EU IM3 PROJECT | ETHIOPIA | PROTECTION MONITORING AND SOLUTIONS (PMS)

Benishangul Gumuz Region | Bambasi Woreda | December 2025

OVERVIEW

A total of 12,668 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently residing in Bambasi Woreda/District, distributed across two IDP sites: IDP Site 01 (2,220 individuals) and IDP Site 02 (10,448 individuals). These displaced communities have been unable to return to their original places of residence due to persistent security threats from unidentified armed groups. The fear of renewed attacks has made voluntary return unsafe and infeasible. On the other hand, Benishangul-Gumuz hosts 109,252 Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees across four camps further straining services and already available scarce resources.
The EU-funded IM3 project provides sustainable support to individuals displaced by conflict and natural disasters, as well as to their host communities, across the Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Tigray regions.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Protection Monitoring and Solutions (PMS) Report was developed in collaboration with UNHCR's protection partner, Plan International, under the EU IM3 Project, within the protection monitoring and solutions component. It presents an in-depth analysis of protection needs in Benishangul-Gumuz Region, specifically in Bambasi Woreda across the two IDP sites of IDP 01 and IDP 02. The report identifies individuals and groups with heightened vulnerabilities and provides actionable recommendations for humanitarian response based on quantitative data. The data collection was conducted in 19-27 November 2025, through 100 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), including 97 IDPs and 3 others (1 Humanitarian worker, 1 Teacher, 1 Medical Staff).

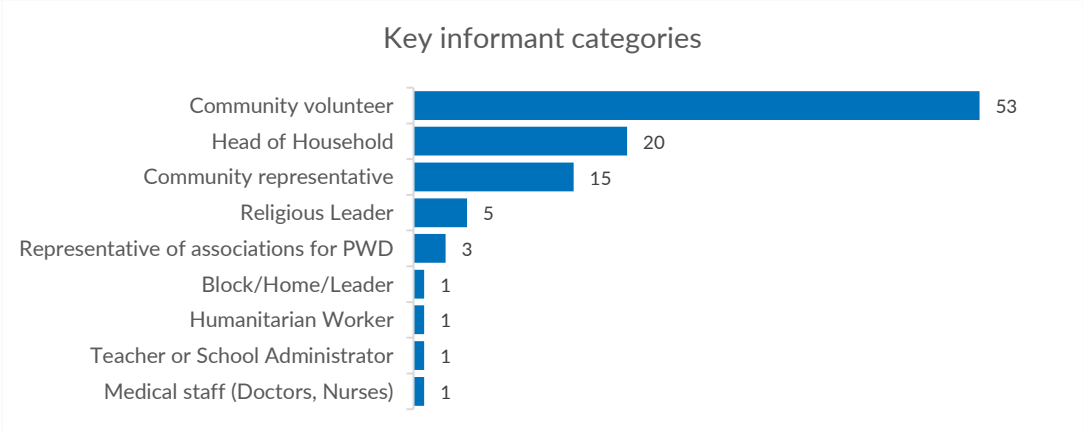
KEY INFORMANTS PROFILE

100 Key informants

49 (49 %) Female

51 (51 %) Male

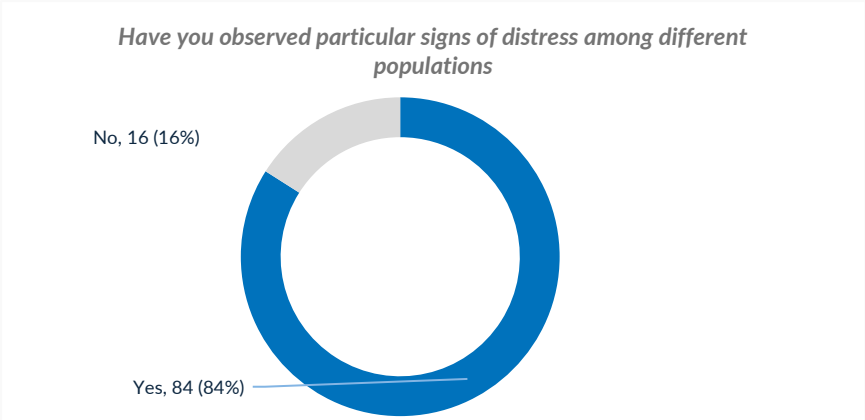
Key informants' category



FINDINGS OF THE KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

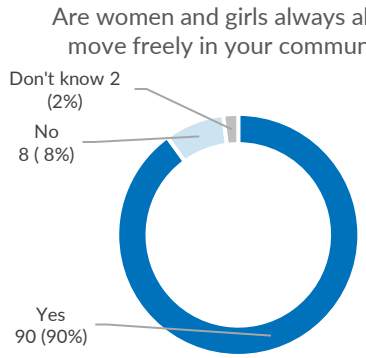
Sector	Top 3 obstacles to access basic needs by community members *Percentages are out of the total of 100 Key informants*
Food	• Lack of food – 94% • Shortage of cash – 87% • Inflation (can't afford to buy food/high price) – 37%
Health	• Lack of medicine/medical supplies/medical support – 42% • Can't afford medical fees – 19% • Logistical constraints (no transport, fuel) – 19%
Education	• Not enough teaching and learning materials (textbooks, pens, blackboards, etc.) – 85% • Cannot afford scholastic materials and/or uniforms, other fees – 79% • Lack of safety for children on their way to/from school – 41%
WASH	• Bathing and latrines facilities do not have lights/ not lockable– 56% • Insufficient number of latrines and shower– 31% • Lack of female hygiene products (sanitary pad)– 23%

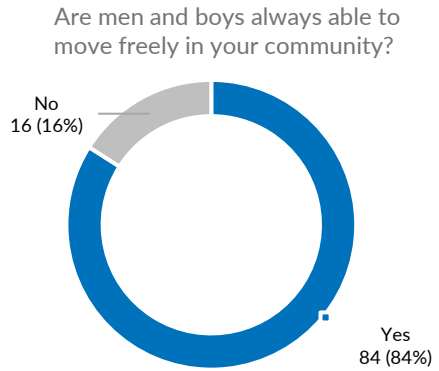
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



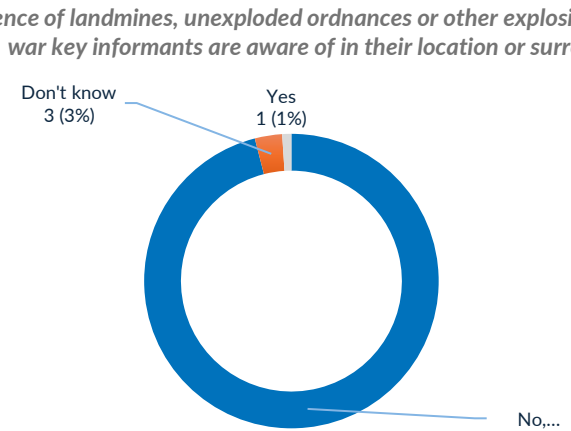
- *84% (84) of informants reported observing signs of distress and suggests a high prevalence of visible psychological or emotional distress within the community, underscoring the need for targeted MHPSS interventions and further assessment to understand the nature and drivers of these distress signals.*

Safety and security



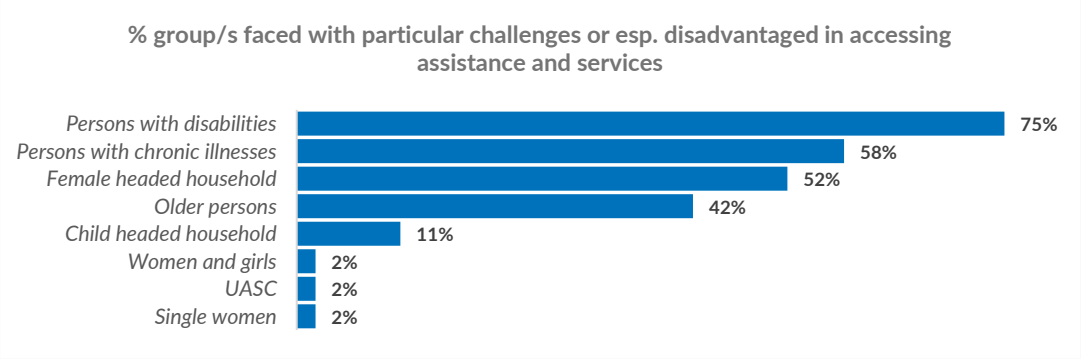


Explosive Ordnance



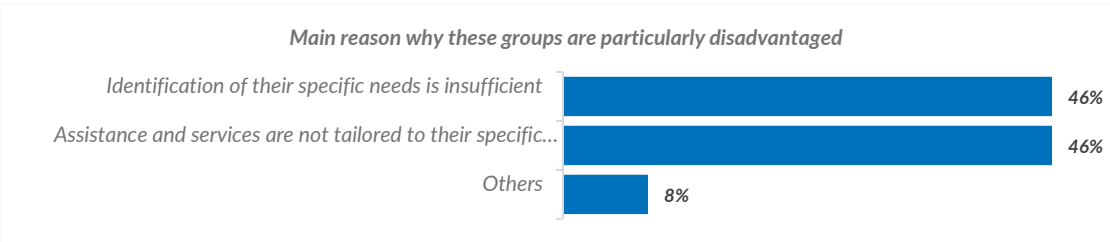
- *Presence of EOs is rare and was reported by 1% of the key informants but this rare finding must not abandon our discussions and awareness raising campaigns around protection from EOs, etc.*

Access to Fundamental Rights and Basic Needs



- *Some groups face pronounced challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance and essential services. The most affected group is persons with disabilities, representing three out of four respondents (75%) identifying them as especially disadvantaged. Persons with chronic illnesses (58%), and female-headed households (52%), both of which experience significant barriers due to health, caregiving burdens, and social vulnerabilities.*

- ***Older persons** (42%) also face notable difficulties, often linked to mobility limitations and lack of support networks. Child-headed households (11%) are at risk due to their age and lack of adult guidance, while women and girls, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and single women each cited by only 2% may be underrepresented in reporting or face hidden barriers not fully captured in the data.*



- *Insufficient identification of needs (46%): many individuals are not properly assessed or recognized for their unique vulnerabilities. Without accurate identification, they may be overlooked in targeting, registration, or prioritization processes.*
- *Lack of tailored support (46%): services and assistance are often not adapted to meet the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, older persons, or female-headed households. This mismatch can result in exclusion, ineffective aid, or even harm.*

Coping Mechanism

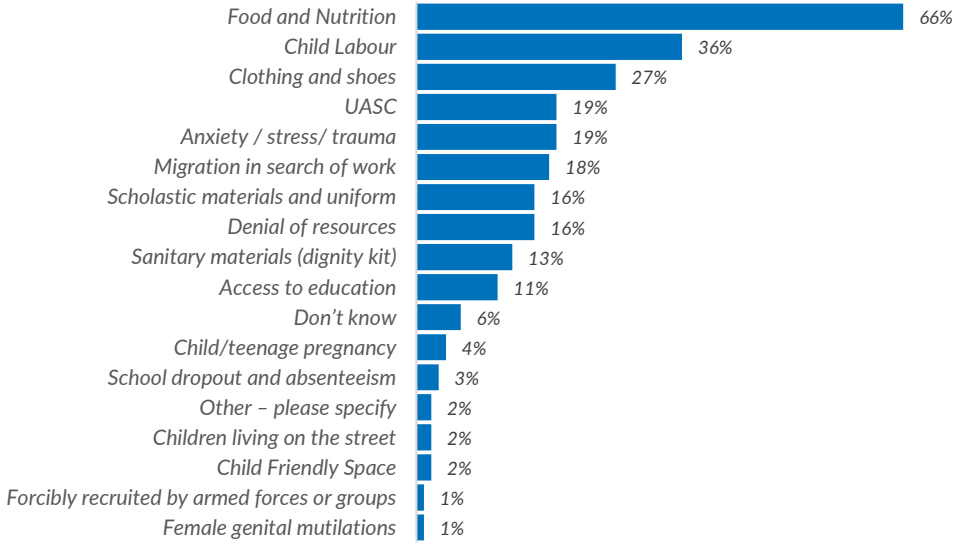
Coping Mechanism	Always	Don't know	Never	Sometimes
Begging	2%	10%	7%	81%
Buying food on credit or through borrowed money from relatives and friends	3%	4%	4%	89%
Changing place of residence and accommodation to reduce expenses	3%	8%	9%	80%
Child labor	2%	8%	3%	87%
Early Marriage for girls	1%	5%	6%	88%
Illegal activities (such as theft)	3%	10%	18%	69%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	3%		13%	84%
Sold house and/or land	3%	8%	36%	53%
Transactional sex	1%	19%	11%	69%
Withdrew children from school		7%	6%	87%

Commonly, coping mechanisms were reported with moderate frequency and ranked in their order of magnitude as follows.

- Buying food on credit or borrowing from relatives and friends: 89%
- Early marriage for girls: 88%
- Withdrawing children from school: 87%
- Child labor: 87%
- Selling humanitarian assistance received: 84%
- Begging: 81%
- Changing residence to reduce expenses: 80%
- Illegal activities (such as theft): 69%
- Transactional sex: 69%
- Sold house and/or land: 53%

Child protection

What are the most significant problems children (boys and girls) are facing?



MOST URGENT CONCERN

- **Food and nutrition (66%):** by far the most cited issue, indicating widespread concern about children's access to adequate meals and nourishment.
- **Child protection and wellbeing:** child labour (36%) is a major issue, suggesting that many children are engaged in work that may hinder their development.
- **Unaccompanied and separated children (19%):** reflect risks related to displacement, migration, or family separation.
- **Anxiety, stress, and trauma (19%):** highlights the emotional toll children are facing, due to conflict, displacement, or instability.
- **Migration in search of work (18%):** points to economic pressures forcing children into mobility, often without protection.

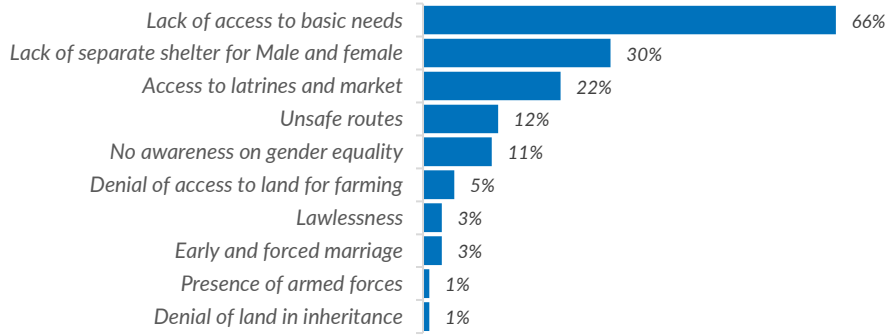
BASIC NEEDS AND RESOURCES

- **Clothing and shoes (27%) and scholastic materials and uniform (16%):** indicate gaps in essential items for daily life and school participation.
- **Denial of resources (16%):** suggests systemic or household-level barriers to accessing support.
- **Sanitary materials (13%):** a gender-sensitive concern, especially affecting girls' dignity and school attendance.

EDUCATION-RELATED CHALLENGES: access to education (11%); school dropout and absenteeism (3%), and child/teenage pregnancy (4%), all point to barriers in continuing education, with pregnancy and dropout rates affecting long-term outcomes.

Gender-Based Violence

What factors currently increase the risk of GBV and other forms of violence in your location



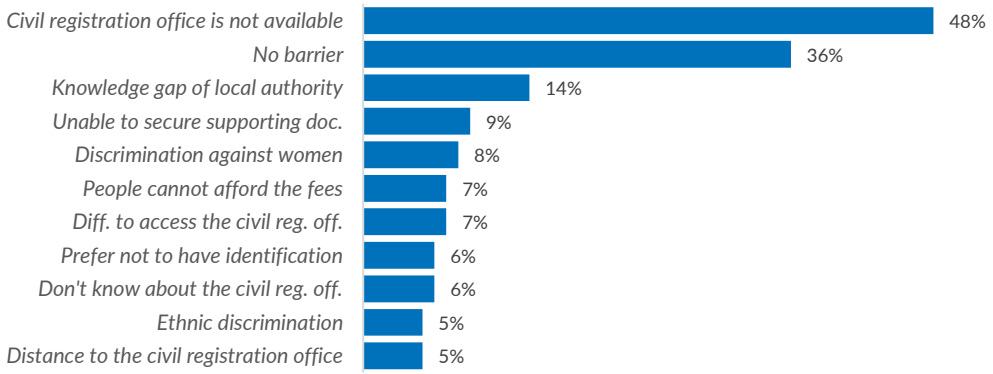
- A complex set of factors are contributing to heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and other forms of harm within the community. Among the main factors currently increasing the risk of GBV and other forms of violence in the location are:
  - Lack of access to basic needs – cited by **66%** of respondents
  - Lack of separate shelter for male and female – **30%**
  - Limited access to latrines and markets – **22%**
  - Unsafe routes – **12%**
  - No awareness on gender equality – **11%**

Documentation

Types of documents IDPs can obtain in their communities

- While basic identification documents like IDPs card provided by the support of UNHCR and Kebele ID are relatively obtainable, legal and civil documentation such as birth certificates and proof of property ownership remain largely inaccessible to most IDPs. This gap can significantly affect their ability to access services, claim rights, or participate in formal systems.

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



- Both structural barriers (such as absence or inaccessibility of civil registration offices) and informational gaps (among authorities and communities) are major challenges. Gender-based discrimination also plays a significant role, affecting women's ability to obtain documentation.

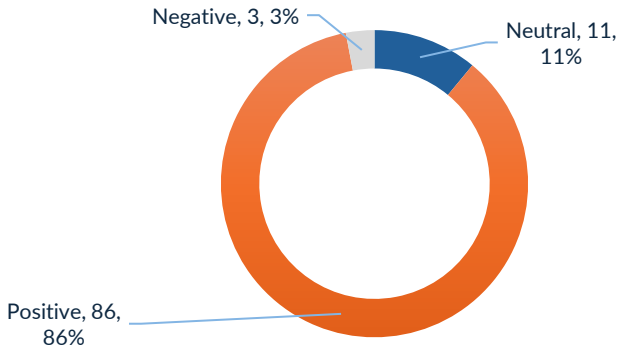
Housing, Land, and Property

Proportion of IDPs accessing land for farming

- ***Access to farming land*** is extremely limited for IDPs, which can severely impact their food security, livelihoods, and self-reliance.

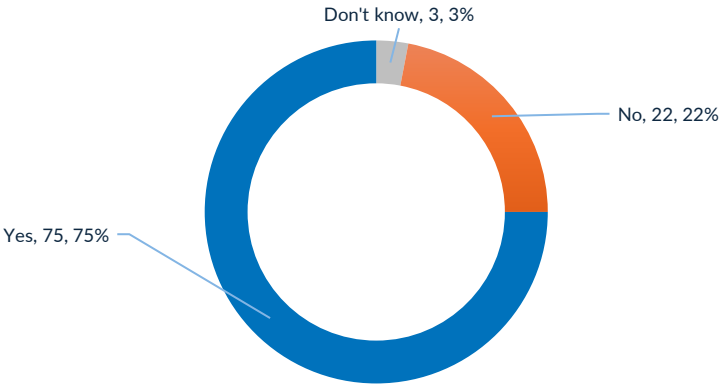
Social Cohesion

How the relationship between host community and IDPs is described



Community Representation

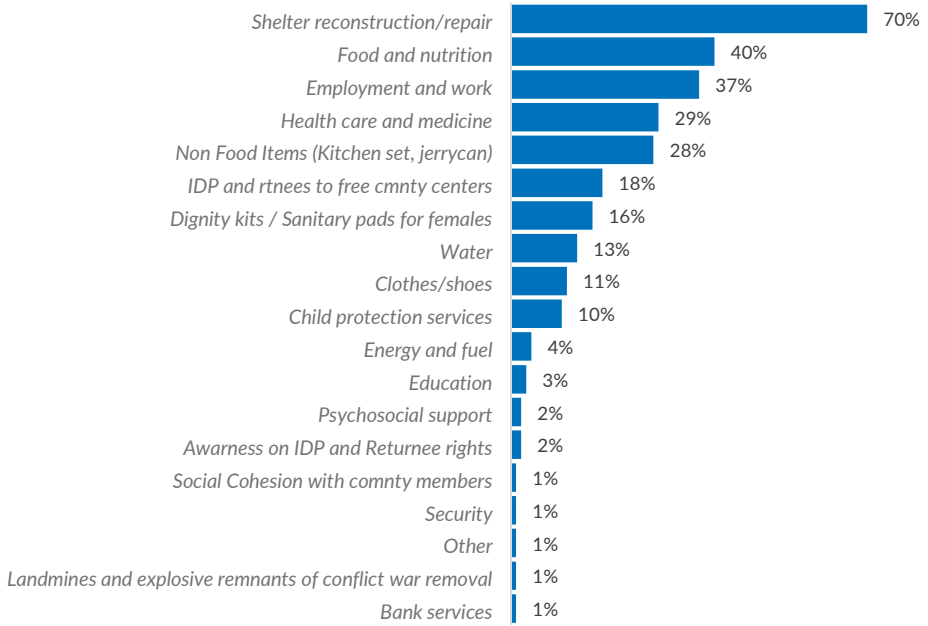
Availability of any IDP community structure, org. or group of leaders to discuss and address issues and needs of IDPs?



- Three-quarters (75%) of respondents confirmed the presence of a community structure or leadership group among IDPs. This suggests a strong foundation for collective representation and potential coordination of needs and advocacy.
  - 22% reported no such structure, indicating gaps in organizational support in some areas.
  - 3% were unsure, which may reflect limited awareness or communication within certain communities.

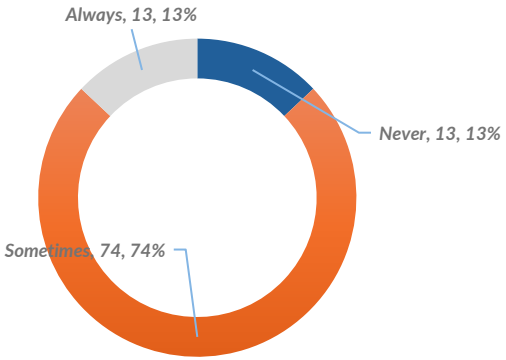
Priority needs

Priority needs among Bambasi IDPs



Feedback Mechanism

How often do people receive info. about available humanitarian assistance?



- Most respondents (74%) reported that information is received sometimes, indicating inconsistent communication and potential gaps in outreach.
  - Only 13% said they always receive information, suggesting limited sustained access to updates.
  - Another 13% reported never receiving such information, highlighting a concerning lack of awareness in certain areas.
  - This points to a need for stronger, more reliable feedback and communication mechanisms to ensure timely and equitable access to humanitarian assistance updates.

Critical Needs and Recommendations

- **High levels of psychosocial distress:** A large majority of key informants reported observing visible signs of psychological and emotional distress across population groups, indicating a substantial unmet need for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services and more systematic community-based responses.
- **Persistent barriers to access basic rights and services:** Vulnerable groups—particularly persons with disabilities, individuals with chronic illnesses, female-headed households, and older persons—face significant challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance. These barriers are largely driven by inadequate tailoring of services and weak identification of specific needs, pointing to gaps in inclusive programming and outreach. This requires tailored humanitarian assistance to persons with specific neds.
- **Negative coping mechanisms are widespread:** Households frequently resort to harmful and erosive coping strategies, including withdrawing children from school, child labour, early marriage, begging, and selling humanitarian assistance. This reflects severe economic stress and highlights risks to child protection, education, and long-term wellbeing.
- **Children face multiple, interlinked protection risks:** Food insecurity is the most critical challenge affecting children, followed by child labour, psychosocial distress, family separation, and migration for work requiring community based child protection systems to be established. Although some severe protection issues (e.g. forcible recruitment, FGM) are less frequently reported, they remain serious concerns requiring preventive action.
- **Severe gaps in civil documentation for IDPs:** While most IDPs can access IDP cards, access to birth certificates and proof of ownership is extremely limited. Structural barriers, lack of civil registration offices, limited capacity of local authorities, and gender-based discrimination significantly hinder access to legal documentation, restricting IDPs' rights and service access.
- **Limited access to land undermines self-reliance:** Almost all IDPs lack access to land for farming, severely constraining livelihoods, food security, and economic recovery, and contributing to dependency on aid and heightened protection risks.
- **Drivers of GBV are closely linked to basic needs and infrastructure gaps:** Lack of access to basic needs, absence of separate shelters, limited access to latrines and markets, unsafe routes, and denial of land access significantly increase GBV risks, underscoring the need for integrated protection, shelter, WASH, and livelihoods interventions.
- **Generally positive social cohesion, but uneven structures:** Relations between host communities and IDPs are largely positive, providing a strong foundation for community-based programming. However, gaps in community representation structures and inconsistent information-sharing mechanisms limit effective participation and accountability.
- **Weak and inconsistent feedback mechanisms:** Information about assistance is received inconsistently, with a notable proportion of respondents reporting never receiving updates. This highlights the need to strengthen feedback, communication, and accountability systems to ensure equitable access to information and services.

Donor support

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

European Union

Partners

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