



IOM International Organization for Migration

SOMALIA

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) PROGRAMME

“IOM’S GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AIMS TO PROTECT, TREAT, CARE AND SUPPORT THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN SOMALIA THROUGH AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH AND TECHNOLOGIES AS WELL AS BY BUILDING UPON THE STRENGTHS OF BENEFICIARIES.”

In light of the drought that hit Somalia in 2011, IOM begun projects to provide emergency health services to drought affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) by supporting existing health care providers.

Among services provided is the provision of psychosocial support and protection with a focus on victims of trafficking and gender-based

violence (GBV). The main objective of the program is to build capacity for better service delivery through the support for a centralized coordination system and the strengthening of existing referral systems and direct victim assistance in Mogadishu, Garowe & Burao.

Migration Health Division’s (MHD’s) approach

- 1) Conducting evidence-informed programming;
- 2) Enhancing capacity and upgrading skills of local and host communities, community-based organizations, private sector and authorities for sustainability and ownership;

3) Strengthening partnership with key stakeholders (including beneficiaries) and private sector.

Prevention and protection

IOM is partnering with a global Japanese company, Panasonic, to distribute solar lanterns to vulnerable IDPs. Many of the GBV cases are reported to occur at night, when IDP settlements are plunged in darkness.

IOM IN ACTION

In 2012:

- As a result of **social mobilization**, IOM reached more than 600,000 people.
- More than 1,400 solar lanterns were distributed across **IDP settlements in Mogadishu, Garowe and Burao**;
- 30 solar lanterns were donated to the **Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD) in Galkayo** and another 30 donated to the **Nasrullah Mental Health Institute in Garowe**;
- A total of 78 people were **trained as psychosocial support counselors**;
- A total of 44 women from IDP settlements were **trained as peer counselors**;
- A total of 44 IDP representatives were **trained as community focal points**;

In order to raise awareness against the negative effects of GBV, IOM through its implementing partners also supports social mobilization through routine campaigns and special events like the '16 Days of Activism'.

Through the '16 Days of Activism' IOM reached over 16,000 IDPs and members of host communities in Galkayo, Puntland. The community-led GBV awareness activities were coordinated by one of IOM's partners, the Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD), a local NGO, which was founded by Mama Hawa Aden Mohamed, the winner of the 2012 *Nansen Refugee Award*.

Treatment, care and support

IOM through its partners provides essential counseling, referral and case-management services to survivors of GBV.

In addition, community members are recruited for training as psychosocial

counselors and peer counselors in order to reach other vulnerable IDPs through information sessions.

Research/evidence-informed programming

IOM realizes the significance of evidence-based programming. Before the Psychosocial Project was rolled out, programme staff conducted a rapid assessment to investigate the situation on the ground.

Furthermore, a partnership has been formed between IOM, University of Tokyo (Japan) and University of Nairobi (Kenya) to conduct a baseline and post-intervention study in Garowe that will examine the frequency of sexual and gender-based (SGBV) cases and the effectiveness of solar lanterns as a means of protection for vulnerable IDPs.

In collaboration with the GBV working group in Nairobi and Somalia, IOM and its implementing partners use the



Within settlements for internally displaced persons (IDP), IOM Somalia's Migration Health Division (MHD) is reaching out to IDP women representatives to train them on basic psycho-social support, peer education, gender-based violence (GBV) and its impact on survivors, coping mechanisms in the IDP camps, and sensitization about places where GBV support services are offered. © IOM 2012 (Photo: Mary-Sanyu Osire)

Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) www.gbvims.org system that was recently introduced for better data collection and monitoring of GBV cases in Somalia.

Coordination and advocacy

An important dimension of IOM's action against GBV in Somalia is its involvement of all stakeholders, from affected communities, to line Ministries, and organizations within different inter-agency Clusters.

IOM through its implementing partners also supports efforts to push back against the tide of GBV by participating in regular advocacy projects and outreach campaigns that are designed to lead to social change.



© IOM 2012 (Photo: Deeq M. Afrika)

“Our community did not have light before, now our nights have become days.”

- Fadumo Mohamed, an internally displaced person from Koosar IDP Settlement in Burao, Somaliland

“IOM PRIORITIZES THE TRAINING OF PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELORS AND FEMALE IDPs AS PEER COUNSELORS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CASES.”

Referrals: the most crucial part of psychosocial support

In order to enhance and support the gender-based violence (GBV) referral system in Somalia, the International Organization for Migration (in collaboration with its implementing partners on the ground) facilitated these activities:

- Identified 79 survivors of GBV in all three implementations sites: Burao, Garowe, and Mogadishu;
- Conducted 51 referrals to Garowe hospital;
- Conducted 20 referrals in Mogadishu to Medina and Banadir hospitals In collaboration with the GBV working group in Nairobi and Somalia that IOM participates in;
- IOM together with its implementing partners ensured regular usage and reporting through the GBVIMS system that was recently introduced for better data collection and monitoring of GBV cases in Somalia.



Recipient of the prestigious *Nansen Refugee Award*, Mama Hawa Aden (left) receives Panasonic solar lanterns from IOM Somalia's Senior Programme Assistant, Ruth Mbugua. In partnership with Mama Hawa Aden, IOM is lighting up internally displaced persons' (IDP) settlements in North Galkaio. © IOM 2012 (Photo: Mary-Sanyu Osire)



“Since high prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) was reported in target areas where women are often attacked when they fetch water or use latrines that have no locks at night, IOM has linked social mobilization to prevention of GBV by raising awareness of GBV and gender issues in affected communities.”

Dr Samir Hadjiabduli, Programme Officer (Gender),
International Organization for Migration, Somalia

“He hit me, then sunk a knife in my thigh.”

Amina Fardows Maalim (*name changed to protect her identity*) is a Somali woman who has lived through unrest and violence. At 40, she makes her home in a congested displacement camp, with nothing but a gaping wound in her thigh to show for more than 20 years of marriage. Her husband brutally attacked her, in front of their children.

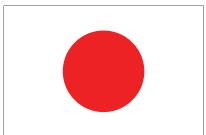
She speaks gently, and fastens her hijab at every opportunity: “When we got married, my husband was wealthy, but he lost his job, and became frustrated. He started chewing *khat* (a stimulant drug from a shrub). He spent whatever little we had on *khat*. One day, I confronted him. He hit me, then sunk a knife in my thigh.”

One of IOM Somalia’s local partners, Community Centre for Research and Training (CCRT), took her to the general hospital in Burao, Somaliland. Here she received medicine and treatment at no charge. She was also provided psychosocial support. “I was wounded and helpless. My thigh hurt, but my heart was in even more pain.”

With continuous support from CCRT staff and technical advice from psychosocial counselors, Fadumo started to have a dialogue with her husband. They reconciled and she eventually returned to home to rebuild her family.

“My husband and I now understand better the causes and consequences of domestic violence,” she says softly, as her voice trails off.

WITH THANKS TO OUR DONOR:



From
the People of Japan

“IOM Somalia is a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and also works closely with several Ministries in the various regions of Somalia in the implementation of its programmes. IOM partners with several UN agencies and local NGOs that are working in Somalia.”

WE WORK WITH:

- Government
- Community leaders
- Religious leaders
- Mobile and migrant populations
- Host communities
- Private sector

MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL
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