



ReDSS regional programme learning workshop evaluation report

26th-27th June, 2019, Nairobi

Introduction

In June 2019, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) organized a learning workshop in Nairobi. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss emerging trends in durable solutions programming in the Horn of Africa. The objectives of the event were to create a common agenda and understanding on durable solutions, with expert stakeholders, which would also help in setting the agenda for the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to be held in December 2019. During the two-day workshop, panel discussions and working groups were used to discuss thematic and process-oriented issues in durable solutions programming.

118 participants attended the workshop: 57 INGOs, 18 NGOs/ CSOs, 21 UN agencies and donors, 4 from intergovernmental organizations such as IGAD, 6 from government institutions, 9 from research and academia, and 3 from private sector. This report gives an analysis of feedback received from participants of the learning event in terms of form and content.

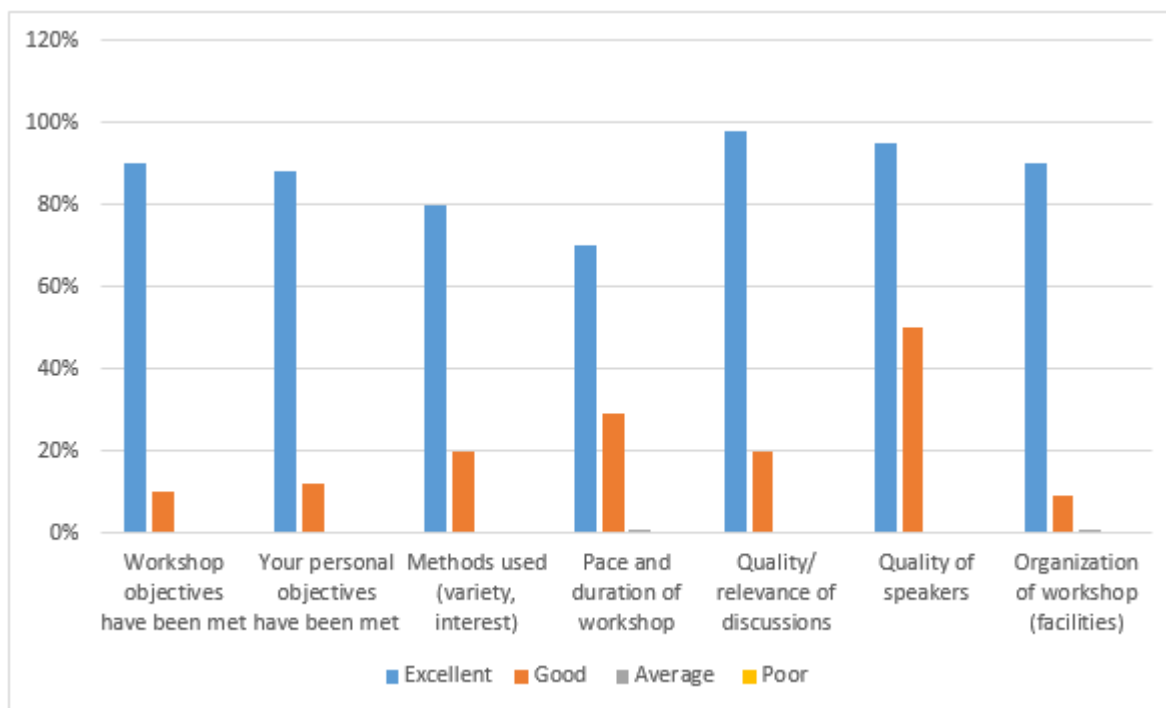
Workshop evaluation results

72 (59 online and 13 on paper) participants filled out the evaluation form at the end of the learning event.

Key summary:

- 99% of participants felt that they had been satisfied with the learning event and that their personal objectives had been met
- All the participants that filled out evaluation form noted that the workshop was very well organized and facilitated by ReDSS.
- Over 90% felt that they had greatly benefitted largely from the discussions and sharing of experiences and learning during the workshop. Some stated that the event was thought provoking and indicated that they had gained better understanding of key aspects of displacement and durable solutions programming.
- 30% of participants felt that the size of the breakouts were too big for a workshop format. As a result, what was recorded as keeps and discards were largely shaped by the few who managed to speak and not a result of consensus / discussion.
- 1% of participants requested for more time in future – holding a 3-day workshop as opposed to 2-day. Furthermore, 3% of participants requested ReDSS to hold the learning event bi-annually to ensure continuity and momentum.

Q1. Rating on personal evaluation of learning event and personal objectives, methodology, quality and relevance of the training material, quality of facilitators and general organization of workshop/facilities as having been: (Excellent (above 80%) / Good (70-60%) / Average (50%) / Poor below 50%) and comments



Q2. To what extent will you benefit from the event in your work? Please list at least 2 ideas or lessons you learned in this workshop that you will take back to your work

- Over 90% of the participants found the workshop beneficial for their work and some stated that the event was thought provoking and indicated that they had gained better understanding of key aspects of durable solutions programming. Participants mentioned the following discussions that they found useful for their work:
 - How to measure impact of durable solutions programmes to see the real changes happened with evidence
 - Social accountability mechanisms for durable solutions projects
 - Documentation of lessons learnt and best practices from different durable solutions consortia
 - Documentation of how different programmes are using the ReDSS Solutions framework
 - Access to basic social services (health/ nutrition, education, WASH) for displacement affected communities: the need for a discussion on standards and financial access to services to maintain despite local integration, e.g. by advocating and piloting of innovative social protection policies
 - How to ensure that interventions on Housing, Land and Property look beyond housing as a structure, but integrate rights, access to justice and livelihoods
 - The importance of adequately funding reflection and learning over time. Furthermore, intentionally creating time to think and collectively reflect by programme partners particularly during implementation
 - Utility of area-based approach including supply and demand side - questioning of donor-specific governance requiring government presence and call for stronger joint programming
 - Preparations for the Global Refugee Forum and progress made towards implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in the different countries
 - The process of stopping and reflecting as done during this event helps enrich ongoing/new work e.g. how evidence from communities can strengthen collective outcomes.
- Over 80% mentioned the following discussions as the most interesting discussions in their comments:
 - Engagement of private sector in forced displacement contexts
 - Engagement of civil society partners in durable solutions programming and processes
 - Use of evidence to inform programming
 - Government engagement in durable solutions planning and processes
 - Tailoring programmes to meet the specific needs of the community

Q3. What else would you like to see included in future learning events? Are there any other topics that you would like to be discussed?

The following are some of the responses from the participants to this question and areas they would like to discuss in future learning events:

- Involvement of displaced populations in programming and decision making
- Dealing with disasters in the context of durable solution programming. Efforts towards either building back better or building "forward better" as disaster risk reduction programs integrates with solutions programming
- Private sector investment and Fundraising
- Climate change effects and durable solutions related to it and displacement associated with it
- An in-depth look into social protection and link to durable solutions programming
- Local integration tools and the use of the ReDSS solutions framework
- Assessing impact of durable solutions programming beyond the use of outcome indicators
- Development-humanitarian- peace nexus - concrete ideas on how to coordinate with development actors and an accurate perspective on what works and what do not work

Other comments

90% of the participants did not comment on this section and those that did used this section to pass their gratitude and appreciation for the learning event. However, some of the few comments from participants include:

"The solutions agenda has progressed immensely in this region. Documenting this process will be important for advocacy purposes in other regions: what can governments gain from taking this route? how can politics be toned down by consensus-building processes with focus on practical solutions benefiting all"- Non-governmental organization

"Pausing and reflection sessions can feed the success of project through adaptive learning. Area based planning was also key for my view, because each community have their own needs and priorities. Furthermore, commitments from IGAD, donors, governments in the Horn of Africa to uphold efforts towards durable solutions is key. I really thank to ReDSS for its support bring so many experts in the room for learning and information"- Non-governmental organization

"I will greatly benefit from this workshop as the discussions will contribute to expand the scope of my organization's work in durable solutions, and with a stronger network supporting my work"- Civil society organization

"I have learned that durable solutions, requires a mental shift e.g. need to change from talking about supporting with shelters to housing support for beneficiaries. Two, I have realized that there is a lot of Government support as exposed in the work of the Federal Government of Somalia's Durable Solutions Unit (DSU)" - Government

Conclusions for ReDSS and next steps

- In August, IGAD in partnership with ReDSS will convene policy-makers from the Horn of Africa to facilitate learning on durable solutions efforts existing in IGAD member states. ReDSS will share outcomes of this workshop and ensure they inform the discussions in August.
- ReDSS to start documenting lessons learnt from the region to inform preparations for the Global Refugee Forum, particularly the voices of refugees and IDPs. There is a need to identify how to meaningfully engage displacement affected communities while ensuring they are protected.
- Consider having regular regional programme learning platforms, for instance the ReDSS learning event can be held bi-annually, for continuity and momentum. The reality of limited resources is acknowledged but the positive results can motivate efforts to achieve this.
- Need for future meetings to delve deeper into displacement due to natural disasters/ climate change such as drought in Somalia etc How to take this collective coordination forward? It is important to act on the learnings from such events through improved coordination on how organizations engage with the same communities and on increased donor involvement. ReDSS plans to share a road map on the outcomes from the workshop to monitor and review next year.
- ReDSS to share all resources from the workshop with all participants and ensure that these resources are made accessible on the website.