



ACTED



SAFETY AUDIT REPORT BAIDOA, BAY REGION NOVEMBER 2018

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SHF Somalia
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I. INTRODUCTION

ACTED' CCCM team and WOCCA, the Protection partner, conducted a Safety Audit assessment at 35 IDP Camps in Baidoa on 6th and 7th November 2018. There are 391 IDP camps in Baidoa according to the CCCM master list. The majority of these IDP camps are overcrowded, self-settled makeshift bushes made of locally available materials such as plastics and worn out clothes. The majority of displaced population comes from rural villages in Bai and Bakools regions: push factors for displacement in these areas are the prolonged drought mixed with diffuse insecurity in South West Regions of Somalia.

The provision of basic necessities such as food, water and shelter becomes necessary to sustain life and dignity. Safety audits assessments enable humanitarian actors to identify observable risks and assess specific vulnerabilities of displaced populations living in the settlements. This Safety



Overcrowded self-settled IDPS site in Baidoa, with traditional "Buu" shelters

Audit is the first one conducted by ACTED in Baidoa. Specifically, the assessment was undertaken with the following objectives:

- To observe and evaluate site level protection/GBV risks associated to the camp layout, camp infrastructures and services such WASH, shelter as well as safety and security;
- To understand vulnerabilities that make affected population more expose to GBV risks,

particularly women and girls;

- To recommend mitigation measures to be taken collectively by humanitarian actors to reduce the identified risks and/or vulnerabilities identified;

The findings from the safety audit were presented by ACTED during a participatory workshop that was organized in Baidoa on 28th and 29th January with more than 30 partners and local authorities attending. Feedbacks given by participants were incorporated in this report as recommendations for possible mitigation actions to be taken by service providers in the sites. The CCCM team will regularly follow up on the implementation of recommendations and will monitor the effectiveness of mitigation measures implemented and identify new risks that might need to be addressed in the next round of GBV Safety Audit, scheduled in May 2019. The report and the annexes will be disseminated among the humanitarian community, local

authorities and service providers to advocate for measures aiming at improving safety and living conditions in the sites and equal access to services for the affected population.

2. METHODOLOGY

The Safety Audit assessment was conducted using the Safety Audit Checklist tool for Somalia developed with the support of the GBV integration guidelines team and attached to this report. The checklist was filled in through a mix of observations, site walks and key informant interviews with female community members. Separate checklists were filled in for every site and results were entered in a data analysis matrix, also attached to this report. Data were disaggregated by sites and were analyzed to identify GBV risks, vulnerabilities and produce specific recommendations to reduce GBV threats in the sites. In order to complement the checklist tool, 35 women/girls from 35 IDP camps have been involved in one Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The FGD gave the team the opportunity to discuss more in depths GBV risks faced by female residents, concerns related to girls' education, early marriages and women empowerment as well as ways to overcome the challenges faced by women and girls in the sites.

List of sites assessed in Baidoa, Bay Region

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Balanbal | 13. Jawaarey | 25. Sooranle |
| 2. Bansadiiq | 14. Qodqoade | 26. Towsiile |
| 3. Burfule shabelow | 15. Sagam | 27. Wadey Ralima 2 |
| 4. Burheleda | 16. Shabeelow Bay | 28. Madhayta |
| 5. El Heji | 17. Al-Baraka | 29. Qawowe |
| 6. Galool samaaned | 18. Anole | 30. Siiga dheer 2 |
| 7. Geela | 19. Awal Barwaqo | 31. Badbado |
| 8. Gelgel Oonle 2 | 20. Bay iyo Bakool | 32. Elbay 2 |
| 9. Guudka | 21. Goosite | 33. Qansax dheere |
| 10. Hafate 3 | 22. Lowgaroore | 34. Shiimo Tiyeglow |
| 11. Irarooq | 23. Macaaney | 35. Xasang mumin |
| 12. Iskari | 24. Sarmaandheer | |

3. KEY FINDINGS

A summary of the main findings by sector, collected through the Safety Audit checklist tool for Somalia.

Camp Design and Layout

- All sites are overcrowded and self-settled. Fire risk is high due to the proximity of shelters and inexistent camp layout and design.
- 34 out of 35 sites don't have physical structures surrounding the site and don't have entry and exist gates, therefore they can be accessed from everywhere.
- Most of the camps don't have street solar lights and remain dark during night: only 3 sites have public lighting systems

Shelters

- Shelters in the sites are “buul”, traditional improvised shelters made out of plastic, carton and old clothes. These shelters are not solid and leave the IDPs particularly exposed to risks and bad weather conditions. Only 2 sites have shelters built with solid material, and only 3 sites have shelters with lockable doors.
- Most of the shelters are overcrowded and don't have an internal partition to enhance privacy: in 8 sites shelters host more than 6 individuals and in 6 sites there are multiple families sharing shelters.

WASH



Water bladder at Guudka for immediate delivery of safe drinking water to IDPs without water sources

- Out of 35 IDP camps assessed, only four have water sources (shallow well and water tanks)
- Most of the camps don't have access to drinking water and IDPs walk more than 500m looking for water.
- All the sites have latrines: in 28 sites latrines are built with solid material, in 31 latrines have locks inside the doors and in 14 sites the latrines are considered well lit.
- Most recently ACTED constructed 81 emergency latrines blocks (3 latrines per block) in all the 35 sites assessed. All the latrines are gender segregated and have solar lights installed to ensure that there is adequate lighting at

night. The latrines have also one light bulb inside which is connected to a solar battery to enlighten the latrine from the inside.

- Hygiene and sanitation conditions in the camp have improved and hygiene promotion activities are ongoing in all sites. The latrine coverage is 8 HHs per latrine (40 people per latrine) but solid waste management remains a challenge due to lack of garbage pit in the camps.

Safety and Security

- The lack of fence (wire fencing) and street lights makes the camps particularly vulnerable and insecure.
- Goosite IDP camp is the only site with a police station located less than 10 minutes walk from the site.
- Protection/GBV risks is high at night and when women walk long distances to look for firewood, as reported during KII and FGD.
- The use of traditionally three stones for cooking fire set makes fire risks high in the sites.
- Most of the sites have no markets in or near the sites but some of the IDPs have small shops that sell food and vegetables. People walk to markets in the town to buy items but accessibility is limited during the rainy season, and because of the poor conditions of the road.

Health and Protection

- There are no health centers in the sites but mobile health and nutrition teams serves the camps on a weekly basis.
- There are also Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centers near to the sites, where maternal health care services are provided: for the most serious cases, when the MCH center has not enough capacity to support, patients are referred to Baidoa regional hospital.
- WOCCA case workers are active in all the 35 sites and a GBV referral pathways is available for the sites assessed.
- There are also private hospitals and health facilities close to the sites but most of IDPs can't afford to pay these services.

4. FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS SUMMARY

In order to complement the assessment conducted with the Safety Audit checklist tool for Somalia on 8th November 2018, ACTED Camp Management Team and WOCCA GBV case workers conducted a Focus Group Discussion at CCCM meeting hall in Bansadiq IDP site. A total of 35 women and girls from 35 IDP camps participated in the discussion representing the voices of the other women and girls of their communities.

Girl Child Education & Women Empowerment



Focus Group Discussion with women and girls residents

The majority of IDP camps in Baidoa are drought-affected IDPs that moved from extremely rural areas in Bay and Bakool regions after having lost their livelihood. These IDP communities are traditionally pastoralist and lack of access to education in their areas of origin. In Baidoa IDP sites, different humanitarian agencies have started implementing education projects, including building of temporary learning spaces, provision of learning materials and support to

teachers. Although access to education has improved for some IDPs, girls education is neglected. Mainly boys go to school while a lot of IDP families keep girls at home: this leads women and girls being downplayed in the community and result in a major barrier to women's economic and social empowerment. Throughout the discussion, the participants reiterated that education is one of the most critical areas for empowering women and girls, but confirmed that majority of IDP girls and young women don't go to school due to a number of factors such as:

- Parents' lack of knowledge of the importance of their daughters' education: "educating a lady is like educating the whole nation" but most of the parents are illiterate and don't understand the importance educating girls. They also believe that girls should be kept at home in order to help their mothers with domestic work such as cooking, washing clothes and utensils and fetching water for daily family used. Although these traditional beliefs are changing, and there are more and more parents that recognize the importance of sending girls to school, the participants affirmed that this is a still a big obstacle for girls' education.
- Economic pressure and family responsibilities: most of the schools in Baidoa are privately owned which represents an obstacle to vulnerable IDP families who can't afford to pay school fees, school materials and uniforms, to enable girls to access education.
- Unavailability of resources to support learning: although access to education has improved thanks to the efforts of humanitarian community in Baidoa, there are only 2 schools in the sites assessed. Children have to walk to different sites to get access to free education and due to the number of the IDP population in Baidoa, these schools are often overcrowded and lack of education resources such as school material.
- Safety concerns: security situation in IDPs camps and overall Baidoa restricts girls' movements. Parents pointed out that they fear for their daughters when they are not at home as girls are more exposed to abuse and harassment.

Harmful Traditional Practices: FGM and early and forced marriages

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a harmful traditional practice that is still rampant in Baidoa IDP settlements as the participants stated in the discussion. They mentioned that majority of IDP residents don't believe that FGM is a harmful practice for women and girls: the practice is believed to be a "mandatory" traditional practice and tackling this belief requires strong community awareness and advocacy and investing in education. Some of the women narrated personal stories about FGM practices they had experienced. One of the women's story was captured by the team "As a woman I have undergone traditional FGM but now as a mother of 6 children (4 girls and 2 boy) I refuse this to happen to my daughters. When my first daughter underwent FGM at a young age, in the village, she bled so much that I was scared she would have died. As there was no medical care center or hospital in the village, I was afraid she would have bled to death. I had to carry her to the nearest hospital which is 70 km from my village. It took a long time to her to recover and it cost a lot to our family to pay the medical bill, we had to sell 3 goats, but now I have learnt lessons from this, I stopped practicing this harmful tradition". She also added that women/girls who underwent FGM face pain during menstrual period and the child birth stage. From that experience she decided not to have her daughters suffer similar fate and urged the female participants to carry this message home and save the lives of those suffering.

Early and forced marriages are also widespread practiced traditions in the sites. Some of the factors contributing to this problem and stated by the participants include lack of education, traditional beliefs connected to women and girls' role in the society, as well as lack of awareness on women and girls' rights. Poverty and poor financial security also contribute to early and forced marriages, so does the lack of functioning judicial systems that can enforce the laws against early marriage. Orphan girls or girls separated from their families of primary caregivers are even more vulnerable: without parental figures to help them to make informed decisions, they are more vulnerable to get married at a very young age.

Based on the results of the FGD, the provision of quality and free education for women and girls will play a critical role in the fight against FGM and early marriage and improve the living economic status of the family. Community mobilization and educating mother on dangers of FGM, as well as awareness on women and girls right is crucial to tackle these challenges. Social and economic empowerment of women and girls also heavily depends on the provision of formal and non-formal education. In addition, it is essential to increase GBV/protection awareness on IDP sites and to train the community members on GBV/protection in order to promote behavioral changes and enable the creation of a social environment where women and girls' rights are respected and protected.

Women and girls identified distribution of firewood as a priority to reduce GBV risks as they are particularly exposed to risk of harassment and sexual violence while collecting firewood. Additionally, reinforcing shelters with more solid material will increase safety at night, as they pointed out.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve camp design and layout to reduce overcrowding and provide safe conducive spaces for living. Because of the lack of land available in Baidoa, this needs to be accompanied by advocacy for public land to reduce evictions.
- Fencing sites would enhance the safety of the residents and reduce threats.
- Construction of proper shelters made of wood and metallic materials with lockable doors contributes to the safety of the residents during nights.
- Installation of solar lights in public places including roads, water points, latrines will enhance the security particularly at night.
- Sensitize community leaders (elders, religious leaders, district authority leaders, women group leaders) on human rights in relation to harmful practices, norms and values that affect women and girls.
- Community awareness and advocacy to educate and sensitize the public on GBV and women and girls' rights.
- Reduce the risks exposed to women and girls when looking firewood through distribution of firewood or community patrolling. Distribution of fuel efficiency stove would help women to reduce fuel consumption and reduce risk of fire.
- Safeguard the safety of latrines by installing appropriate doors and locks, solar lights for the night hours and through gender segregation of sanitation facilities. Constructing additional gender segregated latrines for the sites where no latrines are close to their residential areas.
- Ensure that health centers are not too far from the sites, accessible even during evening hours and that maternal and child health care services are available. Whenever health care posts are far from the sites, measures should be taken to support vulnerable individuals and particularly pregnant women to get access to the facilities especially in case of emergencies.
- Link Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) mobilization sessions and nutrition for pregnant women and lactating mothers possibility with awareness session on FGM for mothers of newborns babies
- Promote access to education and particularly access to education for girls, through the construction of school facilities closer to the IDP sites and awareness raising in the community. Creating a safe school environment through the provision of gender segregated sanitation facilities and distribution of dignity kits to girls is also key to promote girls' education and tackle dropout rate.
- Create and promote adult learning programs for women and well as livelihood projects in order to empower women with entrepreneurship skills and knowledge and small grant start-ups for setting up small businesses.

6. ATTACHMENTS

1. Safety Audit Checklist for Somalia
2. Safety Audit Database Baidoa, November 2018
3. Safety Audit Snapshots Baidoa, November 2018
4. Safety Audit Action Plan, November 2018

For more information on the Safety Audit for Baidoa and for the full list of attachments, please contact Aden Issack, Senior CCCM Officer at baidoa.cccmseniorofficer@acted.org and Elena Valentini, CCCM Technical Coordinator at elena.valentini@acted.org.