

South Central and Puntland Emergency Response Program (SCAPE)

Quarterly Report: October-December, 2012



Before and after rehabilitation of Iskushuban market in Bari Region, Puntland

COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROJECT SUMMARY
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BERKAD	Man-made cistern to store runoff water
CfW	Cash for Work
CHAST	Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
FSC	Food Security Cluster
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
OFDA	Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance
PHAST	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
SCAPE	South Central and Puntland Emergency Response Program
STAR	Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience
VRC	Village Relief Committees
WSC	Water Sanitation Committees

I. Executive Summary

The South Central and Puntland Emergency Response Program (SCAPE) incorporated lessons learned from previous USAID/OFDA programs to enhance surface delivery in this program. The harmonization of program documents throughout the targeted regions has resulted in enhanced quality output of the program activities as well as improved response to immediate needs of our target constituents.

This quarter, the program engaged 2,069 beneficiaries through Cash for Work (CfW) to rehabilitate four kilometers of irrigation canals, four kilometers of river embankments, two markets, nine berkads, 23 shallow wells and the de-silting of one surface dam. These CfW activities were carried out in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, Bay and Bakool regions in South Somalia, Galmudug and Galgaduud regions in Central Somalia, and Bari and Karkaar regions of Puntland. The CfW approach is the bedrock of the SCAPE program and aims to inject cash into the local economies and enhance purchasing power of individual household's access to basic needs. A total of USD \$195,657 was transferred to 2,069 households during the reporting period. The beneficiaries were selected through respective Village Relief Committees (VRC) using set criteria: one individual representing each household, with priority given to female-headed households. A total of 869 women (42% of the beneficiaries) benefited by performing less demanding jobs such as clearing vegetation covers/bushes, and collecting sand using wheelbarrows or sacks. In addition, the program distributed 1,114 CfW tools for all activities which were all handed over to respective VRC for future use following completion of the activities.

During this quarter, the program rehabilitated four kilometers of irrigation canals, four kilometers of river embankments, and two markets, and de-silted one surface dam under the *Economic Recovery and Market System (ERMS)* sector in Lower Juba, Middle Shabelle, Bari and Karkaar regions in South Somalia and Puntland. These communal structures had deteriorated over the years due to lack of maintenance. Further, under this sector, entrepreneurship training for two women's groups was also carried out and they will be provided with small grants to expand their business ventures during the next quarter.

Under the *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)* sector, the program rehabilitated 23 shallow wells, seven berkads, conducted five Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings and two hygiene promotion sessions attended by 315 participants in South, Central and Puntland areas of Somalia. In addition, one Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation CHAST training with 45 participants was conducted in Abudwaq Central Somalia during the quarter. The berkads have a great impact on the communities in which they are constructed, in particular in those villages where berkads are the only source of water available due to the very low ground water levels in most parts of the regions. PHAST and Hygiene trainings targeted IDP camps in Bossaso and Mogadishu where the program implemented water and sanitation facilities to complement results, and in regions such as Lower Juba and Galmudug the same training targeted host communities in villages with rehabilitated water points.

In the *Protection* sector, the program conducted three Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) and two gender-based violence (GBV) trainings in Bossaso and Mogadishu IDP camps for a total of 110 and 70 beneficiaries, respectively, among the total trainees 94 were female and 86 were male. There was an increase in GBV incidents reported by women and girls during the reporting period, largely attributed to security personnel conducting patrols. A total of 16 GBV cases were reported during the last quarter, including six rapes, seven physical assaults, and three incidents of domestic violence in Bossaso. During the same time, Mercy Corps carried out six GBV sensitization and awareness raising meetings and four group counseling sessions were held during the quarter.

The security situation in Puntland was heightened during the reporting period, inevitably affecting smooth program implementation in the region. The security situation worsened due to the uncertainty of the impending term of the current government, the parties opposing the current government, and the sporadic attacks associated with Al Shabaab militias. The security situation is currently stable, in part due to an indication that the sitting government

will be retained for another year. Despite challenges, the program team managed to implement program activities and accomplish objectives reaching both vulnerable IDPs and host community populations.

2. Program Overview

Through USAID/OFDA funding, Mercy Corps Somalia has been implementing emergency programming for the last couple of years with the aim of supporting populations in both host communities and IDP camps to be able to respond and cope with both man-made and natural disasters. Currently, Mercy Corps is implementing the South Central and Puntland Emergency response Program (SCAPE) to target communities and IDPs living in Mogadishu, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Shabelle in Southern Somalia, Galgadud and Galmudug regions in Central Somalia, and Bari and Karkaar regions in Puntland.

The program has three sectors to address multi-faceted needs of the constituents with an emphasis on viability and sustainability of program interventions. These sectors are: Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Protection. The program utilizes the CfW approach in order to inject cash into the local economy and boost the purchasing power of individual households to provide themselves basic needs of their families.

The program supports both IDP camps and host communities, emphasizing on rural populations, mainly constituted by pastoral communities with a substantial fraction registering some forms of subsistence farming. The program supplies clean water and establishes sanitation facilities in the IDP camps to address core basic needs, while also addressing underlying factors jeopardizing the dignity and security of vulnerable groups, such as women and girls experiencing GBV incidents that are prevalent in the IDP camps.

This quarter the program undertook the rehabilitation of cement line water tanks (berkads), de-silting of irrigation canals, de-silting of surface dams, and rehabilitation of markets for host communities to address pressing needs. Furthermore, program activities are providing clean water, procuring of portable water tanks, constructing latrines, and carrying out hygiene promotion campaigns and PHAST trainings under the WASH sector. For the protection sector, GBV/STAR trainings are carried out, SGBV sensitization and awareness campaigns are conducted, group counseling sessions are held, and support to women and youth groups, as well as psychosocial support, is provided.

3. Performance Summary

Sector # 1: Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)				
Beneficiaries Targeted	55,000 beneficiaries IDPs: 30,000			
Beneficiaries reached this quarter	11,284 (5,902 female, 5,382 male)		20.5% of targeted beneficiaries reached this quarter	
Grand Total of Beneficiaries reached	55,030 (28,781 female, 26,249 male)		100% of targeted beneficiaries reached	
Geographic areas	Bari and Karkaar regions, Puntland, Galmudug and Galgadud regions, Central, Lower and middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay and Bakool regions in the South			
Sub-sector 1: Market infrastructure rehabilitation				
	Baseline	Target	Progress to date	Date
Amount of Market infrastructure rehabilitated (miles of roads, number of bridges, etc.)	-	Rehabilitation of 10 km of Irrigation Canals 10 River embankment bridges with an average length of 200 meters Rehabilitation/De-silting of 10 surface dams Rehabilitation of 4 markets	Rehabilitation of 4 km of irrigation canals. Rehabilitation/construction of 4 km of river embankments. Rehabilitation/de-silting of one surface dam Rehabilitation of two markets	January 15, 2013
Number of Cash grants to Small Micro-enterprises (SMEs)	-	20	2 women groups trained on entrepreneurship training. Payment of small grant to be made next quarter.	January 15, 2013
Total USD amount of cash grants to Small Micro-enterprises (SMEs)	-	35,000	-	
Sub-Sector 2: Temporary employment				
	Baseline	Target	Progress to Date	Date
Number of people employed through Cash For Work (CFW) activities	-	5000	4160 (83.2%)	January 15, 2013
Average USD amount per person earned through Cash For Work (CFW) activities	-	75	94.6	January 15, 2013
Number & percentage of women employed through Cash for Work (CFW) activities	-	40%	1829 (44%)	January 15, 2013

Sector Summary

Sub-Sector 1.1: Rehabilitation of Markets

Activity 1: Rehabilitation of Markets

During the reporting period, the program rehabilitated Iskushuban and Qardo markets in Bari and Karkaar regions, respectively. These were facilities built by the former government but were not suitable for usage due to many

years of neglect. Major rehabilitation involved strengthening of the super structure, re-carpeting of floor linings, re-roofing and painting.

Iskushuban market measures 14x7 meters with a height of three meters while Qardo measures 13x10 meters with a height of three meters. Both facilities engaged 60 laborers (18 skilled/30 unskilled and two supervisors) through CfW at a rate of USD \$10 for skilled, USD \$8 unskilled and USD \$15 for supervisors per person per day for a period of 15 days.

Village relief communities singled out these facilities and selected CfW beneficiaries through set criteria established by the committees, aiming at create sense of ownership and enhance sustainability of the program activities and outcomes.



Left: Completed Iskushuban market in Bari. Right: Completed Qardo market, in Karkaar region, Puntland

Activity 2: De-silting of Surface Dam



CfW beneficiaries de-silting Waciye surface dam in Karkaar region

The program rehabilitated one surface dam in Waciye district, Karkaar region. This communal water source is used by pastoralists, both for human and livestock consumption. However, many years of neglect precipitated the

dam to collect a large amount of sand thus depreciating its retention capacity. Major works involved excavating material/sand, compacting silt around the dam to prevent contamination, and clearing waterways.

VRC and community members identified this dam during the assessment as a priority in order to prepare for the up-coming long rains expected in March-April. The activity engaged 105 individuals comprised of 100 laborers and five supervisors through CfW at a daily rate of USD \$5 for laborers and USD \$10 for supervisors per day for a period of 20 days. The beneficiaries were selected based on criteria set by the VRC.

Activity 3: Rehabilitation of Irrigation Canals

A total of four km of irrigation canals were rehabilitated in four villages: Bula Gadud, Qam-Qam and Gob-Weyn villages, Kismayu district and Marerey Balcaad district, Lower Juba and Middle Shabelle regions. The cash for work activities involved the digging of the canals, removal of debris and sand, and the clearing of vegetation that had grown into the canals. 288 women and 336 men have benefited through cash for work from the rehabilitation of irrigation canals. The irrigation canals will supply small-scale farms with water to produce vegetables and other food crops. The canals are communal and supply several farms with water.



Left: Farmers clear bushes for the canal rehabilitation in Qam-Qam. Right: completion of Qam-Qam canal in Kismayo

Activity 4: Rehabilitation/construction of river embankments

A total of four km of river embankments were rehabilitated in four villages; Bula Gadud, Qam Qam and Gob-Weyn villages, Kismayu district and Lawa Lawale, Balcaad district. The cash for work activities included: filling sand bags, drying vegetation and clay to construct the eroded banks of the river, and stacking the sand bags on the river banks of to prevent further flooding into the farms and homes of the riverine communities. The embankment ridges were constructed to a 2m height and base width of 1.5m. 321 women and 303 men participated in the cash for work project for the construction of river embankments.

Riverine communities experienced recurring natural disasters that devastated their productive assets and washed away their homes over the years. The rehabilitated embankments will therefore deter the effects of floods and mitigate diseases that would have further aggravated conditions.



Left: Villagers carrying sand bags to the riverbank in Gobweyn village. Right: Completed river embankment in Gobweyn, Kismayo

Sub-Sector I.2: Temporary Employment

During this quarter, the program engaged 2,069 CFW beneficiaries through rehabilitation of four kilometers of irrigation canals and four kilometers of river embankments, de-silting of one surface dam, and rehabilitation of two markets, 23 shallow wells, and nine berkads. A total of 2,069 households benefited from cash transfers worth USD \$195,657. The program engaged 105 beneficiaries for de-silting of a service dam, 230 for rehabilitation of shallow wells, 1,248 in rehabilitation of irrigation canals/river embankments, 48 in rehabilitation of markets, and 438 in rehabilitation of berkads.

Village Relief Committees selected the beneficiaries through selection criteria identified by the committees with the support of Mercy Corps program staff. In addition, priority was given to female-headed households with the role of less physically demanding tasks, such as using wheelbarrows to collect sand and bush clearing works.

1,114 CFW tools comprised of 120 wheelbarrows, 130 shovels, 50 pick axes, 140 rakes, 230 pairs of heavy duty gloves, 15 crow bars, 15 buckets, 80 brooms, 4 loud speakers and 300 empty bags (sandbags) were distributed to beneficiaries for the activities and handed over to VRCs after the end of the activities. The aim is for the community to use them in similar works thus enhancing the sense of ownership and sustainability of program activities.

Sector # 2: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)				
Beneficiaries targeted	130,000 beneficiaries IDPs: 80,000			
Beneficiaries reached this quarter	31,053 beneficiaries(16,241 female, 14,812 male) IDPs: 10,660	23.9% of targeted beneficiaries reached		
Grand Total of Beneficiaries reached	68,640 Beneficiaries(35,892 female, 32,748 male) IDPs: 40,660	52.8% of targeted beneficiaries reached		
Geographic area (s)	Banadir, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Bay , Bakool, Galgadud, Mudug, Bari and Karkaar regions			
Sub-Sector: Water Supply				
	Baseline	Target	Progress to Date	Date
Number and percentage of household water supplies with 0 coliforms per 100 ml	-	20%	-	January 15, 2013
Average water usage of target population in liters per person per day	-	10 liters	10 liters (100%)	January 15, 2013
Number and percent of water points with measurable chlorine residual exceeding .2mg/l	-	13	47 (361.5%)	January 15, 2013
Sub-Sector: Sanitation				
	Baseline	Target	Progress to Date	Date
Number and percent of latrines completed that are clean and in use and in compliance with Sphere standards	-	100	100 (100%)	January 15, 2013
Number and percent of household hand washing facilities completed and in use	-	-	-	
Number and percent of households disposing of solid waste properly	-	-	-	
Sub-Sector: Hygiene Promotion				
	Baseline	Target	Progress to Date	Date
Percent of target population demonstrating good hand washing practices	-	1%	-	January 15, 2013
Percent of target population demonstrating correct water usage and usage	-	1%	-	January 15, 2013
Number and percent of clean water points functioning three month after completion	-	58	47 (81%)	January 15, 2013

Sector 2: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Sub-Sector I: Water

Activity 1: Rehabilitation of Berkads (cement lined water tanks)

In the reporting period, the program rehabilitated nine berkads, seven of them in Galmudug and Galgadud regions in Central Somalia and two in Alhamdulillah and Farjeerin villages in Waciye and Qardo districts in Puntland. These were communal water sources ruined and dilapidated after many years of neglect. Major rehabilitation works involved re-carpeting of floor beds and inner walls (sub-structures), construction of beams to cap contamination and water evaporation, and clearing of waterways to enhance absorption during the rainy seasons.

The communities are relying heavily on the rain periods (long rains March-May and short rains October-November) in these areas. Therefore, it is extremely important that there is infrastructure in place to make it

possible to harness water and use berkads as reservoirs during drought by replenishing them through water being trucked from far areas. To supplement smooth operationalization of the facilities, the program revitalized/established water users committees in all the villages and trained them on basic management skills, basic accounting, by-laws, bookkeeping, and water treatment and sanitation related issues in the coming quarter.



Rehabilitated Alhamdulillah Berkad in Waciye district, in Karkar region, Puntland

Berkads Rehabilitated

Region	District	Village	Size (Meters)	Capacity	Est. # beneficiaries
Galgadud	Adado	Xero lo'ad	17 x 7 x 4.5	535,500	1,400
Galgadud	Adado	Balanbaley	10 x 10 x 3	300,000	2,200
Galgadud	Adado	Bejela	12 x 10 x 4	480,000	2,400
Galmudug	Galkacyo	Celdibir	13 x 10 x 5	650,000	1,600
Galgadud	Abudwaq	Dawaqaloc	13 x 12 x 5	780,000	1,800
Galmudug	Hobyo	Hadile	26 x 9 x 4	936,000	3,000
Galmudug	Galkacyo	Hingot	22 x 12 x 4.5	1,880,000	1,800
karkaar	Qardo	Farjeen	17 x 7 x 4.5	535,000	1,200
Karkaar	Waciye	Alhamdulillah	17 x 7 x 4.5	535,000	1,400

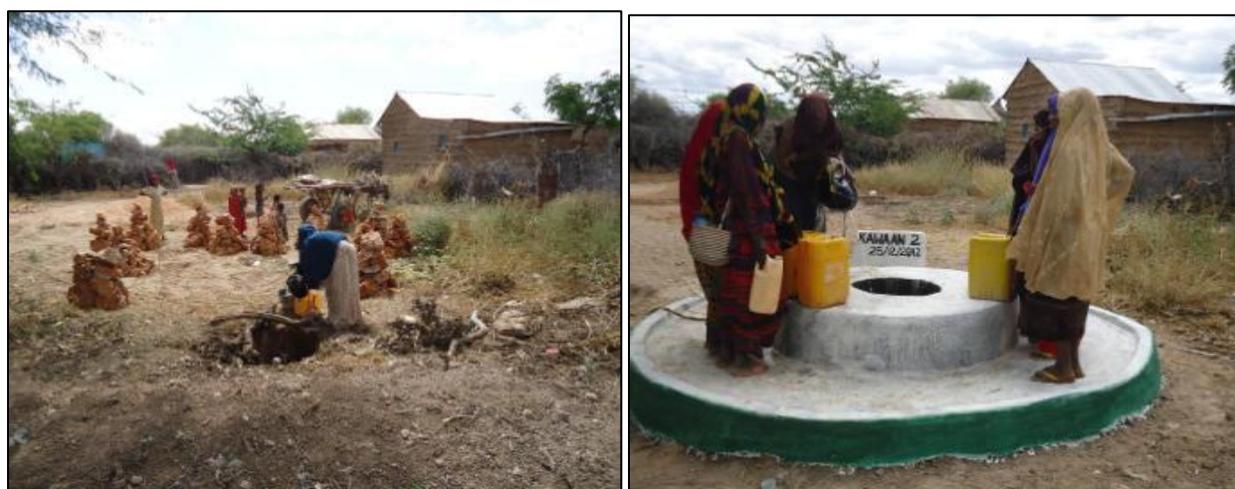
Activity 2: Rehabilitation of shallow wells

During the reporting quarter, Mercy Corps rehabilitated 23 shallow wells in Central and part of Southern Somalia. Seventeen of the shallow wells were rehabilitated in Balanbaley, Bejela, Celdibir, Dawaqaloc, Hadiile and Hingot, and Xero lo'ad in the Galmudug and Galgadud regions of Central Somalia while 15 others were rehabilitated in the Bay and Bakool regions in Southern Somalia.

Communities in these areas mainly rely on shallow wells as their only water sources. These are communal shallow wells that have endured several years of neglect. These communities face sanitation and hygiene challenges every rainy season. The shallow wells are hand dug by the local communities without protection. The wells rehabilitated were on average 10-20 meters deep with a 2M diameter apron constructed to protect the water from contamination and reduce siltation.

Shallow Wells Rehabilitated

Region	District	Village	# shallow wells	Est. # beneficiaries
Galgadud	Adado	Xero lo'ad	4	1,400
Galmudug	Galkacyo	Balanbaley	2	2,200
Galmudug	Galkacyo	Bejela	2	2,400
Galmudug	Hobyo	Celdibir	2	1,600
Galmudug	Galkacyo	Dawaqaloc	3	1,800
Galmudug	Galkacyo	Hadile	2	3,000
Galmudug	Galkacyo	Hingot	2	1,800
Bay	Baidoa	Habar dooy, Quran Jiis, and Tawfiq	3	3,487
Bakool	Hudur	Tuulo kawaan and Buulow	2	1,700



Left: woman draws water from a debilitated shallow well in Tulo Kawaan village. Right: after rehabilitation of Tulo Kawaan shallow well in Bay region of South Somalia

Activity 3: Supply of safe drinking water

In November 2012, Mercy Corps continued to boost provision of safe drinking water throughout its operations in Mogadishu and other regions of South Central Somalia. This included the rehabilitation and/or upgrading of existing water facilities, enhancement of technical capacity to monitor and improve the quality of water services by chlorination. Water management committees were formed and tasked with the responsibility to distribute water to the vulnerable and ensure the security of the tanks and tap stands which were strategically placed.

The supply of water currently consists of private vendors who own a number of boreholes from which they either truck water to clients or install piping systems to provide water to residents. These vendors sell 20-liter jerry cans for 2,000 to 3,000 Somalia shillings (USD \$0.05). Since most of the IDPs lost their livelihood opportunities and have limited income in the camps due to extremely high rates of unemployment, the majority can barely afford to spend money on water. In response to this, Mercy Corps is supplying 40,000 liters of safe drinking water daily for 90 days to over 536 households in Ilays and Iskaashi through a water piping system installed for them, which 3,216 persons are set to benefit from. This reduced the amount of money spent on purchasing water, and also reduced the amount of time women and children spend traveling to fetch water.

Two tap stands were installed at the water tanks to ease water distribution and reduce wastage. All sites were under supervision of a trained water quality monitor who handles the chlorination for water supplied to IDPs.

Sub-Sector 2.2: Hygiene Promotion/Behaviors

Activity 1: Support to Water and Sanitation Groups/Committees

In the reporting period, the program conducted five Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings and one CHAST training in Bosaso, Mogadishu IDP camps and Abudwaq-Galgadud with a total of 315 participants and 45 trained for PHAST and CHAST respectively. These trainings were targeted to complement sanitation facilities established by the program during the last quarter.

The program revitalized and trained existing Water and Sanitation Committees (WSC) on basic skills and how to: improve personal and household hygiene, sanitation, and behavior practices; encourage them to properly manage solid waste disposals; and to be knowledgeable on prevention of common diseases and their modes of transmission. The WSC will play an active role inculcating personal hygiene and behavior change within their respective communities. These committees conduct awareness campaigns in their respective villages/IDP camps with the support of Mercy Corps program staff.



Participants attending a PHAST training in Bosaso

Activity 2: Hygiene Promotion

During the quarter, SCAPE conducted one hygiene promotion in each of the following six IDP camps: Shabelle, Bulla Ajuran, Seylada Hoola, Bulla Mingis, Biya Kulale, and Bulla Abow. This objective was obtained through conducting cleaning campaigns within the IDP camps, introducing solid waste disposal management, carrying out awareness campaigns, and inculcating behavior change in the IDP communities. The targeted camps are the same as those targeted for the construction of latrines and procurement of six portable water tanks to complement the effect of these facilities in the camps.



Before and after, hygiene promotion campaign in Bosaso IDP camps

Sector # 3: Protection				
Beneficiaries Targeted	25,000 beneficiaries IDPs: 25,000			
Beneficiaries Reached this Quarter	IDPs: 11,958 (6,254 female and 5,704 male)	47.8% of targeted beneficiaries reached		
Grand Total of Beneficiaries reached	IDPs: 23,958 (12,530 female and 11,428 male)	95.8 % of targeted beneficiaries reached in two Quarters		
Geographic Area (s)	Banadir, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Bay , Bakool, Galgadud, Mudug, Bari and Karkaar regions			
Sub-Sector: Gender-based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response				
	Baseline	Target	Progress to Date	Date
Number and percent of community members who can report at least two negative effects of GBV on their community	-	2500 (10% of total population)	656 (26.2% of target complete)	January 15, 2013
Number and percent of target population reporting access to gender-based violence services	-	2500 (10% of total population)	656 (26.2% of target complete)	January 15, 2013
Number of males sensitized in Gender-based violence (GBV) issues	-	500	266 (53.2% of target complete)	January 15, 2013
Sub-Sector: Psychosocial Services				
	Baseline	Target	Progress to Date	Date
Number and percent of target population participating in psychosocial activities	-	1250 (5% of total population)	381 (30.5% of target complete)	January 13, 2013
Number and capacity of beneficiaries reporting improved capacity	-	1250 (5% of total population)	Evaluation at the end of the program	January 13, 2013
Number and percent of beneficiaries reporting improvement in their feeling of well-being or ability to cope	-	1250 (5% of total population)	Evaluation at the end of the program	January 13, 2013

Sub-Sector 3.1: Gender-Based-Violence Prevention and Response

Activity 1: Formation and Support to GBV Committees

The SCAPE program is working with the 14 existing groups established under the previous emergency program (PERPIHC) in Bosaso and has formed 20 new support groups identified in Mogadishu. 35 persons were trained on GBV during this reporting period while the remaining 19 are planned for the next quarter. These trainees are individuals identified from seven IDP camps in Bosaso (Shabelle, Bulla Ajuran, Bulla Mingis, Bulla Abow, Seylada Hoola, Toobanka Bush and Gelible) and three IDP camps in Gaheir, Siliga and Neyrus in Banadir. The community plays an integral part in this sector, the program relies on them as the medium through which advocacy and awareness campaigns are conveyed.

These established committees act as the link between INGOs and GBV victims for both counseling and referral services. GBV incidents have been on the rise this quarter due to the heightened security patrols. As a result, the names of security forces have cropped up in almost all in the cases investigated. The program has supported 16 cases of GBV during the quarter, assistance that has extended to both counseling and referral support services to the victims.

The below table indicates forms of GBV and the location (IDP camp) of the victims:

Item No.	Name of IDP Camp	Number and Forms of GBV incidents reported during the Quarter			
		Rape	Domestic Violence	Physical Assault	Total
1	Shabelle	2	0	2	4
2	Bulla Ajuran	2	0	1	3
3	Bulla Mingis	0	1	1	2
4	Bulla Abow	1	1	1	3
5	Seylada Hoolaha	0	0	2	2
6	Bulla Elay*	0	1	0	1
7	Bulla Benadir*	0	1	0	1
8	Total	6	3	7	16

IDP camps not covered by the 14 support groups

To respond to an increased number of reported GBV incidents, particularly in four camps in Bosaso (Ajuran, Shabelle, Mingis, and Abow), the program has increased the number of individuals in the support groups in these camps from the current four to eight, to cope with the workload. The four mentioned camps are the largest in Bosaso and had 75% of the reported cases during the period.

Plans are underway to incorporate the GBV survivors into the livelihood component of the program in the next quarter for them to integrate into the society and resume their normal lives.

Activity 2: Conduct Sensitization Meetings

During the quarter, four GBV awareness and sensitization sessions were held for six support groups, five new and one existing, in Mogadishu and Bosaso. Of the one hundred participants, 40 were males from five IDP camps in Bosaso. These sessions provide the space for advocacy against all forms of GBV within the IDP camps. Program staff, together with the support groups, conduct these sessions largely targeting men and youths. The aim is to increase the number of people with enhanced knowledge on the consequences of all forms of GBV.

Activity 3: Conduct SGBV Trainings

The program conducted two GBV trainings for 70 participants, of which 41 (59%) were women. These trainings target new participants who have had no previous training in GBV in order to increase the number of people with basic knowledge on all forms of GBV and ways of preventing the actions.

Through the training, the participants are becoming equipped with basic knowledge on forms of GBV, consequences, prevention and response to GBV, identification and reporting among others. The effort of these trainings will be measured in terms of behavior and knowledge at the end of program evaluation.



GBV sensitization meeting in Bosaso IDP camp



SGBV sensitization & awareness campaign in Bosaso IDP camp

Sub-Sector 3.2: Psychosocial Services

Activity 1: Support to women and youth support groups

During this quarter, work was done with women and youth support groups that were established under a previous emergency program in Bosaso, in addition, with 15 new groups that are planned to be established for the next quarter in Central and South Somalia. The program increased the number within the existing support groups in Bulla Ajuran, Abow, Mingis, and Shabelle from four to eight; this aims to enhance timely responses to SGBV victims, since it was beyond the capacity of the initial four members due to increased cases of GBV incidents reported during the quarter.

Trainings were conducted for newly established support groups on trauma awareness and resilience (STAR) and Gender Based Violence (GBV). The support groups facilitated response mechanisms for GBV survivors and youth by providing psychosocial support. They also reported and linked the survivors to INGOs for specialized counseling and referrals where necessary.

Activity 2: Conduct Strategies of Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) Trainings

The program conducted three STAR trainings during the quarter. Eight support groups of 110 persons (67 of which were women) received basic knowledge on counseling, trauma response, issues of violence, life skills, sexuality, and public speaking. This training is working to empower members of the community; increase their level of awareness on the subject, partly through dissolving cultural barriers where victims may be suffering in solitude; and enhance the level of community awareness on the roles of SGBV and psychosocial services.



Participants in a STAR training in Bosaso

Activity 3: Conduct group counseling sessions

The program conducted four group and 16 individual counseling sessions in Bosaso during the reporting period. A total of 41 (all women) traumatized individuals received counseling, either to follow up on reported GBV cases, for those that had been or still are suffering from conflict related shocks and domestic problems.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The program team regularly produces activity monitoring reports (AMR) after every field visit. The in-country DM&E team, in conjunction with the program M&E focal point, improved on the existing program documents to augment quality program implementation and reporting. Further, the program team conducts field assessments before the start of every quarter to avoid duplication of roles with other humanitarian actors in the region.

In the effort of ensuring high quality of the CfW program activities, targeted literate youth are employed as supervisors, also through CfW, to support daily monitoring of activities. This is not only ensuring quality but has also resulted in positive engagement of more than 100 youth for a period of 20 days. The youth supervisors are working closely under Mercy Corps program staff supervision.

5. Coordination

The program team is operating in close coordination with other humanitarian actors in the areas as well as the local administration in the region. It is standard procedure for the team to brief local administration in all villages during program implementation. The program team signs MoUs with various village/camps committees and local administration prior to program implementation.

The program team in Bosaso attended the launch of the Development and Project Office by the Bari regional governor. This office will act as a focal point office for both humanitarian and development activities in Bosaso, Puntland. In addition, the team attended regional WASH and Protection cluster meetings and the Regional Food Security Cluster (FSC) meeting in Garowe, which was spearheaded by Puntland Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC). In these meetings, organizations are working to exchange experiences and to emphasize complementing efforts in different regions to create synergies in order to improve the impact for vulnerable populations. Moreover, these meetings provide space for local and international NGOs to share emerging issues in each region and develop strategies to overcome these challenges.

6. Challenges/Conclusion

The program implementation during the quarter went well, though the short rains slightly hampered program operations in some parts of Karkar in Puntland, and Central Galgadud where few targeted rehabilitation and de-silting works were not achieved after the facilities collected water during the rains. To avoid this happening again, plans are underway to ensure that all similar works identified during the next quarter are accomplished before the onset of the long rains (March-May).

The political situation in Puntland experienced some difficulties; however, this had had little effect on Mercy Corps program operation. The situation in Puntland is currently calm, the team is planning to conduct a field assessment in Bari, and Karkaar region to prioritize community needs to align program implementation with the seasonal calendars. In Central and South Somalia, the security situation is now better than ever, even though still highly volatile, and plans have begun to extend the implementation of activities into areas like Kismayo and beyond.

The program will continue to focus on rehabilitation/de-silting of water sources, provision of business grants to both new and existing groups, entrepreneurship/skill trainings, protection issues and hygiene promotion campaign in the region.