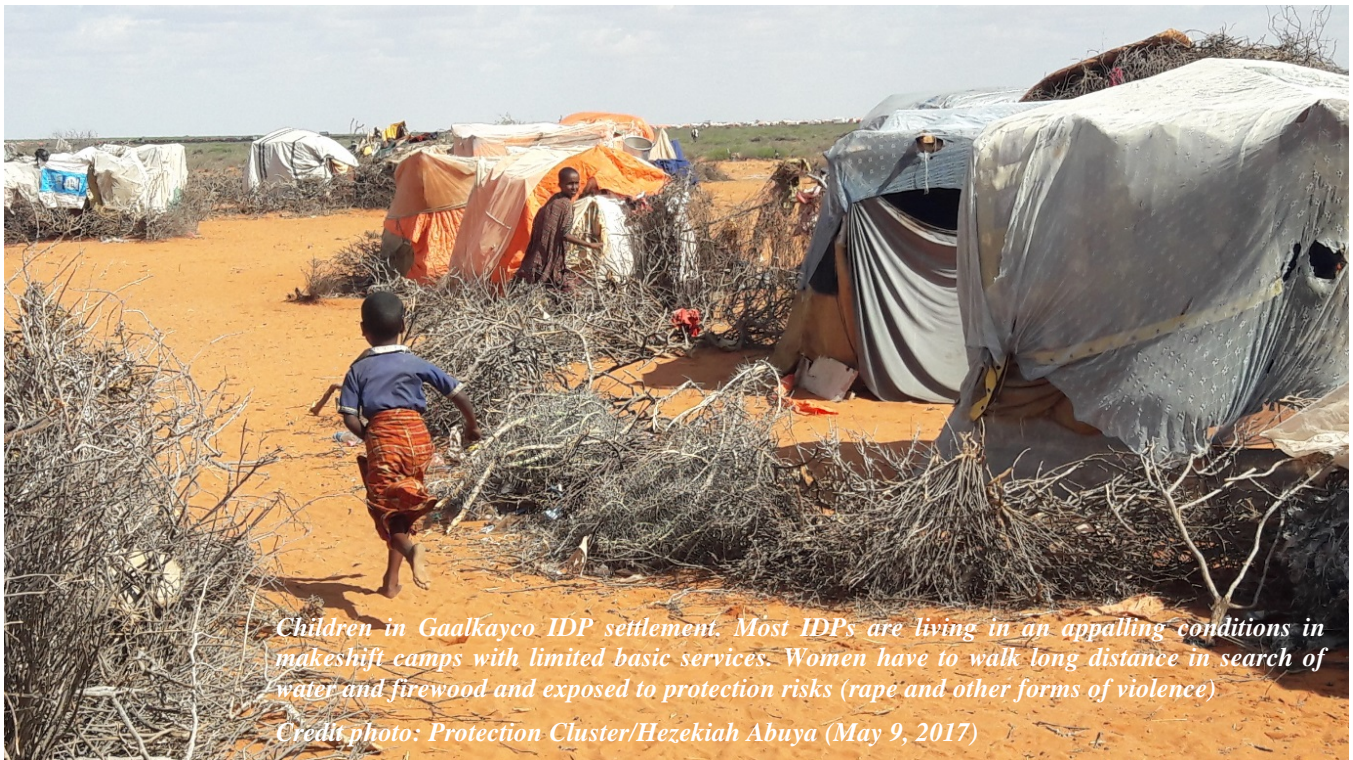


DOCC Mission Report Gaalkayco

9 May 2017

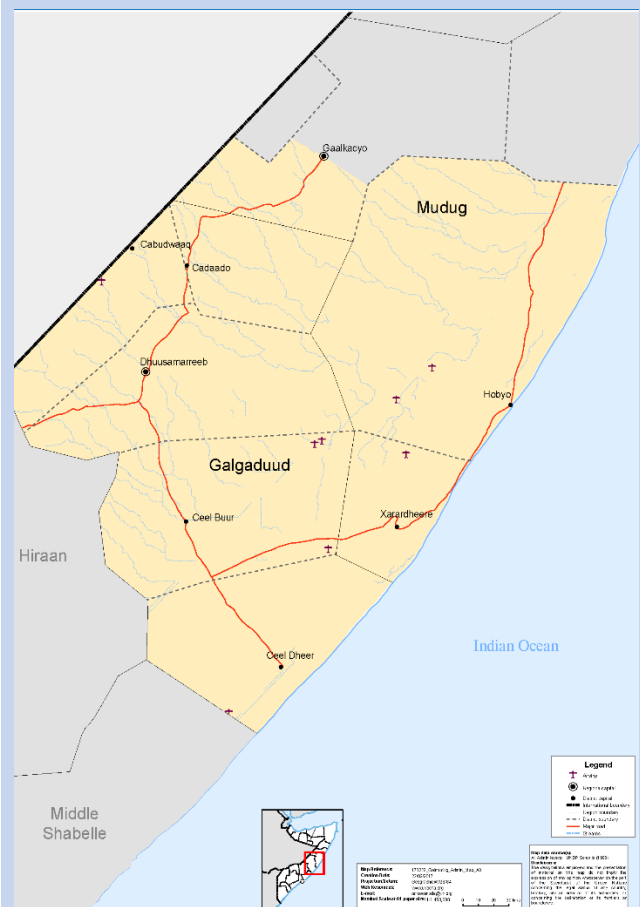


Children in Gaalkayco IDP settlement. Most IDPs are living in an appalling conditions in makeshift camps with limited basic services. Women have to walk long distance in search of water and firewood and exposed to protection risks (rape and other forms of violence)

Credit photo: Protection Cluster/Hezekiah Abuya (May 9, 2017)

Key mission findings

- The majority of drought-related displacement has occurred within regions, with people migrating from rural to urban areas while there are “climate refugees” who came from Somali region of Ethiopia. The pull factor of IDPs to Gaalkayco is the presence of humanitarian organizations providing assistance.
- Local authorities noted that drought and conflict are the major causes of displacements with more than 40,000 people having been displaced by the drought since January
- IDPs are scattered in Gaalkayco town and there are plans to relocate them to two sites where they can access services
- The situation in both IDP settlements visited, Taalla'ad IDP settlement in north Gaalkayco and Haar-Haar IDP settlement in south Gaalkayco remains precarious in terms of the lack of sanitation, infrequent water provision, protection concerns and the need to support with additional shelter and NFI inputs
- Displaced people by the drought living in the IDP settlements expressed no intention to return to areas of origin unless provided with livestock and other assistance and the security conditions enabled them to return. Sustained rains would also dictate the willingness to return to their



point of origin.

- Authorities (north Gaalkacyo) expressed concern over the fact that the population in peri-urban areas need to move to distant markets, and spend a big part of the Cash Transfer (CT) in transportation while Authorities complained that partners are using different CT values, which should be harmonized.
- Authorities in south Gaalkacyo noted that the registration process seems too technically difficult and recommended that women should be targeted in order to ensure cash benefit all household members.
- The team observed people from Ethiopia in the IDP settlements and recommends that UNHCR and other active agencies screen the population and differentiate between refugees/ IDPs/ seasonal migrants/ economic migrants.

Recommendations/Action points:

1. Health Cluster

Findings

- Health issues were not highlighted as priority for the government authorities met during the mission.
- Mother and Child health issues were listed as a priority for the authorities in the North of Gaalkayco
- AWD/cholera was not high on the agenda for either of the two sets of authorities.
- IDP settlements visited had no medical services on site and IDPs have to travel to town to access services as needed
- The most urgent issue were health services for IDPs as they lack access to basic services

Recommendations

- It is recommended to improve the capacity of fixed health clinics to benefit both host community and IDPs
- As AWD/Cholera number seems to be down, it will be important to prioritize prevention/health promotion activities, as displacement conditions will favour fast transmission of the disease.

2. Food Security and livelihoods

Findings

- The livelihoods of the Gaalkacyo population mainly depends on livestock, small-scale business and unskilled labor activities. Due to current drought, most pastoralists have lost their livestock assets and survived animals are in poor conditions, which has a few number of salable or marketable animals.
- Large-scale humanitarian assistance in recent months has reduced household food consumption gaps and contributed also to reduced staple food prices; however, there remains a risk of drought due affects to the combination of severe food insecurity, declined livelihood assets, acute malnutrition, and reliance on humanitarian assistance.
- Both beneficiaries and local authorities were satisfied with level of the responses and interventions they received from the humanitarian community. They have indicated that the humanitarian assistance has greatly mitigated food consumption gaps among beneficiaries; although the available resources could

not meet all the current needs of the affected populations.

- Humanitarian assistance has reached much of the needy groups in Gaalkacyo town and some surrounding rural areas.
- Although Gu' rain has already started in the region, the distribution and coverage are poor so far. However, the rain has slightly improved the forage and replenished water catchment, which reduces water trucking and water prices.
- According to local authorities, most pastoralists in the Mudug areas have lost more than 50-70 % of their livestock assets (goats & camel) as a result of the drought. This has resulted in income losses that limited household access to milk and livestock sales to exchange cereal, particularly among poor households with few livestock assets.
- Levels of food insecurity will likely remain severe and are expected to persist throughout 2017.

Recommendations

- Food aid and safety nets need to be scaled up and sustained during the rainy season (Gu'2017) for the drought displaced population and poor households in both north and south Gaalkacyo in order to increase access to food
- Thousands of households are still in need of food aid and livelihood supports during rainy season until livestock body conditions and livestock prices improves. Most are heavily market dependent and lack income-earning opportunities.
- Most of the current interventions have been free food distribution and cash transfers as the preferred strategy to improve food security, mitigate the impact of drought, however, livelihood support, and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable households in order to reduce the effects of the current drought should be considered.
- Asset building including buying livestock to distribute among poor households, free and conditional cash transfer activities should be scaled up in both drought displaced populations in urban areas as well as livelihood protection interventions in rural communities in the region.

3. Shelter/NFI Cluster

Findings

- Both north and south Gaalkayco authorities listed the provision of shelter materials and NFIs as priority needs in the IDP settlements.
- The authorities on both sides of the city noted the need to support IDPs who wish to remain in Gaalkayco and those who wish to return to their homes or their nomadic/pastoralist ways. In general, the authorities are seeking to resettle those who wish to remain in more formalized settlements close to the city with better access to services and as such are seeking support across all sectors. Some emphasis on livelihoods was made for those wanting to remain.
- For IDPs wishing to return to their homes or former nomadic lifestyle, it was suggested that livestock be provided so that they could start to resume their pastoralist lifestyle.
- What was not clear from the discussions and as a result of limited time during the site visits difficult to ascertain, was the intention of the IDPs who in many cases are pastoralists. What percentage would stay and what percentage would be willing to return if assisted? This, therefore, raised the question of whether investing in a potential resettlement of IDPs is an economic use of sparse resources or whether funds and resources would be better used to assist with returns (noting that this assumes that the rains will be sufficient to sustain pastoralists in the coming months).
- Rainy season has commenced albeit sporadically and so far, below average for the year. Some ground vegetation has sprouted in the last few weeks providing some sustenance to livestock. The soil conditions in the camp are such that the ground is subject to flooding during heavy downfalls.
- The site visits revealed large gaps in Shelter / NFIs (and poor "camp" conditions) with makeshift shelters in both settlements ('buuls') often covered by cloth and mosquito nets.
- It was estimated that about 50% of the shelters had some form of plastic sheeting as cover. Very few shelters had any floor covering or sleeping mats.
- The shelters are densely situated together with no firebreaks. No drainage was apparent and the shelters floors are level with the ground and therefore at risk of flooding.
- According to the cluster 4Ws, plastic sheeting has been distributed by a number of shelter partners in the North of the city and to a much lesser extent, in the South as well. IDPs have also been able to procure plastic sheeting on

the local markets.

- Although, it is reported that NFI kits have been distributed in both areas, it was evident that there are large gaps in NFIs and the families interviewed at the sites requested further support.
- The settlements are located on barren land with no form of shading and protection from shrubbery or trees. The few water points that do exist do not have any shading (for the potential long queues) and there does not appear to be any shaded communal areas.

Recommendations

- There is need for detailed assessments to ascertain the gaps in plastic sheeting and NFIs.
- Distribution of Emergency Shelter Kits and NFIs or cash in lieu.
- At the bare minimum, the distribution of plastic sheeting for rain protection and sleeping mats for the floor (\$25-30 per household) would improve living conditions considerably.
- Intention surveys should be carried out (preferably at the same time as distributions) to better ascertain numbers wishing to stay/return which will facilitate more realistic planning and allocation of resources. This will also inform any decision on whether to support relocation of IDPs.
- Provision of community tools (shovels and wheel barrows/buckets) to encourage residents to create drainage channels, develop fire breaks and raise the level of the floor.
- Construction of community shading (using wooden poles and agricultural netting) at water distribution points and to create communal meeting points

4. Protection Cluster

Findings

Gaalkayco

- The physical safety and security of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) is a major protection concerns. Majority of the IDPs are women and children exposed to protection risks.
- In North Gaalkayco the state authorities are planning relocation of IDPs from the current location to new sites located 2 kms away from Gaalkayo town. However, IDPs have not been notified and/or consulted on the planned relocation process
- The drought affected/ displaced persons are living in appalling conditions in makeshift camps with limited basic services including shelter, food, WASH and Health services .IDPs have not received assistance (kitchen sets, blankets including sleeping mats).
- Poor shelter and lighting, long distances to markets, health facilities, firewood, water sources, and the need to go long distance for defecation are identified as sources of protection risk for women and girls.
- There are increasing gender based violence incidents including gang rape incidents, rape of women-head households. Women have to walk long distance in search of water and firewood and exposed to rape and other forms of violence
- Most drought displaced persons have lost their livestock and would need support to sustain their livelihood
- Respondents interviewed stated that any durable solutions or sustainable return depends on improved conditions/ situation in their villages/ place of habitual residence.
- Lack of latrines and IDPs go to the bush for open defecation exposing themselves to protection and health risks.
- Unverified reports on recruitment and/or use of children by armed forces or non-state actors.
- Child protection concerns such as unaccompanied and separated children were reported in the IDP settlements. It was noticeable that due to drought, some families are sending their children alone to extended families in urban areas within Mudug, including Galkacyo, Burtinle and Baadweyn.
- No reports of IDPs returning to their habitual residence or place of origin since displacement. The state authorities are yet to consult IDPs to determine those willing to return and/or support needed to ensure sustainable durable solution
- The State authorities have limited capacity to establish police post facilities.
- In Talacad IDP camp it was observed that women and children are extremely vulnerable and exposed to protection risks.
- Talacad IDP settlement is run by a private individual (gatekeepers) and there are protection concerns

that some of the assistance meant for the beneficiaries could be going to the gatekeepers.

- No learning and recreation facilities for school age children in IDP settlement
- IDPs reside in makeshift shelters and are without access to basic services such as clean drinking water, lighting, education and health services, and households lack basic items like clothing and sanitary items.

Recommendations

- The state authorities to support community policing and ensure police patrol for protection of IDPs in settlement/camps. Development partners to support capacity building including the establishment of police post to enhance IDPs protection and safety
- Encourage state authorities on involvement of the drought displaced persons/IDPs in decision process in pursuant for durable solutions.
- IDPs and the affected /host communities would need support for self-reliance and to be economically empowered to sustain their livelihood.
- State authorities to address issue of gatekeepers to avoid violation of IDPs rights and/or deprivation of human rights of internally displaced persons.
- Advocate with armed forces and/or non-state actors to stop forced recruitment and/or use of children in the conflict as this contravenes international law and international human rights law.
- Establishment of learning and recreational facilities for children in IDP settlement
- Provision of solar lanterns and/or solar lighting in the IDP settlement.
- Support to address shelter needs in IDP settlement
- Provision of NFIs including dignity kits for women and girls.
- Improvement of services in the IDP settlement (water, health, food, education, protection).

5. WASH Cluster

Findings

- In north Gaalkyco, IDP site visited was supported in terms of water by PMWDO funded by UNICEF. People have nevertheless mentioned that the provision of water was discontinued since the end of April and that now they have to pay to get access to water. They bring trucks to fill up the existing tankers in the camp at a cost of US\$25 per truck. Water is then sold at a cost of 2000 SoSh (6 cents) per Jcan. Reason of this discontinuity of service is related to a lack of funding at UNICEF level.
- Water considered by community as the first need, before food and shelter.
- Open defecation is the common practice in the absence of latrines and related hygiene promotion.
- South Gaalkayco authorities noted that 15,000 IDPs were displaced due to previous conflict and that 11,000 households were displaced due to drought and most are with the host communities.
- There was no mention of increase of AWD/cholera cases
- In Haar-Haar IDP settlement in south Gaalkacyo, displaced people receive water through kiosks connected to a water tower filled up by a borehole. The service seemed to be free.
- Open defecation is the common practice in the absence of latrines and related hygiene promotion

Recommendations

- Need to scale up wash services in both North and South IDP settlements
- Construction of latrines and related hygiene promotion is a priority, both in North and South settlements
- Advocacy for additional funding to be able to re-start provision of water to settlements in North Gaalkayco
- Need to consider permanent/sustainable solution for those people who will not go back to their place of origin

6. Cash Interventions

- In Mudug region, an estimated 90,000 people were reached in March and the main partners are IRC, NRC, DRC, WFP, UNHCR and ADESO while in Galgaduud region an estimated 50,000 people were reached and the main partners are NRC, WFP, Qatar Charity, FAO, Save the Children.
- Optimal market functioning observed with continued re-supply of goods, currently no conflict between north-south Gaalkacyo.

- In terms of Cost Minimum Expenditure Based in Mudug region, MEB prizes Food / NFI decreased in the last 3 months including prize of water due to Puntland authorities' established ceiling while in Galgaduug region MEB Prizes Food / NFI increased in the last 3 months by 21% and 11% respectively.

Recommendations

- Improve local coordination of cash-based interventions in light of the importance of this modality of response in these regions.
- Engage the Government representatives of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs for (Galmudug) and Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) for Gaalkacyo (Puntland) in cash coordination.
- Partners to continue using market/ cash-based interventions. Monitor closely local politics/ conflict dynamics' impact on local markets.
- FSNAU to continue to monitor availability and prize variability in both regions, and report to the Cash Working Group to prompt action when/if needed, particularly in Galgaduug
- Partners to consider expanding Cash-based interventions in other non-food sectors, such as shelter/ NFIs or WASH.
- For instance, using unconditional top-up CT to current 'food-based' cash programme and/or conditional CT to improve access to NFI/ shelter/ WASH.
- Partners to consider step up conditional cash transfer to support livelihoods restoration, for instance to purchase animals.
- Local market has livestock availability; local prize of livestock is stable; a family needs 40 animals for ensuring survival, authorities recommend goats.
- Local cash coordination focal point/ group to be established immediately.

Purpose of mission:

To assess the impact of drought and other humanitarian issues in Gaalkayco and the surrounding areas.

Mission participants:

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Photos from the mission





