

A.15 Somalia, Puntland - 2009 - Conflict

Case study:

Urban shelter upgrade

Full case study

Disaster:

Somalia conflict.
Displacement sites in Bosaso and Galkayo.

Disaster date:

Somalia conflict 1991 onwards.
Project implementation 2008 onwards

Population:

300,000 people (Bosaso)
200,000 people (Galkayo)

Project target population:

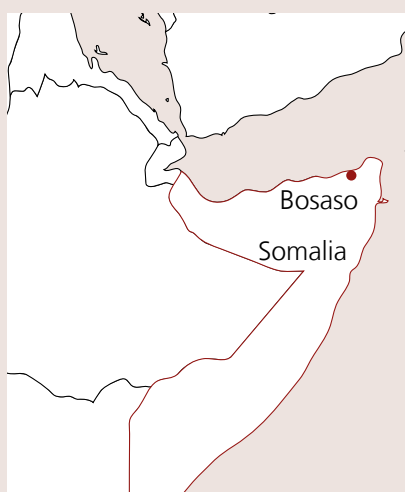
4000 households (24,000 persons), including; 1,450 tents, 1000 shelter kits in IDP settlements (4 in Galkayo and 2 in Bosaso).
500 fire guard steel drums distributed in Bosaso

Occupancy rate on handover:

100%

Project cost per shelter:

350 USD per tent
30 USD per shelter kit (wooden poles and ropes)



Project timeline



Summary

To meet the shelter needs of displaced people living in urban temporary settlements in the cities of Galkayo and Bosaso in Somalia, multiple approaches to shelter were used. To reduce risk of fire, fire breaks were made, sites were cleaned up, safe cooking areas were established and stoves were distributed. To meet shelter needs tents were designed and distributed. Additional support was provided in sanitation, hygiene promotion, and the construction of latrines.

Strengths and weaknesses

- ✓ Flexible approaches to shelter were adopted to meet local needs.
- ✓ Installing fire-breaks or re-planning sites, supporting communities to clear refuse in urban settlements, and providing oil drums for cooking in urban settlements proved to be the most effective way securing shelters against fire.
- ✓ Programmes were closely coordinated with other organisations operating in the cities.
- ✓ Shelter programmes were closely integrated with

- site layout and water and sanitation programmes.
- ✗ Long term maintenance and support is required to ensure that fire breaks remain and sites remain clear of flammable debris.
- ✗ Solutions and activities in displacement sites remain temporary fixes.
- ✗ Sanitation remained a significant concern after the programmes.
- Limited funding availability and challenging security made project implementation challenging.



A congested site in Bosaso
Photo: Øyvind Nordlie



Aftermath of a shelter fire in Bosaso
Photo: Jama Yasin Ibrahim

Puntland context

The major populations of displaced people in the Puntland region of Somalia are centred in dense urban settlements in the city of Galkaiyo and in the port city of Bosaso. Outside these settlements, many people have also settled in the compounds or on the land of host families dispersed across the city. The number of displaced people had been increasing over previous years and the capacity of agencies to provide adequate social services is stretched. Humanitarian access is hindered by insecurity.

In Bosaso, the climate is exceptionally hot and dry (with annual rainfall under 100mm), and there are strong winds. Galkaiyo is less windy but still hot and dry. Climate combined with overcrowding, poor sanitation and social tensions means that large groups of shelters were frequently destroyed by fire.

Most of the settlements were controlled by gatekeepers who insist that the assistance is first provided to them, promising that they will then undertake the activities themselves. There were also issues with people taking control of assets once services were provided.

There was a lack of garbage disposal systems. Vector controls, dustbins, garbage collection points and landfills are almost nonexistent in Bosaso and Galkaiyo.

Technical solutions

Tents, plastic sheeting and traditional shelters are not fireproof; there were insufficient funds to build more solid shelters on a large scale, so multiple activities were required to reduce fire risk. These activities included:

- clearing sites of flammable refuse,
- establishing fire breaks within sites, and improving planning,
- removing the most flammable of shelters and replacing them with tents,
- establishing fire points,
- distributing stoves and cooking shields to reduce the risk of fire spreading,
- when shelters had been burned, emergency shelter kits containing sticks, ropes and plastic sheeting were distributed in emergencies

A stock of shelter kits was built as an immediately available response to fire outbreaks and

other emergencies in Bosaso and Galkaiyo. Stocks were released after a joint assessment by organisations working on shelter programmes.

Settlement Selection

Criteria for selecting which community to work in were:

- settlements that had received no assistance before the project,
- in Galkaiyo, items were distributed to newly displaced families receiving shelter.

Sanitation activities focussed on:

- settlements with little or no sanitation facilities,
- settlements where protection violations had taken place due to lack of sanitation facilities,
- settlements where land was available for the construction of latrines at a safe distance from water sources,
- settlements where the community was willing to participate in the construction and maintenance of latrines.

Water scarcity in the settlements posed a challenge for improving hygiene in the targeted communities. Through the shelter cluster, the organisation advocated though

the WASH Cluster in Nairobi for the provision of water for IDP settlements in Galkaiyo.

Consulting and involving IDP committees from the onset was prioritized to improve participation. Although this resulted in delays, experience and understanding were gained that sped up the implementation as a whole.

Protection concerns were included in all of the stages of planning and the implementation of the project. 93% of beneficiaries were female-headed households. In total, of the 830 people who benefited from training, 41% were female.

Selection of beneficiaries

Host communities living within the IDP settlements in the same living conditions were included in the programme. Vested interests from the local and federal authorities proved to be challenging as a result of the huge need of the population compared to available resources.

Both displaced people and host family members were included in the projects. The project targeted:

- disadvantaged and marginalised displaced people
- newly arrived displaced people (from 2006 and beyond),
- people who had been displaced many times within the temporary settlements,
- families whose homes are badly or totally destroyed,
- vulnerable members of the local host community living in the periphery of the IDP settlements.

Implementation

Seven shelter staff were engaged to implement the project and to provide technical support to local partners.

There were regular meetings with agencies in Puntland to discuss



interventions and jointly share information. Lists of targeted beneficiaries and locations were discussed to ensure that duplication was avoided and the maximum number of people were reached.

Local partners were funded to erect tents and construct latrines.

Logistics and materials

The organisation directly procured community cleaning kits and distributed them during cleaning and hygiene promotion campaigns.

Kits of household items and tents were procured through internationally advertised tenders, as there were limited stocks available in local and regional markets.

A combination of very poor quality materials and strong winds meant that previous tents had very short lifetime. For this reason a frame tent was carefully developed with suppliers. During the process of this tent development, two batches of samples were requested, and the final model was signed off during a final visit to the manufacturers in China. The final detailed specification was subsequently shared with other organisations.

Delays in procurement and delivery of the tents was a major challenge.

During the programme, a conflict broke out between the two administrations in Galkaiyo in December resulting in suspension of activities.

All materials for the erection of the latrines (cement, timber and iron sheets for the walling and roofing, used oil drums, paints and plastic pipes) were procured locally in Bosaso and Galkaiyo by the local cooperating partners. They were instructed to use procurement procedures, approved by the international organisation that was funding the project.

Shelter kit - Galkaiyo

Kit for reinforcing existing shelters:

Material	Quantity
Plastic sheeting 4m x 5m	1
Timber poles (different sizes)	10
Rope	50m

Shelter kit - Bosaso

For families whose shelters have recently been destroyed by fire.

Material	Quantity
Wooden poles	32 (3- 3.5m long each)
Rope	100m
Plastic sheet (5m x 4m)	2
Sleeping mat	1
Household items kit	1

Community cleaning kit

Each kit for 10 households, 175 distributed in total.

Materials	Quantity
Rake	1
Wheelbarrow	1
Spade	1
Garbage disposal drums	1
Bill boards for public information	as required



Left: Shelter materials distribution. Right: cleaning up a shelter site
Photos: Jama Yasin Ibrahim