



South Central and Puntland Emergency Response Program (SCAPE)

Quarterly Report: January-March 2013



Kismayomarket in use after rehabilitation in early February 2013

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
MoPIC	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

1. 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 1,364 beneficiaries through Cash for Work (CfW) to rehabilitate 1 kilometer of irrigation canals, 5 markets, 7 berkads, 10 shallow wells and the de-silting of 6 surface dams. 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 \$118,995 was transferred to 1,364 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 546 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 1,065 CfW tools (comprising of 135 wheelbarrows, 180 shovels, 120 pick axes, 300 heavy duty gloves, and 600 empty bags (sandbags)) to beneficiaries for the activities and handed the tools over to VRCs following completion of the activities.

During this quarter the program rehabilitated four markets, de-silted six surface dams and rehabilitated one kilometer of irrigation canal 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, cash grants worth USD \$2,250 were provided to two women's groups with small grants to expand their business ventures.

Under the *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector*, the program rehabilitated 10 shallow wells, seven berkads, conducted five Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings and five hygiene promotion campaigns attended by 1,750 participants in South and Central areas of Somalia. In addition, three Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Transformations CHAST trainings with 125 boys and girls were conducted in Mogadishu and Abudwaq 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 low water levels, which is in most parts of the regions. PHAST and hygiene trainings targeted IDP camps in Mogadishu and Abudwaq and Baidoa where the program implemented water and sanitation facilities to complement results, and in regions such as Lower and Middle Juba, the same training targeted host communities in villages with rehabilitated water points.

In the *protection sector*, the program conducted 12 GBV and 12 STAR trainings in Mogadishu and Bossaso IDP camps. These trainings facilitated 815 people (563 women) to acquire basic skills to respond to GBV incidents in their respective IDP camps.

The security situation in the South, Central and Puntland regions was generally calm during the reporting period with an exception of Bossaso and Qardo in Puntland. Due to a strong opposition working against the extension of the sitting government in the area, which was decided unilaterally, there were violence outbreaks causing insecurity. Despite the opposition, the government remained and with it the monopolizing of petroleum product imports which constitute a crucial part of the economy in these regions, which was one of the key issues raised by the business community. Notwithstanding these major as well as many smaller

challenges, the program team managed to implement program activities and accomplish objectives reaching both vulnerable IDPs and host community populations.

2. Program Overview

The South Central and Puntland Emergency response Program (SCAPE) is being implemented through USAID/OFDA funding, aiming at supporting populations in both host communities and IDP camps to be able to respond and cope with both man-made and natural disasters. The program is specifically targeting communities and IDPs living in Mogadishu, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Shabelle in Southern Somalia, Galgaduud and Galmudug regions in Central Somalia, and Bari and Karkaar regions in Puntland.

The program is comprised by three sectors to address the vast multi-faceted needs of the constituents with an emphasis on viability and sustainability in any of the program activity interventions. The sectors included in the program are Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Protection. To a large extent, 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 with the basic needs of their families.

As mentioned, the program supports both IDP camps and host communities, with an emphasis on rural populations, mainly constituted by pastoral communities with a substantial fraction registering some forms of subsistence farming. The program 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 IDP camp settings.

This quarter the program undertook activities including rehabilitation of cement line water tanks (berkads), de-silting of irrigation canals, de-silting of surface dams, and rehabilitation of markets for host communities, all activities designed to address pressing needs articulated by the communities. Under the WASH sector, program activities included the construction of 120 latrines, hygiene trainings/promotion campaigns, and PHAST& CHAST trainings. Under the protection sector, GBV/STAR trainings were carried out, SGBV sensitization and awareness campaigns/meetings were conducted, group counseling sessions were held, and support to women and youth groups, as well as psychosocial support, was provided.

3. Performance Summary

Sector # 1: Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)				
Beneficiaries Targeted	55,000 beneficiaries IDPs: 30,000			
Beneficiaries reached this quarter	16,120 (8,431 female, 7,689 male) IDPs 810	30.7% of targeted beneficiaries reached this quarter		
Grand Total of Beneficiaries reached	59,866 (31,310 female, 28,556 male) IDPs (35,710)	Over 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 South Somalia			
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 Rehabilitation of 10 river embankment bridges with an average length of 200 meters Rehabilitation/De-silting of 10 surface dams Rehabilitation of 4 markets	Rehabilitation of 13km irrigation canals Rehabilitated/constructed 12km of river embankments Rehabilitation/de-silting of 19 surface dams Rehabilitated 6 markets	March 31, 2013
Number of cash grants to Small Micro-Enterprises (SMEs)	-	20	2 transfers made for two women groups.	March 31, 2013
Total USD amount of cash grants to Small Micro-Enterprises (SMEs)	-	35,000	2,250	March 31, 2013
Sub-Sector 2: Temporary employment				
	Baseline	Target	Progress to Date	Date
Number of people employed through Cash For Work (CfW) activities	-	5,000	5,524 (110.5%)	March 31, 2013
Average USD amount per person earned through Cash For Work (CfW) activities	-	USD 75	USD 90.7	March 31, 2013
Number and percentage of women employed through Cash for Work (CfW) activities	-	40%	2,238 (40.5%)	March 31, 2013

Sector Summary

Sub-Sector 1.1: Rehabilitation of Markets

Activity 1: Rehabilitation of Markets

During the reporting period, the program rehabilitated five markets in Kismayo, Hudur and Afgooye, Bangeni and Naftaqr towns in Lower Juba, Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions of south Somalia. Mercy Corps rehabilitated markets in the first 3 towns and our sub-granted partner, Juba Foundation, rehabilitated markets in the 2 latter ones. The rehabilitation/construction of these markets have provided an opportunity for farmers, pastoralists, milk vendors and other community traders to market their products. The centralized markets are likely to attract businessmen and women from within and outside the region and provide a better marketing potential for the local traders and producers. This has also provided an opportunity for the IDP groups to market their produce and services.

In addition to ensuring that rural communities have access to markets where farmers and vendors can obtain better prices for their merchandise and sustain their livelihoods, the rehabilitation has directly benefited 88 persons through cash for work of these five communal markets. By being engaged in rehabilitating the markets, each person received an average wage rate of USD \$100.30 after 15 working days. This provides a great opportunity to increase their income and improve the possibilities to obtain basic needs for the families.



Left: A butcher in a depleted Kismayo market before rehabilitation, Right: Kismayo market in use after rehabilitation by Mercy Corps in early February 2013

Activity 2: De-silting of surface dams

Through the program, the team facilitated the de-silting of three surface dams in Puntland and three in Jamame district, Lower Juba region during the reporting period. The livelihood strategy in these areas is to a large extent pastoralist with small pockets of rain-fed agriculture also being practiced. Due to lack of maintenance over the years, many communal rural water catchments are covered by silt resulting in a lost capacity to carry more water.



These activities engaged 603CfW beneficiaries for a period of 20 days (this figure is inclusive of both Mercy

CfW beneficiaries engaged in de-silting of Dharoor village surface dam in Bari region

Corps and sub-grant partner beneficiaries). The rehabilitation of surface dams engaged 603 CfW laborers with a daily wage of USD \$5 for unskilled and USD \$10 for supervisors. The average wage received was USD \$94.50, and 315 (52.3%) of the CfW beneficiaries were women. The women were assigned less physically demanding tasks including but not limited to bush clearing, collecting silt using wheelbarrows.



Left: CfW beneficiaries de-silting surface dam in Isoomarey village in Jamame district, Lower Juba, Right: After completion

Activity 3: Rehabilitation of irrigation canals

Few agro-pastoralists in the Puntland region practice rain-fed agriculture to grow vegetables and hay for commercial purposes. These farmers rely on seasonal rivers, irrigation water reservoirs, and shallow wells to supply water to their farms. Due to erratic rains and the need for some crops to rely on cool water, farmers have resorted to shallow wells and water reservoirs to help them improve their quality production. However, the communities lack capital for the construction of these artificial water points. Mercy Corps provided much needed support by rehabilitating one kilometer of irrigational canal and three irrigation water reservoirs to enhance homegrown production, and additionally create short-term employment which proved to be the only source of income for many households. These activities engaged 78 beneficiaries through CfW for a period of ten days for each activity. Forty-five of the beneficiaries were unskilled laborers, 28 skilled, and five were supervisors. They attracted daily CfW wage of USD \$6, USD \$12, and USD \$15, respectively.

Sub-Sector1.2: Temporary Employment

During this quarter, the program engaged 1,364 CfW beneficiaries through rehabilitation of 1kilometerirrigation canals, de-silting of five surface dams, and rehabilitation/construction of 5 markets, 13 shallow wells, and seven berkads. A total of 1,364 households benefited from cash transfers worth USD \$118,995. (Puntland: \$41,010, Central: \$19,560, South: \$58,425). The program engaged 603 beneficiaries for de-silting of three surface dams, 100 for rehabilitation of 12 shallow wells, 78 in rehabilitation/construction of irrigation canals and water reservoirs, 88 in rehabilitation of markets, 167 in rehabilitation of seven berkads and 330 in construction of latrines.

Village Relief Committees (VRCs) selected the beneficiaries through selection criteria identified by the committees with the support of Mercy Corps staff and partners. Priority was given to female-headed households who undertook less physically demanding tasks, such as using wheelbarrows to collect sand, and bush clearing works.

1,065 CfW tools comprising of 135 wheelbarrows,180 shovels, 120 pick axes,300 heavy duty gloves, and 600 empty bags (sandbags) were distributed to beneficiaries for the activities and handed over to VRCs after the end of the activities. The handover of tools allows the community to use them in similar works thus enhancing 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	39,053 beneficiaries(20,425 female, 18,628 male) IDPs: 10,660	30% of targeted beneficiaries reached		
Grand Total of Beneficiaries reached	76,640 Beneficiaries(40,076 female, 36,564 male) IDPs: 40,660	59% 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%	-	March 31, 2013
Average water usage of target population in liters per person per day	-	10 liters	10 liters (100%)	March 31, 2013
Number and percent of water points with measurable chlorine residual exceeding .2mg/l	-	13	69(530.7%)	March 31, 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	235(235%)	March 31, 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%	-	March 31, 2013
Percent of target population demonstrating correct water usage and usage	-	1%	-	March 31, 2013
Number and percent of clean water points functioning three month after completion	-	58	69(119%)	March 31, 2013

Sector 2: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Sub-Sector 2.1: Water

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

During the reporting period, the program rehabilitated 7berkadsin Central Somalia, six of them in the Galgadud region and one in the Galmudug region. 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.



Final product following rehabilitation of Sahqurun berkad, in Galkacyo, South Mudug region

This rehabilitation work engaged 167 beneficiaries through CfW for a period of 15 days. A total of USD \$19,560 was paid to beneficiaries through short-term employment to boost the purchasing power of the individual beneficiaries, while at the same time injecting cash into the local economy.

The cement line water tanks are located in areas with no permanent water sources due to the low water levels. The communities rely on them to fill up during the two rainy seasons, the long rains (March-May) and the short rains (October-November), to harness water or use them as a reservoir during drought by replenishing them through water trucked from far areas.

To supplement smooth operationalization of the facilities, the program revitalized/established water user committees in both villages. Thereafter, the program will train them on basic management skills, basic accounts, by-laws, bookkeeping, and water treatment and sanitation related issues in the coming quarter.

Berkads Rehabilitated

Region	District	Village	Size (Meters)	Capacity	Est. # beneficiaries
Galgadud	Adado	Biya Gadud II	17 x 7 x 4.5	535,500	1,400
Galgadud	Adado	Dagah deer II	10 x 10 x 3	300,000	2,400
Galgadud	Abudwaq	Air-adheys	12 x 10 x 4	480,000	700
Galgadud	Abudwaq	Balijex	13 x 10 x 5	650,000	520
Galgadud	Abudwaq	Mirjinabo	13 x 12 x 5	780,000	600
Galgadud	Adado	Xinjilab II	26 x 9 x 4	936,000	3,000
Galmudug	Galkacyo	Sahqurun	22 x 12 x 4.5	1,880,000	2000

Activity 2: Rehabilitation of shallow wells

During the reporting quarter, Mercy Corps worked on 10 shallow wells in South Somalia. Out of the 10 shallow wells, six were rehabilitated and four were constructed in Kunturwareey and Sablale district in Lower Shebelle region.

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.



Left: Before construction of Towfiq shallow well in Kunturwareey district Bay region of South Somalia Right: After finalization

Sub-Sector 2.2: Hygiene Promotion/Behaviors

Activity 1: Support to Water and Sanitation Groups/Committees



CHAST training session Goraya Horr village in Abudwaq, Galgaduud region

During the reporting period, the program conducted 5 Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings in Mogadishu IDP camps and Abudwaq in Central Somalia. These trainings targeted to complement sanitation facilities established by the program.

The program trained 1,755 participants in the following topics: basic skills on how to improve personal and household hygiene and sanitation, how to resolve resource conflict, behavior practices regarding solid waste management disposals, and information on common diseases and modes of transmission and prevention within the target communities.

Additionally, the program extended its coverage to 125 schoolchildren and trained them on Children's Hygiene And Sanitation Training (CHAST). This approach promotes personal hygiene among children living in the rural areas and based upon the well-established PHAST approach. CHAST uses a variety of exercises and educational games to teach children aged between five and 12 about the links between personal hygiene and health. The approach is based upon the premise that hygiene practices are largely acquired during childhood, and that it is much easier to change children's habits than those of adults.

Activity 2: Hygiene Promotion

During the quarter, the program conducted 1 hygiene promotion campaign in Goraya Horr in Abudwaq and 4 others in Baidoa. The program engaged participants trained on PHAST (under activity 1) to carry out the cleaning campaign in the village. The campaign is meant to complement water and sanitation facilities

implemented through the program. The objective is to conduct cleaning campaigns within the sedentary communities, solid waste disposal management, awareness campaign, and inculcating behavior change. Hygiene promotion activities in Mogadishu and large parts of South Somalia are almost non-existent both in IDP camps and communities. Four hygiene campaigns were conducted in Xeradha Libaxyada and ADC IDP camps in Baidoa district of the Bay region, with a total of 200 persons (120 women and 80 men) taking part in the 4 day camp cleaning campaign intending to rid the camps of stagnant water and digging pits to collect, burn and bury household garbage.



Hygiene promotion campaign in Gooraya Horr village in Abudwaq, Galgadud region

1.2.1 Construction/Maintenance of latrines

During this quarter, 135 latrines were constructed in Qalafe, Danwadaag and Isma-Hurto IDP camps in Dherkenley and Danyille districts of Mogadishu Banadir region and Dayax village in Kunturwareey district in Lower Shebelle region. These camps are newly established to which IDPs were relocated after being evicted from the government institutions such as schools and colleges as well as other destroyed buildings in the city center where they had set up small IDP settlements. The latrines benefited 7,000 individuals living in the above-mentioned IDP camps and villages. The construction of these latrines contributed to restoring the dignity and confidence of women and girls who were previously subjected to abuse on their way to the open fields.

330 CfW beneficiaries were shortly employed to carry out the construction of these latrines at an average rate of USD \$28.40 per person resulting in improved income of 330 households.



Left: The completed four stand latrines constructed Qalafe IDP camp in Mogadishu. Right: a latrine in Dayax Kunturwareey district in Lower Shebelle

Sector 3: Protection

Sector # 3: Protection				
Beneficiaries targeted	25,000 beneficiaries IDPs: 25,000			
Beneficiaries reached this quarter	IDPs:13,958 (7,300female and 6,658 male)	55.8% of targeted beneficiaries reached		
Grand total of beneficiaries reached	IDPs:25,958 (13,530 female and 12,428 male)	103.8 % 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	-	2,500(10% of total population)	3,103 (124% of target complete)	March 31, 2013
Number and percent of target population reporting access to gender-based violence services	-	2,500 (10% of total population)	3,103 (124.1% of target complete)	March 31, 2013
Number of males sensitized in Gender-based violence (GBV) issues	-	500	968 (193.6% of target complete)	March 31, 2013
Sub-Sector: Psychosocial Services				
	Baseline	Target	Progress to Date	Date
Number and percent of target population participating in psychosocial activities	-	1,250 (5% of total population)	934 (74.7% of target complete)	March 31, 2013
Number and capacity of beneficiaries reporting improved capacity	-	1,250 (5% of total population)	Evaluation at the end of the program	March 31, 2013
Number and percent of beneficiaries reporting improvement in their feeling of well-being or ability to cope	-	1,250 (5% of total population)	Evaluation at the end of the program	March 31, 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 14 existing groups established under the previous emergency program (PERPIHC) in Bosaso and supporting new groups identified in Mogadishu and Bosaso in the last quarter. The participants are selected from seven IDP camps in Bosaso (Shebelle, Bulla Ajuran, Bulla Mingis, Bulla Abow, Seylada Hoola, Toobanka Bush and Gelible) and five in Mogadishu (Gaheir, Siliga, Sayidka, Tarabuunka and Qalafe) and are trained on GBV. The program furthermore supports GBV survivors from other IDP camps but specifically targets the mentioned camps for coordination purposes. The community plays an integral part in this sector, the program relies on them as the medium through which advocacy, and awareness campaigns

are conducted. These committees act as the link between INGOs and GBV survivors both for counseling and referral services. During this period, the highest number of GBV incidents was reported than previously in the course of the program. One suggested reason for this, is that UNHCR, who was a very strong actor against GBV in Bossaso, relocated to Mogadishu. Mercy Corps has been making extra effort to work on covering the gap created in the area. Throughout areas of implementation, the program supported 24 forms of GBV cases during the quarter, support that composed of both counseling and referral support services to the survivors.

Below table indicates forms of GBV and the location (IDP camp) of the survivors.

Item No.	Name of IDP Camp	Number and Forms of GBV incidents reported during the Quarter			
		Rape	Domestic Violence	Physical Assault	Total
1	TuurJaale	0	0	2	2
2	Bulla Ajuran	2	1	2	5
3	Bulla Mingis	3	2	0	5
4	Bulla Abow	0	2	1	3
5	Girible	0	1	1	2
6	Biyo Kulale	1	1	0	2
7	RafiyoRaho	1	0	1	2
8	Mogadishu IDPs	3	1	2	3
	Total	10	8	7	24

The trend indicates similar pattern to last quarter where larger IDP camps remain more common spots for GBV incidences in Bosaso. The challenge is the relocation of UNHCR from the area to Mogadishu, as the agency played a pivotal role in capping and responding to these menace. As a way forward, Mercy Corps will highlight this in the protection cluster.

Activity 2: Conduct sensitization meetings

During the quarter, eighty GBV awareness and sensitization sessions were held for 1,500 participants among them 1,050 (70%) are women from eight IDP camps both in Bosaso and Mogadishu. These sessions provide the space for advocacy against all forms of GBV within the IDP camps. Program staff together with the support groups conducted 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 GBV



SGBV sensitization & awareness campaign in Bosaso IDP camps, Bari region Puntland



SGBV training in Bosaso IDP camps, Bari region, Puntland

Activity 3: Conduct SGBV Trainings

The program conducted 12 GBV trainings with 370 participants, 291 (78.6%) women, both in Mogadishu and Bosaso IDP camps. The program targets new participants in its GBV training to increase the number of persons with basic knowledge on all forms of GBV and ways of prevention. In the trainings, participants

are equipped with basic knowledge on forms of GBV, consequences, prevention and response of GBV, identification and reporting, among others. The effort of these training can only be realized during program end of evaluation.

Sub-Sector 3.2: Psychosocial Services

Activity 1: Support to women and youth support groups

These groups consist of trained individuals selected from the seven IDP camps in Bosaso and five in Mogadishu, that the program directly engages with in this sector. They are the link between the organization and the GBV victims for specialized counseling and referral where necessary. They engage them in all protection sector activities and have the support of both local structures and the public at large in the respective IDP camps. It will be beyond the scope of the support groups to respond to the skyrocketing demands for GBV supports. The shifting of focus from North towards South will have unfathomable repercussions on these IDP camps since it is beyond the government and the support groups' capacities to respond and control this menace.

Activity 2: Conduct strategies of Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) trainings

The program conducted twelve (12) trainings during the quarter for IDPs in Bosaso and Mogadishu. A group of 445 persons (272 women which is 50.6%) received basic knowledge on counseling, trauma response, issues of violence, life skills, sexuality, and public speech. These trainings have empowered members of the community and increased their level of awareness on the subject. This training really had an effect on the cultural barrier of GBV survivors suffering in solitude and enhanced the level of community awareness on the roles of SGBV and psychosocial services.



STAR training session in Mogadishu IDP camps, Banadir region

Activity 3: Conduct group counseling sessions

The program conducted group-counseling sessions during the reporting period, which partially involved follow-up sessions for the previous survivors as well as the newly identified ones. A total of 111 traumatized women attended the counseling sessions, these were either follow-up to reported GBV cases or other women suffering from trauma as a result of conflicts or domestic problems.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The program team regularly produces activity-monitoring reports (AMR) during every field visit. Further, the program team conducts a field assessment before the start of every quarter to avoid duplication of roles with other humanitarian actors in the region. Similarly, the team, with the guidance of the Program Director and the Program Manager, manage and mitigate the risks during implementation. The program teams also closely track their finances.

As part of ensuring quality, and combining this with empowering local individuals, the program utilizes literate youth as supervisors to support daily monitoring of activities. This is necessary since some activities engage more 100 CfW beneficiaries for a period of 20 days. These supervisors are proving effective and reliable and assist with proper organization and management.

5. Coordination

The program team worked closely with both other humanitarian actors and the local administration in the region. Further, the team briefed local administration in all the villages during program implementation. The program team signed MoU's from various village/camps committees and local administration prior to program implementation.

Mercy Corps Somalia, and specifically the program team, attended a Regional Food Security Cluster (FSC) meeting in Garowe spearheaded by Puntland Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC). Further, the program team also attends monthly cluster meetings in Bosaso and Mogadishu for both the protection and WASH sectors. This meeting provides the space for INGO's to share emerging issues in the regions and develop strategies to overcome these challenges. In addition, the country program is also represented at the regional cluster meetings in Nairobi.

6. Challenges/Conclusion

At the end of the quarter, the SCAPE program was on a lean period in Puntland and Central Somalia due to exhaustion of contractual program budget. This resulted in the release of some of its vehicles and staff to reduce the cost of operation. At the same time, there were expectations that there will be operation budget fallbacks to be utilized for program activities. The program team ensured that all their activities were completed before the on-set of the long rains (March-April) to maximize program impact.

The political temperatures in Bosaso and Qardo flared up heightening the security situation. Currently, the situation is calm with all planned activities completed, with seven GBV awareness and sensitization meeting remaining. These meetings are projected to take place in early May, 2013 as per the implementation plan.