RETURN CONSORTIUM | **Somalia**

Towards Durable Solutions

Achievements and challenges in supporting voluntary returns of IDPs in Somalia

UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency

SAMUEL HALL.

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On a Path Towards Solutions

For many of the 1.1 million Somalis today living in displacement in their own country, and often under miserable conditions, every day starts with questions: how will I get by this day? How will I feed myself, my children? Will they and will I be safe? And for many of these destitute people living in displacement, the question also arises: When will we – if ever - be able to go home?

Supporting internally displaced families to pursue their decision and fulfil a wish to find a solution and for some, to return home, is a noble and important priority on the humanitarian agenda. I am proud that UNHCR is able to tread the path of pursuing innovative solutions to end displacement and honoured that we do so in collaboration with committed and experienced partners in Somalia.

The Somalia Return Consortium is an example of how we as aid agencies, donors, stakeholders, and humanitarian can stand united and offer assistance to people who wish to end their displacement and to start rebuilding homes, livelihoods and lives in the areas from where they origin. Pursuing solutions programming in Somalia through the alliance of the Government of Somalia, UN agencies, and international NGOs, must remain our commitment and priority. And learning from our experiences is an integral part of this commitment.

By looking at the achievements and challenges faced by the Consortium and partners, and not least by the returnees, we remain true to the commitment to pursue durable solutions to displacement. The lessons learned should be the backbone of our dialogue on how we can improve and continue to pursue solutions to displacement. The report now launched will be vital to shape and improve future assistance – and it will enable us to better support efforts which still only spearhead the immense and urgent need for solutions to displacement.

More than 1.1 million people in Somalia remain displaced, forced away from their home, and every day children are born into displacement. How do we help answering the questions posed by the Somali families living in displacement, struggling to get by? How do we better assist and support those who wish to return home? By asking these questions upon the launch this report, UNHCR would like to initiate new dialogue and debate on future solutions to end the displacement in and around Somalia.

Alessandra Morelli
UNHCR Somalia Representative

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION 11

1.1 Objectives of the Evaluation 13
1.2 Research Questions 13
1.3 Scope of the Study 13
1.4 Methodology 13
1.5 Structure of the Report 15

II. CONSOLIDATION. THE IDP VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAMME 16

2.1 Initialization of the IDP Return process 17
2.2 Intention Surveys 17
2.3 Pre-departure: GSVs and Registrations 18
2.4 Departure 19
2.5 Return and Distribution 19
2.6 Post Return Monitoring 21
2.7 Conclusion: Advocating for the creation of a data management unit at the SRC 23

III. ANALYSIS. IMPACT OF THE IDP RETURN PROGRAMME 24

3.1 IDP Profiles – Findings of the Intention Surveys 27
3.2 Post Distribution Monitoring 35
3.3 PRA: post return conditions 37
3.4 Durability Indicators (Protection Indicators) 50

IV. EVALUATION. ASSESSING THE SRC MODEL 52

4.1 The Somalia Return Consortium as a Model for Assisting Voluntary Return 52
4.2 Challenges and Limitations of the Programme 53
4.3 Lessons Learnt and Best Practices of the Programme 55
4.4 The Somalia Return Consortium and Durable Solutions 56
4.5 Strategic SWOT Analysis 58

V. RECOMMENDATIONS. A 15-Point Plan 59

5.1 Recommendations on Programming 59
5.2 Recommendations on Coordination of Activities 59
5.3 Recommendations on Data Collection, Management and Analysis 60
5.4 Actor-specific Recommendations 61

VI. ANNEXES 62

6.1 Data Cleaning and Scrubbing Process & Methodology 62
6.2 Comparison and Analysis of Indicators based on data analysis 63

LIST OF GRAPHS

Graph 1: Village/Town of IS-interviews 28
Graph 2: What is your place of origin? (Region) 28
Graph 3: Why did you leave your place of origin? 29
Graph 4: Why did you leave your place of origin? (Intensity) 29
Graph 5: Why did you leave your place of origin? (Region of Origin) 29
Graph 6: Why do you want to return to your place of origin in the coming three months? 30
Graph 7: If you decide to return, would some of your family members remain in the place of displacement (here)? 31
Graph 8: If you decide to return, where will you live? 31
Graph 9: If you decide to return, what would be the main challenges for your family in your place of origin? (by region of origin) 31
Graph 10: Why do you want to return to your place of origin in the coming three months? (by region of origin) 32
Graph 11: How did your family earn a living in your place of origin?" and "How does your family earn a living in the place of displacement (here)?" and "What will you and your family members do for a living when you return to your place of origin?" 33
Graph 12: How does your family earn a living in the place of displacement (here) 33

Graph 13: How did your family earn a living in your place of origin? (by region of origin) 34
Graph 14: Type of land rights 35
Graph 15: What other items would you have preferred which you did not receive or need more of? 36
Graph 16: Distribution method well organised? 37
Graph 17: Gender of PRA respondents 37
Graph 18: Number of HH members of PRA respondents 38
Graph 19: Back in the village of origin since..? 38
Graph 20: Number of kinship ties in village 39
Graph 21: Type of housing in VoO 39
Graph 22: What is the condition of your house? 40
Graph 23: Do you plan to remain in this house for the next year? 40
Graph 24: Are there family members not here with you? 40
Graph 25: If family members have returned to the previous place of displacement, why? 41
Graph 26: Percentage of respondents reporting absent family members by village and reports of undernourishment 41
Graph 27: In the last seven days, were there times when you did not have enough to eat? 42
Graph 28: Main threats perceived? 42
Graph 29: Experiences of violence in the place of return 43
Graph 30: Main threats by region of return 43
Graph 31: In the last seven days, were there times when you did not have enough to eat? 44
Graph 32: Litres of water consumed per person per day for drinking, cooking and washing 44
Graph 33: Reported physical assaults while collecting water 45
Graph 34: What were your household's main income activities in the last 30 days? 46
Graph 35: Is this the same income source as before leaving your village of origin? 46
Graph 36: Average amount of SoSh spent on different food items 47
Graph 37: Main challenges encountered on the way to the health care facility 47
Graph 38: Occurrences of health issues in the last 2 weeks 48
Graph 39: Care received in the last two weeks 48
Graph 40: Diarrhoea and oral rehydration treatment 49
Graph 41: Respiratory trouble and antibiotics 49
Graph 42: Malaria and malaria treatment 49
Graph 43: What were your household's main income activities in the last 30 days? 50
Graph 44: Evolution of selected indicators over time 51

LIST OF TABLES

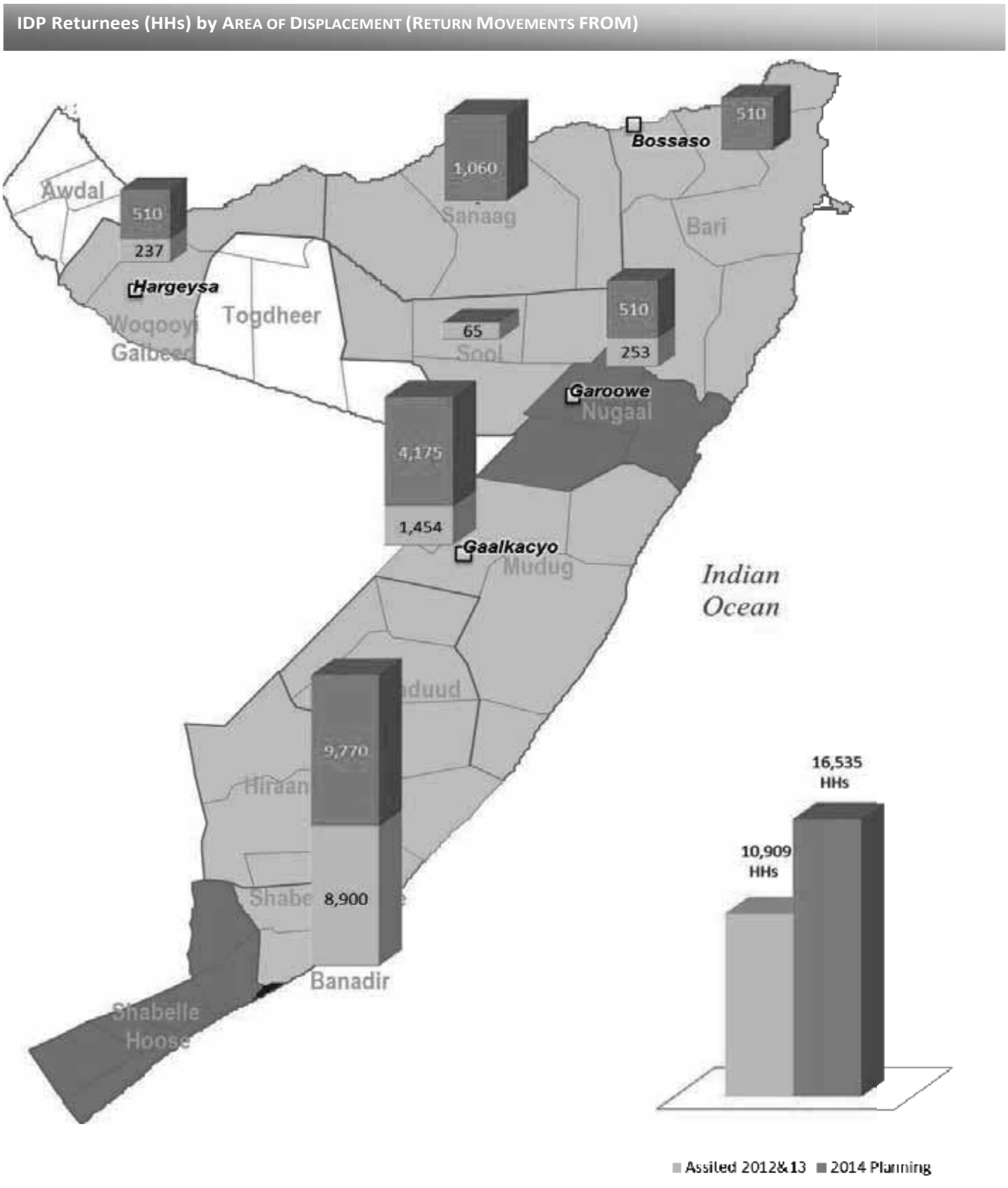
Table 1: Specific Objectives and the Vulnerability Selection Criteria of the Somalia Return Consortium 16
Table 2: Contents of the Urban Returns Package 20
Table 3: Do you have family members with special needs? 30
Table 4: If you decide to return, what would be the main challenges for your family in your place of origin? 32
Table 5: What items did you receive from (sending organisation) immediately during and after your return to this location? 36
Table 6: Main threats perceived in VoO 42
Table 7: Water consumption per litre per person 45
Table 8: Water access 45
Table 9: Number and percentage of respondents reporting physical assault according to region 46
Table 10: % spending on food 47
Table 11: Average amount of spending on healthcare 48
Table 12: Comparison of outcome indicators 63

ACRONYMS

DRC	Danish Refugee Council
EHI	Essential Household Items
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
F&C	Feedback and Complaints
FFT	Food for Training
FTT	Fitness to Travel Test
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GSV	Go and See Visits
HIF	Humanitarian Innovation Fund
HH	Households
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IS	Intention Survey
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NFI	Non-Food Items
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
PMT	Population Movement Tracking
PRA	Post Return Assessments
PRM	Post Return Monitoring
SRC	Somalia Return Consortium
TWG	Technical Working Group
SG	Steering Group
SMP	Standard Minimum Package
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRC	Somalia Return Consortium
UNHCR	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Fund for Children
VoO	Village of Origin
WB	World Bank
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme

MAP 1: IDP Returnees by Area of Displacement assisted by the Somalia Return Consortium

This map indicates the returnee households targeted by the Somalia Return Consortium in Somalia. The orange blocks indicate those assisted by the Consortium in 2012-2013 and the green blocks indicate planned targets for 2014 – within the place of displacement.

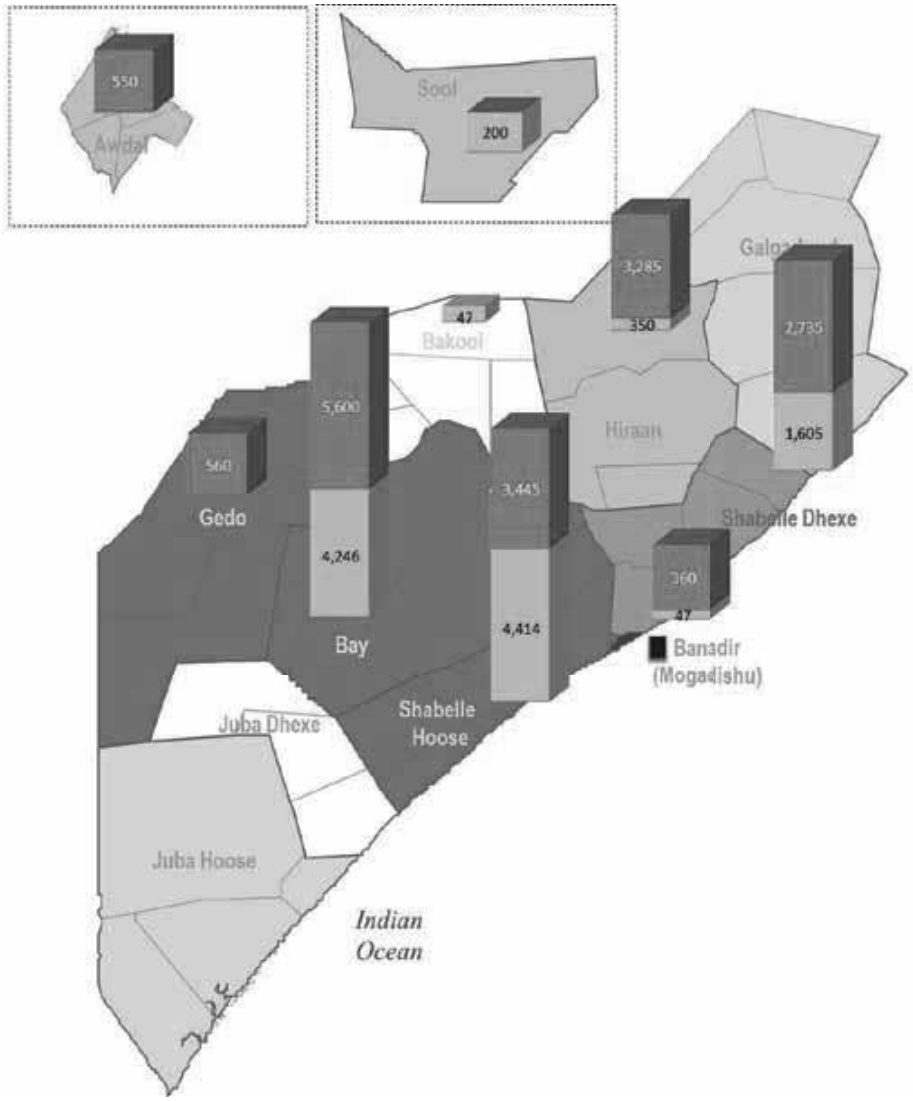


Each household comprises an average of 4 persons.

Somalia Return Consortium Joint Return Plan, Feb 2014

MAP 2: IDP Returnees by Areas of Return assisted by the Somalia Return Consortium

IDP Returnees (HHs) by AREA OF RETURN (RETURN MOVEMENTS TO)



IDP Returnees assisted/targeted by areas of return

	Banadir	Bay	Bakool	Gedo	Lower Shabelle	Middle Shabelle	Hiran	Awdal	Sool	TOTAL (HHs)
Assited 2012&13	47	4,246	47	-	4,414	1,605	350		200	**10,909**
2014 Planning	360	5,600	-	560	3,445	2,735	3,285	550	-	**16,535**
TOTAL	**407**	**9,846**	**47**	**560**	**7,859**	**4,340**	**3,635**	**550**	**200**	**27,444**

This map indicates the returnee households targeted by the Somalia Return Consortium in Somalia in their areas of return. The orange blocks indicate those assisted by the Consortium in 2012-2013 and the green blocks indicate planned targets for 2014.
Somalia Return Consortium Joint Return Plan, Feb 2014

IDP Return Programme Caseload & Monitoring Schedule Summary

It is to be noted that this summary refers to the M&E surveys conducted by the Third Party Monitoring Agency for the Return Consortium. This study analyses the data collected by the Third Party Monitoring Agency and SRC members since September 2012.

	Caseload 1		Caseload 4	Caseload 2	
BIODATA	**1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)**	**2nd Monitoring Round (PRA only)**	**1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)**	**1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)**	**2nd Monitoring Round (PRA only)**
Caseload monitored	Gu 2013	Deyr 2013	Gu 2013		
Sample size	319	325	313	300	116
Data collection time	23/11- 04/12/2013	30/01/2014- 08/02/2014	30/01- 08/02/2014	20-27/09/2013	19- 31/03/2014
HHs represented by the sample	658	1,140	300		
Areas of return monitored	**Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle**	**Middle Shabelle**	**Lower Shabelle**		
Absentees/not known rate	0%	4% (**known beneficiaries)	0%	0%	0%

	Caseload 5	Caseload 3		Caseload 6	Caseload 7
BIODATA	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)	2nd Monitoring Round (PRA only)	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)
Caseload monitored	Deyr 2013	Deyr 2012 and Gu2013	Deyr 2013	Deyr 2013	
Sample size	354	271	346	321	321
Data collection time	19- 31/03/2014	20-31/08/2013	01- 09/02/2014	01- 09/02/2014	23/02- 02/03/2014
HHs represented by the sample	3,000	1,690	2,175	196	
Areas of return monitored	Lower Shabelle	Bay	Bay	Hiraan	
Absentees/not known rate	0%	26%	11%	6%	0%

I. INTRODUCTION

The context. Somalia has one of the highest statistics of people in displacement in the world. Latest numbers by UNHCR report more than a million Somali refugees outside Somalia and a million remain displaced within Somalia. An estimated 369,000 internally displaced Somalis live in Mogadishu alone1, severely stretching the infrastructure and services of an under-developed city. As a consequence, Mogadishu is now host to numerous IDP settlements both within the city and on the outskirts. Existence of middlemen, warlords and self-proclaimed 'gatekeepers' in a country with a fledgling government, poor local government structures, piracy and terrorism and lots of international aid money being poured in has meant that IDP settlements and humanitarian assistance have become economies unto their own2, serving the pockets of a select few3. International organisations find it challenging to monitor their activities properly due to increasing insecurity and weak government structures. Vulnerable population groups like IDPs, women and children are therefore often used as fodder to attract aid – which is either appropriated by the warlords or resold in the local markets.

Since mid-2012, and after more than 20 years of civil war, Somalia (especially South Central) began experiencing new political and security developments that offer possibilities for a return to normalcy and stabilization. However, after two years of expected stability, security remains tenuous. While the present and immediately expected environment in Somalia does not meet all the safeguards for return, opportunities for improved conditions in the country could generate prospects for IDPs to explore the option of return to their homes. According to the latest figures from the Population Movement Tracking (PMT), 10,396 people have returned to their Village of Origin (VoO) between Jan 2014 and June 20144. That being said, eviction numbers according to the PMT have also increased with 13,500 persons experiencing evictions in 2012 (up to August 2012), and 5,800 in 2011 (+132%). The number of evictions in 2014 had already reached 2805 by June 2014. Additionally return in Somalia is still vulnerable to external upheavals like the current AMISOM offensive because of which a reported 73,000 people have been displaced. UNHCR's Protection Considerations released in January 2014 stated, *'the situation in Somalia continues to be qualified as a non-international armed conflict.13 Armed clashes continue outside of Mogadishu and in rural areas in Southern and Central Somalia which remain under Al- Shabaab control'*[5].

March 2014 AMISOM Offensive and its Implications on Humanitarian Assistance

The SNAF/AMISOM have launched a new offensive in Somalia. This offensive had, by June 2014, already led to the displacement of about 73,000 persons[6]. The Humanitarian Country Team issued a paper on the possible implications of this offensive. Their conclusions are:

In Somalia, large-scale displacement due to conflict has in the past created complex emergencies characterized by increased humanitarian needs. Depending on the geographical coverage of the upcoming offensive and the duration, up to 2.6 million people could be affected with the majority residing in Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, the Jubas and the Shabelles. At least another 300,000 to 500,000 people from the host community and those who could be potentially displaced currently live in areas where affected people are likely to seek protection. Considering the offensives in 2011 and 2012, intensified military activities are likely to result in increased displacement of people from rural areas towards the urban centres in southern and central areas, such as Baidoa, Mogadishu and Kismayo, where access to basic services could be severely overstretched, high number of child recruitment, abandonment of previously recruited children, separated and unaccompanied children, and very high increase in sexual violence could occur[7].

Moreover, Lower and Middle Shabelle, where the Somalia Return Consortium is currently assisting returns are also the food producing areas of Somalia along with Lower and Middle Juba. These would have further implications if disturbed during the offensive against Al Shabaab.

In a position paper released in June 2014, UNHCR, through reports from IDPs and other partner agencies, highlighted key concerns, crucial to the safe, voluntary and informed returns in Somalia:

The on-going operation has so far, led to the displacement of about 73,000 persons. Human rights abuses are reported in areas where military activities take place, although verification of these reports remains a challenge due to insecurity and access constraints. Transit routes to and from key towns are unsafe as criminal elements have established illegal checkpoints where they are reported to harass and extort money and valuables from IDPs. Even where the State has re-established territorial control, local civilian governance, including

1 As of November 2013, according to the PMT

2 Geographically more prevalent in the South

3 For reports on gatekeepers, aid economy, evictions and extortions, see HRW, Hostages of the Gatekeepers – Abuses against IDPs in Mogadishu in Somalia; The Somalia Consortium, Gatekeepers in Mogadishu; Refugees International, Gatekeepers and Evictions: Somalia's Displaced Populations at Risk.

4 Given the ever-changing context of security in Somalia, and other push factors, it is difficult to say whether these were in fact permanent returns. The AMISOM offensive has again led to displacements of large groups of people

5 UNHCR, International Protection Considerations with Regards to people fleeing Southern and Central Somalia, Jan 2014

6 UNHCR Position Paper, June 2014

7 HCT Somalia, Humanitarian Implications of SNAF/AMISOM Military Operation in Somalia, 19 March 2014

functioning justice and security structures, will need to be rebuilt. The situation in these areas is expected to remain fragile for some time[8].

Operating in this Somali context questions the notions of safe and secure returns: what is secure for displaced people in Somalia and to what extent will the situation remain secure? Is there a guarantee that the security situation in areas of return will not deteriorate? Do recent security changes in Somalia lend themselves to a belief that return to villages of origin is the best durable solution for displaced persons? These are some of the questions that this report raises, after an assessment of a) the context in Somalia and b) the data on returnees collected by the SRC.

In light of this, UNHCR's recently issued advisory made it clear that, *"Any assistance provided by UNHCR for return to Somalia aims at supporting individuals who, being fully informed of the situation in their places of origin, choose voluntarily to return. Any future role of UNHCR in the facilitation of organized voluntary repatriation movements to Somalia and any future involvement by UNHCR in efforts aimed at sustainable reintegration for returnees and IDPs in Somalia should not be construed as implying an assessment on the part of UNHCR that Somalia is safe for every individual, regardless of personal profile or personal circumstances"*[9].

The Somalia Return Consortium (SRC). As in most fragile countries, with the presence of multiple organisations with overlapping mandates and lack of access to vulnerable areas only serving to complicate matters further, IDPs often slip through the cracks – highlighted in the case of Somalia by programme officers interviewed for this study. In order to assist IDPs with durable solutions, the Somalia Return Consortium was formed on 7th August 2012. The Consortium brought together various UN agencies, international NGOs, local organisations and communities ***'to assist the safe and spontaneous return of IDPs back to their places of origin'.***

The Somalia Return Consortium, comprised of DRC, FAO, INTERSOS, IOM, Islamic Relief, Mercy Corps, NRC, UNHCR and WFP, have been implementing a voluntary return program in Somalia since 2012. The essence of the program is to assess the willingness to return to their places of origin amongst IDPs in Somalia. Once this willingness has been established, these caseloads are then helped to return back safely to their places of origin and ensure that the returnees are reintegrating back.

The Somalia Return Consortium is guided by a set of M&E frameworks and tools that were developed by the REACH[10] initiative. These frameworks have shaped SRC's tools, methods, data collection and analysis. REACH was deployed in order to support the Tri-Cluster Strategy (Shelter/NFI-Health-WASH) launched in 2012, which aims at addressing IDP needs. The Strategy[11] has been formulated in order to respond to IDP crises in Mogadishu and other locations resulting from the massive population displacements that occurred in 2011 during the drought.

In partnership with the Somalia Return Consortium, REACH began working on developing an M&E framework for use by all Consortium members in November 2012. The framework includes standard indicators, monitoring methodologies and tools for both internal agency monitoring of IDP returns as well as third-party monitoring. REACH is also developing an online database platform for use by all Consortium members to enter data and derive standard analysis reports as a planning and monitoring tool[12]. Additionally the SRC worked closely with the Protection cluster in 2013, to coordinate protection concerns arising out of the programme. This reduced in 2014, after the SRC programming was moved to Multisector for Refugees, IDPs and Returnees[13] and the main advisory board of the cluster (PC Technical Committee, which include the SRC Coordinator among the members) did not meet.

After a solid year of programming, the Somalia Return Consortium Steering Group has decided to conduct a comprehensive study of the SRC's programme and the data that they collect to assess the real impact that it has had vis-à-vis the objectives that it started out with. This evaluation therefore will help the Somalia Return Consortium to clearly assess the relevance, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of their program as reflected in the data that they have collected.

Informing the IDP Voluntary Returns Programme. In April 2014, Samuel Hall Consulting was commissioned to conduct a comprehensive consolidation, analysis and evaluation of the data collected by the Somalia Return Consortium as part of the IDP Voluntary Returns Programme. This study has come about after 1.5 years of the IDP Return Programme being implemented in Somalia and a full round of monitoring data has been collected.

8 UNHCR Position Paper, June 2014
9 Ibid
10 http://www.reach-initiative.org/reach-overview/what-we-do
11 Through this strategy, targeted IDPs will receive basic services, which will help them to recover from the shock of displacement and acquire a minimum of stability.
12 The link to this database is http://www.somaliareturnConsortium.org
13 More detail on this issue are provided under "Note on the SRC and Humanitarian Coordination Framework", page 60.

1.1 Objectives of the Evaluation

The primary objective of this study was to assess the real impact of the Somalia Return Consortium vis-à-vis the objectives that it started out with. Specifically, the study aims to:

- Conduct a comprehensive compilation and analysis of the IDP Return Programme implemented by Somalia Return Consortium (SRC) members and partners up to date, including data collected by the SRC, third party monitoring and independent internal procedures of NGOs
- Assess the extent to which the SRC programme has facilitated the achievement of durable solutions for the assisted IDPs
- Assess protection standards (safety, standard of living, employment and livelihoods, housing, land and property)

Recommendations made in this report will help the Somalia Return Consortium to assess the relevance, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of their program as reflected in the data that they have collected, and provide recommendations to strengthen its future activities.

1.2 Research Questions

This research was guided by the following key research questions:

- The Programme. Has the SRC facilitated Informed and Voluntary Decision of 13,000 HHs from displaced communities about voluntary return in South Central Somalia?
- The Impact. How effectively has the SRC support a Sustainable and Durable Reintegration of 13,000 returnee HHs in their villages of origin?
- The Tools. Is the content and methods of data collection by the SRC conducive to informing and adapting the Return Programme?

1.3 Scope of the Study

The Samuel Hall research team was composed of two data analysts and a lead researcher based in Nairobi. All the data collected by the Somalia Return Consortium since it started its programme was consolidated, cleaned and analysed. Additionally, interviews were conducted in Nairobi and over the phone with field staff based in Somalia.

- Samuel Hall did not conduct any primary data collection for this study and all graphs and statistical information in this report are based on the data collected by Axiom (Somalia Return Consortium's third party monitoring agency) and individual Consortium members.
- Samuel Hall has provided additional observations on the implementation of the program, based on the findings of the interviews and secondary desk review.
- This is however, not a comprehensive evaluation of the Somalia Return Consortium itself, as the research team was unable to go to Somalia to conduct observation visits focus group discussions or other blended methodology combining secondary and primary data.
- Findings in this study pertain to the Consortium as a whole, rather than individual partners.

As such, it should be noted that this study presents the findings of the M&E of the SRC, in light of the context in Somalia, for concerned organisations to question, discuss, decide and act on how programming must adapt to the changing context.

1.4 Methodology

The methodology for this study includes both quantitative and qualitative methods. No primary data was collected by Samuel Hall. Instead the Somalia Return Consortium shared their databases of primary pre and post departure monitoring data. The following methods were used for this study:

1) Qualitative Methodology

Secondary Desk Review

The research benefitted from a thorough desk review of secondary literature available on IDPs, returnees and humanitarian assistance in Somalia. Additionally, a recent Secondary Desk Review exercise conducted by REACH for the Shelter Cluster highlighted the most recent literature on the subject and gaps in information on IDPs in Somalia. The 2012 Mogadishu IDP Survey conducted by ICRC provides the best available comparative analysis for living conditions of IDPs in IDP settlements in Mogadishu vis-à-vis those who

have been assisted in voluntary return by the Consortium to their places of origin. Broadly speaking, the desk review comprised of the following documents:

- Somalia Return Consortium program documents including Standard Operating Procedures and Steering Group Committee meeting and Technical Working Group meeting minutes
- UNHCR and other SRC member's Somalia program documents
- Reports on protection released by UNHCR, Save the Children, Amnesty and other international agencies pertaining to Somalia
- Somalia Return Consortium Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Research on IDPs, displacement, IDP settlements, return, conflict and humanitarian assistance in Somalia that were relevant to this study
- Cluster and organisational fact sheets and bulletins on the most up-to-date numbers and conditions in Somalia
- Online feedback mechanism employed by the SRC and the reports generated by it.

Key Informant Interviews

Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders providing humanitarian assistance in Somalia based on a list of contacts provided by the SRC – including SRC members, donors, observers and other humanitarian actors working in Somalia. Where possible, interviews were conducted in person. However some staff members who were based in Somalia were interviewed electronically. Specifically, the following groups of stakeholders were interviewed: Somalia Return Consortium member and observer organisations; humanitarian organisations working in Somalia; field Staff, donors, IDP Leaders and traditional elders.

2) Quantitative Methodology

The Somalia Return Consortium shared the databases for the Intention Survey (IS), Post distribution monitoring (PDM) and Post return assessments (PRA). Once the databases and tools were received, the data analysts thoroughly cleaned all databases to ensure data precision.

The datasets and reports used for the analysis were:

- Intention Survey datasets provided by the Consortium
- GSV reports provided by Consortium members (Qualitative)
- Post distribution monitoring data (quantitative) provided by Axiom
- Post Return Assessment data (quantitative) provided by Axiom
- Post Return Assessment reports (qualitative) provided by Consortium members

Data Cleaning

The databases were found to have a number of inconsistencies. As such, the data analysts had to devote a large part of their time in cleaning and scrubbing the databases. Most databases were received in either excel or .csv formats. The detailed process of the data cleaning and scrubbing process is provided in Annex 1.

Data Analysis

Once the data was loaded and scrubbed, it was written into three "clean" master data tables: "data/aggregate.x.csv." Had time permitted, and enough data survived the scrubbing process, we would have proceeded with an automated exploratory data analysis, testing for anomalies in the data, and striking correlations between answers to unrelated questions. For example, in the village of Kulmis in Lower Shabelle, one of our best represented, 49 respondents each reported recent bouts of malaria, breathing trouble and diarrhoea, recent treatment for all three, and prenatal care in the course of their most recent pregnancy, despite the fact that seven of those reported themselves male. Exactly one respondent reported no illness and no treatment, and thirty-four did not answer any question in the survey.

Given the quality of the data, it was difficult to perform statistical tests on the answers to questions. Pearson's chi-squared test on significance of correlations between categorical variables (cross-tabulations), for example, fails when the expected uncorrelated frequency is less than 10 in 20% of the entries. Although the surveys numbers were calculated to fulfil these requirements most of the time, the amount of data lost in the scrubbing process prevented any rigorous statistical significance tests from being conducted. Instead, points of interest were inferred from unexpected correlations in the data, suggesting avenues of more intensive research without making any decisive conclusions as to the certainty of any given inference.

1.5 Structure of the Report

The report is structured around the three research questions to assess the programme, the impact and the tools of the Somalia Return Consortium. The Introduction includes a brief context analysis of Somalia, highlighting the issues and challenges of displacement and return in Somalia and the methodology. Chapter 2 – Consolidation takes stock of the Return Programme. Following a stage-wise approach, it highlights the work of the Consortium during the programme. Chapter 3 – Analysis includes the findings of the data collected by the Consortium. It highlights whether the Consortium has had a positive or negative impact vis-à-vis its set indicators. Chapter 4 – Evaluation summarizes the challenges faced during implementation of the programme, best practices and lessons learnt. Finally, Chapter 5 – Recommendations highlights ways in which the Consortium's activities and data collection can be optimized in the context in which they are working.

II. CONSOLIDATION. THE IDP VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAMME

The Somalia Return Consortiu m has assisted **10,909 households and approximately 40,000 individuals** in safe passage and return since 2012. The following chapters will provide an account of a) the IDP Return process and b) the findings of data analysis on living standards of the beneficiaries.

The Somalia Return Consortium was established in 2012 in order to address the needs of IDPs who wished to return to their places of origin. Comprised of the UN and NGOs, the Consortium came together *"for the purpose of standard setting, creating operational synergies, fundraising and advocating for, and implementing, voluntary return programming with the aim of ensuring voluntariness of return, safety, dignity and sustainable reintegration for IDP and Returning Refugee households in Somalia in accordance with agreed SOPs, by combining"*[14].

i. Technical and practical expertise
ii. Current operational access to priority geographic areas
iii. Professional risk management and
iv. Impartial monitoring and evaluation

Table 1: Specific Objectives and the Vulnerability Selection Criteria of the Somalia Return Consortium

Specific objectives (as revised in May 2013)	Selection Criteria of the Consortium
• To facilitate an Informed and Voluntary Decision of 13,000 HHs from displaced communities about voluntary return in South Central Somalia • To support a Sustainable and Durable Reintegration of 13,000 returnee HHs in their villages of origin • To adapt the Return Programme through M&E inputs in order to mitigate shocks affecting the returnee and receiving communities.	• Specific protection concerns related to the current status of the displaced community (including high protection risks of minority groups, limited possibility for local integration, lack of effective protection, etc.) • Imminent eviction and/or forced relocation of the IDPs[15] • Joint request to support voluntary return as the durable solution to end displacement by IDP community, local authorities, humanitarian/development actors and community of origin • Accessibility of the sending organisation[16] to the area of return • Relevant engagement of the sending organisation in the provision of humanitarian assistance to the target group in the place of displacement for a significant period of time • IDP Communities affected by multiple displacements engaged in the identification of durable solutions by sending organisations.

Considering the "Somalia rainy, harvest and dry season" calendar (source FEWSNET), SRC members agreed on the priority to support voluntary returns of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities during the Deyr season 2012 and 2013 (September-November) and Gu season 2013 (April-June 2013)[17]. In regards to this, FAO designed the livelihoods package based on the planting season and the agricultural conditions of the region in which the package would be used.

14 Return Consortium Member MoU

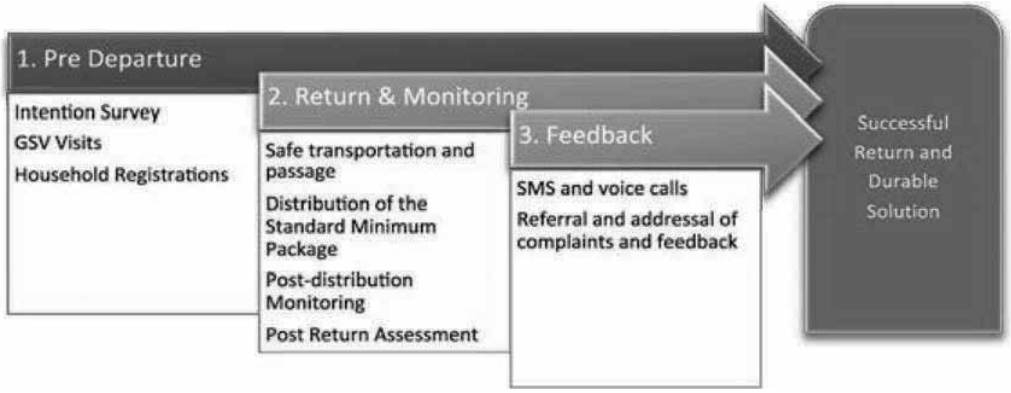
15 According to the IASC framework, as this implies V affecting displaced populations in Somalia. It stated that 'all authorities and international actors shall refrain to identify the "return" as a shortcut to vacate the targeted areas and offer a one-off solution for the affected population. This approach may easily result in involuntary and unsustainable returns and secondary displacements. Additionally international agencies should exercise caution when prioritizing those evicted for voluntary return – doing so has the potential to encourage authorities to evict more persons with the intention that international agencies will facilitate their return'. SRC members were asked to fulfill the following conditions before initiating any element of the IDP Return Programme, availability of alternative durable solutions, voluntariness of the decision is ensured, explicit expression of interest in return, and sustainability of the potential return. However as the report highlights, some challenges exist in the process of informed voluntary returns of IDPs. One importantly is whether the threat of evictions is indeed playing a role in IDP families decision to return to VoOs despite less than satisfactory information about the VoOs being reported in the GSV reports.

16 See note 22 for definition related to "sending organization"

17 JRP Narrative, Annex 3b, SG1

A set of standard operating procedures were drafted and laid out based on the IASC guidelines to ensure that international standards were met at all times by the implementing organisations. Its M&E Framework have shaped the SRC's tools, methods, data collection and analysis. The framework includes standard indicators, monitoring methodologies and tools for internal agency monitoring of IDP returns and third party monitoring.[18]

Figure 1: The IDP Return Programme[19]



2.1 Initialization of the IDP Return process

The process starts with community leaders approaching SRC members to express the desire of households living in that settlement to return back to their VoO. Households themselves also approach SRC members to express a desire to return At the first step, community leaders are introduced to the process. This allows for local engagement and the first step of ensuring that it is an informed return. It also allows access and permission to engage in the camps to the sending organisation. Once community leaders and settlement authorities of the IDP settlements agree to the IDP intention survey, it is then conducted. At present, interviews suggest that this is conducted only amongst those households who have previously expressed a desire to return and would explain why a majority of the households in the IS express a desire to return.

2.2 Intention Surveys

The Intention Surveys (IS) are conducted to verify the intention of the targeted community, know the intention of the community about voluntary return, staying at place of displacement and relocation and to know and advocate for durable solutions alternatives to return,[20] if requested by the targeted community[21]. Sending organisations[22] carry out the surveys themselves. Some use mobile survey, while others use paper-based methods. There is one standardised form for the intention survey. However, data entry and management were found to be inconsistent. Excel was the primary way of data entry. Interviewer trainings were conducted by the SRC's Data Management Officer and the sending organisations' MIS focal points.

18 The link to this database is http://www.somaliareturnConsortium.org

19 This figure provides a snapshot view of the key stages of the Return Process. Challenges and complexities faced in each stage is discussed in the ensuing sections.

20 However, given the bias in the sample that 98% of the beneficiaries report that they want to return, other options take a backseat as the sending organisations as part of SRC's programme do not pursue them

21 SRC SOP Guidelines

22 This report refers to organisations facilitating the return process as 'sending organisations' as this is the term used by SRC members. By using this word, the report does not imply that the sending organisations are 'sending' IDPs to their VoOs.

Note on Quality Control and Data Checks | Lessons Learned for future programming

At present, no quality control or checks exist on data collection, entry and management. This is especially visible in the quality of data that is entered into the system. For example, the Intention Survey data that is available was conducted by at least four NGOs independently from a single unified paper survey. The results were reported on an MS Access database and shared with Samuel Hall on spreadsheets in either csv or excel format, with one line per respondent and one or more columns per question in the intention survey. However, each organisation designed its own spreadsheet, and thus the columns corresponding to each question varied from spreadsheet to spreadsheet. In order to be able to conduct any sort of accurate analysis, the research team had to design and implement a global mapping of questions to columns for each spreadsheet and for each question. Furthermore, even within a single spreadsheet, there appeared to be little or no data validation. This on the one hand greatly reduces the efficacy of the data that is being collected by the SRC and on the other hand, increases the resources and human investment in gathering this data. Paucity of resources and lack of time have been given as the reasons for this – and should be addressed in future rounds of data collection.

Based on the results of the Intention Survey, the sending organisation compiles a preliminary list of IDPs who are willing to return and originate from the target area. Following this, a briefing is given to community leaders in the IDP settlement from the target area on results of the Intention Survey.

2.3 Pre-departure: GSVs and Registrations

The Go and See Visits (GSV) are a crucial step in the process of informed voluntary return as they allow for IDP representatives to visit the VoO before the actual return takes place. Its second purpose serves to facilitate an interaction between returnees and the communities of origin. However, a few caveats exist in this stage. GSVs usually occur in a central accessible location rather than in each VoO. It is worth recognizing that Somalia presents a complex human geography, where often a large number of settlements are located close to each other.

Secondly, the composition of the GSV delegation from the IDP camp has been specified in the SOPs[23]. Sending organisations have reported that, although it is difficult to find female representatives, they have managed to include at least one in each GSV that has been conducted. Sending organisations facilitating the GSV send an officer with the delegation. In addition, interviews suggest that contact is made with other SRC members who may be present in that area during the visits. Lastly, every sending organisation that facilitates a GSV drafts a GSV report that notes the access to facilities in the VoO and any threats or challenges that the returnee population might face.

Most of these reports note a) lack of satisfactory services like health and education and b) the pressure it would put on resources available for the host community, if the IDP returnees were to come in. Some also highlight issues of safety and security. Additional references were made to land issues. Despite these, most IDPs continue with their decision to return. However, the same reasons are highlighted as challenges faced by the beneficiaries after five to six months of return in the PRAs. Another piece of often missing information in the GSV reports, but mentioned in the guidelines includes observation of the structures and mechanisms in place at the VoO which address the root causes of displacement and will prevent returnees from being displaced again.

After the GSV, observations and findings of the IDP representatives are reported back to the respective communities to ensure that all households are informed about the situation in the VoO in order to make an informed and voluntary choice. Simultaneously, the sending organisations are meant to consult the SRC and the Food Security cluster to validate the most appropriate timing of return[24]. Yet, it appears that no SRC member consistently provides information on the situation at the place of return. The research team was informed by SRC that restitution events are joined by SRC members and particularly by UNHCR, which provides updated information on security situation related to the routes between the areas of displacement and the areas of return. Similarly, being part of the restitution process, SRC members ensure that information provided by GSV delegates to the community is in adherence with the reality and if needed they also provide additional information based on their own sources. However the role of SRC in GSV restitution process is not documented and therefore could not be verified by Samuel Hall. As such, if GSVs are the only SRC facilitated source of information, this could be a serious shortcoming of the 'informed' process.

23 An ideal composition of the IDP delegation to take part in the GSV is by 10 representatives from the community consisting of Representatives of youth (three persons between 18-22 years) Representatives of women (three persons between 18-45 years) Representatives of men (four persons between 18-45 years)Elderly, disabled and other persons with specials needs are encouraged to participate

24 This is specified in the SRC SOPs

The Registration process includes taking pictures and noting the name, age and gender of all the members of the returning households and to acquire written consent by the head of household and other family members above 18 years old. Standardised registration forms have been designed by the SRC and are used by all organisations. This list is then double checked with the intention survey beneficiary list. It is in this process that sending organisations are meant to identify persons with special needs and vulnerable families in the VoO and provide information on rights to durable solutions and related implications to the beneficiaries[25].

At this stage, the SOPs states that the sending organisation should check with a wider range of actors the kind of assistance that IDPs in the settlement are currently receiving to indicate whether or not families are likely to split/return to the camps. This is not presently being done in a consistent way and the information that is gathered informally does not find its way up the information channel in the SRC to inform a more strategic analysis of push and pull factors and durable solutions. Collection of actual data at every step of the process is extremely challenging and resource intensive. In this case, the SRC will have to ensure that there is a clear information channel within the consortium that looks after and streamlines informal observations and reports that are not formally part of the M&E and consolidates them with other external sources.

2.4 Departure

The departure date, time and location are established by the sending organisation after consultation with the transporter, settlement authorities/settlement focal points[26], community leaders from the IDPs and the host community in the place of origin. The date chosen is agreed by all participants and communicated well in advance. At the date of departure families are grouped, group pictures verified, and all registered family members accounted for. Staff of the sending organisation keeps a list of absent family members. Return is strongly discouraged if only the head of HH is present at departure.

According to interviews conducted with stakeholders, the best practice in Somalia, for transport, is to provide beneficiaries with a transport allowance and let them arrange their own transportation, thus eliminating opportunistic middlemen between the sending organisation and the beneficiaries. However, this makes fitness to travel tests, and monitoring of people with special needs challenging for the sending organisation. Some instances have been reported of passage being obstructed due to on-going clashes between two tribes or clans on the way. The merit and effectiveness of the Somalia Return Consortium is particularly visible in such instances wherein resources are pooled in to liaise with clan elders and local authorities, in order to provide safe passage for the returning households. At this juncture, it is worth highlighting again, the changing context in Somalia and decline in security conditions due to the recent offensive. At present, there are no clear reports of monitoring of returns on the roads between the area of displacement and return being carried out by the SRC.

2.5 Return and Distribution

According to the SOPs, each returning HH should receive at least the Standard Minimum Package (SMP) according to a set distribution scheme. In order to ensure that host communities are also looked after, sending organisations identify vulnerable households within the host community – which make up 15% of the total caseload of beneficiaries. These 15% households are also provided with the same assistance (except the support for transport considering they are already located at the VoO). HHs in which not all registered family members arrive in the village of origin, are not to receive the assistance, according to the SOPs.

Interviews report that distribution usually takes place at a central location rather than at each village due to access issues for the sending organisation. Beneficiaries who come to claim assistance are checked and verified on the basis of the beneficiary lists and data provided during registrations, including photographs. This process, though time and resource intensive, has significantly reduced the number of fake beneficiaries and duplication of aid to households. Most organisations hail this as a best practice, especially if one official of the sending organisation is present both during registrations and at the time of distributions. That being said, sending organisations have highlighted that having biometrics would simplify this process and make it more effective.

One key challenge highlighted in a field report from Baidoa was the imposition of a new taxation system by Al-Shabaab amounting to approx. 20/25 USD per farm, compulsory for each farm where land preparation and cultivation is on-going. This has generated concerns amongst the beneficiaries and host communities. This form of arbitrary taxation by Al Shabaab is common in Somalia and as such this information should be made clear to IDPs before return.

25 SRC SOPs

26 Which in Mogadishu could also be 'gatekeepers' making the process extremely complex.; in such cases SRC practice was to avoid involvement of gatekeepers, identifying alternative meeting points and departure points.

The Standard Minimum Package

Following are the components of the SMP as stated in the SOPs:

- **Food:** 1,650[27] Kcal per person per day is provided (for a minimum time of three months) until traditional and/or alternative livelihood sources available again
- **Shelter:** Access to emergency shelter as per Shelter/NFI Cluster Somalia guidelines
- **NFIs:** Access to non-food items as per Shelter/NFI Cluster Somalia guidelines
- Livelihoods: Access to livelihood inputs including productive assets, trainings and technical assistance according to their livelihood strategy
- Agro-inputs consisting on seeds, tools and fertilizers
- Animal redistribution in a minimum number of eight
- Cash for work to rehabilitate communal infrastructures

Sending organisations are responsible for the procurement of the SMPs and this is the main reason why the single elements constituting the SMP may differ from caseload to caseload depending on who has assisted them. WFP provides food aid as part of the food component of the SMP whilst FAO has been instrumental in designing the livelihoods package and to large extent providing it.
The livelihoods package at present is tailored on the basis of the region in which it is being distributed. Seeds and quantities are distributed keeping in mind the quality of soil and availability of water for irrigation. For example: agro-pastoralists are provided with inputs to cultivate two hectares of land.

The content of the package depends on the area where the VoO is – quality of soil, rains, irrigation systems etc. If it is a rain fed areas the package will include 30 kg sorghum seeds and 20 kg cowpea seeds and six bags/300 kg DAP fertilizer and tools – sickle, hoe and pick axe + training. But in Gedo region, where soil is more fertile, the quantity of the fertilizer distributed will be less. In riverine areas, maize is grown. So the package there includes 40 kg maize, 20 kg cow pea and 100 kg urea and 100 kg DAP fertilizer + training + tools[28]. Through all of these packages, the aim is to provide support to the beneficiaries for two seasons consecutively. A point to note here is that there is no standard minimum limit for the livelihoods package at present. The package has varied in distribution and implications of this fluctuation are currently not being systematically noted or assessed in the field.

Additionally, another sending organization has just piloted an urban package for returnees. The SRC found that many returnee households came from urban areas where the livelihoods package designed for agro-pastoralists was not of much use and ended up in the market.

Table 2: Contents of the Urban Returns Package[29]

Transportation
Monthly cash transfer (five months at $100 /month/HH)
Asset repair (house)
Livelihood establishment

Caveats in SMP distribution are many. Access is a key issue. Secondly, given that the procurement and distribution is not centralised through the Consortium, often, it does not happen all together. For example, the distribution of livestock was not completed for one season last year because of multiple factors like fluctuation in livestock price according to seasons, concerns on security and others. The most pressing problem however is the calendar of returns. The livelihoods package is designed to assist beneficiaries in a particular season – Gu or Deyr. Its effectiveness is therefore contingent on the timely return of the IDP families to the VoO. This has been difficult to maintain in the past and something that the SRC needs to discuss and find a reasonable and flexible solution to.

27 The standard minimum for refugees is defined as 2,100 Kcal since they usually do not have right to work. The RC decided on 1650 as the minimum as stated in the SOPs

28 Interview with FAO Somalia conducted in April 2014

29 NRC, HoA Case Study on Urban returns Project

2.6 Post Return Monitoring

The PRM exercise is based on M&E frameworks set up at the inception of the SRC's activities in Somalia. It has been designed with the objective to verify the conditions in the area of return about access to basic services and needs, verify the protection risk and response mechanisms in place by communities, humanitarian actors and local authorities and take immediate actions, with the involvement of the community, to mitigate risk and prevent newdisplacement. The PRM includes:

- Collection of data through PDM and PRA by Third Party Monitoring
- PRM by sending organisation through FGDs, observations, engagements, field visit reports,
- Monitoring of Feedback and Complaints Mechanism acquired by a toll free number with a call centre located in Nairobi

Post Return Monitoring by Sending Organisations

According to the SOPs, detailed PRM reports from each organisation should include information and recommendations for 1) Self-reliance on livelihood activities; 2) Access to Food, water, health and education; 3) Access to land and recovery of property; 4) Security & physical safety (including GBV); 5) Relationship host community and 6) Child protection and family tracing if needed.

In the PRM reports provided to Samuel Hall, most of the above themes are covered on a needs-based measure. What is not clear is the referral mechanism in place when protection issues are observed. Moreover, the FGDs aim at monitoring the effectiveness and sustainability of the return process as well as identifying related protection risks. However, in the case of one sending organisation, the FGDs were conducted in its offices in Baidoa on the occasion of the distributions[30], creating a possible response bias.

The merit of conducting PRM exercises is two-fold; collection of monitoring information and continuous engagement with the community for at least 6 months. What is not streamlined at present is a singular information channel that allows for all this information from various sending organisations to be sent up to the SRC, consolidated, analysed and used for programmatic purposes in a regular and systematic manner. The gap that is identified here is the lack of a strong data analysis unit in the SRC.

Post Distribution Monitoring and Post Return Assessment

The PDM and PRA are conducted by a Third Party Monitoring agency based on a pre-designed M&E Framework. The M&E framework was designed by REACH who are no longer actively involved in the SRC. Three key features stand out at first:

a) It was reported that the M&E Framework, the way it exists today, was designed in a month after due review and consultation, with the expectation that a second phase of pilot and readjustment would follow soon after by REACH – who designed the M&E framework. However, this was not the case. For the SRC, the second phase was intended to start once a proper testing of the tools and methodology was done. This is now in planning stages.

b) There has been little interaction between REACH – those who designed it and Axiom – those who are implementing it. Whilst the M&E framework document in itself is clear enough, Axiom has the challenging task of implementing a survey and analysing data for tools that they did not design.

c) The M&E framework, the way it exists today, is more output-process oriented. Yet, the questions that the Consortium is asking of the data are trends and outcome oriented. The tools for the IS, PDM and PRA for which data is being collected, are not designed to map trends or indicate whether IDP returnee households are close to achieving durable solutions. This means that the questions that are asked and the times at which they are asked, do not tell the consortium to what extent the lives of returnees have changed either with comparison to their lives in IDP settlements or after having returned or in comparison to other host community members. All of these are crucial – and missing – elements of analysis that must inform a durable solutions analysis.

30 INTERSOS, IDP Voluntary Return Programme, Report on Post-Return Monitoring Focus Group Discussions, December 2012-Feb 2013

Moreover, according to the framework, the PDM is supposed to be conducted immediately after distributions and PRA – every two, four and six months[31]. However, taking into account the challenges of collecting data in Somalia, certain caveats in implementation exist:

a) Access and Security in Al-Shabaab controlled areas is a challenge and prevents interviewers from using mobile technology to collect data
b) Due to contractual and finding limitations, the Third Party Monitoring Agency implements both the PDM and PRA together, with the same beneficiaries at the same time. This creates a bias in the data and does not provide a graduated trend of change in the data. In general, lack of funding has hampered the implementation of the M&E framework according to the stipulated guidelines
c) The way the tools are designed at present, the PRA and PDM do not capture the 15% of beneficiaries that belong to the host communities
d) There is also no control group in the survey at present
e) The intention survey does not link up in any direct, easy way to the PDM and PRA. This disables the Consortium from being able to conduct comparative analyses between the conditions of their beneficiaries when they were IDPs and once they returned to their VoO. A more elaborate analysis on IS plus caseload should be conducted. However, this process could be made much simpler by connecting IS with PDM and PRA so that questions are 'comparison-friendly'

The findings of the data analysis performed by Samuel Hall's data analysts are provided in the following chapter.

Online Feedback and Complaints (F&C) Mechanism

This is an innovative tool that has been designed and implemented by DRC in 2010 as part of the Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF), and then customized and implemented by the SRC since 2013. By opening a dedicated toll free line for beneficiaries to leave their feedback and lodge complaints, and later distributing mobile phones, the SRC has set up a channel of direct communication with beneficiaries in their VoOs.

It is a quick and convenient way for beneficiaries to give their feedback (both positive and negative) in form of SMS and voice messages to the SRC members and partners. The SMS feedback system enables beneficiaries to have direct access to the Somalia Return Consortium. It also helps the SRC to better monitor the effects of the program on the ground and to adopt it. The beneficiaries through communications materials like leaflets and posters, are asked to report on issues like transport, shelter, NFI, security, delays, access to basic services, appreciation, inquiry, suggestions. What they cannot report back on are issues that are not related to the Return Programme, un-ethical or fraud information that may target certain groups or individuals and incomplete information or some thing they are not sure of[32].

So far, this mechanism has proven useful in bringing information to the SRC on some of the needs of the beneficiaries. Majority of those reporting are beneficiaries. For example, families in Baidoa complained about not having received mobile phones and those in Jowhar cited instances of malaria amongst children and lack of distribution of animals. The SRC reports on the F&C also show that IDPs in Mogadishu have used this mechanism to cite intention and desire to return back to their VoO. It is therefore a useful mechanism to establish direct contact with IDP beneficiaries.

That being said, such a system is also prone to misuse and underuse if not managed properly. First, this is a thorough and perhaps repeated information channelling to the beneficiaries about the advantages of this system. Majority of the calls and SMSs received at present contain invalid content. Secondly, there are aspects that the SRC should know when calls are received:

i. Who from the household is calling and whether that has any implication for the subject of the call
ii. The SRC has to think realistically about the verification of the information in the calls – to know whether gaps being highlighted by beneficiaries are in fact real or not.

Moreover, the Consortium should know if all groups are in fact able to use the F&C mechanism. The SRC should be able to ensure that a) the F&C mechanism is effective in giving voice to their concerns or b) there are dedicated in-person channels at their disposal to voice their requests, unsolicited comments, concerns and feedback.

31 REACH, SRC, M&E Manual
32 SRC F&C Training Presentation

Secondly, the F&C mechanism can also be used to inform the Consortium of both day-to-day feedback as well as broader strategic issues. For this, the Consortium can consider formalizing channels of information flows through its members that not only address the case within a feedback but also use that information to inform decision making on improvement of the programme.

On the positive side, such a connection with beneficiaries at the village level can also be used to gather other information – on projects that are being implemented in their villages that will help the beneficiaries, or conducting mobile surveys to get feedback on the Return Programme.

2.7 Conclusion: Advocating for the creation of a data management unit at the SRC

In respect to the description of the process of return highlighted above, and the challenges faced by sending organisations in the field, it is important to mention the complexity in which the Somalia Return Consortium came into being. 2012 marked the end of the push for humanitarian support against the famine of 2011, generating hope that was not met with new programming. At the same time, in light of continued displacement and haphazard returns and assistance programmes, there was an acute need for standard setting, especially in the journey towards solutions.

The Somalia Return Consortium has succeeded in defining a minimum standard and streamlining some of the information channels that bring information on areas of return to the IDPs. Additionally, it has set in place, an M&E framework that is designed to collect data from the field – also an extremely challenging task.

That being said, as this chapter has highlighted, serious issues regarding data management and information sharing processes still exist and need to be clarified. The poor quality of data entry and data management and checks are a key lessons learned for future programming as there is a need for a dedicated data management unit at the Consortium. This will be required not only to collect better data but also to channel information effectively up to the SRC. The lack of a centralised system currently limits the impact of the data, of the Standard Minimum Package and of the post-distribution and post-return monitoring, which lack clear referral mechanisms for protection issues.

Without a proper protection framework and referral mechanism, the road to achieving durable solutions will continue to be severely compromised. Beyond the need for a dedicated data management unit at SRC, therefore, is the need for dedicated protection training, mainstreaming and referrals. One effective tool in this regard is the innovative approach towards a Feedback and Complaints Mechanism that provides a direct channel of communications between the SRC and IDP beneficiaries. This chapter has therefore raised key achievements along with key challenges – centred on data management and protection mainstreaming – that should be taken as lessons learned in order to avoid repeating the same mistakes in the next rounds of programming.

With regards to assessing durable solutions post-return, the next chapter sheds light on the conditions of returnee beneficiaries following their return to their places of origin.

III. ANALYSIS. IMPACT OF THE IDP RETURN PROGRAMME

This chapter seeks to answer the following three questions:

- What has been the impact of the SRC on the lives of IDP returnees?
- How do the findings fare in response to the indicators set forth in the M&E framework?
- Are returnees able to achieve durable solutions through the return programme?

Findings from the data analysis suggest that the short-term impact of the SRC has been positive – in facilitating the voluntary return of IDPs and in providing six months of assistance in the form of NFIs, food aid and livelihoods. The difficulty remains achieving any type of durable solution.

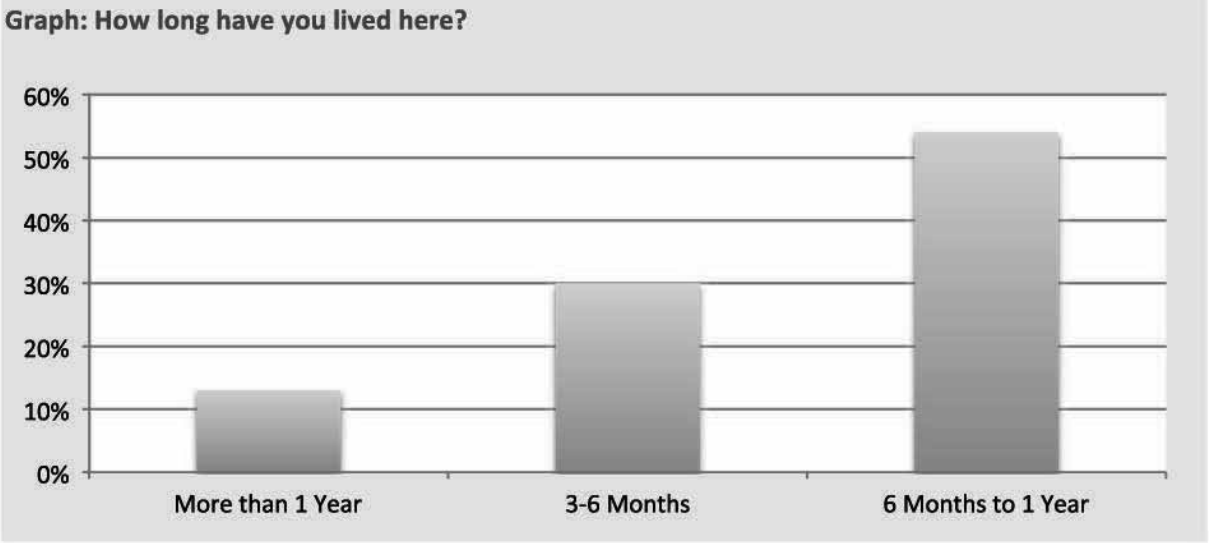
Note on Durability of Return – Numbers of HHs staying versus return back to IDP settlements

The Intention Survey enquires about the genuineness of return of the IDP families that it is implemented amongst. According to responses of IDPs who undertook the survey (11,114 respondents) 88% reported a genuine desire to return, 8% a genuine desire with some areas of concern whilst 3% were not genuine. In terms of re-displacement, the return programme has highlighted two trends – the inter-household movements where one or more members leave the VoO and not the entire family and the inter-group displacement, where whole households move back away from the VoOs. For the IDP Return Programme, there have been few instances of families moving back to IDP settlements completely, however, data suggests that some have 1-2 family members back to displacement. It is worth noting here that often families may send 1-2 individuals in search of better jobs, which is not to be characterised as forced displacement.

In terms of absenteeism during data collection for the PDM and PRA and random selection of sampling from beneficiary lists, in most cases no absenteeism of names on the beneficiary list was reported. Exceptions to these include 26% in caseload 3 which reduced to 11% in the second round of monitoring – due to misreporting in round 1. On average however, absenteeism rates in the caseloads have remained between 2-4% whilst some caseloads have shown no signs of absenteeism.

		Caseload 1	Caseload 4	Caseload 2	Caseload 5	Caseload 3	Caseload 6	Caseload 7			
		1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)	2nd Monitoring Round (PRA only)	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)	2nd Monitoring Round (PRA only)	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)	2nd Monitoring Round (PRA only)	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)	1st Monitoring Round (PDM+ PRA)
Caseload monitored	Gu 2013	Deyr 2013	Gu 2013	Deyr 2013	Deyr 2012 and Gu2013	Deyr 2013	Deyr 2013				
Sample size	319	325	313	300	116	354	271	346	321	321	
Data collection time	23/11-04/12/2013	30/01/2014-08/02/2014	30/01-08/02/2014	20-27/09/2013	19-31/03/2014	19-31/03/2014	20-31/08/2013	01-09/02/2014	01-09/02/2014	23/02-02/03/2014	
HHs represented by the sample	658	1140	300	3000	1,690	2175	196				
Areas of Return monitored	**Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle**	**Middle Shabelle**	**Lower Shabelle**	**Lower Shabelle**	**Bay**	**Bay**	**Hiraan**				
Absentees/not known rate	0%	4% (**known beneficiaries)	0%	0%	0%	0%	26%	11%	6%	0%	
Average family size recorded at departure point	4.26		4.26	3.82		3.7	3.69		5.11	XXXX	
Average family size monitored at the AoR	3.1		3.1	3.6		2.9	3.2		4.5	3.8	

In the PDM, "How long have you been in this location?" is a key question that acts as an indicator to durability of return. After data cleaning, only 1912 responses were considered valid for analysis. Of these, 30% respondents said they had been at that location for "3-6 months", 54% were "6 months to 1 year" and 13% were "more than a year". These numbers are slightly odd, as people were only supposed be given the PDM survey once, immediately upon arrival. It either indicates misreporting, mistakes in data entry or delay in conducting the PDM. It might also mean that a beneficiary for an earlier round has been accidentally interviewed for a later PDM.



Similarly the PRA asks for the month and year when the return to the VoO took place. For the head of households, Graph 1 highlights that majority returned in 2013, whilst a few also returned in 2009. This like in the PDM might also be a member of the host communities who were assisted with the SMP.

One way of monitoring durability of return is to map the changes in household composition after return. Looking at the distribution of household sizes, there appears to be no significant change in average household profile, whether we consider the same group over either rounds, or both groups on the same round. Average household size remained 3.5 between those monitored as part of the first round of PRA and those monitored for the second time.

It is difficult to definitively assess the improvement in the conditions of returnees because the Consortium does not collect information on conditions during displacement to allow for a comparative analysis.

Key findings on Durable Solutions and Protection Challenges

In terms of the indicators set forth in the M&E framework, the data suggests a mixed performance, with indicators of durability showing weak results and a concerning protection profile for IDPs. This is partly due to data entry, data management, and the tools implemented in the survey.

Key findings include:

- **Shelter.** While only a third of respondents expected to live in a temporary shelter in the intention survey, about three quarters report living in a temporary shelter post return
- **Secondary displacement.** Although only 5% of IS respondents reported plans to leave at least one family member at the site of displacement, 20% of PRA respondents reported that at least one family member was not living with them at the site of return
- **Insecurity.** While only 2% of respondents in the intention survey expected to face insecurity as a main challenge upon return, 40% of respondents perceived insecurity and violence as the main threat to their returnee livelihood
- **Violence.** Four out of five reported a physical assault within the previous three weeks in the VoO. The prevalence of the perception of violence as a threat is supported by the reported incidents of physical assault across all surveys, rising to 95% of all respondents from group two. The perception and experience of violence portray a deteriorating security environment that grows more severe from one group of returnees to the next[33]
- **Food insecurity.** Reports of food insufficiency were alarmingly frequent, with two in five respondents reporting not having had enough to eat at least once in the previous week
- **Health.** The two main concerns reported were access to healthcare facilities and treatment received at those facilities. Two respondents out of five reported poor road conditions as a primary obstacle to receiving healthcare, a fifth complained of high transportation taxes and one in five did not find transport available. More than 12% of women found insecurity to be an obstacle to receiving medical treatment
- **Livelihoods.** While more than two thirds of IS respondents expected agricultural, pastoral or trading activities to account for their main source of income upon return, 57% of PRA respondents reported their main source of sustenance to be either the reception of food aid or the sale thereof.

The following sections will elaborate on these findings. It will also discuss to what extent, indicators set forth in the Consortium's M&E framework have been met.

3.1 IDP Profiles – Findings of the Intention Surveys

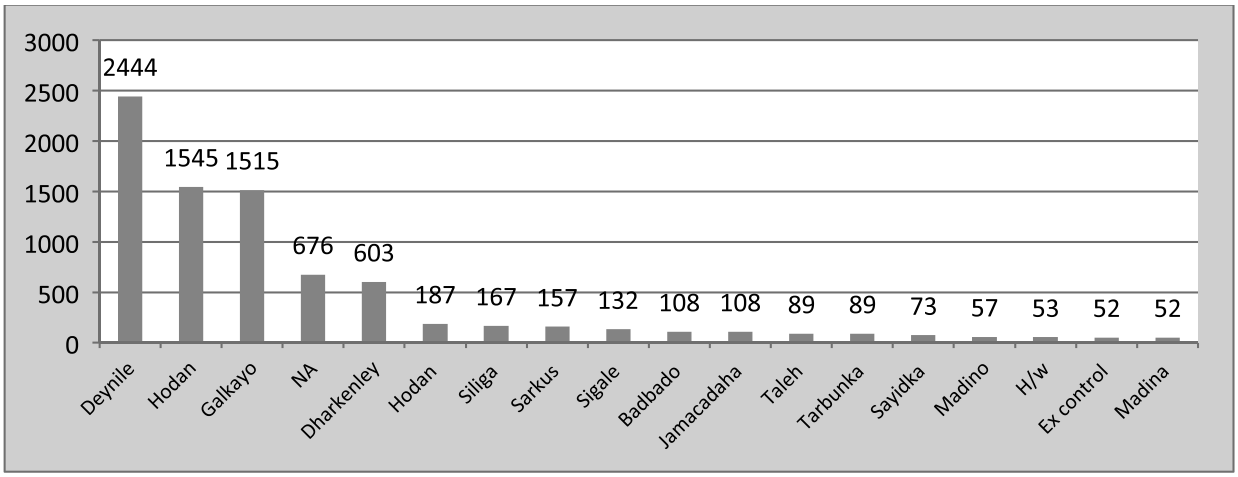
The IS was supposed to be conducted with all participants of the return program. To date 17,808 interviews have been conducted and reported, beginning in June 2012 and intensifying in 2013. The survey appears to be on-going, with more than 2400 reported since March 1, 2014. For this analysis, 11,114 interviews have been used, as one dataset was not available for analysis.

33 This response rate was found to be surprising by field officers of the SRC as it did not match what they observed on the ground. There were also no significant incidents of violence reported in the feedback and complaints mechanism. Misinterpretation of the survey question was highlighted as a possible reason. However, at this stage and within the scope of this report, it recommends that this figure and incidence be looked at carefully and immediately by SRC members and double-checked from the ground.

1. Origins, displacement sites, timeline

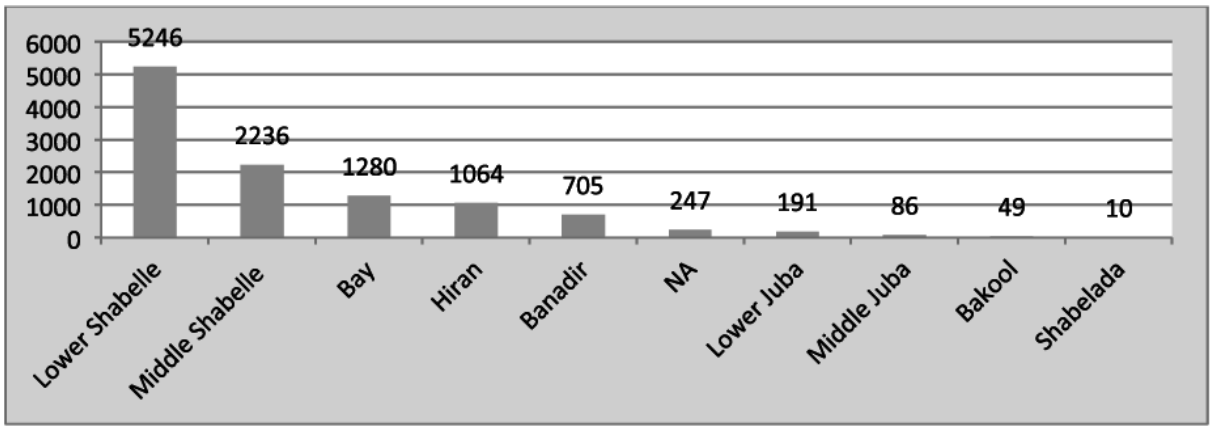
99% of IS respondents expressed a desire to return to their VoO, presumably because they had been preselected to that end. Respondents were majority female (79%), though each represented and answered questions on behalf of her/his household. Household members numbered between one and thirteen, with a mean of 4.8, a median and pronounced mode at 4. While a typical household might have four members, more than a quarter have six or more, and some as many as thirteen. More than half the respondents were interviewed in displacement at one of four principal sites: Deynile, Hodan in Mogadishu specifically, Dharkenley in Banadir region and Galkayo in Mudug region while the remainder were dispersed among another dozen or so sites.

Graph 1: Village/Town of IS interviews (top 18 with significant countable value)



The exact number is difficult to ascertain, due to irregularities in the reporting of site names. The majority were displaced from Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay, Hiraan or Banadir. The findings affirm what other research studies have found – 60% of IDPs at least in Mogadishu were from the two Shabelles, Bay and Bakool given that Lower Shabelle and Bakool were the hardest hit by the 2011 famine[34]. Again, the number of villages was difficult to ascertain due to a lack of standardisation among place names and irregularities in the reporting thereof. From an operational perspective, this challenge arises as IDPs often mention their rural unit of origin as opposed to the registered name of the village, making standardisation difficult for the sending organisation.

Graph 2: What is your place of origin? (Region)

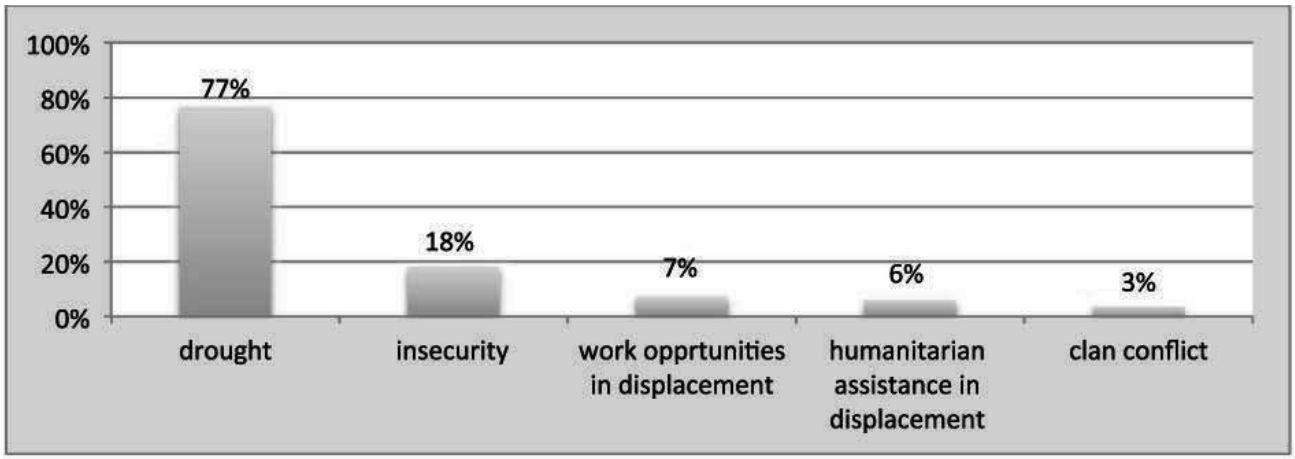


2. Reasons for Displacement

Majority of the respondents indicated that drought was the main reason of displacement whilst 18% cited insecurity as the reason why they left their places of origin. Work opportunities and humanitarian assistance formed a small percentage of people's reasons to have moved.

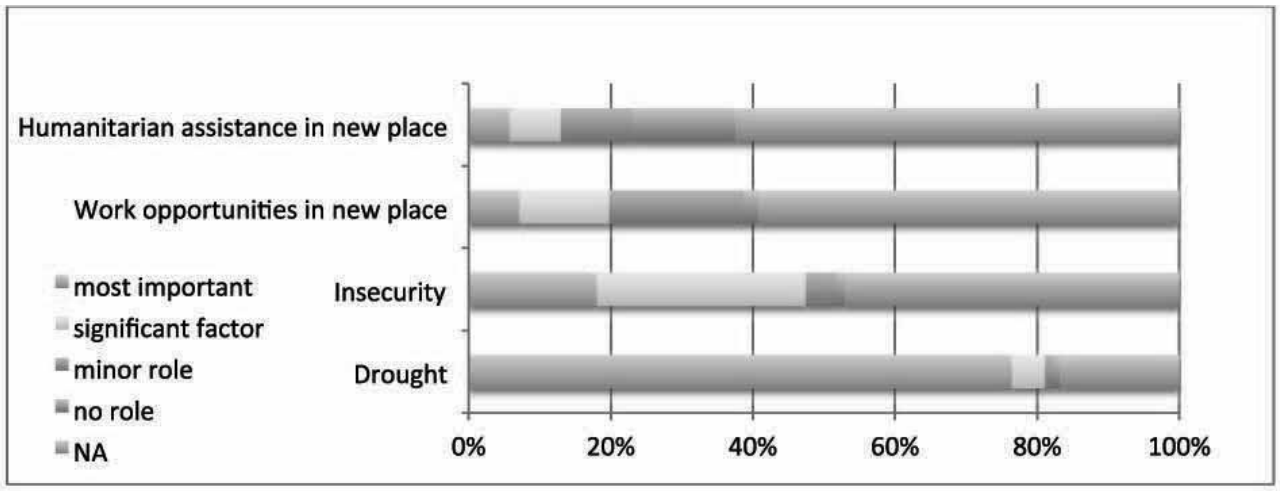
34 ICRC, Mogadishu IDP Survey, 2012

Graph 3: Why did you leave your place of origin?

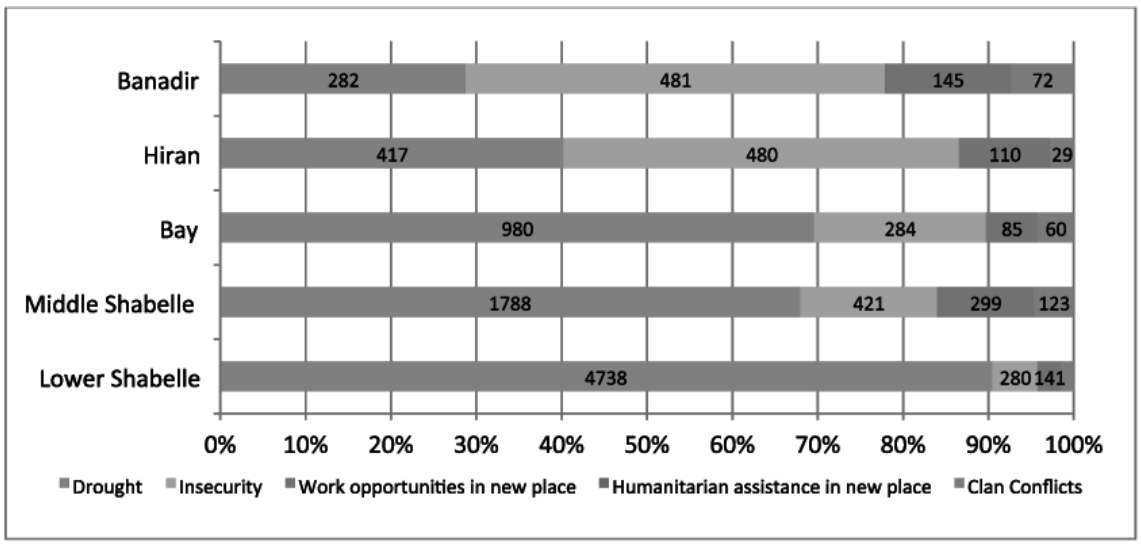


Almost all the respondents had spent between one and three years in displacement, mostly motivated by drought, with a strong plurality motivated by insecurity at their place of origin.

Graph 4: Why did you leave your place of origin? (Intensity)



Graph 5: Why did you leave your place of origin? (Region of Origin)



Furthermore, respondents in all regions reported limited access to food as their greatest concern upon return, followed by no work and no health services. Some cited a fear of no rain in their VoO.

3. Special needs & vulnerabilities

Special needs among respondents were rarely reported, with, for example, only 120 of more than 11,000 reporting the presence of an elderly family member. This may reflect a systematic underreporting of health-related vulnerabilities.

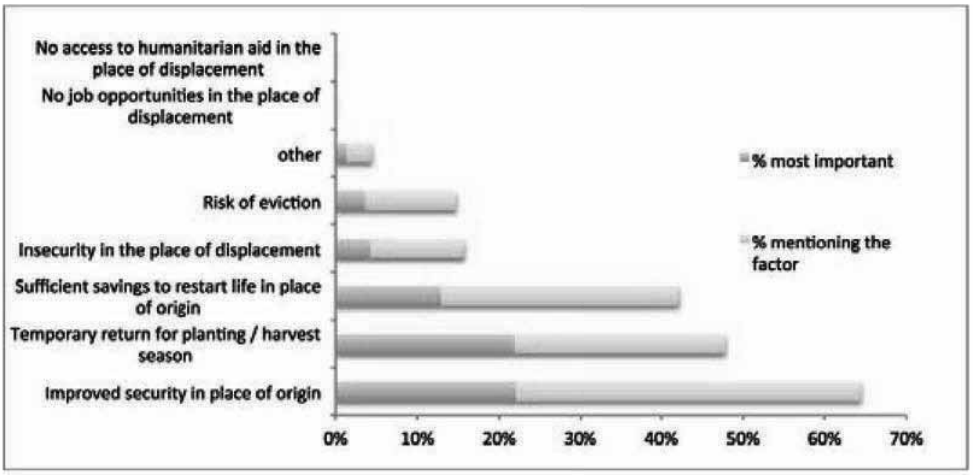
Table 3: Do you have family members with special needs?

Special need	% of respondents
Single parent family member	4%
Orphan family member	4%
Sick family member	3%
Pregnant family member	2%
Elder family member	1%
Physical disability	1%
Mental disability	1%
Child headed household	1%
Separated child	0%

4. Return

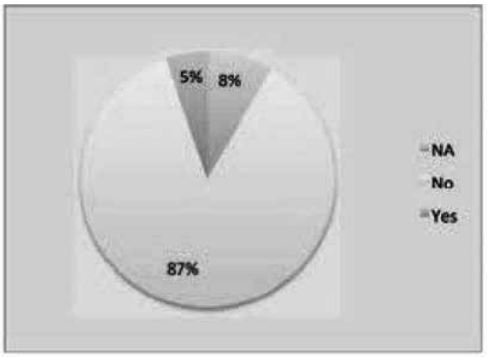
The largest group of respondents reported increased security at the place of origin as a motivation for return, though significant groups expressed a desire to return temporarily for seasonal agricultural work, and a similarly sized group considered that they had amassed the savings necessary to start anew. On the other end of the spectrum, significant minorities of respondents left the site of displacement due to insecurity or eviction. No respondent expressed a motivation to return due to unemployment or lack of aid at the site of displacement.

Graph 6: Why do you want to return to your place of origin in the coming 3 months?



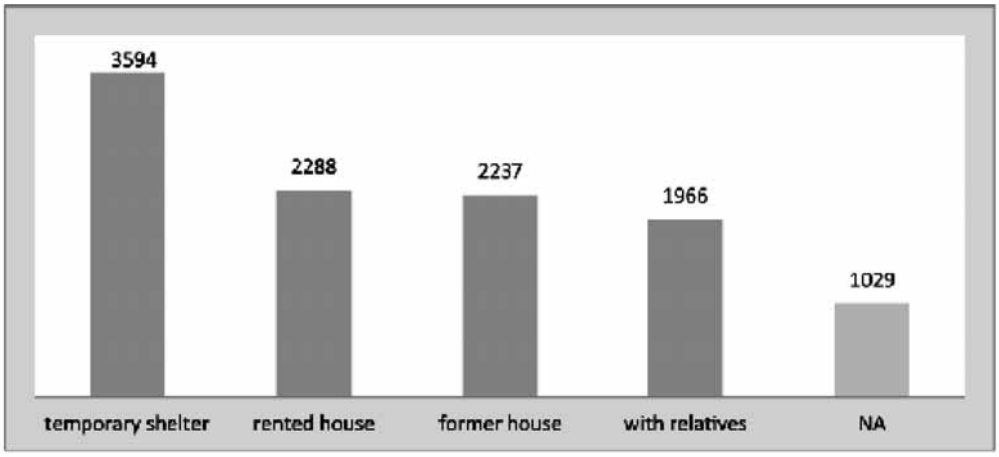
Many respondents indicated that their decision to return was conditional on a number of factors. Chief among these was the provision of transport, followed by the provision of agricultural aid and an improvement in security. One respondent in four indicated a willingness to return under any condition. Only 5% of respondents indicated the intention to leave family members behind at the site of displacement.

Graph 7: If you decide to return, would some of your family members remain in the place of displacement (here)?



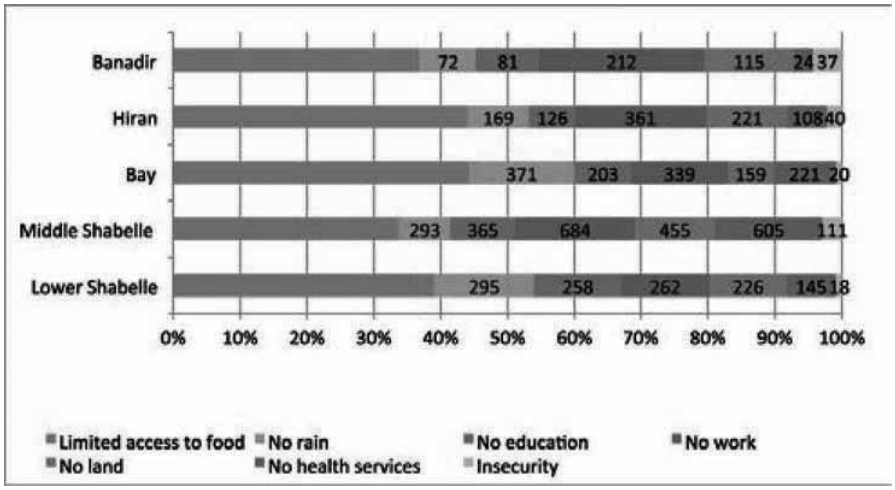
A third of respondents expressed the expectation that nothing left behind would be usable upon return, though a slightly larger proportion expected to reclaim farmland or a house. Around three quarters of respondents claimed knowledge of the condition of the belongings they had left behind through a relative. A third expected to inhabit a temporary shelter upon arrival, with 3 in 5 expecting to rent a home, re-inhabit their former home, or move in with relatives.

Graph 8: If you decide to return, where will you live?



About two in five respondents feared their main challenge upon return would be a shortage of food, while less than half that number feared unemployment, with small minorities concerned about access to healthcare and schools, and agriculture-related challenges. Only two percent of respondents reported a concern over insecurity.

Graph 9: If you decide to return, what would be the main challenges for your family in your place of origin? (by region of origin)



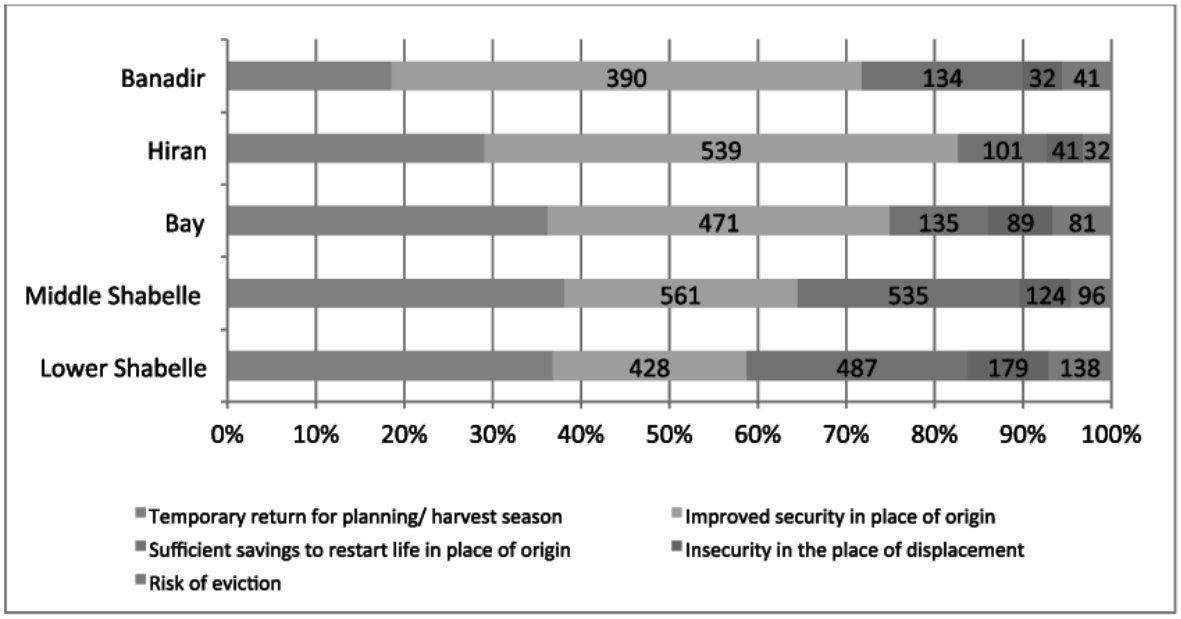
The great majority reported an intention to stay at their place of return, at least insofar as security remained adequate. Almost 10% expected to leave again after the planting or harvest season. Those who planned to leave again overwhelmingly expected to continue in the same employment they held pre-return.

Table 4: If you decide to return, what would be the main challenges for your family in your place of origin?

Main challenges upon return	% of respondents
Limited access to food	38%
No work	17%
No health services	11%
No rain	11%
No land	11%
No education	10%
Insecurity	2%

Geographically, stated reasons for return followed a similar trend as those for leaving, though less markedly. Former residents of the Shabelles and Bay were more likely to return temporarily for the planting or harvest season, while Hiraan and Banadir were more likely motivated by the perception of increased security, though this latter motivation featured prominently across the board. As will be highlighted later in the discussion on PRA findings, security was increasingly reported as the main concern in the VoO by those who had returned.

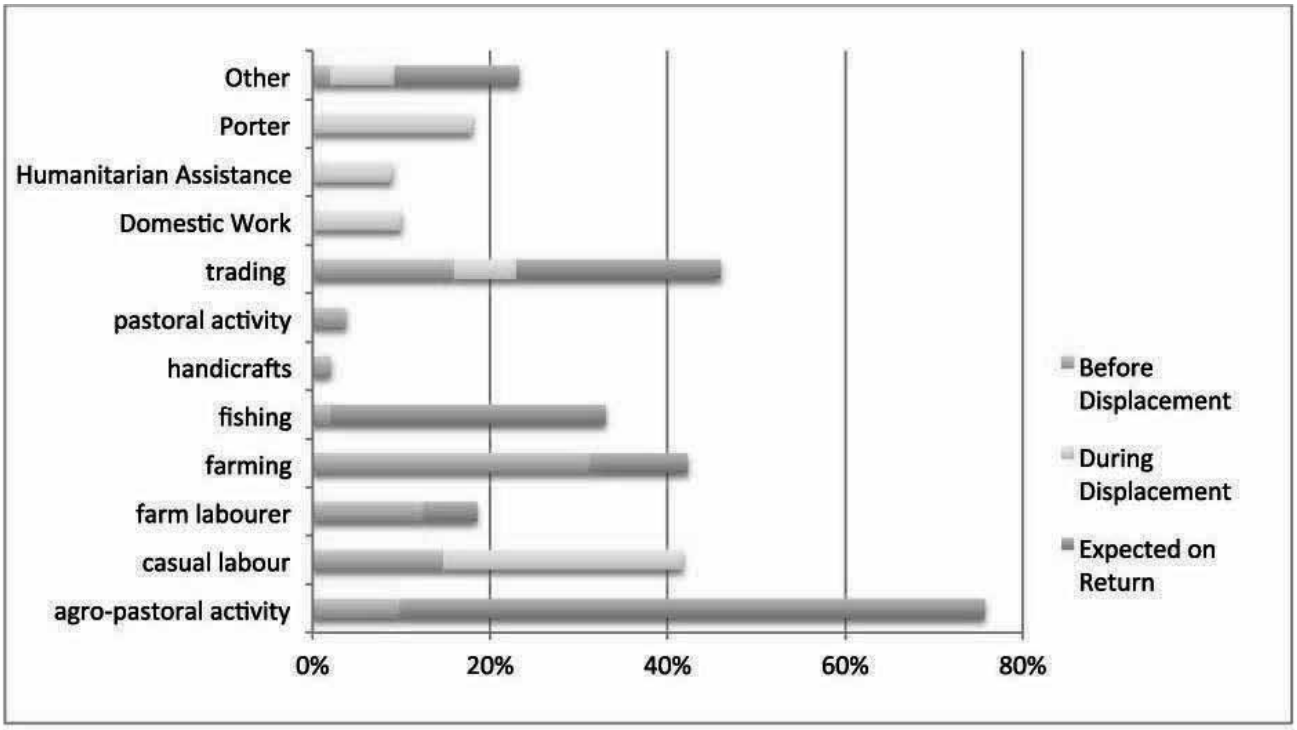
Graph 10: Why do you want to return to your place of origin in the coming 3 months? (by region of origin)



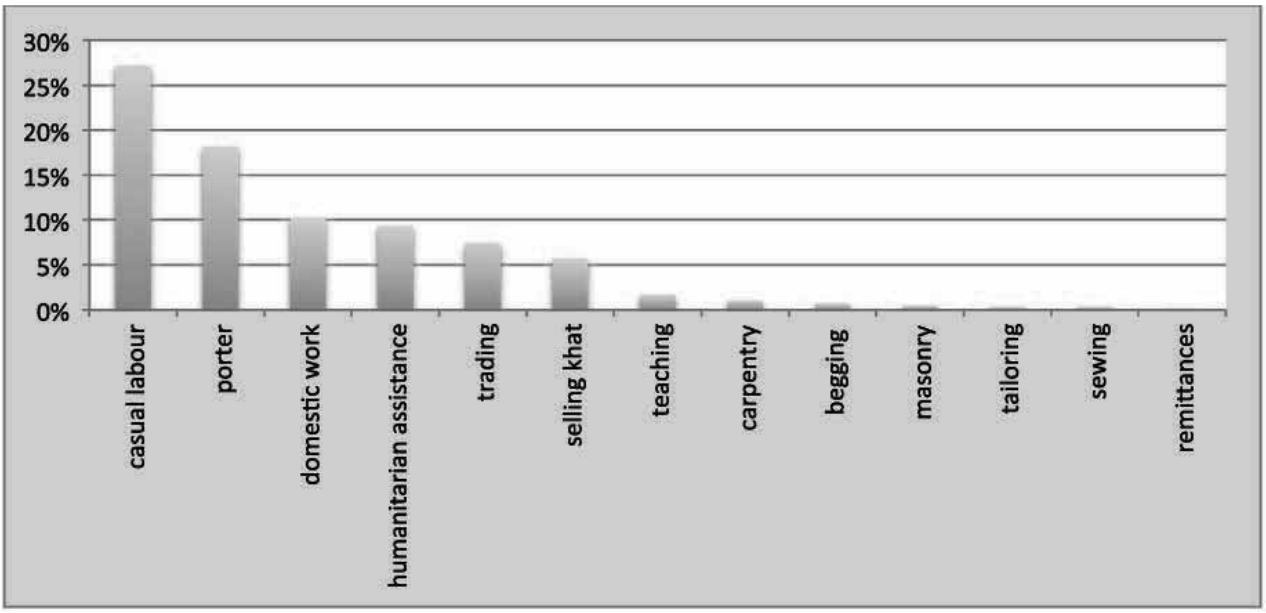
Livelihood Conditions of Returnees

Most of the respondents before displacement were either farmers, traders or involved in some form of agro-pastoral activity. While in displacement these activities shifted sharply toward casual labour and porter or domestic work. Expectations regarding activities post return followed similar trends to those expressed pre-displacement, indicating a general desire to resume a pre-displacement lifestyle, or simply the skills and experience IDPs already possessed. Two thirds of respondents expected to be able to sustain their families upon return through their chosen activity, with half of the remainder undetermined.

Graph 11: How did your family earn a living in your place of origin?", "How does your family earn a living in the place of displacement (here)?", "What will you and your family members do for a living when you return to your place of origin?"

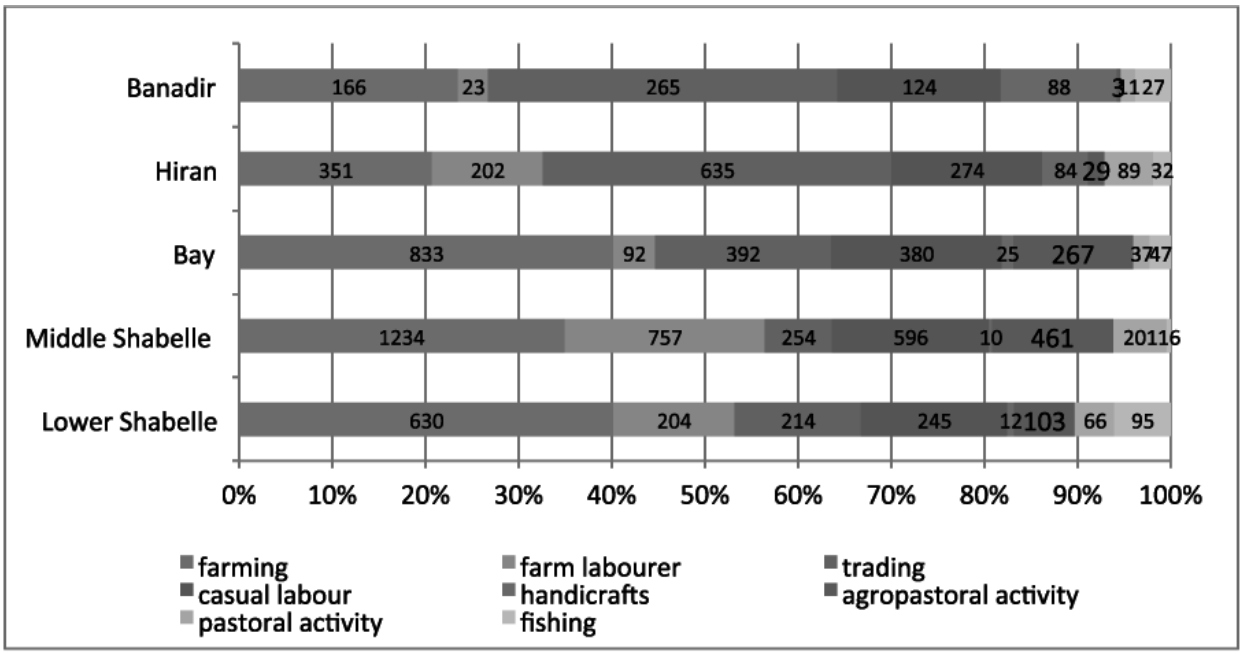


Graph 12: How does your family earn a living in the place of displacement (here)?



Reasons for leaving and return vary considerably by region and village of origin, perhaps due in part to the distribution of former livelihoods of IDPs. Thus in Middle and Lower Shabelle and in Bay, where pre-displacement activities were predominantly agriculture-related, drought was by far the most frequently reported principal reason for departure, while in Hiraan and Banadir, with much larger proportions of trade-related activity, insecurity and the prospect of employment in displacement were the most frequently reported motives for leaving. (These correlations are less observable in the breakdown by village, perhaps due to the smaller sample sizes.)

Graph 13: How did your family earn a living in your place of origin? (by region of origin)



Conditions in IDP settlements in Mogadishu

An assessment conduced by ICRC in July 2012 in IDP settlements in Mogadishu concluded – *"... many disparities exist between camps (and even districts) in terms of coverage of needs. There were camps where basic needs were almost entirely covered while other camps had barely witnessed any humanitarian support. Although access to some districts and settlements can be constrained due to reasons of security, the unequal distribution of assistance throughout Mogadishu in terms of quantity and quality was nonetheless striking."* The assessment report noted that IDPs' general living conditions were not noticeably different from that of neighbouring urban poor families even though people in the camps were susceptible to additional hardships due to the lack of proper shelter[35].

Mapping of the conditions of IDPs in settlements in Mogadishu provides an idea of potential push and pull factors to re-displacement and the importance of return and more importantly post return reintegration activities for the Consortium. For example, the ICRC survey reported that distribution of food by humanitarian organisations was the main source of food for the majority of IDP families[36]. Similarly water access was largely available and in sufficient quantities in all districts except Huriwaa and Yaqshid. Most camps were hygienically in a minimum acceptable condition with a sufficient number of latrines and overall little overflow of sewage[37]. However, the assistance only partially covered IDPs' food needs. Without sustainable long-term assistance or sustenance, a returnee is prone to fall in the same trap in the VoO, possibly leading to return to IDP settlements. On the other hand, according to the ICRC survey, most of the assistance provided to the IDPs in Mogadishu tended to be a one-off assistance and most of the time insufficient in quantity and quality, possibly becoming an incentive for IDPs to return to their VoO.

In general the conditions in IDP settlements were found to be dire. The survey did not come across a single IDP settlement that had received a complete set of NFIs. For example, some camps had excellent tents, but none of the EHI items; a majority of settlements were therefore made of huts made out of clothes and improvised materials. Many families were sharing cooking utensils. Access to health care was considered critical or very difficult for IDPs in the following five districts that are at the periphery of Mogadishu (Huriwaa, Yaqshid, Karaan east, Daynile, Dharkenley and Howlwadaag North) [38]. Most of these are settlements were where SRC beneficiaries resided before being assisted to return.

It is important to recognize the complex nature of IDP settlements, the economy that surrounds them and the informal power structures that govern them, to be able to fully understand the implications in assisting and maintaining voluntary informed returns. It essentially implies that IDPs are caught between a rock and a hard place – with difficult conditions in both IDP settlements and in VoOs. What governs their choice and how the humanitarian community is complicit in helping them arrive at their decision is a question that must be repeatedly asked and answered in Somalia.

35 Mogadishu IDP Survey – June 2012 – ICRC
36 Ibid
37 Ibid
38 Ibid

Note on Rounds and Groups referred to in the PDM and PRA

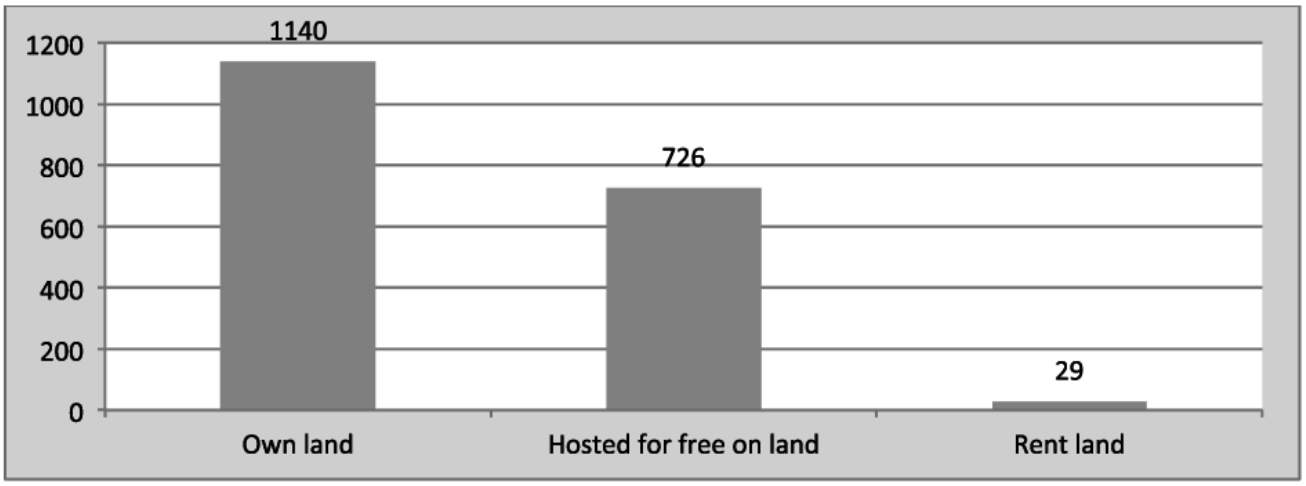
Round 1 (of M&E)	Round 2 (of M&E)	Round 2 (of M&E)
Group 1	Group 1 (PRA conducted for the second time)	Group 2
Caseload 1 (Gu 2013) Caseload 2 (Gu 2013) Caseload 3 (Deyr 2012 & Gu 2013)	Caseload 1 (Gu 2013) Caseload 2 (Gu 2013) Caseload 3 (Deyr 2012 & Gu 2013)	Caseload 4 (Deyr 2013) Caseload 5 (Deyr 2013) Caseload 6 (Deyr 2013) Caseload 7 (Deyr 2013)

3.2 Post Distribution Monitoring

PDMs were conducted concurrent to the PRAs on statistically significant sample of returnees shortly after arrival and distribution of the Standard Minimum Package. As the main aim of the PDM was to evaluate the effectiveness of the distribution program, it contains less information about conditions on the ground than the IS or the PRA. However, a few questions proved revelatory with respect to the needs of newly arrived returnees.

In general, the household profile of returnees falls in line with that reported in first round PRAs, as is to be expected. 78% of reporting heads of household were female, with between one and twelve household members with a mean, median and mode of three. Over half of returnees reclaimed their own land, while under half were hosted for free. Only a handful of families rented land.

Graph 14: Type of land rights



The distribution programs were similar among all returnees with particular regional variations. However, most were given non-food items, items related to creating or maintaining shelter, items relating to livelihood maintenance, cash for food distributions, and direct food distribution. Almost none reported receiving vouchers of any kind, or cash for shelter, livelihood, or non-food items. This is because at present, no sending organisation or SRC member is using this methodology to provide the SMP.

Answers to questions of usefulness and quality of items received were difficult to analyse as the items differed from respondent to respondent. As such, the tools should be revised to capture data on pre-defined selected items. However, the team conducted a case study analysis on the latest round of PDM of one caseload. For items like plastic sheet, ropes, bags, jerry cans, mats, tarpaulins, shawl, cooking pots, frying pan and bowl, it was determined that without fail both quality and usefulness of the items provided was judged as "average" or "good" by over 95% of respondents. On whether items have been sold and their actual use, no responses of selling were discerned. Theft too does not seem to have been a problem for this caseload, as the columns relating to it were all filled with "No". However, the results of these questions are indicative only and would require significant cleaning of tools and monitoring during data collection to be assessed rigorously.

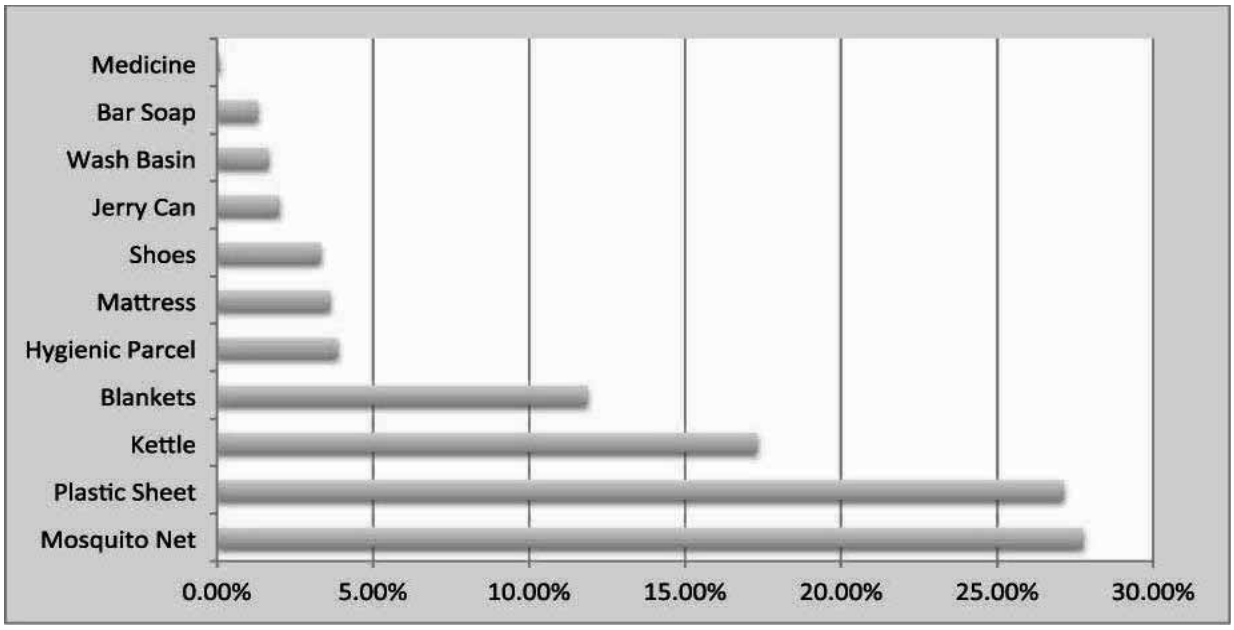
Table 5: What items did you receive from (sending organisation) immediately during and after your return to this location?

SMP Items	% of people received
Non food items	98%
Shelter items	92%
Livelihood inputs	89%
Cash for food	83%
Food items	66%
Cash for shelter	1%
Livelihood input vouchers	1%
Non item food vouchers	1%
Shelter vouchers	1%
Food vouchers	0%
Cash for non food	0%
Cash for livelihood inputs	0%

More revealing are the perceived shortcomings of the SMP as reported by PDM respondents. Far and away the most requested item was a mosquito net, with two in five respondents putting it at the top of their list, and two in three including it. Intuitively this is congruent with the observation that 60% of PRA respondents have recently reported a bout of malaria.

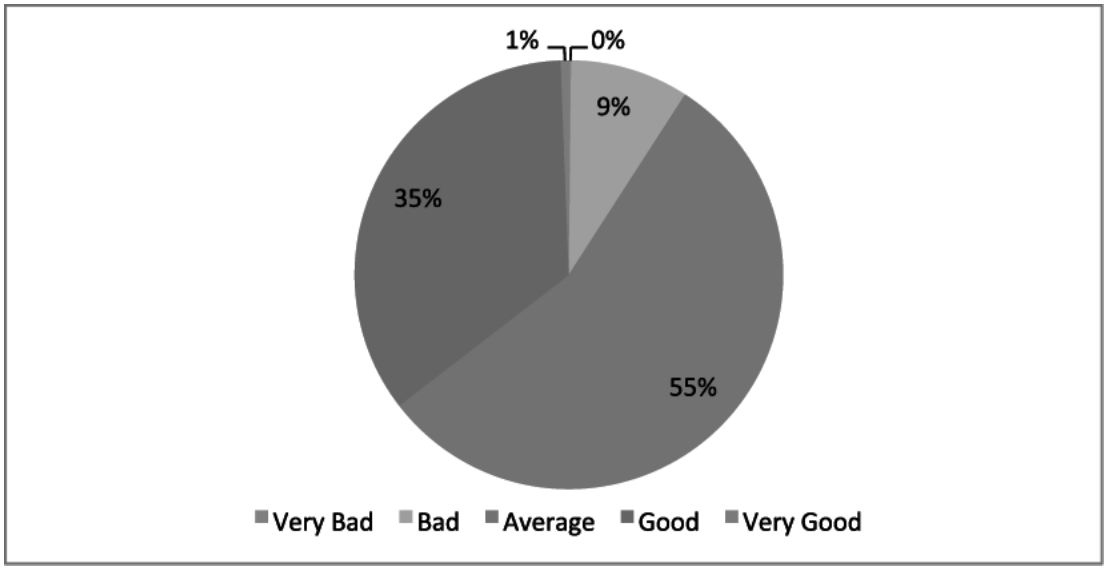
In addition two thirds of respondents would have preferred to have been provided a plastic sheet, more than half a kettle, a third with blankets and an eighth or less with a mattress, shoes, a jerry can, and sundry others. Perhaps the distribution of cash for non-food items might have addressed these additional needs. It should also be noted that beneficiaries at present are provided a plastic sheet through the SMP and another through the Emergency Shelter Package.

Graph 15: What other items would you have preferred which you did not receive or need more of?



In terms of quality of distribution, 55% rated it as average – whilst 35% reported that the distribution method was well organised.

Graph 16: Distribution Method well organised?

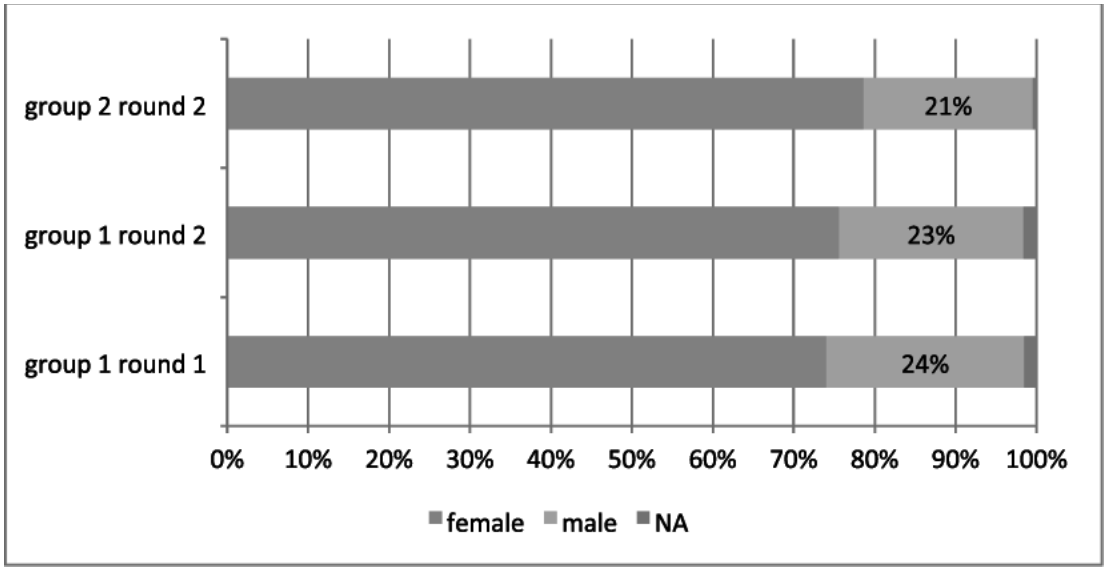


93% of the respondents said no when asked whether they had been paid to be included on the distribution list. None reported as having been paid to figure on the distribution list. 94% reported that they had not been told what items they would receive before distribution whilst an equally high number – 93% reported that were not told what items they would receive during distribution. It should be noted that no respondent reported yes to the above two questions. In terms of payment of taxes or fees for the goods, 93% respondents reported and only one respondent responded that they had paid taxes or fees for the goods. In terms of security, majority – 93% reported no security problems during or after the distribution.

3.3 PRA: Post return conditions

Post return assessment surveys were conducted with around 2,650 respondents in a number of villages recording participants' perceptions after return. The sample size of interviews in each return location was determined by Axiom to reflect a 95% confidence interval on the statistical value of the data collected. Of the respondents whose gender was identified, around three quarters were female.

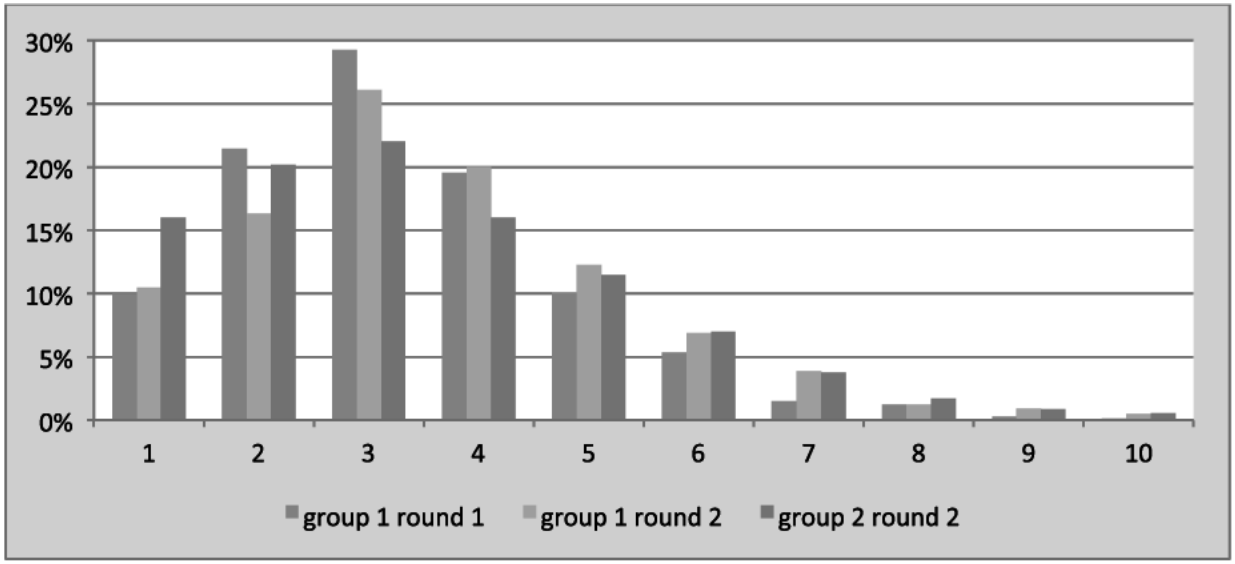
Graph 17: Gender of PRA respondents



The distribution of household sizes in group 1 changed somewhat between rounds, with the average family size increasing from 3.3 members to 3.6. This difference is well outside the margin of error and may reflect other relations joining returnee households. The mean for group 2, at 3.4, was not significantly different from group one round one.

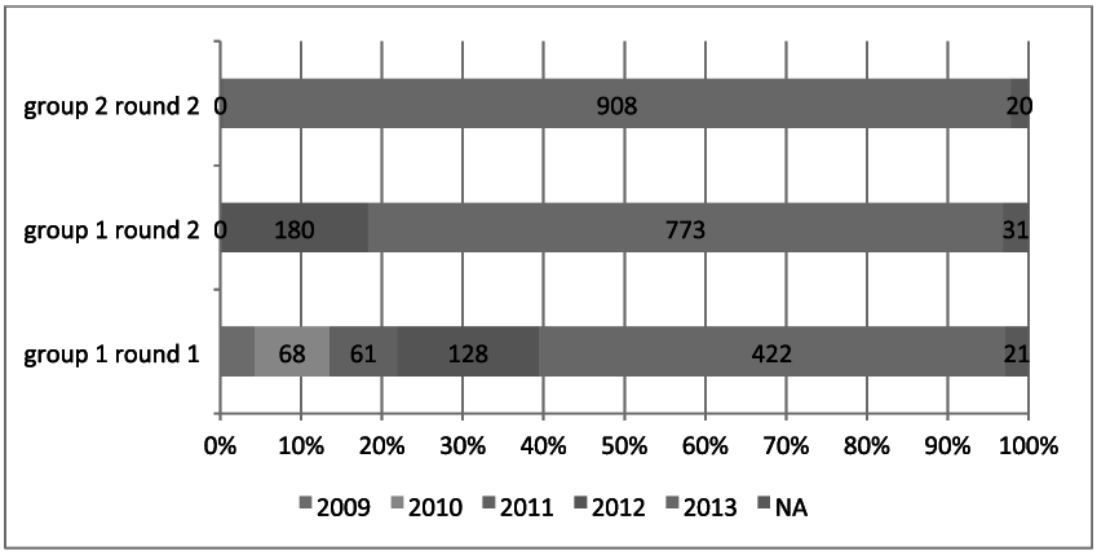
It was not possible to determine, how many respondents, if any, comprised the 15% beneficiaries who belonged to the most vulnerable group of the host communities.

Graph 18: Number of HH members of PRA respondents



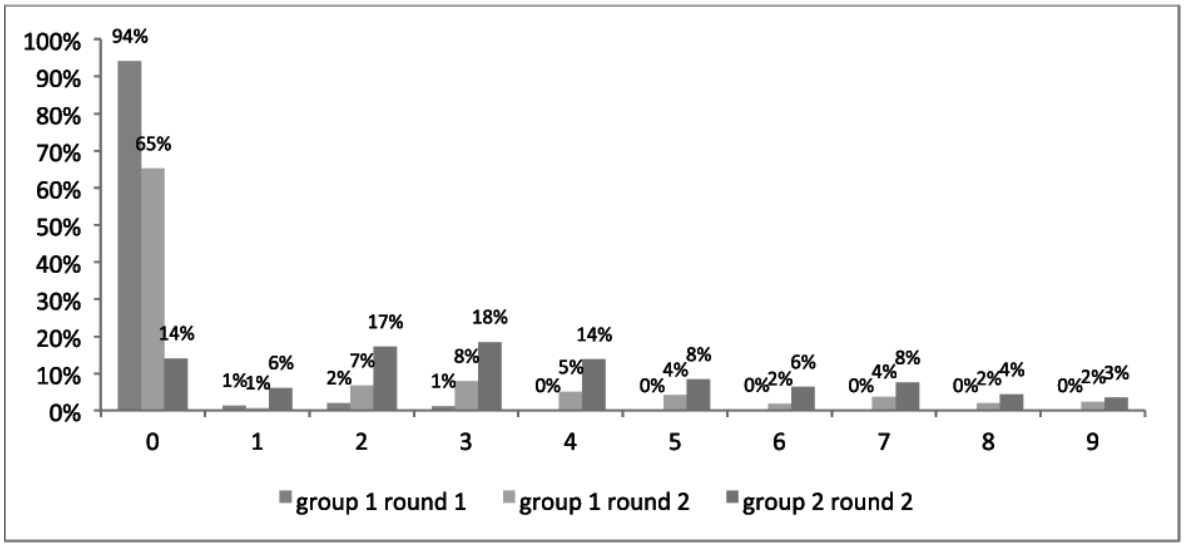
The responses to the question "When did you return (month/year)" may reflect some inexactitude in the interviews. Although more than 97% responded, all answers were years, with no months reported. Furthermore, while more than 20% of group 1 respondents reported having returned their village of origin before 2012, when asked during round 1, all respondents in the same group reported returning in 2012 or later when asked again in round 2. This discrepancy suggests either a radical change in the composition of group 1, or a systematic shift in data collection or reporting practice. All responding members of group 2 reported returning in 2013 (as correctly should be).

Graph 19: Back in the village of origin since..?



The number of kinship ties reported shows a similar discrepancy. While in the course of round 1, 94% of respondents appeared to report no kinship ties in the village of return, by the second round this number had dropped to 65%. 85% of respondents from group 2 reported at least one kinship tie in the village of return, with 3.25 kinship ties on average. This may suggest that the members of group two might be disproportionately likely to be related to members of group one - which might indicate a positive impact of the return programme at encouraging return of other households who did not return in round 1[39].

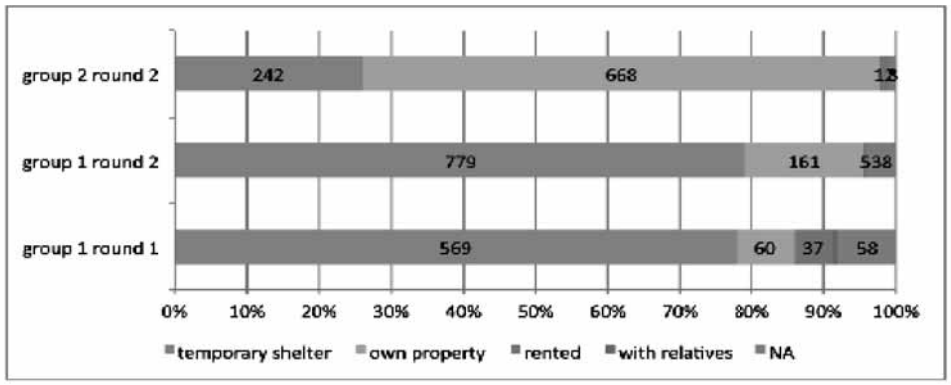
Graph 20: Number of kinship ties in village



1. Shelter & Dwellings

Group 1 began, and remained, predominantly domiciled in temporary shelters, though the 5% who initially reported renting or staying with relatives appear to have acquired permanent housing of their own by round two. The majority of the Group 2 respondents, conversely, returned to their own permanent homes, while only one in four were living in temporary shelters. While only a third of respondents expected to live in a temporary shelter in the intention survey, about three quarters report living in a temporary shelter post-return.

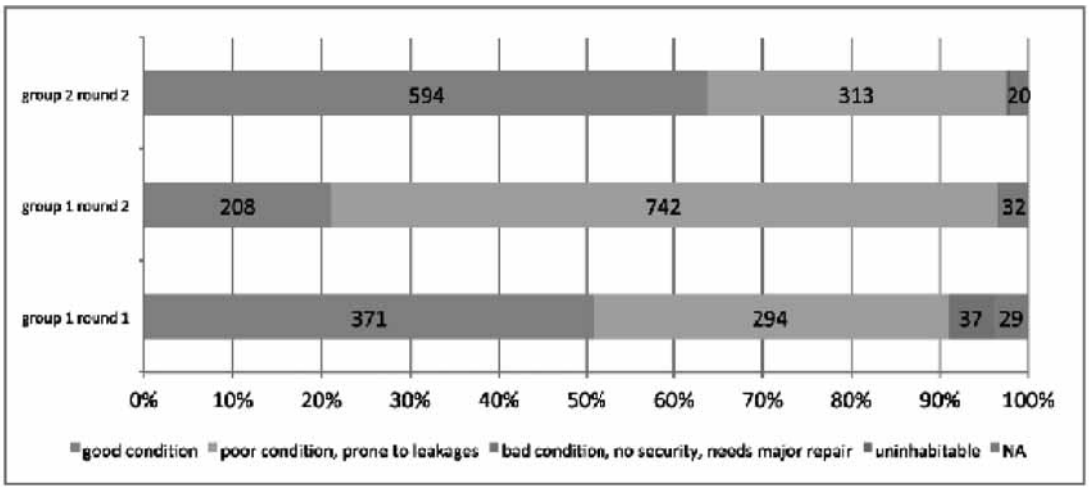
Graph 21: Type of housing in VoO



While more than half of respondents in group one reported that their dwellings were in good condition during round one, by round two three respondents in four reported their housing in poor condition, with a tendency to leak. If group two follows the same trend, the two thirds that reported housing in good condition will be greatly reduced by the next round of PRAs.

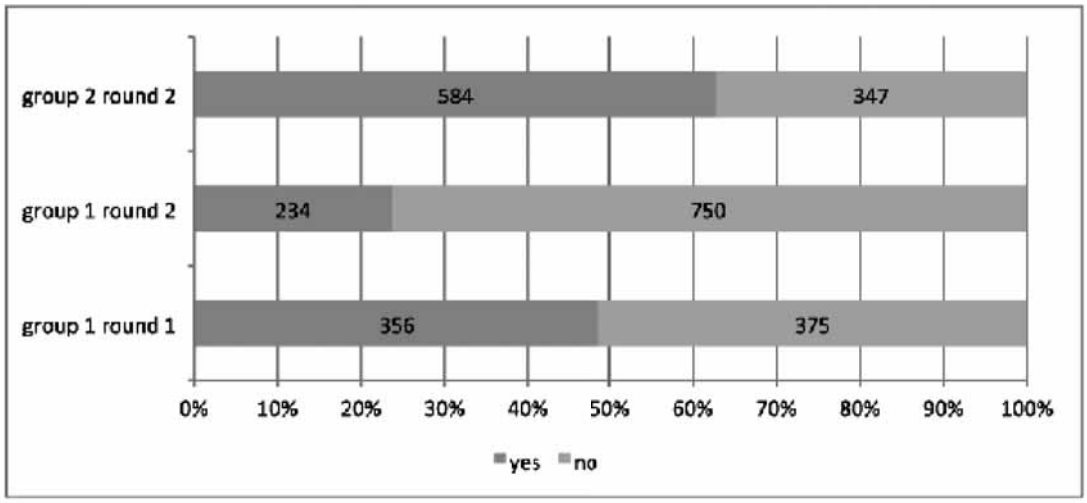
39 It should be noted that the responses, as reported, did not distinguish between a respondent reporting no kinship ties in the village of return and a respondent failing to answer the question. Thus the number of respondents reporting no kinship ties may be greatly inflated.

Graph 22: What is the condition of your house?



The same deterioration appears to hold in the intention of respondents to remain in their present dwellings.

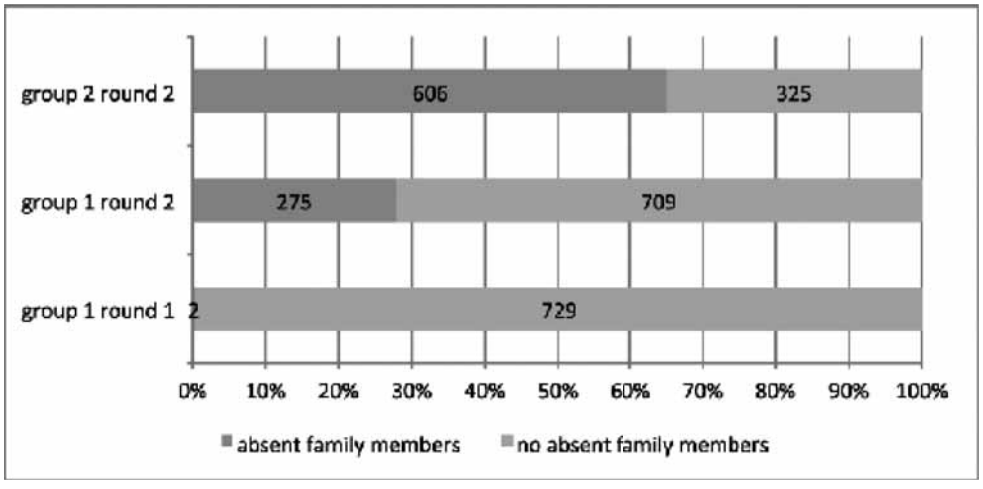
Graph 23: Do you plan to remain in this house for the next year?



2. Return to site of displacement

Although only 5% of IS respondents reported plans to leave at least one family member at the site of displacement, a number of PRA respondents reported that at least one family member was not living with them at the site of return.

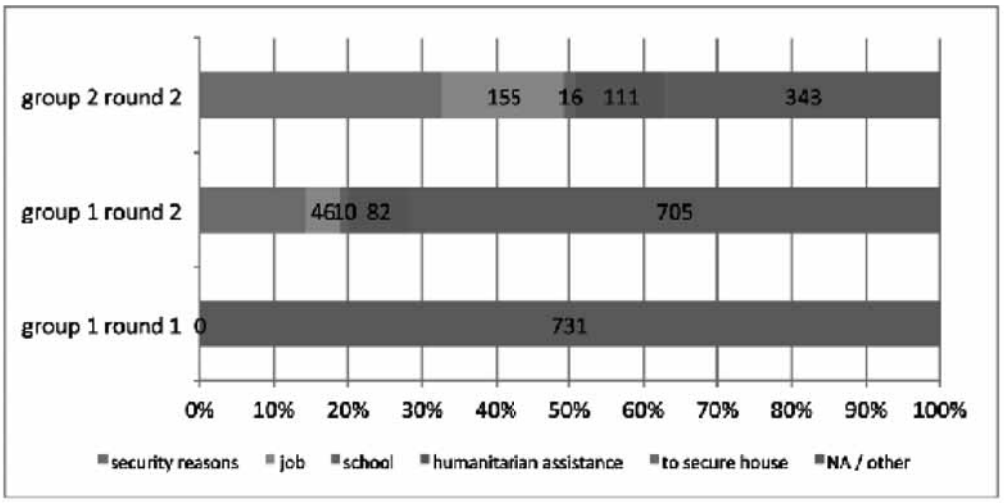
Graph 24: Are there family members not here with you?



Group one respondents unanimously reported no absent family members at the outset, though by round two more than a quarter of them reported absent family members. Two thirds of group two respondents, conversely, reported absent family members from the outset. This might reflect an evolving reluctance of some family members to leave the site of displacement, with those already in their village of origin somewhat less inclined to return, though the inference is purely speculative.

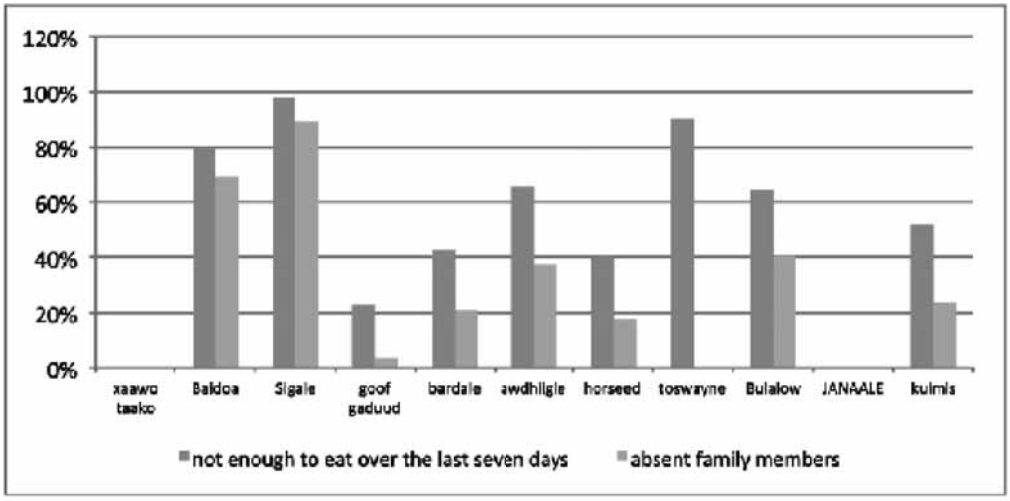
Of those with absent family members, just over half cited security reasons as the motivation for returning to the site of displacement, both in group one and group two. The other half reported returns motivated by employment or humanitarian assistance opportunity, uniformly from group one and group two.

Graph 25: If family members have returned to the previous place of displacement, why?



This return phenomenon varied immensely from village to village, with nine out of ten households reporting at least one absent member in Sigale in Lower Shabelle, and none in Xawo Taako in Hiraan. This appears correlated with the distribution of reports of undernourishment (see next page.

Graph 26: Percentage of respondents reporting absent family members by village and reports of undernourishment



3. Threats

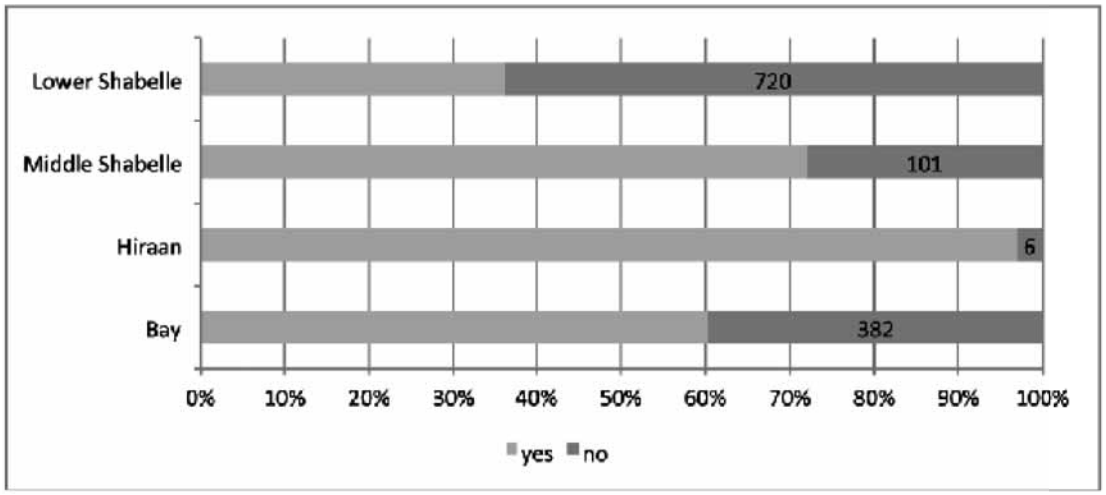
In keeping with the 40% of IS respondents who feared limited access to food upon return, a significant number of PRA respondents reported not having had enough to eat at some point over the previous seven days. The incidence of food insufficiency evolved markedly over time in group one, occurring more than twice as frequently in round two as in round one. The trend takes a catastrophic turn when considering group two, with nearly nine respondents in 10 reporting the insufficiency of food in the previous week.

Table 6: Main threats perceived in VoO

	Group1 round1	Group1 round2	Group2 round2
Times over the past seven days when you did not have enough to eat?	141	486	810
Times over the past seven days when you did not have enough to eat? (%)	19%	49%	87%

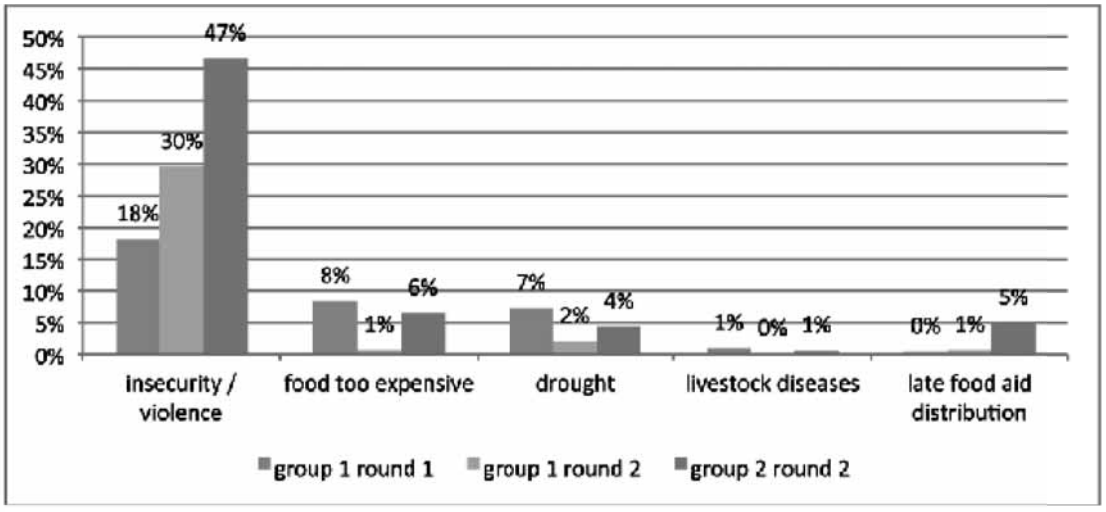
Again, these reports varied strongly by village, with Sigale (Lower Shabelle), Toswayne and Baidoa (Bay) at the most severe end of the spectrum, and Xawo Taako (Hiraan), another of the most populous villages, entirely unaffected. Villages most affected by food insufficiency were also more likely to have family members leave the village of origin again. Regionally, Hiraan appears to exhibit a severe incidence of food insufficiency.

Graph 27: In the last seven days, were there times when you did not have enough to eat?



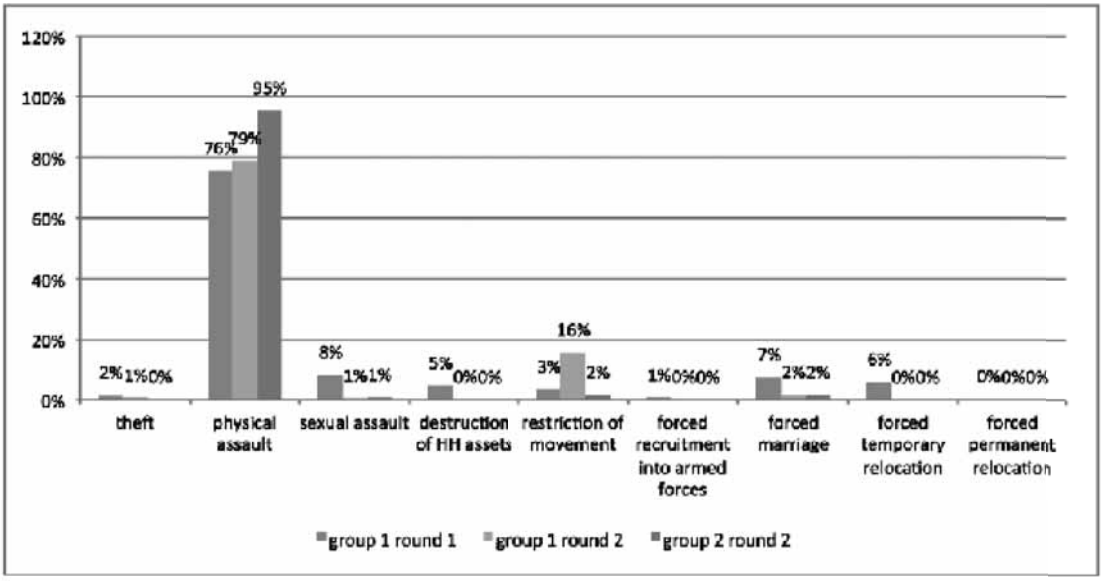
While only 2% of respondents in the intention survey expected to face insecurity as a main challenge upon return, it was the most widely reported principal perceived threat across both groups and rounds. The severity increased pronouncedly from one round to the next, and particularly between group one and group two:

Graph 28: Main threats perceived?



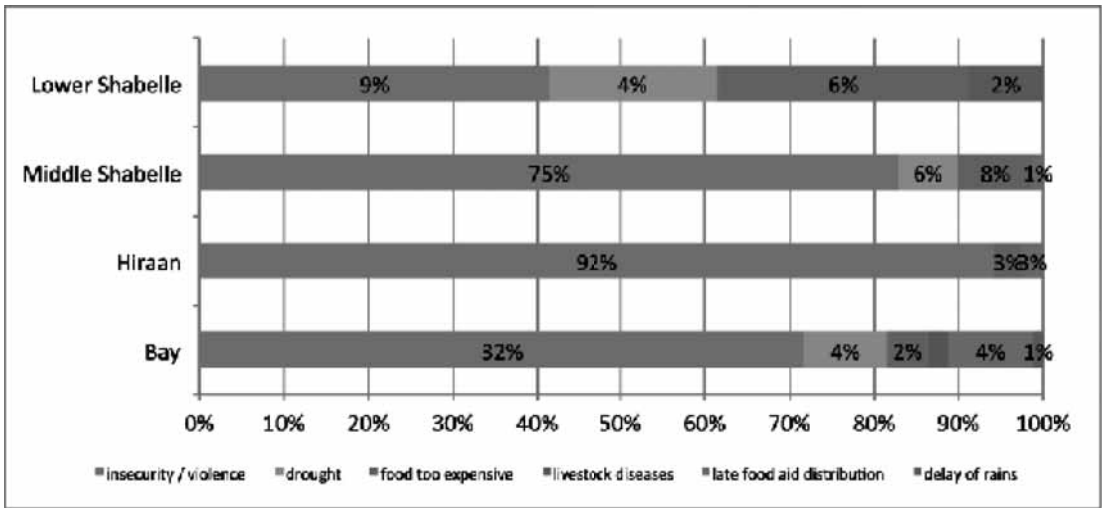
The universal prevalence of the perception of violence as a threat is supported by the majoritarian reported incidents of physical assault across all surveys, rising to ninety five percent of all respondents from group two. The perception and experience of violence thus portray a deteriorating security environment that grows more severe from one group of returnees to the next:

Graph 29: Experiences of violence in the place of return



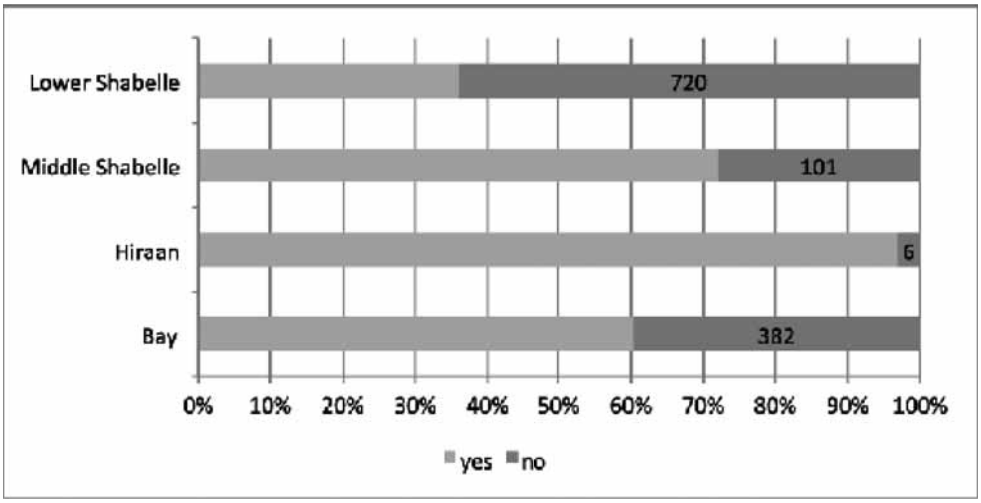
Disaggregation of responses to the question of perceived threats also reveals a geographical trend in the security situation. While the perceived threat of violence was near universal in Middle Shabelle and especially Hiraan, respondents in Bay regarded violence as the principal threat one time in three, and less than one respondent in ten reported it as a principal threat in Lower Shabelle, where the cost of food and drought were comparable threats.

Graph 30: Main threats by region of return



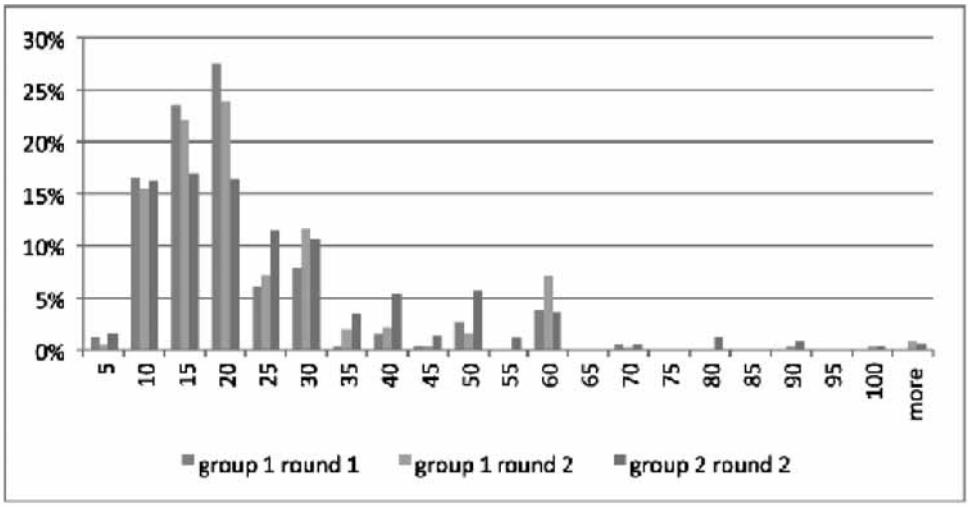
Considering the regions individually, the trend in food insufficiency follows the same trend as the perceived threat of violence, but with greater severity. Almost no respondents in Hiraan reported having enough to eat in the previous week, less than a third in Middle Shabelle, and about four in ten in Bay, while more than two thirds of respondents in Lower Shabelle reported sufficient food:

Graph 31: In the last seven days, were there times when you did not have enough to eat?



Access to water appears to be improving slightly over time and from group to group. At round one, the average responding household was consuming 18.5 litres of water per person per day, significantly shy of the 20-litre target. Though average water consumption had increased to almost 23 litres by round 2, half of group one respondents still reported consuming less that 20 litres per person per day, and almost a third reported less than 15. Group two reported similar consumption to group one in the second round.

Graph 32: Litres of water consumed per person per day for drinking, cooking and washing



The time required to collect water ranged between 15 minutes and 1 hour, with 88% of respondents reporting less than 45-minute water collection times.

In addition to quantity, quality and convenience concerns, 92% reported a physical assault while collecting water[40] of which majority were women[41]. Reports of physical assault while collecting water were uniformly majoritarian, with a small but significant increase between round one and round two.

40 The multi-agency mission report noted that, "Coping mechanisms are in place at village level to ensure access to water but the increasing number of returnee families is stressing the limited absorption capacity."

41 This could also be because of the sampling bias.

Graph 33: Reported physical assaults while collecting water

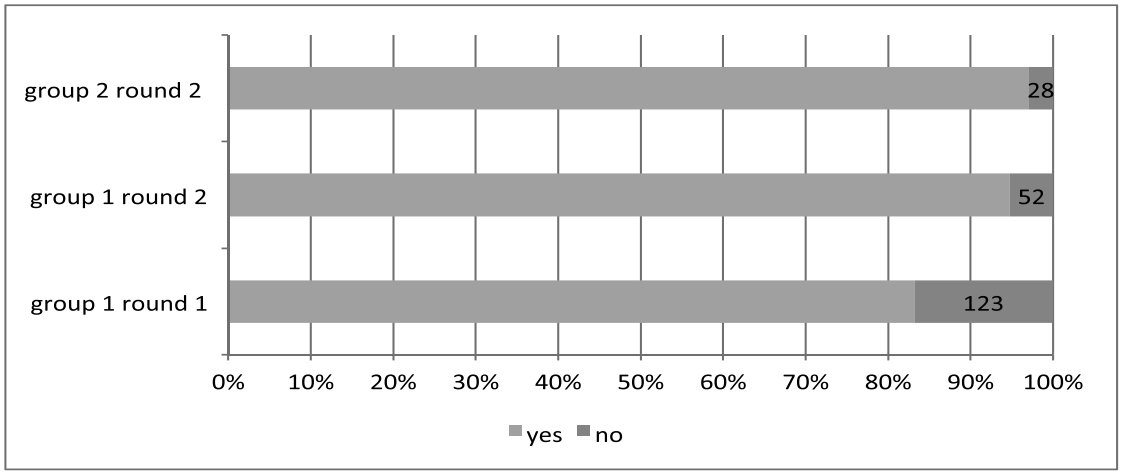


Table 7: Water Consumption per litre per person

	Group 1 Round 1	Group 1 Round 2	Group 2 Round 2
Average water consumption per person per day	18.5	22.9	25.7
% less than 20 Litres per person per day (cumulative of those reporting less than 15 litres per day)	61.3%	49.7%	46.3%
% Less than 15 litres per person per day	42.8%	30.3%	31.4%

Reported sources of water varied widely among groups and rounds, with large numbers of respondents reporting access to piped water and/or an unprotected shallow well:

Table 8: Water Access

	Group 1 Round 1	Group 1 Round 2	Group 2 Round 2
Water access through a well with a motor pump	1%	9%	2%
Water access through a well with a hand pump	1%	13%	31%
Water access through a protected shallow well	2%	4%	1%
Water access through am unprotected spring	1%	1%	0%
Water access through an unprotected shallow well	31%	36%	42%
Water access through piped water	50%	11%	22%
Water access through surface water	16%	1%	1%
Water access through water sellers	17%	18%	0%

4. Violence

The trend with respect to security concerns is further reinforced by reports of violence. More than four out of five respondents reported a physical assault within the previous three months, in addition to less frequent reports of restriction of movement, forced marriage and sexual assault.

Geographically, proportions of respondents reporting recent physical assaults are universally dismal, though, among the most represented sites, Baidoa (Bay) and Sigale (Lower Shabelle) lead the pack at close to 90% in each case.

Table 9: Number and percentage of respondents reporting physical assault according to region

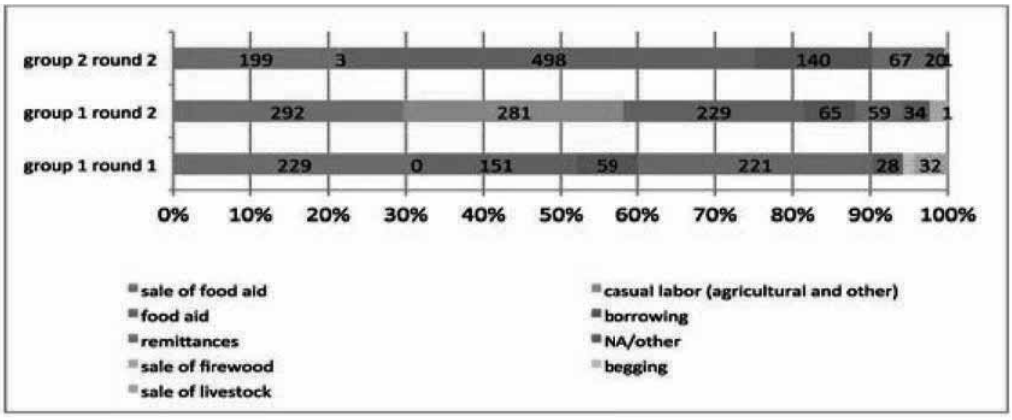
	Bay	Hiraan	Middle Shabelle	Lower Shabelle
Number of respondents reporting incidents of physical assault	738	180	333	963
% Of respondents reporting incidents of physical assault	77%	91%	92%	86%

5. Livelihoods and Expenditure

While food aid and the sale of food aid remained the main source of income for half of all respondents in group 1 over both rounds, most of the third that reported remittances as the main source of income in round one appeared to have taken up casual labour by round 2. In contrast, almost ninety percent of group 2 depended on food aid, its sale, or borrowing as their main source of livelihood. Significantly, food aid is more than twice as prevalent among group 2 respondents as among those in group 1. This can be because group 2 has just arrived in the VoO and is still dependent on the SMP. They are still in the process of establishing their coping mechanisms as opposed to group 1 where the food aid was over long time ago and other mechanisms have been identified.

Graph 34: What were your household's main income activities in the last 30 days?

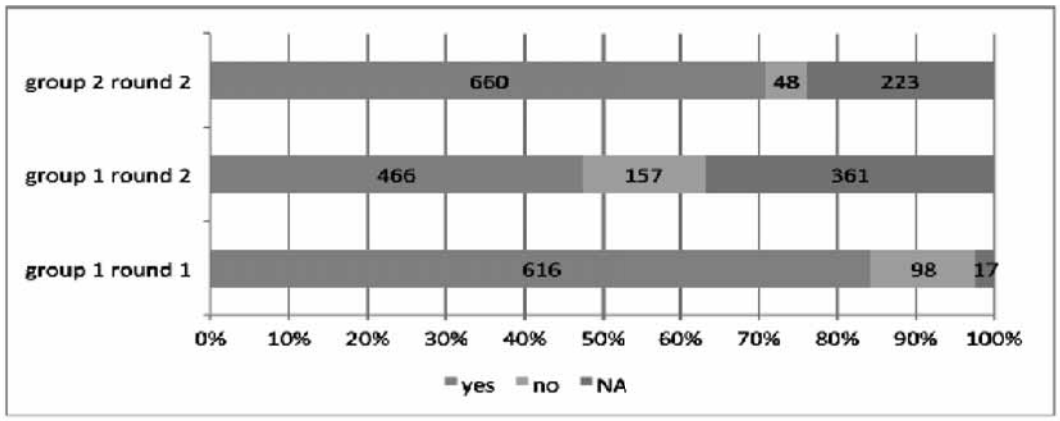
Majorities or near majorities in all three surveys reported receiving their principal income from the same source pre- and post-



displacement, though the fact that the majority in each case are receiving some form of unsustainable assistance suggests that returnees are simply switching between available sources.

Graph 35: Is this the same income source as before leaving your village of origin?

Expenditure



A cursory review of disaggregated responses to questions on spending on different food types reveals a generally improving quality of nourishment, including increased incidence in the consumption of cooking oil, meat and fish, and honey and sweets. The trend also includes a doubling in spending on cereals, which may reflect increased consumption, price inflation, or, more likely, a combination of the two. Interestingly, group 2 respondents were twice as likely to have spent on water or soda water, indicating a possible shortage of potable water, though otherwise their food expenditure profiles resembled group one's in the same round.

Graph 36: Average amount of SoSh spent on different food items ($1-1,198 SoSh)

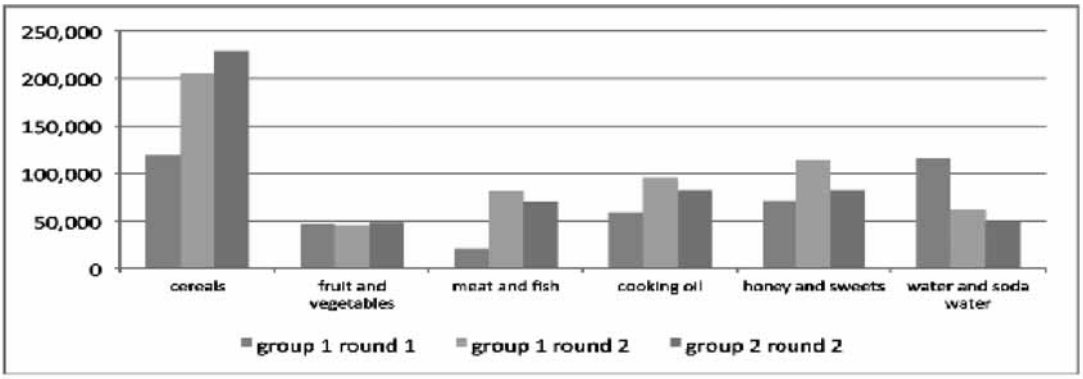


Table 10: % spending on food

	Group 1 round 1	Group 1 round 2	Group 2 round 2
% Reporting no spending on cereals	2%	2%	1%
% Reporting no spending on fruit and vegetables	62%	59%	79%
% Reporting no spending on meat and fish	72%	13%	11%
% Reporting no spending on cooking oil	31%	3%	1%
% Reporting no spending on honey and sweets	43%	4%	1%
% Reporting no spending on water and soda water	75%	82%	55%

This trend towards increasing quality of food expenditure flies in the face of the increased incidence of food insufficiency reported above. On the whole, returnees appear to be eating better, less often.

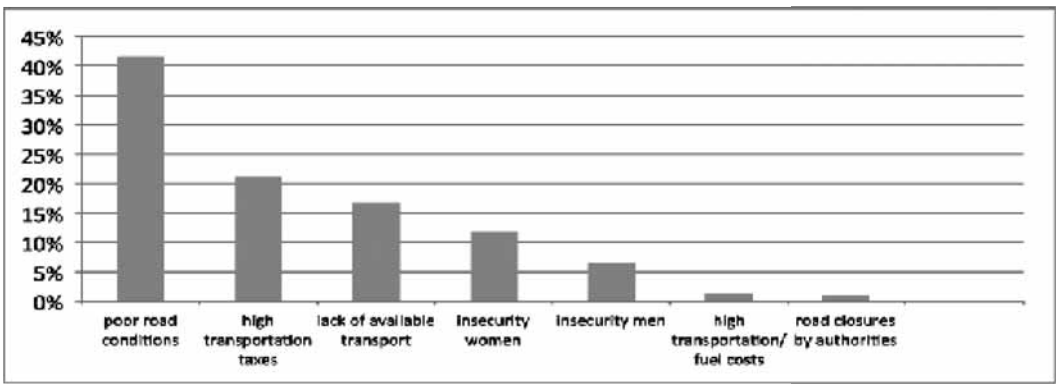
In non-food spending, three quarters of respondents reported spending on average around 200,000 shillings ($166.80) on clothing. Construction and house repair, while burdening only 18% of respondents, cost on average 160,000 shillings ($133.44). At the end of the month, one respondent in five reported a savings of, on average, 100,000 shillings ($83.40).

6. Education and Healthcare

Access to schools and healthcare featured prominently in the PRA survey. Only 10% of IS respondents expressed concern over schools upon return, and in the PRA 73% of children aged between six and twelve were reported to be attending school at least one day per week. Average number of days of attending school was reported between 4 and 6. However, in contrast, education levels per household member remained poor with majority reporting no education.

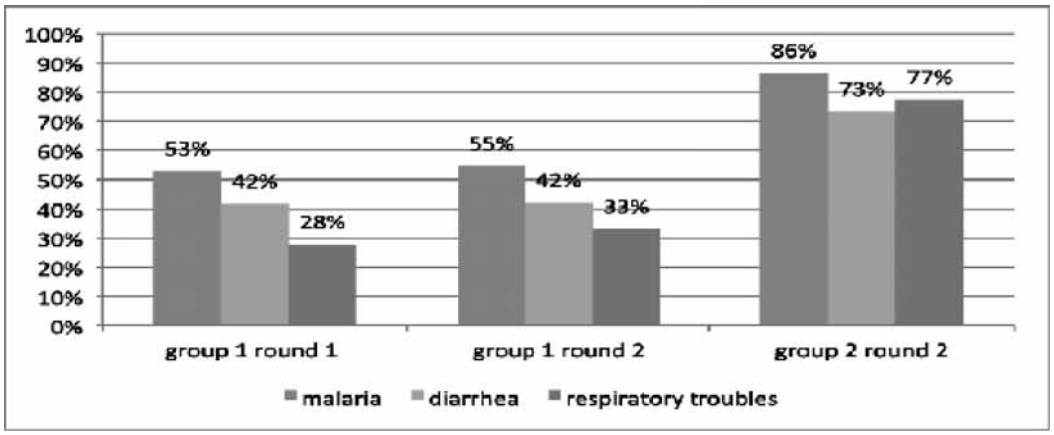
The two main concerns are access to healthcare facilities and treatment received at those facilities. Two respondents out of five reported poor road conditions as a primary obstacle to receiving healthcare, a fifth complained of high transportation taxes and one in five did not find transport available. More than 12% of women found insecurity to be an obstacle to receiving medical treatment.

Graph 37: Main challenges encountered on the way to the health care facility



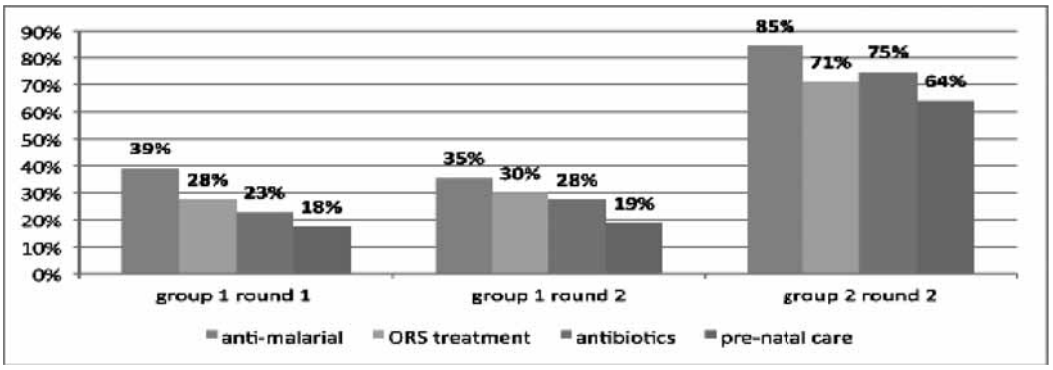
47% of all PRA respondents reported a family member suffering from respiratory troubles in the previous two weeks; 53% report diarrhoea and 65% an occurrence of malaria in the past two weeks. Group two reports much higher incidences of illness than group one:

Graph 38: Occurrences of health issues in the last 2 weeks



With respect to treatment, a third of respondents reported the provision of prenatal care at their most recent pregnancy, two in five received, in the previous two weeks, antibiotics, a slightly larger proportion were administered oral rehydration salts in the previous two weeks and a little over half received an anti-malarial treatment. Group two, facing more health issues, also reported considerably more treatments.

Graph 39: Care received in the last two weeks



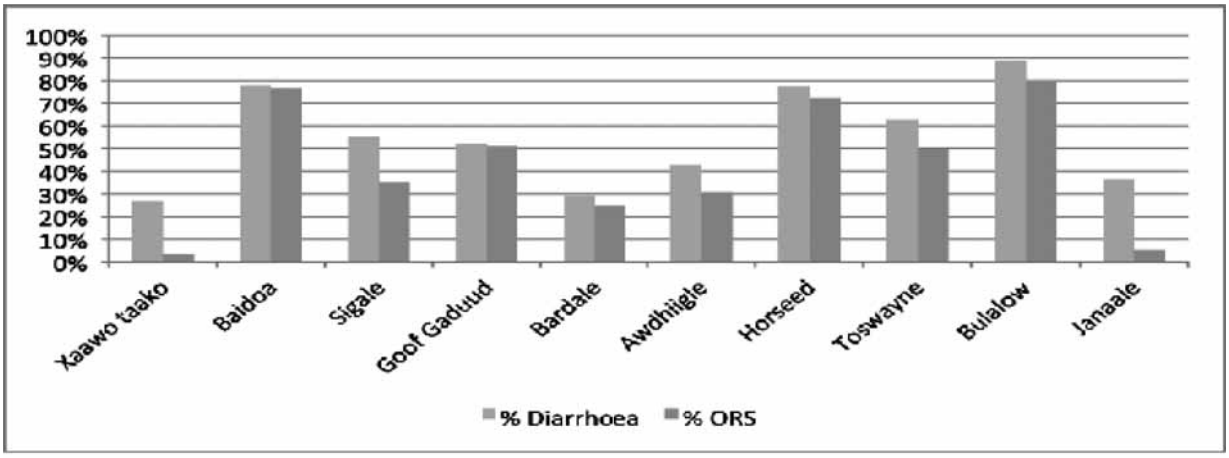
Almost no respondents reported spending at primary healthcare "units" or "centres", while nearly 70% reported expenses at the hospital.

Table 11: Average amount of spending on healthcare (in USD)

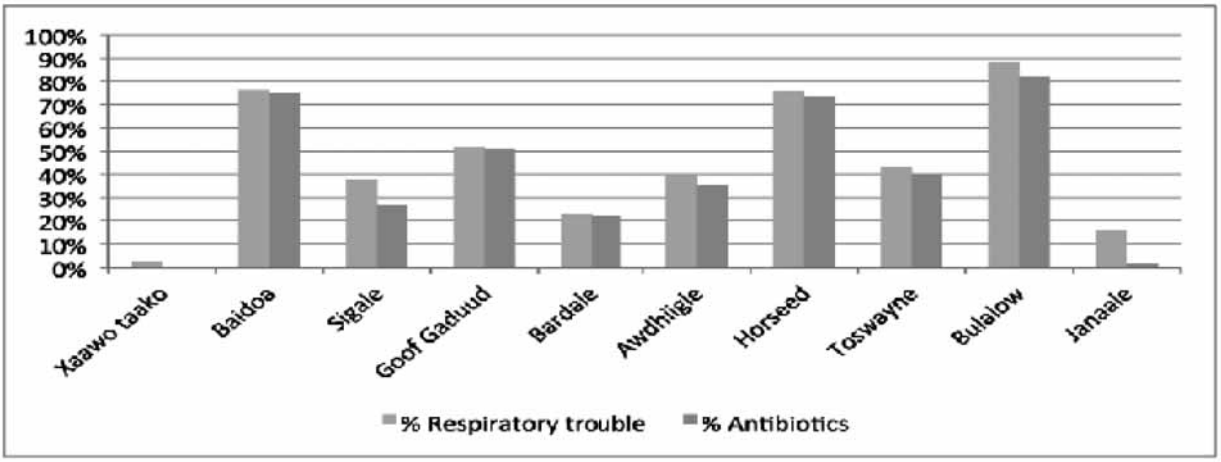
	Treatment	Drugs
Average amount spent at primary healthcare unit (only if spending occurred)	$14.59	$18.76
% Reporting spending at primary healthcare unit	0.3%	0.2%
Average amount spent at primary healthcare center (only if spending occurred)	$0.01	$0.14
% Reporting spending at primary healthcare center	0.1%	0.0%
Average amount spent at the hospital (only if spending occurred)	$1.49	$1.97
% Reporting spending at the hospital	69.7%	69.5%

Access to healthcare varied greatly from village to village, as evidenced by comparing reported illnesses to reports of having received the corresponding treatment. Respondents in Xaawo Taako, Janaale, and to a lesser extent Sigale, had much higher incidences of malaria, respiratory illness and diarrhoea than reports of treatment with antimalarials, antibiotics, and oral rehydration salts.

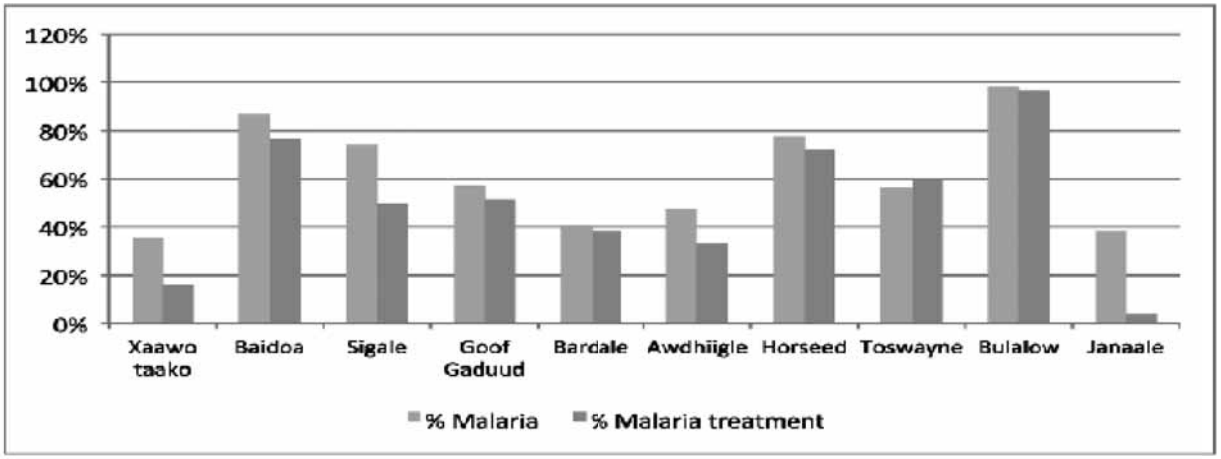
Graph 40: Diarrhoea and oral rehydration treatment



Graph 41: Respiratory trouble and antibiotics



Graph 42: Malaria and Malaria Treatment



3.4 Durability Indicators (Protection Indicators)

In the absence of a control group, it is difficult to assess the relative conditions of IDP returnees. However, one measure of the durability of the return program may be to track the evolution of a single group of returnees who were interviewed twice with an interval of several months. A random sample of 731 households among the first wave of returnees was initially interviewed shortly after arrival, between August and December of 2013. A second round of interviews was conducted on a sample of the same group shortly after the return of the second wave at the end of January 2014. A comparison of the results of these surveys indicates significant evolution in several respects:

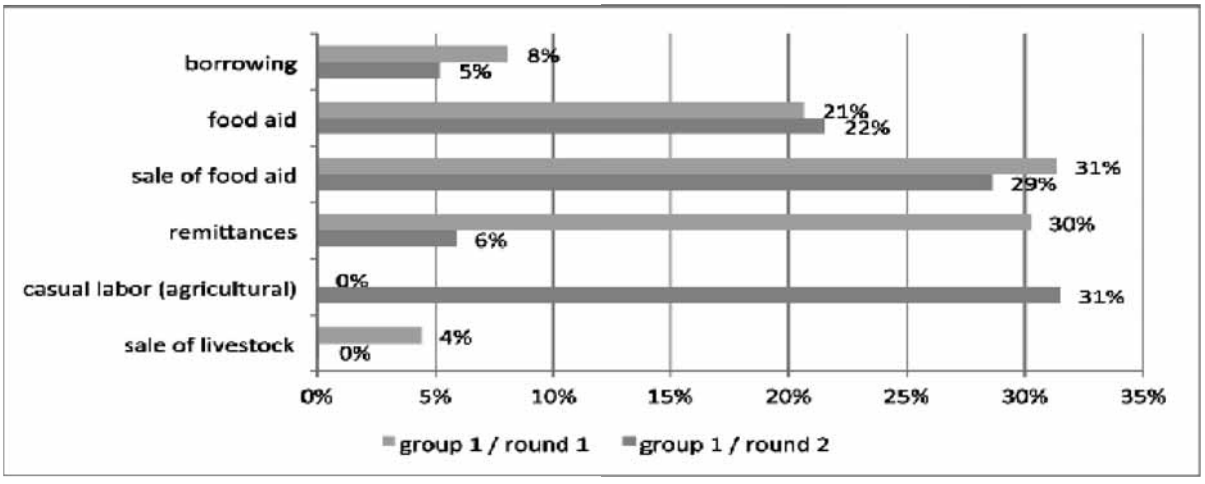
- **Renewed movements/Displacements.** The number of assisted families still residing at the VoO remains high with absentees rate between 3-4% on average, with picks of 11% or specific caseload as per the table at the beginning of the chapter. In terms of family composition among the return families, while initially, all members of almost all households were present at the place of return, by the second round of interviews, only 80% remains with the same family composition, while more than a fifth had one or more members no longer present at the VoO. Of those from which one or more members had returned to the site of displacement, household heads reported their principal reasons. More than half of those who returned to displacement did so for security, nearly a third for humanitarian aid, and the remaining sixth sought or resumed employment at the site of displacement.

- **Increasing food insecurity.** Though less than one in five respondents reported being unable to afford sufficient food in the previous week during the course of the first round, by the second round that proportion had more than doubled, to 43%. The average number of meals per day per person remained within the bounds of statistical variation at 2.4, but spending on those meals mushroomed, from just over 200,000 ($166) to nearly half a million shillings per household ($415) per month. Whether this is due to reduced direct aid, increasing food prices, or overall inflation is unclear.

- **Worsening housing and tenure insecurity.** While four out of five respondents continued to inhabit temporary housing, the five percent who initially rented their homes had joined the ranks of homeowners by the second round of interviews. However, while more than half of respondents initially reported good housing conditions, by the second round almost four in five reported poor conditions a tendency to leak, and another five percent reported poorer conditions and a lack of security. The half of respondents who, at the outset, reported the intention to remain in their present homes had shrunk to only 18% by the second round.

- **Livelihood shifts:** from remittances to casual labour. Primary sources of income also demonstrated an evolving situation. While food aid and the sale thereof continued to be the primary source of income for about half of all respondents, borrowing dropped from 8% to 5%, and the sale of livestock ceased entirely, remittances dropped as the primary source from a third of households to one in twenty. Meanwhile, casual labour, non-existent at the outset, replaced remittances at more than 30%.

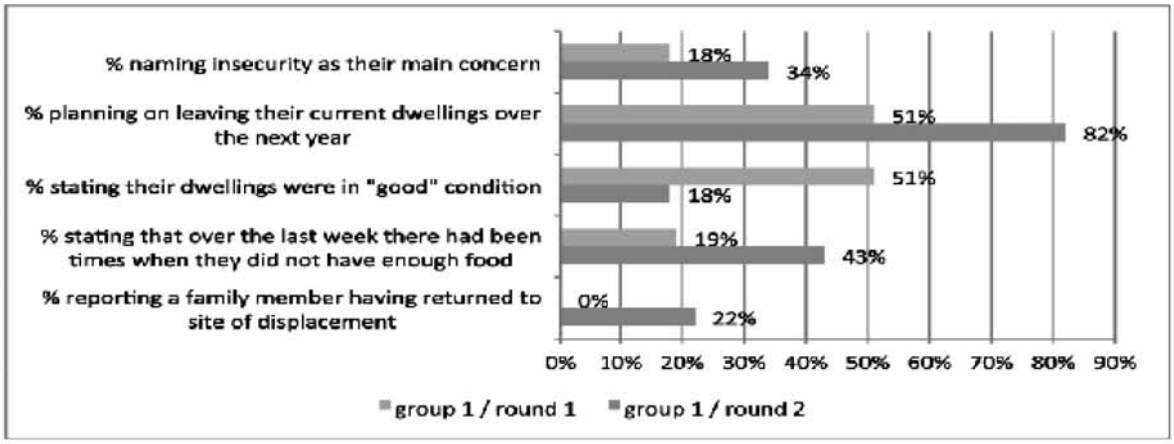
Graph 43: What were your household's main income activities in the last 30 days?



Threat conditions also evolved markedly over the interval in question. Household heads naming insecurity the main threat to their livelihood nearly doubled to one in three, while those naming the cost of food as primary fell from one in ten to just one percent, despite the doubling in food expenditures. This may reflect a lesser concern for the cost of food, or it may reflect its eclipsing by security concerns, since other concerns remained minoritarian and relatively steady. During the period in question, respondents who claimed an incidence of physical assault over the previous three months remained high at nearly one in four.

Responses indicated a moderate decrease in the incidences of common illnesses, but perhaps not enough to explain the steeper reduction in medical treatment, with thirteen, eight and five percentage point reductions in reported anti-malarial, rehydration salts, and antibiotic treatments respectively. And women reporting the provision of prenatal treatment during their most recent pregnancy fell by more than half.

Graph 44: Evolution of selected indicators over time



In the absence of a control group, it is difficult to draw conclusions with respect to the effectiveness and durability of the return program per se. However, a general comparison of vulnerability indicators reported at the site of displacement and then later at the site of return suggests that IDPs' lot has not improved to a great extent since return, and in some places, returnees were observed to be leaving their places of return – in patterns of secondary displacement. However, whether forced or voluntary in search of better employment, is difficult to ascertain without more research.

Furthermore, examination of a single group of returnees over time indicates that the vulnerability indicators are growing more severe. Analysis indicates that returnees are able to meet basic human needs until the second round of PRA. Trends analysis shows a declining capacity to meet basic needs and access social services as time goes by after return. Examining responses region-by-region and village-by-village among those regions and villages with the greatest numbers of respondents, we identify hot spots where conditions on the ground appear to be most unstable, including Hiraan regionally, and at the local level, Sigale, Horseed, Janaale in Lower Shabelle and, as concerns access to healthcare, Xawo Taako in Hiraan.

IV. EVALUATION. ASSESSING THE SRC MODEL

4.1 The Somalia Return Consortium as a Model for Assisting Voluntary Return

This evaluation found that the model of the Somalia Return Consortium – bringing in different organisations working to assist displaced populations and providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, NFI kits and livelihood inputs – is a successful one and conducive to the complex context of Somalia.

The coordination between various organisations within the Consortium allows for:

- Optimised sharing of resources
- Access to many areas that a single organisation might not have
- One standard procedure to assist returns
- Collective data collection and monitoring and evaluation of caseloads
- Collective problem solving and crisis mitigation of unforeseen issues

The issue of assisting IDP populations to return to their places of origin is a multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral one. As such, it can easily get lost in larger projects that target a wider population group. The cluster system remains thematically focused and limited in its capacity to capture cross-sectoral dynamics and assistance needs of IDPs in displacement and/or once they have returned to their VoO.

Situations of protracted displacements, like the one found in Somalia, pose an even greater challenge as livelihood means are often established by households in IDP settlements, preventing them from returning permanently. Additionally, movement means that it becomes harder for the assisting organisation to clearly track its beneficiaries. In this scenario, a concerted and comprehensive effort to assist IDPs who are willing to return voluntarily and facilitate their chance of achieving a durable solution poses not just a good model but also a window of opportunity. It allows for the development of case studies and monitoring of changes that take place in the life of an IDP returnee through the journey of displacement to return and thereafter. The SRC has already initiated this process through the development of its M&E framework.

However at this juncture, as findings in this report have highlighted, serious challenges and gaps exist, that question informed and voluntary returns in Somalia. It is therefore crucial for the SRC and its members to take into account a broader perspective on addressing return and collaborating to build the resilience and protection of IDP target groups. This involved programming not just in the return phase, but both pre return and post return. Developing links with humanitarian organisations working in IDP settlements to build the resilience and a stronger protection profile of IDP groups is as important as developing links with organisations working in the places of return for sustainable development. At present, the IDP Return Programme is focused on the return aspect of the process to facilitate durable solutions and will need to improve its protection monitoring and mainstreaming.

Note on the SRC and Humanitarian Coordination Framework

Presently the IDP return Programing is part of the Consolidated Appeal for Somalia (CAP). In 2012, it was housed under the Shelter and NFI Cluster. In 2013 the programme was moved under the umbrella of the Protection Cluster. Based on discussions conducted at HCT level, IDP Voluntary Returns in CAP 2014-2015 is now situated in the Multi-sector for Refugees, IDPs and Returnees which in itself is not a cluster but a way to include multi-sector all programming and was mainly aimed to include Refugees' related Programmes in the CAP considering clusters have no mandate on refugee issue. The move was based on the multi-sectoral dimension of the programme and the specificity of it in terms of funding and coordination needs. Furthermore based on the same HCT discussion, the SRC is now in the position to solicit discussions related to return and reintegration of IDPs at the HCT, as well as being recognised as a party to consult by the HCT on the same issue. However, in the term of operational synergies, participation and interaction with ICWG have been minimal with very limited follow up on issues of common interest. This probably results from the non-inclusion of Multisector for Refugees, IDPs and Returnees in the normal cluster dynamics. This is a gap that must be addressed even though with regards to SRC coordination, both shelter and protection clusters respective coordinators are always invited (formally) to join the steering group meetings.

But coordination of this sort must result in field outputs and this remains a weakness in the coordination aspect.

This chapter will further highlight some of the challenges that the SRC faces and how the M&E framework can be revised in order to ensure that the Consortium is able to collect solid information to be used for the purposes of advocacy and informing humanitarian programmes in Somalia.

4.2 Challenges and Limitations of the Programme

The SRC's ability to evaluate its own impact and effectiveness could be vastly enhanced through the implementation of standard data collection and evaluation practices. Although the use of NGOs already in place is a clear advantage over the duplication of efforts which sending out third parties entails, a small amount of preparation in advance (specifying a standard reporting format) could greatly improve the depth and effectiveness of field evaluations.

Programming/Protection

Fitness to Travel tests not implemented consistently: IOM globally does fitness to travel tests. Piloted amongst IDPs in Somalia, IOM has been trying to set these up in Mogadishu. However, they have encountered challenges with authorities on concerns of sending IDPs to areas that do not have any health services. As such, FTTs have not been conducted consistently amongst all the beneficiaries that have been assisted by the Consortium. Another challenge to this is the fact that it is best to conduct FTTs before transport and passage. However, most IDPs arrange for their own transportation making it challenging to conduct and monitor these tests. This is a protection concern as it is directly relevant to physical security.

Verification of intention to return and stay is still a challenge: Interviews with sending organisations have highlighted that verifying who genuinely wants to return and will make an effort to become sustainable as opposed to those who want to go back for the aid and then come back to IDP settlements for more assistance is a challenge.

Lack of links with other organisations in VoO: While mission reports to villages of return highlight and identify the need to coordinate with other agencies like UNICEF to see if the villages of return are in the programming areas of these organisations, the focus of the Consortium as a whole remains very much on the return. Once the return has been completed, access to education, health and other services seem to be addressed in an ad-hoc manner by NGOs and the UN independently. Though this is technically outside the mandate of the Consortium, it does have an impact on the capacity of the returnees to achieve durable solutions, bringing the long-term sustainability and impact of the return process into jeopardy. It also raises serious protection concerns on access to rights and non-discrimination.

Gaps in Services in VoO: Service mapping conducted by sending organisations identified relevant gaps in access to Health, Education, Water and Sanitation, Protection, and Livelihoods[42]. Interviews also indicated that at least in Baidoa, a number of beneficiaries highlighted the acute dependence on water catchments for water.

Different understanding of the impact of the project: Interviews with stakeholders showed difference amongst the members in the impact they perceived that the Consortium was having. Most felt that returnees were in a better position in their VoO rather than in IDP settlements, but were not able to attest to the durability of a) services in the VoO being sufficient and sustainable and b) intention of the returnees to continue in the VoOs after the SMP had dried out.

Challenging to follow the calendar of returns: According to the SOP, the Consortium should try and assist IDPs to return before either the Gu or Deyr seasons of the year. 90% of the returning HHs have rural roots and depend on agricultural and pastoral livelihood strategies. The livelihoods package is designed such that it allows beneficiaries to plant seeds just in time for the rainy season. However, often transportation gets delayed and throws the return off-schedule. Returnees are meant to be in the villages by Feb or March for the Gu season and Aug Sept for the Deyr season to plant the seeds and take advantage of the rains. However, interviews with Sending Organizations suggest that this is in theory only. In practice, most households are not able to make it in time. The process they say is restrained by lack of funds, challenges with local authorities and local leaders, lack of transport and other challenges.

42 Multi Agency Mission Report to Baidoa, March 2013

Donor Fatigue to fund long-term programmes: After two years of support to the return process with about 25 M USD inclusive of cash support and significant in-kind contributions, a donor fatigue has been noted in funding long term humanitarian programmes, especially on themes like protection to complement post return activities after return has been initiated. This is especially true for funding of longer-term projects that do not yield immediate short-term gains.

Lack of choice of alternate sustainable solutions: At present, local integration and/or resettlement seem to fade in the face of return as the primary means of durable solutions. If voluntary local integration or resettlement were also on offer, the process would be more transparent and fair. Non-availability of other options may put pressure on one's decision and therefore, compromises informed choices.

Communications and Coordination

Coordination in Nairobi rather than in Somalia: Multiple stakeholders interviewed for this study expressed concern that the focus of major discussions on the project had shifted to Nairobi with most of the meetings taking place in the Kenyan capital rather than in Somalia. This in turn affected a) coordination at the field level and b) links between other programs being implemented in the areas of return[43]

Lack of Existing coordination with other long-term projects being implemented in the areas of return: The SRC currently does not have strong coordination with long term humanitarian and/or development projects being implemented either in the IDP settlements or in the VoOs. This greatly affects the SRC's ability to do advocacy for continued sustenance of the returnees in their VoOs to prevent them from returning to the IDP settlements again.

Data Collection, Analysis and M&E

Lack of resources affecting data collection during PRM: Axiom – the third party monitoring agency has signed a MoU with the Somalia Return Consortium. However, for ease of administration, it is contracted out by each individual sending organisation – DRC, Mercy Corps and INTERSOS – so far, to conduct the PDM and PRAs. From a data collection point of view, this serves to complicate matters as Axiom caters to different requests by every organisation. It also takes away the resources that could otherwise be dedicated to the consolidation of the data that is collected into one database that can be centralised and used for analysing the Consortium's activities. Due to lack of enough funding, PDMs and PRAs are often conducted together, creating a) a bias in the responses and b) preventing trend tracking from taking place.

Few resources for Data Management & Oversight: Since, there is one Data Management Officer who manages all the data that is generated by the Consortium and monitors the F&C mechanism. His job is to collect and enter the data for the IS in the online platform and ensure that the data for the PDM and PRA has also been uploaded. He is also responsible for the capacity building and trainings for the M&E framework in the Consortium. He engages with MIS focal points in each of the sending organisation. This however is not enough, as the MIS focal points are not dedicated to data management alone. At the time of the interview with the Data Management Officer, the data to be uploaded to the online platform remained to be completed and brought up to date and there was no timeline attached to it.

Returnees widespread: One of the challenges highlighted by Axiom was that IDP returnees were too widespread after they returned to their VoO, making it difficult to access them and significantly increasing the costs of conducting the monitoring exercise. A proper sampling plan should be developed that represents the returns to all villages or based on criteria of numbers. Reports on the analysis should clearly state what the representation of the sample is, in regards to the number of returns in a particular village.

43 It should be noted that the SRC SG agreed to recruit a SRC Operation Manager since Mid-2013 and this position has never come into effect due to different constraints.

Information not captured by the IS, or other M&E tools: There are seven key pieces of information that are presently not being captured by the tools but are relevant to a durable solutions analysis. These are:

- Control group of host communities in the VoO of returnee beneficiaries
- Majority/minority clan dynamics of returnees
- Conditions of 15% beneficiary host population
- Protection concerns: forced marriages, child protection issues, GBV etc.
- Challenges faced during transit from IDP camp to VoO
- Living conditions in IDP settlements
- Living conditions before displacement

Lack of a consolidated information channel of the Somalia Return Consortium: Given the different sources of information that the SRC members collect – PRM, PRA, PDM, IS, GSV reports and others – what is lacking at present, is a system that brings together all these pieces of information on a regular basis to analyse them at a strategic level.

4.3 Lessons Learnt and Best Practices of the Programme

It is to be noted that over the course of the SRC's programming, the need to provide support and attention to issues like regular monitoring of the security situation, strengthening existing community structures, advocating towards community driven development initiatives, strengthening protection mainstreaming and trainings on GBV and Child Protection and follow up assistance has been highlighted. However, it terms of implementation, this remains a question mark.

15% of beneficiaries as most vulnerable amongst host communities: In order to ensure that host communities do not feel alienated when returnees receive their assistance packages, all sending organisations are required to provide the same assistance to the most vulnerable households within host communities. Despite this however, some organisations have reported that host communities do sometimes feel the pinch of resources of the villages being stretched to their maximum when returnees return.
NRC's urban package for urban returnees: Recently implemented by NRC, a caseload of urban returnees has been assisted with a special urban package rather than the regular rural livelihood package designed by FAO. This should ensure that those who come from urban areas of origin get a package that is conducive to their reintegration.

IOM's TVET & Skills Training Project in Baidoa: IOM in collaboration with INTERSOS has been implementing a project in Baidoa that goes beyond the SMP. Following a community based approach; the project aims at providing women and youth with opportunities to alternate livelihoods like business start-ups[44]. Though insecurity in the VoO prevented the beneficiaries of this project from being able to start up their own businesses, it is projects like these that should be explored by the Somalia Return Consortium for their IDP returnees.

Mobile Surveys: While it is not possible to use and implement mobile surveys in Al-Shabaab controlled areas, these have been successfully used to collect data in the Intention Surveys in IDP settlements in Mogadishu. Mobile surveys are less time consuming and as the data is automatically entered into a database, reduces the risk of mistakes during data entry.

Information Sharing: The reports generated by Axiom and the Consortium members are circulated around the Consortium's mailing list. Stakeholders have expressed the usefulness of these reports in providing information in areas where they would otherwise not have any access.

Coordination amongst member organisations: Since the present program of the Consortium remains restricted to assisting IDP voluntary returns, coordination too remains effective. Most member organisations understand and share the same objectives. Regular Steering Group meetings and TWGs are held complemented by circulation of analytical papers and monitoring data as it is generated. Sending Organization's Integration Officers for IS vetting and PRM: One Sending Organization has dedicated two integration officers – one male and one female to cover two districts each to monitor the conditions of the IDP returnees. They have checklists and monitor and report back on their observations at regular intervals. They also collect information through informal discussions, photographs and regular community engagement.

44 Interview with IOM, conducted in IOM Somalia office in Nairobi in April 2014

A smooth transition strategy: The Inter-Agency Mission to Baidoa in March 2013 reported that types of interventions proposed by NGOs in Baidoa seem to be much more development oriented than humanitarian. It recommended that the current support to the first phase of the reintegration should still be implemented by humanitarian actors and then should be followed immediately by an interaction with the early recovery and development actors to build on it. This is in-line with the findings of this assessment, a year later as well. The Somalia Return Consortium and other actors should ensure that their humanitarian program of return is quickly accompanied by early recovery and development actors[45]. In summary, there should be smooth transition of this.

Feedback and Complaints Mechanism: By distributing mobile phones and opening a dedicated tool free line for beneficiaries to leave their feedback and lodge complaints, the Somalia Return Consortium has set up a channel of direct communication with the beneficiaries in the VoOs. Even though majority of the calls and SMSs that come through this system are presently invalid, it is a useful way of monitoring feedback.

Accountability through the M&E Framework: Accountability mechanisms to ensure the use of funds provided are accounted for, are considered key to encourage donors to continue their support. This is presently being done by the Consortium and with a few changes, can become a strong tool for advocacy and donor information on the programme and the plight of returnees.

4.4 The Somalia Return Consortium and Durable Solutions

The M&E framework laid out for the Consortium states its goal to be: *To Determine to What Extent a Durable Solution has been achieved*. On the basis of the IASC framework and Guidelines, this implies that the M&E framework is designed to check whether returnees who have been assisted by the Consortium enjoy without discrimination:

- Long-term **safety, security and freedom of movement;**
- An **adequate standard of living,** including at a minimum access to adequate food, water, housing, health care and basic education;
- Access to employment and livelihoods;
- Access to effective mechanisms that **restore their housing, land and property or provide them with compensation.**

Additionally, there are also other benchmarks: restoration of housing, land and property, access to documentation, family reunification, participation in public affairs and access to effective remedies that determine the extent to which durable solutions have been achieved. However, an analysis of the Consortium's activities and data collection methods and analysis highlights some important concerns.

Firstly, the way in which the data is being collected and analysed, is not designed to collect information that indicates measures of sustainability in the above factors. For one, the PRAs, due to constraints in resources are not conducted at regular intervals of two, four and six months. Instead, they are conducted when distributions take place, preventing a mapping of change. Moreover, the M&E framework does not lay out a clear mapping of change in combination of all sources of information. In order to do this, the SRC should create a timeline of return, distribution and change along with various sources of information that it collects to see at what stage, what change is taking place, keeping into account, other external factors.

Secondly, intense reliance on community leaders in VoOs to provide information on conditions in VoOs and a lack of clarity on the information being provided by the SRC to those who have expressed a desire to return also highlights the continuing lack of available information to the IDPs.

Thirdly, the Consortium's activities, its focus on initial phase of the return and distribution of the Standard Minimum Package, at present are not geared towards returnees achieving long term durable solutions. As many stakeholders who were interviewed stated – six months is not enough time to achieve or know if durable solutions have been achieved.

45 Multi-agency Mission Report to Baidoa, March 2013

Sustainability and Resilience – Pre and Post Return

In contexts of challenging access, insecurity and even protracted displacements, pre-return conditions can play an equally important role in determining a household's ability to achieve durable solutions and the effectiveness of the SRC's activities[46]. More could be done during displacement to prepare the process of return – from skills building, to information sharing, awareness raising, legal assistance, counselling and protection activities in displacement tailored specifically to preparing return. At present, data collection mechanisms of the SRC in IDP settlements do not capture this kind of data. Interviews showed that even post return, capturing of information on skills building programmes, information sharing, legal assistance and counselling remain fragmented and ad-hoc. These gaps are at present, preventing the Consortium from having enough information to a) analyse to what extent their beneficiaries have achieved durable solutions and b) what options are available to develop links between the return programme and activities being undertaken by other organisations in IDP settlements and VoOs.

In this scenario, it is up to the SRC to discuss the extent of its involvement in helping achieve durable solutions and come up with a clear handover and advocacy strategy of beneficiaries to longer-term initiatives in the VoO.

Involvement of National Authorities

Technically durable solutions to internal displacement rest with national authorities. In Somalia, IDPs currently fall under the purview of the Ministry of Interior and Federalism. The government is still fragile and local government structures in Somalia are minimal, making national ownership of the return process extremely challenging. Following factors highlight the role that national authorities should be playing in ensuring durable solutions:

1) Sufficient security / protection from attacks, persecution, 2) no discrimination, 3) access to protection mechanisms like courts and police, 4) personal documentation to get access to public services, 5) access to property restitution and compensation, 6) access to shelter, health care, food, water, 7) family reunification, 8) participation in public affairs like right to vote. As the context analysis highlights, all of the above are at best a distant dream in the Somali context.

Humanitarian versus Development – Time to bring them together for sustainable solutions

In such a scenario, strategic collaboration between humanitarian actors that can play a key role in securing access to shelter, primary health care, food and water and development actors who can play a role supporting policy development in the fields of justice, service provision in support of government actors is crucial. If not under the mandate of the SRC itself, this is an important discussion that needs to take place at a strategic level with active contributions of the SRC and other implementing organisations in Somalia. A second way to achieve this would be to build response within a national framework, as done by UNHCR in the case of Afghanistan[47] and to get those who play a policy and development role (development actors like the WB for instance, or UNHABITAT) to complete the "other side of the process" as complementarity is key.

For the SRC itself, it is crucial that it maintains close ties with other existing coordination mechanisms like the humanitarian coordination framework to build these links between humanitarian programmes and agencies implementing them, whilst the link with development partners is being developed. Intra humanitarian links must go hand in hand with linkages between development and humanitarian actors.

UNHCR's Reintegration Framework

A good place to start, in order to bridge the gap between emergency assistance, care and maintenance and long-term response, is to replicate UNHCR's strategy for reintegration of Somali refugees from Kenya, which recommends: *In the three pilot districts of return, assistance delivered by UNHCR will be complemented by an integrated community-based support provided in the context of UNCT and HCT Somalia through a joint effort among humanitarian, early recovery and development actors to increase access to effective and timely basic services and livelihood opportunities for returnees and their receiving communities*[48]. The reintegration framework recognises that "the districts host substantial numbers of IDPs for whom durable solutions have not been found yet and that IDPs who returned have still to achieve a sustainable reintegration. Interventions should consider the current needs of this part of the population while opportunities for the promotion and development of durable solutions for the displaced shall be actively supported with all efforts progressing concurrently as the achievement of solutions and their sustainability are deeply interlinked. The approach

46 Nassim Majidi, Migration Specialist and Director at Samuel Hall

47 Returns were streamlined into the National Social Policy and the National Priority Programs of Afghanistan by UNHCR

48 UNHCR Reintegration Strategy

is that "in the efforts to promote the reintegration process, no distinction should be made between the needs of refugee-returnees, IDP-returnees, IDPs living in the pilot areas and those of receiving communities. Assistance should be provided on a community-wide basis, while recognizing the importance of providing support to individuals, households and groups of people with special needs"

For the SRC, this can be tailored to IDP returnee areas or handed over to the relevant cluster/Consortium operating in the VoO through a detailed handover strategy. UNHCR has recently begun field missions to meet with agencies operating in Baidoa with activities that could support reintegration of returnees, livelihood in particular, with the view of starting UNHCR reintegration projects and co-ordinate with partners in the field, including the local government. Moreover, there also exist coordination mechanisms including the Protection Cluster in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo and other locations in south/central with varying degrees of functionality.

4.5 Strategic SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Successful coordination of resources between organisations in Somalia's challenging context	Coordination of assistance after the return and distribution stage is weak
Multiplicity of local actors for improved access and preventing duplication of efforts	Qualitative information collection and analysis is not standardised
Voluntary return achieved of more than 83.9% (10,909) of the targeted number (13,000)	Poor quality control over methodology of quantitative data collection and management – for the IS, PDM and PRA
Engagement of communities in every step of the return process	Beyond data collection, assessment of durable solutions shows secondary displacement rates, food insecurity and housing insecurity that hinder durable solutions
15% of beneficiaries are the most vulnerable households in the host community	Online platform is weak and user-unfriendly and currently not being optimally utilised
Quantitative data collection in VoO that track the changes in living conditions amongst displaced and vulnerable population groups in Somalia that will allow for good advocacy tools	SRC programming remains a small part of the member organisations overall programming in Somalia
Effective feedback mechanism established	Meeting standard guidelines of the SOP still heavily dependent on the capacity of the sending organisation
Design and development of region-specific livelihood inputs in the Standard Minimum Package	No systematic data collected or monitored for protection concerns like GBV, child protection, forced marriages among the beneficiaries
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREATS**
The New Deal for Somalia are soon to be laid out and as such can ensure that this category of people is not ignored	If proper quality controls are not put in place, it might render the data useless
Following this report and the beginning the second phase of the Consortium's activities, appropriate changes can be made and tested to learn from some of the mistakes made in the past	Lack of access to information on the places of origin, during the decision making process
Having conducted a through analysis of one full round of M&E data, it is now time for the Consortium to review its M&E framework and tools to ensure that they provide answers to the questions that are being asked	Without proper links with organisations implementing long term sustainable projects or reintegration strategies, returnees are under threat of being displaced again – forcibly or voluntarily
Integrating pre- and post-return analysis to avoid relying too much on the actual process of return and more on the sustainability of return	Without proper linkages with the humanitarian coordination framework there is a risk of weak buy-in by stakeholders who are already members of agreed upon coordination mechanisms
Conceptualizing aid through the prism of building resilience of displaced communities	The AMISOM offensive and Al Shabaab still pose serious threats to the stability of the programme and the impact on returnees
Building capacity of local authorities to improve structural conditions for DS	Nairobi-centric meetings risk alienation of field staff and activities even at the strategic level
	Needs of IDPs should not get side-lined when refugee returns start
	Low capacity of national authorities to fulfil requirements of DS as outlined in IASC

V. RECOMMENDATIONS. A 15-Point Plan

Some of the recommendations made in this section have been reiterated from previous documents circulated amongst Consortium members. The study found these recommendations to still be relevant for the smooth running of the IDP Return Programme.

5.1 Recommendations on Programming

1. **Revisions of SOPs** should be done when the need arises to ensure that they reflect the latest prevailing context of Somalia and incorporate considerations of some of the challenges faced by Sending Organizations in the field.

2. GSVs can be used as an opportunity to conduct service mappings by the sending organisations to see what services and facilities are available and which other humanitarian programmes are being implemented. This information should then be channelled up as input for the durable solutions discussion for that area of return.

3. **Create linkages with other programs in the PRM stage:** The Consortium should focus on developing links between returnee areas and other long-term humanitarian and development programs being implemented in those areas as a way to sustain the returnees. Links should also be explored with pre-return activities taking place at IDP settlements to develop the resilience of returning households.

4. **Community involvement** is crucial to maintaining any interventions and to sustain reintegration of returnees. Reintegration activities that include both communities and returnees can be considered a step towards facilitating durable solutions. As an example - consideration of involving the village Elders in 'civic projects' that benefit the whole community given the adverse impact additional people will have on the surrounding environment rather than just providing returnees with cash based assistance.

5. **Mainstream support to IDP returns into government initiatives** and national programmes to allow for a proper exit and handover strategy and support national policy development to set up a framework for recognizing and securing IDPs' rights (developing an implementation plan based on lessons learned from SRC's experience). This should be accompanied by build the capacity of government counterparts both at the national but more importantly at the local – displacement and return location – level).

6. **Strengthen protection mainstreaming and protection training of SRC members,** ensure adequate presence of protection officers in the field, linking them up with the RC data unit. This protection monitoring should be supported by evidence-based support in the form of an IDP protection profiling, and with the final objective of strengthening protection mechanisms. Moreover Referral Mechanisms for cases of protection and insecurity that do not directly fall under the mandate of the SRC but are observed in the field should be clearly set up, either with the relevant cluster, with contacts and action times established at the field level or with the main organisation assisting in providing that protection and assistance in the field. The SRC then must decide to what extent they will follow-up on such cases.

7. **Establish a link with development donors** which are providing funds to governmental institutions to support development programme is very important to make sure that reintegration of returnees is absorbed as in their objective and results into specific portion of funds dedicated to this purpose.

5.2 Recommendations on Coordination of Activities

8. **Focus in the Field & more cluster coordination:** To the extent possible, coordination meetings, especially the TWGs should be conducted in Somalia rather than in Nairobi. Additionally participating organisations should send people who are directly involved in the activities of the SRC for the coordination meetings instead of a representative for the organisation. Furthermore, the SRC should maintain close coordination with the humanitarian coordination framework especially in a context where information sharing and verification is challenging.

9. **Advocacy:** Given the Consortium's investment in the M&E framework and the solid data that is being collected, it is crucial that the process of data consolidation, entering and analysis be streamlined and centralised to inform the SRC's programming and used for advocacy purposes. Moreover more advocacy for mainstreaming returnees and highlighting longer term challenges faced by them in achieving durable solutions in VoO is recommended for the Consortium.

10. **Involvement in the Reintegration Process** of the SRC will allow for some of the linkages made in this chapter be formed and tie the process of IDP return to the reintegration process.

11. **Explore partnerships and links with civil society organisations** like Zamzam, ORDO, Hijra, Feero and International Relief, Swiss Kaalmo and others that are active organisations currently implementing Health, Education, WASH and Livelihood projects.

12. Using the data available **organise SRC-member workshops for a continuous SWOT analysis** and improvement/ accountability of the work done.

13. **Further research areas:** An in-depth case study of returnee households and protection profiling, evaluation of sending organisations meeting SOP standards and guidelines, mapping of services in IDP settlements and VoO of returnees as part of a resilience building study are only some of the areas where there is a need to conduct evidence and field based research, in order to inform the SRC's present and future programming better.

5.3 Recommendations on Data Collection, Management and Analysis

14. The following steps are recommended for **data collection** as part of the M&E framework:

- **Electronic data collection** using mobile surveys should be used to reduce the risk of errors and allow for live uploading and analysis of the data. GPS coordinates should be noted for every entry in the M&E and IS where possible. Additionally a standard data collection platform should be set up, including a survey creation engine, paper survey generator, common data entry interface and report generator. This should be complemented by a common data entry and reporting format with strict data validation implemented at the entry point. Excel, Google Sheets, and many popular data collection platforms support data validation. Standardisation of place names would also be of use.
- **Standardized definitions and spellings** for the IS, PDM and PRA (codes for clan, sub-clans, regions, districts, villages, education level, age classes etc.) to be agreed upon. Moreover a **unique list of beneficiaries** should be compiled by the data management unit at the Consortium, to allow for tracking and clear sampling. This should include those who have been assisted to return and those who have been provided with the SMP.
- **Longitudinal PRA** is required to capture information in stages –to map the progression of living conditions of returnees in certain key sectors like livelihood, shelter, health and income. As such, based on availability of resources, the SRC should determine a systematic timetable for the PRA, which should be adhered to to the extent that it is possible in the field. The sample should reflect changes and comparisons between host communities, returnees between various time periods and clearly substantiated with FGDs. Additionally, the database should distinguish clearly between target groups;

  - Specific round and group of PRA respondents
  - Host communities that have been assisted by the SMP
  - Non returning IDPs to serve as a control group

15. In terms of **Data Management,** the following recommendations have come out of the study:

- **The online data management system** should be user friendly for the data manager as well as visitors to the website. It should provide comprehensive up-to-date information on the Consortium's activities in an easily accessible manner. Similarly all reports of the Consortium should be available to download from the online platform.
- **Quality control mechanisms** should be set at every stage to ensure that the data that is being entered and changing hands is accurate and clean.
- **A single streamlined information channel** managed by the SRC centrally, that collects and collates information, reports and data that are being generated through the return programme. This is not just limited to the online platform, but human resources dedicated to collecting all the data observed and recorded by the consortium members in the

field, human resources provided to that and their timely analysis. Given the wealth of data collected by the consortium, this requires a team of 3-4 people, including monitoring officers.

- Setting up of an analysis plan: important for data analysis is to know what answers you want and when do you want them. Once this has been established, the SRC can set up automatic mechanisms and schedules to produce weekly, monthly or quarterly analysis on a few key indicators, complimented by qualitative data analysis.
- Trend mapping will help the Consortium understand the changes in living conditions if analysed after regular times to see what change has taken place over time and identify vulnerabilities related to displacement (comparisons with a control group).

Further Areas of Research

A key observation of this report, noted throughout its length has been gaps in information in the field. This requires more money to be invested in research in order to inform programming from the field. Some key research areas pertaining specifically to durable solutions and the IDP Return Programme identified in the research are as follows:

- Conducting a model exercise on applicability of various cash models vis-à-vis kind in Mogadishu, Baidoa and other key areas as case studies
- An in-depth case study of returnee households and their protection needs to track changes taking place once they have returned, factors that contribute to it and push and pull factors to voluntary and/or forced displacement
- Evaluation of sending organisations meeting SOP standards and guidelines
- Mapping of services in IDP settlements and VoO as part of a resilience building study

5.4 Actor-specific Recommendations

SRC Members	SRC Data Management Unit/ TPM Agency	Other development stakeholders/Government Agencies/Donors
1. Revisions of SOPs and keeping the focus in the field 2. Service Mapping through GSVs 3. Electronic data collection 4. A single streamlined information channel 5. Setting up of an analysis plan 6. Community involvement 7. Organize SRC-member workshops for a continuous SWOT analysis 8. Provide training on protection standards and monitoring for SRS members and field officers 9. Strengthening referral mechanisms 10. Explore partnerships and links with civil society organisations 11. Involvement in the Reintegration Process 12. Linking return with long term projects in places of return 13. Advocacy	1. Electronic data collection 2. Standardisation in names of places and groups 3. Target Groups in M&E 4. Online data management system 5. Quality control mechanisms in M&E 6. A single streamlined information channel 7. Setting up of an analysis plan 8. Trend mapping 9. Protection Profiling	1. Incorporating returnees into more long term projects that encourage skills building and sustainability 2. Strengthening the links between humanitarian and development actors or developing a bridge between the two for pre and post return resilience programming 3. Mainstream support to IDP returns into government initiatives 4. Support national policy development 5. Explore partnerships and links with civil society organisations and other organisations working in a particular sector or district to improve coordination and sharing of resources 6. Build the capacity of government counterparts 7. Advocacy informed by evidence based research to improve programming 8. Strengthening Referral Mechanisms 9. Investing in further research to inform programming on sustainable and durable solutions for displaced populations

VI. ANNEXES

6.1 Data Cleaning and Scrubbing Process & Methodology

The analysts first identified which questions from each survey would be of most interest, recognizing that each new question would add time to the scrubbing procedure. For each question, the team identified the corresponding column or columns in the data spreadsheet submitted by each participating data reporter. In some cases, multiple choice answers were reported in multiple columns, and in others, just one. Often questions answered "other" reported the name of that other in a separate column, often the alternate answer was inserted in the same column. Specially formatted specifications indicated these exceptions so they could be specially handled by the data scrubbing code. The column specification sheets can be found in data/instr_x.csv, where x is "IS", "PDM" or "PRA."

Once the questions had been mapped to columns, the type of each question was specified: logical (true/false, yes/no), gender, multiple choice, date, numeric, integer, and free-form. These specifications can be found in "data/answer type - x.csv." In the case of multiple-choice, a list of all unique answers over all data sources was generated, and written to file in order of frequency of appearance. (These can be found in "data/x/levels/".) Thus the most popular responses were placed at the top of the list. Then, for each question, a correspondence table was created by hand, equivalating all the answers that probably had the same meaning on the same row. (The equivalence tables can be found in "data/eq/eq_x/") Answers that could not be deciphered or that occurred very rarely were discarded.

The tool that was used to actually perform the scrubbing is a high level programming language known as R. The program we developed read each column specification sheet, loaded the corresponding spreadsheets, picked out the appropriate columns, performing calculations when specified and loaded it all into a global table. This task is performed by the code in "src/aggregate.R".

Then, for each survey, the file "data/column types - x.csv" was loaded. For logical questions, answers whose first decipherable letter was "t", "T", "Y", or "y" were classed "TRUE", and so forth. Answers not so classes were considered "NA". For gender questions, answers beginning with "W", "w", "F", "f", "G" and "g" were considered "female", and "male" answers were divined in a similar fashion. Again, some answers had to be considered "NA". For numeric questions, non-numeric characters were eliminated, commas replaced with periods, and the remainder, if any, were interpreted as numbers. For integers, the previous was performed, and digits following a period were discarded. Dates were considered in 40 distinct possible formats, reflecting different ordering of days/months/years, and different choice of separators: "/", "\", "-", "." and space. If one of the formats corresponded to a date, and that date fell within the feasible date range for that question, it was converted to universal format, else it was considered "NA". Many surveys submitted in the future or before the inception of the program were discarded, as were prehistoric and negative dates.

Multiple choice questions were scrubbed by loading the correspondence table for each question, and coercing answers that matched an entry in the table to the first entry in that row. Village and region names were a special case of the multiple choice question. Because there was no master list of villages and regions, and far too many unique responses to hand curate an equivalence table, equivalent responses were "guessed" by calculating Levenshtein distances. The Levenshtein distance is a measure of the minimum number of "typos" it would take to misspell one word and get another. The village names were listed in order of frequency of appearance. Each village name was checked against every more frequent name, and if the Levenshtein distance was small enough, they were equivalated. Through this method, we reduced 2648 village spellings to about 70, undoubtedly eliminating some villages that happened to have similar spellings. The code performing these tasks can be found in "src/scrub.R"

6.2 Comparison and Analysis of Indicators based on data analysis

Table 12: Comparison of Outcome Indicators

Intervention Logic	*Objectively Verifiable Indicators*	*Target*	*Impact Numbers*	*Target Met?*
To facilitate informed and voluntary decision of 13,000 HHs from displaced communities about voluntary return in South Central Somalia.				
	Extent returnee households are enabled to make an informed choice concerning return			
IDPs facilitated with voluntary return assistance have been involved in fair and effective consultation process.	% of HHs surveyed with Intention Survey	100%	(17,808 interviewed/ 13,000) All 83.9% assisted beneficiaries so far interviewed	Intention Surveys are still on-going for 2014 caseloads
	# of HHs' intent to return confirmed via Intention Survey	13,000 HHs	99% of the 17,808 IS respondents plan to return to VoO	Those IDPs are being interviewed in the Intention Survey, have previously expressed a desire to return
	# of IDP delegates involved in GSV (disaggregated by age, gender)	TBD	200	Based on UNHCR final report 2013 and 2012 more than 200 IDP delegates have been supported
	% of target communities supported with GSV	100%	100% so far in caseloads assisted	All returnee caseloads assisted so far have been preceded and informed by a GSV. However GSVs were largely reliant on community leaders in VoO
Successful transportation of returnee HHs to VoO free from critical incidents	[Proxy indicator] # of returnee HHs assisted with safe, successful transport to VoO	13,000HH	83.9% - 10,909 HH returned as of Feb 2014	
	[Proxy indicator] % of returnee HHs reporting critical incidents during the transport	<5%		There is no quantitative data available on incidences of insecurity on the roads. Interviews with SOs indicated a few instances where interventions of IDP leaders and SOs were required to ensure safe passage of the IDP returnees

Intervention Logic	*Objectively Verifiable Indicators*	*Target*	*Impact Numbers*	*Target Met?*
To support a sustainable and durable reintegration of 13,000 returnee HHs in their villages of origin				
	Extent returnee households are able to meet basic human needs and access social services	100%		Analysis indicates that returnees are able to meet basic human needs until the second round of PRA. Trends analysis shows a declining capacity to meet basic needs and access social services as time goes by after return
IDP returnees (including targeted HHs from receiving community) have access to basic needs (food, water, shelter, NFIs) and social services (school, health care) for initial 3 months	# of returnee and receiving HHs assisted with SRC Standard Minimum Package	13000 HHs	10,909 HH returned as of Feb 2014 were assisted with SMP.	Each household assisted by the Somalia Return Consortium has been provided with an SMP. However, it is difficult to quantify this number as NFI+Shelter, Cash for food and livelihood inputs are not always distributed at the same time or with the same consistency.
	# of litres (average) of potable water available per person per day per returnee HHs	20 lt	PRA: Average of 22lt, but 55% of respondents report less than 20lt per person	
	% of returnee HHs living in adequate dwellings	100%	72% of PRA respondents live in a temporary shelter. 37% report the condition of their house to be good. But 94% report the condition to be good or poor (not bad nor Un-inhabitable).	It is also to be noted that these conditions deteriorate as time passes.
	% of returnee HHs with an average food	100%	42% of PRA respondents say there were times	

	consumption of 1650 Kcal per person per day		when they did not have enough to eat over the past seven days.	
	% of returnee children enrolled in primary school	100%	73% of returnee children between the age of 6 and 12 go to school at least one day per week.	
	% of returnee HHs benefitting from free health care service in the VoO or within a certain distance	100%	63% of PRA respondents take less than an hour to reach the nearest hospital on foot.	Tools do not capture whether beneficiaries are receiving free health care or not. Correlations between those who had received health care and those who had not spent any money on health care were too few to quantify.
	# of returnee HHs (18-59 yrs) earning incentives / wages	n.a.	19% of PRA respondents (76% of those are "casual labourers)	The data for this is not directly available, however, it has been assumed that it means everyone except those listing family support, remittances, begging, sale of food aid, food aid or borrowing as their main income source

	PROTECTION RELATED INDICATORS	# of reported acts of violence or intimidation targeting returnees on the basis of their refugee/IDP or minority status in the last 3 months		Quantifiable data not available, although instances of physical assault amongst PRA respondents were high (1 in 4 respondents)	Anecdotal evidence suggests that intimidation targeting returnees on the basis of their refugee/IDP status does not take place. The same cannot be definitively said for minority groups and status
		% of assisted HHs involved in land disputes having access to formal justice system/community reconciliation mechanisms	n.a.		There were few answers to this question indicating either a lack of land disputes or underreporting.
		# of assisted HHs involved in land/property disputes	0%	Clean data not available	
		% of Vulnerable returnee HHs monitored by sending organisations on regular basis	100%		
		# of family reunification mechanisms in place and accessible in the area of return	n.a.		No documented information available

Intervention Logic	*Objectively Verifiable Indicators*	*Target*	*Impact Numbers*	*Target Met?*
To adapt the return programme through M&E inputs in order to mitigate shocks affecting the returning and receiving communities.				
	Resilience and capacity of returnee households and receiving communities to mitigate shocks	**100%**		
Returnee HHs (including targeted HHs from receiving community) are protected from shocks and sustainability is improved by prompt adaptation of the programme	# assisted communities where disaster risk reduction (DRR) systems are in place	n.a.		This information is not captured through the M&E framework in a systematic manner.
	# of emergency interventions carried out to respond to shocks	n.a.		Ibid

Forced displacements involving the returning communities are monitored and the causes addressed	# of feedbacks and complaints acquired by sending organisations through the F&C mechanism	0	So far 545 reports of feedback and complaints have been generated	So far, no instances of forced displacements involving the returning communities have been reported through the feedback mechanism.
	% of complaints addressed by sending organisations with response provided to the complainer	100%	480 Processed reports (88%), and 65 still pending	
	[Proxy indicator] # of returnee HHs forcibly displaced from the VoO to other location	n.a.	2.3% of the PRA respondents complained of forced temporary or permanent relocation over the last three months.	
Returnee HHs are able to remain in VoO	[Proxy indicator] % of returnee HHs assisted residing in the VoO for more than 3/ 6/ 12 months	100%	96-97% of the monitored caseload was interviewed at the VoO. Average during the first round was 6-11% of those who were no longer staying at the VoO. Average for the second round dropped to: 1-2%. In term of changes of the family composition no significant changes were noticed. Average remained 3.5 even though some families reported that 1-2 individuals had left the VoO	
	Means		Yes	However, REACH and Axiom did not

	Consultations and training to operationalize the common M&E framework (including F&C mechanism accessible by beneficiaries)			have a one-to-one meeting at the start of the implementation of the M&E framework
Definition of solid and comprehensive M&E framework	On-line platform functioning and user friendly		Yes	3 trainings have been conducted so far

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Towards durable solutions to end displacement

The UNHCR-led Somalia Return Consortium was established in 2012 with the aim to develop and provide standardized, coordinated and coherent assistance to internally displaced returning to their area of origin in Somalia.

More information about the Somalia Return Consortium can be obtained through UNHCR Somalia.

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