

## Mogadishu Emergency Shelter options 2016

Report of community discussions held in Sarkuusta area on 24/01/2016

### Introduction

Towards the end of 2015, Banadir region received substantially higher amounts of rain that led to damages in infrastructure and housing. The hardest hit is IDPs who now live on the western outskirts of the city, on the road leading to Afgoye. Sarkuusta is one of the most populated IDPs settlements in this area, and is home to hundreds of IDPs settlement villages, whose inhabitants come from the Shabelle and Banadir regions, following evictions in parts of Mogadishu and, floods, drought and conflict in the Shabelles.

To better understand the needs of beneficiaries, and the options available in regard of emergency shelter provision, a team from the NRC shelter unit made a visit to Sarkuusta IDPs, where there are pressing shelter needs, and held discussions with groups of men, women and some local<sup>1</sup> builders. The visit targeted the four Sarkuusta settlements of Kulmis (460HHs), Durdur (280HHs), Bilkheyr (485HHs) and Al-qaras (160HHs). In addition, the settlements also host 38 returnees HHs from Kenya and 74 HHs from Yemen. The team further made transect walks to observe and verify the information shared by the FGD discussants. The team observed the shelter conditions in the visited settlements to be very poor.



Picture 1 & 2 Right: map view of Sarkuusta area and settlements. Left: Focus group discussions with women

During the focus group discussions, IDPs pointed out that they would prefer a rather simple structural frame that is easy to erect and manage, and which can offer good resistance to the local climate. In particular, they needed the structure to have the ability to drain rain water easily, as this would ensure its longevity, as well as basic thermal comfort. Accordingly, most people prefer the "Philipian buul", made of round wood pole structure that is joined by nails (as opposed to rope) and plastic sheets lined with recycled clothing layer for the outer wall and roof.

### Shelter Typologies developed with Emergency Shelter kits

Three types of common buuls that are currently in use around the area were identified, and their pros and cons discussed; 1) the Philipian Buul, 2) Bus Buul and 3) Somali Buul

#### Philipian Buul

During the discussion, the interviewed IDPs members indicated that the type of emergency shelter they would prefer to make with Shelter kits (in addition to NFI kits) has to be one that can be erected quickly, with locally available materials and yet meet all the basic requirements of a

<sup>1</sup> Local artisans, or 'fundis' who are engaged by households to help erect the common shelters.

shelter. The preferred shelter is made of sticks harvested from the 'philipine' tree<sup>2</sup>. The IDPs maintain that the structure offers the best resistance to winds and rains is more durable and can be erected easily by most of them. The sticks are soft enough, and are sturdy when joined by nails. The sloped roof also helps to drain rain water easily.



Picture 3, 4 & 5: Different views of the Philipian buul shelter

For those that can afford, this type of buul is common in Sarkuusta and Wedow IDP settlements, and requires the following materials;

SN	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price	Remark
1	Stick Wood Pools ( Philipian Tree)	12	\$1.00	\$12.00	
2	Stick Wood rafter ( Philipian Tree)	8	\$1.00	\$8.00	
3	Pulin stick wood ( Philipian Tree)	34	\$0.50	\$17.00	
4	nails ( 2Kgs	2	\$1.50	\$3.00	
5	Drum door with Frame	1	\$7.00	\$7.00	
6	Hinges	2	\$2.00	\$4.00	
7	Local plastic sheet 4x7	4	\$15.00	\$60.00	Plastic sheet 3 X3 very local one
8	outer wall clothing Buul layer	4	\$5.00	\$20.00	

<sup>2</sup> The tree from which the sticks are cut is reported to have originated from Philipines, hence the name. It's said to grow around the riverine areas of the Shabelle river, and regenerate quite quickly.



**Total****\$131.00**    Approx. 135.00**Table 1 materials breakdown and costing of the philipian buul shelter**

### The Bus- Buul

Taking the form a common, mini bus van, the bus is a rectangular buul shelter with rounded corners. Reported not to drain rain water easily, it is said to have a limited lifespan. The low roof height also makes the inside hot. Estimated cost is around US\$ 85

**Picture 6 7 7 above: interior (right) and exterior (left) of the bus buul shelter**

### Somali Buul

The Somali Buul is an improvised derivative of the traditional nomadic house, and stands on a circular / rounded base, spanning between 2 and 3 meters diameter. The sticks are bent and joined at the roof apex, and covered with recycled cloth, polythene and cartons. It suffers from limited ventilation, making it quite hot due to its size. Also, due to limitations in the amount of covered space, it is only suitable for 2 persons. Often, its associated with destitution. Its cost of construction is held to be around US\$ 70.

**Picture 8 & 9: view of the traditional Somali buul shelter**