Map of Bilidigilu Woreda, Benishangul Gumuz Region

OVERVIEW

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 Biligildu Woreda, currently hosting ***6,614*** IDPs across two sites: Kedo ***(2,975 individuals)*** and Gunfi (***3,639 individuals).*** These populations remain unable to return to their areas of origin due to ongoing insecurity, destruction of homes, looting of livestock, and loss of livelihoods. 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 from 2-5 December 2025, through ***Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)*** with IDP community members. ***94*** key informants participated in the assessment, including ***61*** *IDPs and other* ***33*** informants (***10*** local authorities, ***9*** teachers, ***5*** humanitarian workers and ***2*** medical staff).

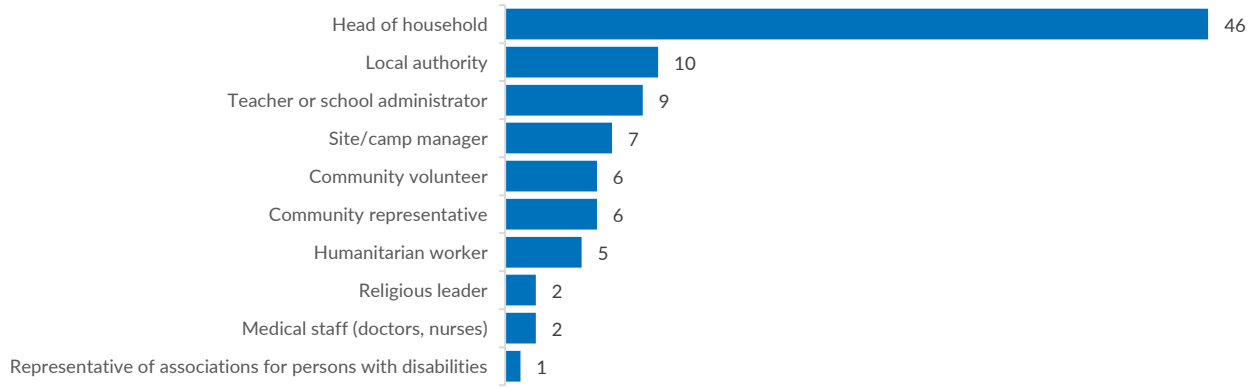
KEY INFORMANTS PROFILE

94 Key informants

39 (41 %) Female

55 (59 %) Male

Key informants' category

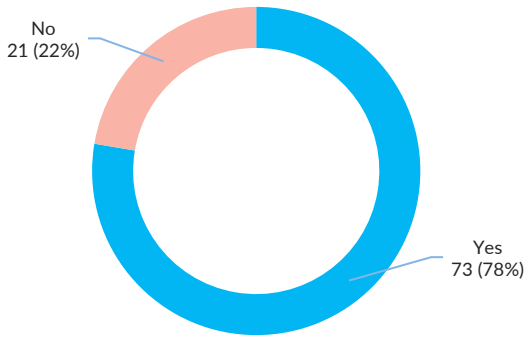


FINDINGS OF THE KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Sector	Top 3 obstacles to access basic needs by community members *Percentages are out of the total of 94 Key informants*
Food	• Burning of crops *(47%)* • Lack of food *(37%)* • Insect damage *(36%)*
Health	• Lack of healthcare staff *(65%)* • Lack of medicine *(57%)* • Lack of documents *(30%)*
Education	• Safety concerns *(68%)* • Lack of materials *(64%)* • Distance *(60%)*
WASH	• Lack of sanitary pads *(52%)* • Water scarcity *(50%)* • Lack of awareness on hygiene *(43%)*

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

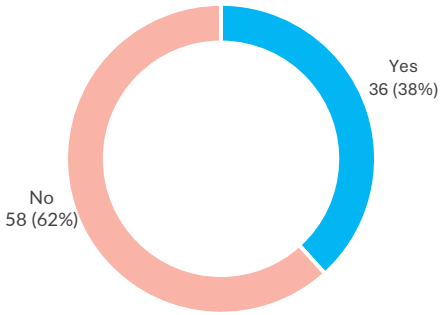
% key informants that observed particular signs of distress among different populations



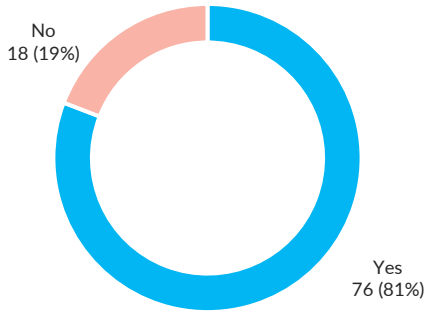
- *78% (73) of key informants reported observing signs of distress and suggests a high prevalence of visible psychological or emotional distress within the community, underscoring the need for targeted MHPSS interventions and further assessment to understand the nature and drivers of these distress signals.*

Safety and security

% women and girls that are always able to move freely in the community

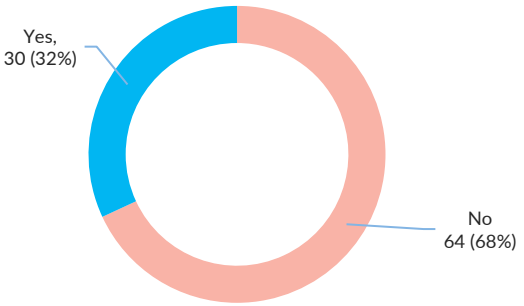


% men and boys that are always able to move freely in the community



Explosive Ordnance

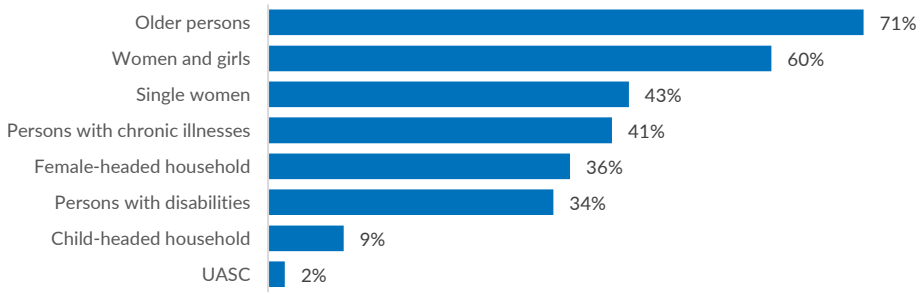
Presence of landmines, unexploded ordnances or other explosive remnants of war key informants are aware of in their location or surrounding?



- *Presence of Explosive Ordnances (Eos) was reported by about one-third of the key informants (32%) - the presence of explosive remnants of war is a significant concern. This underscores the ongoing risks to safety and mobility, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and those accessing essential services.*

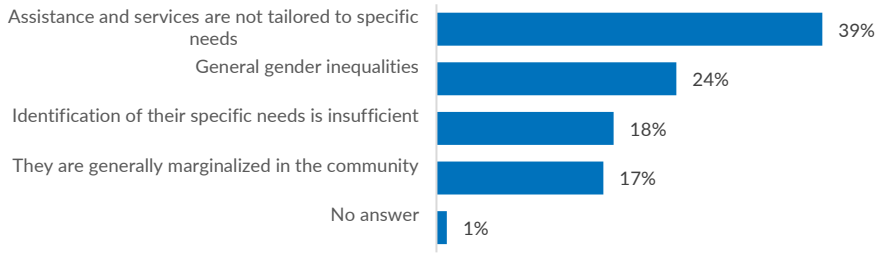
Access to Fundamental Rights and Basic Needs

% group/s faced with particular challenges or esp. disadvantaged in accessing assistance and services



- *Accessing assistance and services is challenging to specific groups including persons with disabilities, older persons (71%), women and girls (60%), single women (43%), and persons with chronic illness (41%). Female-headed households (36%) and persons with disabilities (34%), also face notable difficulties.*

Main reason why specific groups are particularly disadvantaged



- *Lack of tailored support (39%): services and assistance are often not adapted to meet the specific needs of different vulnerable groups. This mismatch can result in exclusion, ineffective aid, or even harm.*
- *Gender inequalities were mentioned by about one-fourth (24%)* of respondents.
- *Insufficient identification of needs (18%): sufficient need identification is a key driver for proper planning and inclusion and lack of it refutes the importance of tailored programming and response.*

Coping Mechanism

Coping Mechanism	Always	Don't know	Never	Sometimes
Begging		26%	38%	36%
Buying food on credit or through borrowed money from relatives and friends		9%	21%	70%
Changing place of residence and accommodation to reduce expenses		20%	34%	46%
Child labor	1%	7%	30%	62%
Early Marriage for girls		10%	48%	43%
Illegal activities (such as theft)		4%	45%	51%
Selling humanitarian assistance received	1%	16%	23%	60%
Sold house and/or land		22%	64%	14%
Transactional sex		6%	91%	2%
Withdrew children from school		3%	27%	70%

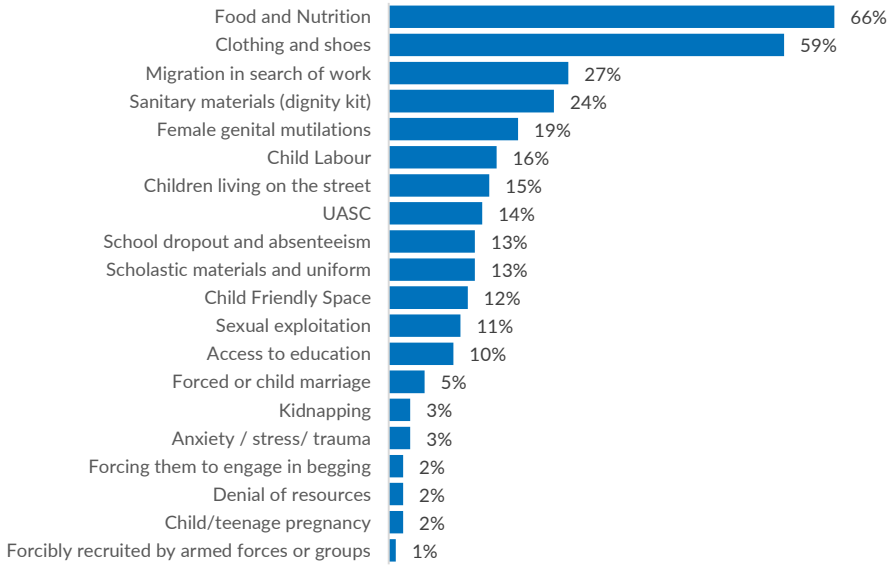
Moderate reliance on negative coping strategies was largely practiced among IDPs to manage pressing economic hardships, with the most common include:

- Buying food on credit or borrowing from relatives and friends: 70%
- Withdrawing children from school: 70%
- Child labor: 62%
- Selling humanitarian assistance received: 60%

Rarely practiced coping mechanisms includes transactional sex, property selling (house and land), and early marriage.

Child protection

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



MOST URGENT CONCERN FOR CHILDREN

- **Food and nutrition (66%):** by far the most cited issue, indicating widespread concern about children's access to adequate meals and nourishment.
- **Clothing and shoes (59%):** indicate gaps in essential items for daily life and school participation.
- **Unaccompanied and separated children (27%):** this proportion is high and affects child growth and wellbeing.
- **Sanitary materials/dignity kits (24%):** most significant problem according to close to one-fourth of the respondents.
- **Female genital mutilation (19%):** significant number of respondents cited this issue as a significant concern affecting the wellbeing of children.

EDUCATION-RELATED CHALLENGES

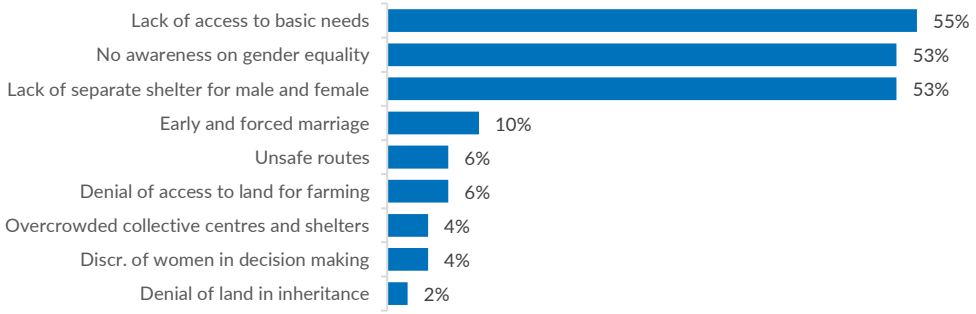
- Problems related to school dropout and absenteeism (13%) and access to education (10%) would trigger long-term negative outcomes, requiring long term solutions from the start.

LESS FREQUENTLY REPORTED BUT CRITICAL ISSUES

- Forced or child marriage (5%), kidnapping (3%), anxiety/stress/trauma (3%), begging (2%), child/teenage pregnancy (2%), and forced recruitment by armed forces (1%) – though less frequently mentioned, these represent severe protection risks and violations of children's rights.

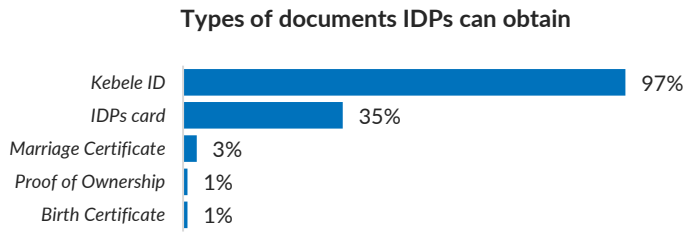
Gender-Based Violence

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

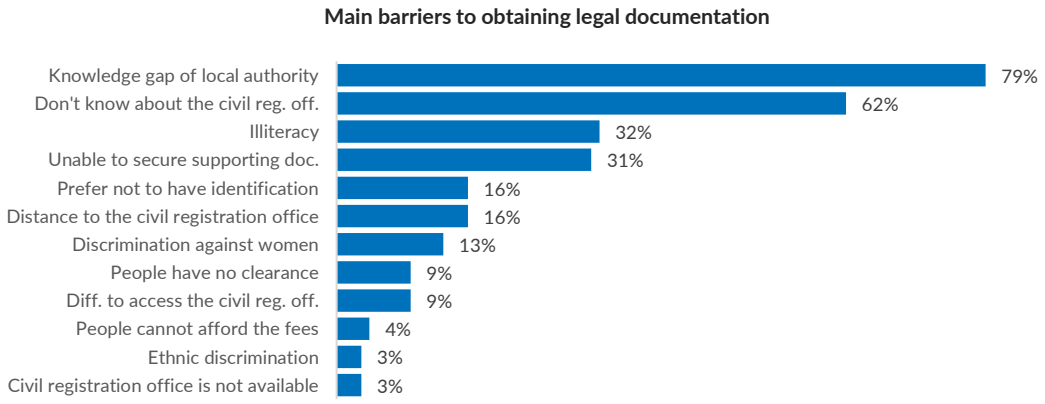


- Of the most critical factors that are currently increasing the risk of gender-based and other forms of violence were lack of access to basic needs **(55%)**, lack of awareness on gender equality **(53%)** and lack of separate shelter for male and female **(53%)** – at least pointed by one in two of the key informants.
- Other factors were also reported, including early and forced marriage **(10%)**, unsafe routes **(6%)**, denial of access to farmland **(6%)**, and others with smaller percentages.

Documentation

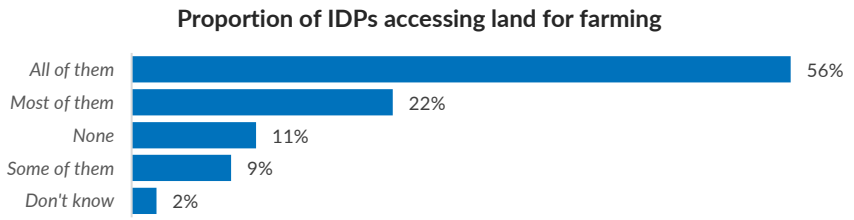


- While basic identification documents like Kebele IDs and IDPs card provided with the support of UNHCR are relatively accessible, legal and civil documentation such as marriage certificates and proof of property ownership remain largely inaccessible to most IDPs. This gap can significantly affect their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



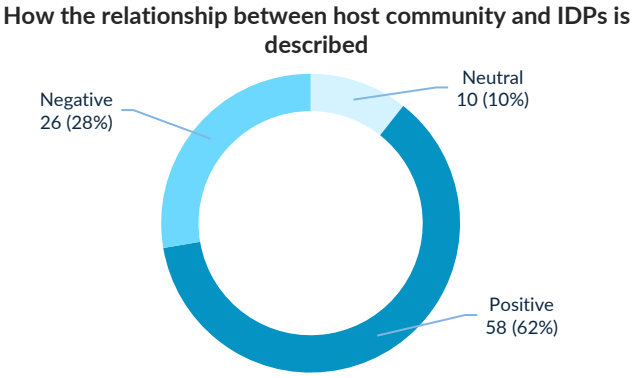
- Knowledge (79%) and informational gap (62%) among authorities and communities is the major barrier to obtaining legal documentation while illiteracy (32%) and lack of supporting documents (31%) also pose significant barriers.

Housing, Land, and Property



- ***Access to farmland*** is not a challenge for 56% for IDPs but close to half of them have at least some degrees of challenge to access farmland. About 22% of IDPs reported to have considerable challenges.

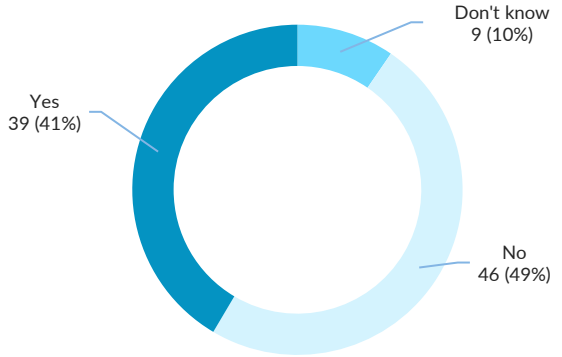
Social Cohesion



Most of the respondents (62%) reported positive relation between the host community and IDPs, while some 26% indicated negative relations showing the need to strengthen peaceful co-existence between the two communities.

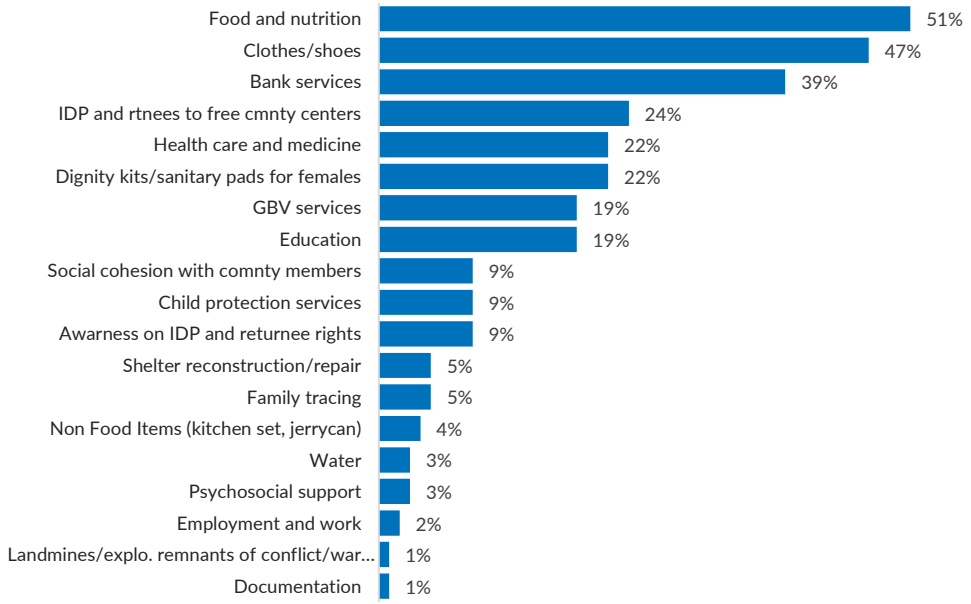
Community Representation

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



- Findings of the assessment shows **41%** of respondents have confirmed the existence of an IDP community organization or leadership that facilitates discussions and addresses the needs and concerns of the displaced population. However, the majority of respondents reported unavailability **(49%)** while **10%** of the respondents have no information, showing the importance of expanding/strengthening the community structures.

Priority needs



Feedback Mechanism

- Regular information is received by only 3% while 86% reported that information reaches them sometimes; 11% never received information. This points to a need for stronger, more reliable feedback and communication mechanisms to ensure timely and equitable access to humanitarian assistance updates.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The December 2025 PMS highlights persistent vulnerabilities among older persons, women, and children. While farmland access and social cohesion show modest improvements, explosive hazards, GBV risks, and documentation barriers remain. Strengthened protection, inclusive services, and community-based mechanisms are essential to safeguard rights and resilience. Further, the following actions are recommended.

- Expand food and health services.
- Address medicine/staff shortages.
- Ensure safe school access, provide learning materials.
- Improve water, sanitation, and dignity kit distribution.
- Strengthen Child Protection and GBV services.
- Increase mine risk education and clearance.
- Support livelihoods and farmland access.
- Improve documentation access and reduce barriers.
- Strengthen IDP leadership and communication.
- Promote social cohesion and peacebuilding.

Donor support

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

Partners