

The Shelter Bulletin

Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster, Somalia

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Credit: Emergency Shelter /NFI Cluster/Richard Evans

Mogadishu – The Population Influx

In the period between 1st March and 23rd April, there has been 39,000 IDPs displaced either within or to Mogadishu. Of these 39,000 IDPs, about 23,000 were displaced from Afgooye, 2,200 people from Balcad and another 6,000 people from districts within Mogadishu. These displacements are due to the AMISOM/TFG offensive. There are reports of fragmented displacements, into Mogadishu, from other regions, including Bay, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba. These displacements are also due to the continued fighting between AMISOM/TFG forces and Al Shabaab. In total, about 8,000 people have moved into Mogadishu from these regions. These new displacements put more pressure on the already over stretched city, which hosts an estimated 184,000 IDPs (<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/somalia.php>)

Since the start of the year, the Cluster has provided 21,410 EAPs to 128,460 people in need in Banadir and a further 23,988 people with shelter, mainly through shelter kits. This is expected to continue as cluster members reach out to more households in need.

Urgent action must be taken to avert further crisis in Mogadishu. Through a tri-cluster strategy, funded by the first CHF standard allocation, the Shelter Cluster will provide Emergency Assistance Packages (EAPs), transitional shelter and fuel efficient stoves to IDPs in Dharkeynley, Wadajir, Deyninle and Hodan.

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PRINCIPLES: Shelter & Settlement

- Strategic planning to promote recovery and reconstruction where possible.
- Settlement planning to enable the safe and secure use of accommodation and essential services by affected population.
- Provision of sufficient covered living space that ensures thermal comfort, fresh air, privacy, safety and enables essential household livelihood to take place.
- Using local safe building practices, materials, expertise and capacities where appropriate, and maximizing the involvement of the affected population and local livelihood opportunities.
- Solutions, material sourced and construction techniques used, should minimize adverse impact on the local natural environment.

The Cluster at a Glance (January – March 2012)

In this first quarter, the majority of Phase 1 (EAPs) distributions have taken place in the South in Lower Shabelle, Gedo and Banadir regions. The reason for this prioritization is that these are newly displaced IDPs, while those in the other regions, especially Puntland and Somaliland are more protracted. For Phase 2, (transitional shelter), apart from the recent distribution of shelter kits in Mogadishu, the activities have been in Puntland and are part of longer-term interventions to improve the shelter condition of the urban IDPs. In the next few weeks, more shelter activities in Mogadishu will take place as agencies respond to the recent displacements and rains.

For Phase 1, since the beginning of the year, Cluster members have distributed a total of 48,977 EAPs reaching out to 292,692 people. Approximately 44% of these EAPs were for IDPs living in Mogadishu. Beneficiaries are those recently displaced from the Afgoye and public building evictions and also those that arrived during 2011. This brings the Mogadishu coverage to about 77% and considering that we are only a quarter through the year, the results are encouraging. However, there continues to be new displacement and so Cluster members are responding as the needs arise.

The other 56% of the EAPs distributed were in Lower Juba and Bakool. With these distributions completed, Lower Juba has now met and surpassed the targets set at the beginning of the year. The Bakool distributions were the first EAPs to be distributed in the Region since 2010. This was amidst logistical difficulties to deliver EAPs for 18,000 IDPs in the district of Ceel Barde.

For Phase 2, since 6th January 2012, a total of 44,028 households have benefitted from improved shelter using a combination of shelter typologies such as emergency shelter kits (Mogadishu), emergency tents (Mogadishu) and full Corrugated Galvanised Iron (CGI) shelters in Puntland.

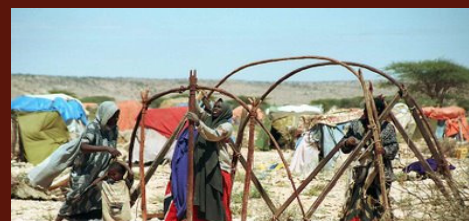
The best served region is Mudug where despite the increased insecurity; agencies continue to deliver on long-term projects. For Mogadishu, the coverage is only 19% which is low compared to the need and so in the coming months, the cluster will prioritize the region to improve the shelter conditions.

The Cluster continues to emphasize mainstreaming gender and protection in its interventions. Currently, the main initiatives are lockable doors on *buuls* (traditional Somali Shelter), the women's dignity kit and fuel efficient stoves.

The Cluster has prioritized fuel efficient stoves as one of the four pillars of its strategy for the upcoming CHF allocation. It is anticipated that this initiative will be replicated in other regions of Somalia as funding becomes available.

What are Fuel Efficient Stoves?

A cooking stove is a tool that burns specified fuel to produce heat that is directed and channeled to be used for heating food or water. A Fuel Efficient Stove therefore is designed to reduce the utilization of fuel used for heating when compared to other stoves or cooking implements. Fuel Efficient stoves are also widely referred to as "improved stoves".



Mogadishu Needs Assessment

The Cluster led needs assessment in Mogadishu has been completed and the final report is available on the Cluster's website.

<http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia/Clusters/ShelterNFI/tabid/5730/language/en-US/Default.aspx> The assessment took place on 8th February and was undertaken by 11 NGOs in six districts, covering 26 settlements. In total 1,304 questionnaires were completed by 65 enumerators in a single day.

The survey results demonstrate the significant NFI and Shelter needs of the IDP population and unless additional funding is provided to the sector, these needs will grow as more IDPs arrive into Mogadishu. The IDPs, regardless of when they arrived into Mogadishu, simply do not have the resources to construct adequate shelter. A *buul* should offer a basic level of shelter from the elements, as well as safety, security and dignity.

- i. Shelter from the elements: 66% of the *buuls* do not have cover that is continuous and so offer no protection from the sun, cold, heat or rain.
- ii. Safety and Security: 89% of the *buuls* cannot be locked while 78% are made from materials that can easily be cut open using a knife.
- iii. Dignity: 71% of the families live in a single room while 34% do not have a source of light at night. 70% do not have a place to cook while most alarming, 17% are living in less than 3.14m² of space, similar to an average 2 - person camping tent.

Setting the standard that a *buul* must provide all three of the properties listed above, namely shelter, safety and dignity means that the vast majority of the 25,000 households require assistance. Applying just the basic standard that a *buul* must provide shelter from the elements means that approximately 100,000 IDPs need assistance (66%). This is a considerable gap.

Interpretation of the NFI data is more difficult as the results are from direct questions to the head of household, making the results subjective. According to the survey, only 10% reported receiving the three core NFI items while 31% received some form of NFI.



Fuel Efficient Stoves – Saving Lives

Most IDPs in Somalia use the traditional 3-stone open cooking stove. While some use the energy inefficient tin stoves there are also those who improvise stoves using combinations of tin and stone.

In some of the settlements where there is vegetation in the vicinity, girls and younger women collect sticks for their stoves. The frail, older women, who are not able to go out, scavenge for pieces of paper, rags and sticks from garbage around the settlements to get fuel to burn their cooking fires. Others opt to cut pieces of cloth and cardboard from their *buuls* each time they want to make a meal for their families.

Venturing beyond the perimeter of the settlements is not always possible given the security situation in some of the areas and the IDP communities have no choice but to compete for the little pieces of sticks and garbage within the settlement to burn their fires.

In settlements where food rations are provided, women opt to give up some of their food rations to be able to have some to sell in exchange for firewood or charcoal which sells for an average of USD 2 for a bundle of sticks and USD 13 per sack of charcoal from traders who have positioned themselves strategically around the settlements to sell these much needed commodities at exorbitant prices.

There are some settlements in Somalia, where communal kitchens have been set up by agencies that provide households with cooking fuel and each household takes turns in cooking their meals. The implementation of communal kitchens in Somalia is, however, sporadic but could be replicated.

It is worth noting that the stove options currently used by IDPs in Somalia, obviously come with disadvantages related to protection, health, burns and fire risks. In an IDP settlement using the traditional 3-stone open cooking stove is of particular disadvantage to the IDPs because the identified current location may not have the fuel

required to keep the cooking fires burning.

Fuel efficient stoves can provide the required alternative to alleviate the unnecessary and untold suffering endured by girls and women in IDP camps in Somalia.

The Cluster is putting special emphasis on the introduction of fuel efficient stoves in Somalia and has incorporated it as one of the four pillars of the Cluster's strategy in 2012.

CHF: First Standard Allocation 2012

The Cluster has received USD 10 million out of the USD 40 million allocated through the CHF.

The funds allocated to the cluster have been divided into two; IDP and returnee envelopes.

The IDP envelope (USD 4 million), will be used to improve living conditions of secondary displaced populations in Mogadishu, and to respond to the needs of the newly displaced in Mogadishu and other priority areas. It will also be used to mainstream protection and encourage protection based programming for IDPs. The Cluster will target Dharkeynley, Wadajir, Deyninle and Hodan districts of Mogadishu since they host approximately 70% of the IDP population in Mogadishu.

In these four districts, the Cluster will provide a package of services that will include a standard Emergency Assistance Package (EAP), a standard shelter kit and fuel efficient stoves.

The returnee envelope (USD 6 million), will be used for voluntary return from all over Somalia to their homes of origin. The package of services to be offered within this envelope includes go and see visits, shelter kits, EAPs, food vouchers, livelihood re-establishment and 5-months cash for work.

The funds are expected to be distributed in May 2012.

Overcoming Women's Vulnerability in IDP Settings

Women and girls in Somalia continue to face enormous threats and challenges posed by flight and displacement that robs them of comfort, safety and security they enjoyed in their homes. In the new environment, they are exposed to various forms of gender based violence, their specific feminine health issues are neglected and no attention is paid to their capacity to cook a meal for their families, yet their families still expect them to put a meal on the table.

The Shelter Cluster continues to prioritise gender focused activities to ensure that issues pertinent to gender and protection are mainstreamed throughout the Cluster's interventions. Key among these interventions are lockable doors on *buuls* to enable women take charge of their safety. According to the Needs Assessment conducted in Banadir by the Cluster, on 8th February 2012, 90% of the *buuls* cannot be locked offering no safety and security, especially to women and girls who are easily attacked in such situations. Cluster partners are now implementing the lockable doors initiative in Lower Shabelle and so far 1,000 households now have retro-fitted lockable doors. Look out for more information on "Lockable Doors" in the next issue of *The Shelter Bulletin*.

The Women's Dignity Kit distributed by several partners provides women and girls displaced by natural and man-made calamities, with basic necessities required to maintain feminine hygiene, dignity and respect in their daily lives, in spite of displacement. To date 8,259 dignity kits have been distributed in Banadir where this initiative is being piloted and the uptake of the initiative by Cluster partners is set to increase in the coming months. For more information on the Women's Dignity Kit, please visit <http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia/Clusters/ShelterNFI/tabid/5730/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.



Credit: Emergency Shelter /NFI Cluster/Richard Evans

Up – Coming Events

Hargeisa: Protection Strategy workshop for Somaliland 25th April 2012

The Cluster is currently undertaking research on Housing, Land and Property in partnership with UNHCR. The research used Bariga Bossaso as a case study and the results will be published shortly.

The Shelter Bulletin and *The Women's Dignity Kit* guidelines are also available on <http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia/Clusters/ShelterNFI/tabid/5730/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

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Garowe Relocations

The Garowe Municipality led by the Mayor, has for sometime planned to relocate IDPs living in Riiga, Siliga and Shabelle IDP camps in Garowe. The reasons for these relocations are security related concerns, congestion within the settlement and the need to improve sanitation and hygiene conditions. Although the new area is more spacious, it takes people far away from their sources of livelihood and in the process, increase their vulnerability. The Cluster is concerned by issues related to the voluntariness of the relocations and the level of consultation with the IDPs.

This relocation process was started at the beginning of January with IDPs living in Shabelle being moved to a new site, some 500m past Jawle IDP settlement in Garowe. So far, 400 families from the Shabelle IDP settlement have been relocated to the new settlement. The landowner of the new site has agreed to let the IDPs stay on the land for 10 years. The Mayor is working with the Puntland Government to identify other parcels of land that will provide long term solutions for the IDPs.

Local and international NGOs have provided emergency interventions to support those affected by the relocation. Agencies currently responding include World Vision International, DRC, CARE and NCA.

This is not the first time there has been a forced eviction of IDPs from land in the towns of Puntland to locations on the outskirts of town. The Shelter Cluster and its members are currently working with all stakeholders to understand the issues and provide durable solutions for IDPs.

Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster

Somalia

Contact:

Richard Evans – Cluster Coordinator

E-mail: evansr@unhcr.org

Tel: +254 734 628052

Or

Caroline Nyang'aya – Cluster Support Officer

E-mail: nyangaya@unhcr.org

Tel: +254 786 527212