members of IDP Community representation structures or IDP leaders, 133 (7%) were teachers or school administrators and 488 (27%) came from other categories, such as community volunteers, women and youth leaders and humanitarian workers.
- 36% of KI interviews took place in collective sites, whereas the remainder took place in urban areas hosting displaced persons, host community and/or returnees. This reflects the changing nature of displacement in Tigray – with 10,646 returns supported by UNHCR and partners since the previous protection monitoring report on Tigray was published in March, and 17 collective sites closed across the region (11 in Mekelle AOR and 6 in Shire AOR).



Category of Key Informant	Total	%
Head of IDP Household	277	15%
Member of IDP Community representation Structures / IDP Leader	153	9%
Teacher or School Administrator	133	7%
Community volunteer	126	7%
Community-based organization	43	2%
Female Leader	99	6%
Local Authorities	78	4%
Medical Staff (Doctors, Nurses)	90	5%
Religious Leader	88	5%
Site Management	10	1%
Youth Leader	58	3%
Representative of associations for persons with disabilities	65	4%
Humanitarian Worker	81	5%
Other*	488	27%
Grand Total	1,789	100%



Population Movement

41% of respondents have reported new displacement to their locations, especially in Maichew town, Mekhoni town and Chercher in the Southern zone. These include IDPs from Afar and Amhara due to ongoing clashes at this Southern border axis during the reporting period.

92% of respondents in Abi Adi reported no new movement to and from the displaced community there.

67% of respondents in Adigrat reported pendular movements to and from displacement sites. This figure may be explained by several reasons. The areas of origin are at the border with Eritrea where sporadic clashes can cause households to return again to their site of displacement. The difficulty to pay house rent and/or secure humanitarian assistance in areas of origin is another stated reason. Third, some households return to and from displacement areas in order to harvest beles or cactus fruit, a popular food in rural areas of the North East.

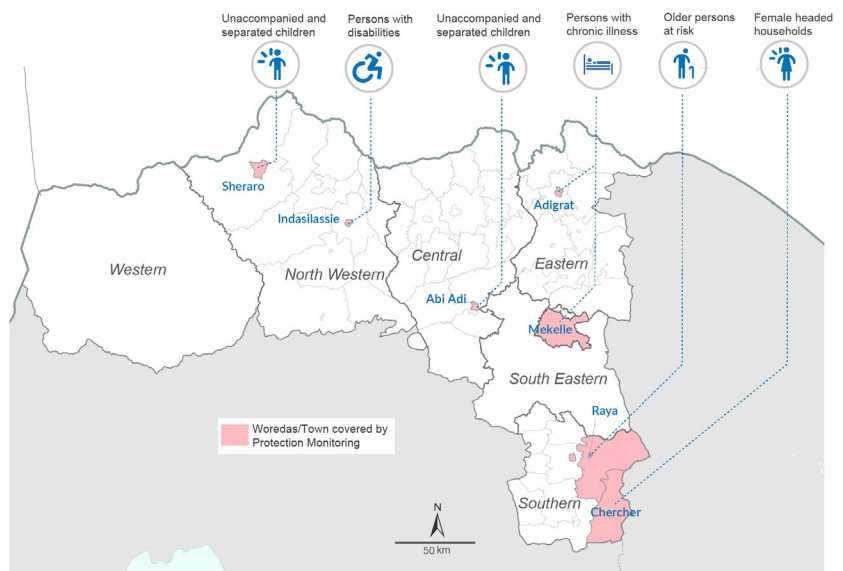
Access to Fundamental Rights and Basic Needs

Persons with specific needs facing the greatest challenges by location are:

- Those with chronic illness in Mekelle and Adigrat, at 89 and 70% respectively.
- Persons with disabilities in Indasilassie town at 67%.
- UASC living in Shiraro and Abi Adi at 74 and 78% respectively.
- Older persons in Raya (Southern Zone) at 65%.
- Female headed households in Chercher (Southern Zone) at 68%.

As was reported in March, these challenges are due to the insufficient identification of their specific needs, or because the assistance and services they need are unavailable. In addition

to the particularly severe impact that the blockade has had on those needing nutritional supplements, medicine and assistance devices, in comments provided by individual KIs, it was noted that persons with chronic illness or disability were unable to advocate for their specific needs because they could not easily move to access services and/or information without a caregiver, and because they cannot work. In some cases, KIs reported this group to be 'marginalised', 'lacking serious attention', 'forgotten' or 'helpless'. For these reasons, the abovementioned groups need special attention in the locations where their needs are overlooked.



Persons with specific needs facing the greatest challenges by location

Risk of eviction and pressure on IDPs to leave IDP sites/camps and collective centers

643 respondents are living in camp/Site/Collective Centre and **12% of them have reported risk of eviction and pressure on the IDPs to leave the sites.**

Zone	Woreda	IDP Sites under threat of eviction
Central	Abi Adi town	Raesi Alula Highschool TVET (Adebay 1)
Mekelle	Mekelle	May woyni secondary school
North Western	Indasilassie town (Shire)	Tsehaye Elementary school Fresewat secondary school
Southern	Maichew town	Musie
Eastern	Adigrat town	Meda Agame Finote Birhan Secondary school

Table1. IDP sites reported under threat of eviction or pressure on IDP to leave according to respondents

Access to humanitarian assistance and services

- Access to health services is reported as bad or very bad by 100% of KIs across all locations. It has the highest inaccessibility rating. Access to health services is slightly better, however, in the North West and Mekele Zones, than in the Central and Southern Zones of Tigray.
- Access to food is assessed as bad or very bad by 98% of KIs and access to sanitation as bad or very bad by 91% across all locations. 89% of respondents reported that food and nutrition is the top priority basic need in their area of reporting.
- In **Abi Adi town** (central zone), access to food is rated very bad at 100%, access to shelter very bad at 99% and health very bad at 99%.

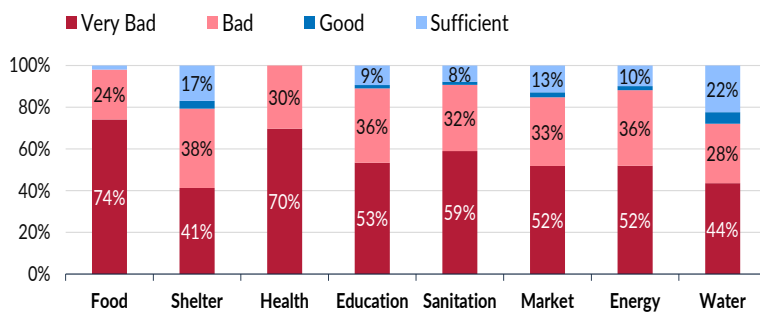


Figure 5. Rating of accessibility of basic needs and main obstacle to access basic needs

Basic needs	Main obstacles
Health	- Doctors and other staff members are still not paid; - Lack of medicine
Food	Blockade and unfair distribution
Water	- No water due to a lack of power and fuel, - Contaminated water, - Many resort to river water several hours from their homes
Sanitation	- Price of soap being prohibitively expensive, - Lack of available water and WASH facilities
Energy	Lack of power energy and expensive firewood
Shelter/NFI	- Lack of sex segregation, - Shelter crowded, - No mattress and no blankets
Education	- Schools and education materials destroyed and teachers are without salary for about a year.
Market	- Lack of money and high price

Abi Adi town has the highest rate of “very bad access” to basic needs amongst all the locations covered and among all sectors (health, food, WASH, energy, shelter, markets and education) during the reporting period.

Coping strategies to obtain basic needs

While these were reported as “common” coping mechanisms in March, the following have now become “very common” coping strategies: begging (43% of respondents), selling or exchange of personal possessions or productive assets (23% of respondents), and selling humanitarian assistance received (22% of respondents). Girls and boys dropping out of school to work were reported as “very common” by 40% of respondents in Mekhoni town (Southern zone). While girls and boys were reported to rarely drop out of school in Abi Adi, begging is reported as a very common coping mechanism by 81% of respondents

	Never	Sometimes	Common	Very Common	Always	No Answer	Total
Early Marriage	47%	25%	16%	6%	1%	4%	100%
Girls dropping Out of School to Work	22%	22%	31%	18%	5%	2%	100%
Boys dropping Out of School to Work	22%	24%	28%	19%	5%	2%	100%
Humanitarian assistance	16%	30%	16%	16%	22%	1%	100%
Illegal activities (such as theft)	21%	31%	24%	18%	4%	1%	100%
Begging	1%	15%	29%	43%	11%	0%	100%
Support from local/host communities	16%	50%	20%	7%	6%	1%	100%
Support from local authorities	44%	36%	11%	4%	3%	2%	100%
Use savings	84%	13%	2%	0%	0%	1%	100%
Borrow or loan money	52%	26%	15%	4%	3%	1%	100%
Working and salaries	60%	29%	9%	1%	0%	1%	100%
Sell or exchange personal possessions or productive assets	19%	18%	32%	23%	8%	1%	100%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	9%	22%	36%	22%	9%	2%	100%

Figure 6. Coping mechanisms to meet with basic needs

interviewed there. Respondents in Abi Adi also reported that the affected population hardly ever rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their needs there, **indicating a serious lack of assistance and/or targeted assistance in that area.**

While early marriage was previously reported to take place “never” by 97% of KI’s in March, 25% of respondents reported this time that it takes place “sometimes” in Adigrat (30%), Hadnet (52%), Indasallasie (30%), Chercher (41%), Mekhoni (49%), Raya (22%) and Maichew (24%). Only in Abi Adi did 100% of KIs report that early marriage never took place.

*KIs across all locations also noted that **survival sex, prostitution, the sale of wood, water or charcoal, the planting of vegetables and low paid daily labour, are other common coping mechanisms.***

Freedom of movement

The majority of respondents in Raya Azebo and Chercher woredas (Southern zone) have reported that men, boys, women and girls can hardly move in their locations. The main reasons reported are curfew and fear of robbery for men, and harassment and fear of kidnapping for women. As the area shares a border with Afar and Amhara, a 6PM curfew has been in place since the onset of the conflict. Moreover owing to high military presence in the area, freedom of movement is negatively affected.

Respondents of either sex otherwise had little problem with freedom of movement in the Mekelle, Central, Eastern and North West Zones of Tigray.

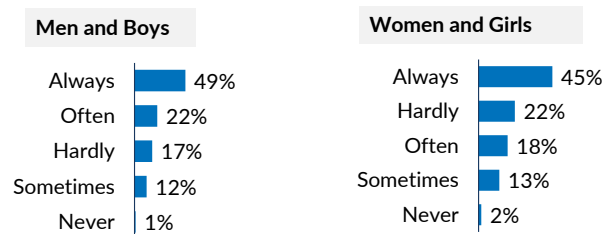


Figure 7. Freedom of movement
Are men and boys able to move freely in your community?
Are women and girls able to move freely in your community?

Access to justice and conflict resolution

As reported in March, family and community leaders remain the most common source of assistance for access to justice or conflict resolution in Tigray. Unfortunately, respondents reported that Protection Desks have decreased in use for this type of query except for in Hadnet woreda, Mekele Zone. Police and law enforcement remain rarely solicited too. UNHCR, in partnership with EECMY and in collaboration with Mekelle University, are providing legal assistance to IDPs and refugees in response to this gap. Since March 2022, they have referred, counseled or trained over 4000 beneficiaries.

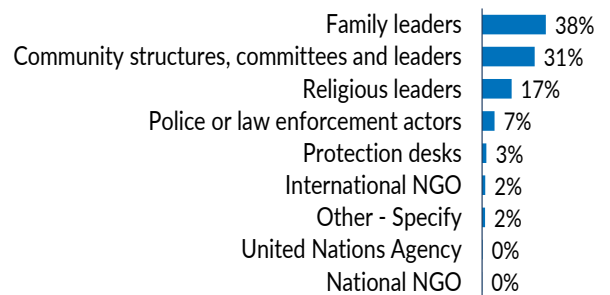


Figure 8. How are people most likely to approach with protection concerns, problems, and disputes

Documentation

Aside from Kebele IDs, other types of documentation such as birth, death and marriage certificates, are very difficult for IDPs to obtain in Tigray. Kebele IDs were also reportedly available to varying degrees depending upon location, with 100% availability in Mekele, Shiraro and Indasalassie towns, yet only 5% availability in Maichew and 14% in Aidgrat. Barriers to obtaining documentation include the lack of, or inability to access a civil registration office, no clearance or capacity by the Kebele office itself, and because the location of displacement does not have records of those temporarily residing there. This latter problem has been in part addressed by the enrolment of thousands of IDPs across Tigray by the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs, and the issuance of a temporary biometric card to heads of households. Further, UNHCR’s partner EECMY has helped facilitate the restoration of 1702 Kebele IDs to IDPs in the Southern Zone.

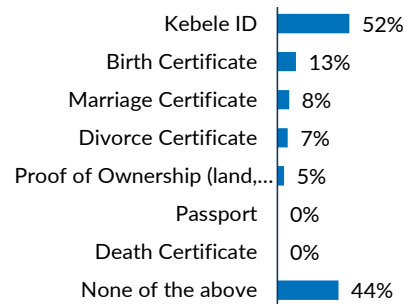


Figure 9. Documents IDPs can obtain in community/site/village

Housing, Land and Property (HLP)

As reported in March, destruction of housing and property was the top rated HLP concern reported by KIs. 73% of respondents in Indisalassie town reported that their homes or property were destroyed in the conflict. This was followed by 54% in Abi Adi, 53% in Adigrat and 44% in Mekelle town.

Forced evictions remain of concern in Mekelle Zone at 46% although this has dropped significantly since March when it was reported by 93% of KIs to be of concern. Home security, HLP disputes and land swapping remain of little concern.

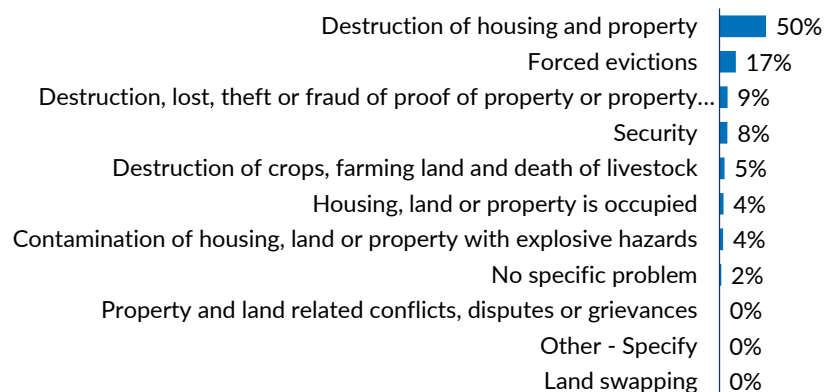


Figure 11 Main HLP concerns

Gender-Based Violence

“Access to assistance and services” is reported as the top problem faced by women and girls by 30% of respondents. In March, a larger majority of respondents had reported “no safe space and privacy” as the most significant problems they faced, but KI interviews took place in Mekelle and Indasilassie towns only. In Mekelle, a lack of safe space and privacy still remains the number one concern faced by women and girls,

especially in Hadnet woreda at 91%. Efforts have been underway to reduce the congested nature of sites in this woreda, and to ensure sex segregation where appropriate. For example, partition work was carried out in Maywoini Secondary School – resulting in 11 new sex segregated rooms for women and girls.

In March, the presence of armed forces was reported to be the main risk factor for GBV and other forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls in Mekelle Zone and Indasallasie towns.

During the reporting period, lack of access to basic needs and unsafe routes to collect water and firewood are the two top risk factors reported by women and girls for GBV in all five zones covered for this report. In Abi Adi, however, the presence of armed forces still remains the highest risk factor of GBV for women and girls.

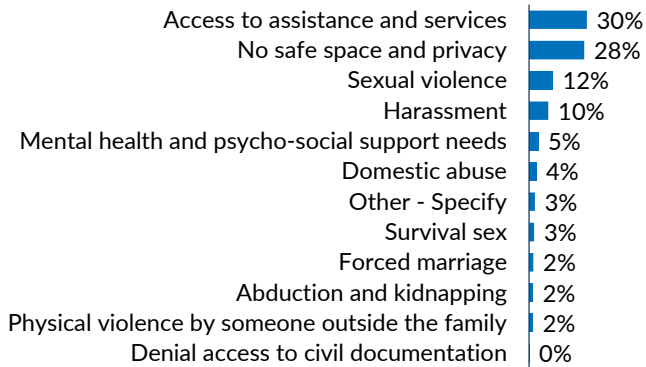


Figure 12a. Most significant problems women and girls are facing in the community

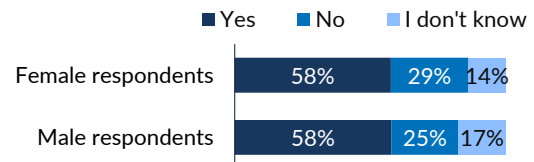


Figure 12b. In your view, is GBV currently a key concern in your location?

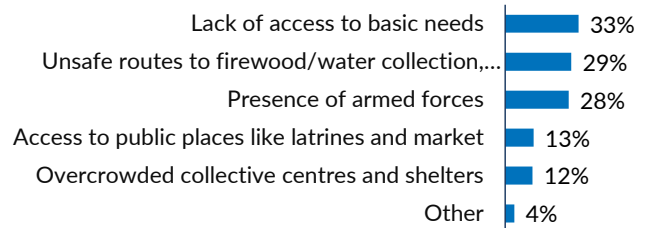
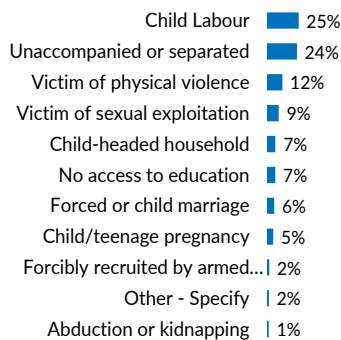


Figure 12c. Factors currently increasing the risk of GBV and other forms of violence

Child Protection

Child protection concerns affecting girls



Child protection concerns affecting boys

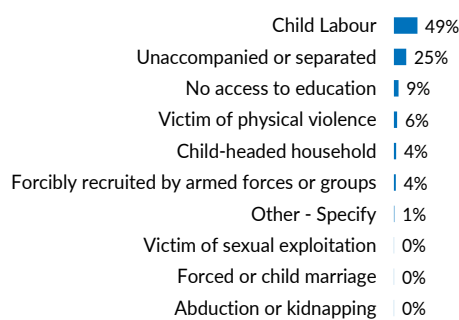


Figure 13a. Child protection concern affecting girls and boys

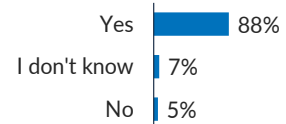


Figure 13b. Are there unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) been reported?

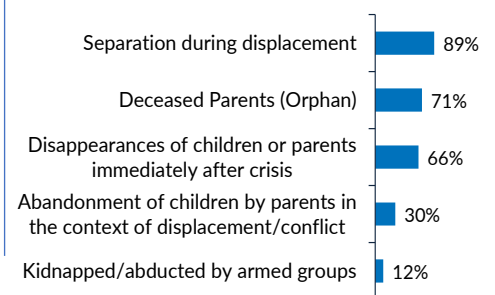


Figure 13c. Main causes of UASC

Child labour and separation from parents and relatives remain the key reported concerns for both boys and girls in all five zones in Tigray. Child labour, however, is of greater concern among boys at 49% than girls at 25%.

88% of respondents were aware of UASC living in their areas of reporting. Separation during displacement is the key cause, followed by 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 forms of care in Tigray while continuing to explore and pursue family tracing

efforts. Locations where some children are reportedly living without caregivers, and need special attention are Adigrat (30%), Maichew (19.53%), Sheraro (18.8%), Chercher (17.83%) and Mekhoni towns (12.59%).

Explosive hazards

Although 65% of total respondents reported not to be aware of any incidents related to landmines, in Sheraro town (North Western zone), 83% of respondents have reported being aware of incidents related to landmines, unexploded ordnances or other explosive remnants of war in their locations or surroundings during the last 3 months.

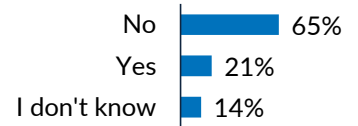


Figure 13. Are you aware of any incidents related to landmines, unexploded ordnances, or other explosive remnants of war during the last 3 months (All respondents)

Access to information, community representation and relations

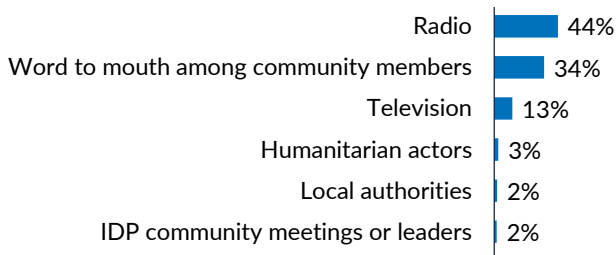


Figure 14. Means by which people receive information in general

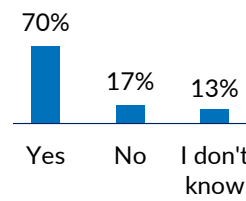


Figure 15. Existence of any IDP community structure to discuss and address issues and needs of the IDP community

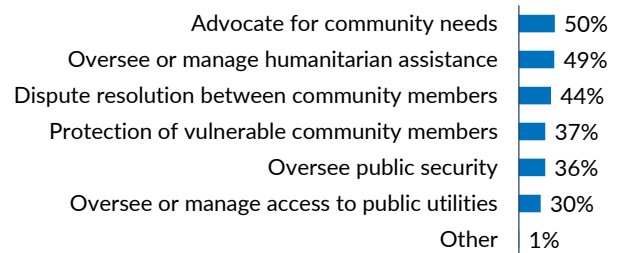


Figure 16. Purpose of IDP community structures (Multiple choices)

Radio remains the main source by which people in Tigray receive information in general (about areas of origin, the security situation or humanitarian assistance). This is followed by word of mouth. IDP representative structures remain in place across all zones and provide a wide array of support ranging from advocating for community needs to overseeing public security. In Mekelle, while 92% of respondents reported that their IDP leadership structures are legitimate, the percentages elsewhere range between 15% legitimacy for some (in Mekhoni) to 68% legitimacy for most (in Raya). Support to improving the capacity and representative nature of community leaders in other zones outside of Mekelle is needed.

Partners



Donor support

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

