

Protection monitoring report #2

Euwa, Chifra and Adar IDP situation - Afar region

January 2022

Context

Prior to November 2020, the ensuing expansion of the Tigray conflict into Afar region and the resurgence of the Issa conflict between Afar and Somali regions, there were some 148,000 IDPs in the region.¹ The regional authorities estimate that the expansion of conflict into Afar has led to the new displacement of over 400,000 people, mostly pastoralists. At the time of writing this report, returns of IDPs were ongoing. The response in Afar region has remained characterized by low partner presence and capacity to respond to fast growing needs. The existing capacity is further stretched by the need to diversify intervention locations now that returns have started.

Key informant profiles & areas covered

This protection monitoring report is based on the harmonized Ethiopia Protection Monitoring Tool (E-PMT). The data was collected in the month of December 2021.

- For this baseline report, a total of 140 key informants (KIs)² were interviewed in the Euwa, Chifra and Adar in zones 1 (Awsi) and 4 (Fenti): 107 males (76%), 33 females (24%).
- Of those interviewed, the top five types of respondents were heads of IDP households (19%), religious leaders (11%), local authorities (10%), community volunteers (10%), and members of community representation structures (7%). Health personnel, youth and female leaders, and site management were also among the respondent (at 6% each), as well as teachers and school personnel (4%) and community-based and humanitarian organizations (3%).
- 36% of the KIs were interviewed in Chifra and 19% in Adar in Awsi zone 1, while 44% of the interviews took place in Euwa, Fenti zone 4.



Figure 1. Zones covered by the Protection Monitoring in December 2021

Population Movements

Overall, according to 34% of key informants, the population movement situation is static, with another 26% and 25% of key informants respectively suggesting small-scale or minimal arrivals of IDPs in the past month. In particular, new albeit small-scale internal displacement was reported in Adar.

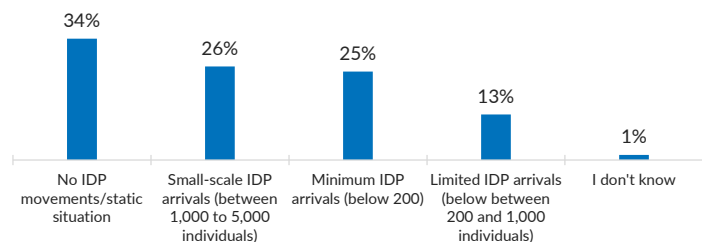


Figure 2. Population movements

Respondents noted that in the past four weeks, IDP returns started to occur at limited and smaller-scale, notably to and from Chifra at and at a slower pace to and from Euwa. In Adar, the situation was largely described as static with no significant IDP returns occurring.

¹ DTM Ethiopia — National Displacement Report 6 (August — September 2020), 30 November 2020.

² The information is obtained through key informants. Therefore, the findings are not statistically representative. Limitations relate to the role of the KI, the respective level of information, knowledge and prevalent biases. Access by protection monitors provides a further constraint.

Access to Fundamental Rights and Basic Needs

According to the key informants, the top three **disadvantaged groups** in accessing humanitarian assistance and services are older persons, persons with disabilities and single women, followed by persons with chronic illnesses, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), female and child-headed households. No significant change is observed when considering the responses by female key informants only. While older persons and persons with disabilities are the top-two groups faced with such disadvantages in Chifra and Adar, in Euwa, key informants note that single women are particularly faced with these challenges.

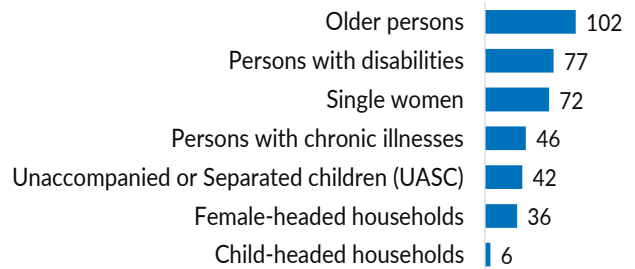


Figure 3. Disadvantaged groups in accessing assistance

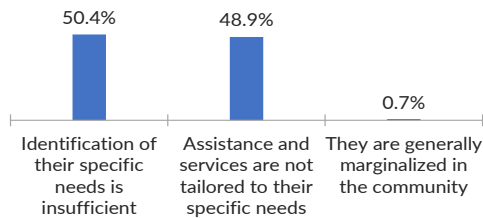


Figure 4. Reasons for disadvantages in accessing assistance

The main reason why these groups are particularly disadvantaged relate almost exclusively to insufficient consideration of age, gender and diversity and identification of specific needs as well as the inadequate tailoring of assistance and services. Key informants reported practically no structural reasons for disadvantaging these groups, with only very few noting the general marginalization as a reason for such disadvantages.

Access to humanitarian assistance and services, including food, shelter, health, education, sanitation, water, energy and markets is overwhelmingly characterized as 'bad' or 'very bad' by key informants across the two zones.

- Access to health services and education is assessed as bad or very bad at 100% by key informants. These two sectors have the highest inaccessibility rating, followed by water and sanitation at 97% and 99% inaccessibility respectively.
- Access to food is bad or very bad according to 92% of key informants.
- Access to shelter and energy is rated bad or very bad at 88% of key informants, while access to markets is assessed to be slightly better at 83% bad or very bad access.

When prompted about priority needs, need for food stood out as absolute priority, followed by needs for child protection services and health care. This prioritization is however limited due to the key informant methodology.

Main obstacles to access to humanitarian assistance and services relate to the unavailability of the respective commodity or service in general or within a reachable distance, the lack or unaffordability of available transport, and the ongoing conflict and insecurity, including causes by the presence of armed elements.

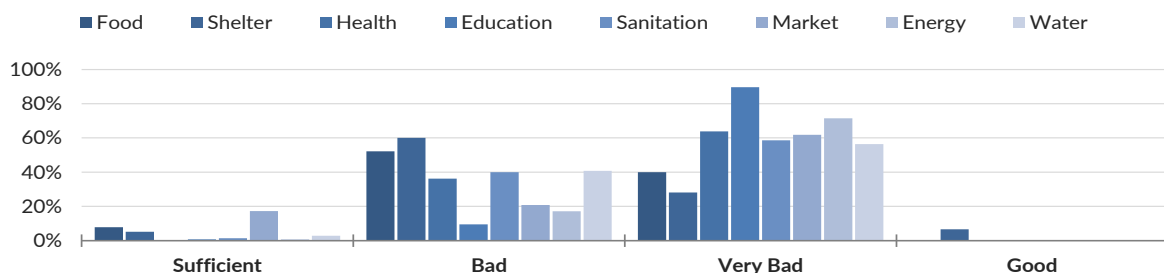


Figure 5. Rating of accessibility of basic needs

Coping mechanisms

To meet basic needs, populations in the three areas rely to a varying extent on different coping mechanisms, some of them harmful.

- Particularly alarming are the reported instances of early marriage and school drop outs, both among girls and boys, as coping mechanisms that are sometimes or more commonly resorted to.
- Key informants suggest a reliance on humanitarian assistance, as well as support from host communities and local authorities that is sometimes or more commonly used to meet basic needs. Of note is the resort at times to selling humanitarian assistance.
- It stands out that begging and illegal activities, such as theft, the use of savings or borrowing/loaning money are not prevalent coping mechanisms at present. Key informants note that working and income generation is sometimes or commonly used to meet basic needs, where such opportunities arise.

	Never	Sometimes	Common	Very Common	Always	No Answer	Total
Early Marriage	4%	79%	16%	1%	0%	0%	100%
Girls dropping Out of School to Work	1%	62%	20%	18%	0%	0%	100%
Boys dropping Out of School to Work	1%	72%	12%	15%	0%	0%	100%
Humanitarian assistance	19%	44%	32%	5%	0%	0%	100%
Illegal activities (such as theft)	71%	29%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Begging	94%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Support from local/host communities	4%	45%	32%	19%	1%	0%	100%
Support from local authorities	1%	39%	41%	17%	1%	0%	100%
Use savings	79%	12%	9%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Borrow or loan money	86%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Working and salaries	20%	64%	15%	1%	0%	0%	100%
Sell or exchange personal possessions or productive assets	28%	39%	23%	11%	0%	0%	100%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	9%	56%	18%	18%	0%	0%	100%

Figure 6. Coping mechanisms

Freedom of movement

According to KIs, women and girls, and men and boys respectively face some limitations to their freedom of movement in their community.

- For **women and girls**, movement restrictions are reportedly particularly prevalent in Euwa and Chifra. Limitations to the freedom of movement are particularly stark in Euwa according to 97% of key informants.
- For **men and boys**, movement restrictions are also reportedly highest in Euwa, with all key informants noting men and boys always or often face movement restrictions there. The situation is similar in Chifra, where 97% of key informants confirm such limitations, while the restrictions are reportedly less in Adar.

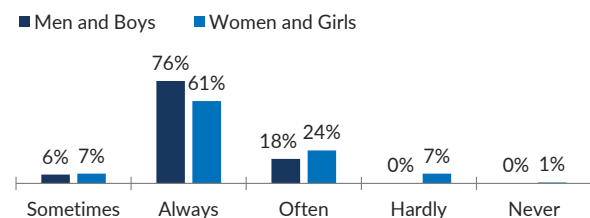


Figure 7. Freedom of movement

While conflict and general insecurity are a main **obstacle to the freedom of movement** of both genders, it is noteworthy that for women and girls restrictions imposed by family or spouses stand out as a key factor limiting their freedom of movement.

Access to justice and conflict resolution

Religious leaders, community structures, family leaders are the three predominant ways in which people in the two zones approach and try to resolve protection concerns and disputes, with little to no reliance on formal mechanisms or support by the humanitarian community. The reliance on community structures was highest in Chifra, while in Adar and Euwa, the resort to religious leaders is more dominant.

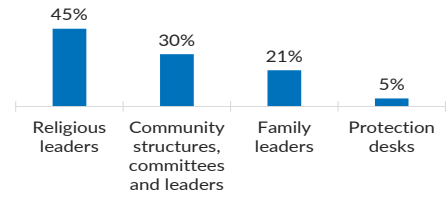


Figure 8. How are people most likely to approach with protection concerns, problems, and disputes

Documentation

According to the respondents, IDPs have access to **identification and civil documents** is very challenging in the areas monitored. While access to Kebele IDs varies between the three areas with 69% in Chifra, 52% in Adar and 40% in Euwa, there is practically no access to civil documentation.

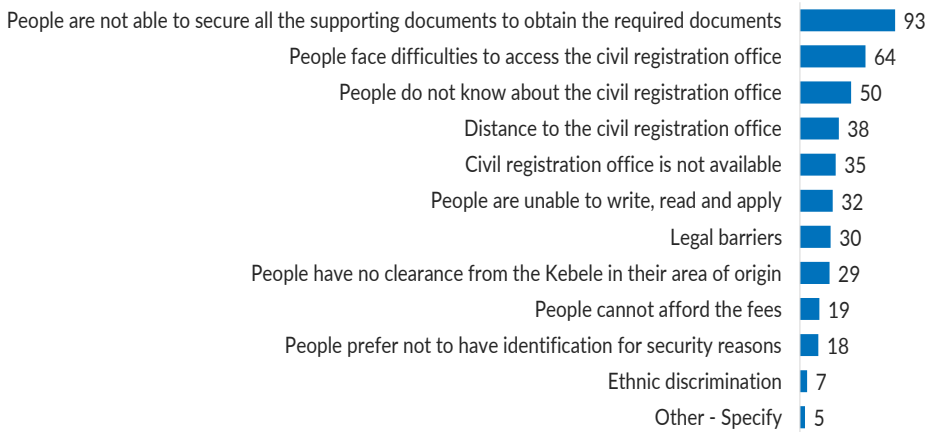


Figure 9. Obstacles to documentation

According to key informants, **barriers** to obtain documentation are manifold, including the lack of supporting documents as well as lack of awareness of civil registries and difficulties in accessing them, including due to distance or unavailability of such offices. Literacy-related and legal barriers, lack of clearance from the Kebele of origin as well as unaffordability are further barriers reported.

Consequences of lack of documentation reportedly include difficulty of moving through certain areas, difficulty accessing medical services or humanitarian assistance and services, or opening a bank account. However, key informants also note that for many the lack of documentation does not have any major impact.

Housing, Land and Property

IDPs' access to **proof of ownership** for housing, land and property is generally limited according to key informants, with a comparatively better ability to obtain such documentation in Adar.

Loss of property and possessions, and/or respective proof or records, is commonly reported in the three areas. In Euwa, 88% and 90% of key informants reported that all or most lost their properties or possessions and their proof of ownership documentation respectively.

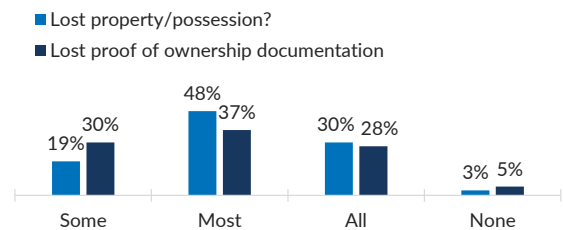


Figure 10. lost property/possession and lost proof of ownership documentation

The top concern related to housing, land and property rights relate to the destruction of housing and property, with 88% of key informants noting this concern for Euwa, and at 76% and 44% respectively for Chifra and Adar. Destruction of agricultural inputs and assets, such as crops, farming land or livestock was the second most common concern and according to key informants particularly prevalent in Chifra.

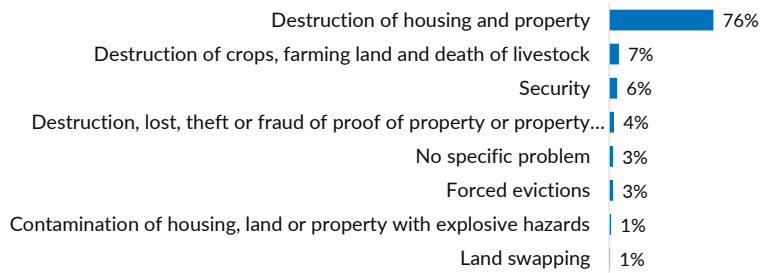


Figure 11 Main HLP concerns

Gender-Based Violence

When prompted, 84% of key informants suggest that in their view GBV is not a key concern in the areas. Female key informants considered that GBV is no key concern at 88%. According to key informants, the lack of safe space and privacy and lack of access to assistance and services are the two most significant problems women and girls face.

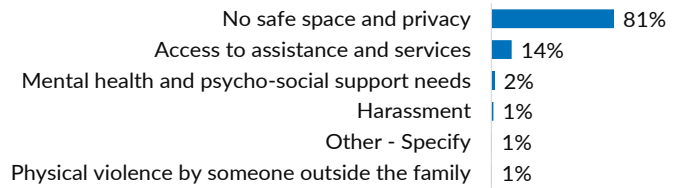


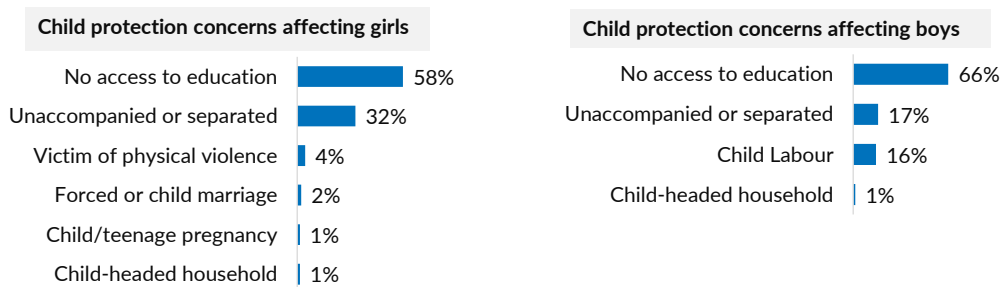
Figure 12. Most significant problems women and girls are facing in the community

Factors increasing GBV risks: Lack of access to basic needs was identified as the most important factor potentially increasing the GBV risk.

Access to GBV services: According to the key informants, access to GBV services in the three areas is poor, with reportedly no access in Euwa, and slightly better access to such services in Chifra at 57%, while key informants were not sufficiently aware of access to such services in Adar.

Child Protection

When prompted, key informants said at 39% that either most (11%) or some (28%) children are affected or at risk to be affected by violence or exploitation. Such risk exposure is reportedly higher in Chifra and Adar, at 65% and 52%. 89% of key informants confirm that unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) live in their respective community. Main causes for this include separation during flight or just after the crisis, abandonment of children or death of parents. 29% of the respondents noted the absence of an alternative caregiver in such situations, while 62% and 9% respectively said that neighbours, friends or acquaintances, or members of the IDP community are acting as caregivers to UASC. While the reported prevalence of UASC with no adequate alternative care arrangement is high, lack of access to education is reportedly the top concern affecting boys and girls.



Explosive hazards

Awareness of the presence of explosive hazards among key informants is limited. 41% however noted that they are aware of some contamination in their area or surroundings. Prevalence of explosive hazards was reported at 51% and 42% respectively for Chifra and Euwa, while such prevalence is reportedly lower in Adar (22%). 42% of key informants noted that they are aware of an accident related to explosive hazards.

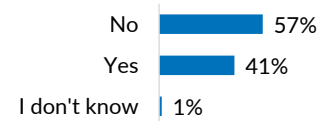


Figure 13. Awareness of explosive hazard prevalence

Access to information, community representation and relations

There are four main means through which people receive information: The most important one is word to mouth information channels among community members, followed religious leaders, local authorities and to a much lesser extent mobile, text message and radio. Humanitarian organizations were not identified as a main provider of information. This confirms the importance of religious leaders in Euwa, which are already the most important resort for resolving protection concerns or conflict resolution.

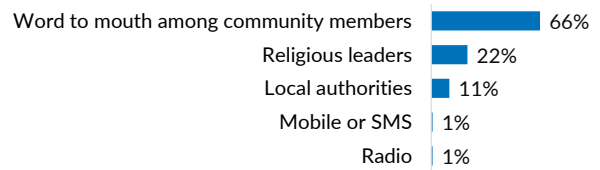


Figure 14. Access to information

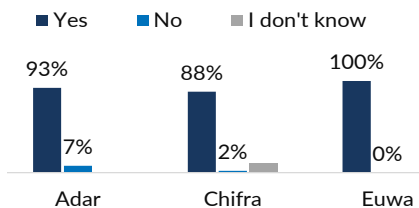


Figure 15. Existence of any IDP community structure to discuss and address issues and needs of the IDP community

94% of key informants state that there are IDP community structures in place in the three areas, with only slight geographic variations. According to key informants, these structures are deemed mostly or at least somewhat legitimate (93%) and representative (92%). According to key informants, the IDP community overwhelmingly feels that the role of these structures is at least somewhat useful (88%)

The main purposes of such structures relate to advocacy for community needs, dispute resolution, to oversight or management of access to public services, humanitarian assistance and security-related tasks, as well as protection of vulnerable community members.

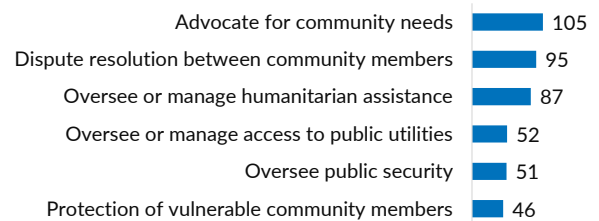


Figure 16. Purpose of IDP community structures

Community relations are generally assessed to be positive, reportedly mostly for religious, cultural and social reasons.

Partners



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