



Living in Collective Shelters in NWS

June _ July 2020

CARE International designed this assessment in support of the Shelter and NFI Cluster X-border Operations, with technical support from the GBV Sub-Cluster, Gaziantep, Turkey. Ihsan for Relief and Development collected the data required for this survey through its field teams.

- *Intro and Methodology Overview*
- *Demographic Data*
- *Results and Analysis*

Introduction and Methodology

Introduction :

After nine years of conflict and forced displacement, as of November 2020 around 2.7 million people are internally displaced in North-West Syria (NWS) bringing the total population close to 4.3 million. While many IDPs have had to resort to camps and informal settlements, over 1.6 million IDPs have sought shelter in residential urban areas according to HNAP. As of November, around 46% of all IDPs are reportedly living in adequate housing. However, housing option for IDPs remain limited and around 36% are living in emergency shelter, predominantly tents, while 6% are living in substandard buildings, most of which are unfinished buildings. IDPs have also found shelter in public and non-residential buildings like schools, mosques, farms and factories. From April to June 2020, to support partners in conducting their own assessment prior to making an intervention, the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) and the Shelter/NFI Cluster prepared and carried out two assessments and developed individual profiles on collective shelters in NWS. These surveys looked at the physical status of the centers, and recorded access to facilities; [Phase 1](#) and [Phase 2](#).

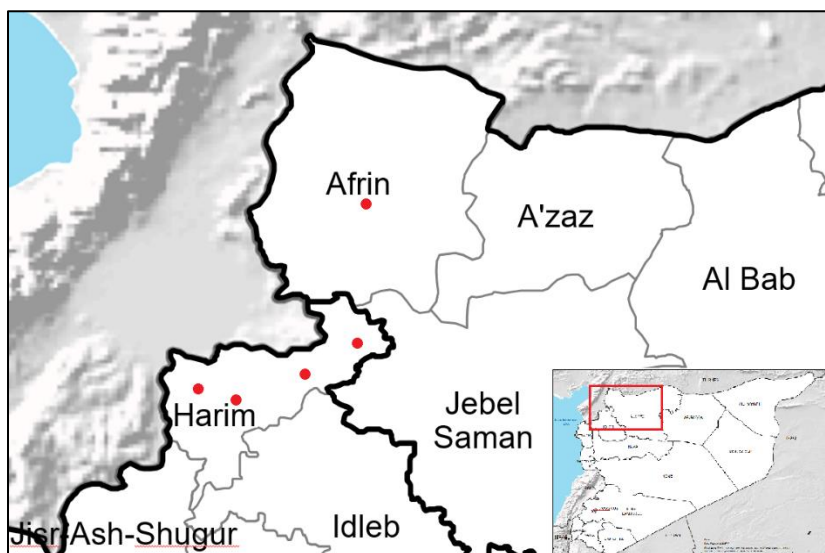
Methodology and Rational:

CARE and Ihsan saw a gap in the information on the qualitative experience of living in the collective centers, especially concerning women, protection risks and coping mechanisms. In order to take a closer picture to the situation of IDPs, this complementary survey was organized and conducted between June and July 2020 with support of the GBV Sub Cluster, Gaziantep. The findings continue to be relevant as they are not time-specific and describe on-going challenges in collective centers and the negative coping mechanism and behavior of inhabitants. This information can be used for planning and future responses to increased displacement.

In **33** collective shelters across **5** sub-districts, Dana, Kafr Takharim, Kafr Dariyan and Salqin in Harim district in Idlib governorate and Afrin in Aleppo governorate. A total of **132** people were interviewed in **66** **focus group discussions (FGDs)** in order to reach the widest range possible of IDPs.

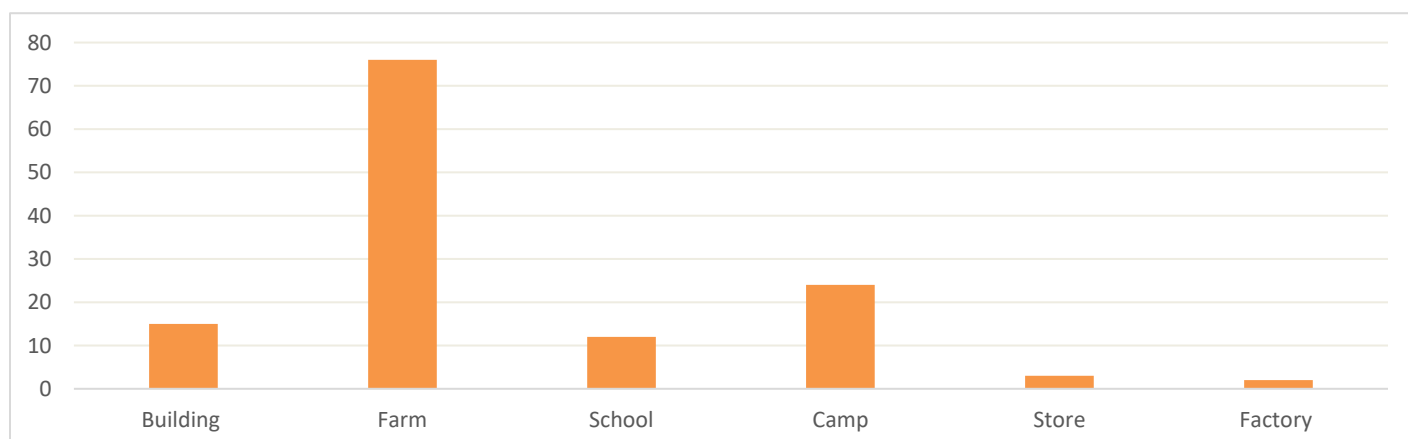
Due to the COVID-19 situation, measures were taken during the sessions to mitigate against the pandemic:

- Wearing masks
- Using sanitizers
- Physical distancing



The 33 collective shelters assessed varied between farms, building schools, camps, public buildings, stores, and factories. The below chart shows the number of answers for the 132 respondents:

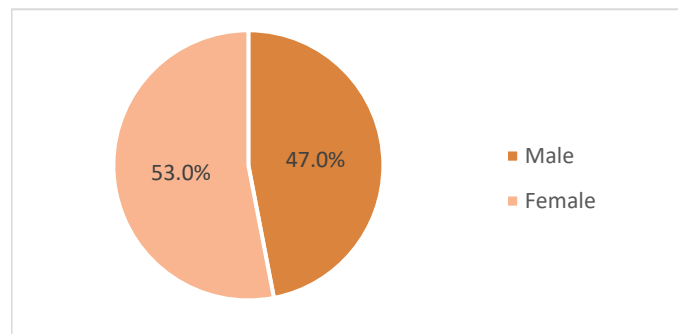
Type of Collective Shelter



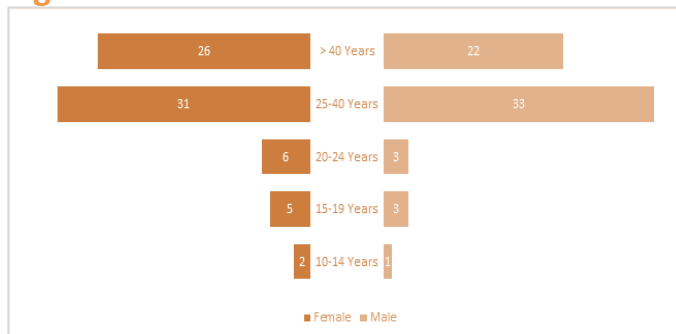
Demographic Overview

As mentioned, 132 FGDs were conducted with the people in 33 collective centers, the FGDs were held with multiple groups with men making up 47% of interviewees and women 53 %, all of different ages as shown in the charts below:

Gender

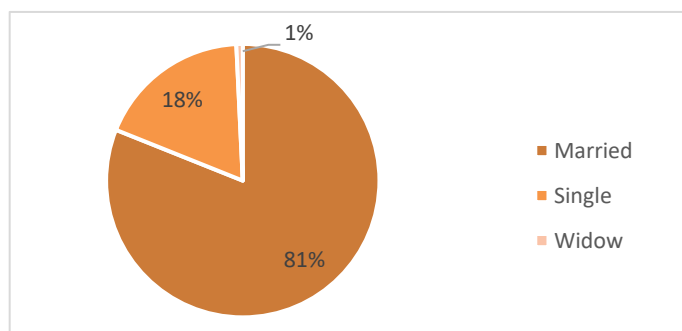


Age and Gender

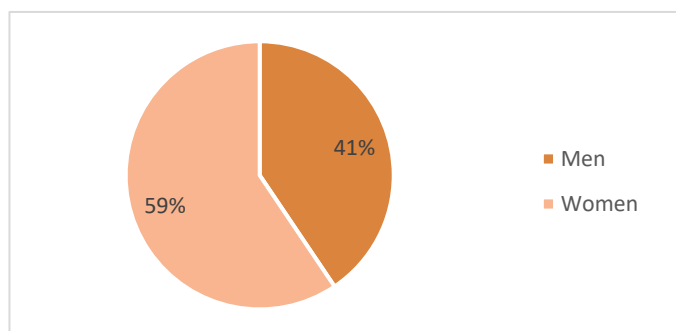


On other hand, the interviewed people have different marital statuses 81% married, 18% single, and 1% widows. 6% of the interviewed married women are considered as cases of 'early marriage' as they are less than 19 years old. The charts below show more details about the groups interviewed and their marital status:

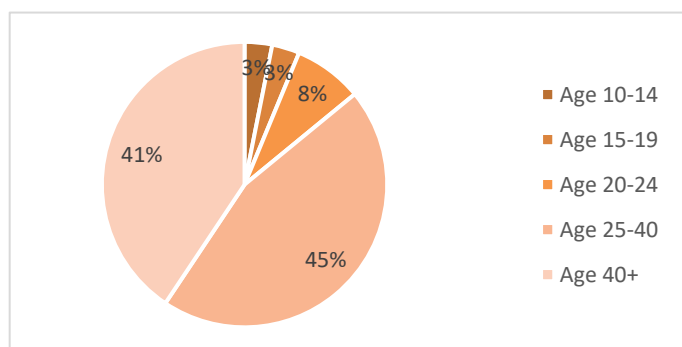
Marital Status



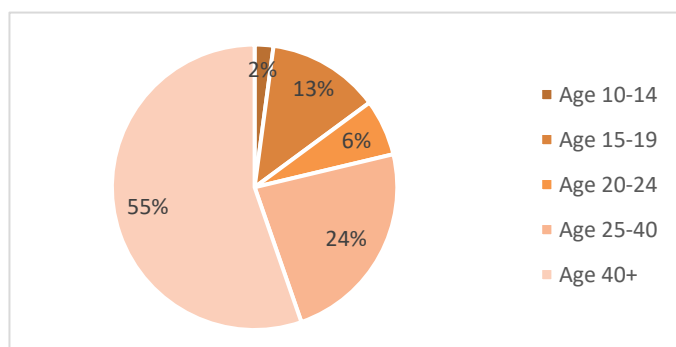
Married by Gender



Married Women by Age

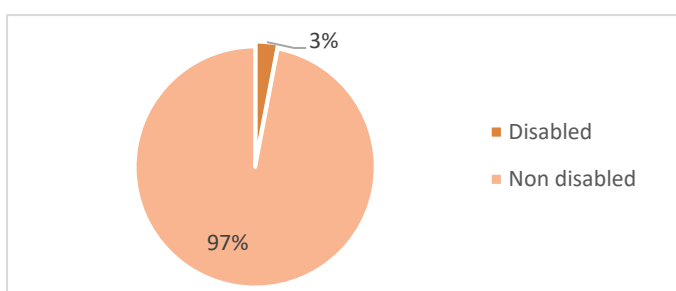


Single Women & Girls by Age



Finally, among these interviewed 132 groups, 3% of people were vulnerable IDPs who have a physical disability. Find the chart on the right:

Physically Disabled



Summary Of Findings

The overall findings show that there are significant protection and health risks in the collection centres and inhabitants are experiencing overcrowding and a sense of insecurity, especially in relation to using sanitation facilities and leaving the centre to access services in the nearest urban centre. Few centres provide privacy for families, and only 50% have access to water.

Shelter/protection

1. 89% reported sharing their housing 'unit' with more than 6 people – and up to 20 people. The larger numbers may relate to open plan collective centers with no dividing walls.
2. 79% of respondents said their living unit had no privacy
3. 88% there was no separate sleeping areas for men and women.

Toilets/ Bathing facilities

4. 54% of respondents (men and women) said there was no access to toilets or bathing areas in their center.
5. If they do have toilets, half of these don't have bathing areas and people wash behind blankets in their family unit.
6. 90% of respondents said the toilets and bathing areas are inadequate – often made of tarps, and pit latrines with no sewage management.
7. 97% of people said toilets (if available) are not segregated – women instead prefer to go outside, use blankets for privacy, or walk long distances to find toilets in other public buildings such as schools.
8. 70% of people say it is unsafe to use the facilities – and more than twice as many women feel unsafe than men – 48% v. 23%.

Access/Travel

9. It is significant that 50% of the population **do not feel safe to leave the collective centers** at all. This is relatively similar between men and women but have to do so to reach essential services/food.
10. 40% of people travel more than 30 mins to reach services, groceries, doctors, clinics etc. The vast majority of people travelling the furthest are women.
11. 70% of people worry about harm coming to either themselves whilst on the road (abduction/PSEA) – 37% or to their families who they leave behind in the center when they go out. Men and women were equally fearful of kidnapping.

Suggestions for NGOs

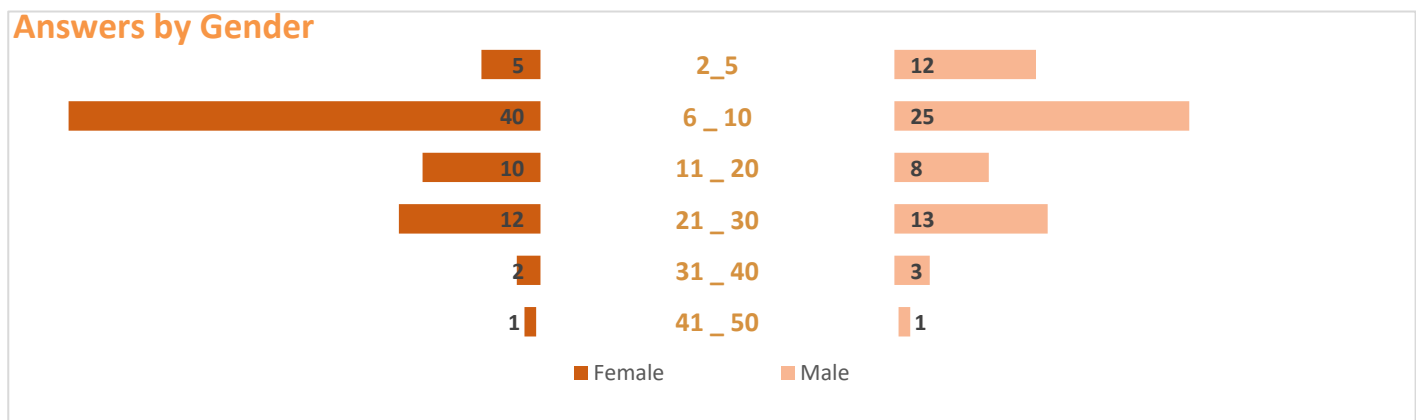
The top 3 main suggestions for improving centers for women and girls were;

- Private rooms/ shelters for each family – no sharing space with others – majority of women said this as number 1 priority
- Gender segregated toilets were the second priority
- Improving the security of the whole site, either through a fence or having guards and Food and Relief/Aid came third.

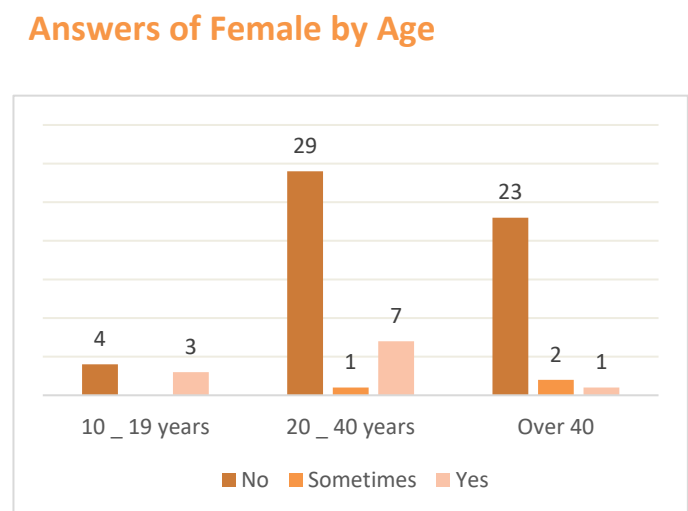
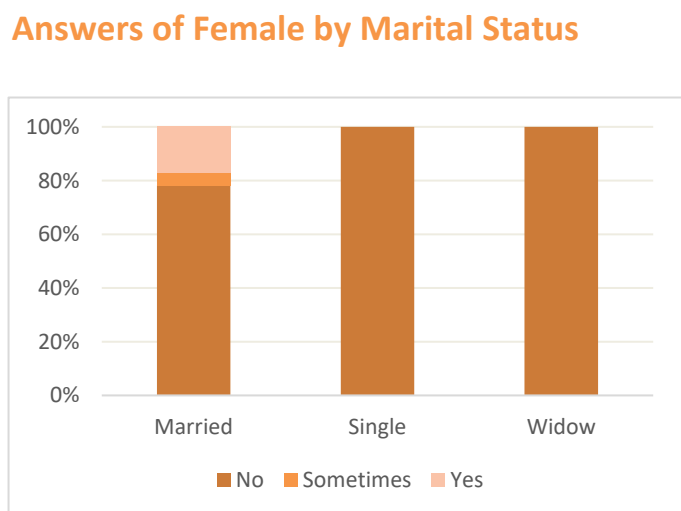
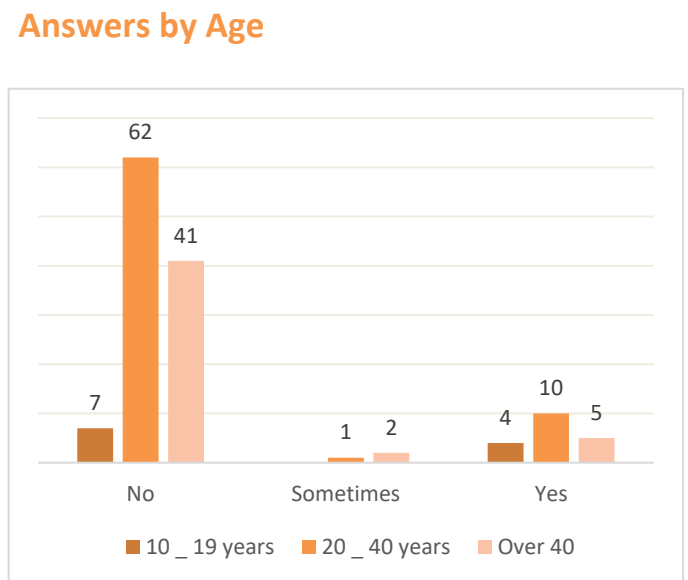
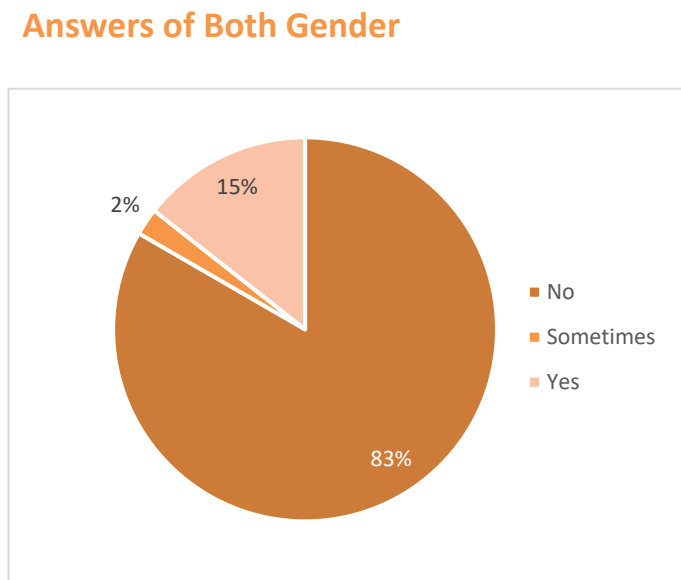


Shelter And Protection

Question 1: What is the average number of people living in one living unit within a group center?

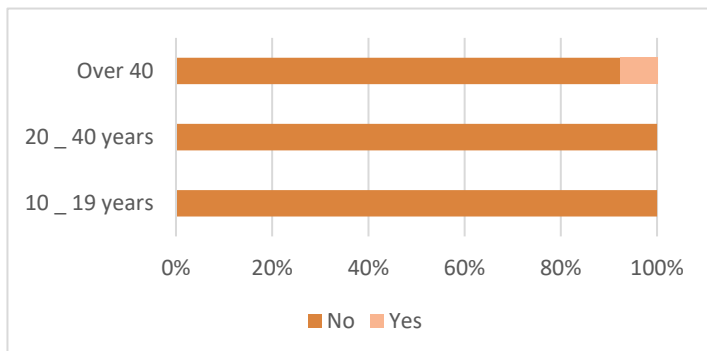


Question 2: *Do you share the living unit with people who are not from your family?* 15% reporting sharing their living space with people not in their direct family, especially the younger respondents.

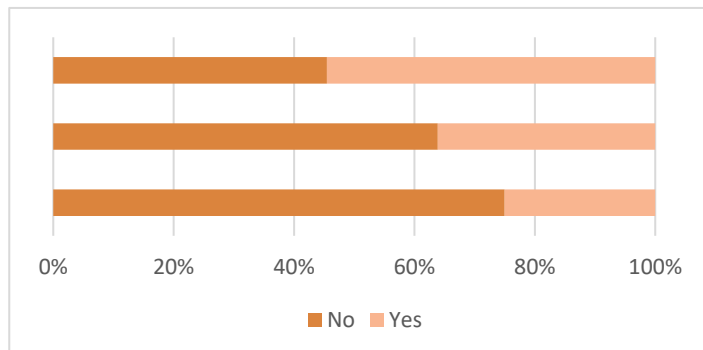


Question 3: Does the living space make you feel private and safe from outside / or strangers? 100% of women and girls aged 10-40 do not feel safe in their living space, nor can they sleep separately from men if they need to. On average 50% of men and boys feel like they are safe and have privacy, and 25% can sleep separately from women if they want to. This is due to the inadequacy of the shelters, curtains for walls, no locks on windows and doors and isolated locations.

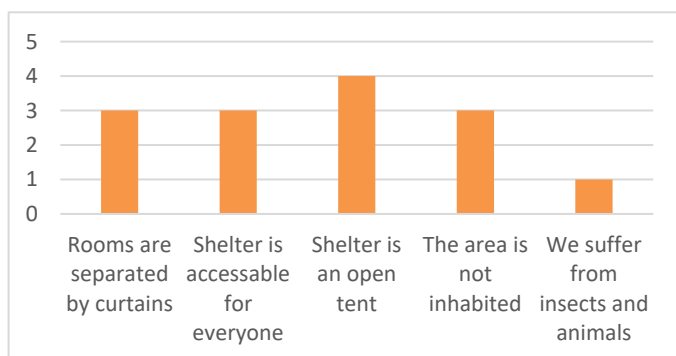
Answers by Age of Females



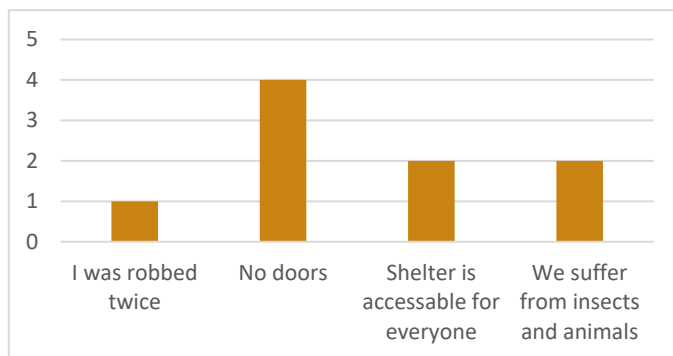
Answers by Age of Males



Concerns of Females In Terms of Privacy

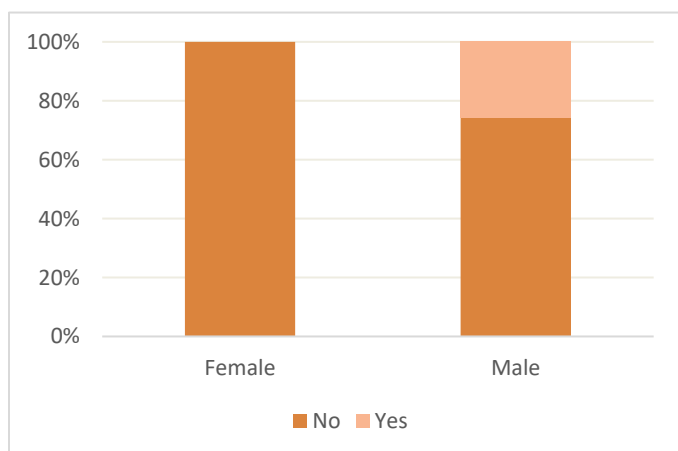


Concerns of Males In Terms of Privacy

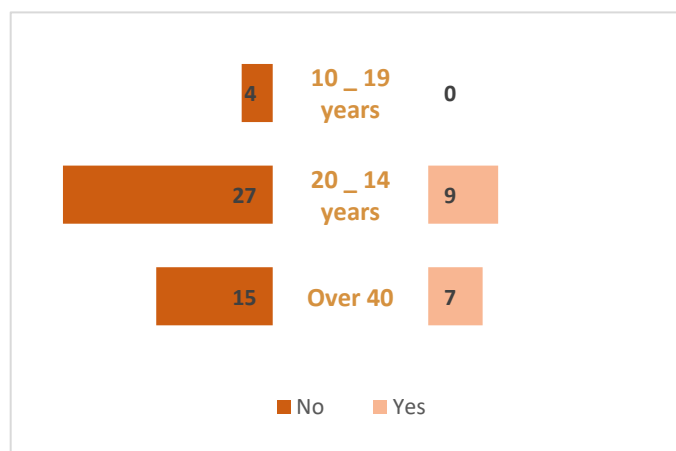


Question 4: Are you able to sleep separately from men or women when you want or need to?

Answers by Gender



Answers of Males by Age



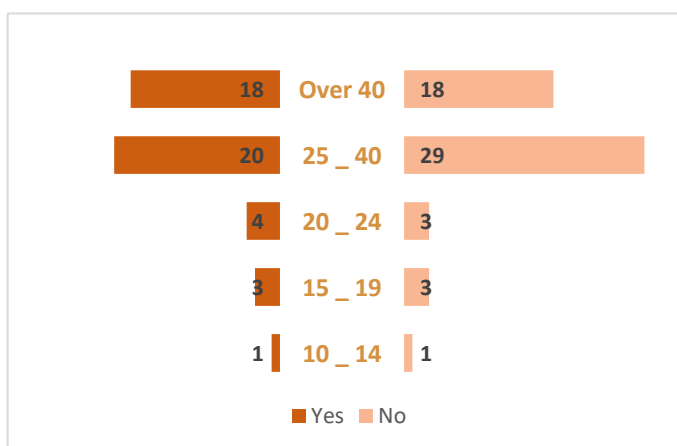
Water And Sanitation

Toilets and /bathing facilities are vastly inadequate in the centers. Posing numerous protection risks, the toilets are largely not segregated, and women are forced to go outside and use informal pit latrines or wash behind a blanket.

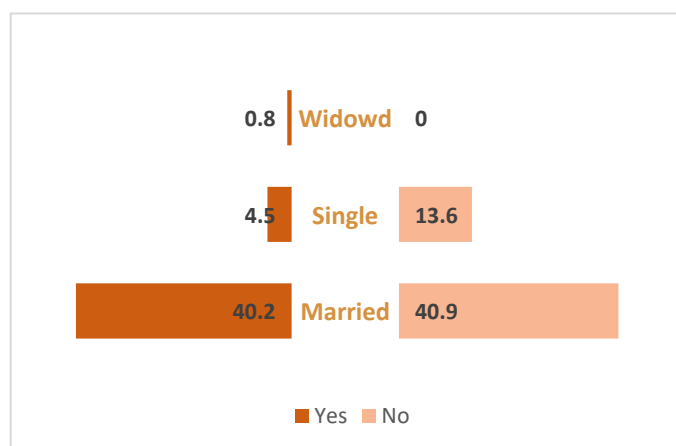
- 54% of people (men and women) said there was no access to toilets or bathing areas in their center at all.
- If they do have toilets, then half of these don't have bathing areas and people wash behind blankets in their family area.
- 90% of respondents said the toilets and bathing areas all inadequate – often just made of tarps, with no sewage management.
- 97% of people said toilets (if available) are not segregated – women go outside, use blankets for privacy, or walk long distances to find toilets in other public buildings such as schools.
- 70% of people say it is unsafe to use the facilities – more than twice as many women feel unsafe than men – 48% v. 23%.
- Gender segregation and coping mechanisms: Women say that if they go to the mixed toilets they take their husbands with them (if married), or they go outside or to another location (school). They do not use the facilities when men are around, and never at night. Married women have family members to accompany them and are more likely to use mixed gender facilities, single women are more likely to take risks to go outside and find somewhere away from the collective center and unmarried men who may observe them.

Question 1: Is there a place for water on the site? If it is, is it safe and easy to get water for women?

Answers by Age

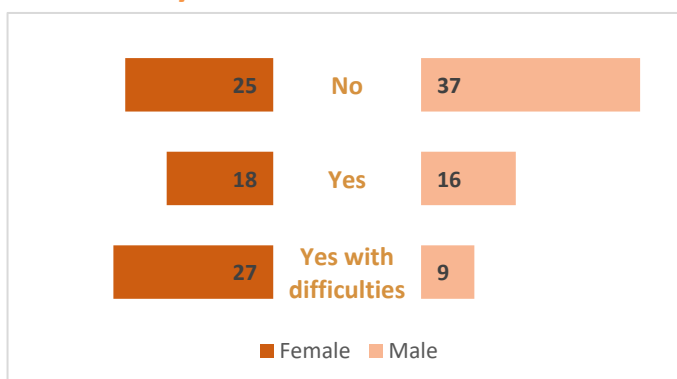


Answers by Marital Status

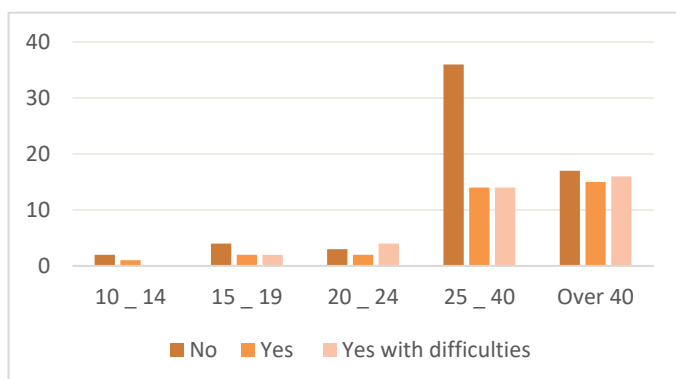


132 respondents, 70 females and 62 males; **47% of the total 132 mentioned that there is no water at all on the site**, 26% answered yes, and the rest 27% said yes with some difficulties. The charts below show more details about the answers categorized by age, gender, and marital status:

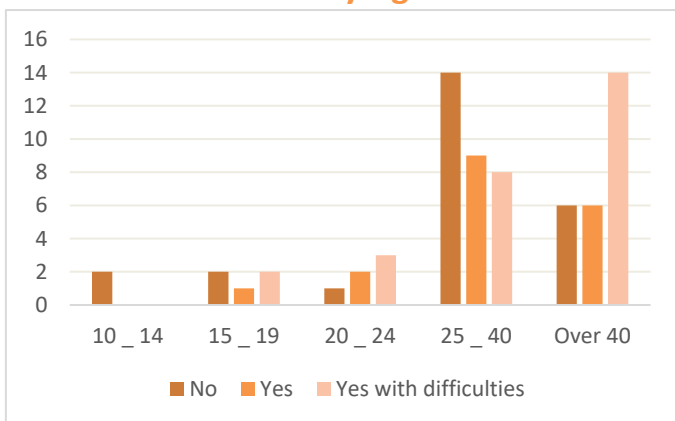
Answers by Gender



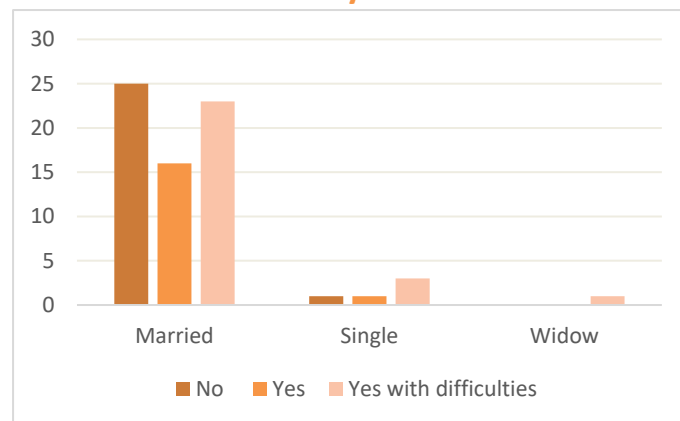
Answers by Age



Answers of Women by Age

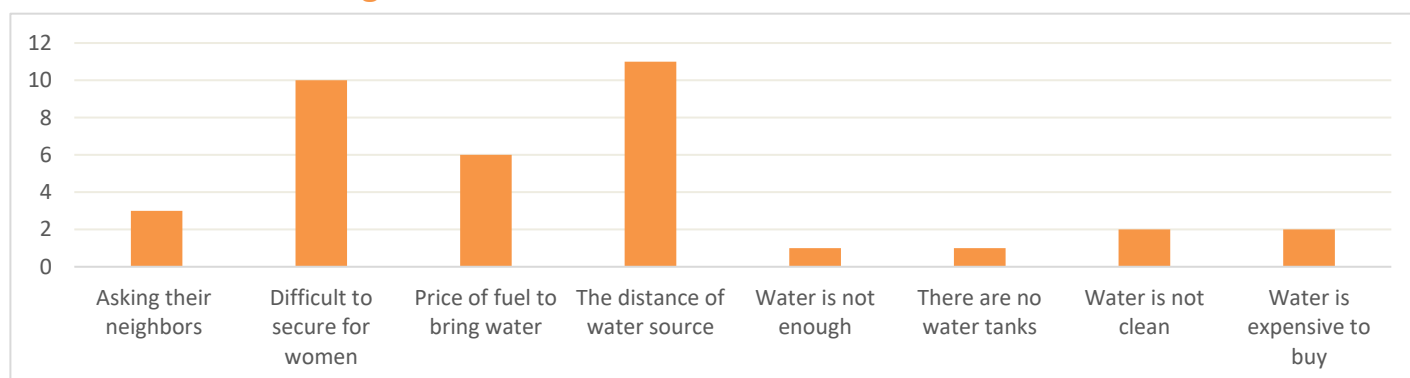


Answers of Women by Marital Status



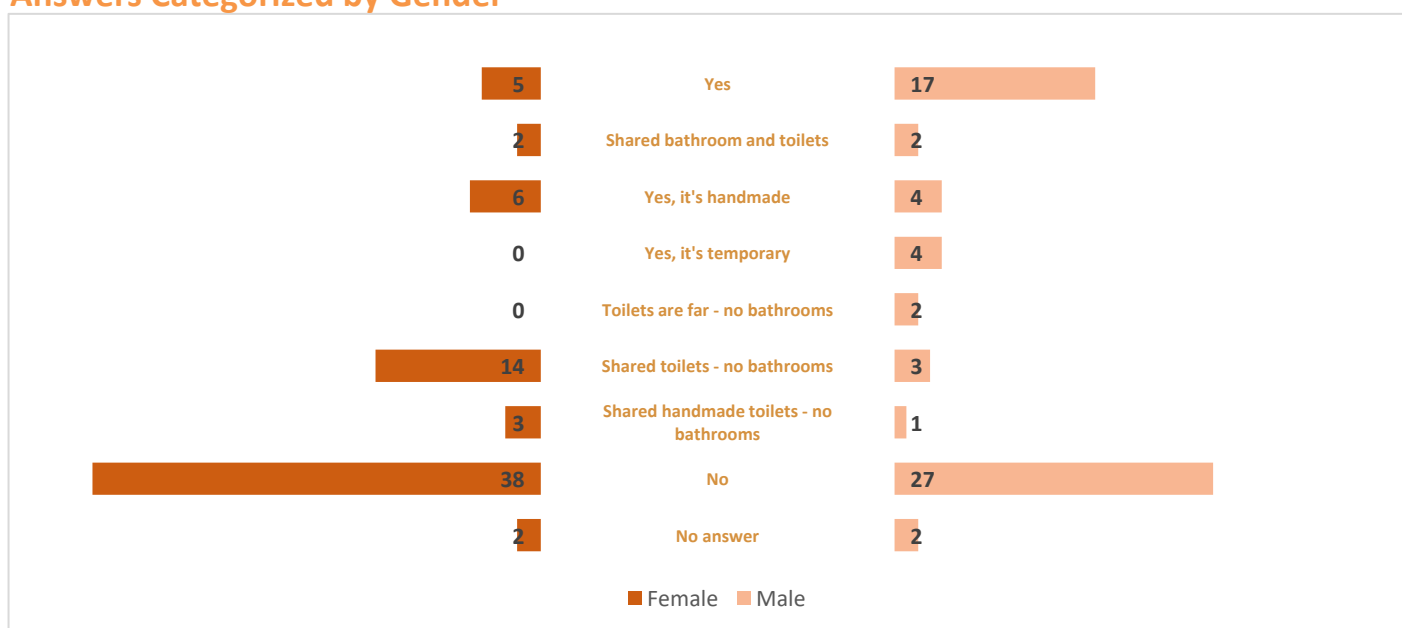
36 of 132 respondents mentioned some difficulties in accessing water, the chart below shows these difficulties, and the number of respondents who are facing it. **Women were more likely to report that they had difficulties collecting water – 27 women versus 9 men** – especially those over 40, in terms of securing water, and the distance to travel to get it.

Difficulties in Accessing Water



Question 2: Are there latrines and showers in the area?

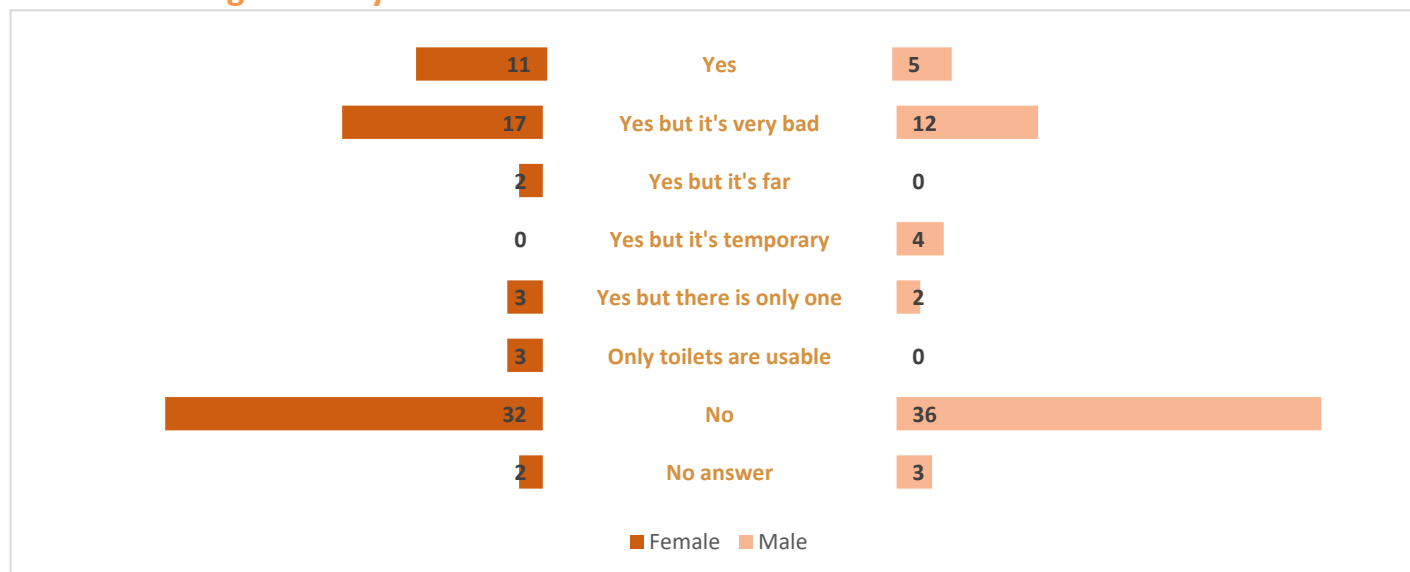
Answers Categorized by Gender



**Handmade: people themselves made it by covering small areas with blankets or plastic sheets in or near their tents.*

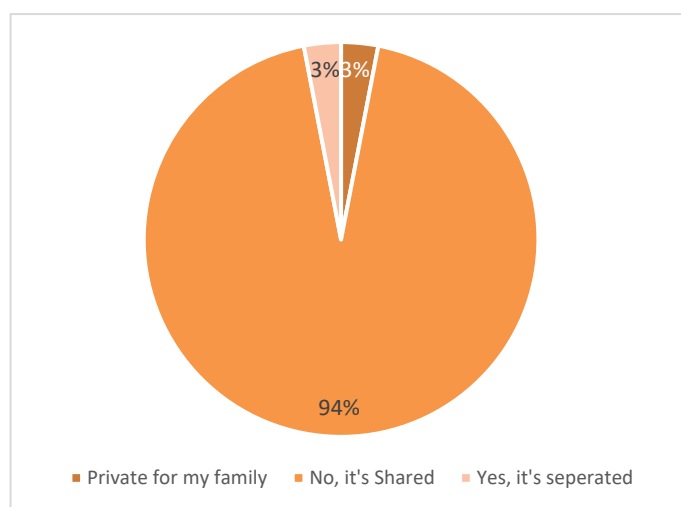
Question 3: Are the toilets or bathrooms functional and usable?

Answers Categorized by Gender

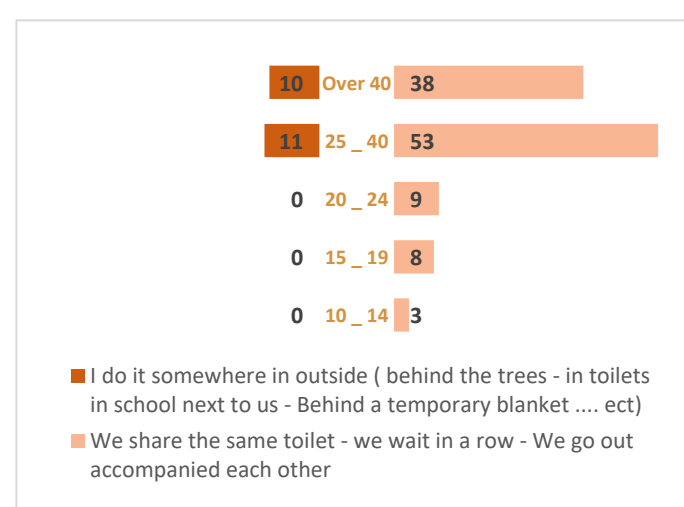


Question 4: Are these facilities separate by gender? If there are no separate toilets for women - what women do? The majority of facilities are not gender separated (94%). Most women have found ways to ensure they can manage sharing toilets, usually by going together in pairs, but some are still at risk, not having anyone to accompany them or feeling that they have to find an alternative location outside the centre.

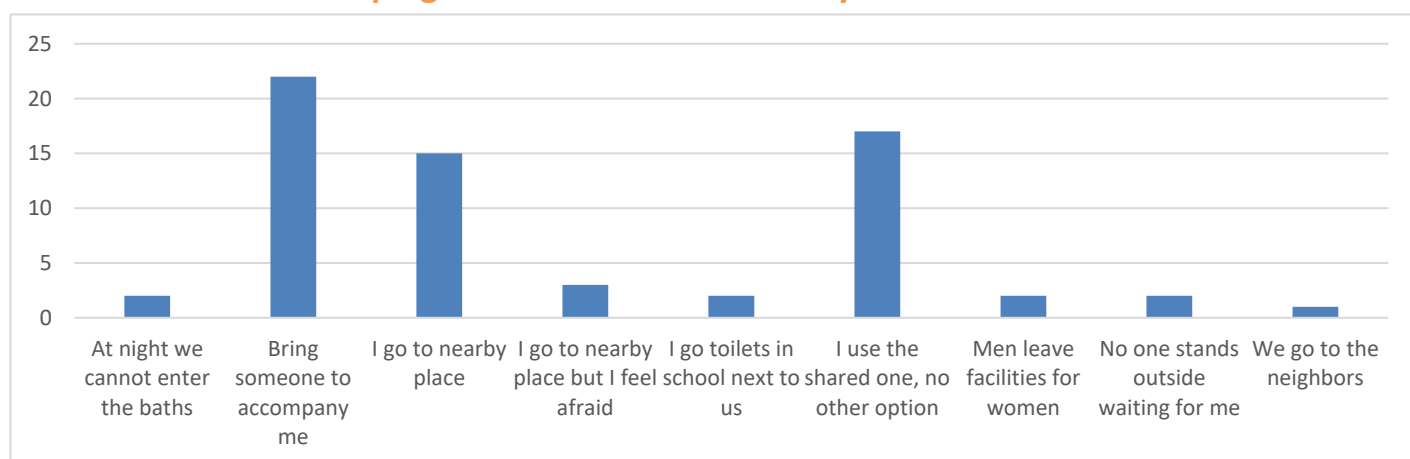
Are Facilities Separate by Gender?



If No, what to do they do? Answers by Age



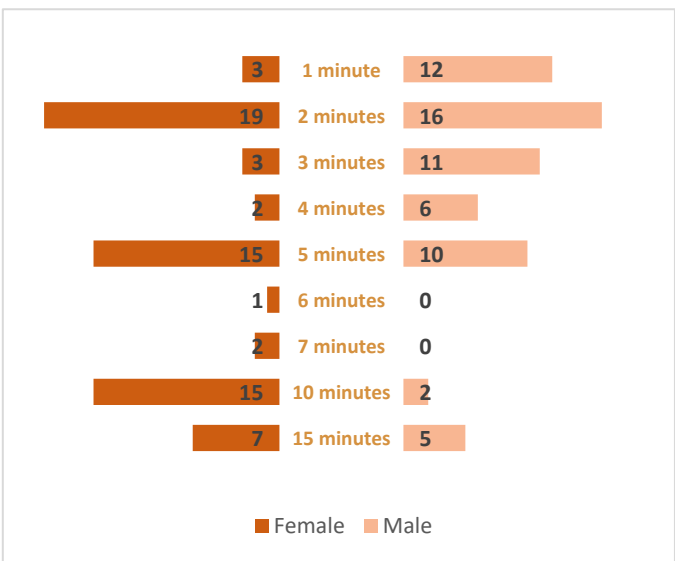
Other Concerns and Coping Mechanism Mentioned by Females



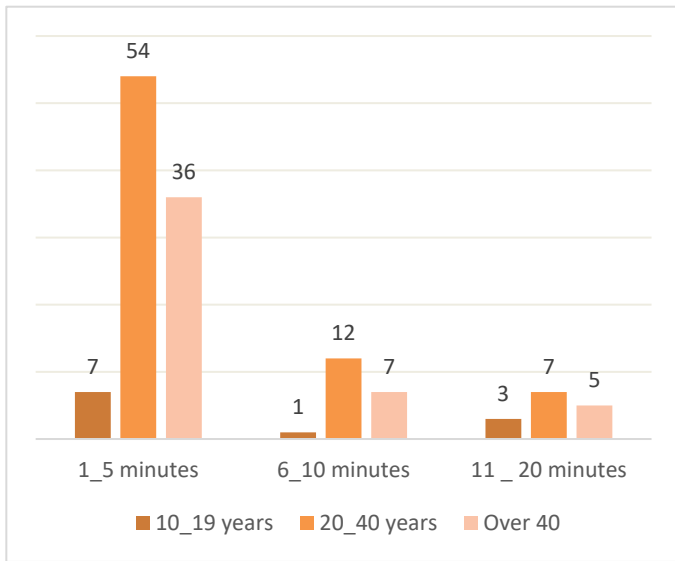
Question 5: How long does it take to reach the toilets and bathrooms?

Although the majority of people can access sanitation facilities within 1-5 minutes there are 3 sites where it is necessary to walk 6-20 mins, reported specifically by the women who are making these journeys. Suggesting that there may be closer facilities but as they are not gendered then the women are going elsewhere. This extra journey is time away from children, and potentially time in more risky locations, is increasing protection risks.

Answers by Gender

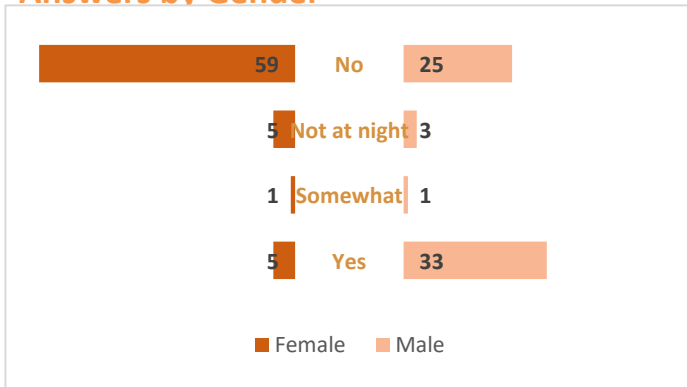


Answers by Age

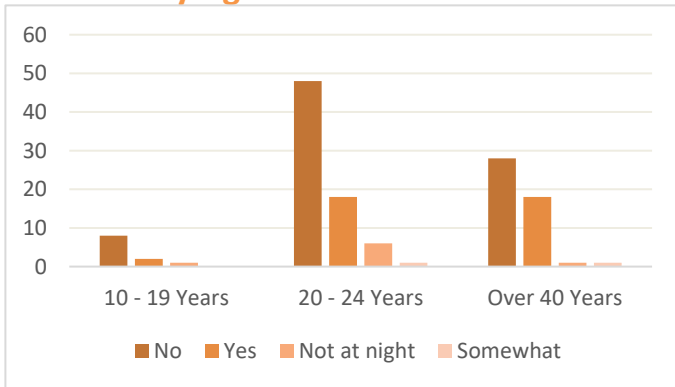


Question 6: Do you feel safe walking to the toilets? The majority of people do not feel safe using the toilets especially women – there is no difference between women who are married or of different ages, additionally only a third of the men feel safe doing so.

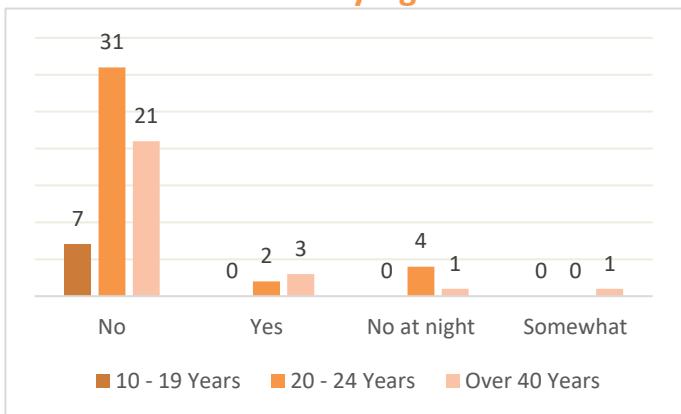
Answers by Gender



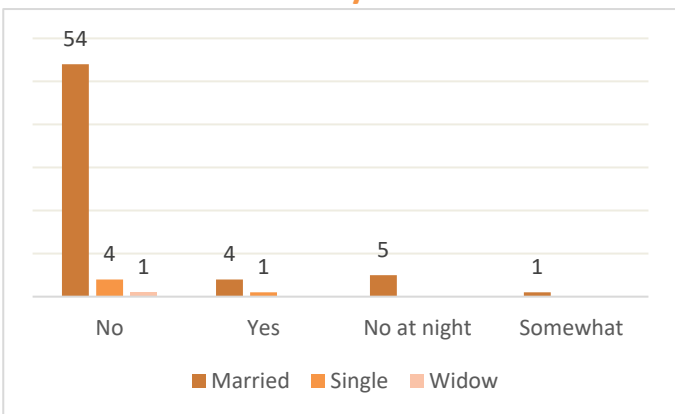
Answers by Age



Answers of Females by Age



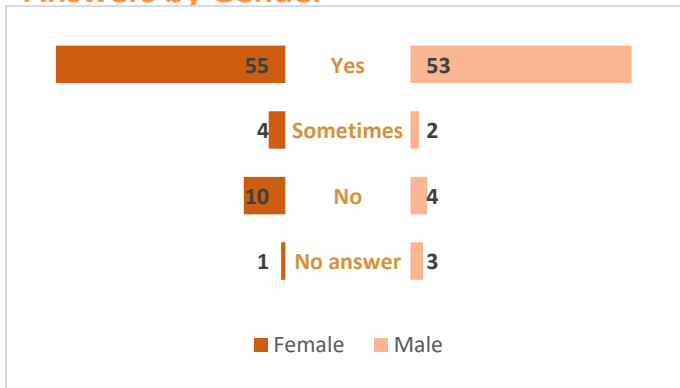
Answers of Females by Marital Status



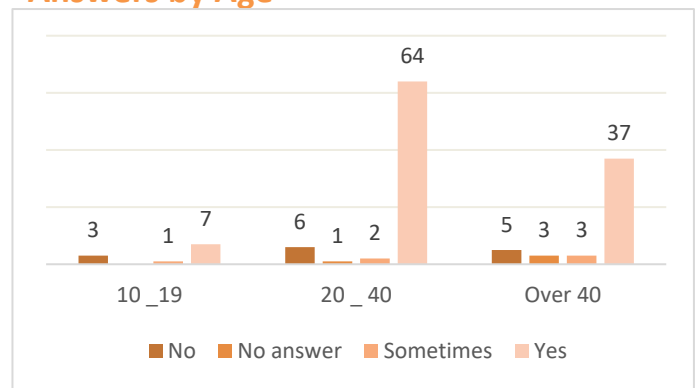
Access And Mobility

Question 1: Do you leave the temporary collective accommodation center?

Answers by Gender

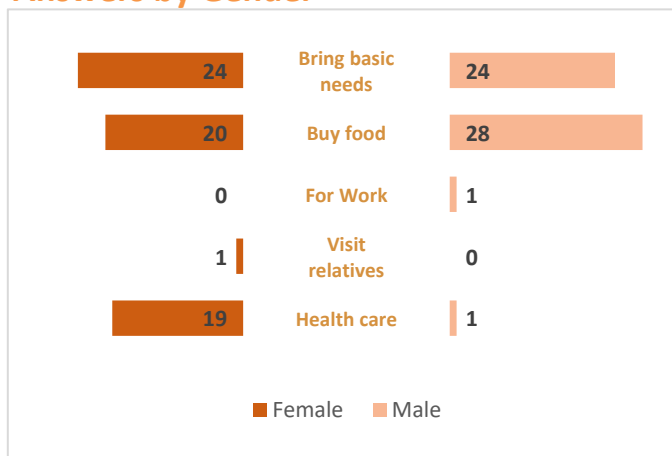


Answers by Age

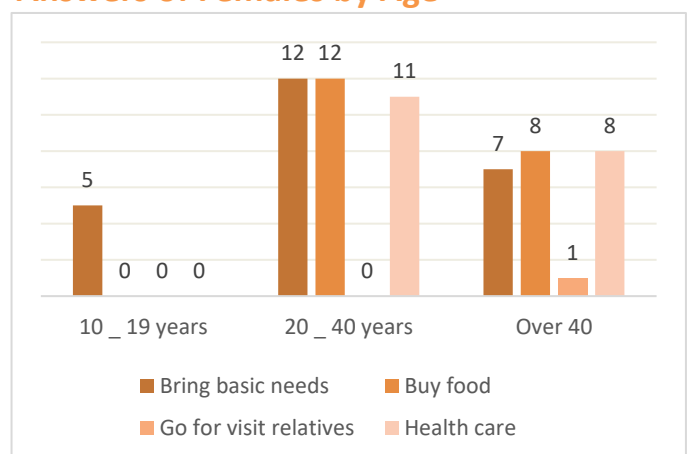


Question 2: *If you leave the collective center, for what reason do you leave?* It is necessary for all groups to leave the centres for basic needs, however more women than men are confident to leave but need to leave for reasons such as health care, possibly linked to childrens and maternal health as it is mainly women between 20-40 years old.

Answers by Gender

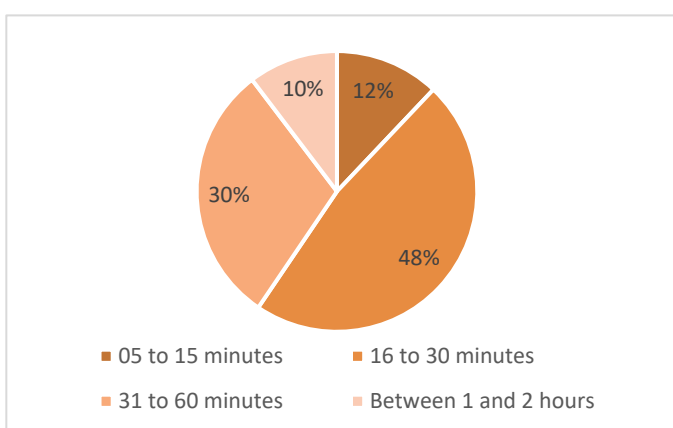


Answers of Females by Age

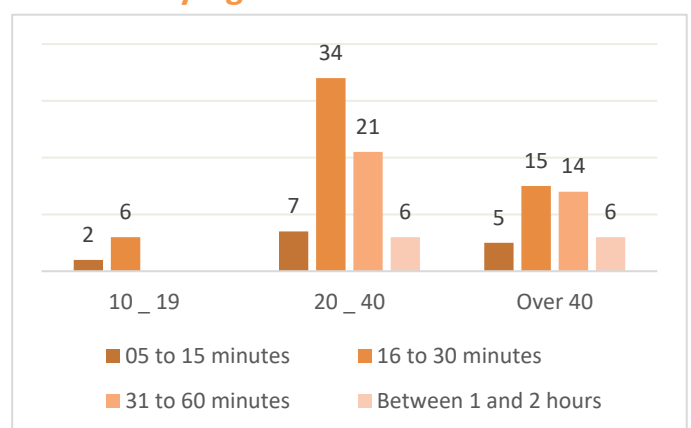


Question 3: *When you leave to meet basic needs, how long does it take to reach your destination?* 40% of people travel more than 30 mins to reach services, groceries, doctors, clinics etc. The people travelling the furthest are women, indicating health facilities are not easy to access.

Answers from all

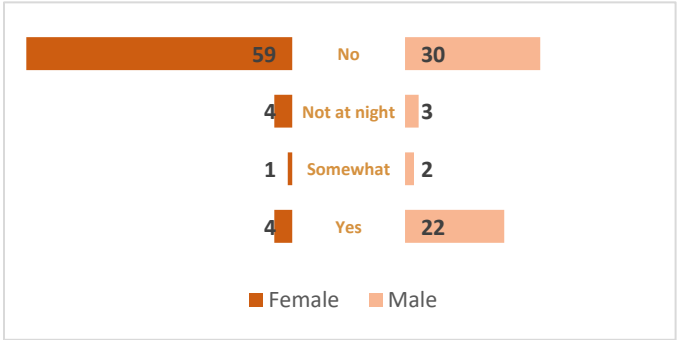


Answers by Age

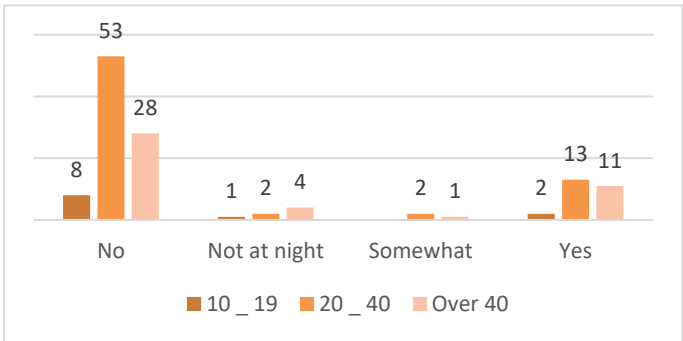


Question 4: Do you feel safe when you leave the group center to do the tasks? 70% of people worry about harm coming to either themselves whilst on the road (abduction/PSEA) – 37% or to their families who they leave behind in the center when they go out. **Men and women were equally fearful of kidnapping. All single women said they feel unsafe when leaving the centres, while married women were more likely to feel safe.**

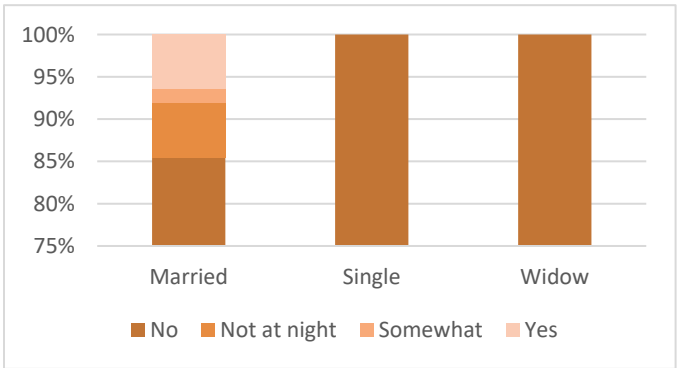
Answers by Gender



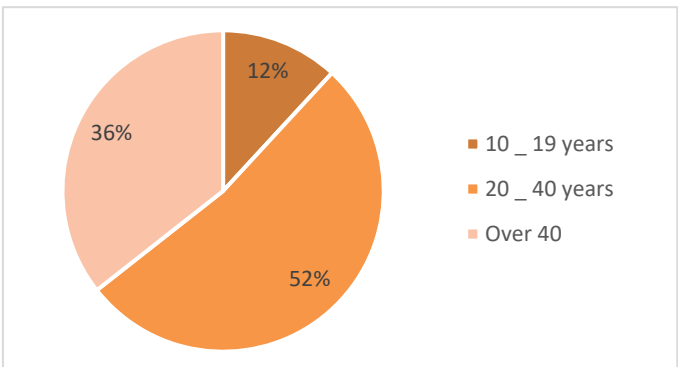
Answers by Age



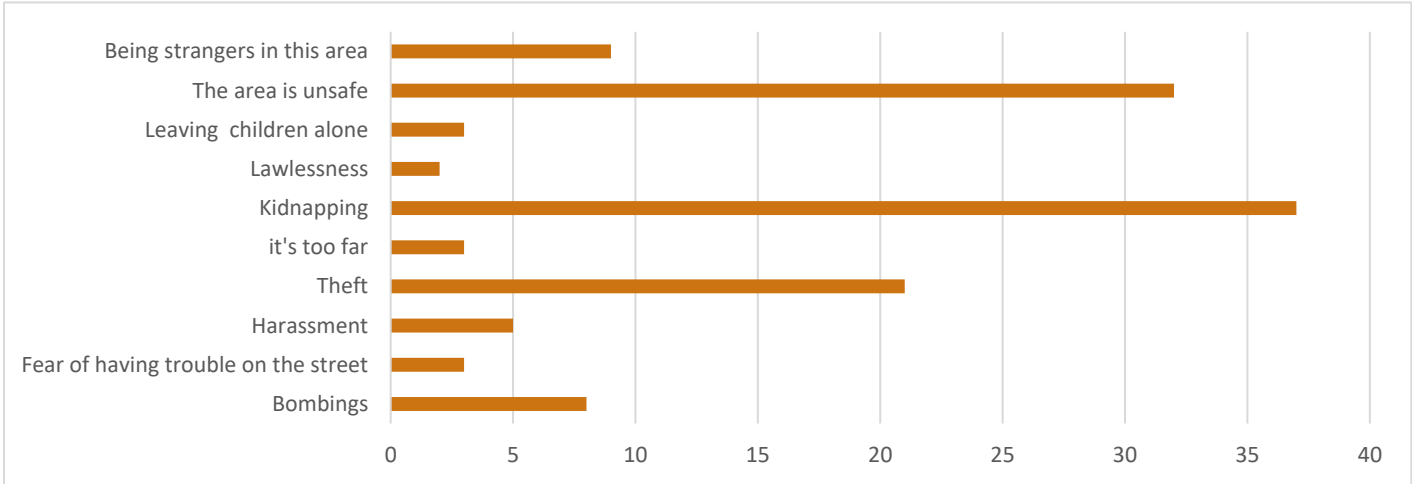
Answers of Females by Marital Status



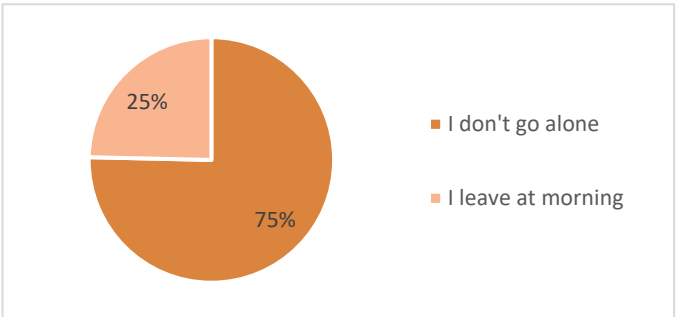
Age of Females Who Don't Feel Safe



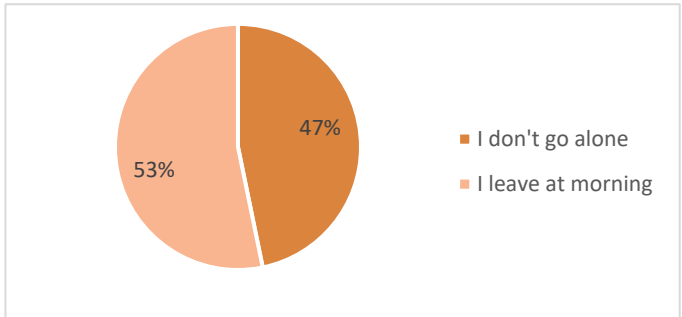
Reasons of Not Feeling Safe



Coping Mechanism When Leaving the Center / Female



Coping Mechanism When Leaving the Center / Male



Recommendations for Organizations

Question 1: What are the needs to improve the situation of the collective center you're living in?

Answers of Females by Age

Needs		14 _ 19 years	20 _ 40 years	Over 40
Shelter	Better shelter	3	8	4
	Tents		4	4
	Bathrooms		13	6
	Toilets		5	6
Safety & Security	Doors and windows		1	1
	Improve safety		1	
Water and Hygiene	Water		4	3
	Water tank	3	1	3
	Hygiene & Sanitation	1	2	1
Other aids	NFI			2
	Regular humanitarian aids		6	2
	Cash assistance		3	1
	Food	3	4	1
	Baby kits		2	

Answers of Males by Age

Needs		14 _ 19 years	20 _ 40 years	Over 40
Shelter	Better shelter	1	2	1
	Tents		10	9
	Bathrooms		7	2
	Toilets	1	9	6
	Heating		2	6
Safety & Security	Doors and windows	1	2	1
	Lighting		3	
	Fence around the camp		1	3
Water & Hygiene	Water	1	8	1
	Water tank		3	2
	Hygiene & Sanitation		2	2
	Garbage removal	1		1
Other aids	NFI		1	1
	Regular humanitarian aids		3	1
	Cash assistance		1	
	Food		7	8
Health	Health services	1	1	
Education	Schools		2	2
Protection	Psychological support		1	
	Child safe space		1	
	Awareness		1	

Question 2: According to you, what can make collective centers a safe environment for women and girls?

What can increase the safety of women and girls? (Women answering)		Total
Shelter	Safe secure shelter for each HH	23
	Bathing areas improved	7
	Segregated Toilets	7
Livelihoods	Cash and finance support	4
Security	Improve safety of site/lighting	5
Water and Hygiene	Access to water	1
Other aids	NFI	2
	Access to services (medical/education)	4
	Food	4

What can increase the safety of women and girls? (Men answering)		Total
Shelter	Safe secure shelter for each HH/ gender segregation	14
	Improved and segregated sanitation facilities	15
Livelihoods	Cash and finance support	3
Security	Improve safety of site/lighting	4
Other aids	NFI	3
	Access to services (medical/education)	4

Question 3: What would you think would be the best way to support families to recover?

Support for recovery? (Women answering)		% of responses
Shelter	Safe secure shelter for each HH	23
	Segregated Toilets	10
Livelihoods	Cash and finance support	37
Other aid	NFI	7
	Improved site location	4
	Reilef/food	12
	Access to services (medical/education)	7

Support fro recovery? (Men answering)		% of responses
Shelter	Safe secure shelter for each HH	24
	Improved and segregated sanitation facilities	10
Livelihoods	Cash and finance support	26
Security	Improve safety of site/lighting	12
Other aids	Food and Water	21
	Access to services (medical/education)	7



June – Dec 2020: CARE

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