MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES ADVOCATES NETWORK (MCAN)

A Survey Report
On How the Marginalized Communities
in IDP sites in Mogadishu and Kismayo
Perceive Their Exclusion

Prepared and Submitted
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Acknowledgements

As we present this report, we wish to recognize the role played by all Participants whose very active and contributions ensured success in the study and reporting. The region's security system equally made great effort to ensure successful implementation of the study despite the existing security challenges in the regions.

This study would not have been possible without the financial and technical support of UNHCR. We are therefore very grateful to all of those with whom we have had the pleasure to work with from planning stages to the actual implementation of the assessment.

It is MCA-Network's belief that our Knowledge and Experience with local communities have placed us at an advantage to ensure greater quality in service delivery and sustainable working partnership between the Network organizations and the people of both Kismayo and Mogadishu regions and beyond.

May we also express our sincere gratitude to the various stakeholders including among others the following: Relevant Local and National Authorities, IDP camps managements, Community elders and leaders, Religious leaders, among others who have facilitated our work to this end. Without the dedication and hard work of MCA- Network's Team, whose Knowledge and Experience with the regions ensured prompt actions and quality in service delivery.

THANK you

1.0 Assessment Report Summary

This Survey was conducted by MCA-network with support from UNHCR targeting a population of 288 individuals from different age groups comprising young boys between 18-20 years and adult men and females above 48 years of age.

The study targeted a total of six IDP camps in both Mogadishu and Kismayo regions in the period between 6th July to 18th August, 2019.

The questionnaire used for the interviews was designed with the support of the Somalia Protection Cluster. Facilitators were trained on the technique of the focus group discussion and the questionnaire.

The report presents the main findings from the focus groups by main topics raised by the participants. For the vast majority of the questions, points raised and opinions shared by the participants show a great convergence between men and women, and most of the findings apply to both gender groups. Where necessary, the report explicitly highlighted where men and women have raised particular issues.

2.0 MCA-N's Brief Background

Marginalized Communities Advocates – Network (MCA-N) is a network of organizations legally registered and based in Somalia championing for the strengthening of the marginalized and minority groups' capacities and abilities across Somalia. The network is endeavoring to help women, children and other vulnerable and marginalized groups who have suffered injustices, hardship and neglect due to war, natural disasters or poverty by offering them the opportunity to develop their independence and protect their dignity for a socially, economically and politically empowered society free of gender inequalities.

MCA-N is an active member of Food Security/Livelihoods, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Nutrition, Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters for Coordination and Information Sharing Purposes.

The Network's overall goal is to promote development activities in Somalia through focused Capacity Building Initiatives and implementation of community development projects. MCA-N have always continued with its routine assessment programs in consultation with other stakeholders including local and international partners operating in the nine regions of Hiran, Jowhar, Banadir, Lowershabelle, Bay and Bakool, Middle and Lower Jubba and Gedo) among the marginalized and vulnerable groups. Our latest assessment in both Mogadishu and Kismayo IDP sites reveal existence of rampant marginalization cases of all kinds on social, economical, political and humanitarian aid, etc. meted on the vulnerable groups.

3.0   Assessment Introduction and Background

The profile of the IDPs who participated in the focus group discussions for this survey is diverse, starting with their area of origin. However, all IDPs have in common to be members of communities who are traditionally marginalized in Somali society. They lack support which other communities enjoy from their clans or from the alliance with other clans. As a result, displaced people from marginalized communities find themselves doubly excluded, as a result of their ethnic membership and their displacement. Indeed, IDPs in the IDPs sites selected for this survey live without hardly any support from the authorities and humanitarian community. However, displaced people receive substantial support in the form of a place where they can settle temporarily. But, as highlighted by the IDPs in this survey, even this support is fragile and can be taken back at any moment.

For this survey, a population of 288 IDPs from six (6) different sites in both Mogadishu (3 sites) and Kismayo (3 sites) camps were invited to participate in focus group discussions facilitated by members of the Marginalized Community Advocacy Network.

The questionnaire used for these interviews was designed with the support of the Somalia Protection Cluster. The survey was conducted with the support of UNHCR. Facilitators were trained on the technique of the focus group discussion and the questionnaire. The discussions were held between 6th July – 18th August, 2019.

Discussions were held separately with men and women for two types of age group: 1/ people between 18 and 20 years of age, and 2/ people above 20 years of age.

This report presents the main findings from the focus groups by main topics raised by the participants. For the vast majority of the questions, points raised and opinions shared by the participants show a great convergence between men and women, and most of the findings apply to both gender groups. Where necessary, the report explicitly highlighted where men and women have raised particular issues.

4.0   Assessment Report Goal and Purpose

The study was carried out in order to assess and analyze the socio-economic and political conditions of marginalized communities with which modalities can be mapped out to provide them with adequate international assistance subsequently.

Marginalization is the process of pushing a particular group or groups of people to the edge of society by not allowing them an active voice, identity, or place in it. ... Some individuals identify with multiple marginalized groups, and may experience further marginalization as a result of their intersecting identities.

In the analysis of our observation and assessment, it has been found that social segregation and other forms of discrimination, in addition to economic exclusion are some of the key factors in the creation of a wide socio-economic and political gap between dominant clans and minority groups. Social segregation is a deep-rooted social issue that divides the Somali society into two categories; noble and inferior. In Somalia, it is generally the case that noble groups are those belong to the culturally dominant group of transhumant pastoralists, who form nearly sixty per cent of the total population. Groups that are not pastoralist are often considered inferior and this includes all minority groups. It is important to note nonetheless that not all non-pastoralists are minorities. For instance, the Rahanweyn clan is made up of settled agriculturalists.

5.0 Assessment Report Findings

5.1.1 Humanitarian assistance: minimal to no access
Humanitarian assistance provided to marginalized communities appears, in the best-case scenario, to be very limited and insufficient. Participants in three camps only mentioned that some assistance was provided, out of the six camps where focus group discussions were conducted. In Daxis, IDPs reported some assistance received

support for education, health, latrines, tents, non-food items, and food, but in quantities which participants consider insufficient. During one distribution, only 10 families received food assistance, out of a total population of 133 families in the site.

In Marahaba, one NGO constructed only two latrines (for a population of 30), which are now filled up. In this camp, some food assistance is provided to families by members of the business communities. People sleep directly on the ground, in the absence of mats.

In Gumeeni, tents, non-food items, and solar panels were provided to IDPs, but IDPs raised concerns about the tents being worn out, 12 months after the distribution, and as the rainy season is approaching. Differences in the assistance provided are particularly hardly felt during Ramadan or Eid festivals. In Marahaba, participants noted that other camps received Iftar but they did not. In several camps, participants also mentioned that families have no resources to buy new clothes children, as traditionally expected.

In all other sites included in this survey, no assistance has been provided according to participants. In Rusia site, IDPs have not received any support since they arrived. IDPs underlined that no assessment team has ever visited the site. Essential infrastructures are missing in camps, such as wells for water. In Daxiis camp, participants mentioned the lack of water and the lack of tools to maintain hygiene in the camp. IDPs in Marahaba could see that madrassa and health posts were constructed in other, more recent, camps, while they got nothing.

When participants are asked about the main reasons for the lack of humanitarian assistance, several words come up most often in the discussion:-
- Corruption (musu masu)
- Injustice (midip takor)
- Tribalism or clannism (Afara qabil)

Participants complained that decisions on humanitarian assistance are made by the government and organizations, without hardly any interaction with displaced communities. People feel that they cannot go to the government and ask for support. They wait until the time organizations come and give them help (DW 15-20).

IDPs expressed the feeling that camps elsewhere are better assisted but their sites are not included in the assistance. In several groups, participants shared their

Feeling that the exclusion is because of their origin. In Marahaba, participants mentioned an incident of a distribution to which IDPs were called, but from which residents from their sites were pushed away. In Marahaba and in Rusia, IDPs also raised that IDPs in other camps get free access to water, when themselves need to buy it (up to 5000 shillings for a jerry can of 20 liters). In several groups, IDPs mentioned that they cannot access other camps where assistance is provided. When distributions are held in other camps, IDPs are barred from these camps by the gatekeepers. IDPs are told that assistance will come to their camps, and they have to wait there, but no assistance comes to the sites. Basically, IDPs can only survive from the rare livelihood opportunities, on markets for instance.

In most sites targeted for this survey, participants noted that they visitors from various organizations have been to the sites, often holding a notebook, for assessments. They sometime collect names for registration or take pictures. However these people or other representatives from their organizations have never come back. In numerous instances, people came to the sites, asking IDPs to pay to be registered for assistance. Amount requested may vary from 2 US USD to 10 USD. However, assistance was not provided.

In other cases, the little assistance received has to be shared with the gatekeeper (horjoge), who can request up to half of the assistance provided. IDPs highlighted that they don't know where to complain and ask for help. They don't know where organizations are located, and where to get them.

5.1.2 Economic exclusion and Violence against Women
Economic dominance is one of the most serious socio-economic problems facing the marginalized communities. Since independence, the major clans at the expense of minority groups have dominated social and political affairs of Somalia.

This trend has continued more than twenty years after the collapse of the Somali state. If anything happen to women, they don't know where to go for help. Women don't have access to maternal care centres in case of childbirth. Participants mentioned that women have died because of the lack of services for childbirth.

Both male and female participants raised concerns on the physical security of women and girls. Shelter conditions also expose more particularly the physical security of women and girls. Shelters are made of plastic sheeting. If women are alone with their children, they fear violence by intruders during the night. In none of

The sites targeted by this survey are there a space where women can meet. Women gather to discuss their situation, but they have no real places for these meetings. Women need to exchange among themselves, as their husbands do not always share information with them.

Both male and female participants called for more capacity building for women and girls, and support to their empowerment, including through literacy and numeracy classes.

5.1.3   Livelihoods

To the question of what the cause of their vulnerability is, many IDPs point to the lack of money and unemployment. IDPs urge authorities and organizations to create job opportunities which will produce resilience and increase livelihood. Some IDPs suggested that there should be programmers to teach them to run a sustainable business, which can be continued when they return to their home areas.

Men go to town to find work, in particular on markets. They offer their services to carry goods, including with wheelbarrows. In Marahaba, IDPs used to earn a bit of money by collecting and burying waste. However, this activity does not exist anymore as garbage is collected by truck. Sometime, men work in building houses.

Women also go to town to wash clothes for several families. Some work as domestic workers, for which they get a monthly payment. Other women go to collect firewood which they will then sell. They also cut grass which they sell to people who have donkeys. Women also sell small items, such as brushes, on markets. Some women also carry waste, for example from hotels.

Children do not go to school. They also sent to the city to help families to generate some income with shoe shining. Participants highlighted how difficult it is for them to take their children to schools or madrassas. They don't have money to pay the teachers. Because of lack of revenue, parents cannot afford healthcare for the children.

No livelihood, no education. Displaced boys and men between 15 and 20 years, Rusia site: "The lack of education is the main problem. Children to go market and do shoe shining. They come back home with less than one dollar. They remain hungry. They lose their future. They lose their ability to assist their family. Children like to go to school but the father has no money for that. 15,000 Somali shilling (0.5 USD) is

what the children get every day from the market. School is 20 to 30 dollars per month."

For many IDPs, incomes are very small and irregular. There are days when displaced men or women go to find work and come back to their site at the end of the day, without any money. IDPs and their children have to skip meals, and often go to sleep without food. Often, families share their resources with other families in the site to help them overcome bad days.

5.1.4 Temporary settlements

The land on which IDPs have settled belong to private owners or communities. In some instances, IDPs were provided with a land by the local community, to which they are very grateful. However, the agreement is that IDPs can be requested to leave by the communities or landowners at any moment without any notice. IDPS have to commit to leave immediately when requested to do so.

In some cases, IDPs under threat of eviction, manage to negotiate additional time until they can find another place where to stay (GM +20). In several cases, IDPs mentioned that they have to pay a rent, collected by gatekeepers.

A reversible right to stay:
Displaced men, between 18 and 20 years old, Marahaba site: "This land belongs to pastoralists. They move the animals to another place. When needed they can remove us. It is run by a man in the army, the in-between the IDPs and the owner. While there are consultations, he is the one taking decisions. There is only a verbal agreement with us, no written document. We agreed that we could move here for a short or long period of time. The agreement that these men have made with us is that when they need their land, they can remove us."

Pressure from the landlord and gatekeeper:
Displaced men, above 20 years old, Rusia site: "We will stay as there is no security in our home areas. It can take one or two years, I don't know. The land is owned by businessmen. Gate keeper is here to collect money. Every family gives 5 USD or 10 USD depending on the size of the family, whether you get assistance or not.

The main reasons for which the landlord has given us the land is waiting for the assistance, so that he can get his share."

IDP leaders have access to the police for security issues. In Gumeeni, male IDPs mentioned that they have the phone number of the police which they can call if there are problems. However, IDP leaders and elders face problems for sharing grievances and problems regarding humanitarian assistance. While they have information on the needs of their community, they do not know where to go to pass this information.

5.1.5 The lack of connection

When asked about the main obstacles to accessing humanitarian assistance, respondents invariably refer to the lack of the connection to those in charges, whether among authorities or NGOs, and tribalism. The lack of connection also affects access to job and income generating opportunities. The lack of network support is a distinctive feature of marginalized communities in Somalia, the impact of which is exacerbated in situation of displacement.

There is the strong feeling among IDPs from marginalized communities that they are excluded from humanitarian assistance because assistance is primarily distributed based on clan membership. First, district commissioners are seen as directing humanitarian partners to communities to which they have a clan connection, leaving out marginalized communities. IDPs feel that since they don't have members of their communities working in offices of the DC, their chances to get assistance are very low. The same for NGOs, which do not include any members of the marginalized communities in their staff. Respondents mentioned that NGOs, under the influence of their national staff, direct their programmes to particular clans, and ignore needs in other communities.

"Inadeero" (cousin in Somali) is a term often used by respondents to capture the essence of the problem. It suggests that whoever is your brother, you support them. Some respondents think that programmes are shifted to camps where NGO staff has "inadeero".

It was mentioned that the lack of connection is even more pronounced and critical in the case of communities who arrived more recently in areas of displacement, compared to communities who settled earlier and may have built some level of connection with local authorities and other actors.

Displaced communities find themselves powerless in the face of their exclusion. Displaced communities do not have access to information on decisions relating to humanitarian assistance and ignore what the channels and mechanisms in place to approach NGOs and raise complaints. Communities lack resources to support their leaders in approaching NGOs or other relevant stakeholders to raise concerns. Communities have no funds to pay for transportation for their leaders to approach humanitarian stakeholders. In the absence of literacy among communities, resources are also needed to pay someone to write letters to officials. It was also mentioned that community leaders also lack skills and experience to be efficient advocates for their communities and ensure mobilization. One of indication of exclusion was also among out of the six sites conducted for assessment only one site in Kismayo in the Mapping of CCCM cluster whereby the other five are not part yet they have being in the IDPs sites over 10 years.

5.1.6 Return or local integration?

IDPs highlighted that, despite the conditions of deprivation in which they currently live, they have found safety, which was lacking in their home areas.

Only a small number of IDPs mentioned that there is no discrimination against them from local residents, and they feel equal. For the vast majority of the participants, there is no integration of IDPs into local communities. They feel that they are denied access to social services and essential utilities, such as water, education or health services.

Participants have often declared their want to return to their home areas when peace is restored. A few claim that they will not return, because of a persisting drought in their area of origin, and the continued presence of the armed element who made them flee in the first place.

People are keen to return and go back to their former lifestyle. They regret their living conditions, which were better than now. But insecurity forces them to stay away from their home areas. Some IDPs mentioned that even in the government regained control of these areas, there is still not police and justice there.

5.1.7 Lack of Access to Health Care

Marginalized and Minority groups experience numerous difficulties when it comes to accessing health care services. These are some of the main impediments faced by the marginalized and minority groups:-

- Conflict and insecurity makes it difficult for aid agencies to access vulnerable communities.
- Lack of adequate information regarding the health status of minority groups.
- Lack of adequate transport infrastructure including land routes and water routes.
- Insufficient numbers of health centres including MCHs and TB clinics in minority areas.
- Minorities in urban areas observe that their concerns are not given much consideration when establishing health centres. They say that local authority staff does not report serious health conditions in camps and sites where the most minorities reside.

6.0   Recommendations and Way forward

(i)   Humanitarian organizations should visit sites of displaced marginalized communities and see with their own eyes the conditions of people in these sites, and assess the needs without adverse distinction.

(ii)   In situations of needs similar to displaced from mainstream communities, humanitarian organizations and authorities must commit to deliver equal assistance to displaced communities without discrimination.

(iii)   When conducting visits to sites of displaced marginalized communities should establish contact directly with the leaders and members of these communities.

(iv)   Humanitarian organizations can in particular record the phone numbers of these leaders and establish a direct communication with them.

(v)   Humanitarian organizations must ensure that assessment visits are properly followed up and that leaders and members of displaced marginalized communities are kept informed about planned assistance.

(vi)   Humanitarian organizations must promote the recruitment of members of marginalized communities among their staff.

(vii)   Humanitarian organizations need to reinforce the accountability of their staff members, and deploy workers who can be trusted and with impeccable reputation of honesty and commitment.

(viii)   Strong accountability mechanisms must be put in place to ensure the meaningful and effective access of marginalized communities to theses mechanisms.

(ix)   Support must be provided to the empowerment of marginalized communities. Leaders and other members of displaced marginalized communities, including women, should receive training on their rights and how to advocate for the enjoyment of these rights without discrimination. Community meeting places should be created in IDP sites for marginalized communities, in particular for women,. These places should also be used for learning/training opportunities (on small business management, literacy, numeracy and other essential skills).

7.0   Conclusion and further Recommendations

While the marginalized groups may have limited resources and skills with which to build their own economic livelihoods, ethnicity is the major socio-economic impediment to their progress. This report brings out several key issues including the need for a comprehensive survey on the marginalized and minority groups. This will minimize the current information gaps regarding marginalized / minority group's socio-economic and political status.

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This report clearly highlights the high levels of marginalization and vulnerability experienced by minority communities, and the need for prioritized basic needs assistance as reported below:-

7.1   Strengthen relationships between aid agencies and minorities
- Decrease communication gap between aid agencies and minorities;
- Consider the situation and needs of minority groups during aid operation planning;
- Increase the capacity of minority organizations to effectively represent minority concerns in both national and international forums.

7.2   Combat discrimination against minority groups
- Conduct minority rights advocacy programme through civil society including elders and media.

7.3   Improve livelihoods of minorities
Although there is no social contract between the marginalized groups that specifically deals with the rights of the marginalized and minority community, general Somali customary laws safeguard lives and properties of all people regardless of the individual ethnic identity. These laws were not respected during the conflicts. Customary laws in the Diya paying system, which requires compensation to the immediate family of the victim when death and damages occur.

MCA-Network further recommends the following measures:-

a) **Improvement of livelihoods of the marginalized / minorities:-**

Basic Need	Marginalized / Minority Group	Action
Food and Food Security	IDPs in camps	• Conduct vulnerability assessment • Develop action plan to meet immediate needs of community
Economic Opportunities	IDPs in Camps	• Provide start-up capital to enable them to resume the livelihood skills • Rehabilitate infrastructure related to skill
Water and Sanitation	IDPs & Returnees	• Make available basic social services including water and sanitation

		• Rehabilitate collapsed latrines in IDP camps in Kismayo and Mogadishu • Construct new latrines in the camps
	IDPs in Camps	• Train community members in basic health care • Establish health centres especially in the IDP camps • Ensure sustainability of health centres by integrating them into existing health service provision systems where feasible

b) Enabling political participation by marginalized and minority groups can strengthen State cohesion, accountability and help to achieve democratic governance. Fair political representation of minorities can stimulate broad-appeal policies that maximize development potential.

c) Access to justice for marginalized and minorities can reduce inter-communal tensions, prevent crisis, strengthen the rule of law and help maintain stability for development.

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