



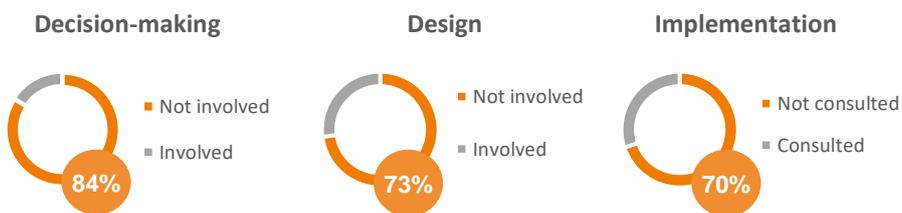
# ANTICIPATORY ACTION: REPORT 6

November 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Week 6

This report seeks to provide insight into some of the key trends and concerns emerging in **Puntland**; specifically in Badhan, Bosaso, and Galkayo. Accounting for instances where demographic data has not been provided, the following analysis is based on information gathered from 51 focus group discussions (FGDs), 29 interviews, and 98 beneficiary satisfaction perception surveys. A number of key highlights are summarised here, including a more detailed review of the data provided per district.

## Community Inclusion and Participation

The figures below provide an initial overview of experiences and observations raised during FGDs, including the percentage of participants who believe that beneficiaries are not involved in decision-making, programme design, and/or consultations during implementation.



## Accessibility, Extortion and Exploitation

Experience or knowledge of exclusion, extortion, or exploitation is decidedly mixed amongst beneficiaries in Puntland. Having said that, concerns have been raised regarding the exclusion of members of minority groups and people with disabilities in particular.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- (i) Exclusion from services is observed more commonly in Badhan and Bosaso than in Galkayo
- (ii) Perceived inclusion in design and decision-making forums is mixed both within and between different settlements
- (iii) Knowledge of exclusion or extortion is mixed, suggesting the need to raise greater awareness of these risks
- (iv) Water and latrine facilities are located too far from settlements, exposing vulnerable groups to risk
- (v) Likewise, inadequate resources or unfair distribution of aid exacerbates tensions and conflicts

## Badhan

Views are decidedly mixed amongst beneficiaries who report being unable to access services in the last four weeks. For example, almost half (46) of survey respondents indicate that this is due to a lack of information or exploitation (especially for water, sanitation, and education facilities) or extortion (including people with disabilities trying to access cash-based assistance). Furthermore, 57 per cent of interviewees report exclusion affects both male and female beneficiaries, but men and members of certain clans also experience great difficulty accessing food, cash, and nutrition support. The former in particular attribute this exclusion to an overwhelming focus on the needs of women, thereby ignoring the needs of men. It is commonly perceived that the actors behind these barriers include community members, NGOs, and local authorities. Older persons are also widely perceived to be excluded by NGOs, local authorities, and community leaders, especially when trying to access food-based assistance.

Having said that, almost half (43%) of interviewees report no experience or observation of exclusion in the last four weeks. Two-thirds of interviewees also reported no knowledge or experience of extortion or exploitation in the last four weeks, while the rest indicate that the problem does exist. This dichotomy may indicate a lack of awareness for the problem overall.

For those who have identified problems, people affiliated with certain clans or religious beliefs are asked to pay bribes most often by community members, but also by clan leaders and local authorities, when trying to access health services. Likewise, IDPs and women experience similar discrimination and exploitation as a result of established social norms in the settlement.

In order to do *less harm* going forward, FGD groups suggest that projects consider the location of facilities relative to settlements (e.g., rigs are currently too far), the risk of overcrowding (e.g., at the solar project site), and how to prevent conflicts arising from competition for food and water resources.

## Bosaso

Much like in Badhan, views are mixed regarding accessibility and exclusion in Bosaso. For example, 59 per cent of survey respondents report being unable to access food-based assistance in the last four weeks; predominantly due to a lack of information, but also as a result of exploitative practices (e.g., from corrupt camp leaders). Most interviewees, however, explained that good camp leadership meant that they had not experienced or observed exclusion in the last four weeks.

Views are also mixed concerning beneficiary involvement in programme design and in consultations during implementation. Indeed, several FGD participants were unfamiliar with the concept of programme design and others reported that beneficiaries are not given the chance to be involved; resulting in, for example, construction which is inappropriate for their needs. Having said that, many groups agreed that beneficiaries are involved in programme design, and that their relationship with the camp commissioner - as an elected representative of the IDPs who makes decisions on their behalf - seems positive. Beneficiaries are, for example, empowered to decline proposals for projects which they believe will not meet their needs. Similar sentiments have been expressed by survey respondents and interviewees regarding their

opportunity to provide feedback on services or programmes.

One thing that all FGD participants (23 female, 12 male) did agree on in Bosaso is that decisions are made on their behalf by camp committees or local authorities. As indicated above, for some beneficiaries this is not a problem because they feel that they are appropriately represented. For others, however, existing structures often inhibit the full participation of affected individuals.

Two primary concerns were raised by beneficiaries here which undermine the responsibility to Do No Harm: namely, that (1) food distribution is unequal due to insufficient resources available for distribution and creates conflicts, and (2) latrines are located too far from settlements, meaning that individuals are unable or unwilling to use them at night due to potential dangers.

## Galkayo

Unlike Badhan and Bosaso, perceptions of accessibility are more positive in Galkayo, with less than 10 per cent of survey respondents reporting experience or knowledge of exclusion in the last four weeks. One of four interviewees reported the same for extortion or exploitation. According to this one interviewee, various groups, including older persons, minority groups, and individuals from the Bay and Bakool regions, have trouble accessing emergency food support and construction services; and are often forcibly evicted as a result. These barriers are largely perceived to be established by local authorities, and camp committees and leaders, but also because beneficiaries are unaware of their rights or avenues for justice. Indeed, other interviewees have pointed towards effective camp leadership and justice systems to explain the absence of extortion or exploitation.

Views are mixed, however, regarding involvement in humanitarian decision-making and programme design. Various FGD groups agree that camp or community leaders make decisions on beneficiaries' behalf, or that they are not involved at all. Participants in these groups also highlighted the specific exclusion of women, girls, and people with disabilities from decision-making forums. In addition, some groups agreed that beneficiaries are not involved in programme design, with many participants unaware of what this entails.

Sometimes, as some FGD groups report, beneficiaries are invited to provide feedback during implementation. This is supported by 28 of 31 survey respondents in Galkayo who affirm that they are able to provide feedback for any food-based assistance. Others agree that assessments are undertaken only after the project finishes, while others still acknowledge the decisions that camp leaders generally make on their behalf. Conflicting views have also been raised regarding whether beneficiaries know where to go if they need to complain or provide feedback; with most remarking that they do know (e.g., having a phone number to call) and another one who did not. Overall, it is widely perceived that members of minority groups and people with disabilities are most commonly excluded from these consultations.

In addition to water and latrine facilities being situated too far from the settlement to access safely (particularly for women), unfair distribution of food and ineffective oversight of livelihoods support often leads to intra-communal conflicts (e.g., because camp leaders – who may have opportunities to make biased decisions – are responsible for curating beneficiary selection lists).