



The Impact of Drought on Protection Concerns in IDP sites

Aqil Yar IDP Settlement, Burco District, Togdheer Region, Somaliland

Somaliland Drought Crisis
February 2018

Overview

An estimated 761,000 people have been displaced by drought in Somalia since November 2016¹. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are moving from rural to urban centres in search of livelihood opportunities and humanitarian assistance². The uptick in displacement and the increased financial strain that the ongoing drought has placed on households present significant protection challenges, particularly for women and children. However, there has been limited research into the specific vulnerabilities and threats faced by IDPs, and little is understood on the relationship between drought and its impact on protection concerns. Gaps in information have limited the extent to which humanitarian intervention and protection service provision is targeted towards affected populations. In order to address this gap, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Plan International, Oxfam and REACH conducted an assessment of 28 IDP sites from across Somalia in January - February 2018. The assessment focused on four key thematic areas: site safety and security, child protection, sexual and gender based violence, and gaps and availability of protection services. This factsheet presents findings from Aqil Yar IDP settlement, comprising of a population of 1500 households.

Methodology

Information for this site-level assessment was collected between 24 January and 16 February and is comprised of 261 household surveys, 2 key informant interviews with site leaders and 1 site observation. Quantitative findings are strengthened by 12 gender and age-segregated focus group discussions. The household survey sample had a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 5%, meaning findings are generalisable at the site level. Data collected for this assessment is considered representative at the site level only. Findings therefore cannot, and should not, be generalised to the district, region or national level.

Key findings

Site safety and security

- The majority of participants reported, that whilst men and boys feel safe to move freely in the settlement, women and girls experience insecurity at night and when going out to collect firewood and/or take livestock to graze.
- Further, participants also identified that the limited number of latrines in the camp had contributed to higher risks of assault as women are forced to be away from common areas to practice open defecation.
- Some participants highlighted that several occurrences of theft from shelters had taken place in the settlement, which was also reported in the quantitative findings by 11% of assessed households.
- While a police station has been built in the settlement to provide security to the residents, it was reportedly not yet functional.

Child protection

- Increased financial strain on households as a result of drought-related loss of livelihood has resulted in a rise in school dropout as households can no longer pay school fees.
- Loss of household income sources has also resulted in a rise in early marriage as households seek to access dowry as a source of revenue.
- Some FGD participants referenced instances of parents forcing their children to work in order to supplement the family income, and respondents reported an increase in the proportion of boys working as casual labourers, mainly in the construction industry. Male FGD participants complained that this type of work is both risky, exploitative and poorly paid.
- Fifteen percent 15% of households in the settlement reported experiencing family separation, the majority of which was voluntary. In FGDs, respondents indicated that the number of separated and unaccompanied children in the settlement has reportedly increased since the drought began, due to the death of parents and voluntary family separation, to find work.

Sexual and gender-based violence

- Loss of livestock as a result of the drought has resulted in men being forced to rely on high-risk casual labour activities, mainly in the construction sector, such as digging pit latrines.
- Rates of male unemployment were reported to be high, and FGD respondents expressed feelings of frustration and emasculation.
- Furthermore, women are increasingly engaging in work outside the home, which has reportedly increased tensions within the household, including domestic violence and higher divorce rates. The prevalence of GBV was reiterated by community leaders.
- Female participants referenced several rape cases in the settlement and highlighted that women and girls

were at particular risk at night, when they go outside the camp to collect firewood and when they go to latrines. More than 70% of households reported women and girls feeling insecure outside the site.

Gaps and availability of protection services

- Participants indicated a lack of protection services in the settlement, although the camp committee and religious leaders are reportedly trying to sensitise the community on SGBV prevention and child abuse.
- As with protection services, participants reported a lack of medical, psychosocial or legal services for survivors of SGBV and child abuse in the settlement.
- Finally, although women-friendly spaces were observed on site, there were no child-friendly spaces.

Assessment coverage



1. OCHA Humanitarian Impacts of Drought. Issue 6 June 2017.
2. US Department of State. Somalia: Drought and Displacement Overview. May 2017.

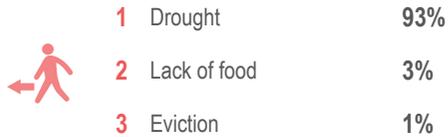


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Displacement

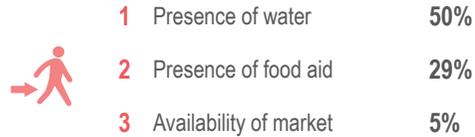
Push factors

Top three reported reasons for leaving previous location:³



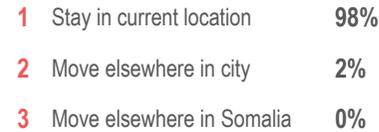
Pull factors

Top three reported reasons for coming to current location:



Intentions

Reported future intentions of IDP households:



Multiple displacements

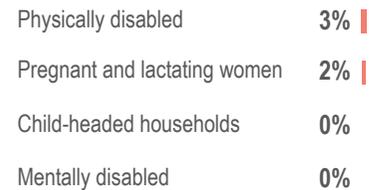
Average number of times households have been displaced before arriving in current location:



Demographic composition

Household vulnerability

Proportion of vulnerable groups of total site population (individuals):

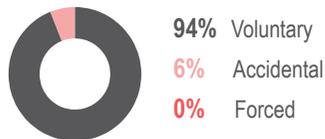


Family separation

Reported number of children separated from their households in the three months prior to assessment⁴:



Separation voluntary, accidental or forced:⁵



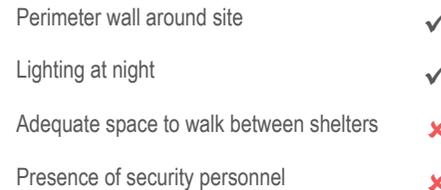
Top three reported reasons for child separation:⁶

Figures too low to be statistically significant

Site conditions (1)

Safety features

Observed safety features of site:



Shelter theft

Proportion of households reporting theft from their shelter in the three months prior to assessment:



Shelter

Average number of people per shelter:



Proportion of IDP households reporting that their shelter has the following features:⁷



3. Most frequently cited as primary reason (this applies to all figures in the factsheet presenting 'top three reasons').

4. A total of 15% reported family separation.

5,6. Of those households reporting family separation.

7. Households could select multiple responses.



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Site conditions (2)

Shelter sharing

Proportion of households reporting that there are multiple families sharing one shelter:



Coping strategies

Top three reported coping strategies used by households to respond to a lack of food (71% reported inadequate access to food):⁸



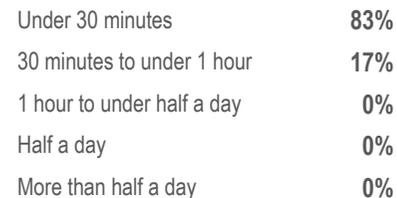
Latrine conditions

Observed latrine features in site:



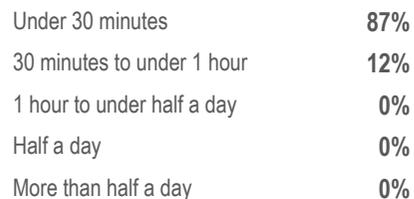
Latrine distance

Reported time to reach the nearest latrine from the assessed households by foot:



Water point distance

Reported time to reach the nearest water point from the assessed households by foot:



Proportion of households reporting that distance to water point has increased in the six months prior to the assessment:



Safety and security

Violence and insecurity in the community

Proportion of households reporting experiencing violence or insecurity in the three months prior to the assessment:



Top reported group causing insecurity, as reported by households indicating insecurity:¹⁰



Unsafe areas

Most commonly reported areas where men and boys feel unsafe:¹¹



Most commonly reported areas where women and girls feel unsafe:¹²



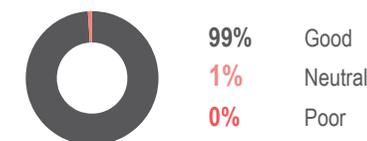
Gender-based violence

Prevalent security concerns for women:¹³



Relationship with host community

Reported relationship with host community:



8,9,10,11,12. Households could select multiple answers.

13. As reported by community leaders.



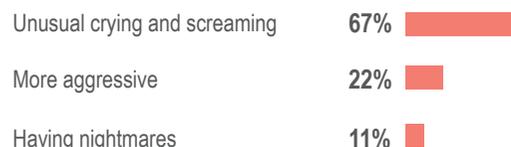
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Child Protection

Behaviour change of children¹⁴

Top three reported behaviour changes of girls in the three months prior to assessment:

Top three reported behaviour changes of boys in the three months prior to assessment:



School attendance and drop out

Proportion of school-aged children reportedly attending school:

Proportion of households reporting school-aged children dropped out of school in the six months prior to the assessment:

34%



10% Yes
90% No

Available protection services

Services for women

Available forms of assistance specifically targeting women:¹⁶



Exclusion

Top three groups reportedly excluded from available services:



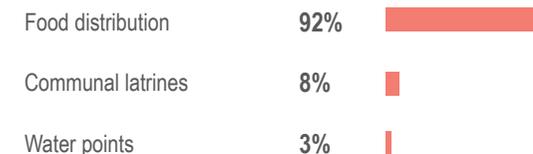
Aid causing insecurity

Reported incidence of violence in site during delivery of humanitarian assistance:

Top three reported forms of humanitarian assistance during which violent incidents have occurred, as indicated by households reporting violence during aid delivery:



15% Yes
85% No
0% Do not know



Children engaged in paid work

Reported proportion of children engaged in harsh or dangerous work¹⁵:

Top three reported forms of dangerous or harsh work that children are involved in, as indicated by households reporting that children are involved in dangerous work:



6% Yes
94% No
0% Do not know



Mental health services

Reported availability of mental health services:¹⁷

Not available



Child friendly space

Reported availability of child friendly space:¹⁸

Not available



Women friendly space

Reported availability of women friendly space:¹⁹

Available



14. The total proportion of households reporting behaviour change in children was 8%.

15. The total proportion of households reporting children engaged in any kind of paid work was 5%.

16,17. As reported by community leaders.

18,19. As observed by enumerators.