

## Working together for Somalia's displaced



**With the launch of the Solutions Alliance's new Somalia Group on 12 March 2015, a platform has been created to engage national and international actors committed to the search for solutions to the Somali displacement situation. The aim is to enable and support lasting solutions for 2.1 million Somalis who remain displaced within their country and in the region.**

*'The formation of the Solutions Alliance Somalia Group is a great opportunity and platform for coordination of humanitarian, development, donor, private sector and government efforts towards solutions to displacement.'* The message from the opening speech by Humanitarian Coordinator Lotte Mindedal from the Danish Embassy to the Republic of Kenya and to the Federal Republic of Somalia was echoed by participants attending the Solutions Alliance Somalia Group launch on 12 March 2015.

The vision of the Solutions Alliance Somalia Group is that protracted displacement can only be broken through innovative solutions-oriented thinking involving developmental actors and new approaches.

*'It is crucial that we put the needs of the displaced at the centre of discussions on solutions. The Solutions Alliance Somalia Group is a starting point as a strategic forum – now, is when the real work starts, and when we must face the need to translate policies and visions into operational action and deliver tangible results for the displaced,'* says UNHCR Somalia Representative Alessandra Morelli.

The Solutions Alliance Somalia Group is part of an international platform bringing together actors to operationalise joint visions, political will, and economic support to find durable solutions for Somalia's displaced. Guided by a core group including the Federal Government of Somalia, UNHCR, UNDP, the Government of Denmark, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDDS), and the World Bank, the network aims to provide support to ensure that planning and viability assessments address the issue of displacement with respect to political, social, economic and developmental costs and benefits.

During the launch of the Solutions Alliance Somalia Group, several agencies, organisations and representatives of Member States, committed to move the solutions agenda forward. Among them: IOM, UN-HABITAT, FAO, WFP, ILO, African Development Bank, ECHO, Somali Disaster Management Agency/FGS, JIPS. Additional key actors have expressed support for the initiative at a regional level, including: DFID/UKAID, USAID, Government of Japan, Government of Egypt, Government of Norway, Government of Sweden, Italian Cooperation, Department of Refugee Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, Agency for IDP and Returnees of the Federal Government of Somalia, Refugee Consortium of Kenya, and the Somalia Return Consortium.

**Membership remains open to new actors** and the Solutions Alliance Somalia Group will intensify outreach to actors in Somalia and internationally – including to Member States and their respective institutions concerned, research institutions, private sector, financial institutions, diaspora groups and civil society organisations. A close link and coordination with the UNHCR Global Initiative for Somali Refugees will be maintained and reinforced through the development of both initiatives.

**Information about the Solutions Alliance and the Somalia Group:** [www.solutionsalliance.org](http://www.solutionsalliance.org)