

HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

INTENTION SURVEY

Tigray Region, Ethiopia | July 2021



Publication Date: 15 September 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In July 2021, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and Protection Cluster worked together to carry out household level intention surveys in Tigray region for the first time. The need for this exercise was acknowledged following the changing mobility context in Tigray region where internally displaced persons (IDPs) were noticeably beginning to return to their places of origin in July 2021.

In response to this changing mobility context, the purpose of the household level intention surveys was to better understand the intention of IDPs in urban areas with high displacement concentrations, the barriers preventing their preferred durable solution and the support needed to pursue that durable solution.

The household level intention survey was conducted in urban areas with high displacement concentrations in Abi Adi, Adigrat, Adwa, Axum, Mekelle, Sheraro and Shire, where representative sampling was deployed in each of these 7 urban areas.

As this was a resource intense operation, the coordination efforts of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and Protection Cluster were highly appreciated in gathering enumerators, vehicles and tablets from various partners. The technical and operational support of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was also appreciated in providing guidance on sampling, producing the operational plan, mobilizing enumerators and vehicles and in producing this report.

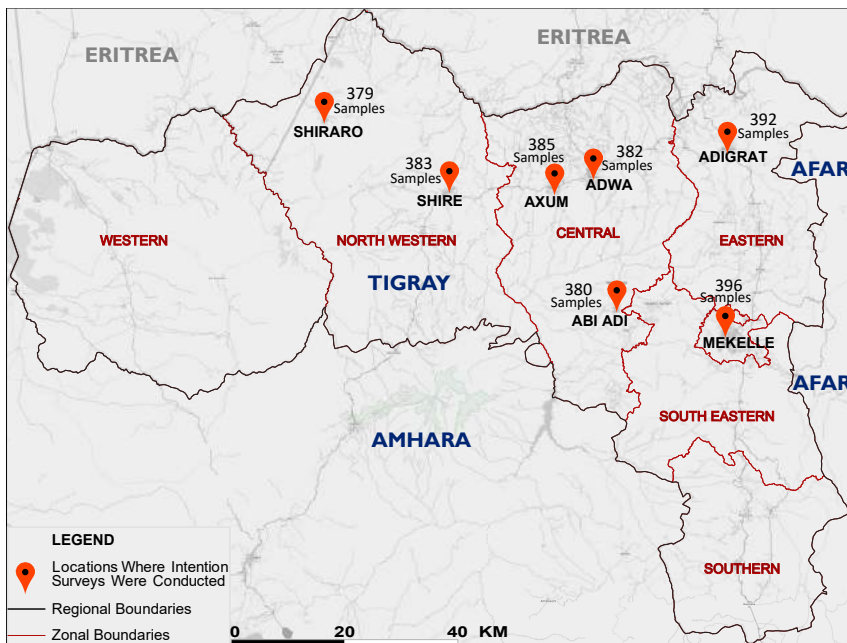
The partners who contributed resources include ACF, CCCM Cluster, CRS, FAO, GOAL, IOM, NRC, OSSHD, Protection Cluster, RADO, Samaritan's Purse, Shelter Cluster, UNHCR and UNICEF. Thank you for your kind contributions which made this data collection exercise possible.



Image 1: A UNHCR enumerator and IOM enumerator are preparing to collect data among IDPs living in the host community in Shire © IOM 2021

METHODOLOGY

Representative Sampling



95%	Confidence Level
5%	Margin of Error
7	Number of Locations Where the Survey Was Conducted
380	Minimum Number of Household Surveys Per Location
2,696	Total Number of Household Surveys Carried Out
68%	Male Enumerators
32%	Female Enumerators

A representative sample is a small subset group that seeks to proportionally reflect specified characteristics exemplified in a target population. Representative sampling is a technique that can be used for obtaining insights and observations about a targeted population group.

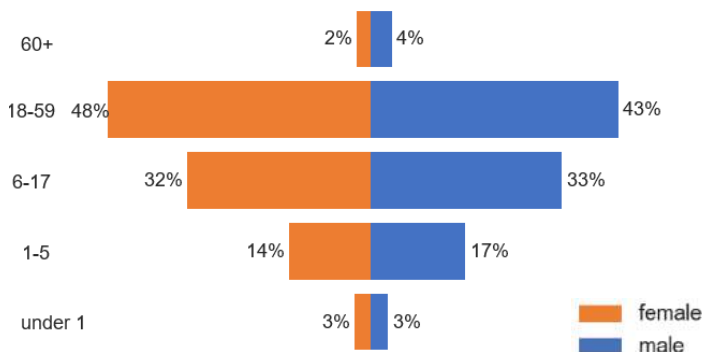
For the purposes of this data collection exercise, the sample size for each location was calculated at a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 5%. In order to calculate the number of household surveys needed in each location, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)'s Emergency Site Assessment round 7 data was used to obtain the estimated base number of IDP households in each of the 7 locations. Based on this data, it was concluded that the minimum number of households to be interviewed in each location was 380 samples. The intention surveys were carried out in July 2021.

In each location, the DTM Emergency Site Assessment round 7 data was used to get an estimated number of IDP households per IDP site, whereby the IDP sites were either host communities hosting IDPs or collective centers. The number of samples per site was then proportionally calculated based on the number of IDPs in each IDP site, producing a representative sample for each of the seven targeted location. Location-level findings were presented to local coordination meetings and partners to inform response planning.

The findings in this report refer to the overall IDP population of the seven targeted locations. To ensure that the analysis is representative of this combined population, the findings from each location were weighted proportionally to its estimated IDP population, using Emergency Site Assessment round 7 data.

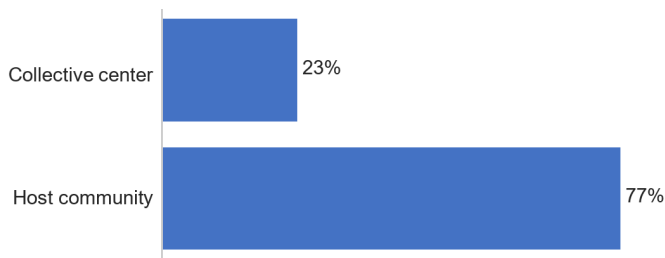
DEMOGRAPHICS & NEEDS

Sex and Age Breakdown of Surveyed Households



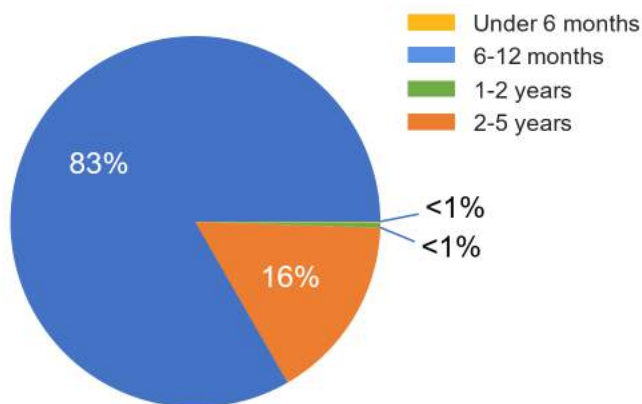
Of all the 2,696 IDP households surveyed, 48% were female IDPs aged between 18 and 59, while 43% were male IDPs aged between 18 and 59. Around 32% were female IDPs aged between 6 and 17, and 33% were male IDPs aged between 6 and 17 years old.

Site Types



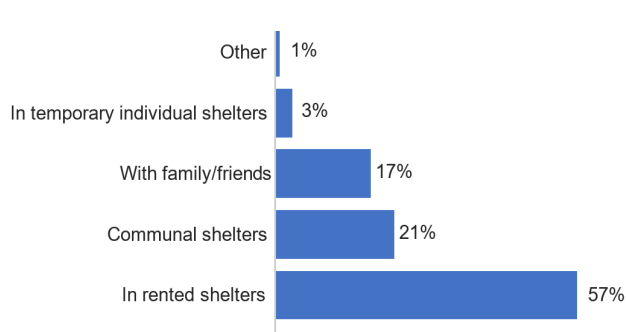
Of all the IDP households surveyed, 2,076 households were living in host communities (77%), while 620 households were living in collective centers (23%).

Length of Displacement



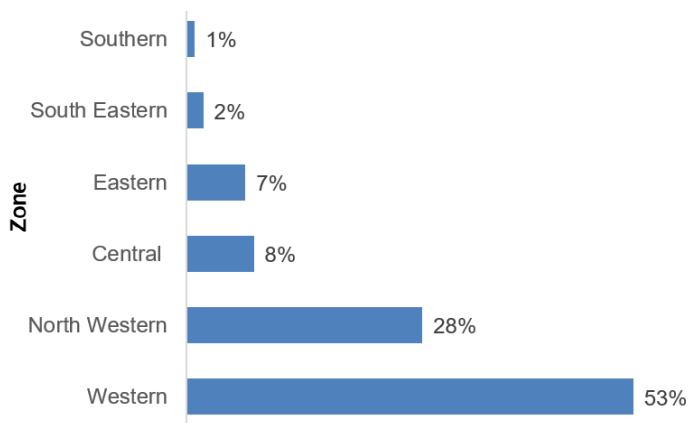
This household level intention survey was carried out in July 2021. As of the time of the survey, 83% of IDP households surveyed said that they had been displaced for 6 to 12 months, while 16% mentioned that they had already been displaced for 2 to 5 years.

Where IDPs Live



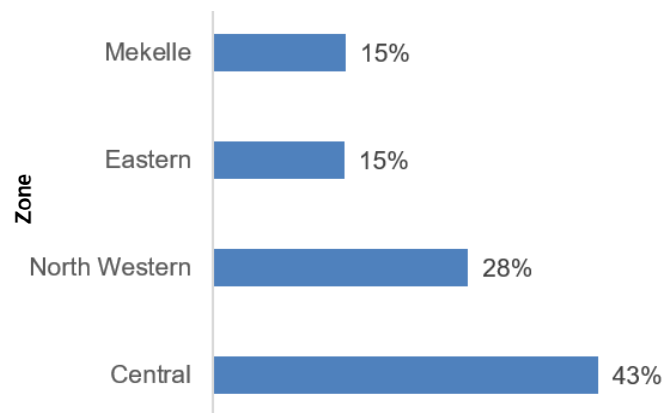
57% of IDP households were living in rented shelters, 21% in communal shelters, 17% with family or friends, 3% were in temporary individual shelters and 1% resorted to other options.

Place of Origin of IDPs



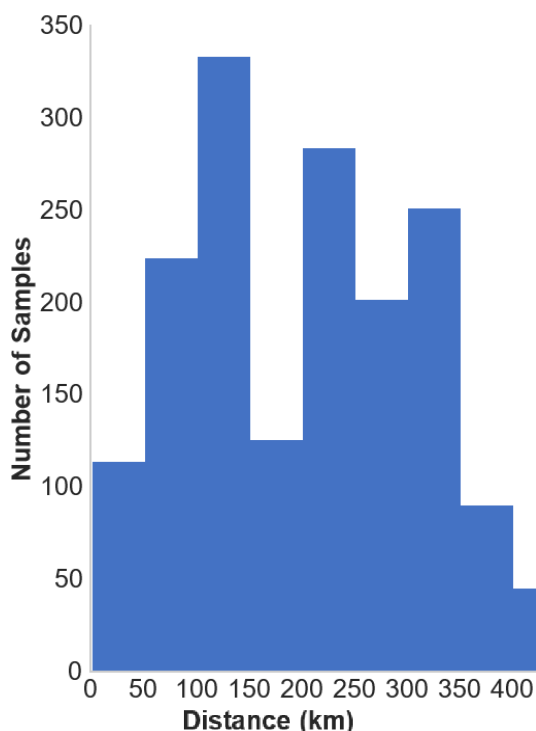
Of the IDP households surveyed, 53% of them originated from Western zone in Tigray region. The next largest place of origin is North Western zone where 28% claimed to have originated from, followed by Central zone with 8% and Eastern zone with 7%.

Place of Displacement of IDPs



Based on the sampling frame of targeting 7 urban areas of Abi Adi, Adigrat, Adwa, Axum, Mekelle, Sheraro and Shire, 43% of IDP households were displaced in Central zone. 28% of IDP households surveyed were found in North Western zone, 15% in Eastern zone and 15% in Mekelle.

Distance Between Place of Origin and Place of Displacement

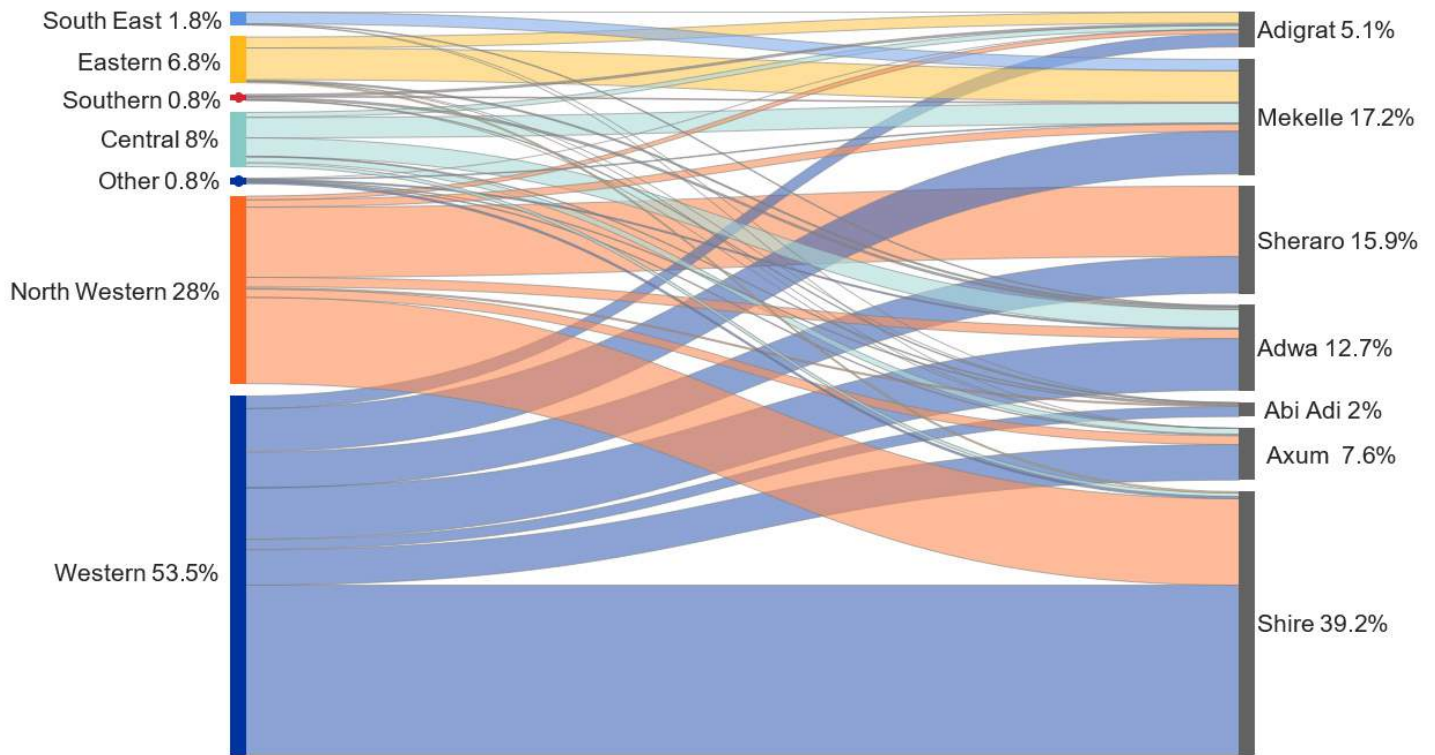


This infographic depicts the distribution of distance between the place of current displacement of IDPs and their place of origin.

Many IDPs were displaced within a 350km range. About 700 IDP households (26%) mentioned that their place of displacement is about 100km away from their place of origin.

Meanwhile, another 950 IDP households (35%) are roughly between 100-400km away from their places of origin. The number of IDPs displaced further than that drops significantly past the 400km point.

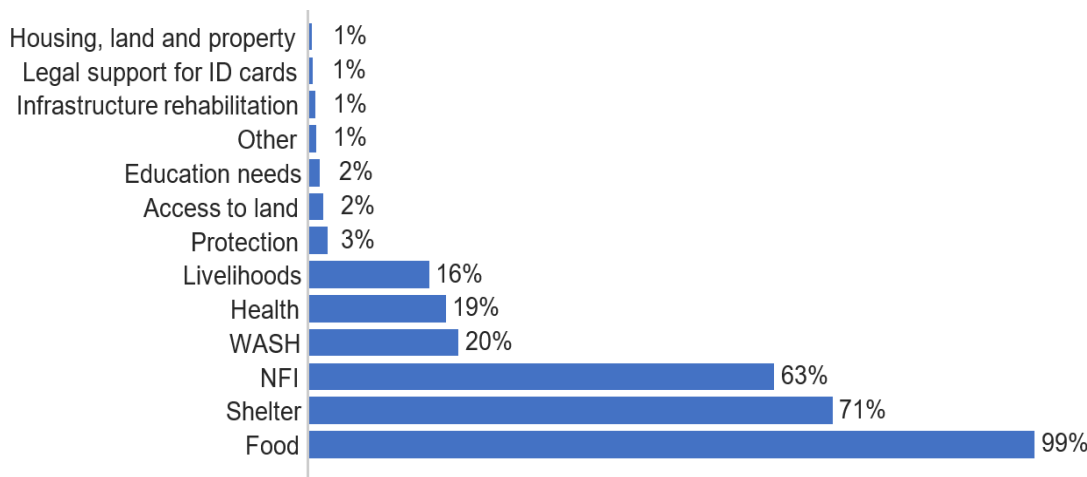
Movement Flows of Surveyed IDPs in Tigray region



As observable in the Sankey diagram above, 53.5% of surveyed IDPs originated from Western zone and were then displaced to Shire, followed by other urban areas, most notably Adwa, Mekelle, Sheraro and Axum.

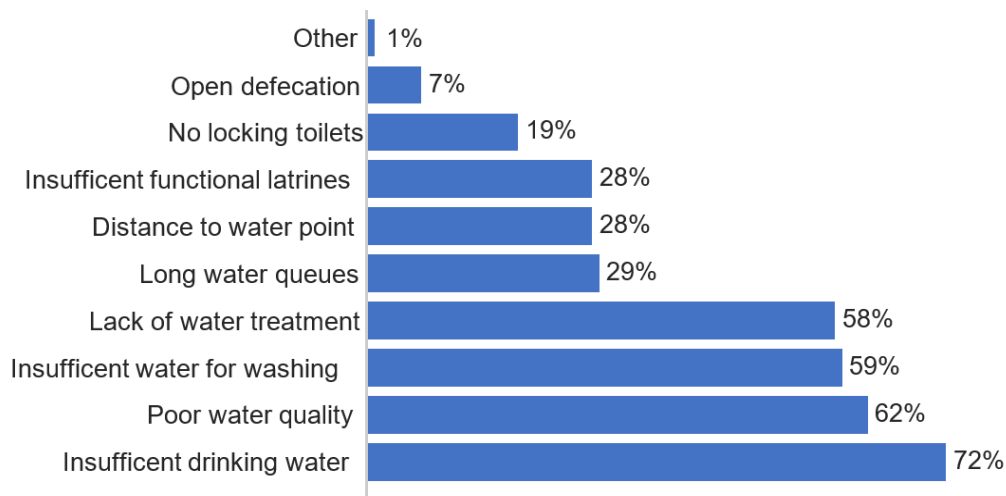
28% of surveyed IDPs originated from North Western zone and were mainly displaced to Shire and Sheraro. Based on the graph above, it can also be derived that Western zone was the largest zone of origin and Shire is the largest location hosting IDPs.

Main Sectoral Needs



An overwhelming majority of IDP households surveyed (99%) said that their main need is food. This was followed by shelter, as mentioned by 71% of IDP households and non-food items (NFIs) as mentioned by 63% of IDP households.

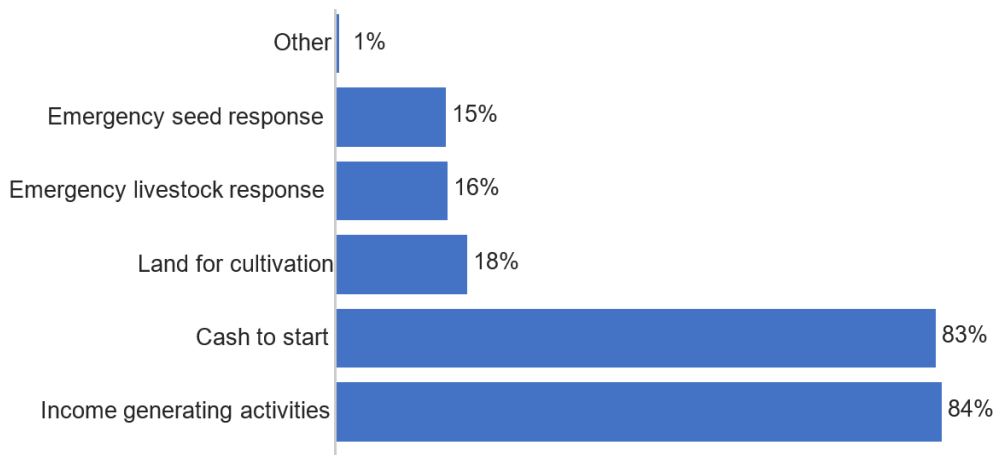
Main Issues With WASH



Of the 564 IDP households who said that water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) was their main need, 72% cited insufficient drinking water as the main issue.

The next most cited issue was poor quality of water as mentioned by 62% of respondents, insufficient water for washing as cited by 59% of respondents and lack of water treatment as mentioned by 58% of respondents.

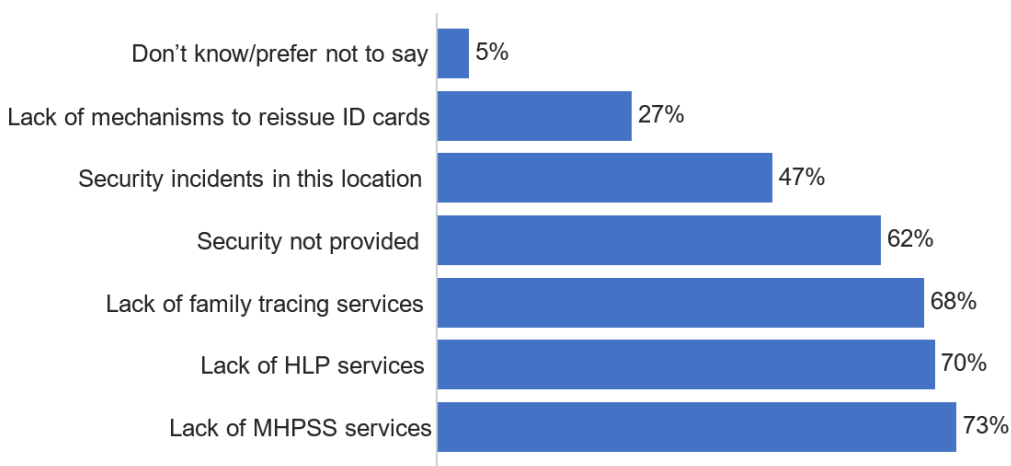
Type of Support Needed for Livelihoods



Of the 473 IDP households who said that livelihood was their main need, 84% of these IDPs requested support for accessing income generating activities.

Meanwhile, 83% of these IDPs requested for cash to start their livelihoods and 18% of these IDPs requested for land for cultivation.

Main Issues With Protection Services



Of the 66 IDP households who said that protection was their main need, 73% of respondents mentioned that there is a lack of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.

This was followed by a lack of housing, land and property (HLP) services in places of origin as cited by 70% of these respondents and a lack of family tracing services as cited by 68% of respondents.

Selected Comments from Respondents on Needs

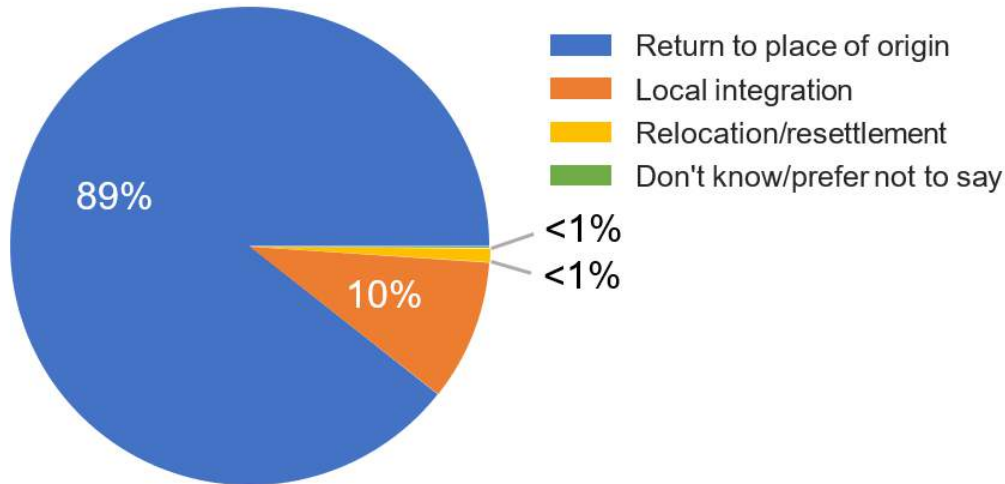
- “IDPs are using the water truck distributions but the water is not enough for drinking, cooking and washing. As a result, IDPs also have to wait for days to cook food.”
- “There are no water services in town and the water fetched from the river is expensive and dirty. Additionally, there are no latrines.”
- “WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) is the highest priority need and needs to be solved urgently.”
- “Many assessments have been conducted before by many organisations on our main needs. However, we haven't received any support except for the help from the Mekelle community.”
- “The IDPs need cash support so that they can fulfill their basic needs. We need access to health services and livelihood support.”
- “We are unable to cover the cost of renting houses and we need shelter support urgently. Food assistance is also needed.”
- “Seed money is very important for us as we need it to cover the cost of transportation.”
- “I have a shortage of food for me and my children. It's almost been two months since I received food assistance and I am now begging food from the host community to survive. Please help me as I am in a very difficult situation.”



Image 2: An IDP woman is drying her clothes on a tree in Mayweynei Secondary School Collective Center, Mekelle © IOM 2021

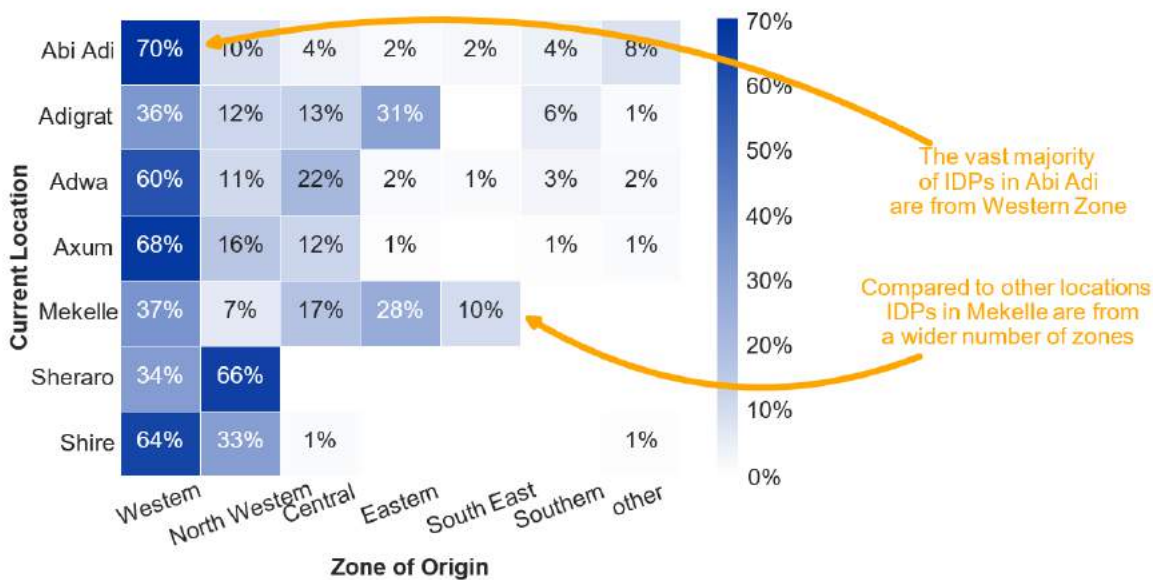
LONGER-TERM SOLUTIONS

Preferred Durable Solution



A total of 2,696 IDPs were sampled across these 7 locations. Based on this sampling size, 89% of respondents wanted to return to their places of origin, 10% wanted to locally integrate, less than 1% wanted to relocate/resettle and less than 1% was unsure or preferred not to answer the question.

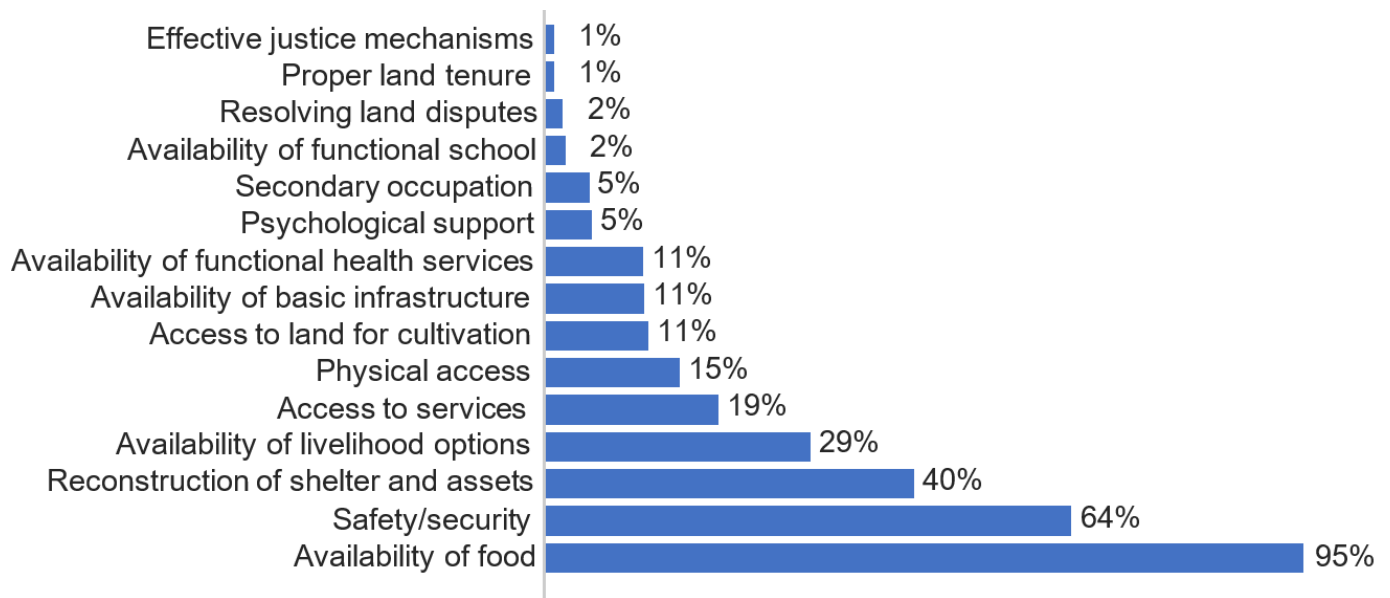
Place of Origin of IDPs



A majority of IDPs stated that they originated from Western zone. Significantly, Western zone was the largest place of origin for IDPs across all 7 urban areas surveyed.

70% of IDPs surveyed in Abi Adi, 68% of IDPs in Axum and 64% of IDPs in Shire said that they came from Western zone.

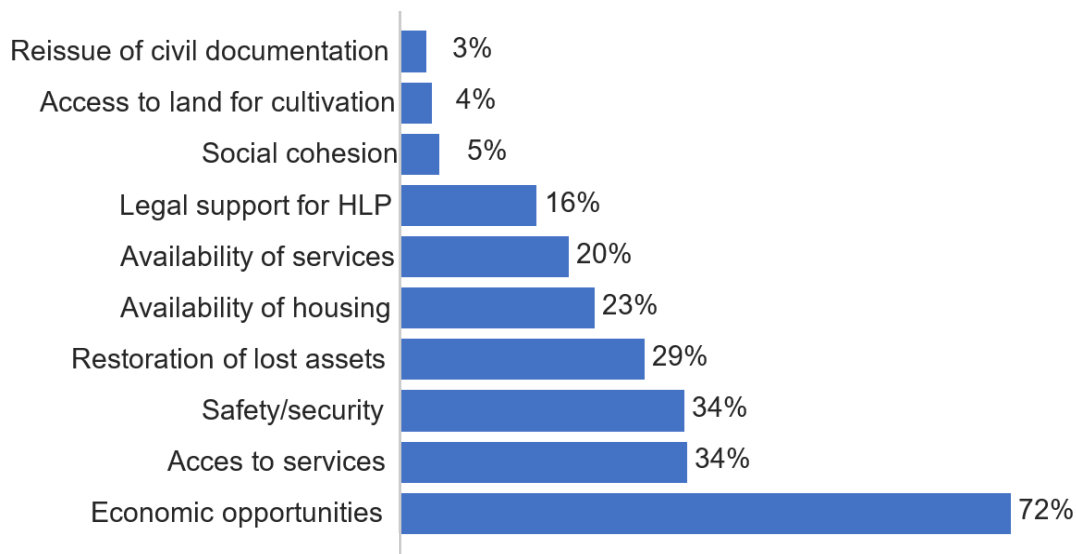
Main Factors Determining Return



Of the 89% of respondents who stated that their preferred solution is return, 95% stated that the availability of food was the main factor that needs to be ensured before starting return.

This was followed by the need for safety and security as stated by 64% of respondents, the renovation or reconstruction of shelter by 40% of respondents and the availability of livelihoods options as mentioned by 29% of respondents.

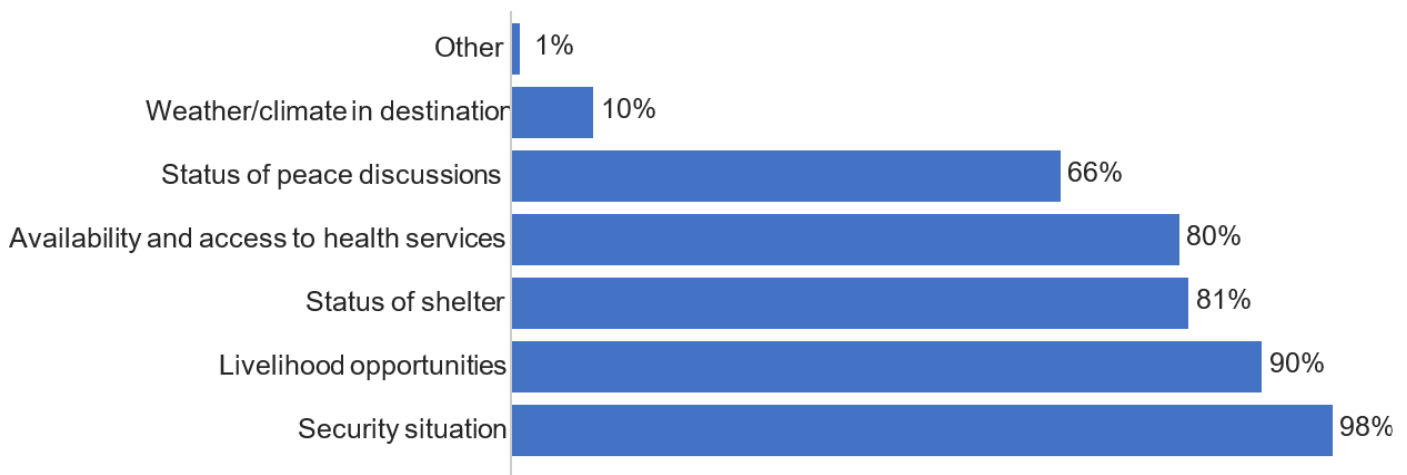
Main Needs to Support Local Integration



Of the 10% of respondents who stated that their preferred solution is local integration, 72% stated that the availability of economic opportunities is the main need in enabling successful local integration.

This was followed by the need for access to services as stated by 34% of respondents and safety and security as reported by 34% of respondents.

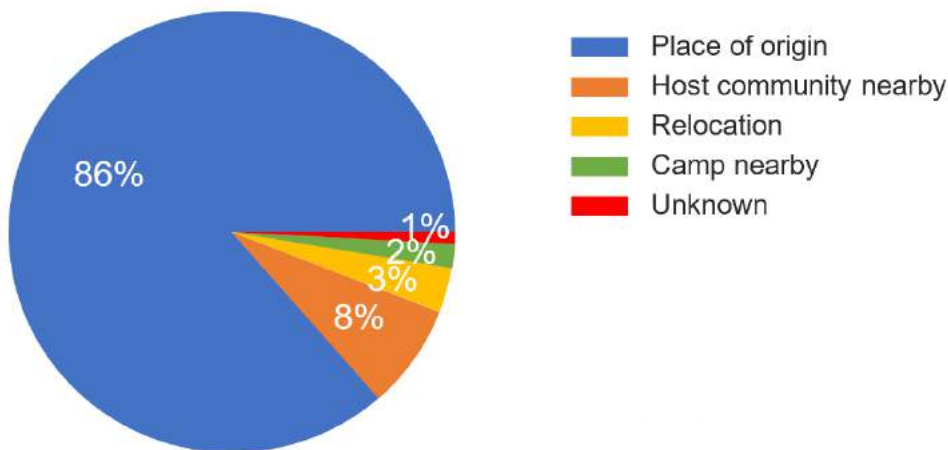
Information Needed to Return or Relocate



Of the respondents who preferred to return or relocate, a large majority of them (98%) wanted information on the security situation in their place of origin or relocation destination. 90% of them wanted information on livelihood opportunities in their place of origin or relocation destination.

Meanwhile, 81% of respondents wanted more information on the status of their shelters and 80% of respondents wanted information on the availability and accessibility of health services.

Preferred Destination If IDPs Had to Leave Collective Centers:



When asked where they would prefer to go if they had to leave, a large majority of IDPs (86%) living in collective centers said that they would prefer to return to their places of origin. A small portion of IDPs (8%) said that they would prefer to go to the host community nearby if they had to leave the collective centers they are currently living in.

3% of IDPs living in collective centers mentioned that they would prefer to relocate, 2% would prefer to move to a camp nearby and for the remaining 1% of IDPs, this was yet to be decided.

Selected Comments from Respondents on Durable Solutions

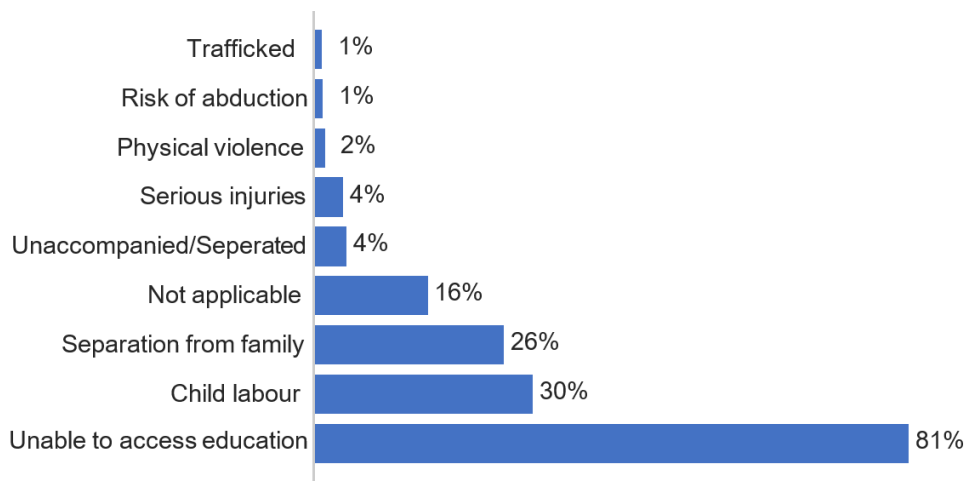
- “I prefer to go back to my home but everything in my house has either been looted or destroyed. This will be a problem when I return. My children may not receive access to basic services including food, shelter and NFIs. Hence, we need assistance to return to normalcy.”
- “I am a farmer and now the time for farming has passed, so I need organizations to help me and my family survive and give me cash to start a business when I return to my place of origin.”
- “If we can get support from the UN or NGOs, I will be very eager to return home. My only fear is I won’t have anything to eat, wear or have access to basic goods.”
- “I will be very happy to return to my place of origin if the relevant bodies can provide me with access to basic needs so that I can live like I was living before the conflict.”
- “I want to go back to my place of origin but our house has been burnt down to ashes. We have no place to stay but if we can get shelter and some food to survive, we are willing to go back.”
- “We want to return immediately and need compensation for the lost of our assets and access to own our land.”
- “I really want to return back to my place of origin, but I need to know if armed forces have left the area. I need confirmation that they will not be returning.”
- “Before returning to my place of origin, I would like to know the security situation first and I need to know that I will not be targeted because of my ethnicity.”
- “We can handle ourselves. All we need is temporary help until this war ends. We want to return to our place of origin to cultivate our land and not depend on anyone.”
- “I need a job opportunity.”
- “Prior to returning, we need access to health and education services.”
- “Effective justice mechanisms need to be in place. We also need basic infrastructure, compensation for lost and damaged assets, proper tenure documents, health services, banking services and psychosocial support to overcome the trauma associated with our place of origin.”
- “If we can get cash support, I can start a business to support my family.”
- “Local integration is my preferred solution because here in Mekelle, it is peaceful and safe.”



Image 3: IDPs are gathered outside a common area in Mayweynei Secondary School Collective Center, Mekelle © IOM 2021

SPECIFIC NEEDS

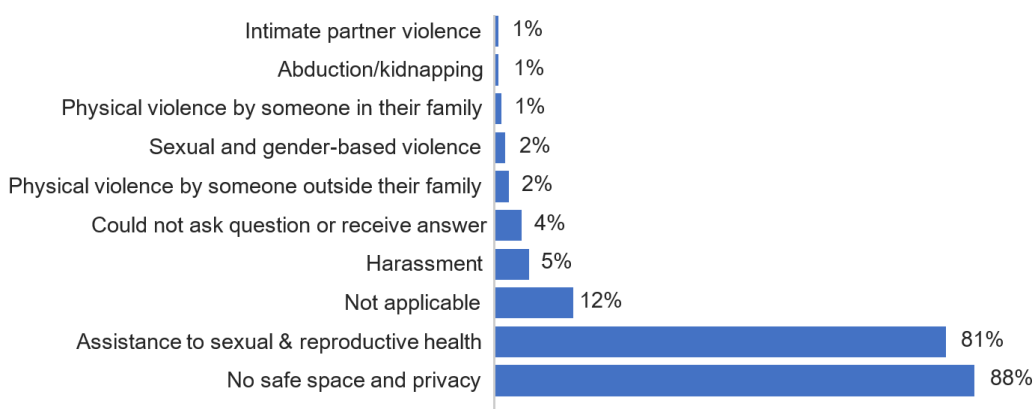
Main Issues Children Face



Of the 1,999 IDP households who responded to this question, 81% of respondents mentioned that the main issue affecting children was the inaccessibility of education.

The next main issue affecting children was child labour as cited by 30% of respondents and separation from their family as mentioned by 26% of IDP households.

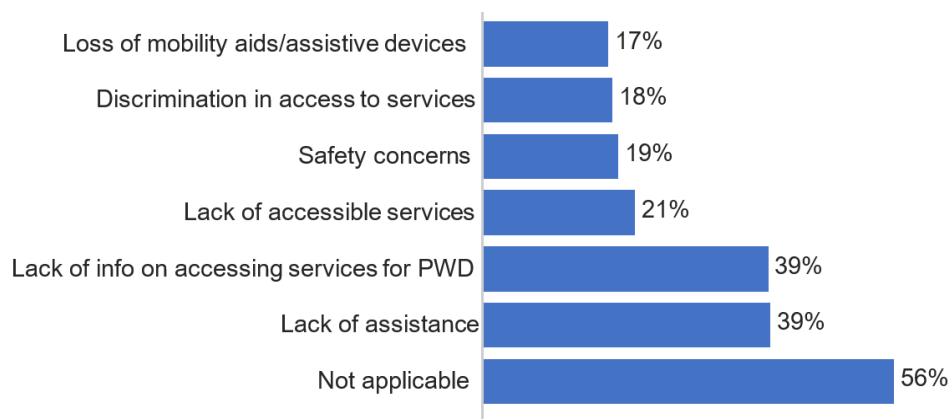
Main Issues Women Face



Of the 1,999 IDP households who responded to this question, 88% of IDP households said that the main issue affecting women was the absence of safe spaces and privacy.

This was followed by a lack of assistance to sexual and reproductive health as cited by 81% of respondents.

Main Issues Persons with Physical or Mental Disabilities Face



Of the 1,999 IDP households who responded to this question, 39% of respondents mentioned that persons with physical or mental disabilities lacked assistance.

39% of respondents also mentioned that there was a lack of information on accessing services for persons with disabilities.

Selected Comments from Respondents on Specific Needs

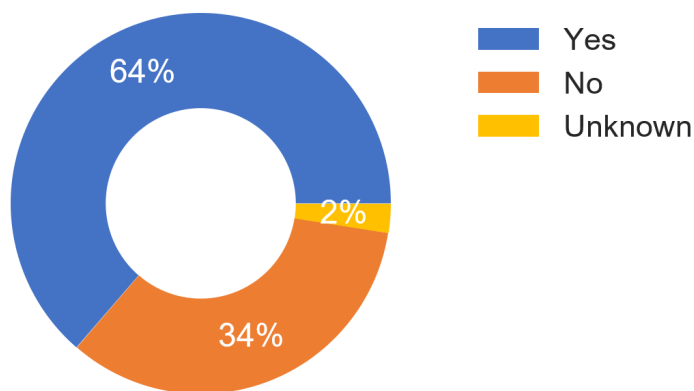
- “I have a disabled child who cannot move by himself and he is suffering from health problems but I cannot even take him to a health facility due to a lack of cash.”
- “My daughters need sanitary napkins and my husband is blind. He needs an walking stick to move by himself and we are now far from the IDP collective center. We come to the site daily to get help but it is risky and costly. There is no special attention for disabled persons.”
- “Children are facing malnutrition and we need supplementary food immediately.”
- “There’s no clear information to how to access services for people living with specific needs.”
- “My daughter and I need sanitary items like sanitary pads. My child is also getting thin due to a shortage of food.”
- “I have a child who is suffering from loss of mobility and her backbone is swelling. I need special support for her.”
- “We would like to have child friendly spaces for our children.”
- “We need emergency psychosocial support.”
- “We women are in need of special support such as dignity kits. We also need a health examination and support for a mother who was abducted and sexual abused.”
- “My family and I are psychologically traumatized, this is the main specific need we have.”
- “My family is emotionally hurt by the war, but we do not have any specific physical or mental disabilities.”



Image 4: IDP women are cooking food at Hadnet General Secondary School Collective Center in Mekelle © IOM 2021

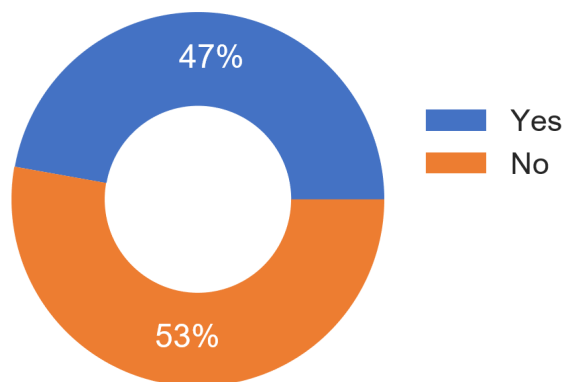
PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Available Means of Engaging in Decision Making



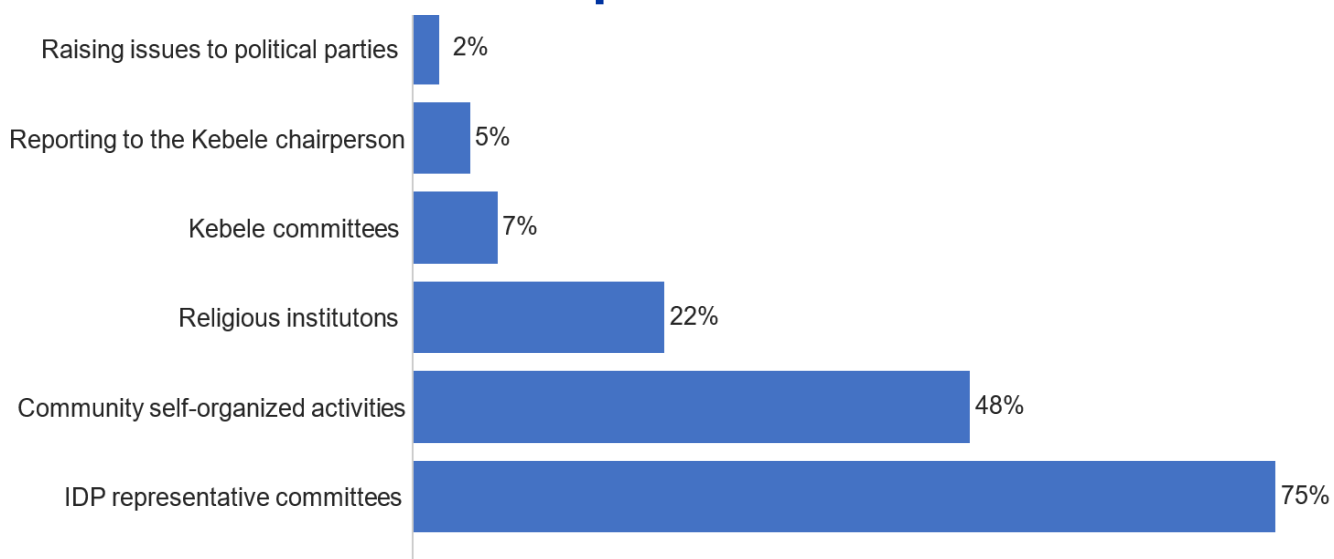
Of all the IDP households surveyed, 64% said that there were available means of engaging in collective decision-making processes in their communities in their current places of displacement.

Perceptions on Forum Effectiveness



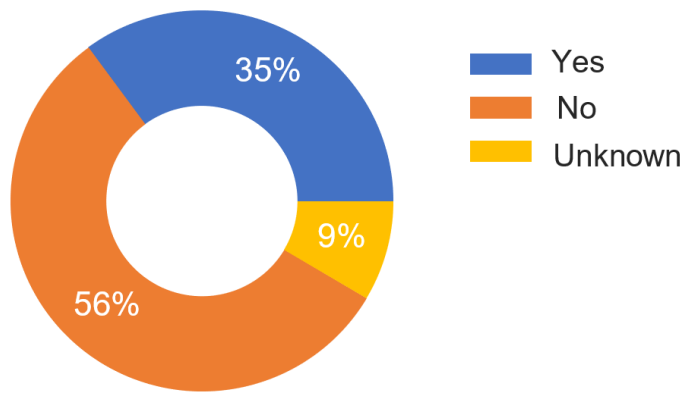
Of the 1,714 IDP households who cited that there was a means of engaging in collective decision-making, 53% of these respondents did not perceive these forums to be effective.

Main Forums for Participation



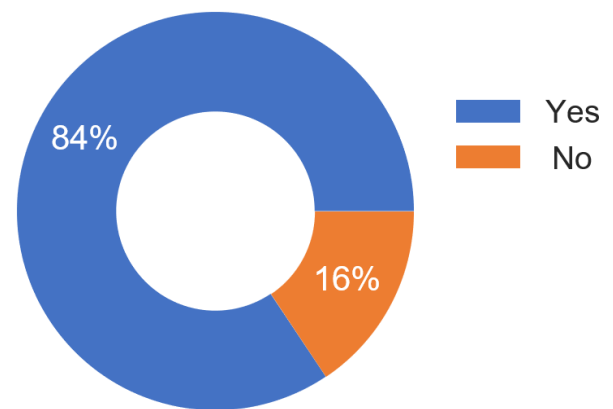
Of the IDP households who mentioned that there was a means of engaging in collective decision-making, 75% of these IDP households said that IDP representative committees were available to them. Meanwhile, 48% of these respondents had access to community self-organized activities.

Availability of Complaint and Feedback Mechanism



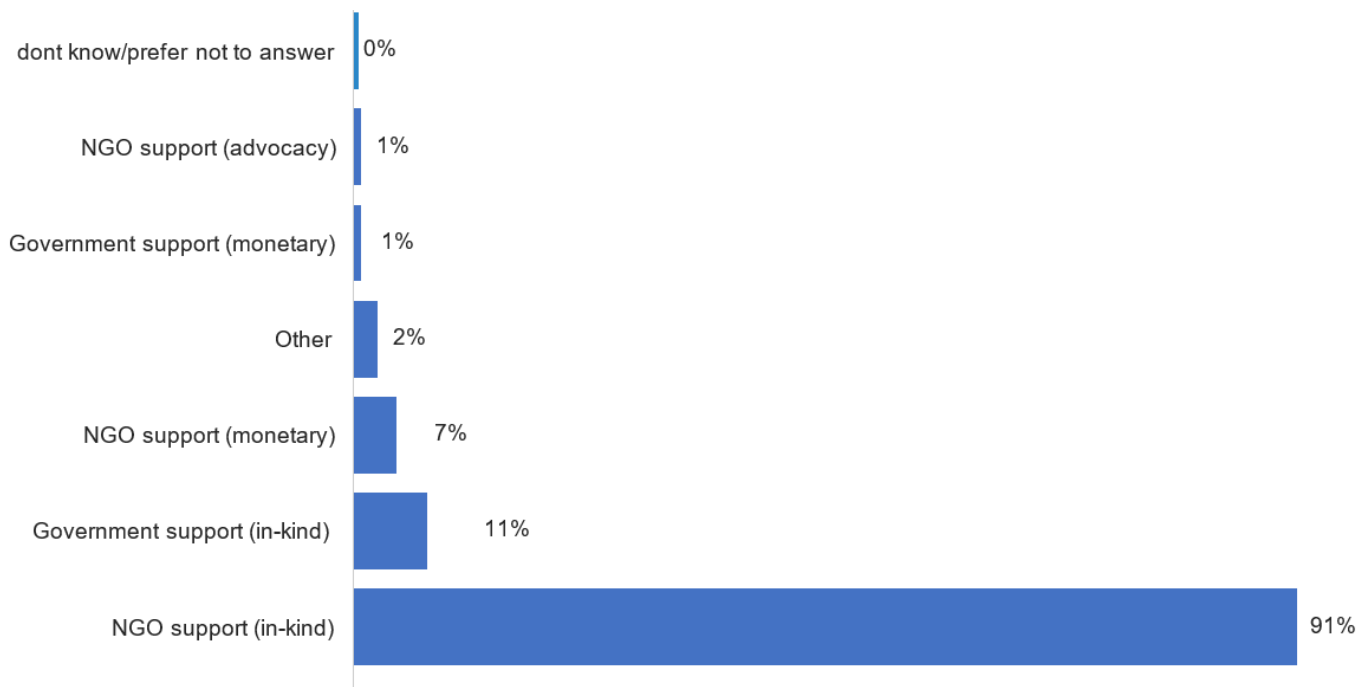
Only 35% of the IDPs surveyed said that there were ways of filing complaints or providing feedback to those providing humanitarian assistance. 56% of IDPs said that they did not have access to complaint and feedback mechanisms.

IDP Household Who Received Assistance



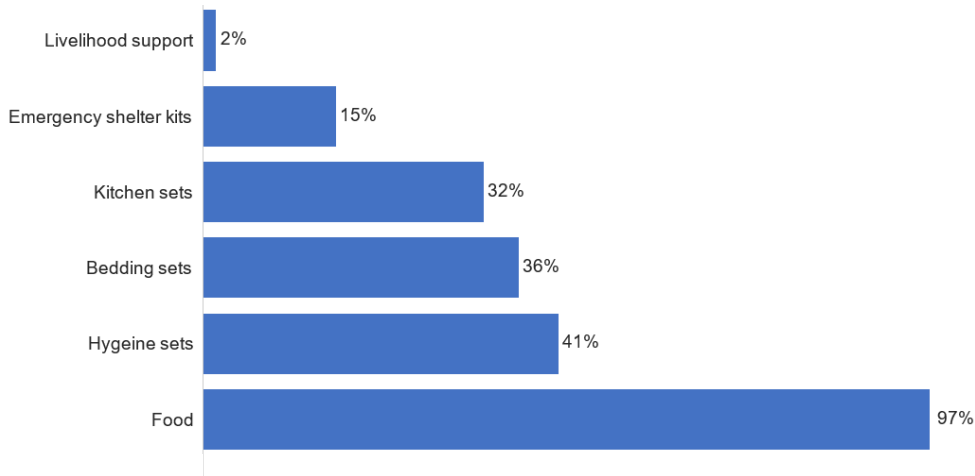
Of all the IDPs surveyed, 84% of them confirmed that they had received some form of humanitarian assistance. Meanwhile, the remaining 16% mentioned that they had not received any kind of humanitarian assistance thus far.

Forms of Humanitarian Assistance



Of those reportedly receiving assistance, 91% of them said that it was in the form of NGO support (in kind). This was followed by government support (in kind) as reported by 11% of respondents.

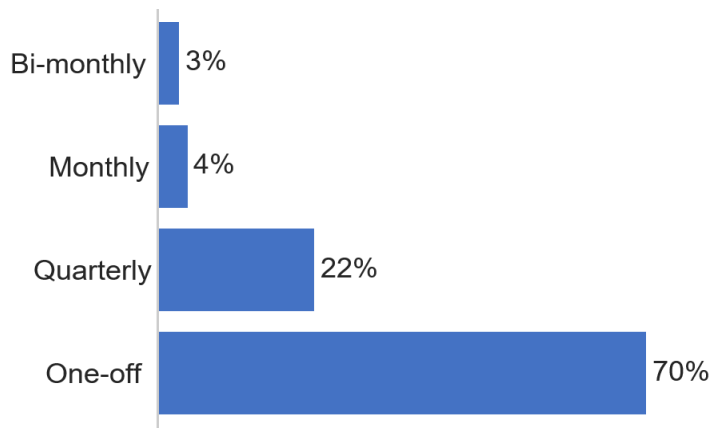
Type of Humanitarian Assistance Received



Of the IDP households who reportedly received in-kind assistance, 97% of them said that it was food assistance.

41% of these respondents received hygiene sets, 36% received bedding sets, 32% received kitchen sets and 15% of these respondents received emergency shelter kits.

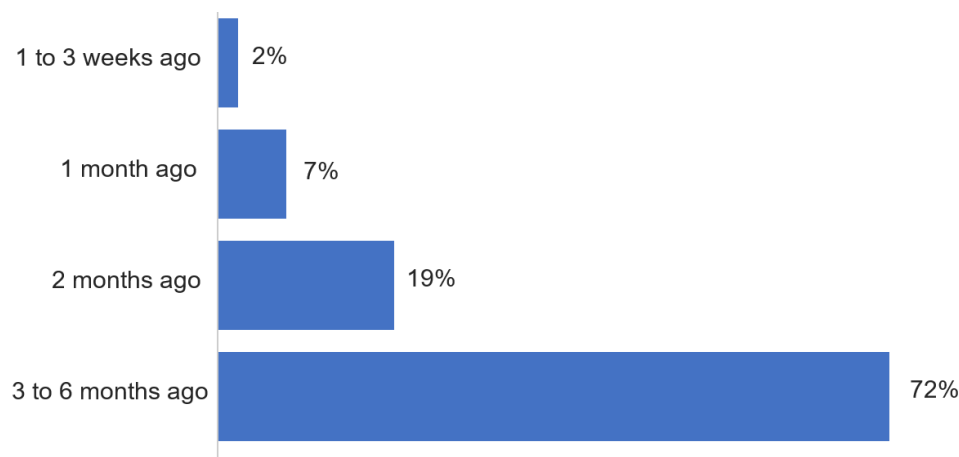
Last Food Distribution Received



Of the IDP households who reportedly received food, 70% of respondents said that it was a one-off food distribution.

Meanwhile, 22% of IDP respondents mentioned that they received food on a quarterly basis, 4% on a monthly basis and 3% on a bi-monthly basis.

Last Non-Food Items (NFIs) Received



Of the IDP households who reportedly received non-food items (NFIs), 72% of respondents mentioned that they received the NFIs between 3 to 6 months ago.

19% of these IDP households received the NFIs 2 months ago and 7% of them received them 1 month ago.

Selected Comments from Respondents on Participation

- “Our community leaders aren’t working fairly. Some people are discriminated by them when it comes to registration and aid distribution.”
- “The kebele chairperson was not good for us because he was not selected by the people.”
- “I haven’t get a chance to participate in the community because there is discrimination.”
- “Even though there is a way to file feedback, there is still no change.”
- “The leaders who are working with IDPs need to be held accountable. They always promise support but do not deliver.”
- “There is a big problem among the IDP committee members as they are biased and giving benefits to their family and friends in secret. This needs to be solved so that food is distributed fairly.”
- “Yes, there is a complaint mechanism but there is still no response from the service provider.”
- “I don’t know how or who I can address my complaints to.”
- “There were no safe way to complain and ask for assistance.”
- “We do not have a means to communicate with the humanitarian organizations. Hence, there is no way to give feedback or file complaints.”
- “I have lived in Mekelle for more than eight months now and would like to thank the people of Mekelle for thier support. Meanwhile, the UN, NGOs and the government have not assisted us except to request information from us everyday.”



Image 5: IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team is interviewing two IDP women who are living among the host community in Shire © IOM 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions and contextual considerations

As of August 2021, there continue to be ongoing hostilities between the parties to the conflict, which have spilled over to the neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar. Given the fluidity in the security situation for the Northern Ethiopia Crisis, a cautious approach to returns should be pursued by humanitarian partners to avoid exposing vulnerable populations to the risk of multiple displacement.

Among the surveyed IDP population, 53% of IDPs were displaced from Western zone and 28% from North Western zone. These IDPs were significantly more likely than others to report safety and security as a barrier to return (Table 1). Key informant interviews with IDP representatives and focus group discussions with IDP community members carried out in Shire (26 August) and Sheraro (28 August) confirmed that the Western zone remains affected by high levels of insecurity. Areas close to the Northern border of North Western zone are also unsafe for return due to the presence of armed forces. Some new IDP arrivals reported that they were asked to leave their homes, were detained, and there was destruction and looting of property. Meanwhile, access for humanitarian actors is constrained in Western zone and in some areas bordering Eritrea in the North Western, Central and Eastern zones¹.

Zone of origin	% reporting safety and security as a barrier to return
North Western	83%
Western	56%
Eastern	30%
South Eastern	29%
Central	27%
Southern	20%

A lack of accurate information on areas of return or possible relocation is also a widespread issue among IDPs. Information about the prevailing security situation in places of origin and areas of potential relocation is the most needed information source requested by IDPs, ranging from 88% in Adwa to 99% in Sheraro and Adigrat and topping the list of priorities in all locations except for Adwa and Abi Adi, where it remains in the top three.

Other key information priorities expressed consistently across all locations refer to the availability of livelihood opportunities, health services and the status of shelters, reflecting uncertainty among IDPs about the possibility of restarting their livelihoods and accessing basic services in areas of return. These information gaps reflect the extremely limited communication options available to the civilian population in Tigray following the shutdown of telephone and internet networks.

¹ OCHA, 2021. *Ethiopia Access Map (as of 31 July 2021)*. Available at: <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ethiopia/card/7X5W-GUfD90/>

Consistently, IDPs from the Western and North Western zones – who tend to be from areas still affected by insecurity – are more likely to report security as a barrier to return the closer they are to their former area of habitual residence, suggesting that those living in more distant locations may have less accurate information about the ongoing risks in their areas of origin².

According to IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Emergency Site Assessment round 7 report³, food (99%), shelter (71%) and NFIs (63%) are the highest ranking needs of IDPs. While 84% of IDPs received some form of humanitarian assistance, this is often insufficient as humanitarian actors struggle with operational and access constraints along the Semera – Mekelle corridor, resulting in a lack of fuel, cash and humanitarian supplies including food and drugs⁴. (Statement by the Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia, 2 September 2021).

In this context, it is not surprising that basic needs feature prominently among the key factors influencing return, with 95% of IDPs citing availability of food as the main need. This presents humanitarian actors with a difficult choice between supporting returns and focusing scarce resources on lifesaving assistance to those most in need. While returns might strengthen resilience and bring about more sustainable outcomes for IDPs originating from the safer parts of Tigray, the cost and logistic challenges of providing assistance will increase as people spread from their locations of displacement – predominantly in more accessible urban centres – to less densely populated areas of return. Pressing humanitarian needs in displacement sites also bring into question the voluntariness of return, generating a substantial push factor.

Nevertheless, spontaneous returns are likely to take place as a large majority of IDPs express the desire to return to their areas of origin, with 89% citing it as their preferred durable solution. Additionally, 86% of IDPs in collective centres indicate their places of origin as the preferred destination if they had to leave the current site, a likely prospect given existing plans by the regional administration to reopen schools by the end of September. Unserved needs, particularly with regards to food, mean that some of the more resourceful IDPs are likely to look for ways to independently restart their livelihoods where local security conditions are conducive. By the end of August, this has become a reality in parts of Tigray, with local authorities in multiple zones reporting ongoing spontaneous returns.

These spontaneous returns will need humanitarian assistance to address their basic needs until they are able to become self-reliant, a process complicated by the fact that the planting season has already passed at the time of publication. Recovery needs will also require substantial external support if returning IDPs are to regain their previous living standards, with 40% of IDPs indicating reconstruction of shelter and lost assets as a key consideration for return.

² Logistic regression on data from IDPs reporting their zone of origin as Western or North Western, coefficient on distance (in km) -0.00329 , $p < 0.0001$, corresponding to a predicted odds ratio of 0.848 for a 50km distance difference. The relationship is robust to controlling for head of household gender and age, presence of a child in the household, zone and woreda of origin, and receipt of humanitarian assistance in an OLS regression.

³ IOM, 2021. Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Ethiopia — Emergency Site Assessment Round 7 Report (1 — 26 June 2021). Available at: <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-%E2%80%94-emergency-site-assessment-7-1-%E2%80%94-26-june-2021>.

⁴ OCHA, 2021. Statement by Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia, Grant Leaity, on the operational constraints and de facto humanitarian blockade of Tigray, 2 September 2021. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/statement-acting-humanitarian-coordinator-ethiopia-grant-leaity-operational>.

Recommendations

‘Internally displaced persons have [...] the right to be protected against forcible return to or resettlement in any place where their life, safety, liberty and/or health would be at risk’

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, principle 15

‘Competent authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. Such authorities shall endeavor to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled internally displaced persons.’

‘Special efforts should be made to ensure the full participation of internally displaced persons in the planning and management of their return or resettlement and reintegration.’

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, principle 28

The United Nations’ Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide the framework for the ethical return of IDPs, giving national authorities the primary duty to promote their voluntary, safe and dignified return or resettlement with the assistance of international humanitarian organizations in the exercise of their mandates. The conditions of voluntariness, safety and dignity are of paramount importance in Tigray, given the ongoing hostilities and high levels of humanitarian need affecting IDPs. Relevant authorities and humanitarian actors should ensure that these conditions are satisfied in the design and delivery of future return assistance programmes.

The following recommendations build on the results of the intention survey and the Guiding Principles, aiming to inform humanitarian actors and relevant authorities as they plan for the return of IDPs. The recommendations are based on consultation with all humanitarian clusters to reflect their multi-sectoral expertise and diverse perspectives.

Recommendation 1: IDPs should be given the option to return, resettle in suitable locations within Tigray, or remain in their areas of displacement until they voluntarily decide to return or resettle elsewhere. They should be free to choose whether to receive humanitarian assistance in their location of displacement, return or resettlement.

Recommendation 2: Relevant authorities and humanitarian actors should ascertain that conditions in areas of return are safe through impartial assessments before providing assistance that may influence IDPs’ decision to return, including the provision of return and transportation assistance or recovery-oriented assistance in areas of return.

Recommendation 3: Return related assistance, whether intended as such or perceived to be linked to return, could constitute a pull factor for IDPs. Humanitarian actors should assess and evaluate how enrolment and distribution modalities may influence people’s decision to return, taking this into account in their communication strategies towards the community.

Recommendation 4: Relevant authorities and humanitarian actors should facilitate the provision of sufficient assistance in displacement locations to satisfy the basic rights of IDPs for essential food and potable water, basic shelter and non-food items, essential medical services and sanitation, so as to avoid push factors for return. Appropriate relocation alternatives should be provided to IDPs living in collective centres to avoid the reopening of schools acting as a push factor.

Recommendation 5: Relevant authorities and humanitarian actors should provide timely and impartial information to IDPs on security conditions in areas of return, as well as access to basic services and livelihood opportunities. To maximize reach, information sharing modalities should be tailored to the preferences expressed by IDPs.

Recommendation 6: Relevant authorities and humanitarian actors should hold consultations with IDPs to ensure that their perspectives are taken into account in the design of return assistance programmes. The consultations should be as broad as possible and ensure meaningful inclusion of women and girls, youth, elders and persons with specific needs.

Recommendation 7: Relevant authorities and humanitarian actors should be ready to respond to spontaneous returns in more stable areas of the Southern, Central, South Eastern, Eastern and North Western Zones. Humanitarian assistance should be prioritized on the basis of need, coupling whenever possible basic lifesaving assistance with resilience-building interventions aimed at restoring lost assets, restarting livelihoods and promoting a sustainable reduction in need.

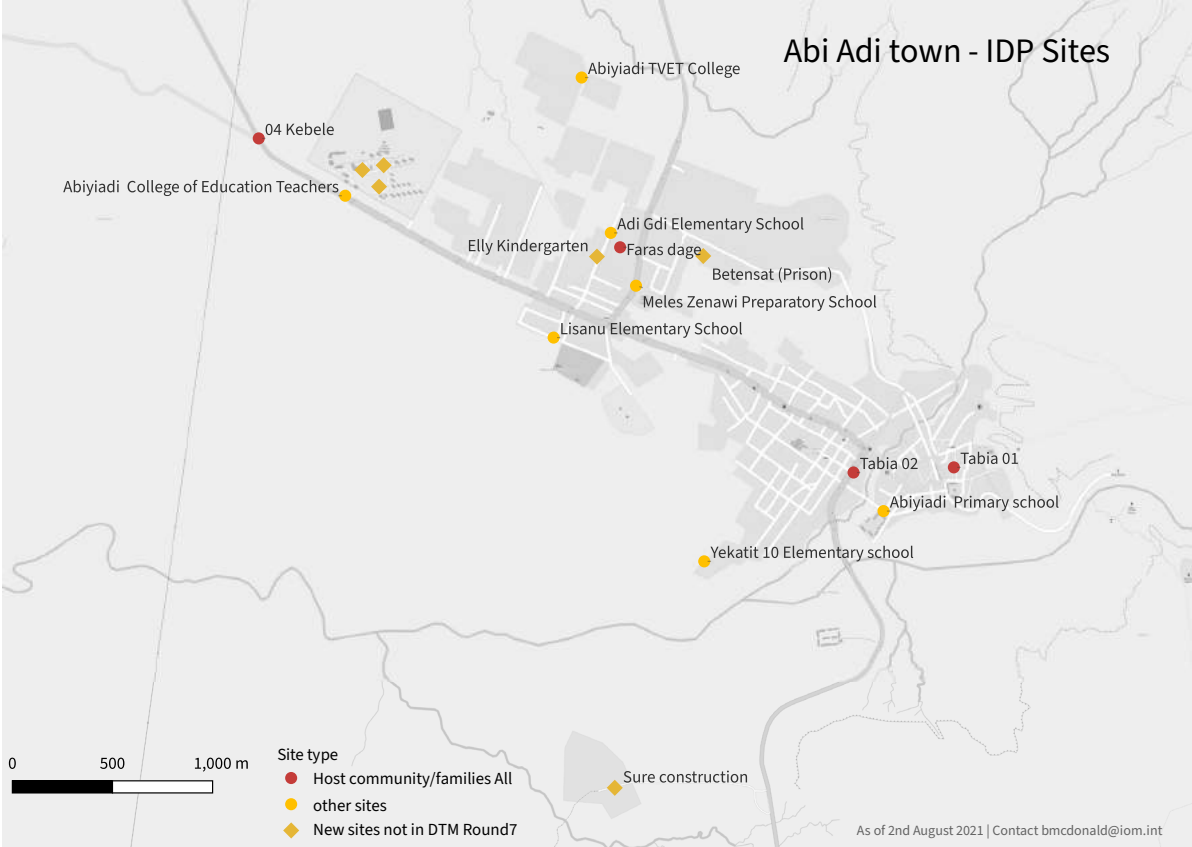
Recommendation 8: Food assistance and livelihood interventions that can urgently address the pressing food needs expressed by IDPs should be scaled up before a further worsening of the food security situation. Humanitarian actors should recognise that some IDPs will want to return as a coping strategy to address lack of food in locations of displacement. These returning IDPs should be supported while continuing to provide assistance to those in displacement setting.

Recommendation 9: An area-based approach to recovery-oriented returns assistance can be piloted in targeted areas to promote a progressive resolution of displacement and pave the way for the achievement of durable solutions. Returns assistance should be prioritised to maximize impact in a context of scarce resources by identifying areas that may benefit from quick-win interventions, promoting sustainable gains that will help reduce the burden of humanitarian need among affected populations.

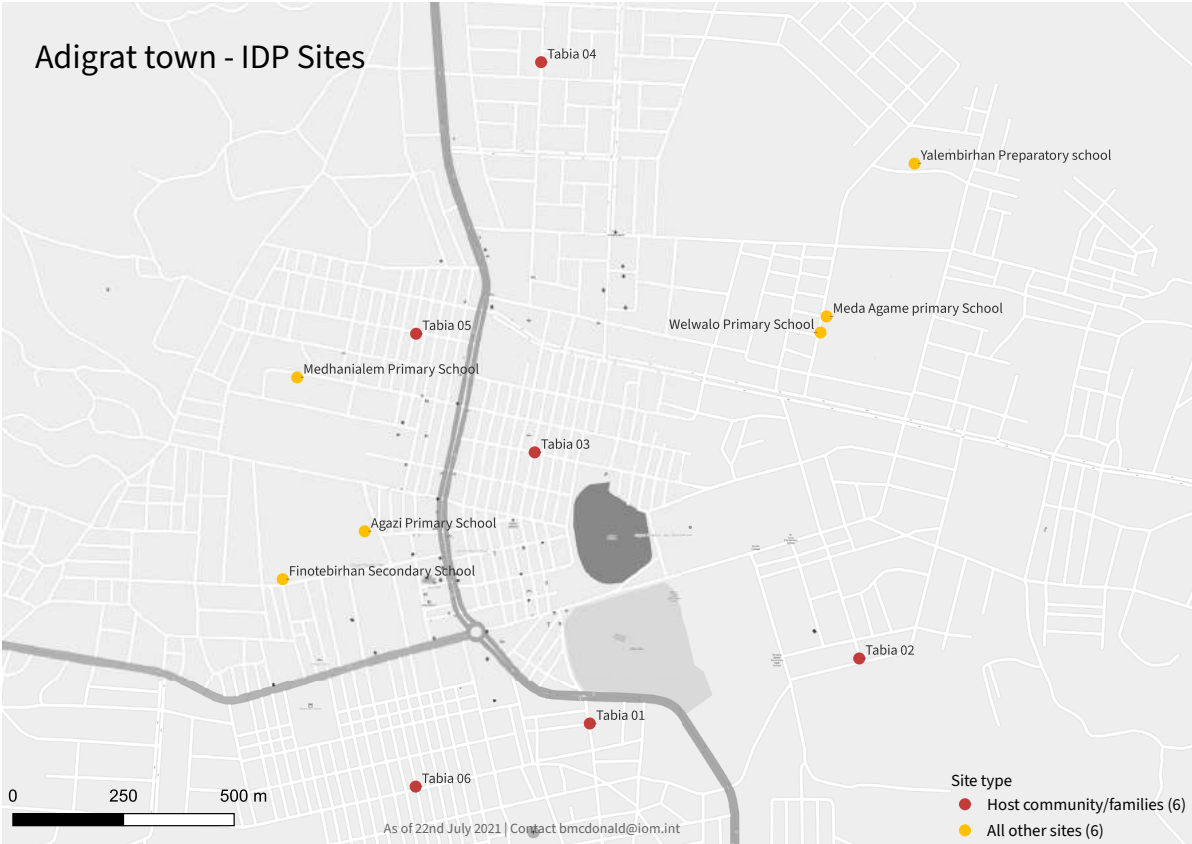
Recommendation 10: Return assistance should be responsive to individuals with specific needs – including persons with disabilities, persons with chronic medical conditions, unaccompanied and separated children, victims of gender-based violence, single-parent households and elders – providing targeted resource support, information on access to services and mainstreaming safety risk mitigation interventions.

Recommendation 11: Through the Displacement Tracking Matrix, humanitarian actors should continue to collect and analyse data on displacement and return in collaboration with relevant authorities, so as to inform evidence-based planning and response. Dynamic reporting on new population movements should accompany regular location-level assessments aimed at estimating the number and needs of IDPs and returning IDPs.

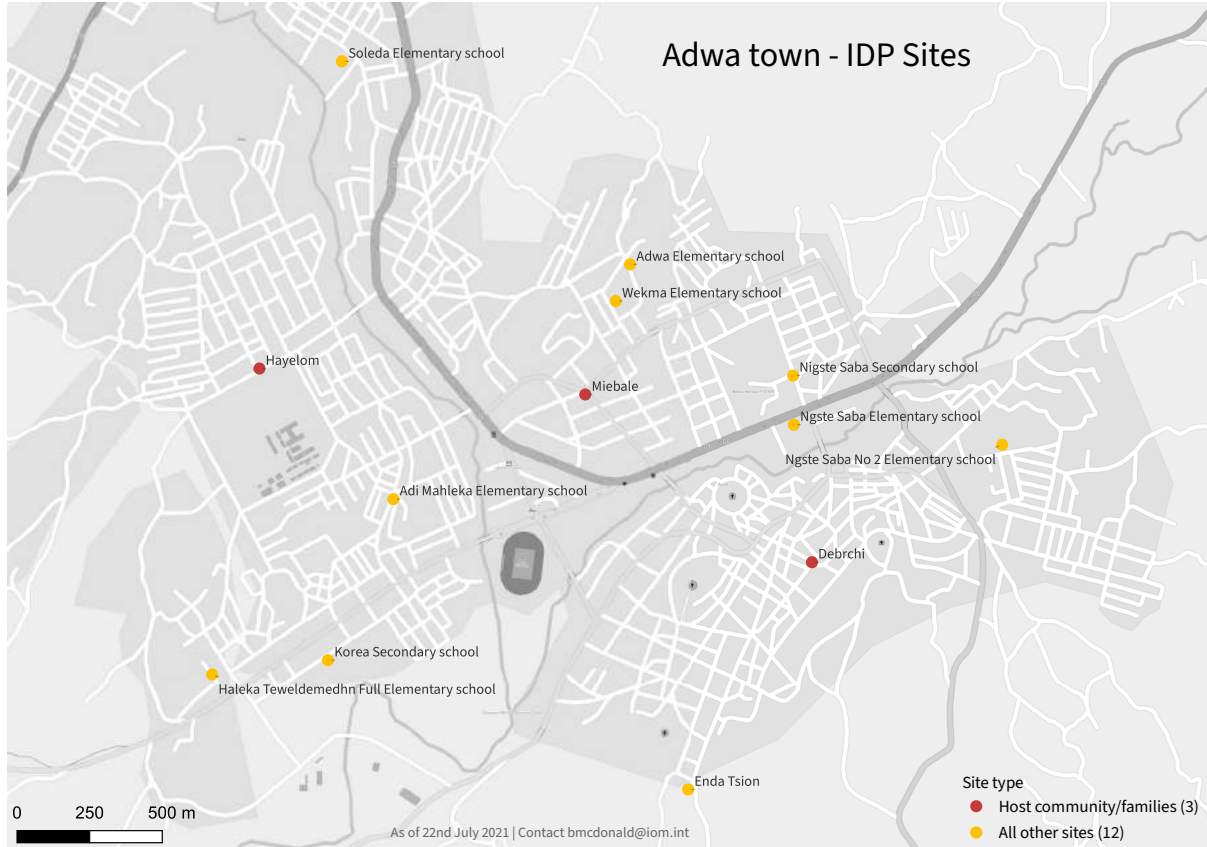
ANNEX I: MAPS OF LOCATIONS SURVEYED



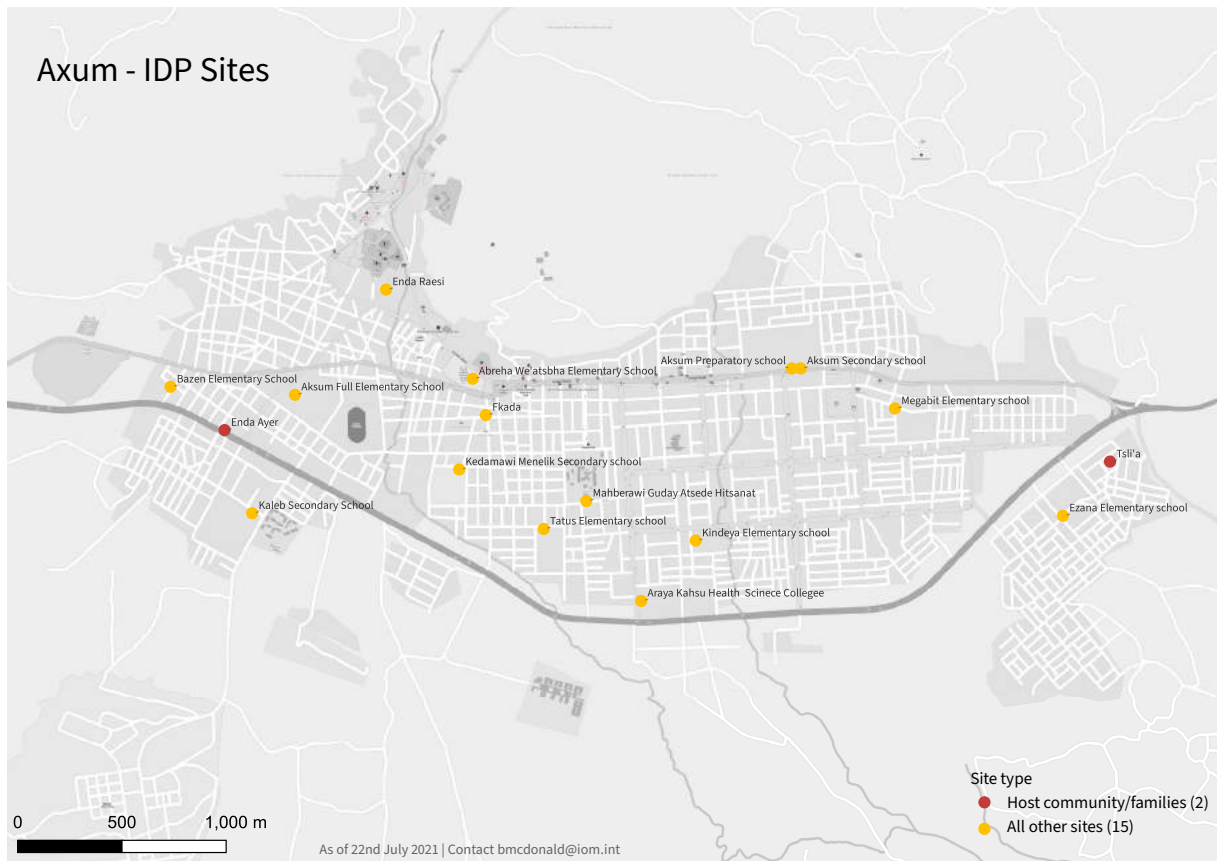
Map 1: Location of IDP sites in Abi Adi town which were surveyed.



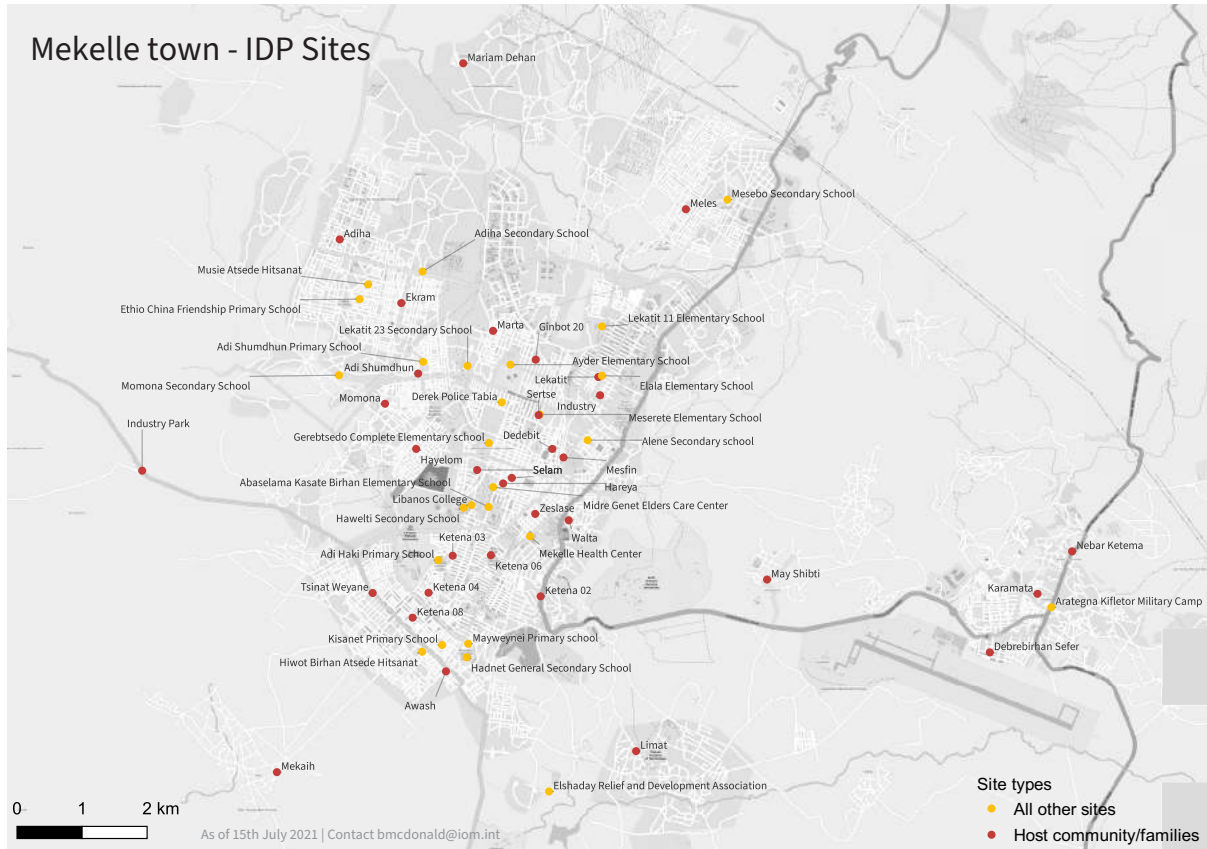
Map 2: Location of IDP sites in Adigrat town which were surveyed.



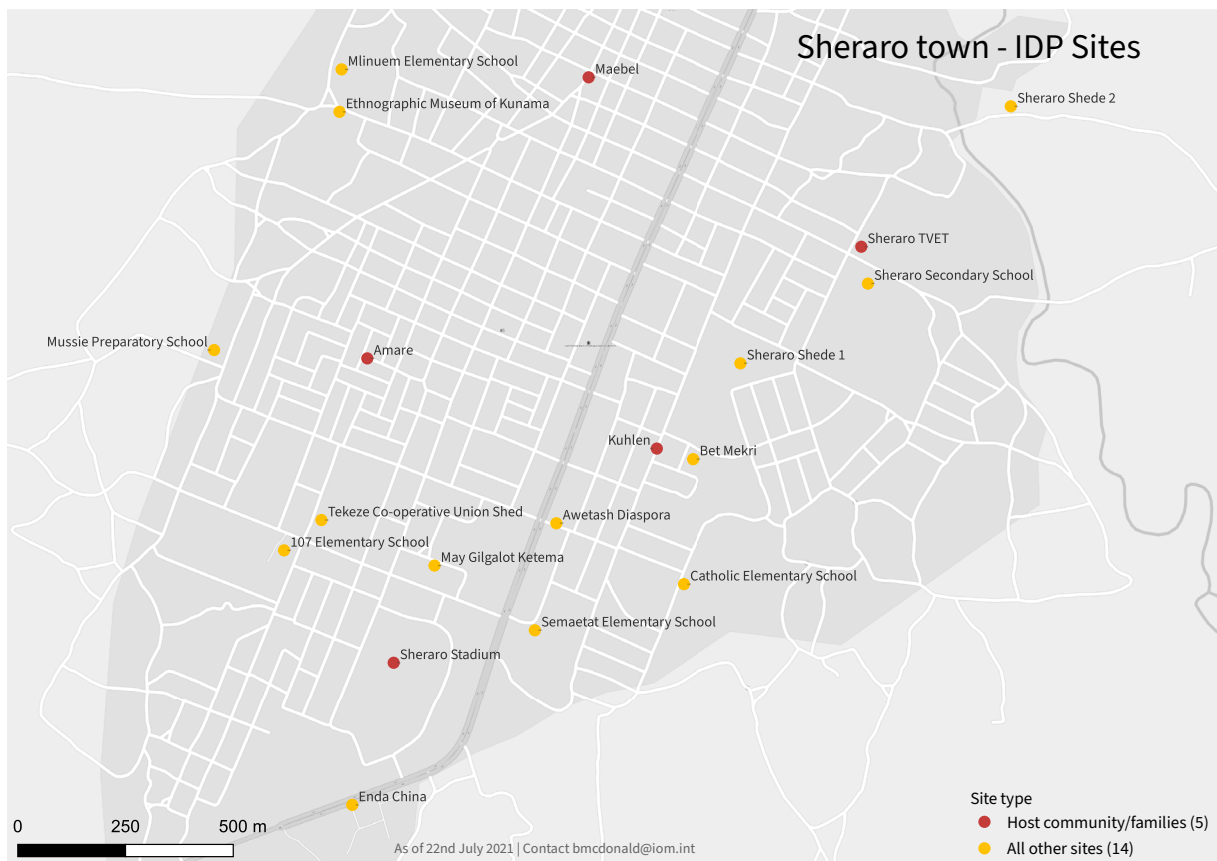
Map 3: Location of IDP sites in Adwa town which were surveyed.



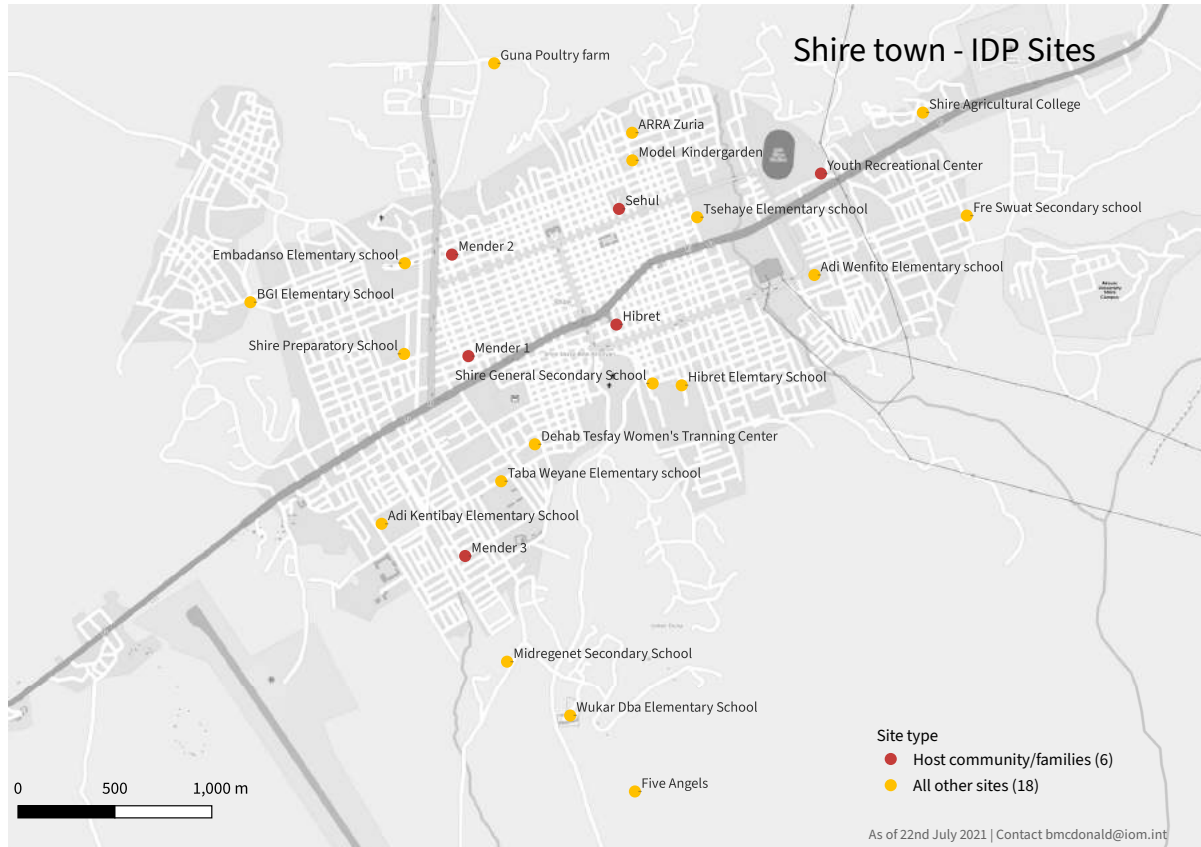
Map 4: Location of IDP sites in Axum town which were surveyed.



Map 5: Location of IDP sites in Mekelle town which were surveyed.



Map 6: Location of IDP sites in Sheraro town which were surveyed.



Map 7: Location of IDP sites in Shire town which were surveyed.