

## **SAFETY AUDIT REPORT BAIDOA, SANAAG REGION June 2020**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The ACTED CCCM team conducted the second round of safety audits from 6 to 12 July 2020 in 8 IDP sites in the Sanaag Region. The safety audits are site-level assessments aimed at identifying risks associated with camp layout, provisions of critical shelter arrangements and information on WASH which aims to identify the impact of the vulnerability and risks, particularly on the protection concerns of IDP women and girls and come up with actionable measures to address the identified risks and vulnerabilities. The assessment was mainly undertaken with the following objectives:

- Observe and evaluate site level protection/GBV risks associated to the camp layout, camp infrastructure and services such as WASH, shelter as well as safety and security;
- Understand risks and vulnerabilities that make affected displaced communities more exposed to GBV risks, particularly women and girls.
- Provide actionable Recommendations aimed at taking mitigation measures by humanitarian actors to reduce the identified risks and/or vulnerabilities in the displacement sites.

The report presents the key findings from the safety audit exercise including the focus group with women and girls and provides actionable recommendations to reduce the identified GBV risks and vulnerabilities in the displacement sites. The vast majority of the assessed sites are overcrowded, self-settled with poor shelter, sanitation and hygiene conditions. The Lack of basic services in the displacement sites create a host of other problems. Thus, concerted efforts are needed to address these in order to improve the well-being and dignity of the most vulnerable IDPs.

### **2. METHODOLOGY**

The Safety Audit assessment was conducted using the Safety Audit Checklist tool developed with support from the GBV Integration Guidelines. The checklist was filled through a mix of observations, site walk-throughs, and key informant interviews with female community members. Separate checklists were filled in for every site and respective results were entered in a data analysis matrix which is attached to this report. Data, disaggregated by site, was analysed to identify GBV risks, vulnerabilities and produce specific recommendations to reduce GBV threats/risks in the sites. Additionally, focus group discussions (FGDs) with IDP women and girls were held across all the 8 IDPs in targeted sites and was conducted in Somali language. 40 women and 40 girls participated in the discussions via conference calls due to COVID – 19 issues. The FGDs are designed to delve deeper into some of the protection concerns that affect women and girls. The participants actively participated in the discussion sessions which gave them the opportunity to state issues that commonly affect them,

while at the same time suggesting ways to address some of the stark issues and risks associated with food insecurity, shelter and WASH issues, and a lack of health facilities and educational services.

### List of sites assessed in Sanaag

#	District	Section	Site Name	Number of HH	Latitude	Longitude
1	Sanaag	Ceel Afwayn	Gal ciidle	430	9.855494	47.169234
2	Sanaag	Badhan	Dildishi IDP Camp	200	9.727222	48.819444
3	Sanaag	Badhan	Caarshe IDP Camp	160	9.739722	48.838889
4	Sanaag	Badhan	Bilcil IDP Camp	210	9.761111	48.817222
5	Sanaag	Badhan	Xadhka-dheere	150	10.403889	48.464722
6	Sanaag	Badhan	Gumar IDP Camp	420	10.698611	48.488056
7	Sanaag	Badhan	Ceel-lahelay	60	10.634167	48.786111
8	Sanaag	Badhan	Gebidheer	235	10.604018	48.375529

## 3. KEY FINDINGS

### Part 1: Women and Girls in the community and access to resources

Women and girls in Somalia have faced enormous burdens throughout the country's history of civil war. Conflict and displacement caused by clan tensions, drought, and floods have aggravated high levels of sexual and gender-based violence. Despite all these burdens women have played active roles in sustaining communities in Somalia. During conflict, women became the breadwinners for most families. They now head about half of all households, a percentage that continues to increase.

#### Before the crises

Before the crises, women in Somalia were able to support and manage their lifestyles, and a high number of the women were pastoralists who carried out normal household activities including building traditional Somali houses, making household materials, livestock keeping and management, and raising children. Girls normally supported their mother for the aforementioned activities. The girls are called the assistant to their mothers. Sometimes they fetch the water from the nearest water sources, despite there being potential risks from other humans that negatively affected vulnerable people.

#### Currently

Girls reported that they support their mothers for the domestic work such as collecting firewood, cleaning houses, clothes, washing dishes and fetching water from the water source.

Women, girls, and disabled individuals are amongst the most vulnerable groups in the community because they are at highest risk of being affected by issues such as rape, insecurity due to the poor shelter, and a lack of market services to meet their needs. Most of the women and girls reported they don't have equal opportunities when compared to men.

As reported by women and girls in all the sites there are no main markets in the sites where they can find adequate products and services. However, 3 sites (Bilcil, Dildilshi and Caarshe) can reach the main market in Dhahar which is 4km away where they can access adequate services and products.

The rest of the sites, Xadhka-dheere, Ceel-lahelay, and Gal Ciidle have no access to market and the nearest market is more than 40kms away from the sites.

Mothers reported that they don't receive quality care and there is no health center where they can get pre and post-natal services. When mothers have complicated cases during delivery they are referred to the nearest hospital. Due to the distance, some mothers cannot reach the hospital in time, which has resulted in cases of otherwise preventable childbirth related deaths.

5 out of the 8 sites have no access to education services – meaning the majority of girls have no access to school. In Bilcil ACTED is constructing temporary school via Cash for Work under the 27DVB (OFDA) project. TASS is also constructing a temporary school. However due to an inability to pay teachers' salaries, neither are currently functioning. Some girls reported they support their mothers and they can afford to pay their school fees.

## **Part 2: Women and Girls Participation and empowerment**

Notwithstanding their critical contributions and responses to crises, women and girls are often excluded from the decision-making processes that shape response strategies to crisis. It was an interesting topic in the discussion, women started raising their comments about decision making and participation in the community.

“We are invited when there are fund raising issue in the community but we are less or not invited at all when making decisions regarding to resource sharing ” one woman said in Dildishi.

Other women indicated that they were not invited to most meetings, and that in general fewer women than men were involved in important community meetings. Some suggested organizations must consider women while registering beneficiaries and when forming committees in the community in order to contribute further to women's empowerment.

Overall, it appeared that only a very small number of girls participated in decision making processes.

Finally, there is no place where women and girls can meet and raise their voice to report issues or challenges they face such as inequality and insecurity cases, apart from times they meet in one of their homes in private.

### **Part 3: Women and Girls Safety and Security**

There are solar lights in all the sites which contribute to an increased sense of security. Prior to the installation of lights, due to poor lighting and shelter conditions, women living in Bilcil, Dildilshi and Arshein Dhahar district reported that they faced security incidents in the camps during night such as theft, harassment, abuse, and attempted rapes. Often men are away from homes even at night, which also contributes to insecurity. Women stated while solar lights have helped, the number of lights installed has been inadequate to cover the lighting needs of the sites.

Girls reported that they don't use the communal latrines at night due to fear associated with the distances they need to walk and the limited number of lights. They feel that cases of theft and rape are more likely to happen around latrines and the pathways leading to them.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

The discussions were very useful; women were very happy to talk about these topics and share their challenges. At the end of the discussions we encouraged the participants to be active in the community and to raise their voices through meetings more often. Additionally, the participants were made aware of the ACTED hotline to call in case of serious and/or sensitive incidents – however, there remain no protection focal persons in the areas targeted in this safety audit.

## **5. RECOMENDATIONS**

- Shelter improvements to protect dignity and privacy (1 out of 8 sites)
- Food and livelihood assistance
- Protection awareness
- Women empowerment support – particularly on leadership and decision making skills
- Additional lighting following further detailed safety mapping with Protection/GBV partners
- Provision of drinkable water to Gebidheer – there are not even communal water berkets (rain catchment sites) there
- Individual household level latrines
- Assisting with more income generation activities (IGA)
- Provision of health facilities and training of local nurses and midwives
- Improving education centres to increase numeracy and literacy (except Bilcil and Gebidheer IDP sites)