This third OBP-sponsored report analyzes the human cost of maritime piracy in four parts. Part 1 discusses the threat of piracy to seafarers in the waters off the coast of West Africa. In Part 2, the report examines the long-term psychological and financial difficulties faced by seafarers following attacks and periods of time spent in captivity. Lastly, Part 4 discusses the challenges caused by a lack of comprehensive information.
Inconsistent Care & Compensation

“What the company did was give us four months of pay for the two months that we were in captivity”

- Interview with seafarer

“[I]n our case, not only were we taken hostage, we were also robbed. The company did not even bother reimbursing our personal losses.”

- Interview with seafarer

Interim findings of long-term study interviews:
- Many seafarers report long-term distress related to piracy attacks, but many also display strong resilience
- Some seafarers demonstrate physical, psychological and financial difficulties following pirate attacks
- Seafarer families noted significant gaps in support from shipping companies and home governments while seafarers were in captivity

Results of IMB polling of seafarers:
- Seafarers continue to express concern sailing off both East & West Africa
- Seafarers reported feeling most safe while aboard vessels utilizing both BMP and armed guards
- The most serious concern for seafarers was the distress and worry they cause their families

Somali Piracy $5.7-6.1 billion

- Counter-Piracy Organizations Less than 1%
- Ransoms & Recovery 1%
- Insurance 10%
- Security Equipment & Guards 29%
- Labor 8%
- Increased Speeds 27%
- Re-routing 5%
- Military Operations 19%

West African Piracy $674 - $939 million

- Capacity Building Less than 1%
- Stolen Property 8%
- Insurance 49%
- Private Armed Guards 19%
- Military Expenditures 15%
- Labor 8%