

This chapter presents a gender perspective of the FSNAU-led post-*Deyr 2011/12* seasonal assessment findings in Somalia. The gender analysis tools employed included social resource mapping, seasonal calendar and daily activity schedules. Social resource mapping focused on heads of households and on socio-economic characteristics/variables, including ownership of specific livestock assets and income management. Seasonal calendar/daily activity schedules assessed the daily workload of women and men (gender division of labor) in the *Deyr 2011* farming activities.

Household surveys were used to collect data in IDP settlements and urban areas of the northern regions and Mogadishu, while rapid assessments proved useful in rural livelihoods as well as among urban and IDPs in the south-central regions due to insecurity. The respondents of the post-*Deyr 2011/12* assessment included 712 males and 4,185 females¹.

Head of Households: According to respondents, the criteria for defining the head of household was based on the ability to provide income. Accordingly a male-headed household (MHH) is a household where the man is the 'breadwinner' (household income provider) and a female-headed-household (FHH) is a household where a female is the household income provider. It was found that, among the urban poor, the head of household was predominantly male while, amongst the IDPs, the head of household was predominantly female.

Gender Analysis in Urban Areas: An analysis of the data from urban populations reveals that men obtain income from employment (casual labour), limited livestock sales and, in some cases, petty trade, while women's sources of income include the sale of animal products, petty trade, humanitarian assistance and domestic work. Children are also engaged in income-generating activities, reporting to earn income from the sale of animal products, casual domestic work and petty trade.

Gender Analysis in IDP Centres: The displacement of populations continues to erode households' assets leading to increasingly vulnerability. Additional challenges faced by the IDPs include competition for employment opportunities, food shortage and low purchasing power. The analysis indicates that many IDP women are their household's main income provider. Their sources of income include wages from casual labour, the sale of livestock and bush products, humanitarian aid, the sale of domestic assets (utensils, furniture) and gifts. Among the IDP population, 42 per cent of income providers are women, 39 per cent are men and 18 per cent are children (not disaggregated between girls and boys).

Gender Analysis on Rural Livelihoods: In the rural areas, the analysis of livestock holdings revealed that ownership and raising of large ruminants (cattle and camel) are largely carried out by men. Small ruminants (sheep and goats) are co-owned by men and women although it is mainly the women that engage in decisions concerning raising, milking and slaughtering small ruminants. Generally, men manage the sale of all the livestock while women manage the sale of livestock products². Men also supplement their income from the sale of charcoal, fishing and self-employment while women acquire additional income from remittances, sale of gums, resin, social support in the form of gifts and collection of *zakat* as job opportunities are limited. The activity and seasonal calendar analyses indicate that women and men participate equally in planting/sowing, harvesting and threshing. Additionally, men engage in land preparation while women engage more in weeding and irrigation.

Social Support: Generally, social safety nets play a crucial role in mitigating economic hardship. Respondents in the South, Central and Northern regions reported to have received alms (*zakat*) and remittances. Women in Juba and Gedo mainly received income from gifts (*kaalmo*) and *zakat*. No gender distinction was recorded in the other regions in respect to gifts and remittances received.

IDPs in Mogadishu, Gedo, Galgaduud, Bay Galbeed and Hiran report receiving gifts from relatives and friends and humanitarian assistance. Both women and men in Mogadishu, Bay and Galgaduud report receiving gifts from friends and relatives, whereas in Gedo and Hiran only women stated to benefit from gifts. In W. Galbeed, only men reported receiving *zakat*.

Access to Basic Services: A large number of households in the South, North and Central regions use unsafe sources of water such as open wells, river/stream water and collect as little as two 20 litre jerry-cans of water per day. The data collected also indicated that most water sources are far from the households, with 80 percent of respondents stating that it takes more than half an hour to collect water and many experience long queues.

Assessment of water sources among the IDPs in the South, North and Central regions revealed that most households collect water from streams, although some households collected water from water kiosks (supplied with piped water). On average, most households collect 3.8 litres a day

The analysis reveals that all households use pit latrines. Most households do not have independent latrines but rather share with their neighbours or use 'bush latrines'. In collective IDP centres and rural areas, the absence of single-sex private latrines and, in some rural and urban areas, the absence of private latrines for household use means that girls and women, in particular, have no privacy.

¹ We cannot say with any certainty why there is such a significant gender imbalance in the respondents. Some of the reasons could include the time of the day that the survey was conducted, or that the men have migrated for work or were not available. Additionally, we cannot state with certainty what the impact on the responses this imbalance may have contributed.

² It is not possible, however, to make unequivocal assumptions about the control of the proceeds from these sales.

Plastic sheeting or tarpaulins comprise the predominant housing or shelter for most IDPs, which can undermine the level of privacy and security offered to all but especially to women and girls.

Firewood is the most predominant source of energy in all the IDP settlements, whereas charcoal is the main source of energy in the urban areas.



IDP women collecting firewood, Bossaso, FSNAU, Dec. 2011

Access to Education: Findings show equally poor primary school attendance for girls and boys in IDP settlements and urban areas in South-Central. However, in the urban areas of the North, school attendance in the last three months is over 80 percent of both boys and girls. Notably, an analysis of the available data indicates that the percent of boys and girls who attended schools in the last three months varied from one region to another with some regions showing a gender parity index (GPI) of above one and others below one.³ Namely, Gedo, Bari, Mudug, Nugaal, W.Galbeed, Bay, Bakool, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle had a GPI below one, whereas Togdheer and Galgaduud had a GPI above one. Poor school attendance in South-Central is attributed to a range of factors, including the absence of schools or, where they exist, their high cost, insecurity, children engaging in income-generating activities including domestic and wage labour, children's lack of interest in attending school and parents opting not to take their children to school as they themselves did not attend school. In some instances, parents preferred koranic schools to formal schools.

Analysis reveals low school attendance of children from both female- and male-headed households in IDP settlements of the southern and Central regions. School attendance of girls and boys varies significantly in the different regions and among the different groups – rural, urban and IDPs.

Income Sources: The urban poor (in north, south and central regions) receive income from petty trading (bush product and handicraft sales), casual labour (domestic employment), farming (crop sales), animal product sales and fishing. Both women and men are engaged in petty trade, casual employment and farming (sale of crop sales). However, only men are involved in fishing while some women engage in fish processing activities. Child labour is evident amongst the urban populace, with children (no disaggregation for boys and girls is available) earning income from casual employment (house help) and petty trading (sale of animal products, handicrafts, bush products). Also in urban areas, both men and women engage in the management and ownership of small ruminants, cattle and chicken.

Generally, in IDP settlements, men's sources of income include self-employment (sale of handicrafts, water, meat and bush products), humanitarian assistance, gifts and casual labor, while women derive income from sales of poultry/livestock products, casual labor, domestic assets (furniture), gifts, self employment, and humanitarian assistance. Children are also reported to earn some income from petty trade and domestic work.

Coping Strategies: The coping strategies adopted by women and men in most regions of Somalia comprised of social support in the form of *kaalmo*, loans (*amah*) and remittances. The findings reveal that women received income mainly from community social support and *zakat* since job opportunities for them were very limited.

Urban poor in north, south and central adopt a number of coping strategies that include shifting to less preferred and lower quality food, taking fewer meals in a day, borrowing food on credit from other households, soliciting food donations from relatives, sending household members to eat elsewhere, restricting food consumption of adults in order to allow small children to eat and getting food donations from humanitarian assistance.

Asset Holding: Analysis reveals extensive depletion of IDPs' assets in the North, South and Central regions. Indeed, no IDP reported owning any of the valuable animals such as camels and few reported owning poultry, cows, goats and sheep; only in Galgaduud (Central) did IDPs report owning some goats. Notably, some IDPs stated that they owned land (ranging between 0.6 to 1.2 ha).

Food Sources: Most IDP households depend on market food purchases for food supplemented by humanitarian assistance and food gifts from relatives or friends. Some IDPs obtain food from their own subsistence farming.

³ Gender parity index (GPI) is a measure of disparity between girls and boys school attendance. A GPI above one indicates disparity in favour of girls and a GPI below one disparity in favour of boys.

The analysis indicates that women are mainly responsible for subsistence farming, and also have the responsibility of securing food for their households through other means including humanitarian food aid.

Enhancing the Gender Analysis of Food Security in Somalia

In order to enhance an understanding of the distinct needs, priorities and capacities of women, girls, boys and men across all the regions and urban, IDP and rural groups in Somalia, FSNAU is committed to revisiting the quality of the questionnaires and methodologies for data collection. This will involve looking more closely at a number of issues with strong gender dimensions, including;

- Clarifying the definition of 'head of household' and its implications for options and decision-making around food security, nutrition and livelihoods issues;
- Exploring the different activities that girls and boys engage in within and outside the household and the contribution this makes to household food security, the implications for school attendance and exposure to security and protection issues.
- Collecting and analysing sex- and age-disaggregated figures and reasons for non-attendance at school;
- Understanding who in the household in the different regions and among the different groups – urban, IDP and rural – has primary responsibility for the collection of water for domestic and agriculture/livestock use and for the collection of firewood, as well as the average time spent in these tasks and the possible security and protection risks and threats;
- Distinguishing the different coping strategies adopted by women and men;
- Strengthening the collection of gender information related to agriculture. This includes at women's and men's changing roles and responsibilities related to agriculture and livestock management, market access, access to agricultural technologies and services, including extension services, training, tools, fertilizer, etc. and land.