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EMERGENCY IDP SETTLEMENT REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

WEEKLY REPORT

27 October – 1 November 2007

Summary

The initial citywide mobilisation workshop occurred on 29-30 September; with the programme being due to begin at the beginning of October. The programme was continually delayed though, due to a combination of insecurity, securing correct IDP labour lists from each district, and Ramadan.

Each district was tasked with identifying and securing the most vulnerable IDPs in each settlement, and providing them with an employment opportunity on this programme. This proved to be more difficult than planned, because the newly installed District Commissioners (DCs) from the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) did not adhere to the agreed criteria, and constantly placed non-IDP labourers on their district lists.

SAACID had to make several visits to most districts to individually verify and certify that the selected labourers were actually vulnerable IDPs.

The first week of the *Emergency IDP Settlement Rehabilitation Programme* started well on Saturday 27 October 2007, with 13 of the 16-targeted districts in the city beginning full operations. The remaining 3 districts were not able to commence operations due to Ethiopian/TFG military operations that significantly effected security in those districts:

- Heliwaa
- Deynile
- Hawl-wadag

These work crews were being organised through the first week to begin operations either in their own district (security permitting), or in neighbouring districts.

All weekly activities were carried out as planned, and SAACID-Somalia field staff, together with assigned district and settlement leaders organised the smooth running of the programme; and there were no serious incidents or interruptions of the schedule for the week.

The success in starting this programme has made, not only the IDP settlement populations happy, but has definitely impressed the overall view of the residents of the city, who have shown their appreciation at the launch of such an important job creation activity - with the intention of improving the poor health conditions in the neglected IDP settlements.

All workers at the IDP settlement sites were very energetic, and a huge volume of garbage was removed in this first week of the programme.

The DCs, together with district committees and IDP settlement leaders, have jointly identified and selected the initial settlements where work should commence; by prioritising the preliminary sites with a large volume of garbage built-up. SAACID's operational modality of a rights-based approach is seen working here, with as much empowerment of local communities taking place.

The selected workers were oriented on their duties, time in and time out, tea and prayer breaks, duration of the programme, number of loads they have to fill up each day, etc.

At each site, waste site monitors and health workers were stationed.

A total of 7 incidents were recorded in the first week of the programme – 5 UXO incidents and 2 other incidents (see accidents and incidents section).

Following are the highlights of the progress of the work, district-by-district:

Abdul-aziz District

According to the district and IDP settlement leaders plan action, the 82 selected beneficiaries from this district were present at the work early each morning, and were divided into groups with a group leader. So each group was set with a specific task - cleaning, collection and loading of the garbage. The waste site monitor checked the attendance of the workers according to the lists submitted by the district of Abdul-aziz.

Works began in 2 IDP settlements:

Nedko 1
Nedko 2

Both sites were covered with garbage that was mounted up after more than a decade of neglect.

During the course of the week, the work was done very smoothly without any incident or interruptions.

Attendance of the workers was very excellent.

Bondhere

In the district of Bondhere, the work commenced in the settlement that is located in the compound previously occupied by the Ministry of Education. The inhabitants of this settlement are very poor people, and a lack of health awareness was very evident from the settlement site, which was covered with garbage, empty plastic bags, and very smelling and rotten vegetables and other remains.

The work ran very smoothly, and the workers were able to fill the required 6 truckloads of garbage each day.

Attendance of the workers was excellent.

Dharkeynley

The district of Dharkeynley is situated in the southwest of the city, and is hosting a large numbers of IDPs.

After the inception of the IDP settlement garbage collection programme in one of the settlements, the district officials and settlement leaders were very grateful and applauded this initiative.

The selected settlement is called Abdul-Hafid. This settlement is in the vicinity of a slaughterhouse that serves the whole district, and all the remains of the slaughtered animals are thrown into the settlement. Animal blood, bone, lungs and dirt removed from animal stomachs and intestines made the whole settlement area stinky and very unhealthy.

All the workers had to wear a piece of cloth to deter the stinking smell and this also has caused some of the workers to vomit during the course of work.

During the course of the week the work progressed smoothly without any incident or interruption.

Attendance of the workers was excellent.

Hamar-jajab

According to the agreed pro-rata of 3 IDP selected per settlement, in Hamar-jajab, 24 IDPs were selected for the programme. They started clearing the garbage in a large compound, which has for the last decade, become a settlement that hosts a large number of IDPs. Previously the building was the compound housing the British Embassy in Somalia.

After so many years of poor sanitation, and the inability of the settlement dwellers to clean the surrounding areas of the compound, a huge pile of garbage has developed; and the sanitation of the settlement was very poor.

So far, the agreed 36 loads of garbage were collected from the Embassy compound, and the people are very happy.

During the course of the week the work progressed smoothly without any incident or interruption.

Attendance of the workers was excellent.

Hamar-weyne

At the district of Hamar-weyne all the work started well. The district began at a settlement that used to be the Somali National Library. The district officials and settlement leaders selected this settlement due to the piles of garbage that had not been cleared since IDPs occupied this area decade ago. Most of the workers were compelled to cover their noses with small pieces of cloth as a mask against the huge number of flies and the unbearable smell of the garbage.

During the course of the week, the settlement workers were able to remove large amounts of garbage from the area, although there is still some more work to be done in the area, the sanitation of the cleared area is very evident and the compound is looking beautiful now.

During the course of the week the work was carried out very smoothly without any incident or interruption.

Attendance of the workers was excellent.

Hodan

The district of Hodan hosts the largest number of IDP settlements in whole the city of Mogadishu - exactly 45 settlements - with a total number of labourers being drawn from this district of 135 people. The district authority, with the help of IDP settlement leaders, selected the following 2 settlements for initial cleaning, which are located near the former bar Jasira at Kilometre 6.

- 1- Bulhan settlement
- 2- Magol settlement

The above mentioned settlements were covered with huge piles of garbage, and the sanitation conditions of these 2 settlements were seen as very poor; and the district authority and settlement leaders of Hodan District thus took immediate action to start the programme in these 2 settlements.

At the start of this programme in this district, the workers were divided into 2 groups - each group working and removing the garbage in 1 settlement.

Both IDPs and residents have provided grateful thanks for the programme, as it has already noticeably improved the health and sanitation in the area.

There was 1 incident that was reported:

On 29 October 2007, in the district of Hodan, 2 armed men in police uniform confronted the work crew at gunpoint and forced a stoppage at the site for about 2 hours. There were accompanied by a woman who was claiming to be an IDP settlement leader; and she

wanted to confirm that the 3 women who were selected from her settlement were in fact from her settlement; and were in fact the real women identified by name on the list. Finally, the matter was resolved by the district authorities amicably.

Attendance of the workers for this district this week was excellent.

Karaan

The district of Karaan started working this first week of the IDP settlement garbage collection programme in a very large and overpopulated settlement called Waaqow. This was identified to be the first settlement to benefit from the programme due to its size and the huge accumulation of garbage that has become like a mountain.

The agreed thirty-six 36 loads of garbage were removed from the site, and there is still at least 2-3 days more work needed to clear the whole settlement. In view of the level of garbage removal, residents of the settlement were very much delighted, and warmly applauded this programme, which they said, will have very significant improvements for the health and sanitation of the settlement.

During the course of the week the work progressed smoothly without any incident or interruption.

Attendance of the workers was excellent.

Shibis

Shibis is one of the districts currently hosting a large number of IDPs due to its safe and secure environment.

The district authority, with the help of settlement committees, selected a large compound previously occupied by the Ministry of Air and Land transportation as the first settlement to be cleared.

In front of the ministry compound garbage has been piling for about 2 decades, and the inhabitants of the settlement were very happy when the work to remove the garbage and were chanting with patriotic songs to welcome this valuable initiative in their area of residence.

Work proceeded in this settlement during the week without any interruptions, and the security, plus the attendance of the workers at the worksite, was excellent.

Shingani

Shingani is one of the oldest districts in the city of Mogadishu, and it enjoys a relatively peaceful environment, which has attracted many IDPs who have established their abodes in the district.

On 27 October 2007, work commenced in 2 major settlements - Cirro weyne and Jubba. These 2 settlements host many IDPs who settled in these settlements a decade ago.

The workers arrived at the worksite early in the day to report and soon after started clearing all the garbage from the targeted garbage sites in the area.

The progress of the work was very smooth during the course of the week in this district without any interruptions or incidents.

Attendance of the workers was excellent.

Waberi

The district authority, with the help of settlement leaders in the district, selected a settlement called Buulo-elay as the first settlement to be cleared in their district; which is located near the former famous Raage Ugaas Secondary school.

The inhabitants of the settlement have regularly requested any and all authorities to help them clear the huge level of garbage that has accumulated over nearly 20 years. On this occasion, community leaders have been empowered to help their communities, and this settlement was easily the first selected.

The programme started well and the IDP labourers gathered at the settlement site and started clearing the garbage from the settlement.

During the course of the week the work was done very smoothly without any incident or interruptions.

Attendance of the workers was excellent.

Wadajir

The district authority and settlement committees in Wadajir selected to start working in a settlement called Siimanka. This settlement, although located on privately owned land, hosts IDPs who have remained there since the start of the civil wars in 1991. The district settlement leaders lobbied SAACID to allow the cleaning of this private land, as the owner has been very helpful to IDPs since the fall of the last government in 1991. SAACID consented to their requests.

Large quantities of garbage accumulated in the settlement have been removed and progress of work during the week was excellent.

The district authorities, settlement leaders and settlement communities expressed their appreciation for the sanitation programme in the settlements, as well as creating employment for some members of the settlements.

There was 1 incident that was reported:

On 28 October 2007, in the district of Wadajir, 6 men in police uniform attacked the worksite and took by force 2 mobile phones - from waste site monitor, and the health worker. After their operation, they fled the area and have not been seen since.

Attendance of the workers was excellent.

Wardhigley

Forty-two workers were selected from the district of Wardhigley. They reported early on the morning of 27 October 2007. They were very energetic and on the first day of work started removing the garbage from the settlement called El-man near the Florence Hotel area in the district.

All the workers arrived at the settlement site and dully performed the garbage collection activities as planned.

During the course of the week, the agreed 36 loads of garbage were removed from the settlement.

There were 3 UXO incidents recorded in Wardhigley this week (see UXO section).

Attendance of the workers was excellent.

Yaqshid

The district of Yaqshid is one of the biggest districts in Mogadishu and had the biggest IDP population, before the fighting in March/April 2007. Still many IDPs have been left behind in the district, as they have no means at all to leave the district.

The district officials, together with settlement leaders, selected a very big and densely inhabited settlement in the district called General Dau'd settlement.

Not only the inhabitants of the settlement, but also people living all the surrounding areas near the settlement, used the settlement area as a dumping place, and as a result of that, huge piles of garbage have accumulated in the area, making this place a significant threat to the general health of IDPs.

After the commencement of the programme in the area, the agreed 36 loads of garbage were cleared from the settlement and taken to the dumpsite in Keysanay north of the city. There is still much more to clear.

The progress of the work for the first week was excellent, and there were no reported incidents or hindrance to the work in the area.

Attendance of the workers was good.

Accidents and incidents

The number of incidents and interruptions reported for the first week of activities of the *Emergency IDPs Settlement Rehabilitation Programme* remained relatively low.

- On 28 October 2007, in the district of Wadajir, 6 men in police uniform attacked the worksite and took by force 2 mobile phones - from waste site monitor, and the health worker. After their operation, they fled the area and have not been seen since.
- On 29 October 2007, in the district of Hodan, 2 armed men in police uniform confronted the work crew at gunpoint and forced a stoppage at the site for about 2 hours. There were accompanied by a woman who was claiming to be an IDP settlement leader; and she wanted to confirm that the 3 women who were selected from her settlement were in fact from her settlement; and were in fact the real women identified by name on the list. Finally, the matter was resolved by the district authorities amicably.

Following are the UXOs that were received:

During the course of the week, in the district of Wardhigley, residents found and brought to the Wardhigley district authorities an unexploded roadside bomb. The Wardhigley authorities asked SAACID for help. SAACID-Somalia has requested the current Danish De-mining Group team, who were training the district, to attend the matter, but they declined, saying that the matter should first be reported to the national security office, police force and governor's office. DDG said that without informing the authorities, they feared being labelled as 'terrorists'.

- On 27 October 2007 2 unexploded mortar shells were found in the El-man settlement garbage.
- On 28 October 2007 1 unexploded mortar shell and 1 F-1 hand grenade were found in the El-man settlement garbage.
- On 29 October 2007 1 unexploded mortar shell was found in the El-man settlement garbage.