



Rapid Assessment Report of Adan Yabaal district, Middle Shebelle, Hir-Shabelle state.

6th of January 2023

Background of DIGNITY FIRST SOMALIA (DFS)

DIGNITY FIRST SOMALIA (DFS) was established to contribute to efforts to find solutions to challenges facing marginalized, Minority, and vulnerable populations in Somalia through promoting Human Dignity and Inclusive Humanitarian Assistance to help local them rebuild their lives following decades of internal conflict, strife, and climatic shocks.

DIGNITY FIRST SOMALIA (DFS) conducted a quick rapid assessment using its monitors on the ground in the Adan Yabaal district on the 4th to 5th of January 2023 with the aim of identifying key issues and needs on the ground after the offensive.





Context

Adan Yabaal, a town located near the border between Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions that comprise Hirshabelle State, is one of the five Federal Member States (FMS) of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) estimated to host over 85,000 people. According to ATMIS, the district was a training ground for Al-Shabab while it was under its control and had no government and humanitarian access until it was liberated on 5th December 2022 based on a joint Somali National Army (SNA) and local militia operation.

Displacement was noted in December 2022 based on locals' fear of possible conflict between the allied forces and Al-Shabab. The residents vacated the town, not to be caught in the crossfire as a result of the security situation in Adan Yabaal being at heightened tensions. Most of the civilians were forcibly displaced from the district and as a result, caused some extent of civilian casualties. The government also incarcerated individuals suspected to be associated with AS without due verifications.

The situation is yet to improve after December 2022. Despite no clear indication families who left the town moved to peri-urban which such as Warsheikh, Balcad, Jowhar, and Adale within middle Shabelle, however, there is a projection of further displacement considering the location is still crippled with the effects of drought which is likely to heighten their inability to access basic services, particularly housing, forcing them into secondary displacement.

The PRMN shows conflict/insecurity-related displacement of up to 10,000 distributed between Banadir, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Shabelle in December 2022.

- Households moving with children are likely to experience mental health issues due to displacement, and the possible GBV risks for women and girls relating to GBV while on the move or in the new settlement. Minority and marginalized communities are at higher risk of discrimination and exclusion from limited services.
- The disruption of the routine for those displaced from Adab Yabaal is likely to contribute to psychosocial distress for both caregivers and children who may not be able to cope with the new environment, hence the need for psychosocial first aid in camps within the middle Shabelle District hosting IDPs.
- Current humanitarian need overview in middle Shabelle shows a high risk of exploitation of internally displaced population.
- The relative influx into other districts around Adan Yabaal, is likely to strain the already straining livelihoods and coping mechanisms, and aggravate conflict over scarce resources with communities hosting the displaced people.

Needs Overview

1. Protection / Health (including mental health)

Under the occupation of Al-Shabab control and doctrines, the population engaged in the recruitment and use of children, child labor, Gender Based Violence including; rape, sexual violence, denial of resources, physical violence, and emotional abuse.



Up to 10,000 were reported to have been displaced with an estimate of up 40% of them being women and the other 40% men while estimates for children include 1,200 girls and 950 boys.



Figure 1: Member of the DFS team consulting with displaced groups

Recommendations

There is a need for the deployment of mobile teams within the Middle Shabelle districts to conduct a rapid assessment and with the capacity to also provide a first-line response to the most vulnerable and those in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

- Support the Protection Cluster with the Rapid Protection Assessment (RPA) to identify immediate risks faced by women and girls.
- Conduct emergency GBV assessments (including focus groups, individual interviews, and GBV safety audits) to identify immediate needs, concerns, and risks for women and girls.
- Conduct initial rapid service mapping immediately upon arrival to the location to identify other service providers in the area (especially Protection, GBV, health, FSL, mental health, security, and CP)
- Assess needs for material support (specifically dignity and Menstrual kits, hygiene items, clothing, etc.) for women and girls.
- Develop response plans for a determined amount of time based on needs identified through assessments.

With minimum immediate GBV response within 72 hours of an emergency should include:

- Assessments and rapid service mapping
- Emergency case management, PFA or crisis counseling, and referral
- Distribution of dignity and menstrual kits
- Key messages and IEC materials on services and GBV topics

GBV, CP, and Health actors in an area should come together and determine how best to integrate based on vehicle space, the contact time in the community, security protocols, and structures used to deliver services (tents, open-air, buildings, etc.).

Other joint activities can include:

- Joint outreach and RH/GBV or RH/GBV/CP messages – used as an entry point to GBV services
- Joint service mapping and referral network
- GBV case worker within the health team to mitigate the stigma associated with GBV for survivors

2. Education

During the AS occupation, the district had no formal education, it was not accessible to humanitarian actors and the government decade. Children we used and recruited by the armed group hence children of school-going do not have formal education. Based on a population of 85,000 and an estimated 30,000 children are projected to be of school-going age and need for school



can anticipate up to 30 institutions that can be supported to provide education including informal systems like *madrassa*.

- Robust sensitization to and back-to-school campaigns is necessary
- There is a need for a community-based reintegration project for children who missed formal education due to use by the armed group including accelerated/informal education programs
- Education sector needs to prioritize the rehabilitation of the main school including WASH facilities.
- Support for school lacks teaching and learning materials (TLS).
- Training for teachers on pedagogy, PSS, and school management / including Community Education Committees.
- Actors need to support teachers' incentives for education to pick-up

3. Food Security and Livelihood needs:



Figure 2: Consultations with men on the situation and needs

Like most parts of Somalia, the district suffered the effects of the drought and with most of the inhabitants being pastoralists, they urgently need support to be able to sustain their livelihood. This can focus on:

- Unconditional cash transfer to the displaced populations.
- General food distributions



- Vaccination of livestock, especially with the anticipation of opening access relationships with surrounding communities
- Basic farm tools and equipment for farmers to increase their productivity and enhance food security.

4. WASH Needs

The communities in the need district need emergency and life-saving WASH activities ranging from awareness mobilization on good hygiene practices support on meeting minimum daily water requirements, latrine construction as well as rehabilitation of water sources or extensions. The entire population of 85,000 inhabitants is in need of a hygiene promotion initiative, basic WASH principles also need to apply for these over 14,160 households.

- Emergency water trucking
- Rehabilitation of shallow wells and maintenance of the main borehole including the solar power
- Need for community and institutional and gender-segregated that are disability-friendly latrines
- Need for hygiene promotion and awareness as open defecation is a common increasing the risk of AWD/Cholera
- Provision of hygiene and sanitation kits to vulnerable households

5. Shelter Needs

Based on the displacement some families remain vulnerable to environmental risk, safety, and dignified housing/shelters. Those within Middle Shabelle based estimate of 790 HH for over 4800 individuals.

- Provision of NFIs/SHELTER to the displaced persons especially the new arrivals with special consideration for marginalized and minority communities during registration and targeting of beneficiaries.

Way forward

In conclusion, a multisectoral approach in responding to the need in Adan Yabaal with a focus on life-saving activities including resilience projects for:

1. Food security and livelihood
2. Water sanitation and hygiene
3. Protection (including GBV, GP, CP, HLP, and EH)
4. Health and nutrition
5. Education and support to schools and school going age children.
6. Shelter