

Protection monitoring report #3

Nejo and Gimbi, West Wollega zone, Oromia region

February 2022

Context

The perpetuated conflict affecting the Wollegas in the western part of Oromia region has resulted in the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, both from neighbouring Benishangul Gumuz region into the Wollegas and vice versa. West Wollega zone, adjacent to Kamashi in Benishangul Gumuz region, has been critically affected by the violence and is currently hosting some 103,000 internally displaced people. Over the past year, the response arena has seen a reduction in partner presence, operations and funding, resulting in unaddressed needs of those newly displaced, compounded humanitarian needs, with protection risks aggravating and durable solution opportunities left unmaterialized. Security-related access challenges exist in the area.

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 February 2022 by UNHCR and AAH. Access constraints limited the data collection to Nejo and Gimbi in West Wollega zone.

- For this baseline report, a total of 63 key informants (KIs)¹ were interviewed in the zone: 42 males (66%), 21 females (33%).
- Of those interviewed, 27% were local authorities, 24% were heads of IDP households, 19% were of IDP community representation structures, 8% respectively were health personnel and religious leaders, 5% respectively were female leaders and members of associations for persons with disabilities, while 2% were teachers and others.
- The key informant interviews were carried out half and half in Nejo and Gimbi woreda.



Figure 1. Nejo and Gimbi

Population Movements

Overall, the situation in Nejo and Gimbi as regards new IDP arrivals and returns movements has been static over the past month according to 35% and 46% of key informants.

However, key informants noted that the situation in Gimbi has been more fluid than in Nejo, with 48% and 25% respectively noting some minimal to small-scale IDP arrivals and returns to the area.

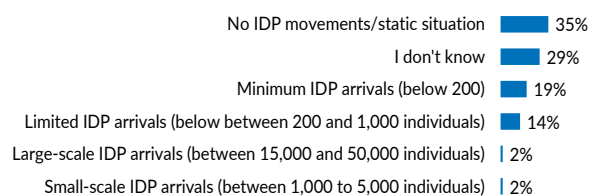


Figure 2. Scale of new displacement to this location observed during the past four weeks

¹ 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 single women, female-headed households, and older persons, followed by persons with disabilities and chronic illnesses, UASC and child-headed households. In particular with regards to UASC and persons with chronic illnesses, there are marked difference between the two locations, with key informants in Nejo noting their disadvantage at 28%, and at 13% only in Gimbi.

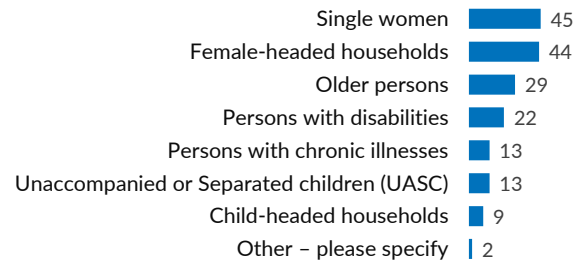


Figure 2. Disadvantaged groups in accessing assistance

The main reason why these groups are particularly disadvantaged relate to nearly two thirds (65%) to a broader marginalization and gender inequalities, while 25% and 10% of the respondents noted inadequate tailoring of assistance and services and insufficient identification of specific needs as main reasons.

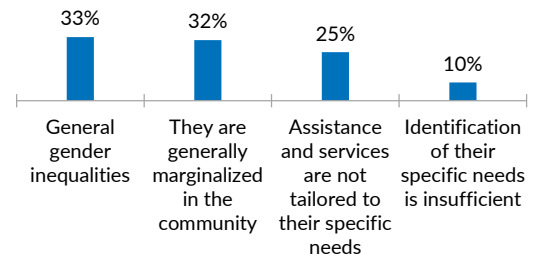


Figure 4. Reasons for disadvantages in accessing assistance

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

- Access to health services is assessed as bad or very bad at 100% by key informants. It has the highest inaccessibility rating.
- Access to food is bad or very bad according to 97% of key informants, while access to water has a similarly high inaccessibility rating at 95%.
- Access to shelter, sanitation, and markets is rated bad or very bad by a range of 80 to 89% of key informants, while access to energy and education is assessed to be slightly better at 67% and 57% bad or very bad access.

When prompted about priority needs, the top three were food (65%), legal assistance (22%) and psycho-social support (5%). This prioritization is however limited due to the key informant methodology.

Main obstacles to access to humanitarian assistance and services relate predominantly to ongoing conflict and insecurity and the presence of armed elements, followed by the unavailability of the commodity or service in general or within a reachable distance, and to a lesser extent to the lack of transport or needed documentation.

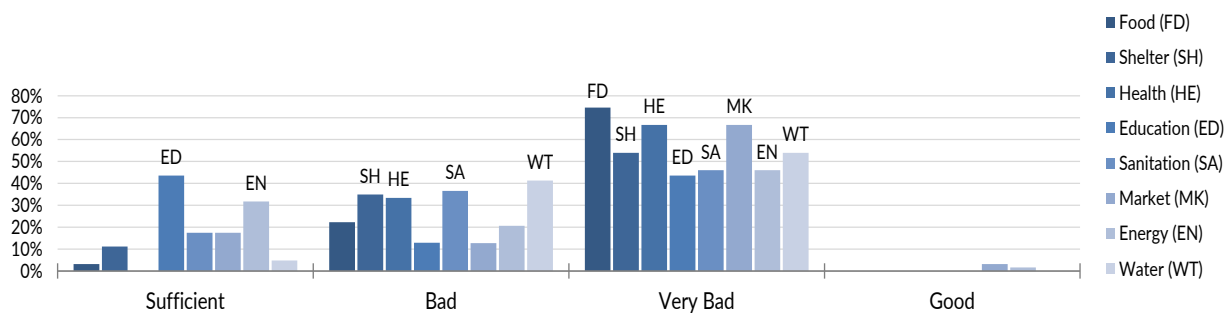


Figure 5. Rating of accessibility of basic needs

Coping mechanisms

To meet basic needs, populations in Gimbi and Nejo rely sometimes or commonly on coping mechanisms, some of them harmful. Key informants also suggest a common or even very common reliance on humanitarian assistance (46%) and support from local authorities (36%) or host community (41%) to meet basic needs.

- Particularly alarming are the reported instances of early marriage, rated common or very common at 36%, and school drop outs, both among girls and boys, as coping mechanisms. School drop outs of girls is rated to be more commonly prevalent than that of boys.
- Begging also stands out as prevalent coping mechanisms. Considered together with use of savings, borrowing, selling or exchange of personal possessions and the limited income generation, this points to an overall impoverishment of the community.
- Illegal activities as a coping mechanism are a lot less common according to key informants

	Never	Sometimes	Common	Very Common	Always	No Answer	Total
Early Marriage	2%	62%	17%	19%	0%	0%	100%
Girls dropping Out of School to Work	0%	59%	32%	10%	0%	0%	100%
Boys dropping Out of School to Work	0%	68%	29%	3%	0%	0%	100%
Humanitarian assistance	8%	44%	32%	14%	2%	0%	100%
Illegal activities (such as theft)	10%	79%	10%	2%	0%	0%	100%
Begging	5%	43%	38%	14%	0%	0%	100%
Support from local/host communities	3%	54%	30%	11%	2%	0%	100%
Support from local authorities	6%	56%	30%	6%	2%	0%	100%
Use savings	17%	32%	17%	16%	16%	0%	98%
Borrow or loan money	5%	43%	27%	21%	0%	0%	95%
Working and salaries	17%	48%	16%	17%	0%	0%	98%
Sell or exchange personal possessions or productive assets	13%	49%	25%	11%	2%	0%	100%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	13%	46%	29%	11%	0%	0%	98%

Figure 6. Coping mechanisms

Freedom of movement

According to KIs, both, women and girls, and men and boys respectively face sometimes or often limitations to their freedom of movement in their community, with women and girls reportedly facing slightly higher restrictions to their freedom of movement with 13% of key informants noting that they can hardly or never move freely (as opposed to 6% for men and boys).

For both genders, restrictions to their freedom of movement are reportedly higher in Gimbi than in Nejo.

Obstacles to the freedom of movement differ between genders to some extent: Insecurity and general violence in the area as well as lack of proper documentation and fear of arrest are common obstacles across women, men, girls and boys, while fear of harassment is an obstacle quoted for women and girls only.

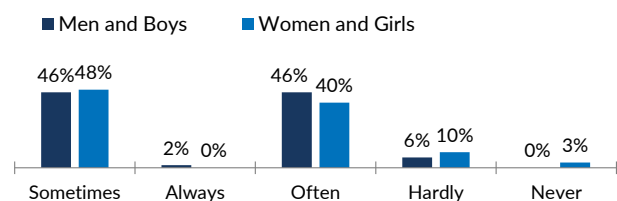


Figure 7. Freedom of movement
 Are men and boys able to move freely in your community?
 Are women and girls able to move freely in your community?

Access to justice and conflict resolution

Community structures, family and religious leaders are the three predominant ways in which people in the two woredas approach and try to resolve protection concerns and disputes, with a relatively low reliance on formal law enforcement structures at 8%.

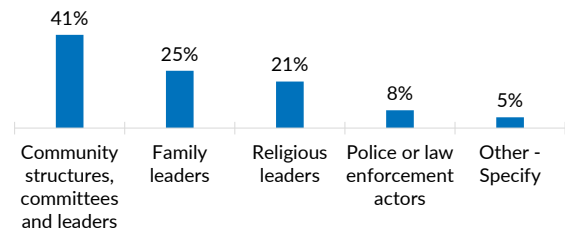


Figure 8. How are people most likely to approach with protection concerns, problems, and disputes

Documentation

According to the respondents, IDPs have access to **identification documents**, notably the Kebele ID, but not to passports or civil documents, such as birth, death, marriage or divorce certificates.

According to key informants, **barriers** to obtain documentation are manifold, including the lack of supporting documents, lack of awareness and illiteracy, lack of availability, affordability or accessibility of civil registry services, alongside challenges to obtain the needed clearances from the Kebeles in the areas of origin. What stand out as obstacles are legal barriers, ethnic discrimination and preference of people to not have documents for safety reasons. This is likely related to the particular conflict dynamics and cause of displacement in the areas monitored.

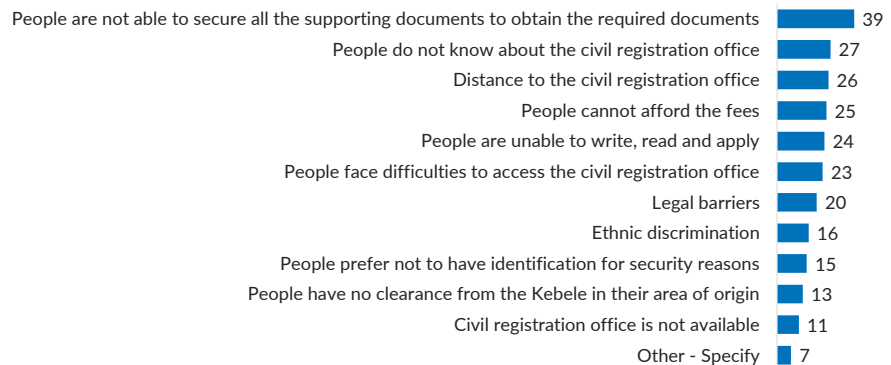


Figure 9. Obstacles to documentation

Consequences of lack of documentation reportedly include difficulty moving through certain areas, finding employment and access to assistance and services, including health and education, vulnerability to exploitation, as well as difficulty to open a bank account.

Housing, Land and Property

IDPs' access to **proof of ownership** for housing, land and property in Nejo and Gimbi is generally limited according to key informants.

Loss of property and possessions, and/or respective proof or records, is commonly reported in Nejo and Gimbi. In Nejo, the reported **loss of all property and possessions** is comparatively higher with 63% in comparison to 26% in Gimbi.

With regards to **loss of HLP-related documentation**, a similar pattern is observed with 59% of key informants reporting the loss of records by all in Nejo, while this percentages stands at 23% in Gimbi.

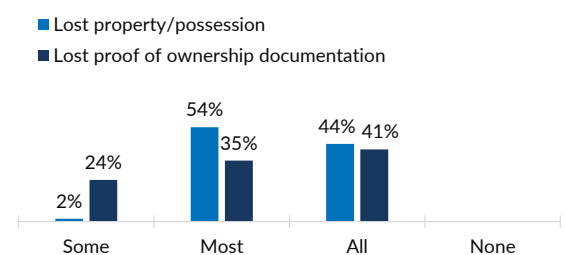


Figure 10. Have people hosted in this location or who have returned to this location lost property/possession or lost proof of ownership documentation?

The top three concerns related to housing, land and property related to damage and destruction of HLP, forced evictions, security-related concerns around housing, land and property.

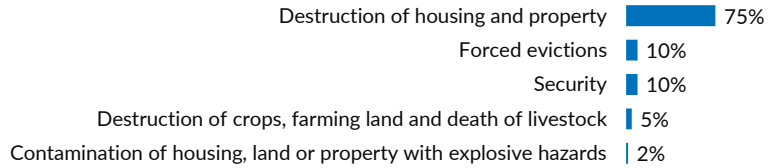


Figure 11 Main HLP concerns

Gender-Based Violence

When prompted, nearly all key informants (98%) identified gender-based violence (GBV) as a key concern in Nejo and Gimbi.

Factors increasing GBV risks: Lack of access to basic needs, unsafe routes to collect firewood or water, the presence of armed elements, as well as overcrowding of shelters and sites are the main factors currently increasing the risk of gender-based violence in the area, according to key informants.

Access to GBV services: According to the key informants, access to specialized services for GBV survivors is high at 81% in the areas, while 15% noted that there is no such access.

According to key informants, the lack of safe space and privacy, sexual violence, difficult in accessing assistance and services as well as harassment are the three most significant problems women and girls face.

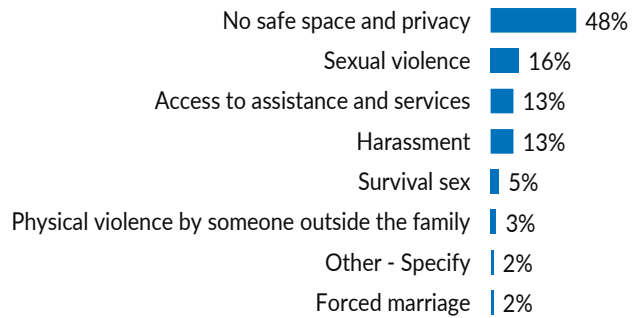
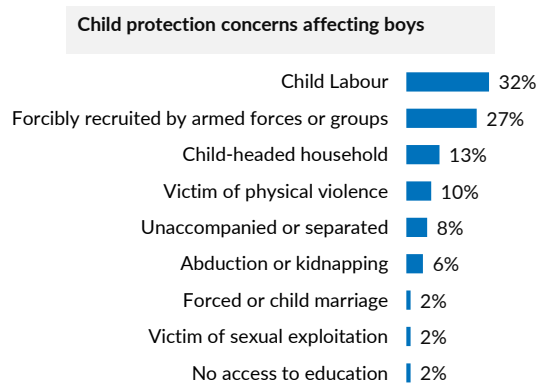
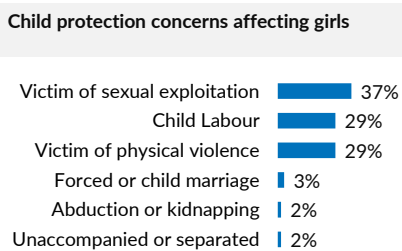


Figure 12. Most significant problems women and girls are facing in the community

Child Protection

Nearly all key informants, at 99% said that either most (21%) or some (78%) children are affected or at risk to be affected by violence or exploitation. 98% of key informants confirm that unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) live in their respective community.

As regards main child protection concerns, while child labour is a common concern for girls and boys, sexual exploitation stands out as a particular concern for girls at 37% as opposed to boys (2%). Similarly, physical violence is also a graver concern for girls at 29% than boys (10%). Fear of forced recruitment is a particular risk affecting boys, according to 27% of key informants.



Explosive hazards

Nearly two thirds of key informants noted that they are not aware of contamination in their area or surroundings.

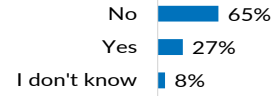


Figure 13. Awareness of explosive hazard prevalence

Access to information, community representation and relations

There are four main means through which people receive information: The most important one is mobile or text message, followed by word to mouth information channels among community members, local authorities and, to a very limited extent, social media. The latter is only reported for Gimbi. A marked geographic variation exists with regards to local authorities as information source, which according to key informants is high at 19% in Nejo, and low at 3% in Gimbi.

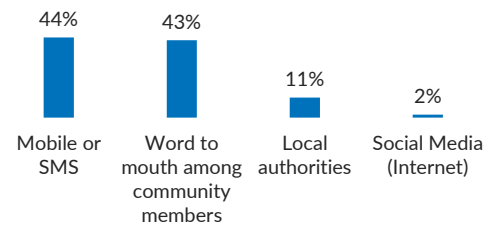


Figure 14. Means by which people receive information in general

Nearly all key informants (97%) state that there are IDP community structures in place, both in Gimbi and Nejo with no significant geographic variation. Where such structures exist, they are generally deemed at least somewhat legitimate (74%) and representative (74%). According to key informants, the IDP community overwhelmingly feels that the role of these structures is at least somewhat (64%) or mostly (31%) useful.

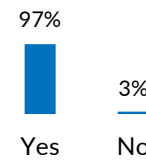


Figure 15. Existence of any IDP community structure to discuss and address issues and needs of the IDP community

The main purposes of such structures relate to oversight and management of humanitarian assistance, dispute resolution, oversight and management of public utilities, advocacy on behalf of the community, protection of vulnerable community areas and public security.

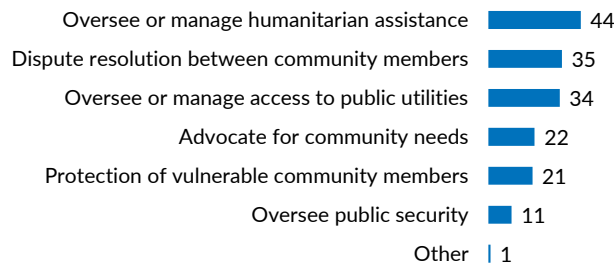


Figure 16. Purpose of IDP community structures

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