

MOGADISHU FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION SITUATION TRENDS

(JULY 2011 – APRIL 2012)



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INTRODUCTION

For two decades, Mogadishu had been the epicentre of conflict and humanitarian crisis that had ravaged Somalia. Over the past year however, the security situation in the city had improved slightly, following the withdrawal of al-Shabaab in August 2011, since years of fighting with the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). In spite of continued episodes of violence that can be attributed to the increasing prominence of political activity, Mogadishu had experienced visible improvements, including greater humanitarian access, increasing economic activity and improved access to markets¹. As a consequence, the food security and nutrition situation had improved since August 2011, when the estimated 190,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Mogadishu were classified in Famine and urban residents in Emergency acute food insecurity phases.² The improved security situation had also provided space for more thorough analyses of the food and nutrition situation in the city as a series of assessment had been conducted since August 2011.

Most notably, food security and nutrition survey conducted after the *Deyr* 2011/12 season (December 2011) indicate significant improvements in food and nutrition security for both urban residents and IDPs in the capital, compared to the situation after the *Gu* 2011. An estimated 50,000 IDPs were classified in **Crisis**, and 60,000 IDPs and 110,000 residents in **Emergency**. However, in December 2011 both population groups sustained in a *Very Critical* nutrition situation since October 2011, with GAM rates of over 20%, and high mortality rates (CDR >1.3) amongst IDPs. Nonetheless, GAM rates improved between the *Gu* 2011 and the *Deyr* 2011/12. The results of the inter-agency assessment in April 2012 led by FSNAU jointly with WFP, FEWS NET, ACF and Concern and monthly monitoring confirmed improvements at both the macro-economic and the household levels. This report provides a snapshot of the current situation (as of April 2012), and generally confirms the positive trends identified in previous analyses. The assessment was carried out, in April 2012. However, it has to be stressed that the results do not take into account the recent wave of displacement which has resulted from the joint TFG/AMISOM military offensive in the Afgoye corridor in late May 2012. According to UNHCR, around 11,000 people have been displaced between 22 and 25 May 2012, which is likely to put further stress on the already dire situation of the IDP populations in the capital.

METHODOLOGY

The food security and nutrition surveys were conducted between 15 and 27 April 2012 in 14 out of the 16 districts of Mogadishu.³ In total, over 1,200 households were assessed for mortality and food security, with relatively equal distribution between urban (619) and IDP households (598). From these households, nearly 1,900 children were screened for anthropometry, morbidity and immunisation status (645 urban residents and 595 IDPs). Quantitative data on the nutrition status, mortality and food security indicators was collected through structured questionnaires. The main objectives of the survey were to estimate the food security and nutrition situation in Mogadishu, assess key vulnerabilities of the city's population, and identify trends in terms of food and nutrition security developments over the last year.

This report is separated in two sections. First, developments at the macro-levels will be analysed, particularly recent evolutions in market and trade activities, as well as trends in population displacement, which will be based on household interviews and UNHCR population movement data⁴. The second part of the report will discuss the main results of the household survey, and highlight key food security and nutrition outcomes as stipulated by the IPC framework (food consumption score, malnutrition levels and mortality) and vulnerability indicators such as asset holding, income sources, coping strategies, also from a gender perspective.

¹ "2011/2012 Post Deyr Analysis." FSNAU 2012

² FSNAU: Press release, 3rd August 2011.

³ These include Wadajir, Dharkenley, Hamarweyne, Hamarjabjab, Waaberi, Shibus, A.Aziz, Hodan, Shangani, Bondhere, Yaaqshid, Karan, Holwadag and Wardhigley. Previous nutrition surveys conducted between April and October 2011 only covered six districts due to insecurity.

⁴ <http://www.unhcr.org/4fec22c59.html>

BACKGROUND

Markets and Trade

The improvements in the security situation in Mogadishu since August 2011 have extended to the economic sector, and major milestones have been achieved to revive the infrastructure and economic activities in the city. The sprawling Bakara Market, which serves most of southern and central Somalia, is again bustling with commercial activity, after having been damaged by several months of fighting last year. Market prices are considerably lower compared to last year, and factors, such as the construction boom Mogadishu is experiencing, illustrate the improvement in the capital in macro-economic context.

The Somali Shilling (SoSh) has appreciated against the US dollar (USD) since June 2011. This has partially contributed to an increase in import volumes through Mogadishu port⁵, resulting in a 10-28% decrease in the prices of imported commodities compared to last year⁶. The total cereals (rice, wheat flour) imports have increased in April 2012 and were equivalent to 116,00 MT., an increase of 16 % compared to December 2011 figures (Figure 1). This was significantly higher (85 %) compared to a year ago.

- Local cereal prices have been decreasing since July 2011, following increased supplies from the *Gu* 2011 harvest and off-season harvest in Lower Shabelle and the *Deyr* 2011/12 harvest, as well as continued inflow of food assistance. In April, red sorghum and white maize prices were considerably lower than last year (32 and 48% respectively) (Figure 2).
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) cost, continued its declining trend in the period between January to April 2012. Substantial decreases in the prices of major commodities, such as sorghum, wheat flour, and sugar, have contributed to the decline of the cost of the MEB. Compared to last year, the MEB is more than 50% lower, equivalent to SoSh 3.0Million (USD 128).
- The wage rates for casual labour, which constitutes one of the main income sources of Mogadishu's population, have increased since January 2012. Increasing wage rates and declining cereal prices have resulted in improved terms of trade, which currently stand at 17 kg of sorghum per labour day, compared to 11 kg per day in January 2012.

Population Movement

Mogadishu hosts large numbers of IDPs, including residents who have been displaced due to violence, and a significant influx of people from other parts of the country which have been displaced by conflict, drought and famine. The UNHCR estimates that 184,400 IDPs are in settlements in Mogadishu as of July 2012. The majority of the IDPs surveyed (55%) arrived in the city between 6 and 12 months prior to the April survey, which coincides with the peak of the famine crisis that hit southern Somalia between June and October 2011. About 21% arrived one year prior to the survey, while the proportion of newly displaced (three months or less) was around 15%.

Figure 1: Mogadishu Commercial Cereal Import Trends in 2011

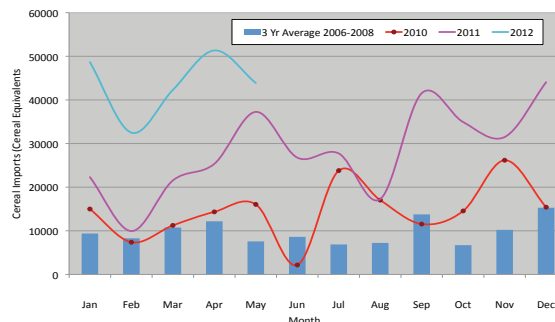
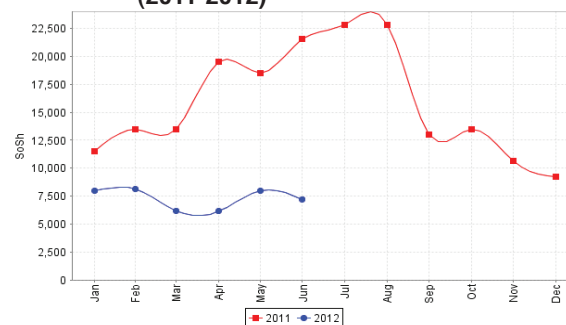


Figure 2: Trends in Maize Prices - Mogadishu (2011-2012)



⁵ Mogadishu Port Statistics

⁶ FSNAU Market Monitoring update, April 2012

- When these results are compared to the results of the December 2011 assessment conducted by FSNAU and WFP, the assumption that most IDPs fled to Mogadishu during the famine crisis is confirmed. According to the December 2011 results, most IDPs had arrived more than a year or 6-12 months before the time of the assessment (42 and 25% respectively). However, the proportion of people that have arrived in the peak of the famine, i.e. less than five months before the survey, was over 30%.
- Geographically, the main areas of origin of the IDP population in Mogadishu include the Shabelle and Bay regions (51% and 28%), followed by Bakol, Hiran, Gedo and the Jubas. Around 12% of IDP indicated to originate from Mogadishu. In a historical perspective, the results of the December 2011 assessment confirm these trends, with the large majority of IDPs originating from the nearby famine-stricken regions (Shabelle and Bay). However, the proportion of people displaced inside the city seems to have decreased (20% to 12%), which can be attributed to the improved security situation in Mogadishu.

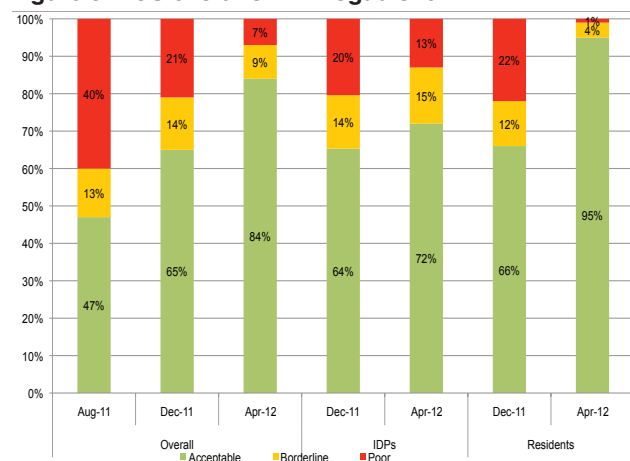
HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL ANALYSIS

As mentioned above, the second part of this report will address the results of the household surveys.

Food Consumption Score⁷

The analysis of the FCS shows that 84% of the population has acceptable food consumption (Figure 3). Only 7% were found to have a poor FCS, and around 9% had a borderline FCS. By residency status, IDPs were considerably more affected by poor food consumption. 13 and 15% of IDPs have a poor or borderline respectively, but this only applies to 1 and 4% of residents. Nearly all resident households (95%) interviewed as part of the survey had a good food consumption score, against 72% of IDPs.

Figure 3: FCS evolution in Mogadishu



In a historical perspective, the comparison of the data from April 2012 with data from previous assessments (December 2011 and August 2011) shows that the situation has steadily improved over the last year, as Figure 3 shows. The proportion of people with acceptable food consumption increased from 40% in August 2011 to 65% in December 2011, to 84% at the present time. On the other hand, the proportion of households with a poor FCS dropped considerably, from 47% in August 2011 to 21% in December 2011, to 7% in April 2012. While this evolution certainly represents a positive and encouraging trend, a more detailed analysis of results suggests that the situation has only notably improved for residents (66 to 95% with acceptable FCS, against 64 to 72% amongst IDPs).⁸ Moreover, inequalities between IDPs and residents seem to have increased: while the December 2011 analysis indicated that the situation of IDPs and residents was comparable, residents now seem to be far better off in terms of food consumption than IDPs. This might further be exacerbated by the recent wave of displacements (approximately 11,000 people as of 31 May 2012) which resulted from the joint TFG/AMISOM military offensive in the Afgoye corridor.

Nutrition

Overall, the nutrition situation among the IDPs and urban population in Mogadishu has improved considerably since July 2011. The progress is mainly attributed to the large-scale humanitarian interventions (feeding, health and food security), decreased morbidity levels and improved food security indicators.

⁷ The food consumption score (FCS) is a composite score based on the dietary diversity, food frequency, and relative nutritional importance of the various food groups consumed. While it does not provide direct information on food access, it allows to draw conclusions on the dietary diversity, and, indirectly, on the accessibility of different food types. It has to be pointed out that it can be assumed that in urban settings, more differentiated kinds of food are accessible than in rural areas.

⁸ Please note that no analysis by displacement status was made in August 2011, due to the non-representativeness of the survey in terms of displacement status.

IDPs

At the peak of the food security and nutrition crisis in southern Somalia, a high influx of IDPs entered Mogadishu from surrounding drought-affected regions.⁹ IDPs were seeking humanitarian assistance and/or labour opportunities as they faced high levels of food insecurity and disease outbreaks (measles and cholera).

- In July 2011, survey results showed a Very Critical nutrition situation, with GAM rates of 39.4% (32.4-46.9) and SAM rates of 15.3% (11.6-19.8). Results also highlight high death rates with CDR and U5DR of 4.29 (3.22-5.36) and 14.09 (10.65-17.53) respectively.
- In August 2011, survey results indicated extremely high GAM and SAM rates of 45.6% (40.5-50.8) and 23.0% (19.2-27.2), and CDR and U5DR rates were amongst the highest in the country, at 5.68 (4.48-6.88) and 15.43 (11.4-19.5) respectively.
- The results of the nutrition surveys conducted in July and August 2011 elicited massive multi-sectoral humanitarian response from UN agencies, NGOs, Governments and the Diaspora.
- Survey results in October 2011 indicated an improvement, as GAM and SAM rates dropped to around 30% and 10% respectively and CDR and U5DR rates were 1.78 (1.19-2.36) and 5.0 (3.0-7.0).
- In December 2011, GAM and SAM rates continued to decline, to 20.5% (16.6-25.2) and 5.6% (3.8-8.1). Death rates were stable, but key indicators improved to below famine thresholds, mainly due to large-scale humanitarian interventions.
- The April 2012 survey results indicated GAM and SAM rates of 16.1% (13.3-19.5) and 3.7% (2.3 - 5.7), showing a further improvement of the situation, from Very Critical to Critical. The CDR and U5DR rates of 1.42 (1.05-1.92), and 2.80 (1.87-4.17), also showed improvement.

Urban Residents

- In April 2011, FSNAU and partners conducted the first nutrition survey among the resident population after 7 years. The results indicated a Critical nutrition situation, with GAM and SAM rates of 15.2% (10.9-20.7) and 1.7 (0.8-3.7). Crude and under five death rates were elevated, at 1.81 (1.38-2.37) and 2.2 (1.41-3.48).
- In October 2011, survey results indicated stable GAM rates but increased SAM rates. The GAM and SAM rates were 15-20% and 6.4% respectively. The death rates increased to 2.81 (1.97-3.64) and 7.49 (4.83-10.2), as the nutrition situation of the resident population deteriorated to Very Critical.
- In December 2011, the reported GAM and SAM rates were 21.1% (17.1-25.8) and 5.6% (3.5-8.6), with a significant reduction in death rates, as CDR and U5DR were 1.33 (0.88-2.02) and 4.12 (2.62-6.43). The improvement was mainly attributed to the health and feeding programmes in the town.
- According to the April 2012 results, the nutrition situation of the urban population improved further, from Very Critical to Serious, with a GAM rate of 10.3% (7.9-13.4) and a SAM rate of 1.7% (0.9-3.1). The CDR and U5DR rates reported were 1.43 (1.05-1.95), and 2.51 (1.68-3.75).
- Data from feeding centres and the health information systems in the town also indicate a decrease in the number of acutely malnourished children reported since December 2011.

Income Sources

Both urban residents and IDPs access income through different sources. April 2012 survey results indicate an improved access to income sources in both groups since December 2011.

- In April, the majority of urban and IDP households (57% and 61% respectively) relied on only one income source. About 30% in both groups reported reliance on two sources while the rest of the urban residents and IDPs reported to have more than two income sources. The trend was similar in December 2011 with 50% in both groups having one income source, 34% each having two sources and 16% having three or more income sources.

⁹ See section on displacement.

- The IDPs' main sources of income in April survey were casual labour (58%), humanitarian assistance (23%), petty trade (17%) and gifts (10%). The situation is slightly better than in December with increasing access to casual labour (from 35% to 58%), petty trade (6%-17%) and gifts (10-14%). The proportion of households obtaining income from humanitarian assistance dropped from 33% (December 2011) to 23% (April 2012). Access to skilled labour (5% and 3% in December and April, respectively) and remittances (3% and 5% in December and April, respectively) are significantly lower amongst this group than amongst urban residents.
- The urban households' main income sources in April were humanitarian assistance (29% of households), skilled labour (28%), casual labour (27%), remittances (24%) and petty trade (22%). Access to skilled labour, remittances and petty trade significantly increased among this group from 10%, 12% and 7%, respectively, since December 2011, which indicates a positive trend. This is attributable to the improving security situation and increased economic and market activities in the city. However, because of the increase of the above, access to casual labour and self-employment among this group significantly declined from 55% and 27% to 26% and 15%, respectively.

Assets Holding

Based on the survey results (December 2011), asset holdings varies amongst urban and IDP households. IDPs were found to hold fewer assets, and much less diversified assets than urban residents.

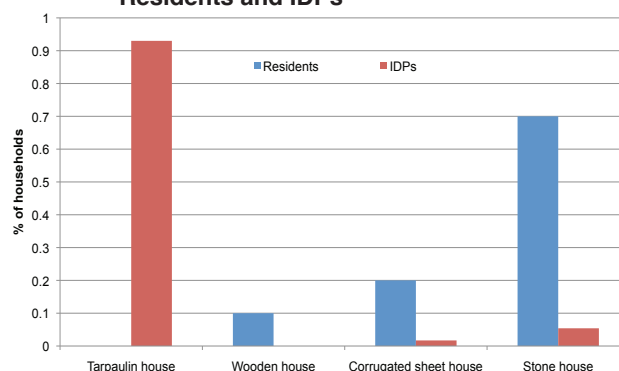
- Both urban residents and IDPs reported wide ownership of mobile phones, with 91% and 71% respectively.
- A small percent of households owns some livestock, including goats, chicken and donkeys. However, livestock ownership is higher among the urban residents compared to the IDPs. Specifically, 12% of urban households reported having an average of 4 goats and 6 chicken, while 4% owned one donkey as well. Conversely, only 2 percent of IDPs reported having about 1-2 goats, 12 chickens or one donkey.
- Urban households also reported ownership of assets that IDP households do not own. Such assets include vehicles (6%), computers (3%), bicycles (6%), sewing machines (5%), cash savings (8%) and jewellery (12%).
- However, small proportions of both urban and IDPs reported ownership of productive tools and skills including wheelbarrows (7% and 13%), or tools used for farming (4% and 2%, respectively) or a skilled work (2% in both groups).

Housing Conditions

Based on the April survey results, the housing conditions vary significantly between the IDPs and urban residents (Figure 4).

- Ninety percent of IDPs live under makeshift houses in specifically designated settlements (46 settlements in 14 districts¹⁰) within the city.
- The IDP's makeshift housing, made from tarpaulin, racks and sticks, is well below the minimum standards as they cannot protect dwellers from rains, wind, and also expose them to security incidents.
- In contrast, majority of the urban households live under stone houses (70%) followed by houses made of corrugated sheets and wood (30%).

Figure 4: Mogadishu Housing Types among Residents and IDPs



¹⁰ These include Wadajir, Dharkenley, Hamarweyne, Hamarjabab, Waaberi, Shibis, A.Aziz, Hodan, Shangani, Bondhere, Yaaqshid, Karan, Holwadag and Wardhigley

Food Sources

Most of the food consumed by urban residents and IDPs is purchased (60-90%), followed by humanitarian assistance (4-25%), credit (5-10%) and gifts (2-12%), which is in tandem with urban food economy. In particular, food purchase was significantly higher (84-88%) among urban residents as opposed to the IDPs (54-75%). On the contrary, humanitarian food assistance, credit and gifts were higher among IDPs than with their urban counterparts. This implies that IDPs are becoming increasingly indebted as they depend more on food purchases on credit than urban residents. There was however no significant variation in staple food sources in the two periods of comparison.

Main Challenges

Conflict, lack of food and unemployment were the key challenges impacting food access of urban and IDP households in both periods of comparison (December 2012 & April 2012). In particular, security situation improved; about 23 percent of HH were affected as opposed to 50 percent four months earlier. Unemployment went up (from 30% to 50%), on the backdrop of increased labour competition. Respondents were however of the view that there was no significant variation on the effect of inflation and humanitarian support on their food access in the periods under review.

Coping Strategies

Coping strategies, which indicate how households cope with food insecurity, differ between urban residents and IDPs. While both groups have used all options, from mild to very severe strategies, those who employed severe options – such as relying on donations from relatives/community, sending household members to eat elsewhere, begging for food and skipping entire days without eating – are considered to have very limited access to food.

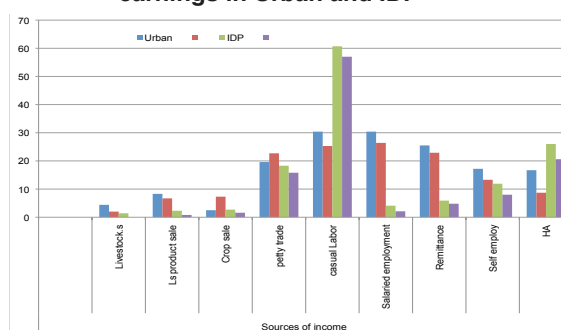
- More IDP households were observed to have used severe strategies (32%) than their urban counterparts (9%), which highlight the IDP's vulnerability.
- The numbers are showing an increase amongst both groups since December 2011, when only 16% of IDPs and 3% urban residents who do not have access to humanitarian assistance relied on severe coping strategies, respectively.
- With regard to IDPs, this could be explained by reduced reliance on humanitarian assistance, with the proportion of households depending on humanitarian assistance decreasing from 33% to 23%, and the increase in access to social support which is considered as a severe coping strategy.

GENDER DIMENSION

The Mogadishu household food security and nutrition survey has quantified more gender dynamics than earlier assessments conducted by FSNAU and partners. In order to identify gender-related gaps that might have an impact on food security, a separate analysis was conducted.

- Urban respondents were 36.3% female (234) and 63.7% male (411). There was higher gender balance amongst respondents living in IDP settlements: 52.4% females (312) and 47.6% (283) males.
- Using the definition of household head as a proxy for decision-making, respondents identified women as heads of nearly two out of three households (urban: 68.8% / IDP: 63.1%). Although IDP and urban women predominate in petty trading and increasingly do casual labour, men are the majority of casual workers, salaried workers and self-employed in both male and female headed households within the sampled IDP and urban populations. Women predominate in petty trade in both urban and IDP households and are more heavily dependent on informal

Figure 5: Comparison of MHH/FHH income earnings in Urban and IDP



foraging and crop resale (i.e. vegetables). Both men and women have more diversity in their income mix amongst urban residents (Figure 5).

- Casual workers, salaried workers and the self-employed in both male and female headed urban households are predominantly male. These income avenues are less accessible for IDPs, although men still have more opportunities than women, resulting in an increased reliance of IDPs on casual work and petty trading.
- Male and female headed IDP households, and most specifically MHH's, are more dependent on casual labour as a source of income than urban households.
- Although crop, livestock and livestock product sales were not significant sources of income for the urban and IDP dwellers, male headed households (MHHs) dominated the livestock sale and female headed households (FHHs) the crop sales.
- A large proportion of MHHs and FHHs in urban areas enjoyed income from remittances, petty trade and salaried employment. A slightly higher percentage of MHHs earned income from remittances and salaried employment whilst FHHs dominated in petty trade.
- In the intra households income dynamics, a significantly higher percentage of IDP women from FHHs earn income from casual labour than women from MHH or urban women from either FHHs or MHHs.
- Both men and women exhibit more diversity in their income mix in urban areas than in IDP areas sampled.
- More urban households headed by women than men are indebted in contrast to more male-headed households amongst IDPs. This may correlate to gifts/zakat flows being reported by more IDP women than men, with IDP female headed households being the biggest number or recipients. This contrasts to urban respondents reporting that most gifts/zakat recipients are women in male-headed households.
- Although small numbers, some urban men earn income from livestock while women's access to livestock income is viewed as negligible.
- The post-Deyr 2011/12 assessment noted that among the IDP population 18% of the income providers were children (no sex disaggregated data available). In this Mogadishu assessment, analysis reveals boys and girls are involved in income generation through different forms of child labour, namely, farming/crop sales, causal labour, salaried and self-employment. Generally a larger proportion of boys from FHHs and MHHs in urban and IDPs are involved in child labour (income generation) compared to girls (Figure 6).
- There is more gender equality in urban than in IDP housing. In IDP housing, FHHs are consistently more disadvantaged and have less access to higher quality housing. More FHHs reside in tarpaulin compared to MHHs. A higher proportion of MHHs have corrugated sheet and stone housing. No wooden IDP housing was reported (Figure 7).

Figure 6: Comparison of Boys and Girls in income generation "child labor"

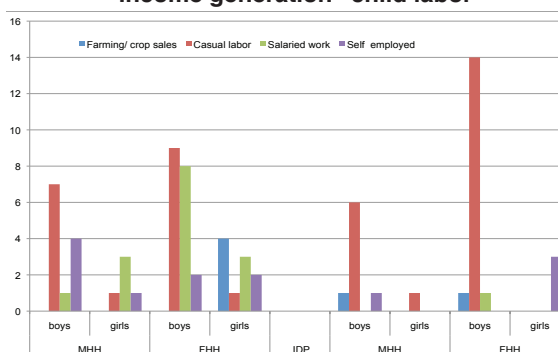
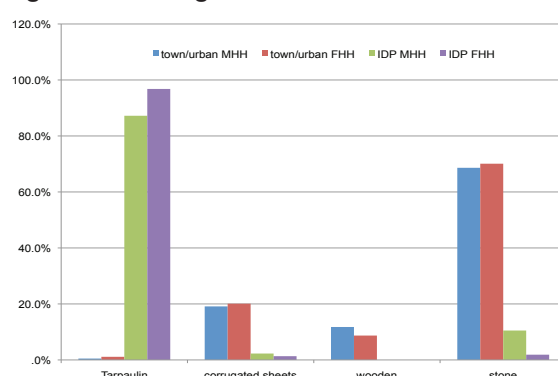


Figure 7: Housing differences in IDP and Urban



CONCLUSION

Overall, the food security and nutrition situation among the IDPs and urban population in Mogadishu town has improved, the progress is mainly attributed to the humanitarian interventions (feeding, health and food security), decreased morbidity levels and improved food security indicators. There is increased labour opportunities arising from increased economic and development activities increasing household income, moreover the price of food has also remained stable. In addition, IDPs are returning to their rural homes to cultivate, there are also cereals stocks from the previous Deyr season and good prospects for the Gu 2012 season. Data from feeding centres and the health information systems in the town, have also noted a decrease in the number of acutely malnourished children reported since December 2011.

Although the food security and nutrition situation has generally improved, the population still remains highly vulnerable to shocks such as; persistent conflict resulting in population movements this has a direct impact on the population's household income and food security situation, in addition to disease outbreaks such as measles and acute watery diarrhoea. The IDP population relies heavily on humanitarian assistance and any disruption in access to these services may also have an impact on the population. Chronic underlying factors such as poor childcare and feeding practices, inadequate sanitation facilities and lack of access to safe drinking water will remain as long term challenges to the health and nutrition well-being of the population. It is therefore imperative to continue to closely monitor the well being of the population, and to instigate or maintain interventions targeting the underlying causes of food insecurity and disease.