GROUND TRUTH SOLUTIONS

"Our lives have been turned upside down and scattered."

Community priorities and perceptions in Gedaref, Sudan

Brief | February 2025

Introduction

Background

Almost two years of civil war have left Sudan in a dire situation, facing the largest humanitarian crisis ever recorded with more than 30 million people in need of assistance.[1] Twenty-five million people face acute food insecurity.[2] Famine has been declared in at least five areas and is projected to spread to five more by May 2025, and the healthcare system is at breaking point.[3] Civilians face horrific violence and human rights abuses. In Darfur, human rights groups have accused armed groups of ethnic cleansing, and in January 2025 the US determined that Sudan's Rapid Support Forces and its allied militias had committed genocide.[4] Women and girls are exposed to heightened risks as cases of conflict-related sexual violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse are alarmingly widespread.[5]

An estimated 11.5 million people have been forcibly displaced within Sudan, making it the largest internal displacement crisis in the world. Over half of the displaced population are children. In Gedaref alone, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has tripled over the past year, and over 1 million people are now seeking refuge across the state.[6] For many, this represents their second or third displacement since the beginning of the war, after having fled Khartoum and Al Jazirah. Community members have demonstrated extraordinary solidarity in opening their homes and sharing what little resources they have available to support those others in need. Meanwhile, humanitarian efforts are struggling to meet growing needs due to severe underfunding and major access constraints, leaving millions without adequate support.

People in Gedaref told us that they want the international community to prioritise the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid and to help push for an end to the war. They called for support in order to return to their homes and to start rebuilding their lives. For people in Gedaref, peace and stability are the first steps towards reclaiming their futures. **"The world can stand with us to stop the war"** urged a displaced woman in Al Qureisha. A displaced man in Madeinet al Gedaref told us, **"Wars have destroyed generations. No one is victorious, but the citizens are the losers."**

Scope

In September 2024, Ground Truth Solutions (GTS), in partnership with DataQ, began a project to explore what the humanitarian situation looks like from the perspective of people in Sudan. We selected two states as the focus of the study: Gedaref and South Darfur. We selected these states because at the time of data

DATAQ Decisions made easy

h——h H2H Network Humanitarian Action Support

UKaid from the British people

[1] OCHA. December 2024. "Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025."

[2] Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. December 2024. "Sudan: IPC Acute Food Insecurity Snapshot I October 2024 – May 2025."

[3] Ibid.

[4] BBC. January 2025. "US accuses RSF of Sudan genocide and sanctions its leader."

[5] UN Women. September 2024. "Sudan humanitarian crisis has catastrophic impact for women and girls, with two-fold increase of gender-based violence" ; The New Humanitarian. October 2024. "Health services non-functional as women bear the brunt of Sudan's war."

[6] IOM. January 2025. "A Year in Review: Displacement in Sudan (2024)."

collection they hosted the largest numbers of IDPs displaced after the outbreak of the civil war in April 2023, excluding the inaccessible North Darfur.[7] As case studies they also represent one state from the Sudanese Armed Forces-controlled east, and one state from the Rapid Support Forces-controlled west. This report contains insights from 428 people in Gedaref state, provided in November 2024 via a face-to-face survey questionnaire. The insights from South Darfur can be found here.

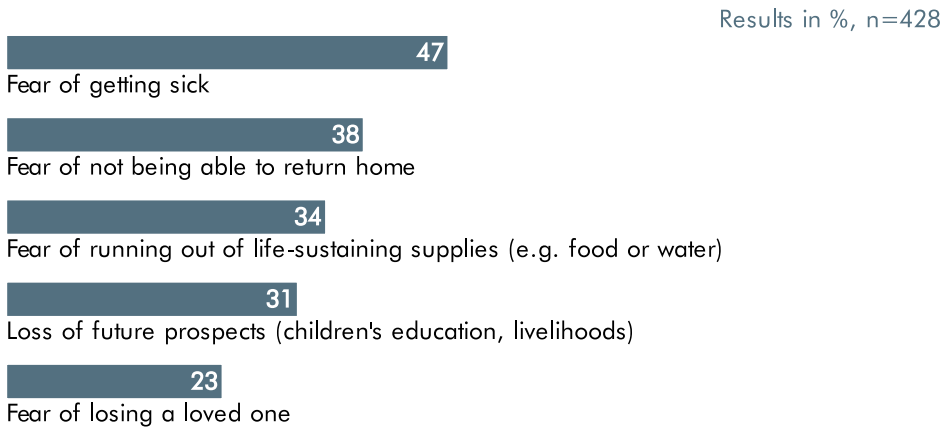
People in Gedaref worry about their health and long to return home

The sharp increase in internally displaced people in Gedaref has placed great strain on already limited resources and services across the state. Of the people we spoke to, 47% said that getting sick is the biggest concern for them and their family. In Gedaref, healthcare access is severely limited due to the high cost of medication and the lack of operational healthcare facilities. Meanwhile, the risk of diseases including malaria, dengue fever, and cholera continues to grow.[8] Gedaref has the second highest number of cholera cases in Sudan.[9] People fleeing the dire conditions of collective centres in Al Jazirah following attacks by the Rapid Support Forces have contributed to this figure, further overcrowding displacement sites in Gedaref and placing greater pressure on its already fragile healthcare system.[10]

Our research shows that the fear of illness is particularly acute among women. This is consistent with reports that women and girls' access to life-saving reproductive and maternal health services is severely impeded across the country. A displaced woman in Ar Rahad told us, **"The economic situation is bad, there is a shortage of food and water, and I have just given birth to a new baby. I am sitting in a tent that is not covered with a tarpaulin, I am suffering from a cold, and my children are in critical condition."**

> "The human situation is unbearable and has no parallel in the world.
>
> Man, 68, host community member in Madeinet al Gedaref

Figure 1:
What are the biggest concerns/worries for you and your family at the moment?



Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

[7] IOM. October 2024. "DTM Sudan Mobility Update (10)."

[8] UN News. November 2024. "First famine, now cholera and dengue fever surge hits war-torn Sudan"; ACAPS. January 2025. "Sudan: Cholera situation."

[9] ACAPS. January 2025. "Sudan: Cholera situation."

[10] Ibid.

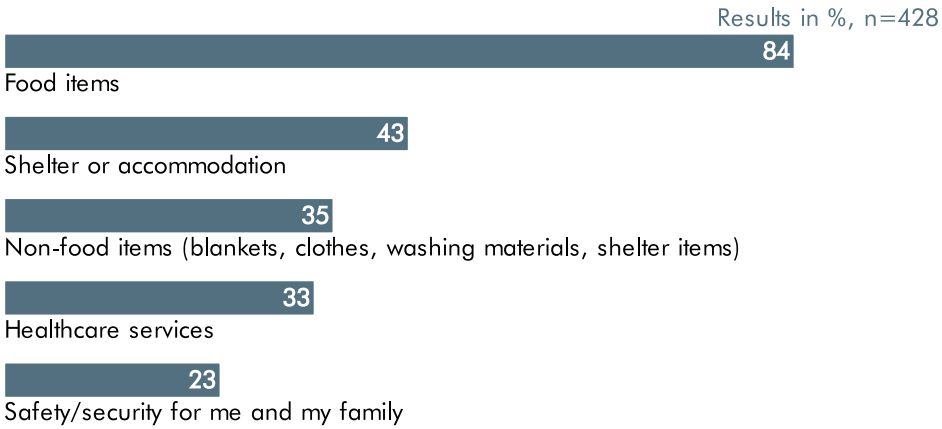
Figure 2:
What are the biggest concerns/worries for you and your family at the moment? - by gender

Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

Given the widespread displacement, it is unsurprising that over one-third of people we spoke to (38%) said their greatest concern is being unable to return home. This is closely followed by a fear of running out of life-sustaining supplies, such as food and water, which 34% of respondents mentioned. The level of hunger across the country is staggering, with 25 million people facing acute food insecurity. Indeed, when asked about their priority needs, 84% of people identified food as their immediate priority.

Beyond food, many also mentioned the need for shelter, non-food items like clothes and hygiene items, and access to healthcare services. Women are more likely than men to mention food and healthcare as immediate priorities. The ongoing conflict has resulted in many men being killed, detained, or estranged from their families, meaning that women often assume full responsibility for providing for the family.[11]

Figure 3:
What are your most immediate priorities?



Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

People in Gedaref told us that they live with little or no access to food, inadequate and overcrowded shelters, and limited medical services. Shortages of basic necessities are compounded by the ongoing economic crisis. Many people borrow money from friends or family, or members of their household seek informal work opportunities to cover their food and medical needs. In some cases, this may

> We are tired and need help with food, clothing and mattresses. We are currently living in a dilapidated house made of old straw and worn-out furniture.
>
> Woman, 53, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

> There is no work in my field, so I am unemployed. The economic conditions are difficult, there is a lack of food and medicine, and my psychological state is bad.
>
> Man, 65, IDP in a shelter in Ar Rahad

[11] Médecins Sans Frontières. June 2024. "How Sudanese women are protecting their families amid war and displacement."

include children seeking informal work opportunities, as reports suggest that child labour is the most common negative coping mechanism employed in Sudan.[12] When borrowing money or informal work are insufficient to make ends meet, one in five people said their household is forced to skip meals when they do not have enough food. Many people are also forced into gambling with their health: 40% of respondents postpone medical treatment when they cannot afford it.

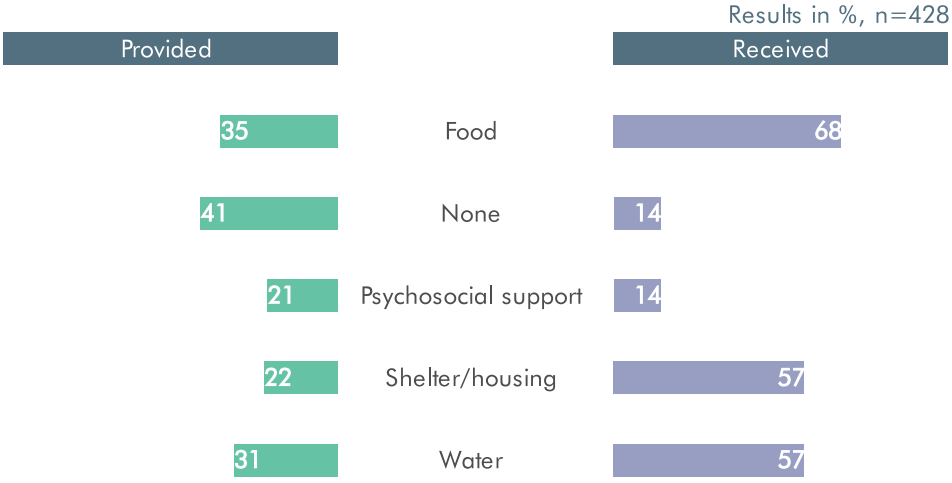
With external aid far outstripped by needs, people turn to their friends and neighbours for support

People across Sudan have demonstrated remarkable solidarity in sharing what little resources they have with friends and neighbours. When asked how their households cope when they cannot meet their housing needs, including paying rent or being forced to move, 41% of people we spoke to said they live with other families in a shared space. In Gedaref, a large proportion of the 1 million IDPs displaced since April 2023 do not stay in camps or informal settlements but with host families.[13] Host families have opened their doors to IDPs in a show of solidarity and through a desire to help ease their suffering. However, this comes at the cost of severe overcrowding and additional financial burdens. A displaced man living among the host community in Madeinat al Gedaref, in a household of 12 adults and 15 children, told us, **"The house is small, and I have a large number of my family members with me. Sometimes I sleep in the street, but God is generous."**

Whilst humanitarian aid falls far short of the extreme needs across the country, communities have embraced reciprocal forms of peer-to-peer support to access food, clothing, shelter, and psychological support. Over two-thirds of the people we spoke to have received food from their friends, family, or neighbours. Fifty-seven percent have relied on their peers for water and/or shelter. Despite the high levels of need that families experience, one-third of people we spoke to still said that they have provided food or water to friends, family, or neighbours, and one in five have supported with housing or psychological support.

Figure 4:

What support, if any, have you [provided to / received from] friends, family and neighbours in the last 12 months?



Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

More organised forms of mutual aid, such as Emergency Response Rooms, have received deserved attention for the resilience and commitment they have demonstrated while supporting community members.[14] However, these groups

> "We are displaced from our homes and tired. The house we are living in is dilapidated and not fit for living, and there are six families in it. The situation is extremely difficult.
>
> Woman, 60, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

> "All neighbours are family, we share everything with each other.
>
> Man, 20, host community member in Madeinet al Gedaref

[12] DRC, NRC, Mercy Corps. September 2024. "If bullets miss, hunger won't – Beyond the Numbers: Hunger and Conflict in Sudan."

[13] IOM. December 2024. "DTM Sudan Mobility Update (13)" ; The New Humanitarian. July 2024. "In Sudan, host families take the strain of the world's largest displacement crisis."

[14] "Emergency Response Rooms" is the name given to voluntary support networks which have emerged across the country to deliver life-saving aid in their communities; Time. January 2025. "Locals in Sudan Are Saving Lives That International Aid Agencies Can't Reach"; The Guardian. December 2024. "'Deeply inspiring and humbling': how neighbourhoods in Sudan are coming together to fill gaps left by foreign aid."

face several major challenges in Sudan, including threats from warring parties, insufficient resources, and a lack of funding. In Gedaref, local authorities have reportedly tried to dismantle volunteer groups.[15] Only 17% of people we spoke to had received assistance from organised mutual aid groups. Of those that have received assistance, the most common type was food, including food from community kitchens. The main challenges that respondents face in accessing assistance from mutual aid groups are that there is a shortage of aid, a lack of information about it, and that such groups simply do not exist in their area.

Figure 5:

Have you received assistance from any community-based initiatives or informal support groups (including Emergency Response Rooms, neighbourhood clinics, women's support groups, religious groups, etc)?

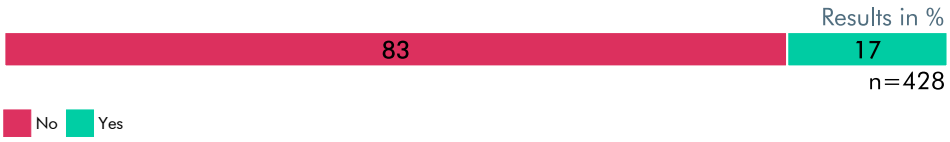
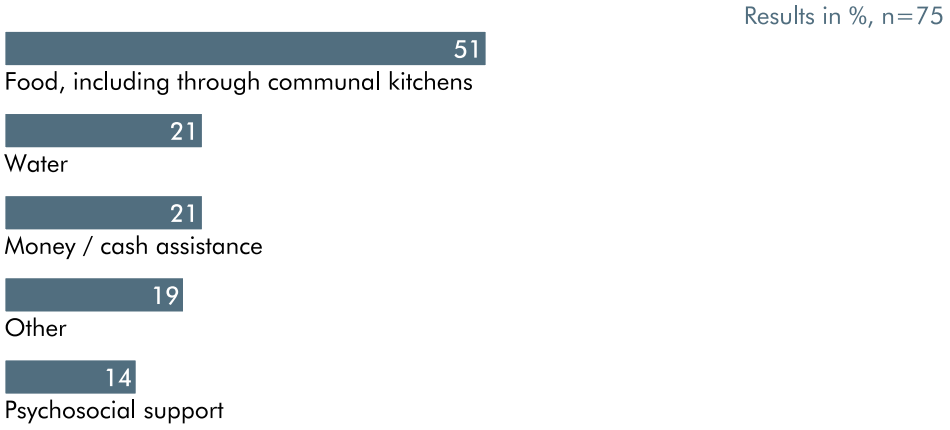


Figure 6:

What kind of assistance have you received from community-based initiatives or informal support groups in the last 12 months?



Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

Limited access to aid fosters mistrust towards aid providers

Funding gaps, violence and major operational barriers have resulted in severe access restrictions for humanitarian aid providers to communities across Sudan. Gedaref, however, has better access than many other parts of the country, and has the highest concentration of humanitarian operational actors.[16] Nonetheless, people in Gedaref still struggle to access the aid they need. Only one-third of the people we talked to have received some form of humanitarian assistance in the past six months.

The most commonly received forms of assistance by respondents are food (76%), non-food items (41%), and cash and vouchers (19%). However, for most (64%), the aid they receive falls short of meeting their most important needs.

[15] The New Humanitarian. August 2023. "How mutual aid networks are powering Sudan's humanitarian response."

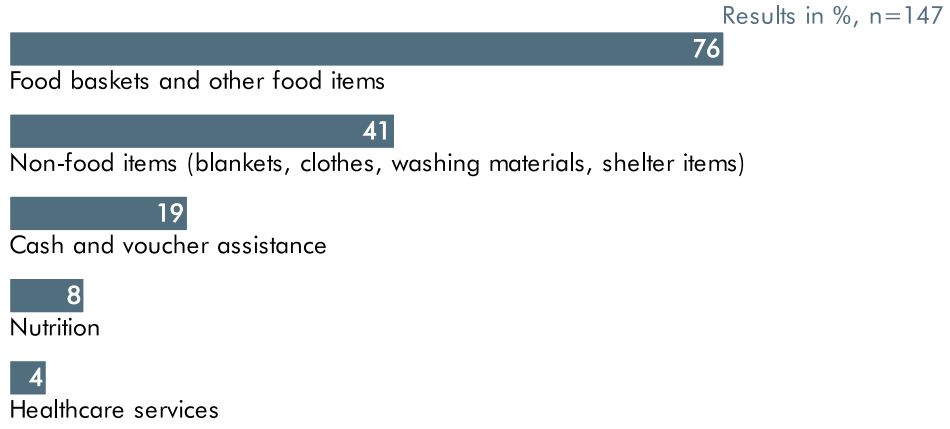
[16] ACAPS. June 2024. "Sudan: Snapshot of humanitarian access."

Figure 7:

Have you received humanitarian aid and services of any kind over the last six months?

Figure 8:

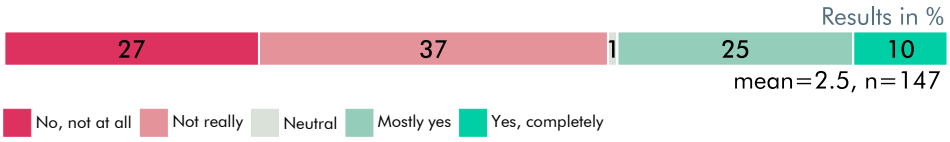
What type of humanitarian aid and services did you receive?



Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

Figure 9:

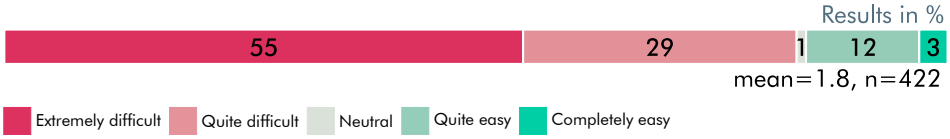
Do the humanitarian aid and services you receive meet your most important needs?



In Gedaref, 84% of the people we spoke to said that accessing aid is not easy. While one common barrier that respondents identified is that there is simply not enough aid available (36%), people in Gedaref also struggle to find reliable information. Twenty nine percent of respondents said that a lack of clear information is their biggest impediment to accessing aid, and a further 20% cited misinformation.

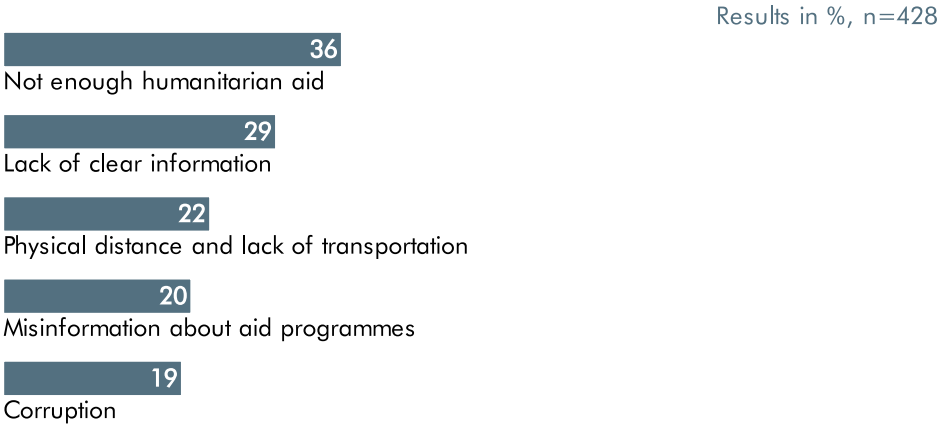
Figure 10:

How easy or difficult is it for members of your community to access humanitarian aid and services?



> Some of the displaced people do not know the date of the distribution, and when they come to the distribution point, they find that the aid has run out.
>
> Woman, 51, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

Figure 11:
What are the biggest challenges to accessing humanitarian aid and services?



Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

Communities distrust aid providers, often perceiving them as corrupt and prone to nepotism. Almost one in five respondents highlight corruption as their biggest challenge to accessing humanitarian aid. A displaced woman living in a shelter in Ar Rahad explained, **"Aid only goes to certain people, like those in charge of distribution, their acquaintances and relatives. It is not distributed to all people."** This type of response is also reflected in social media listening studies, which have highlighted a degree of distrust in aid operations and aid providers' impartiality.[17]

Information gaps and opaque decision-making regarding targeting may drive the perceptions of improper practices. For example, people that have not received any humanitarian assistance are more likely to mention corruption as a major barrier to access than those who have received assistance. People's concerns are not unfounded – humanitarian actors have also made reports of aid diversion in Sudan, recounting instances of both warring parties stealing aid, restricting access, and imposing rent-seeking impediments.[18]

Those living outside of shelters feel abandoned

Among survey respondents, host community members and IDPs outside of shelters are less likely to receive aid than IDPs in shelters.[19] Confined by limited resources, humanitarian aid providers are forced to make difficult decisions about who to prioritise when targeting aid provision. We asked people about the extent to which they would expect to be informed of such decisions, and also how much, in reality, they actually are informed. The overwhelming majority of respondents consider it important to know how aid providers decide who receives aid, yet just one-quarter said they currently know how these decisions are made. Women are much more likely than men to possess this knowledge. This may be because women are simply more likely to be targeted in the first place, or because many women have assumed responsibility for providing for their households and are thus more likely to seek out information on available assistance.

> "They registered me and told us that aid was coming but it hasn't arrived yet. We hear from our relatives that aid has arrived, and some people received it, and some did not.
>
> Man, 41, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

[17] Internews. June 2024. "Sudan Humanitarian Flash Update #8."

[18] Al Jazeera. June 2023. "As Sudan war rages, rival sides accused of looting, diverting aid."

[19] See Figure 12 below, although the sample size of the IDPs living in collective centres (n=34) is small compared to the other two groups, we present the disaggregated results because the percentage of people receiving aid in the different groups is statistically significant, as confirmed by regression analysis, and the magnitude of their difference is noteworthy. ; In this report 'shelter' refers to collective centres such as schools, hospitals, or government buildings.

Figure 12:

Have you received humanitarian aid and services of any kind over the last six months? (By displacement status)

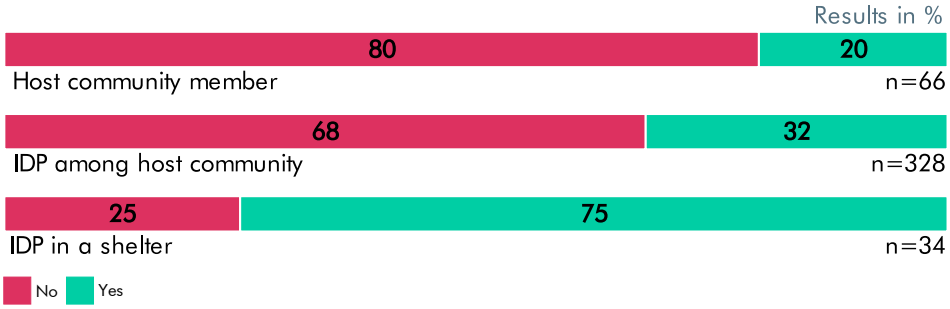


Figure 13:

Is it important to you that you know how aid providers decide who receives humanitarian aid and services and who does not?

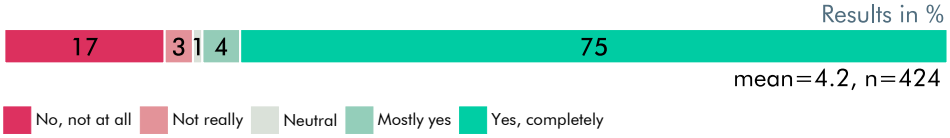


Figure 14:

Do you know how aid providers decide who receives humanitarian aid and services and who does not?

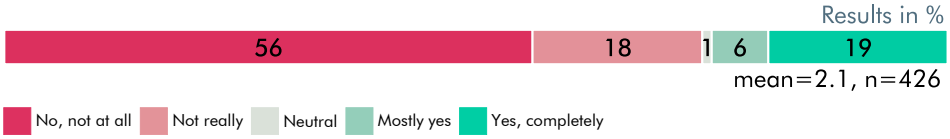
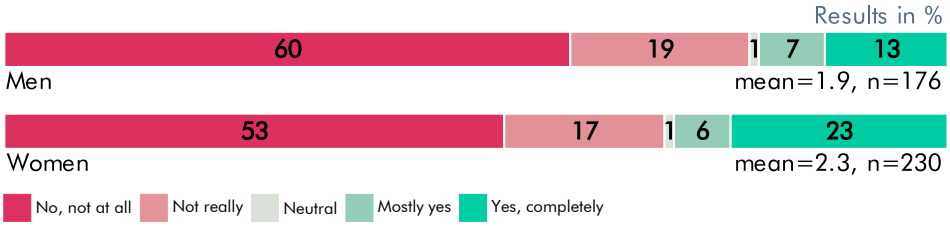


Figure 15:

Do you know how aid providers decide who receives humanitarian aid and services and who does not?



There is a clear dissatisfaction with humanitarian targeting: almost two-thirds of respondents feel that aid does not reach those most in need and feel that it is people living outside of collective shelters that are overlooked. Almost half of the people we spoke to mentioned IDPs living among the host community, whilst 35% mentioned host community members themselves as most likely to be left out. These findings reflect a sentiment that aid provision is disproportionately aimed at those living within collective shelters. A displaced woman living among the host community in Madeinet al Gedaref stated, **"Aid is only given to people living in the school and not to those living in the community."** The 2025 Humanitarian Response Plan acknowledges the realities of limited access, operational capacity, and staff safety but recommends an area-based approach to prioritisation which focuses on localities with the most severe levels of intersectoral needs, and crucially, encompasses all three population groups: host community, IDPs, and the non-hosting population.[20]

> "Aid is supposed to come to all the displaced people, both in the neighbourhood and in the shelters. But at the moment, more aid is coming to the displaced people in the shelters than those in the neighbourhoods.
>
> Man, 34, IDP in a shelter in Ar Rahad

> "They should avoid focusing solely on fixed centres and pay attention to the needs of the displaced people.
>
> Man, 32, IDP in the host community in Madeinet al Gedaref

[20] OCHA. December 2024. "Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025."

Figure 16:

Do humanitarian aid and services go to those who need them most?

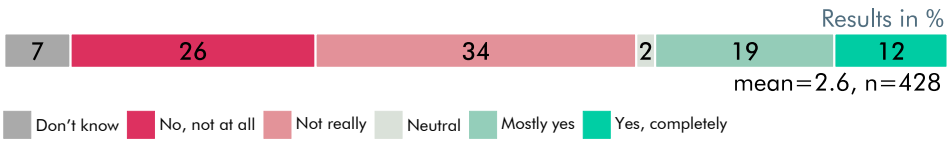
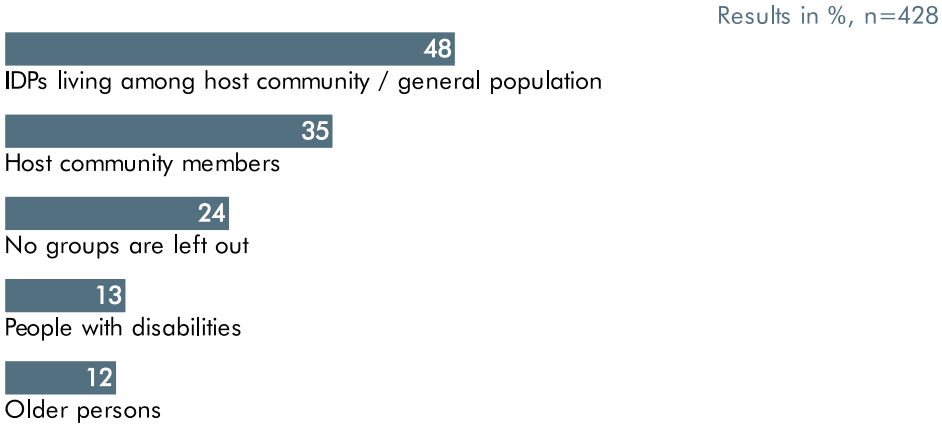


Figure 17:

Which groups are often missed in the targeting of humanitarian aid and services?



Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

The sense of injustice in the way that aid is currently distributed is widespread. Just 16% of people we spoke to consider aid to be provided fairly in their community. People told us that they find preferential treatment for people in shelters unfair, given the widespread need among those within the general population. A displaced woman living among the host community in Al Qureisha described her experience: **"When we go, they tell us that this is not for you, this is for the shelter people in the school only."**

Many shared experiences of registering for assistance only to find out their names have been removed when they reach the distribution sites. A displaced woman living among the host community in Ar Rahad described her frustration: **"When we hear that aid has arrived, we go because we are registered. We stand in line, and they call the people they know, and we are told that our names are dropped. We leave empty-handed."** This has happened to some people on several occasions. In discussions with aid providers, they highlighted that this may result from ineffective communication of selection criteria by aid providers. These kinds of experience can then encourage rumours to proliferate. Many people told us that nepotism is the primary reason they consider aid to be provided unfairly. A displaced man living among the host community in Ar Rahad explained, **"The real registration happens in secret, while the false registration is in public. Distribution is based on connections and favouritism. When we ask why we weren't given anything despite our names being registered, they say the names were missed or not approved. Meanwhile, we see the relatives of those in charge receiving aid, even getting extra."**

"

I have displaced people in my house who have registered for aid more than 15 times and for more than four months they have not been given anything.

Man, 46, host community member in Ar Rahad

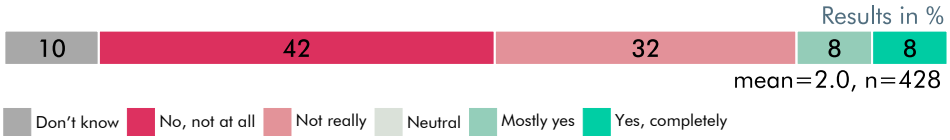
"

The problem is that the committee members register their acquaintances and do not consider displaced people, the needy, orphans, or older people. The whole process involves clear corruption.

Man, 57, host community member in Ar Rahad.

Figure 18:

Are humanitarian aid and services provided in a fair way in your community?



Others explained to us that the absence of equality and consistency in the quantities of aid distributed per person make them feel that aid is provided unfairly. A displaced woman living in Al Qureisha reported, **"Some people brought support, and they gave the first group a full carton, while the following groups received half a carton."** Finally, some also added that information on distribution dates is often incorrect or misleading, meaning that they miss out on distribution. All these experiences contribute to a widespread perception of unfairness, especially when access to aid or information is seen as restricted or selective. **"Some of the displaced people do not know the date of the distribution, and when they come, they find that the aid has ended"** explained a displaced woman living in Ar Rahad.

When asked about how they would like to participate in any stage of a humanitarian project, responses were split across design, implementation, and evaluation stages. At the design stage, people talked about forming committees to represent their community and using that forum to communicate the nature and scale of the needs to aid providers and authorities. People also expressed interest in taking part in assessing community needs to ensure that aid reaches the most vulnerable members of society.

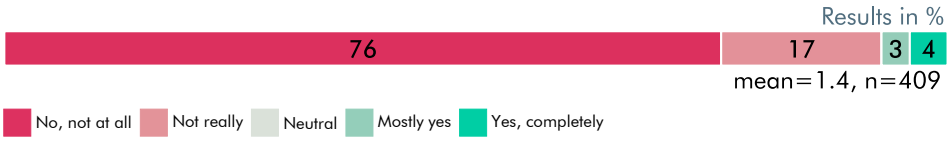
At the implementation stage, people often mentioned that they would like to be involved in registering or counting displaced people. A displaced woman living in Al Qureisha explained, **"I could count the IDPs in the neighbourhood and participate with providers in the distribution of aid so that it reaches everyone in need."** In a similar vein, many people would like to be involved in the actual distribution of aid. For some, this would be to ensure that distribution is conducted fairly. **"[I would] make a schedule for displaced people from Khartoum, Sennar and Al-Jazeera, and set a [distribution] day for each one separately to prevent distribution being conducted through middlemen who favour acquaintances"** explained a displaced man living in Ar Rahad. Finally, many people would like to participate in follow-up activities to ensure that aid has been correctly delivered, and that no one is left out. A displaced woman living in Al Qureisha told us, **"I would participate with the team working on evaluation so that I know whether all people have received aid or not."**

People want more information by phone

The telecommunication constraints, together with severe physical access challenges, have limited aid providers' capacity to engage with communities. Only 7% of people we spoke to in Gedaref said that aid providers consult members of their community on their needs before providing assistance, despite people wanting to be actively involved in the decisions that affect the aid they receive.

Figure 19:

Do you have the impression that aid providers consult members of your community on their needs before providing humanitarian aid and services?



"[We would] form a committee, record needs, make decisions, contact the responsible authorities and distribute the supplies we receive.

Woman, 34, IDP in the host community in Al Qureisha

"[We would] classify those in need and those most in need, taking into account special cases: people with disabilities, orphans, older people, and those with chronic diseases.

Woman, 43, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

"[I would] participate in counting the displaced people in the neighbourhood, collecting information about them, and learning about their living conditions.

Woman, 25 IDP in the host community in Al Qureisha

"We would start by making a committee in each neighbourhood, made from God-fearing people among the IDPs, and if any aid arrives, everyone who is registered should receive their share.

Man, 41, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

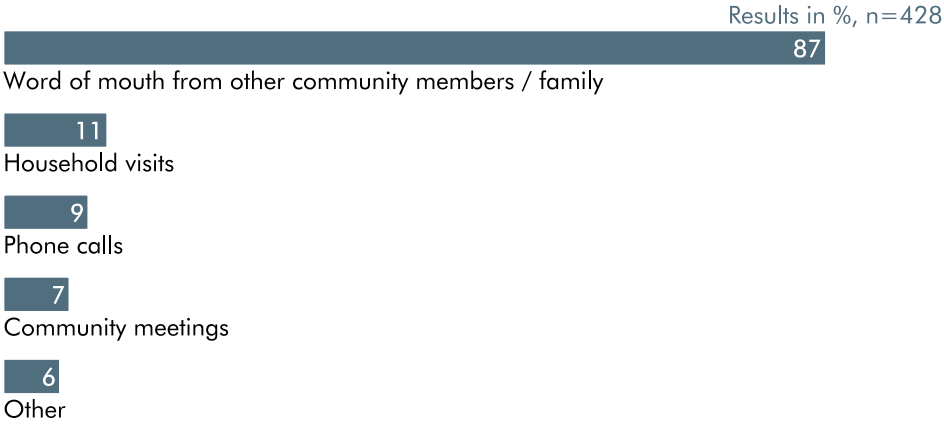
"[I would] help in the process of registration and distribution in a fair manner.

Woman, 42, host community member in Al Qureisha

Disrupted telecommunications across Sudan have severely affected people's ability to access lifesaving information, and hindered aid workers' capacity to deliver essential aid and services.[21] In Gedaref, network access was re-established following a communications blackout in February 2024, but connectivity remains variable across the state.[22] Although some level of telecommunication service exists across Gedaref, it is clear that the vast majority of people we spoke with rely on verbal communication with friends, neighbours, and other community members to obtain information about humanitarian aid. A substantial 87% of respondents receive information in this way, while just 11% receive it through household visits, 9% through telephone calls, and 7% through community meetings. However, when asked about their preferred method of receiving information there are two standout preferences: 59% would like to be informed through phone calls and 35% would prefer aid providers to visit their household and provide them with the information directly.

Figure 20:

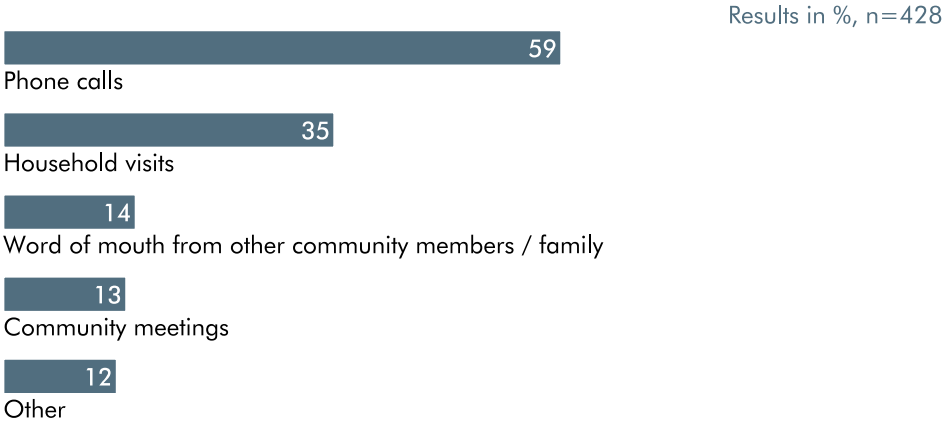
How do you currently receive information about humanitarian aid and services?



Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

Figure 21:

If you could choose how you receive information about humanitarian aid and services, what would be your preferred information channels?



Note: Percentages in the graph do not equal 100% as respondents could choose multiple options

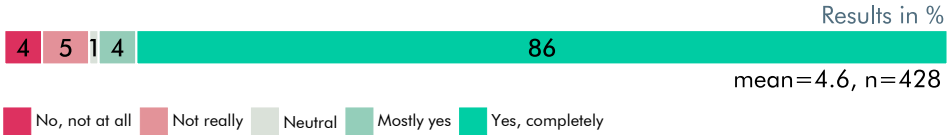
[21] NRC. May 2024. "Joint statement: World cannot continue to turn blind eye to Sudan as man-made famine is confirmed in Darfur camp" ; Radio Dabanga. August 2024. "Comms blackout across Sudan as rains damage essential fiber optic cable hub."

[22] Ibid; NRC. May 2024. "Telecommunications, Protection, and Food - April 2024."

People generally feel safe, but overcrowding and unfair distribution raise protection risks

Civilians across Sudan are exposed to grave protection risks. The vast majority of people that we spoke to in Gedaref, though, feel safe where they are now. However, many people pointed to protection risks associated with aid distribution and had recommendations for aid providers on how to reduce these. The most popular suggestion was simply to provide more support, with many respondents specifically mentioning the need for more food supplies, but the way in which aid is distributed is also important. People mentioned that there are few distribution centres, leading to chaos and overcrowding during distributions. A displaced man living in Ar Rahad described his concern: **"There is only one distribution centre currently working and there are a lot of people, which causes problems."** The limited number of distribution centres can also expose people to risk whilst travelling to and from their accommodation. A host community member in Ar Rahad described the risk for his displaced peers: **"[There needs to be] home visits to the displaced to check on their needs, instead of them walking in the morning to the distribution centres and coming back late in the evening when it is not safe."**

Figure 22:
Where you are staying now, do you feel you and your family are safe?



Overcrowded distribution points combined with insufficient aid can often lead to escalating tensions. A displaced woman living in Ar Rahad reflected on her experience, saying **"[Aid providers need to] choose honest and God-fearing individuals to distribute aid who do not discriminate against displaced people. All displaced people are in need. There have been fights with those providing assistance because they are not honest when registering and distributing in the locality."** Several respondents echoed the need for aid providers to ensure fair distribution to alleviate safety concerns. Many people mentioned that aid providers ought to raise the police or security presence in the implementation of their activities, to promote order.

Elsewhere, many people highlighted that their current living conditions are unsuitable and that they need support to reduce safety risks. Some reported sleeping in the streets. Others living in shelters mention the need to improve security controls to prevent intruders. **"[Aid providers should] guard and supervise the centre to prevent the entry of strangers and people from outside the centre"** requested a displaced man living in a shelter in Ar Rahad.

What the people in Gedaref want the international community to know and do

People in Gedaref want the world to recognise the scale of suffering caused by the war. **"Our lives have been turned upside down and scattered"** explained a displaced woman living in Madeinet al Gedaref. Many shared experiences of the difficult living conditions they endure on a daily basis. A displaced man living in Ar Rahad told us, **"We were humiliated, we lost our lives, our property, and we lost our children's education."** People stress the urgent need for food, water, and healthcare.

"The presence of security forces is important to prevent corruption and to ensure that activities are carried out safely, without allowing factionalism or favouritism through middlemen.

Woman, 42, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

"Build us houses to sleep in, we sleep outside.

Woman, 56, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

"[The international community ought to] implement small-scale projects to generate income to support our children.

Woman, 28, host community member in Ar Rahad

Many people are psychologically shattered. They are tired, they lack stability, and they are scared that the conflict might spread to where they are now, triggering further displacement. A displaced woman living in Ar Rahad told us, **"We are surviving but we are not staying in our homes. We are always thinking about when and how we will return."**

People in Gedaref want the international community to increase efforts to stop the violence and help them rebuild their lives and return to their homes. A displaced man living in Madeinet al Gedaref urged, **"The Sudan war is a forgotten war, and I want the world to care about it. I want the international community to shine a light on Sudan."** People call for an increase in the volume of aid being provided because the level of need is immense, particularly for food and water. People also highlight the financial crisis and the need for cash assistance, livelihood support, and investment in the economy. A displaced woman living in Ar Rahad suggested, **"First, stop the war and rebuild what has been destroyed. Then, provide means for returning and create employment opportunities."**

> "I am tired from all sides, homeless and living with a vulnerable family. My wife is now in her last month of pregnancy. The circumstances are very difficult.
>
> Man, 36, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

> "We lost everything, our homes, our possessions, our morale. The economic situation is bad. We can't find anything to eat.
>
> Woman, 43, IDP in the host community in Ar Rahad

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Methodology

This study employs a quantitative approach to explore the humanitarian situation from the perspective of people in Sudan.

For this purpose, we selected a cross-sectional survey design to gather data from diverse communities in the states of Gedaref and South Darfur. We selected these two states because, at the time the data collection took place and excluding the inaccessible North Darfur, they hosted the largest number IDPs who had been displaced after the outbreak of the civil war in April 2023 (referred to as newly displaced IDPs).

This methodology refers to the quantitative study in Gedaref state. Data collection occurred between 3 and 26 November 2024.

Sampling design

- **Target population**: the target population includes adults (aged 18 and above) belonging to the host community and to the newly displaced IDPs groups of the selected communities in Gedaref.
- **Sampling frame**: The sampling frame was developed using IOM's DTM data from August 2024, which has tracked the displacement population's mobility in Sudan on a bi-weekly basis. IOM's data provides figures on newly displaced IDPs at village, camp, and neighbourhood levels.
- **Sampling method**: We employed a one-stage stratified sampling method to ensure representation of key sub-populations. Stratification was done by **location of displacement** (with strata proportions reflecting the relative sizes of the displaced populations in each location) and by **displacement status**, classified as follows:
    - Members of the host community;
    - Newly displaced IDPs residing among the host community (either hosted or renting accommodation on private land);
    - Newly displaced IDPs residing in collective centres (e.g., schools, hospitals, or government buildings).
- We applied a proportional allocation method at each stage to ensure the sample size reflected the relative sizes of these strata, thereby ensuring displacement status was represented in the sample according to the overall displaced population.
- **Sample size**: A total sample of 428 participants were included in this study.

Coverage and exclusion

- **Geographical coverage**: the study focusses on nine locations of displacement spread across three different localities (second-level administrative division): Al Qureisha, Madeinat Al Gedaref and Ar Rahad. The nine locations were selected among the locations indicated by the DTM data that hosted the largest number of newly displaced IDPs, based on the security considerations of the local data collection team.

  Please note that the locations of Wd Alshaear (Ar Rahad locality), Al Fao Town (Al Fao locality) and Alshouk Almadina (Al Fashaga locality), which were originally selected, had to be replaced by the following locations due to security concerns: Seifao (Al Qureisha locality), Hai Barbr (Al Qureisha Town locality) and Hai Altadamon (Madeinat Al Gedaref locality). At the time of the data collection, the final selected nine locations alone hosted 42% of the total number of newly displaced IDPs present in Gedaref state.
- **Demographic coverage**: The study includes men and women across various age groups, types of displacement status, social-economic statuses,

Who we talked to

We conducted face-to-face surveys with 428 people in Gedaref state. The demographic breakdowns for those who participated in the quantitative survey are set out below.

Gender

59% women (251)

41% men (177)

Disability

7% people with disabilities (29)

Age

35% 18–30 years old (152)

42% 31–45 years old (179)

23% 46+ years old (97)

Status

15% host community members (66)

8% IDPs in a shelter (34)

77% IDPs in the host community (328)

Localities

46% Ar Rahad (196)

33% Al Qureisha (140)

21% Madeinat al Gedaref (92)

and education levels. Lacking reliable demographic figures on the target population, an approximate 50–50% gender quota was ensured during the data collection, as well as a minimum of 10% of respondents with disabilities.

Data collection methods

We collected data using structured questionnaires administered through face-to-face interviews. The questionnaire included closed-ended and some open-ended questions measuring community perceptions around the unmet needs of the population, mutual aid initiatives within the community, and various aspects of both the local and international humanitarian response and the aid provided by community-based initiatives.

The instrument was co-designed by Ground Truth Solutions and DataQ and cognitively tested to ensure clarity and reliability.

A scoping phase was conducted by the DataQ field team prior to the start of the data collection to confirm the geographical location of the target areas and, whenever applicable, to collect a list of the collective centres in the target locations.

Trained local interviewers from DataQ conducted the interviews and the team in the field provided systematic assessment of the constantly shifting security situation on the ground.

The selection of the household used two different randomized protocols.

The selection of households in villages and towns used a random walk approach around randomly sampled GPS coordinates within the target areas. Security risks were mitigated by instructing the interviewers to conduct four interviews around each provided GPS point within an approximate 100-metre radius. This enabled interviewers to limit their presence in the field and to better assess the security situation during the field work, while ensuring randomness in the sample.

Households in collective centres were selected by every eligible nth household, with n being a pre-calculated pace which considers the number of households hosted in the specific centre.

A randomized approach was adopted to select respondents within selected households.

Weighting

The sample was designed to be self-weighted. The field work did not require adjustments to the designed sample allocation and therefore a uniform weighting was adopted during the analysis. Due to a lack of reliable figures of the marginal total of demographic variables, no additional raking step could be used to correct for under- or overrepresented population segments.

Precision of estimates

To calculate margins of error per question we used the "Survey" R package (statistical software used in R programming), specifying our survey design.

Please note that the precision of our estimates varies from question to question and the sample size also varies per question (as some questions are follow-up questions asked to a subset of the total sample). For questions asked to at least 90% of all respondents, margins of error average 3.37% points for Likert questions and 2.93% points for binary questions. Note also that the calculation of the margin of errors assumes no clustering of data points, which due to security reasons could not be adhered to for every sub-location of this data collection.