

UN SOMALIA: DURABLE SOLUTIONS

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Somalia remains the epicenter of one of the world's largest displacement crises, with the total displaced population amounting to about 20% of the total Somali population. Around 1.1 million men, women and children live in protracted displacement, while an estimated 895,000 people have been additionally displaced due to the drought since November 2016, as of mid-August. Around 1 million Somalis are registered as refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen region.

Over the last two decades, rural-urban migration due to insecurity, livelihood failure, climatic shocks, including through conflict related restricted movements of pastoralists, and the absence of basic services, has resulted in **rapid urban growth**. Rates of urbanization within Somalia currently rank amongst the highest in the world. The combination of rural-urban migration and forced internal displacement has increased pressure on the already limited basic services and urban livelihood opportunities available, which remain inadequate to respond to the needs of Somalia's growing urban population. In addition, the population density and demographic/ethnic profile of Somalia's urban populations is changing rapidly, increasing the **risk of localized conflicts and emerging forms of social exclusion**.

The centrality of **displacement as a key factor for peace, security and development** in the Horn of Africa has been globally recognized and has gained prominence following the 2017 IGAD Heads of State summit on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and the first meeting of the Conference of State Parties to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention).

1 mio

SOMALI REFUGEES
Registered in the Horn of Africa and Yemen region

895,000

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
Due to drought since November 2016, in addition to over 1 million people living in protracted displacement

1/2

IDPs IN URBAN/SEMI-URBAN AREAS
Around half of all Somali IDPs are located in and around urban areas such as Mogadishu and Baidoa

INTEGRATED & COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND (RE-) INTEGRATION

Addressing displacement and achieving durable solutions for IDPs, Refugee Returnees and Host Communities is a **key priority for Somalia as reflected in the National Development Plan** (NDP). It is also a shared responsibility between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), the Federal Member States (FMS) and the international community, as well as an essential dimension in peace, state and resilience-building, socio-economic transformation, poverty reduction, and in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

In support of these objectives, the FGS and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) have been spearheading a collective initiative in Somalia since 2016 with all concerned actors to design, fund and implement durable solutions in a comprehensive and coordinated way. This **state-led and community focused "Durable Solutions Initiative" (DSI),** developed in line with the NDP and in collaboration with the Somali Government, the UN, the World Bank, NGOs and the donor community, provides a collective framework for harmonizing durable solutions approaches and programming. The DSI promotes an area-based, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, rights and needs based approach involving simultaneously humanitarian, development, and peace- and state-building partners under the leadership of government authorities. In order to take advantage from lessons learned in other contexts and scale up the awareness to a global level, Professor Walter Kaelin, former Special Representative of the United Nations' Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, has been working as the Special Advisor on IDPs to the DSRSG/RC/HC for Somalia for the past two years. Prof. Kaelin has been one of the main architects behind the DSI and has been instrumental in ensuring that Durable Solutions are mainstreamed in the NDP.

The DSI also serves as the national implementation framework in synergy with relevant regional and global commitments, such as the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somali, the New York Declaration and the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

DSI Operating Principles

State Responsibility – Recognizing the leadership and primary responsibility of the Government of Somalia at the Federal, State

and local level, for providing durable solutions.

Nationally driven and rooted in International Principles – Alignment with the National Development Plan and Government strategies, international guidelines and principles and regional conventions.

Collective Responsibility – Transcending the mandate of any single agency or organization and requiring a 'whole of government' approach.

Integrated Approach – Recognizing that displacement is not simply a humanitarian issue but fundamentally a development and a peace- and state-building challenge, requiring multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholders, rights and needs based approach, addressing not only urgent life-saving needs but also underlying causes of displacement and its protracted characteristics.

Comprehensiveness and Inclusiveness – Addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of protracted and drought related IDPs, Refugees and Host communities simultaneously, considering their respective specificities.

Centrality of Protection – Community based and participatory approaches allowing population of concerns to participate in the planning and management of durable solutions, and ensuring the inclusion and protection of the socially and economically marginalized.

Differentiated solutions responding to different needs and patterns of displacement – Context specific, conflict sensitive and gender/age sensitive solutions – e.g. local integration and urban solutions for protracted IDPs who want to permanently settle in urban/peri-urban areas; return to the place of origin and rural solutions for conflict/drought affected IDPs opting go back to their places of origin if/when the security and environmental conditions permit; local integration/resettlement; etc.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND VISION

DSI is being implemented though a multi-sectoral and multi stakeholder approach under the leadership of the government at national, state and local level. Achievements so far include:

Area	Achievement
Policy dialogue and development	• Integration and mainstreaming of internal displacement into relevant chapters of the National Development Plan, following advocacy and technical support • Ongoing high-level policy dialogue to enable and facilitate a 'whole of government' approach • Ongoing advocacy for the enhancement of humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus or the 'New Way of Working' across all actors, and enhanced support through predictable multi-year financing, development financing, debt clearance and access to concessional financing
Joined-up planning and programming	• Ongoing development of Joint Area Based Durable Solutions Action Plans for Kismayo, Bay and Baidoa in collaboration with local authorities identifying collective outcomes to address displacement with plans to expand in other regions • Implementation of new joined-up UN and NGOs programming on durable solutions, i.e. the Midnimo programme, a joined-up programme funded by the UN Peace Building Fund (PBF), or the EU REINTEG funds • Ongoing synchronization of durable solutions programming with broader peace and state building programming and resilience agenda to increase coherence, synergies and resources allocation • Joint coordination and implementation through the establishment of joint steering committees composed by implementing actors including the local government
Coordination	• Establishment of a collective platform for coordination on durable solutions with the Government of Somalia and the international community – the Resilience Pillar Working Group under the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF), enduring the alignment of funds and programmes with the NDP • Set up of the UNCT/HCT Durable Solutions Working Group composed by UN agencies, NGOs and donors to improve complementarity, efficiency and collective accountability of interventions • Dissemination of information, good practices, lessons learned and knowledge among relevant actors
Evidence-base	• Development of Joint Area Based Durable Solutions Analysis for Lower Juba, Bay and Benadir in collaboration with local authorities and with support from the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) with plans to expand in other regions • Rolling out of World Bank Surveys and Assessments with data disaggregated for displaced persons • Ongoing engagement with stakeholders to improve information management for durable solutions

CONTACTS

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