

In September 2023 Mothers First in collaboration with DYDO carried out an extensive household survey of the residents of the newly relocated (July 2023) IDP camp. The Camp previously named Naasa Hablood B IDP and now renamed as lidaan IDP Camp is situated 18 km outside of Hargesia city.

This household survey captured data on both the lived experiences of the relocation as well as the qualitative data pertaining to the nutrition status of pregnant women and children under 5. We achieved a coverage of 85% of the 524 registered households in the camp.

Findings

Overall the 4 biggest issues that significantly deteriorated due to the relocation in order of priority were

- 1 Food security
- 2 Access to healthcare including water and sanitation
- 3 Access to Education
- 4 Access to employment.

Food security

90% of households stated that they eat only two times a day and that food consisted of Lahoo and black tea in the morning and evening, 10% of households stated that they used either white rice or spaghetti.

Nutritional analysis

Children under 5 (282 children)

Almost 90% of children under 5 presented as severely stunted (-2SD) Surprisingly we did not find any children presented as acutely malnourished using the MUAC standard of under 120mm. Possible reasons may be the severity of stunting and the high carbohydrate diet may have served to mask the severity of the malnutrition.

Recommendation

An urgent reassessment is required but needs to be backed with a program that can effectively treat cases.

Pregnant Mothers

28 pregnant mothers were identified in the camp. 4 mothers were suffering from acute malnutrition with a BMI under 18.5 km/m²

Using the pallor test to access anaemia we established that all the mothers were suffering from some degree of anaemia and over half were suffering from severe anaemia

Education (299 children 5 to 15 years)

180 children were identified as not going to school. However, this is likely to be an overestimation as many of the children the mothers identified that were going to school were living with relatives

Water and sanitation

In September there were only 40 toilets to serve the entire community. In a follow-up survey in January, this number has increased to 82 with a further 60 due to be completed in the coming months. Water is distributed by truck 2 times a week. The delivery of water is not secure and is a significant concern for the community. For example on a follow-up in January the community had no water at all and they did not know when the next truck was due to arrive

Access to healthcare

Health care is a major problem for the community. Currently, there are no health care facilities on site and the location of the camp means that health care is out of reach of many in the community. The location of the camp means that there are very high rates of unemployment further increasing the ability of the household to access health care. Of the 28 pregnant mothers, for example, only two had seen a doctor.

Conclusion

Looking ahead, the projections of urban growth pose unprecedented challenges, particularly in fragile countries. An estimated 96% of the expected 2.3 billion urban growth by 2050 is anticipated in such regions, leading to inevitable relocations and complex challenges for informal settlements lacking land tenure. There is an urgent need to develop a coordinated approach to such resettlements among governments, UN Agencies and NGOs.

The Global Action Plan on Wasting (GAP) includes many of the key components required to fill the immediate needs of Iidaan camp and future relocations. While successful implementation of the plan remains a formidable task, we need to start somewhere. Iidaan camp and future relocations in Somiland offer us an opportunity to pilot the plan in practice. Building back better can be and must be possible.

We at Mothers First DYDO and its partners here in Hargesia look forward to working with Unicef in the future to play our part in implementing the Global Action Plan on Wasting