

ACTED conducted the first round of safety audit in June 2019 in 16 IDP sites in Hargeisa. The goal of the exercise was to evaluate site level GBV risks associated to the physical structure, camp layout and provision of critical services. Safety audits assessments enable humanitarian actors to identify observable risks and assess specific vulnerabilities of displaced population living in settlements. This factsheet contains an overview of key findings gathered during data collection and it provides actionable recommendations to reduce the identified GBV risks and vulnerabilities. Among the priority needs of the IDPs living in settlements as stated by the participants, are access to Health, water, education, sanitation and hygiene. The findings from the safety audit were presented by ACTED during a CCCM Sector Meeting in Hargeisa on the 12th September 2019.

## Methodology



The Safety Audit was conducted using the Safety Audit Checklist for Somalia. The checklist was filled in through a mix of site walks, observations and key informant interviews with female community members. The data collected were entered in a data analysis matrix and analyzed to produce recommendations to address risks and/or vulnerabilities and reduce GBV threats in the sites



In order to complement the assessment conducted with the Safety Audit checklist tool for Somalia, ACTED Camp Management Team conducted Focus Group Discussions with female residents of the sites. A total of 141 women and 107 girls from 16 IDP camps participated in the discussion representing the voices of the other women and girls of their communities.



For the full narrative report, the list of the sites assessed, the tools used and for the complete dataset of the findings please contact Ali Askar, CCCM PM at [ali.askar@acted.org](mailto:ali.askar@acted.org) and Elena Valentini, CCCM Technical Coordinator at [elena.valentini@acted.org](mailto:elena.valentini@acted.org).

## Key Findings

- None of the sites has protective physical structures surrounding the sites.
- Out of 16 sites assessed, 9 are planned sites whereas the remaining 7 sites are self-settled. These sites are characterized by poor shelter conditions and insecure/unstable land tenure and residents leave under constant threat of eviction.



*Camp Layout*

- Out of the 16 sites assessed, 11 sites have public lighting, but in none of the site public lighting is sufficient to adequately meet the needs of the IDP population.
- Out of the 16 sites assessed, only 5 sites have space to easily walk between shelters and other structures.

- The shelters for most of the self-settled sites are the traditional Somali “buul” which are made of fabric, sticks, carton or improvised materials that can’t withstand strong gale-force wind and heavy rains.



*Shelters*

- Out of the 16 sites assessed, only 5 sites have shelters built of solid materials and have secure locks with doors and with private sleeping areas.
- All the 16 sites have shelters housing more than six people and have multiple families sharing the same shelter.

- All the 16 sites don't have water points and therefore site residents rely on self-organized water trucking.
- 6 out of the 16 sites assessed have latrines while the rest lack these basic WASH facilities and therefore the practice of open defecation is rampant.



### WASH

- Only in one of the sites out of the 6 that have sanitation facilities, the latrines are well lit at night
- None of the assessed sites has gender segregated latrines: men and women share the same latrines.

- Lack of fencing have been cited by women and girl as a worrying concern that requires attention as it makes feel much more vulnerable to dangerous animal and criminals
- In 4 of the 16 sites assessed, security personnel is present nearby to protect the residents



### Security

- When also asked about shelters and how safe they feel at night, one of the participants said: *"I live in a tiny bull with my children. This temporary shelter is of weak materials with no proper door and roofing. I feel unsafe and woke up whenever I hear any sound at night. I also fear because the buul I live in can catch fire as it happened in Nasahablood B"*

- None of the site has a designated safe space dedicated for women and girls.



### Protection

- In none of the assessed sites the female key informant could recall the existence of community based protection committees or in site GBV focal points.

- Out of the 16 sites, only 4 sites have nearby health facilities and these nearby health facilities don't have adequate medical supplies to meet the needs of the IDP population. For critical/emergency cases, site residents carry patients to the hospitals in town which are far away from the sites. Given the low level of income and livelihood opportunities, some of them cannot transportation.



### Health

- One of the female participants said: *"We find it very hard and painful when one of us is in in the final stage of her pregnancy. We don't have ambulances and certified midwives in the sites and this might be a life-threatening situation during child birth"*.

- FGD participants strongly expressed the need for inclusive participation in decisions that affect in all aspects of their lives and blamed lack of equal opportunities as the main obstacle to their empowerment and economic freedom.
- They also complained about the lack of livelihood and vocational training opportunity for women and girls



### Community Participation

- One of the participants said: *"I am a mother of six children who are orphans. I am uneducated and did not receive any formal education. I am currently unemployed with no even basic skills to earn an honest living. The future of my children and those in similar fate hangs in the balance as I cannot afford to pay for their education. This makes me worry as I don't want them to be like me and go through this pain when they go older"*.



## Recommendation



- Strong and fact based advocacy for lands and stable land tenure agreement
- Close cooperation between CCCM, HLP and Local authorities to address the issues of forced evictions



- Increasing the number of solar lights to enhance visibility and contribute to the safety and security of site residents at night



- Promote the education and retention of teenage girls in school, including regular distribution of sanitary pads.
- Making schools available and accessible to the IDPs so that all children, including teenage girls and young women can have equal access and opportunities to quality education
- Economic empowerment through skill acquisition and livelihood interventions targeting women and girls to protect them from early marriage and domestic violence.



- Construction of water points to increase access to quality drinking water for all inhabitants.
- Construction and rehabilitation of gender segregated and well-lit latrines as open defecation is rampant in a number of sites that don't have pit latrines.



- Provision of safe, solid and durable shelters to improve the living conditions of the displaced populations and contribute to the overall site safety.



- Setting up and supporting camp-based safety groups and/or patrols comprised of both women and men to create safer environment for all
- Provision of firewood or alternative source of energy at IDP sites to reduce protection risks during fire wood collection
- Mainstreaming prevention and response to SGBV across sectors and programming.
- Strengthening referral pathways at site level through regular sensitization and awareness.
- Establish confidential reporting mechanisms at IDP sites and settlements including through hotline services



- Increase maternal health care service available
- Increase coverage of health mobile team unit
- Support vulnerable residents and pregnant mother with hospital transportation grants